

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World



"SBCGS 2nd Virtual General Meeting" Saturday, May 16th, 10:30am



SBCGS Members, please join us on Saturday, May 16th, for our second awesome virtual general meeting.

10:30 - 10:45am

Business Meeting with President, Karen Ramsdell and Committee Reports

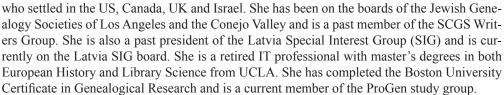
10:50 - 11:45am

Introduction of Marion Werle by Elizabeth O'Neal, VP "Never Give Up - Strategies for Taking Your Genealogy Research to the Next Level and Finding the Previously Unfindable"

About the Program:

This program is a collection of "I wish I knew that when I was starting out" tips to maximize your research efforts. The speaker will share insights learned after 25 years of research about how to extract information that isn't immediately obvious from a wide variety of sources including names and variations, strategies for researching common names, revisiting old research with new eyes, online search strategies and indexing, extracting unexpected information from death records, the importance of geography in searches, creative use of city directories and more.

Marion Werle began her family history research 25 years ago, researching family from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus,



Zoom Instructions for Participants will be sent to SBCGS members before the General Meeting

General Information:

- 1. You will need a computer, tablet, or smartphone with speaker or headphones.
- 2. You will receive notice via email for a unique link to SBCGS General Meeting. The notification might also include a Meeting ID or password.
- 3. At the start time of your meeting, click on the link in your invitation to join. You may be instructed to download the Zoom application.
- 4. You will be sent to our waiting room. Rosa Avolio, our Zoom host, will admit you. This process insures the security of our Zoom meeting.
- 5. More complete information on using Zoom will be sent to SBCGS members several days before the meeting.

Meeting Information Virtual Meeting

- Zoom Online Meeting for SBCGS members
- Saturday, May 16th, 2020
- 10:30 am

Special Interest Groups
That Meet Before the
General Meeting Will
Return — Stayed Tuned!



This is a reminder that there is an easy way to give-back to SBCGS by going to smile.amazon.com. Every eligible purchase you make at smile. amazon.com will result in a donation to SBCGS.

On your first visit to smile.amazon. com, select Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. Log on before you begin shopping to receive donations from eligible purchases. It's easy, and it doesn't cost you anything!

Contact Us

www.sbgen.org info@sbgen.org sbcgs-education@sbgen.org 806-884-9909 316 Castillo Street, SB







President's Message

Karen Stanton Ramsdell



Dear Members,

Mother Nature is out in her full glory. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather, flowers and trees in bloom, and that you and your family are in good health.

In this time of social distancing, the Society has offered many creative ways to stay engaged ~ Lunch & Learn sessions, home-use of the Soci-

ety's Ancestry.com account, monthly meetings via Zoom, and Tips for the Stay at Home Genealogist are just a few.

May has a plethora of celebratory "Days," however there are several to note: Mothers' Day (May 10), Memorial Day (May 25), and National Nurses Day (May 6).

General Meeting – May 16

Over 90 members "Zoomed" into our April general meeting. It was such a success and a joy to see so many familiar faces that we will hold the May meeting virtually as well.

The May meeting will begin at 10:30am for a short business meeting, followed by a special presentation by Marion Werle, *Never Give Up - Strategies for Taking Your Genealogy Research to the Next Level and Finding the Previously Unfindable.* Closer to the meeting an invitation will be emailed to members with the Zoom link to join the meeting.

Board News

Library Reopening. The Library is closed until June 1 and given the most current public health information; I expect the closure to be extended to July 1. Reopening will be based on state and local public health requirements and recommendations, volunteer availability, and our ability to provide a safe and healthy library environment for volunteers, members, and visitors.

While we are not able to physically visit the Library, Lunch & Learn, general meetings, and committee meetings will continue via Zoom until further notice.

