



Since 1898

January 2018, Vol. 12, No. 1

January 2018 Announcements



Happy New Year!

Dear Friends of CGS,

Happy New Year!

2017 was an exciting year for CGS. The building has been under construction. Despite the dust and noise, patrons continue to enjoy our collection of books, manuscripts, and maps, in addition to our classes, seminars, field trips and events.

2018 looks to be even better. February 12 is our 120th anniversary, but we plan to celebrate all year long. We will kick off the celebratory year at our Annual Meeting on January 13. It's a great time to meet new members and catch up with old friends. There will be a potluck lunch, birthday cake, business meeting, fun photos, and maybe even an auction item or two. We also will have an entertaining program.

Be sure to check our line-up of events. In addition to our Saturday classes, we plan to have two guided research trips, three off-site events and several field trips. The world of genealogy has changed quite a

bit since our founders established the California Genealogical Society in 1898. First there was microfilm, then computers, and now we have DNA. 2018 is going to be a great year to focus on genealogy.

Regards,
Linda Okazaki



The **Annual Member Meeting and 120th Birthday Celebration** will be held on January 13th in the library at 1 p.m. Join us first for a social gathering and potluck lunch from 11:30 a.m. During the meeting, we will vote on the slate of nominees to the board and the 2018 budget. We will review the 2017 activities at CGS and discuss plans for 2018.



Stay after our Annual Member Meeting for birthday cake. There will be a photo corner with props and you can hear three of our members share wonderful stories about great-grandparents. Nancy Ukai, Stewart Traiman and Mary Caroline Chunn will each tell us about their ancestors and events from the decades preceding our 120 years. Covering Nicaragua, San Francisco, Japan, Ireland and more, you will hear about the diversity and the commonality of ancestors' lives, as well as the clues and searches that their descendants followed.

[RSVP](#) - Please let us know if you will be joining.



The
Annual
Appeal

With your help, we hope to bring you more in 2018...
more perks, more programs, and more resources!

Thank you for supporting the California Genealogical Society and Library. Your donations enable us to continue to provide a high quality resource for genealogical information in California. Membership fees only cover about 40% of our expenses and your [donations](#) help us to maintain our standard of excellence.



We need BOOKS! CGS volunteers sell books on eBay to raise money for the Library. If you have nonfiction 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 from these sales keep the Library running and available for your use. Email [Arlene Miles](#) with questions.

Nominations for Board

Nomination Committee Report 2018

Committee Chair: Karen Lemelin

Committee Members: Chris Pattillo and Nancy Cork

- The Nomination Committee is proposing four new board nominees for the 2018-2020 term. The new nominees are James Russell, Chris Pattillo, Nancy Cork and Marisela Meskus.
- Continuing in their first terms are Rich Kehoe and Arlene Miles.
- Continuing in a second term is Kathy Jones.

- Proposed nominations for their second terms are Vicky Kolakowski, Stewart Treaman and Maureen Hanlon.
- Proposed nomination for a third term is Felicia Addison.
- Linda Okazaki, after serving as President for three years, will assume the board position of current Past President. replacing Ellen Fernandez-Sacco.
- Karen Lemelin and Nicka Smith have termed out after serving three terms.
- Todd Armstrong, Therese Hart-Pignotti and Shannon Reese have stepped down from the board in the past year.

About the new board member nominees:



James Russell grew up in Connecticut and lives in Berkeley. His paternal ancestors arrived in New England in the seventeenth century and his maternal ancestors emigrated from Bohemia to Manhattan before 1880. No direct ancestors ever lived west of the Hudson River. His personal areas of concentration are New England, New York and Central Europe. James has done extensive primary research in these places, and has attended institutes at SLIG, IGHR, Gen-Fed and GRIP. He reads Czech, German, Russian, French, Japanese and Latin. He has a BSFS (Georgetown), an MA in Slavic linguistics (Chicago) and a PhD in anthropology (London - SOAS). He is very interested in DNA-related issues. James is on the CGS Finance Committee, is a representative to FGS and has participated in CGS-sponsored events for the Japanese-American community in the Bay Area.

A member of CGS since 2004, and previously on the Board, **Chris Pattillo** is currently the Chair of the Investment Committee. Chris completed two terms as a commissioner on the Oakland Planning Commission, retired from her landscape architecture practice and is ready to rejoin the Board. During her first term as a Board member, Chris wrote the Investment Policy and helped update all of the job descriptions. She also served as Facilities Chair. In 2015 Chris volunteered to co-chair the first Capital Campaign which will conclude in February 2018. Chris has taught classes for CGS and recently gave a talk about her 2017 Genealogy Journey. She has had articles published in The California Nugget, the CGS blog, the Watauga Genealogy Society magazine, as well as a newspaper in Albany, Texas. Chris has presented her PowerPoint talk, Preserving Your Family History, at local retirement facilities and plans additional presentations throughout the Bay Area to promote the California Genealogical Society.



