



CaliforniaAncestors.org  
**California Genealogical Society & Library**

Connecting people to their diverse family heritage



**Since 1898**

**February, Vol. 14, No. 2**

**February 2020 Announcements**

**Black History Month 2020 Theme**

"Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the [Nineteenth Amendment](#) (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the [Fifteenth Amendment](#) (1870) giving black men the right to vote." -- [History.com](#)

Read more about Black History Month on [africanamericanhistorymonth.gov](#).

[3 Easy Ways to Celebrate Black History Month](#) by FamilySearch

Our local African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California ([AAGSNC](#)) will host an annual [Black History Day](#) on Sunday, Feb 16.



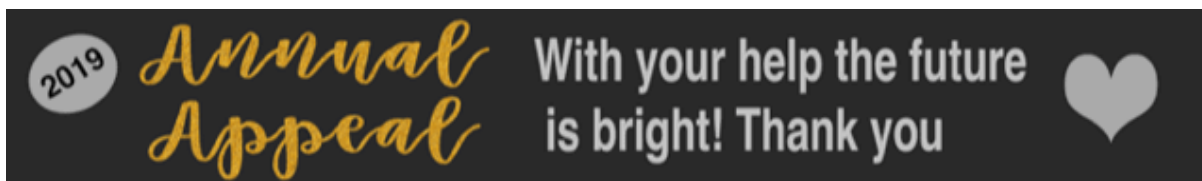
**It is the [Year of the Rat](#)**

February is Lunar New Year in most of Asia.

"The Rat is the first of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Rat tricked the Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived at the finish line, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox, becoming first." -- <https://chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/rat/>

- [Cyndi's List - China](#)
- [Cyndi's List - Asia](#)
- [FamilySearch - Chinese Genealogical Word List](#)
- [Chinese New Year Events - San Francisco](#)

[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.

### Oppose the USCIS outrageous fee hike

Dear Fellow Fee Fighters:

Breaking news: USCIS announced on Friday that they are reopening the comment period for their proposed fee hikes - but just for two more weeks!

This additional time is a gift, so we want to make sure we make the most of it.

### We have four steps for you to take right now to help us oppose the fee hike:

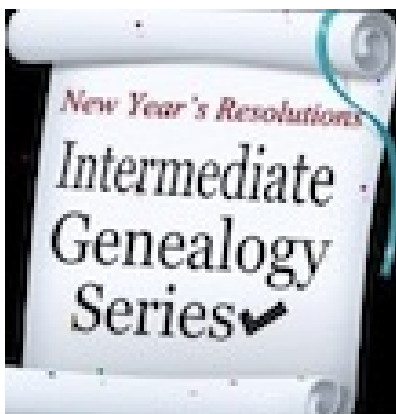
1. If you haven't yet submitted a comment, please do so. All the information you need to know is at <http://recordsnotrevenue.com/>. Submit your comments at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCIS-2019-0010-10938>
2. Once you have submitted a comment, or if you have already done so in the past, please make sure you write your Senators and Representative! We have received interest from several Congressional offices, and hope this two-week extension can gain us some further interest.
3. If you have submitted a comment AND written your Senators and Representative, you are welcome to submit supplementary comments! **There is no need to submit repeat or duplicate comments. If your comment has not yet posted to the online portal, but you received email confirmation and/or a receipt number from your previous comment, there is no need to submit the same comment again.\*\*** However, you are welcome to add additional thoughts to your previous comments; just be sure to include reference to your previous comment in your supplementary comment.
4. Share share share! Make sure your spouse and your siblings and your parents, cousins, neighbors all submit a comment, too. About 20% of the current posted comments are about the Genealogy Program - and that takes up just 2 pages of the 92-page proposed rule. **Every single comment matters.** Download the [one-pager from our website](#) for an easily shareable document.

As always, let us know if you have questions, if you hear anything from your elected officials, or if we can help in any way.

Thanks for your efforts, and for caring about these important records. The fight is not over, and we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,  
The Records Not Revenue team

### Intermediate Record Series



[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.






Classes and SIGs

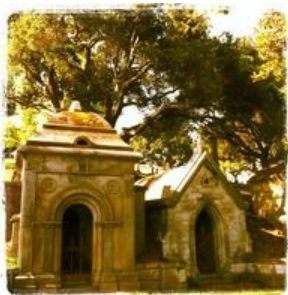
When registering on [Eventbrite](#) you'll need your CGS membership number to complete the registration. If you do not know your membership number send a request to [Membership](#).



