



Since 1898

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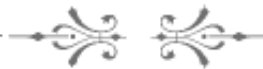
December 2015 Announcements

Happy Holidays Everyone!



Happy Holidays

During this seasons on-line shopping please select the California Genealogical Society as your [Amazon Smile charity](#). Amazon will give 0.5% of each of your purchases to CGS. It is a simple and effortless way to give to our non-profit volunteer organization. Follow the link above and bookmark it for all your future purchases.



Our **Annual Membership and Business Meeting** will take place on Saturday January 23 from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. in the Second Floor Conference Room. The agenda includes brief committee reports, approval of the 2016 budget, presentation of the slate of nominees, and electing the Board of Directors for 2016.

All members are invited to attend a **potluck social hour** before the Business Meeting beginning at Noon. Bring your appetite and a dish to share for the buffet lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Please come and meet your fellow members and volunteers!

Please note that the library will be closed to researchers from Noon to 3 P.M. on this day.



- Our [Annual Appeal](#) is underway. Your donations enable us to continue to provide a high quality resource for genealogical information in California. California Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and all or part of your gift may be tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Membership fees only cover 40% of our operating expenses. Please contribute today so that we can continue to thrive and assist others.
- Volunteers are invited to attend a **Potluck Holiday Brunch** on Sunday December 6 from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M in Lafayette, hosted by Jane Lindsey, Linda Okazaki, Kathleen Beitiks and Therese Hart-Pignotti. [RSVP](#) if you plan to attend.
- The CGS library will be **closed** for the Holidays from Thursday, December 24th through Saturday, January 2nd.

- We need BOOKS! CGS volunteers sell books on e-Bay to raise money for the Library. If you have non-fiction Historical or Genealogical books in good condition that you no longer need, please consider donating some or all of your collection to our library. All proceeds of these sales keep the Library running and available for your use. Email [Arlene Miles](#) with questions.

News From the 2015 Nomination Committee

New Candidates for the Board of Directors

by [Karen Lemelin](#)

THE 2015 Nominating Committee - Chris Patillo, Nancy Cork and Chair Karen Lemelin announce the nominations for the board of directors for the California Genealogical Society. The candidates were presented to and accepted by the board at the November meeting. Nomination will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2016.

The nominated members for board of director positions are:

- Maureen Hanlon
- Vicky Kolakowski,
- Stewart Blandón Traiman.

The three nominees will be nominated for their first two-year term. Nominated for a second term is Felicia Addison. Nominated for a third term are Karen Lemelin, Nicka Smith, and Henry Snyder.

Continuing a first term are Linda Okazaki, Todd Armstrong, Therese Hart-Pignotti and Kathie Jones. Continuing a second term are Diana Edwards and Shannon Reese. Continuing a third term are Lisa Gorrell and Jim Sorenson. Ellen Fernandez Sacco will continue as past-president. Kim Cotton will not be continuing on the board and Jeffrey Vaillant is ending his third term.

About the new board nominees:



Maureen Hanlon

Maureen Hanlon joined CGS after attending "A Day of Irish Information" in 2008. She then became a Desk Duty volunteer, went on the Salt Lake City trip, and last year started doing post-class evaluation surveys for the organization. Maureen provided consultations on Irish and Beginning genealogy at both of the CGS-sponsored Ancestry Days. She recently fielded and analyzed a CGS Member Survey. She became CGS's coordinator for In-Service Education in October. Her first job in that capacity was organizing the just completed Beginning Genealogy Series, where although enrollment was small, resulted in four attendees becoming new members. Maureen retired

last year from a career in health care that included health policy research, quality improvement, and supporting networking and educational conferences for providers. Retirement has allowed Maureen to focus on her own Irish research, spend time with her three adult children, and attack long deferred home improvements.



Vicky Kolakowski

Vicky Kolakowski began doing family history research in high school, but put it away until genealogy software became widely available in the 1990s and online databases in the early 2000s. She did not become serious about genealogy until after her election as a state court judge in 2010, when her mother expressed frustration that so many relatives were passing without leaving behind information about the previous generations, and particularly her immigrant ancestors (seven of Vicky's eight great-grandparents were immigrants, and the other was a child of immigrants).



