



CaliforniaAncestors.org
California Genealogical Society & Library
Connecting people to their diverse family heritage



Since 1898

Dec, Vol. 13, No. 12

December 2019 Announcements



CGS VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



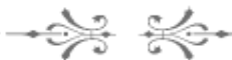
Sunday, December 15th
11:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.

Lafayette, CA

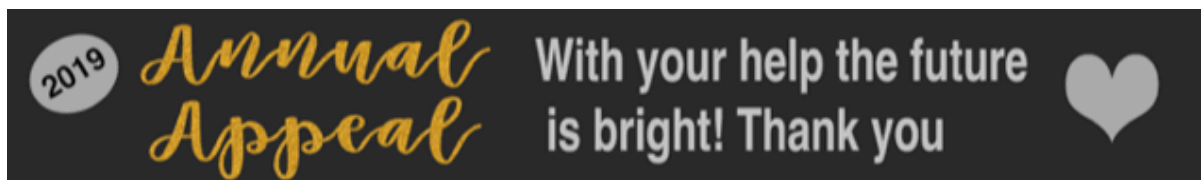
Come join your friends and meet other volunteers at
our holiday brunch
Please bring a dish to share
Fruit, appetizers, bread, dessert, beverage?
Whatever suits your fancy

Please sign up [here](#) or

contact [Linda Okazaki](#) for details



[CGS Annual Appeal](#)



Letters for the annual appeal from Jim Sorenson, President, were sent to all CGS members in early November. We appreciate any tax-deductible contribution that you feel you can make at this time. You can use the envelope which was enclosed or you can donate using our website. We also accept donations from non-members.

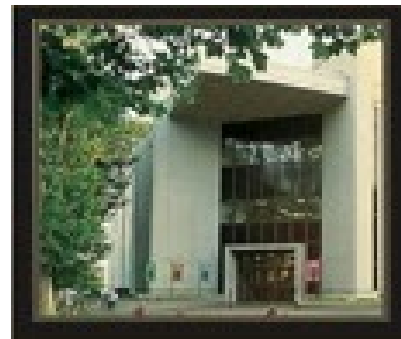


Yes, there will be a CGS research trip in 2020 to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

It is being led by Lisa Gorrell, CG and is scheduled for May 24 through May 31, 2020. May 25 is Memorial Day, but the library will be open. The group will be staying at the Plaza Hotel, which is next door to the library.

Please let [Lisa Gorrell](#) know if you will also be attending NGS, just prior to this CGS sponsored research trip.

[SAVE THE DATE](#)



Unjust Rate Hike

The California Genealogical Society Board of Directors endorses this message.

Dear Genealogy Friends,

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) has recently proposed a **492%** increase in fees to access historical records held by the [USCIS Genealogy Program](#). USCIS is essentially holding the documents hostage, demanding individuals pay exorbitant fees for documents about our immigrant ancestors. This has a tremendous impact on anyone engaging in 20th century immigration research.



Become part of the genealogy community's national effort to fight these increases by submitting your comments on the website [Records, Not Revenue](#) by **December 16th**.

Fee will increase from an already high \$65 for a search to an exorbitant **\$240!** If a paper file must be copied, then it would incur an **additional \$385** charge!

NOW is the time to make your voice heard! By submitting a comment, you can help prevent this unjust fee hike from becoming a reality. All researchers should care about the issues involved. What can be done to one type of record can be done to others!

Please see the [CGS Blog](#) article for more information.

2020 Board Slate

CGS Board Nominating Committee

Committee Chair: Richard Kehoe

Committee Members: Kathleen Beitiks, Nancy Cork, Maureen Hanlon, Linda Okazaki

Continuing in their first term:

- Matt Berry
- Jennifer Dix
- Stacy Hoover
- Jim Sorenson
- Jeffrey Vaillant

Continuing in their second term:

- Richard Kehoe
- Arlene Miles

Proposed nominations for a second term:



- Marisela Meskus
- Chris Pattillo

Proposed nominations for a third term:

- Maureen Hanlon
- Stewart Traiman

Effective with the annual meeting on January 11, 2020:

- Nancy Cork will step down from the board.
- Felicia Addison will term-out.
- Linda Okazaki will continue as Past President.

