Tree Tips Newsletter, February 2020, Vol. 36, No. 2

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

"What To Do When There Aren't Any Vital Records"

Speaker: Ted Gostin
Saturday, February 15, 2020

Ted Gostin, a well-known speaker throughout the state and nation, will present the program at SBCGSs February General Meeting on Saturday, February 15. He will review the available sources where one might find a record of births, marriages and deaths when public vital records are not available. Sources reviewed include early published newspapers; probate and divorce records; church & synagogue records; cemetery records; local city and county histories and personal memoirs; census records; and voter registration records. Gostin will also review how these sources fit into the concepts of direct and indirect evidence, and primary and secondary sources. Many examples focus on California as a case study, since the public recording of vital records did not begin right away when California became a state in 1850.

Mr. Gostin has been conducting genealogical research since 1980, and has worked as a full-time professional genealogist since 1994. He has twice been President of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Los Angeles, and has taught genealogy for several adult school and university extension programs. Mr. Gostin was a featured speaker at a half-dozen conferences. He lectures widely on Jewish genealogy, Southern California resources and naturalization and immigration records. Mr. Gostin is the author of *Southern California Vital Statistics: Volume 1, Los Angeles County 1850-1859*, and the owner of Generations Press publishing company. He was featured on the Larry Lamb episode of the original UK version of the popular genealogy television show *Who Do You Think You Are?* He is very active in the international Jewish genealogical community, and is an active member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Times and Schedule:
Special Interest Groups meet at 9:30 am for New Member & Beginning Genealogy, Civil War Genealogy, Writers' Support Group, German Ancestry, Italian Genealogy, Jewish Genealogy, French Canadian Genealogy, Scandinavian Genealogy, Discussion and Tips, and DNA. ***The monthly meeting starts at 10:30*** and the ***featured speaker starts at 11:00 am.*** Come join us. You do not need to be a member to enjoy this wonderful free presentation.

The Sahyun Genealogical Library
will be open following this general meeting from
1:00 - 4:00 PM
316 Castillo, Santa Barbara

"A Day of Genealogy Learning with Tom Jones"

Saturday, April 4, 2020

See Attached Flyer

"Recognizing Our Volunteers"

George La Plante

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Meeting Information

Date and Place

- Saturday, February 15, 2020, First Presbyterian Church, State and Constance
- There is ample free parking in the church's lot; the facility is handicapped accessible.

Special Interest Groups

SIGS meet prior to our general meetings. All are welcome.

9:30 AM Civil War Group - Blue or Gray. *Coordinator Alex Grzywacki*

9:30 AM Writers' Support Group. *Coordinator Alicia Watt*

9:30 AM Jewish Genealogy.. *Come to share ideas on research resources. Coordinators: G. Rosenberg, J. Honikman, C. Daly and H. Hinderstein*

9:30 AM DNA Group *meets under the leadership of Mary Hall*

9:30 AM German Ancestry Group *meets under the leadership of Cari Thomas*

9:30 AM Genealogy Tips and Discussion *meets under the leadership of Merna McClenathen*

9:30 AM Italian Roots *meets under the leadership of Rosa Avolio*

9:30 AM French Canadian Genealogy meets *under the leadership of Charmien Carrier*

9:30 AM New Member and Beginning Genealogy SIG *meets under the leadership of Norma Johnson and Jean Foster.*

9:30 AM Scandinavian Roots *meets under the leadership of Larrie Wanberg.*

9:30 AM Early California and Hispanic Roots. *Please contact Molly Gleason if you can chair this group.*

President's Message
Karen Stanton Ramsdell

Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow on the morning of February 2 and predicts an early spring. And, since February is considered the end of winter, I expect to see flowers blooming March 1.

In February, we celebrate African American History Month and the achievements of African Americans and the role of blacks in U.S. History. This year's theme, "African Americans and the Vote," coincides with the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote. For a list of the month's events, see the Noozhawk article Santa Barbara Black Organizations Collaborate for 2020 Black History Month Events, https://www.noozhawk.com/article/santa_barbara_black_organizations_collaborate_for_2020_black_history_month.

Board News. On Saturday, January 25th, the board held its planning workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to set goals for 2025 and determine what actions we need to take to realize our goals. The board is responsible for governance, oversight of programs and operations, and property management. Breakout groups brainstormed ideas and recommendations in each of those areas. The governance group looked at the current organization structure and recommended a structure to improve board effectiveness and to improve the management and maintenance of the Society's property. The group also recommended immediate appointment of the currently vacant Governance and Development Committees. The programs group brainstormed ideas to enhance current programs and outreach. The property group identified maintenance challenges/solutions, funding property maintenance long-term, and discussed the long-term development of our property. The board will continue to refine the goals and develop a plan for implementation and follow up. Each month I will report our progress in Tree Tips.

Property Committee. The committee has been working diligently to complete a list of recommended safety and security measures to repair/install motion-activated lighting at various locations on the property, secure outdoor electrical outlets and water faucets, and conduct periodic inspections of the fence line and repair as necessary. The committee is also working on a project to provide overflow parking on site.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. The board and committee chairs are currently putting together their budget requests. The Finance Committee will review the draft budget in March and April, followed by the board review and approval in May. In June, the proposed budget is presented to the membership for approval.