Vicky spends almost all of her free time and vacations researching family history and visiting a variety of repositories and places where her ancestors lived and worked. She has primarily focused on Irish and Eastern European genealogy for her own family. However, almost three quarters of her wife Cynthia's ancestry can be traced to pre-Revolutionary United States, and so Vicky has spent extensive time researching a large variety of resources throughout the U.S.

CGS has been an important source for her genealogical education and camaraderie since 2011.



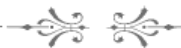
Stewart Blandón Traiman

Genealogy has been an obsession for Stewart Blandón Traiman for 30 years. He began by interviewing parents, grandparents and other relations about his roots in Nicaragua. He is still hoping to prove the family legend of escaping the Spanish Inquisition. When he married Leland Traiman 25 years ago, he took on the new adventure researching Ukrainian and Polish Jews. Stewart has researched his children's origins back to the colonial United States. Whenever a friend

asks, Stewart is happy to trace their family stories and now has 8 trees in his collection in perpetual progress.

Stewart was born in San Francisco 50 years ago. Through life's twists and turns he graduated from Stanford Medical School and practiced as an Internal Medicine Physician until 2005 when he saw more interesting opportunities in the world of Electronic Health Records. He now works as a Clinical Informatist at Alameda Health Systems which gives him an outlet for working with data. Stewart wonders, however, if he missed his calling as a librarian. (Maybe in the next career.)

Stewart discovered the California Genealogical Society through its wonderful classes. In January 2014, Stewart became a volunteer with CGS as the editor and publisher of the monthly electronic newsletter. He hopes to one day turn one of his trees into a published work. Stewart also paints acrylic abstracts, loves to cook fancy food and enjoys science fiction in any media.



The California Genealogical Society's bylaws outline the requirements for Directors in Article V, Section 1:

1. The number of directors shall be not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20).
2. The last active past president, he or she consenting, shall serve as a Member of the Board of Directors until replaced by a new past president willing to serve on the Board of Directors.
3. Immediate family members of Directors are ineligible for candidacy during the period of the sitting Director's term.
4. The term of each Director shall be two (2) years from the date of election.
5. Any vacancy in the Board during an unexpired term may but is not required to be filled by the Board. Such Director shall serve until a successor Director is elected.
6. Directors shall be limited to a maximum of three successive two-year terms, or a total of six (6) consecutive years.

CGS Sponsored Events, Trips and Conferences



[Research Trip to the New England Historic Genealogical Society \(NEHGS\)](#)
Sunday, February 28, 2016 - Sunday, March 6, 2016




Join Jane Lindsey, CGS Past President and former [NEHGS](#) Trustee, on our biennial research trip to Boston and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Jane has visited NEHGS too many times to count and this is her 6th trip on behalf of CGS. Take advantage of her knowledge and join us for this signature trip! A minimum of 10 participants are needed to confirm this research opportunity.

Classes

California Genealogical Society & Library
2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland



As usual, here's our wonderful line-up of classes for this month.

	<p>Saturday, Dec 5</p>	<p><u>Pennsylvania Learning Exchange</u> CGS members, Pam Brett, Linda Darby and Vinnie Schwarz will share what they learned at the 2015 advanced course at the Genealogical Research Institute in Pittsburgh (G.R.I.P). The focus will be on records such as vital, church, land, digitized records and sources. 10:30 A.M. to Noon.</p>
	<p>Saturday, Dec 5</p>	<p><u>Intro to Genealogy</u> 1 to 3 P.M. - FREE</p>
	<p>Saturday, Dec 12</p>	<p><u>Spreadsheets: The Wonderful Tool Genealogists Seldom Use</u> with Sue Goss Johnston</p> <p>Would a chart help you analyze those chicken-scratch censuses? Do you have a list of documents from a pension file that you simply can't understand? Would a timeline graph make your family story come to life? You need a spreadsheet! 1 to 4 P.M.</p> <p><i>This class is currently sold out, but you can get on the wait list.</i></p>
<p align="center">For additional events check out the San Francisco Bay Genealogy Calendar. Also visit our Eventbrite profile page to see the latest class additions and descriptions.</p>		

Meetings and More

California Genealogical Society & Library
2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland



Saturday, December 12: The New Instructors group will be meeting at 11 A.M. at the CGS Library. We welcome any volunteer instructors to join us for a presentation and discussion by Laura Manion on "Backwards Planning" which will cover designing curriculum to meet the interests of adult learners. Please contact [Maureen Hanlon](#) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, December 19: CGS Board of Directors, 10 A.M. to Noon. Board meetings are open for all CGS members to attend. If you'd like to add items to the Agenda please contact [Linda Okazaki](#).