A box of old family photographs inspired **Nancy Cork** to begin researching her family's history. After 23 years of gathering records, she still has questions about her family, but now at least they are different questions: not so much the who's and the when's, but the why's and the how's. Born in New York and raised in Minnesota, Nancy has been living in the Bay Area for 35 years. A student of history and a lover of books, she has been volunteering for several years in the CGS Library, where she manages the periodicals subscriptions. Nancy served on the Nominations Committee for two years and enjoys helping with the publication of The California Nugget.

Marisela "Merry" Meskus became interested in genealogy after a family trip to the Dominican Republic in 2004. Her father was born in the Dominican Republic and her mother's family originated from Mexico. She enjoys telling people that she is a first-generation American as well as a second-generation, third-generation, and fourth-generation Californian. Marisela was born in Merced and graduated from the University of California, Merced with a BA in History. She moved to the Bay Area to attend San Francisco State University and obtained an MA in Linguistics in 2015. She joined CGS in April 2017 and took advantage of all the classes and SIGs before deciding to volunteer. Planning to become a

professional genealogist, she enjoys coming to the library to learn from members who are as passionate about the subject as she is.



Blaine Bettinger on DNA



Blaine Bettinger's blog, The Genetic Genealogist, was launched on February 12, 2007 as one of the very first blogs to examine the intersection of traditional genealogical techniques and modern genetic research, more commonly known as "genetic genealogy." Genetic genealogists use genetics to learn more about their ancestry, including their ancient roots, and the relatedness of individuals. This relatively new technology represents a powerful tool for the genealogists.

Blaine will presenting 4 lectures during the day:

1. Using Y-DNA and mtDNA to Explore Your Ancestry
2. Introduction to Autosomal DNA
3. Getting the Most Out of Your AncestryDNA Matches
4. Using Third-Party Tools.



[Register Today!](#)

There will also be a special event on Friday, March 2 at the CGS library limited to 25 people who are experienced in genetic genealogy. Suggested prerequisites include either attendance at one or more DNA institutes, participation in a DNA SIG or a solid understanding of genetic genealogy. The Friday lectures include the Genealogical Proof Standard, Ethics, and a 1-hour Q&A. If you are interested, please contact [Linda Okazaki](#) or [Pam Miller](#) for details.

18th Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) has scheduled its [2018 annual genealogy](#) research trip to the Family History Library from Sunday, April 22nd to Sunday, April 29th. Lisa Gorrell will lead the trip for the third year in a row and she is especially excited to have you come along!

"Why would I want to go to the Family History Library? Isn't it all online now?" [Read our Blog post.](#)

Other Advantages:

- Six days of being with others who share your enthusiasm for genealogy research
- Research assistance with Lisa or one of the experts at the library (especially the foreign language floors)
- Six days of distraction-free research
- Six days when you don't have to do household chores

[Register Today for early bird specials.](#)

Classes and SIGs

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



Here is our wonderful line-up of classes and Special Interest Groups for this month.

When registering on Eventbrite you'll need your CGS membership number to complete the registration. If you do not know your membership number send a request to:

membership@californiaancestors.org.

	<p>RootsMagic Special Interest Group</p> <p>The RootsMagic SIG welcomes all users and would-be users of this popular genealogy software.</p> <p>Thursday, January 4, from 2 - 4 p.m.</p>
	<p>Introduction to Genealogy</p> <p>A free class on the fundamentals of genealogical research.</p> <p>Saturday, January 6, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</p>
	<p>San Francisco Special Interest Group</p> <p>Join the conversation with the CGS San Francisco Special Interest Group (SF-SIG). We uncover records, view historical photographs and maps, read historical newspapers, manuscripts and other San Francisco records.</p> <p>Saturday, January 20, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>
	<p>Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group</p> <p>This CGS Special Interest Group (FTM-SIG) has been formed devoted exclusively to the popular robust and easy-to-use Family Tree Maker™ Software from Software MacKiev. Join FTM-SIG facilitators Ron Madson and Karen Halfon</p> <p>Saturday, January 20, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p>
	<p>Pam Miller will be offering 3 classes on "You've Got Your DNA Results, What's Next?", each specific to a leading DNA company.</p> <p>You've Got Your Ancestry DNA Results, What's Next? Saturday, January 27, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p>

You've Got Your [Family Tree DNA](#) Results, What's Next?
Saturday, February 3, from 1 - 4 p.m.

