Tree Tips Newsletter, March 2020, Vol. 36, No. 3

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

"Overcoming Brick Walls with DNA"

Speaker: Cheri Mello
Saturday, March 21, 2020

Cheri Mello, a well-known speaker throughout the state and nation, will present the program at SBCGSs March General Meeting on Saturday, March 21st. Learn from four case studies how DNA was used to overcome a brick wall that stood since the 1950s, solved the mystery of the parent of two sisters, another that revealed step-grandpa was really dad, and a case of an unknown father. Also included is an overview of the 4 types of DNA used in genealogy: Y-DNA, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), autosomal DNA (Family Finder) and X Match and how to decode the confusing terms of DNA.

Professionally, Cheri Mello is a math teacher with degrees in psychology, sociology, human and child development, and master's in education. She became a National Board Certified Teacher, the most prestigious and highest teaching credential in the educational world.

The genealogy bug was planted in Cheri, a South Bay native, with the 5th grade history project. Her maternal grandmother gave her some material for her project. She used it later for a Girl Scout badge and pulled out the information many times and wondered about her family and how she could learn more.

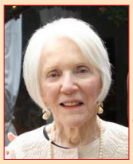
Cheri began her active adult research over 25 years ago, after the death of her remaining grandparents. She has done research in many states, even taking trips overseas in search of her Portuguese ancestry. Thirteen years ago, she became involved in DNA, and was recruited as the Project Administrator for the Azores DNA project. She runs five DNA projects and manages mailing lists involving Portuguese-Azorean genealogy.

Cheri lectures now not only on Portuguese and DNA topics, but a host of other topics including software programs and Find-A-Grave.

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

"A Day of Genealogy Learning with Tom Jones"
Saturday, April 4,



"Recognizing Our Volunteers"
Sheila MacAvoy Block
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Meeting Information

Date and Place

- Saturday, March 21, 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

Spring has sprung! In March we celebrate Irish American Heritage Month and Women's History Month.
In 1991, Congress proclaimed March as Irish American Heritage Month. According to a U.S. Census Bureau Survey, taken in 2018, 32 million (9.9%) U.S. residents self-identify with Irish ancestry.

Since 1987 Women's History Month has been celebrated in March of each year. This year's theme, "Valiant Women of the Vote", honors "the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others."

This year is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment officially recognizing women's right to vote. The path to women's right to vote was a long and contentious journey. If you would like to know more about the 19th Amendment and its history, the National Park Service's website https://www.nps.gov/ is just one of many resources available.

While some plants and trees were dormant during winter, SBCGS was not! The Society was been busy making plans for spring.
Ancestors West. Editor Kristin Ingalls and the AW team produced another outstanding issue filled with fascinating and inspiring stories by our members about their Heroes and Heroines. The theme for the next issue is A New World for Women. How were our ancestors affected by the monumental changes in our society during the first two decades of the 20th Century? I look forward to reading your stories.

Spring Seminar. Registration is now open for our April 4th all-day seminar with Tom Jones. I hope to see you there!

Board & Committee News.

Board News. In February the board approved a maintenance contract with Cicileo Landscaping who replaces Paysage Landscape for the maintenance of our gardens and landscaping. The weeds took full advantage of the gap between contractors but Cicileo is working hard to catch up.

Nominating Committee. Committee members Kathie Morgan, Dorothy Oksner, and Judy Thompson are seeking potential candidates for Board Secretary and Director-At-Large. Elected board members serve a three-year term beginning July 1. If you are interested in one of these board positions or know of a Society member that might be interested, please contact the Committee members at info@sbgen.org with Nominating Committee in the subject line.

Outreach Committee. The Committee has been busy installing the popular Santa Barbara's Italian Pioneer exhibit at the Rancho La Patera/Stow House exhibit hall. The Exhibit opened March 1 and will be on display through September. Rancho La Patera/Stow House is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays 1pm-4pm (and by appointment). Visit the Goleta Valley Historical Society's website goletahistory.org for more information.