Board election. In June, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of board nominees for election by the membership. This year, the Board Secretary position will be open as well as Director-At-Large positions. If you are interested in being considered or would like more information on the duties of these positions, please contact me at ksramsdell1107@gmail.com.

Karen Stanton Ramsdell

Book Committee & Book Angels
Chris Klukkert, Chair

The book publishing World had their usual January book sales, and so new purchases are arriving weekly. The New England Genealogical and Historical Society has published some new books in their New England series that will arrive shortly. Another invaluable resource is Dr. Meinert's latest volume of the Germans in American Church Records series. The latest covers more of northwestern Ohio.

For myself, following up on my 2020 resolution, I am reading *Downsizing with Family History in Mind* by Devon & Andrew Lee.

But we have plenty of wonderful books for everyone here at the Sahyun. Please come in and have a look!

Here is what is on the New In The Library shelf:

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790- Vol 4
Inventors in Monmouth County, New Jersey
History of Mendocino and Lake Counties, California
Some Slaves of Virginia, 1674 – 1894 (Various counties in VA)
New Castle Delaware Land Records (2 Vols.) 1715-1769
Fauquier County, Virginia Will Books Vol 1 – 4
The Boys in The Sky-Blue Pants: The men and events at Camp Independence, 1862-1877
Bertie in Blue: Union Soldiers of Bertie County, NC
Philadelphia PA, Index of Wills, 1682-1782
The Story of Shalford (Essex, England)
The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of N Y 1915-1916
King George County, Virginia Deed Book Abstracts 1773 - 83
German Immigrants in American Church Records – Northeast Ohio Protestant by Dr. Meinert

The Book Committee thanks the following Book Angels who have generously donated or contributed to our collection:

Cathy Jordan Judy Thompson John Doordan
Robert Goeller Gwen Patterson Yvonne Neumann
Alex Grzywacki Susanne Mori David Sigurdson

Please check the Book Angels page for all new titles available for adoption. We are also open for suggestions for books to purchase for our collection. Thank you.

Check It Out

SBCGS receives newsletters from other societies, mainly in California. We now have a very nice rack for displaying these newsletters.

Membership Corner by Molly Gleason

Hello and Valentine Greetings to all! In addition to having an extra 24 hours to do genealogy research on Leap Day, there is a lot to celebrate this month. Celebrations start on February 1st, National Freedom Day. This day also marks the beginning of Black History Month. And then there's Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Susan B. Anthony Birthday Day (celebrated in a few states on February 15th), Presidents' Day and several others in between. Would you believe February 9th is National Pizza Day?

A Warm Welcome to our new members and thank you continuing members for your renewals last month!

> We have several new members since our last issue of Tree Tips. They are: **Tiffany Duran, Cynthia Gorman, Sebastian Herics, and Joaquin and Val Roses.**

New members: If you do not have a "New Member Packet," please pick one up at the next monthly meeting you attend or at the Sahyun Library.

New Member Orientation and Library Tour coming in March! This event will be open to all members. Please watch for further announcements on the website and in the next Tree Tips.

REMINDERS AND TIPS

- If you would like to read more about National Freedom Day and Richard R. Wright Sr. the patriot who was its catalyst, refer to https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/national-freedom-day/
- Need help with your research? Work with a Mentor. The Society has over thirty volunteer mentors in our Mentor Program who are ready to share their extensive expertise in several areas of genealogical research with our members. Please contact our Mentor Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, kajcremeen@gmail.com, if you would like help – or would like to become a Mentor. To view a list of our mentors, click on the Members Area/ Mentors for Members link in the sidebar of the home page of our website.
- Need help renewing? Contact the Membership Committee at membership@sbgen.org .

Please contact me at membership@sbgen.org with your questions, comments, and suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Happy researching and grab a slice of pizza!

Molly

Recognizing Our Volunteers

This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks **George LaPlante.** As most of our DNA researchers know, George hosts the DNA Lunch & Learns at the Sahyun Library. He is also a member of the Finance Committee. George joined the Society in 2017 and is a Life Member. Thank you, George, for sharing your most interesting bio below – and for taking us back to Lake Wobegon!

I was born and raised in Minnesota, where as Garrison Keillor will tell you, "the women are strong, the men are good looking and the children are all above average." As I recall, my first brush with genealogy came in the form of a middle school assignment to interview family members and create a family tree. One evening after dinner, I remained at the table with my parents, whipped out paper and pencil and started asking questions. My mother was far more forthcoming than my father, so I soon had a pretty lopsided tree, with a great deal of information on my maternal side and very little from my dad. Hmmm…what to do? I wasn't allowed to call my grandparents in Chicago. Back then, everyone knew that "long distance costs money," so I had to come up with a different approach. I decided to balance things out by adding some additional names to my father's side of the tree. In a line across the top of the page I added 3 new surnames: Klink, Hogan and Schultz. Because they appeared right next to each other, I was certain that my teacher would notice that those were the names of 3 of the main characters from television's "Hogan's Heroes." Much to my delight, the subterfuge went unnoticed and I got an "A" on the assignment.