New board member nominees:



Theresa Murphy has been researching her ancestry since 2016 when she traveled to Ireland to visit her family's homelands and meet newly found cousins. She has been a member of CGS since 2018. Since joining CGS, she expanded her research to her New England ancestry with the help of one of our members. Theresa is a native of Oakland and spent her professional career as a CPA in auditing, consulting, and systems implementations - skills which have proven invaluable in genealogy research. She is currently serving on the Website Committee, assisting in the development of our new website, and is teaching a workshop on creating a family history book.



Joanna Shear was born in Boston, grew up in Missouri, and landed in the Bay Area 21 years ago. A member of CGS since 2016, she has a BS in physics from Indiana University, an MSE in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech, and has completed Boston University's Certificate Program in Genealogical Research. She was first drawn to genealogy by an unknown name on a mysterious engraved silver chalice, which led to a reunion for family separated by the Holocaust. Eleven years down the road, she is deep into the history of her Jewish ancestors as they moved within Europe and emigrated to other continents. She now also uses DNA to go beyond the documentation and trace new family connections. As her research for family and others has grown into new areas, so has her dedication to making genealogy open and accessible to all.



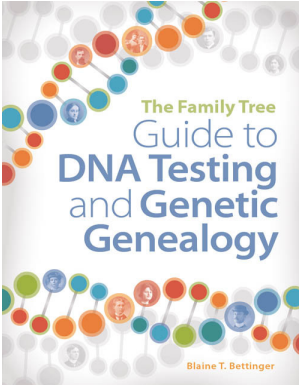




Grant Din has been interested in genealogy ever since a cousin told him forty years ago that he was in the 36th generation of Gongs! Since that time, he has researched his and many families' immigration histories including when he was on the staff of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. He has worked in the Bay Area nonprofit sector his entire adult life and has extensively volunteered his genealogical services. Grant moderates a Chinese American family history email group and has spoken at many libraries and genealogical societies. He completed Boston University's Certificate Program in Genealogical Research in 2015 and enjoyed being a part of the team that researched the six Chinese seamen who survived the Titanic for the film "The Six".

Classes and SIGs

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](#).



	<p>Introduction to Genealogy.</p> <p>Our first-Saturday "Intro to Genealogy" class is a four-session series. The first class offers an overview of genealogy. Each of the next three sessions will begin with a quick review of the overview, followed by a more in-depth focus on the following topics: Census, Vital Records, and Organization. The classes may be taken in any order, and participation in one class is not required to attend others in the series. The entire series will be repeated.</p> <p>Saturday, Dec 7, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m</p>
	<p>Scotland and Northern Ireland Research with Mark McLaren</p> <p>The population of Scotland and Northern Ireland today is less than 7 million combined. Yet, the number of people worldwide with an ancestry from those areas is estimated between 70-90 million. Chances are you or someone you are researching has roots from there. This presentation will provide information to assist in Scottish genealogy research.</p> <p>Saturday, Dec 14, from 1 - 3 p.m.</p>
	<p>Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy with Mark McLaren</p> <p>The class is designed to be an introduction to DNA as an exciting new tool for genealogists. It is intended for individuals who either are new to DNA or looking to improve their ability to use it in their research. The objective of the class is to provide a basic understanding of all DNA tests and concepts. It will examine the available tools and strategies to more effectively manage DNA matches. It will also create a solid foundation for those interested in taking classes in more advanced skills.</p> <p>Wednesdays, Jan 8 to Feb 12, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>
	<p>San Francisco SIG</p> <p>Join the conversation with the CGS San Francisco Special Interest Group (SFSIG). We uncover records, view historical photographs and maps, read historical newspapers, manuscripts and other San Francisco records.</p> <p>Saturday, Jan 18, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>
	<p>Family Tree Maker SIG</p> <p>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 on the third Saturday of each month</p> <p>Saturday, Jan 18, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p>
	<p>Getting Started With DNA and Using it for Brick</p>



[Walls](#) Presented by Sue Severson

Get introduced to the what and the why of genetic genealogy. This class will provide DNA concepts. You'll learn about and compare the main DNA labs. Sue will share how you can use genetic data to break through your genealogy brick walls.