Saturday, January 16: Family Tree Maker SIG, 1 P.M. - 4 P.M. Devoted exclusively to Family Tree Maker™ Software from Ancestry.com. Please [register](#) for this event.



There will be no December meeting for this group.

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group (i.e. French Canadian, RootsMagic, Mayflower Descendants, Family History Writers, Latinos, Scrapbooking, etc.) please contact [Maureen Hanlon](#). If your Society or Organization would like to use our facility as a meeting space for a nominal fee, please contact [Linda Okazaki](#).

CGS Volunteers



Several [volunteer](#) positions are vacant:

Event Organizer (for 1-2 offsite events)
Membership ("Welcome Wagon" folks)
Instructors (genealogy classes)
Clerical Assistance
Library Work and Technology Assistance.

Training for all positions is provided.

Contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#).

CGS Blog

Highlights from the California Genealogical Society Blog and Others

Welcome our new co-editors of the CGS Blog - [Shannon Reese](#) and [Linda Okazaki](#). Please email either of them to publish your contributions to the CGS Blog.



[Our Annual Appeal](#) by Linda Okazaki

[Giving Thanks](#) by Linda Okazaki

[Meet the Genealogy Teacher: Maureen Hanlon](#) by Shannon Reese



Interesting Blog Posts from other sites:

[Have you signed the Genealogists Declaration of Rights?](#) by Judy Kellar Fox

[Stories that Bind Us](#) by Bruce Feiler in the New York Times

[On choosing Genealogy Software](#) by Randy Seaver on Genea Musings

[Port of Los Angeles Archives in Danger](#) by Richard Schave.

[Raiders of the Lost Web](#) in the Atlantic

[Reinventing the Library](#) by Alberto Manguel in the New York Times

[Gifts for Genealogists](#) by Relatively Curious

[Genealogy Should Not be a Solitary Passion. Use the Buddy System](#) by Paula Stuart-Warren

People are Talking

Want to know what people found most interesting on Facebook & Twitter?

by *Shannon Reese*



Top Facebook Post for November: "Meet the Genealogy Teacher: Maureen Hanlon" by [Shannon Reese](#).

Talk to CGS on [Facebook](#)



Top Twitter Post for November: "How to Research Your Irish Genealogy Using the Library of Congress" by [Frances Mulraney](#).

Join the CGS conversation on [Twitter](#)

New Membership Perk!

California Genealogical Society & Library



[FindMyPast](#) offers more than 1.7 billion international family history records from around the globe, including more than 1,000 exclusive collections that you won't find online anywhere else.

We are excited to announce FindMyPast is now offering a flat **50% off the annual World subscription** (over \$99 off) for all CGS members! You can find the code on our [Welcome](#) page once you log in as a member. Look for the blue "FindMyPast" in the middle of that page.

If you've forgotten your CGS number please [contact the CGS Membership team](#).

Other Events & Conferences

There are always many other events happening in the Bay Area. For the latest events, check out member Kathryn Doyle's [San Francisco Bay Genealogy Calendar](#) that is updated monthly. Below are just a few of the local conferences that may be of interest in your area.

- [RootsTech 2016](#) will be held on February 3 - 6, 2016.
- [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#) is having a week-long intensive educational experience that takes students deep into their topic of choice. Students attending SLIG have the opportunity to advance

their education with renowned genealogy experts during a week-long experience, network through special events, and tap into the wealth of resources at the nearby Family History Library. January 11-15, 2015.

- [The Whittier Area Genealogical Society](#) will present its 33rd Annual Seminar on Saturday, January 30, 2016 - 8 to 4 at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, CA.

Connect with Us

See our [Volunteer page for opportunities](#) or contact [Kathleen Beitiks for information](#)

Volunteer positions available include:

Proof Readers, Instructors, Clerical Assistance, Library Work, Technology and Others.



CGS Received the 2014 ALL STAR AWARD from Constant Contact for exemplary engagement with our readers.

Stewart Blandón Traiman
eNews Editor [email me](#)