The Committee is now Calling All Student Artists to submit artwork for the third annual student art exhibit to be held during Family History Month, October 2020. The theme will be Family Matters. Artwork is due June 28. For more information, see the exhibit flyer in this edition of Tree Tips.

Property Committee. The Committee continues to work on a list of projects to improve the safety and security of our property. One such project is to repair/replace motion-detection lighting the parking lot.

Budget & Finance Committee. At its March meeting, the Committee will review the first draft of next year's budget. In April the Committee will finalize its recommended budget and send it to the Board for review and approval. The proposed budget is then presented to the membership for its approval at the Annual Meeting in June.

As an all-volunteer-run organization, committees, such as those mentioned above, accomplish much of the Society's work. Serving on a committee is a great way to meet other Society members, share your knowledge and expertise, and contribute to the overall operation and success of the organization.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face…… (Irish blessing)

Karen Stanton Ramsdell
Presisdent

Helpful Tips

This Month: Free Education by Robin McCarthy

I subscribe to the weekly email updates from ConferenceKeeper so I can see what upcoming webinars are available. Because of this site, I regularly view free webinars from:

- BYU Family History Library - https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classhttps://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/
- Florida State Genealogical Society - https://flsgs.org/
- Georgia Genealogical Society - https://www.gagensociety.org/
- Minnesota Genealogical Society - https://flsgs.org/
- Southern California Genealogical Society - http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/
- Utah Genealogical Society - https://ugagenealogy.org/
- Virtual Genealogy Association - https://virtualgenealogy.org/
- Wisconsin State Genealogical Society - https://wsgs.org/

I also use the GeneaWebinars calendar http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html on my Gmail calendar to see other online genealogy events like Legacy Family Tree Webinars, Dear Myrtle weekly meetings, etc. And, of course, there are free classes and webinars hosted by the SB Family History Center on Wednesday mornings.

I find both of these sites to be a valuable resource to free education

SBCGS Lunch & Learn

DNA Lunch & Learn
George LaPlante

Friday, March 20, 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
March 10, 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, March 12th 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

Researching with FamilySearch
Holly Snyder

April 13 @ 5:30pm
Carpinteria Library- 5141 Carpinteria Ave

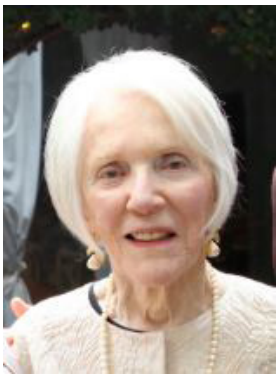
Learn how to use FamilySearch effectively to research your family tree and locate those hard to find documents. Bring your laptop if you like to practice searching. Laptops will be available at the library as well.

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.

Recognizing Our Volunteers

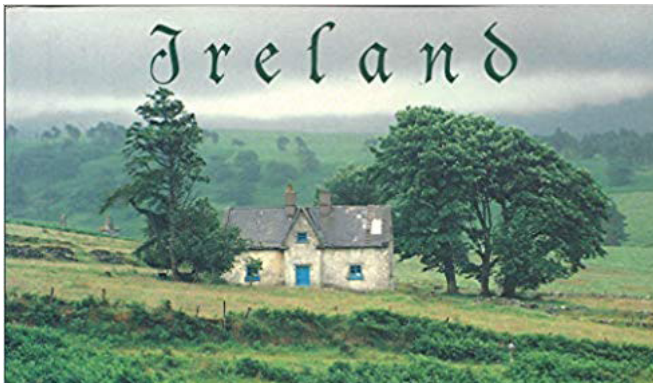


This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks **Sheila MacAvoy Block**, one of our volunteer mentors. Sheila joined the Society in 1996 and is a Life Member. Among Sheila's areas of expertise are New York, Scotland - and **IRELAND**. So, if those leprechauns are playing tricks on you and you are stuck in Ireland, this is a perfect month to seek her help! Thank you, Sheila, for sharing your bio and words of advice below.