This class is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library

Saturday, Jan 18, from 1 - 3:30 p.m.

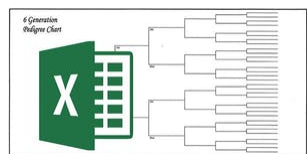


[Field Trip To Oakland Public Library & Oakland History Room](#)

Join Jane Lindsey for a tour of the Oakland Main Library. Dorothy Lazard, Principal Librarian in the Oakland History Room, will discuss the resources available at the Oakland Public Library to assist you with your family research.

The Oakland History Room is an important center for the study of the history and current development of the East Bay. Its collection contains a wide variety of materials relating to the history of Oakland and the larger Bay Area, including books, magazines, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, photographs, postcards, sheet music, trade catalogs, and scrapbooks.

Thursday, Jan 23 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



[Excel for Genealogists](#) with Stewart Blandón Traiman

Stewart loves spreadsheets! He is an expert in Microsoft Excel using it in genealogy quite frequently. Laying out all the data in Excel can help researchers see gaps in knowledge or correlations between data points. Stewart shows many examples of his use of spreadsheets.

This is a hands-on class. Please bring a laptop with Excel loaded.

Spreadsheets are fun!

Saturday, Jan 25 from 1 - 3:30 p.m.
(This class often sells out - sign up early)



[On the Road Again: Practical Tips for Successful On-Site Research](#) Presented by Pam Brett

A research trip to one's ancestral home can be extremely rewarding, but also presents many challenges. Over the last 20 years Pam has visited 18 states and the District of Columbia to conduct research on her family that "came early and moved often." Well-planned on-site research will increase your chances of answering your most perplexing research questions and enhance understanding of the lives of your ancestors. Although focused on the United States, you will learn practical tips on how to plan your trip wherever you choose to travel.

Saturday, Feb 8 from 1 - 3:30 p.m.

[Intermediate Records Series: Land, Church, Court and Immigration for Genealogy](#) Presented by Lisa Gorrell, CG.



Are You Ready for the Next Level?

- Do you want to take your genealogy research beyond vital records and census records?
- Do you want to understand probate, church, immigration, and land records that appear on sites like Ancestry and FamilySearch?
- Are you stuck and feel you need to perhaps find records in local repositories?

This intermediate class will focus on four specific record groups and demonstrate how to find these record types both on and off line.

- Court Records: Probate, Guardianship, Wills, Other
- Church Records: Sacramental, Membership, Business
- Emigration, Immigration, & Naturalization
- Land & Property Records: Federal, State, & Local land records, & Tax Records
- Off-line Research: Using Online Sources to Find Off-line Records

The course will consist of both lecture and group hands-on activities. There will be immediate practice using these newly taught skills. There will also be optional homework so practice can continue at home.

Wednesdays, Feb 19 - Mar 18, from 9:30 a.m. - Noon.
Five Wednesday mornings at the Oakland FamilySearch Library.



[Photo Scanning Workshop](#)

Ron Madson will conduct a hands-on photo scanning class using a PC or MAC to assist members who wish to scan documents to use with their genealogical projects. This is one of the classes that will complement the WRITING SERIES classes that will be beginning in April.

All participants must bring their own laptops and a scanner (assistance will be available to help you to decide what to purchase).

Saturday, Feb 22 from 1 - 4 p.m.



[Field Trip To California Historical Society](#)

Join coordinator Maureen Hanlon at the California Historical Society for a special CGS-only session with Reference and Outreach Librarian, Frances Kaplan. Frances will describe the holdings and share selected materials for our perusal. We'll have time to learn about the cataloged, indexed and other treasures in this special collection of California material.

Tuesday, Feb 25 from 10:30 a.m. - Noon.
FOR CGS MEMBERS ONLY (a perk of membership)

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

Volunteers!

'Tis the season of giving...

Here's an idea for a [holiday gift](#) to CGS - your valuable volunteer time! We have several volunteer vacancies, including a few on the CGS Front Desk Committee - a great opportunity for members to contribute their time and talent to our all-volunteer organization. Here are the details:



- Commitment is once-a-month; staffing the front desk in the CGS library (Thursdays, Friday or Saturdays).
- A Front Desk shift is six hours; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- You can work a shift with another member.
- You can do a "split shift" with another member (10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.)
- Generally, you will greet library visitors and answer the phone. Training is provided.
- You can do some of your own genealogical research during "lulls" in the day!
- There are always cookies in the break room....