My education continued through two degrees from the University of Minnesota: a BS in economics and a JD from the law school. During my last year in residence, the University shut down over a 3 day period when the wind-chill factor approached 100 degrees below zero. That inspired me to move to suburban Virginia, across the river from Washington, DC and accept a job with the federal government, which I left a few years later for the private practice of law.

It was in Virginia that I met the beautiful, brilliant and scintillating young lady who would soon coerce me into becoming her husband. For more than 40 years, Barbara has made it her life's work to correct my many flaws. Indeed, while sharing some of her frustrations in that regard with the members of one of her quilting groups (known among themselves as the "Grateful Threads"), fellow stitcher and SBCGS poet laureate, Kristin Ingalls, suggested that perhaps I might be distracted from some of my lesser pursuits and more annoying tendencies by researching dead people. When Kristin learned that I had been engaged in genealogical pursuits since the 1970s, she gleefully hatched a plot to get me over to the Sahyun Library where others could go to work on me.

Soon enough, Diane Sylvester, Rosa Avolio and Michel Nellis contacted me, and I am pretty sure they said that if I would lead the monthly DNA Lunch & Learn Class AND join the SBCGS Finance Committee that I would get a really big salary. They now claim that I misheard them, and that they only promised a really big celery, as shown in the picture above. It just goes to show, Minnesota is not the only place where the women are strong.

~ George LaPlante

SBCGS Lunch & Learn

DNA Lunch & Learn
George LaPlante

Friday, February 21, 2020 (3rd Friday)
12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm

Location: Sahyun Library, Community Room
(feel free to bring your lunch)

See SBCGS website for Genetic Genealogy Resources:
http://sbgen.org/cpage.php?pt=91

Tuesday Lunch & Learn
Rosa Avolio

Tuesday Lunch and Learn
February 11, 2020, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Bring your lunch and questions and
let's talk genealogy and technology.

All levels beginner to advanced.

RootsMagic Software User Group

RootsMagic User Group Meeting

Thursday, February 13th from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your lunch and questions for an open Q&A forum with **Elizabeth O'Neal** on using the RootsMagic computer software program.

Carpinteria Library Classes

Genealogy Research Workshop
Holly Snyder

February, 10th at 5:30 pm
Carpinteria Library - 5141 Carpinteria Avenue

Bring your laptop, research notes, and a research goal and work on your own research! Holly will be available to assist in your search if needed. Laptops will be provided if needed.

Googling Your Family Tree
Holly Snyder

March 9 @ 5:30pm
Carpinteria Library- 5141 Carpinteria Ave

Learn how to use Google to research your family tree. Bring your laptop if you like to practice searching. Laptops will be available at the library as well.

Outreach, Tips, Ideas

Outreach
Holly Snyder

Volunteers needed! We will be in need of volunteers in March to pass out flyers to schools for our 2020 student art exhibit.

We are working on the new Santa Barbara Italian Pioneer exhibit at Rancho La Patera/Stow House Education Center. Exhibit opening coming soon!

Our website will continue to show our virtual SB Italian Immigrant exhibit and will be continually updated as we complete our biographies and receive new information. To visit the virtual exhibit, go to sbgen.org->Santa Barbara's Italians (on the left column)

Speakers Bureau speaking engagement scheduled for February 12 at Encino Royale. Do you have a great idea for a speaking engagement location or a group needing a meeting space for a genealogy speaking engagement? Let us know! Speaking engagements can be at a specific location or at the Sahyun Library.

Interested in helping the Outreach Committee with events and/or exhibits, or joining the committee? Email Holly Snyder at hs_spartan@yahoo.com.

Archived Webinars
All archived videos are available in the members section of our website.

Family Tree User Group Sessions – 7 videos
Hidden Gems of Jewish Genealogy Research - Marlis Humphrey
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- Melanie D. Holtz
Using Online Resources for Irish Research - Donna Moughty
Genealogy Do-Over - Thomas MacEntee
Researching Ancestors in Galicia, Austria-Hungary - Michelle Chubenko
Using ArkivDigital - Kathy Meade
Researching Common Surnames - Lisa Lisson
Migration Trails - Peggy Clemens Lauritzen
It's Not All Online! Researching in Archives - Melissa Barker
Ukrainian Research - Michelle Chubenko
Jersey Roots: Touring the Garden State - Michelle Chubenko
Using Online Trees Wisely - Michael John Neill
Finding Scottish Ancestors Online - Nancy Loe
Finding Your 1812 Ancestors - Thomas MacEntee
Funeral Homes & Family History: They're Dying To Meet You - Daniel Earl
The Genealogy Cloud - Thomas MacEntee
Incorporating Social History Into Your Research - Dr. Michael Lacopo
Documentation: What, Why and How - Amy Johnson Crow
Your Ancestor's FAN Club - Drew Smith
Census Revealing the Past - Debbie Kaska