I grew up in New York City in a large Irish Catholic family, mostly 2nd and 3rd generation Irish and Scots. My Dad inspired me with the genealogy bug and both my parents talked freely about their immigrant ancestors. I graduated from Queens College of the City of New York and later earned a Law Degree from St. John's University. I arrived in Santa Barbara in 1991. After retiring as an attorney in an aerospace corporation, I became a plant propagator at the Botanical Gardens, joined a Book Group, and got myself into Jan Cloud's genealogy course. Bingo!

Words of advice: Interview the old ones in your family. Grab any letters or keepsakes. Study immigration materials. Think of what was happening at the time your ancestor immigrated, it will bear on where he or she went. There is a valuable list of on line Irish and Scots resources. Don't even mention New York City, it's endless. Unless you want to hire a researcher, think about traveling to Ireland AFTER you have a solid lead. Register on "Ireland Reaching Out," it's free. After you have a good lead, of course. https://irelandxo.com/about-us Volunteers will set up a visit plan and help you after you get a good solid idea of where your people came from. "Scotland's People" is a paid site, but is awfully good. You can learn to manipulate the information to develop the most info.

The biggest mistake people make is going down rabbit holes too fast. Also, thinking that the Four Courts fire in 1921 destroyed everything. It mostly destroyed Church of Ireland records and wills. Land deeds have survived remarkably well. And since most of our peasant ancestors didn't have the proverbial plot, deed and will records don't matter much for them until a bit later in the 19th C. Land records as far back as 1800 will illuminate the whereabouts of our tenant ancestors, i.e. Tithe Applotments, Griffith's Valuations. Consider a trip to Salt Lake City. It's a gold mine. But that first trip to Ireland or Scotland will blow your mind. You feel something as soon as you get off the plane.
~ Sheila MacAvoy Block



Membership Corner by Molly Gleason

"The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper."
~ Eden Phillpotts.

Hello all, I was looking for a nice Irish quote and found this lovely one, which some sources attributed to William Butler Yeats. Alas, however, others attributed it to Bertrand Russell. Hmmm… finally found the line in the book *A Shadow Passes* by Eden Phillpotts, an Englishman, published in 1918. Oh, well. At least, I can wish you a bit of Irish Luck in finding your "sharper wits" and discovering something grand this month!

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:

James Balker, Winston Dutton, Tricia Hanna, Sharon Hannon, Cecily Hintzen, Zoe Iverson, Ken Kettler, and Vicky Lorelli

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Orientation and Sahyun Library Tour - Saturday, March 28th
10AM – Noon at the Sahyun Library.

This event is open to ALL members. The New Member Orientation is regularly scheduled for our newest members. However, for this event, we are extending the invitation to our longer-term members, as well.

We invite you to:

- Discover what's new at the Library and in the Computer Lab
- Learn about records preservation & other digitization projects
- Learn about opportunities to become more involved.

Watch for invitations in your email box!

Congratulations to **Geraldine Thompson**! Besides being a genealogist, Gerry is an accomplished artist. A showing of her artwork is being held at Villa Santa Fe on the Mesa. Her exhibit opened in February and has been extended through March.

Gerry joined the Society in 1989 and is a Life Member. As many of you know, she has written and donated several books to the library about her own ancestry and that of her husband, Charles. Charles was an Industrial Arts teacher at Santa Barbara Junior High School and also taught an SBCC Adult Education class on bookbinding. For more about this and the connection to our Sahyun Library, you will enjoy re-reading Gerry's article *"Charlie's Legacy"* in the Fall 2018 edition of Ancestors West.

REMINDERS AND TIPS

- **Santa Barbara Fair & Expo 2020 is April 29th – May 3rd.**

There is a "Genealogy" exhibit category, which includes pedigree charts, family history in original writings, family heirlooms, photos and more. Some of our members have won blue ribbons and Best in Show! Go to http://earlwarren.com/sb-fair-expo/ for details

- Visit the Sahyun on St. Patrick's Day! One of our library volunteer "leprechauns" will be happy to assist you in navigating our 398 references on Ireland!
- How do the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Ireland? Check out the five day long celebration and schedule of events at: www.stpatricksfestival.ie/events
- 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!

Have a grand St. Patrick's Day!
Molly