For more detailed information, contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#).

Meanwhile, a big end-of-the-year THANK YOU to our generous volunteers who continue to selflessly contribute their time, ideas, wisdom and good humor to California's 121-year-old genealogical society. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Feel free to submit the [CGS Volunteer Form](#).

Board Certified!



We congratulate our very own Matt Berry for achieving the coveted title of Board Certified Genealogist. He was notified of the happy news last month.

Matthew Berry became interested in family history research in 2003 during a family reunion. He was born in San Diego and grew up in Foster City before attending and receiving a BA and MS from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA from Santa Clara University. Now retired from Wells Fargo Bank, Matt has been a member of CGS since 2006, has served as a desk duty volunteer in the past, and has taught several CGS classes on Microsoft Word skills for genealogists. He became a member of the board of directors in January 2019.

His genealogical research has focused on California, New England and the American mid-west.



BCG

BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GENEALOGISTS

Meetings and More

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

Board Meeting

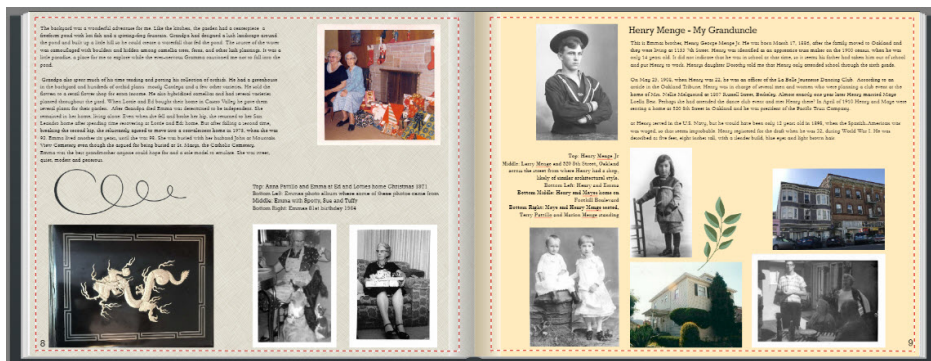
There will be no board meeting in December.



Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting for members will be on January 11th, starting at 11 a.m. in the CGS library classroom. The agenda includes voting for members to the CGS Board of Directors, approval of the 2020 budget and approval of Bylaw revisions.

Please come for a festive potluck, meeting old friends and enjoying cake.



After the Annual Business Meeting and lunch, we have a special program planned to kickoff one a 2020 class theme which focuses on skills to write a family history.

All meeting attendees are invited to bring books, family trees or other graphic family history exhibits that you have created to show and share. When you arrive just put your book or other item on the display table. Anyone who wishes to talk about their project will be allotted three minutes to make an oral presentation. Speakers are free to talk about any aspect of their project, ie. How you decided on the focus of your book, what system you used to organize your material, what printing company you used and what did you like and not like about their system, or any other aspect of your project. After the talks you will be free to talk with and ask questions of those to have brought something to share.

We expect this will be a lively, informative and very helpful opportunity to learn a lot about how to record your family's history. Please come to share and learn.

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group 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 [Jim Sorenson](#).

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 [Jennifer Dix](#) to discuss.



Chris Pattillo finished her state by state review of the library's offering and now expands to international sources, references books and other treasures worthy of your time to come into the library.

- [CGS Library Collections: Germany](#)

- [CGS Library Collection: Ireland and Scotland](#)

[Speaking Out Against Exorbitant Fees: Deadline is December 16](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

["The Great Thanksgiving Listen": Interview your family, share your story](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

[Volunteer Holiday Open House, December 15](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

[Free Workshop: "Finding Your Japanese American Roots," November 30](#) -- by Jennifer Dix



Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

[More on USCIS Proposes Fee Increases for Genealogy Records](#) -- by Dick Eastman

[5 Thanksgiving Activities the Whole Family Will Love](#) -- by Jessica Grimaud on FamilySearch