	<p><a href="#">Introduction to Genealogy</a></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, Feb 1, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m</p>
	<p><a href="#">Mayflower Descendants - Special Interest Group</a> with Robert Trapp</p> <p>Offered by the California Genealogical Society, The Mayflower Descendants SIG will focus initially on Mayflower ancestry and how to join The Society of California Mayflower Descendants.</p>

	<p>Saturday, Feb 8, from Noon - 2 p.m.</p> <p><a href="#">On the Road Again: Practical Tips for Successful On-Site Research</a> Presented by Pam Brett</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Saturday, Feb 8 from 1 - 3:30 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">San Francisco SIG</a></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, Feb 15, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Family Tree Maker SIG</a></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, Feb 15, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Intermediate Records Series: Land, Church, Court and Immigration for Genealogy</a> Presented by Lisa Gorrell, CG.</p> <p>Are You Ready for the Next Level?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you want to take your genealogy research beyond vital records and census records?</li> <li>• Do you want to understand probate, church, immigration, and land records that appear on sites like Ancestry and FamilySearch?</li> <li>• Are you stuck and feel you need to perhaps find records in local repositories?</li> </ul> <p>This intermediate class will focus on four specific record groups and demonstrate how to find these record types both on and off line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court Records: Probate, Guardianship, Wills, Other</li> <li>• Church Records: Sacramental, Membership, Business</li> <li>• Emigration, Immigration, &amp; Naturalization</li> <li>• Land &amp; Property Records: Federal, State, &amp; Local land records, &amp; Tax Records</li> <li>• Off-line Research: Using Online Sources to Find Off-line Records</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>Wednesdays, Feb 19 - Mar 18, from 9:30 a.m. - Noon. Five Wednesday mornings at the Oakland FamilySearch Library.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Eastern European Special Interest Group Quarterly Meeting</a> by Craig</p>

	<p>Siulinski</p> <p>Come, to a Special Interest Group (SIG) discussion, focused on Eastern European Genealogy. Our group is open to all.</p> <p>Saturday, Feb 22, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Photo Scanning Workshop</a></p> <p>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 which begins in April.</p> <p>All participants must bring their own laptops and a scanner (assistance will be available to help you to decide what to purchase).</p> <p>Saturday, Feb 22 from 1 - 4 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Field Trip To California Historical Society</a></p> <p>Join coordinator Maureen Hanlon at the California Historical Society for a special CGS-only session with CHS 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.</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb 25 from 10:30 a.m. - Noon. FOR CGS MEMBERS ONLY (a perk of membership)</p>
	<p><a href="#">Irish Ancestry Network Meetup</a></p> <p>Join others researching Irish ancestors for our fifth annual opportunity to meet in person. We will exchange successes, discoveries and strategies for researching in Ireland. Networking will occur in the morning followed by a potluck lunch and speaker or short presentations in the afternoon.</p> <p>Sunday, Mar 15 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Building Skills for Successful Family History Research</a> with Pamela Brett</p> <p>This class is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library</p> <p>Are you interested in family history but not sure how to get started? Or have you been researching for some time, but want to go farther?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Wednesdays, March 18 - April 8 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.</p>
	<p><a href="#">The Naughty and Notorious Tour of Mountain View Cemetery</a></p> <p>This is a Members only Docent-led tour of Mountain View Cemetery.</p> <p>Docent Michael Colbruno will lead the CGS group on his most popular tour (formerly known as Headline Makers), including stories about the suicide of a Hall of Fame baseball player, a famous San Francisco madam, a corrupt judge, a scam artist who fascinated Mark Twain, a buried heart, a Hollywood director accused of bigamy and others who pushed the boundaries of acceptable behavior.</p>



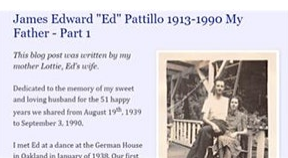
Saturday, Mar 21 from 10 a.m. to Noon



[West Coast Immigration to the United States in the 20th Century](#) with Linda Okazaki

20th Century immigrants to the west coast arrived by ship through Washington, Oregon, and California. Some immigrants arrived overland through Canada and Mexico. Vast numbers of these immigrants were Asian. This lecture will examine the ports of entry, the records generated, and the laws which impacted who and how the immigrants arrived. Many examples from the Angel Island Quarantine Station and Immigration Station will be used.

Saturday, Mar 21 from 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
At the Oakland FamilySearch Library



[Blogging to Share Your Family History for Writers and Non-Writers](#) with Chris Pattillo

This will be an introductory class for starting a blog. Chris will begin by talking about the pros and cons of blogging vs publishing books, or never getting around to doing anything with all your wonderful research.

Then we will jump right in and create a blog using Blogger, which is free and very easy to use. Chris will show attendees how to choose a theme and background, review page layout options, add gadgets, add text, photos and captions, how to edit after posting, and more.