The April board meeting agenda focused on the proposed budget for next year and the Society's financial status. Please see the Budget Message in this issue of Tree Tips for a summary of the Board's discussion. The Board will be working on goals to close the gap over time and make the genealogy operations budget more self-sustaining, relying less on the property operations budget for support.

The Board approved the FY 2020-2021 Budget and recommended approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting. The format of the proposed budget is different than in past years. Please refer to the Budget Message for more information on the two budgets presented, the Property Operations Budget and the Society Operations Budget, for membership approval.

The Nominating Committee reported its slate of nominees for Board Secretary and Directors-At-Large which will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting

Save the date! Saturday, June 20, 10:30am, SBCGS Annual Mem-

bership Meeting via Zoom – another Society first. At that time members will vote to approve the FY 2020-2021 budget and to elect the Board Secretary and three Directors-At-Large. The program will follow with a dynamic speaker. In this month's Tree Tips, the following items have been provided in preparation for the June Annual Meeting.

- •Budget Message
- Proposed FY 2020-2021 Property Operating Budget and Society Operating Budget
- •Nominating Committee Report and a slate of nominees for board positions
- •2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Nominating Committee, Kathie Morgan (Chair), Dorothy Oksner, and Judy Thompson, did a great job in their search for qualified candidates for Board Secretary and Directors-At-large. My appreciation to the committee for its diligence and work during a challenging time. Thank you to the nominees for your interest and "stepping-up" to Board service.

Committee Members Needed

As an all-volunteer-run organization much of the Society's work is accomplished through committees. If you have an interest, training, experience, and knowledge in any of the committee areas please consider serving on a committee. Please see the article about committee volunteer needs in this issue of Tree Tips.

Happy Mothers' Day! Stay healthy and, for the time being, see you on Zoom. **Karen Stanton Ramsdell, President**

Important Message from SBCGS Library Director: Due to the current Covid-19 stay-at-home directives, the planned Research Trip to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library for June 3 – June 10, 2020 has been cancelled. The Plaza Hotel was holding 15 rooms for our members. I have asked them to release the hold on the rooms. If any members had already made a reservation with the Plaza Hotel for one of these rooms it is important that you call the hotel and cancel your room reservation. Again, if individuals have already made reservations for these dates and are not going, you must cancel your own room reservation. The Family History Library is still closed for an indeterminate period of time.

We are sorry that we had to cancel this as it is always a very fun and rewarding trip for our members. We will look forward to next year planning a Salt Lake Research trip in early June of 2021. So watch for information in the late fall.

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe and doing lots of genealogy at home. During this time of quarantine the Society has been granted access to "Ancestry Library Edition" through our website. This is the same program previously was only available at the Library. Do take advantage of this wonderful benefit. Just go to the Society website: sbgen.org click on members area and the first entry is Ancestry Library. Also don't forget that there are a number of educational webinars available on the website as well. Hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. Kathie L. Morgan, Library DIrector

SBCGS Lunch & Learn

Tuesday Lunch & Learn - Virtual via Zoom Rosa Avolio

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Virtual Lunch and Learn , 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm - Please watch for Zoom invitaion via e-mail.

Topic: Obituaries - Where to find them

We'll talk about how to use the Obituary Index on Ancestry. And if you come prepared with a name and date and we'll use the society's resources (Newspapers.com) to find obituaries for you.

DNA Lunch & Learn, George LaPlante

Members will be contacted via email about future virtual DNA Lunch & Learn. See SBCGS website for Genetic Genealogy Resources: http://sbgen.org/cpage.php?pt=91

RootsMagic Software User Group

RootsMagic User Group Meeting

Members will be contacted via email about a future virtual RootsMagic User Group meetings.

Carpinteria Library Classes

Researching with FamilySearch Holly Snyder

Stayed tuned for more information about the reopening of the Carpinteria Library

Googling Your Family Tree Holly Snyder

Stay tuned for more information about reopening of the Carpinteria Library.