You've Got Your [23andMe DNA](#) Results, What's Next?
Saturday, February 10, from 1 - 4 p.m.



[Field Trip to Sutro Library](#)

The Sutro Library holds the original collection of Adolph Sutro (1830-1898), California businessman and San Francisco mayor. The library has a large collection of publications and items dating from the 13th to the 21st centuries. It also has a very large genealogy collection.

Thursday, February 8, from 10:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m.



[East European Special Interest Group](#)

Come, discuss a new Special Interest Group (SIG) focused on Eastern European Genealogy. We are still refining how the group will meet, where, when, and more. Join and help us create this group, together!

Saturday, February 24, from 1 - 3 p.m.



[Building Skills for Successful Family History Research](#)

This 4 week series with Pamela Brett will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library. This series is for family historians, both beginners and intermediates, who want to build a strong foundation of research skills to avoid wasted time and unreliable family trees.

Wednesdays, March 7 - 28, from 6 - 8:30 p.m.



[Special Evening Event with California Historical Society and Bill Cole](#)

The California Genealogical Society and the California Historical Society are hosting a special event at the California Historical Society when we will celebrate our shared history and collaborative missions. Access to two of California Historical Society's wonderful exhibits and a special speaker, Bill Cole will be highlights of the evening.

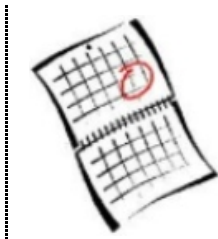
Bill Cole will talk about a fascinating only-in-California event, the 1864 Bullion Bend Stagecoach Robbery. This amazing Wild West caper occurred during the Civil War's final year. It was front-page news that captured the country's attention.

Thursday, March 8, from 5:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Also [visit our Eventbrite profile page](#) to see the latest class additions and descriptions.

Meetings and More

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



Board Meeting, Annual Meeting & 120th Birthday Party - January 13th

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group (i.e. French Canadian, Mayflower Descendants, Family History Writers, Latinos, Scrapbooking, etc.), then 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 Blog

Highlights from the California Genealogical Society Blog and Others

Please subscribe to the [CGS Blog](#). If you haven't been receiving our blog posts on a regular basis, be sure to re-subscribe. It is a great source of information about classes, events, volunteers and members.



We want and need your stories. If you have an idea for an article, ongoing series of posts or monthly column, then please contact Blog Editor [Shannon Reese](#) to discuss.



[Annual Appeal: You Make our Society Amazing](#) by Shannon Reese

[Wordless Wednesday: California Genealogical Society Volunteers' Holiday Open House](#) by Shannon Reese

[Meet the Board Nominees](#) by Karen Lemelin

[Wordless Wednesday: Institute for Genetic Genealogy in San Diego](#) by Shannon Reese

[Food and Genealogy: A Remembrance of Things Past](#) by Georgia Lupinsky

[A Few Good Volunteers](#) by Linda Okazaki

[Happy New Year, Genealogy Fans](#) by Shannon Reese

[Putting It All Together](#) by Shannon Reese



Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

[Steve Morse Creates a New Online "Applying 2016-2018 Tax Brackets" Calculator](#) by Dick Eastman

[Buffalo NY Death Index 1852-1944 is now Online](#) by Dick Eastman

[RootsWeb Security Update](#) by Tony Blackham

[Who is on Your Family's Ofrenda?](#) by Rachel L Matheus

Other Events & Conferences

There are always many other events happening in the Bay Area and across the nation. For the latest

events, check Conference Keeper.org.

Local Events

Major National and International Conferences in 2018

2018		
Jan 21-26	Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Feb 28 - Mar 3	RootsTech 2018	Salt Lake City, Utah
May 2 - 5	National Genealogical Society	Grand Rapids, Michigan
May 31 - Jun 2	49th Annual Jamboree 2018	Burbank, California
Jun 2 - 7	The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)	Athens, Georgia
Aug 6 - 10	38th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy	Warsaw, Poland
Aug 6 - 10	Eastern European Family History Conference	Salt Lake City, Utah
Aug 22 - 25	Federation of Genealogical Societies	Fort Wayne, Indiana
Aug 31 - Sep 2	Secret Lives Conference 2018	Leicestershire, UK

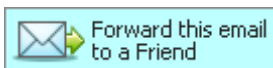
Connect with Us

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



Tel (510) 663-1358 - Fax (510) 663-1596

Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



E-mail [Stewart Blandón Traiman](#), e-News Editor with any questions.