Saturday, Mar 28 from 1 - 3:30 p.m.



[Finding Your Civil War Ancestors](#) - Presented by Jeff Vaillant

This class is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library

Join Jeff Vaillant in a session where he will share stories and strategies about finding his Civil War ancestors. Jeff will provide websites and other sources for you to be successful in locating military and pension and other resources both online and offline. Jeff can also provide information about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Saturday, April 18, 2020 1 - 3:30 p.m.

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

## Writing Your Family History Series



## [Writing Your Family History Series](#)

Seven Sessions

April 11, April 25, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24

1 pm - 4 pm, CGS Classroom

The California Genealogical Society will present an encore of our popular series Writing Your Family History. By the end of the course, you will be ready to start writing, or will be already writing, a family history with confidence and style!

### Who Should Take This Course?

This course series is for genealogists and family historians who are ready to transform their research into a quality family history. The course will be lead by a team of dedicated volunteers - Matthew B. Berry, CG, Jennifer Dix, Lois Elling, Lisa Gorrell, CG, and Stewart Traiman - who have different and complementary skills.

<p><b>Kickoff</b> April 11, 1-4 pm</p>	<p><b>Telling Our Family Stories</b> Panelists: Matthew B. Berry, CG, Jennifer Dix, Lois Elling, Lisa Gorrell, CG, Stewart Traiman, and others. This will be a panel discussion in which each panelist discusses how they have told their family history stories. Examples will include books, journals/magazines, blogs, video, and other forms.</p>
<p><b>Session 1</b> April 25, 1-4 pm</p>	<p><b>Writing Stories</b> Instructor: Lisa Gorrell, CG This class will get you started writing your family history book. We will discuss defining your writing project, writing as a research tool, and ideas for providing context to your narratives.</p>
<p><b>Session 2</b> June 27, 1-4 pm</p>	<p><b>Writing and Editing With Style</b> Instructor: Jennifer Dix This class will discuss style: why writers need style sheets, and what style decisions need to be made. Also discussed will be how to edit your writing: who should do it, when to do it, and what to look for.</p>
<p><b>Session 3</b> July 25, 1-4 pm</p>	<p><b>Citation: Easier Than You Think</b> Instructor: Stewart Traiman This class will be based on Tom Jones' Mastering Genealogical Documentation. We'll break down all 17 chapters to make them more easily understandable and provide exercises for each.</p>

	Attendees will leave with much more confidence in how to craft their own citations for any source.
Session 4 August 22, 1-4 pm	<b>From Front to Back: Components of a Quality Family History Book</b> Instructor: Matthew B. Berry, CG This class will review the parts of a quality family history book, what to include in the front matter, the main body, and the end matter of your book. It will then go into detail on how to organize the main body of your work, covering the most popular genealogical numbering systems. The session will conclude with the "back door" to your book - the index.
Session 5 September 26, 1-4 pm	<b>Making Your Book Look Good: Page Layout and Art Preparation</b> Instructor: Lois Elling This class will cover how to add visual interest to your narratives: choosing typefaces that are easy to read, adding pictures and diagrams to your stories, and page layout software options.
Session 6 October 24, 1-4 pm	<b>Don't Stop the Presses: Publishing Your Genealogy Book</b> Instructors: Lois Elling and Matthew B. Berry, CG This class will show how to turn your word processor files into a professional- looking family history book. Topics will include: creating a file to send to the printer, choosing a printer, paper and binding considerations, and more.

### Life Member Tea

*Save The Date - Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>*

*A special event is being planned for our Life Members. Please save the date of Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> for this year's Life Member Tea. Invitations will be mailed out.*



### Volunteers!

**CGS needs your tech skills!**



Volunteers are needed to join the CGS Technology Committee, helping to keep our in-library computers and network functioning smoothly. Maintenance is performed weekly on Mondays, and usually takes a couple of hours. Duty rotates among volunteers, which generally results in a once-a-month commitment. Requires familiarity with Windows 10 setup and troubleshooting; you'll get training on the specific procedures.

Feel free to submit the [Volunteer Form](#) or contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#) for more information.



## Meetings and More

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

<p><b>Board Meeting</b></p> <p>February 8 at 10 a.m.</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership Survey</li> <li>• Nominations</li> <li>• Building Safety Orientation</li> </ul>	
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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](#).