[5 Things to Be Grateful for This Thanksgiving](#) -- by Talya on MyHeritage Blog

[Tom Hanks Surprised by Ancestry Discovery That He's Related to Mr. Rogers](#) -- Ancestry.com Blog

[Ancestry Debuts the World's Largest, Searchable Online Obituary Collection](#) -- Ancestry.com Blog

[We're Losing Generations of Family History Because We Don't Share Our Stories](#) -- Rachael Rifkin on Good Housekeeping Magazine

[Arolsen Archives Offers an Online Database of Information about the Victims of Nazi Persecution](#) -- by Dick Eastman



New MyHeritage Tools - AutoCluster and Theory of Family Relativity

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

[Bay Area Genealogy Calendar](#) maintained by the Sutro Library



San Mateo County Genealogical Society Upcoming Events 2019-20

FOR MORE INFO: www.smcgs.org

Sat, Nov 23, 2019 – Brick Wall Busters: Techniques for Genealogical Success
10:30 am–12:00 pm, Free. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, entrance in back.



Presenter: Sharon Hoyt, CG

We've all experienced the dreaded genealogical brick wall, where your research seems to stop. No one method can address each and every brick wall problem, so we'll cover several techniques to help you get unstuck and move your research forward.

Sharon is a genealogy research, speaker, and author. Her research has been published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, and Minnesota Genealogist.

Dec 2019 – No meeting, please take this time for Membership renewal or to join.

Please support our monthly speakers, workshops, seminars, and library through Membership. We need your support to be able to offer these educational programs.

www.smcgs.org/membership

Sat, Jan 25, 2020 – The Orphan Train Movement—A History and Personal Story
10:30 am–12:00 pm, Free. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, entrance in back.



Presenter: Jeanne MacVicar

The Orphan Train Movement was the largest mass migration of children in American History. It lasted from 1854 to 1929 and it is estimated that over 250,000 children were moved from orphanages in New York City to rural areas in the United States. This presentation is an informative history of the Orphan Train Movement on a personal level.

Jeanne MacVicar is from Clyde, Kansas, where her great aunt Great-Aunt Adeline Trowbridge arrived in 1911 at age 3 on the Orphan Train. Jeanne came to California in 1970, was a school teacher, but now is a real estate agent in Los Altos.

Sat, Feb 22, 2020 – Titanic Connections: Exploring the Legend & Genealogy
10:30 am–12:00 pm, Free. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, entrance in back.



Presenter: Sheryl Rinkol

Come aboard and discover the history of the Titanic from design through on-board life to disaster. The genealogy of Titanic descendants, both victims and survivors, will be highlighted including the modern-day genealogy center in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Titanic collectibles will be displayed.

Sheryl Rinkol is a 35-year Titanic enthusiast, both a researcher and lecturer on the topic. She is the author of the book *Titanic Today* which will be available at the meeting.

Everyone is welcome at SMCGS events. www.smcgs.org

Major National and International Conferences:

[Family History Library Webinar Series](#)

2020		
Jan 17 - 19	Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG) CGS Member Marisa Louie Lee will be on faculty for SLIG 2020.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jan 19 - 24	SLIG Academy for Professionals - registration opens 13 July 2019	Salt Lake City, Utah
Feb 26 - 29	RootsTech 2020	Salt Lake City, Utah
Apr 29 - May 2	Ohio Genealogical Society Conference	Sandusky, OH

May 20 - 23	National Genealogical Society	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jun & Jul 2020 (3 sessions)	Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jul 13 - 17	Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed)	Washington D.C.
Jul 26 - 31	The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)	Atlanta, Georgia
Jul 31 - Aug 1	Celtic Connections Conference	Wheeling, Illinois
Aug 9 - 14	IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy	San Diego, California
Sep 2 - 5	Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)	Kansas City, Missouri
Sep 10 - 12	New York State Family History Conference	Albany, New York
	MyHeritage LIVE	
	APG Professional Management Conference	Portland, Oregon
	SLIG Virtual Programs	Online
	Texas State Genealogical Society	
2021	International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)	Cincinnati, Ohio

Connect with Us

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

Become a member of CGS



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

The library is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Forward this email
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Email [Stewart Blandón Traiman](#), eNews
Editor with any questions.



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