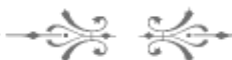
## CGS Blog

### 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: Maps](#)

[February Classes and Events](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

[Report from the Annual Membership Meeting: New Board Members and More](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

[New in the Library: The Bedecarré Family History](#) -- by Chris Pattillo

[Scenes from the CGS holiday party](#) -- by Jennifer Dix



### Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

[Outstanding African American Women in History](#) -- by Kayla Jackson on FamilySearch

[RootsTech 2020 Free Livestream Schedule](#) -- on Geneamusings blog

[Announcing Genealogical Adventures 2020 - a Heritage and Genealogical Tour to Sweden 2020, 3rd - 11th August 2020](#) -- on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

[The Massive Graveyard Found Underneath a London Underground Station When Crossrail was Built](#) -- on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

[19th Amendment at 100: Women Are First to Protest White House](#) -- by Hilary Parkinson at the National Archives

[How to Find and Browse Unindexed Records at Ancestry - The Better Browsing Checklist](#) -- by Lisa Cooke

[The Family Tree Podcast](#)



Download Your 23andMe Raw Data  
by Blaine Bettinger

### 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 2020

FOR MORE INFO: [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org)

**Sat, Jan 25, 2020 – Researching Off-line: Using Archives, Libraries, and Courthouses**  
10:30 am–12:00 pm, Free. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, entrance in back.



**Presenter: Lisa Gorrell**

There is so much genealogical information that is not yet digitized and can only be found in physical locations of archives, libraries, and courthouses. But, how to find where to look? Learn how to use online sources to find the off-line resources to help your family research.

Lisa Gorrell is a Certified Genealogist, a graduate of the ProGen program, and has taken numerous courses through genealogical institutes. She leads tours to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City through the California Genealogical Society.

**Thur, Feb 13, 2020 – WORKSHOP US Land Records in Public Land States**

2:30–4:00 pm. Cañada College Library Computer Lab, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd, San Mateo.

SMCGS Members \$5, Non-members \$10. Free for Cañada College students, faculty, and staff.



**Presenter: Martha Wallace**

Have you found land records with Township, Range, and Section in your family documents? As the United States grew beyond the original 13 states, the new lands were distributed, beginning with the Public Land Survey System in 1785 down to the Homestead Act of 1862. Join us to learn about Public Land States:

- how the land was surveyed and sold
- where the records can be found
- how to plot and find the land today.

Bring an example from your records or the name of an ancestor who may have received land.

**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.

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 – *To be announced*

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 – *The Orphan Train Movement with Jeanne MacVicar*

**Sat, May 2, 2020 – SPRING SEMINAR – Gems for Genealogical Research**

9 am – 3 pm. Members \$50, Non-members \$60, After April 24 & Walk-ins, add \$10. LDS Hall, 1105 Valparaiso, Menlo Park.



**Presenter: Lisa Louise Cooke**

Lisa Louise Cooke is a well-known speaker on genealogy and technology. She is an author, columnist, host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, and podcast producer for Family Tree Magazine Podcast. Her podcast brings genealogy news, research strategies, expert interviews and inspiration to genealogists in 75 countries around the world.

For more information and to register for the Spring Seminar, go to: [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org).

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 15, 2020.

Everyone is welcome at SMCGS events. [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org)

### Major National and International Conferences:

#### [Family History Library Webinar Series](#)

2020		
Feb 26 - 29	<a href="#">RootsTech 2020</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah
Apr 29 - May 2	<a href="#">Ohio Genealogical Society Conference</a>	Sandusky, OH
May 20 - 23	<a href="#">National Genealogical Society</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jun & Jul 2020 (3 sessions)	<a href="#">Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)</a>	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jul 13 - 17	<a href="#">Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed)</a>	Washington D.C.
Jul 26 - 31	<a href="#">The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)</a>	Atlanta, Georgia
Jul 31 - Aug 1	<a href="#">Celtic Connections Conference</a>	Wheeling, Illinois
Aug 9 - 14	<a href="#">IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy</a>	San Diego, California

Sep 2 - 5	<a href="#">Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)</a>	Kansas City, Missouri
Sep 10 - 12	<a href="#">New York State Family History Conference</a>	Albany, New York
Oct 15-17	<a href="#">APG Professional Management Conference</a>	Portland, Oregon
Oct 25-26	<a href="#">MyHeritage LIVE</a>	Tel Aviv, Israel
Nov 13-15	<a href="#">Texas State Genealogical Society</a>	Irving, Texas
<b>2021</b>		
	<a href="#">Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah
	<a href="#">SLIG Academy for Professionals</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah
	<a href="#">International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)</a>	Cincinnati, Ohio

### Connect with Us

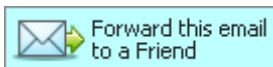
See our [Volunteer](#) page for opportunities or contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#)

## 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.



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