Genealogy came organically to Chris as she was always intrigued with her family's background, and she became proficient in researching and knowing horse pedigrees — doing her own was a natural step. She does not remember exactly when she joined SBCGS, but recalls the meetings were out at the Goleta Community Center. She took Mary Leigh Johnson's Adult Ed genealogy class and never looked back. In 1989, when Chris moved back to Santa Barbara from Sweden, she dug into into genealogy with full force. She had the fortune to have Jan Cloud as a neighbor, and enjoyed many Happy Hour gatherings there and perusing in Jan's large private genealogy library in her garage.

In 2015 Christine tested her DNA and had the surprising discovery of finding out that her biological father was not her Dad, Jack Klukkert. This shocking discovery was followed by an intense, amazing and complex two-plus years of research that unveiled the truth of her paternity and the story behind it. (See Ancestor's West, Fall 2017). It would not have been possible without the kindness, sleuthing, tact, deter-

mination and analytical skills of our very own Mary Hall! Undaunted and plucky in spirit, Christine went on to meet her new biological family and has taken on that whole new family line as her latest research project.

In (and out of) Santa Barbara County since 1979, Chris now lives in Buellton. Besides genealogy, Christine enjoys reading (duh!), walks with her Norfolk Terrier, traveling to locales where ancestors have lived (isn't that genealogy?), being politically aware and active, and assisting and volunteering/supporting several local organizations like Pacific Pride, and the Santa Ynez Humane Society.

Chris works as a Volunteer Librarian and enjoys getting to know people in our society. Her favorite advice? "It's not all on-line, Folks! Take a look at our BOOKS, and you might find some wonderful things."

Recognizing Our Volunteers



This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks **Christine Klukkert.** Chris is the society Book Chair and a Life Member. Thank you, Chris, for sharing your bio and advice!

Chris has been happily involved with books all her life, starting in Claremont, California with her mother's early encouragement via weekly library visits. She attended a private boarding high school in Palo Alto that required students to read assigned books year-

round. Undergraduate studies at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque as an English major had her reading a plethora of books each month. A Masters in Education at UCSB in 1988 topped off the drive to use books in all areas of her life. So, it was a logical choice that Chris-

tine took on the role of Book Chair for the Sahyun.

Christine brings a variety of professional experiences to the Society. She started early as a lifeguard and swimming instructor. She is passionate about horses,- and turned that passion into a three-decade career — training and showing horses World-wide. She won National Championship awards in the U.S., Canada and Sweden. It was while



she was working at an Arabian horse farm outside Gothenburg, Sweden, that she was introduced to her husband-to-be, Keith Nilsson, whom she married in 1989. Keith is now a dual U.S. and Swedish citizen and, of course, has been "induced" to dig into his Scandinavian roots and fill in his pedigree chart.

Chris also worked several years as a licensed pharmacy technician in both hospital and home-care companies. In the "It's -a-Small-World" category, she worked at Goleta Valley Hospital at the same time as RNs Kathie Morgan and Rosa Avolio, now both fellow SBCGS'ers.

Membership Corner by Molly Gleason



Hello Members,

I hope you all remain well and are staying safe. The lovely painting is "*Taking the Census*" by Francis William Edmonds, 1854. Understandably, Census 2020 has not received much press lately but is well underway, with the official start on April 1st. Of course, being genealogists and knowing the importance of census data in our research, we don't have to be reminded to participate.

Although I have searched the census records many times over, I have never taken the time to take a good look at the U.S. Census Bureau website, census.gov, until recently. It includes a fascinating look back at the history of the census starting when we were a country of 3.9 million to today with a population of approximately 330 million. In addition to the background and statistics surrounding each census, there are several interesting stories about the U.S. Marshalls who conducted the early censuses and, later, the Census Office employees, among whom were several notable "alumni" such as Alexander Graham Bell, W.E. B Du Bois, Shirley Chisholm – and Herman Hollerith, who built the tabulating machine to count the 1890 census. Hollerith's Tabulating Machine Company was later merged with other manufacturing businesses and renamed IBM.

I wonder how future genealogists will view the 2020 Census in the context of the pandemic and what stories they will uncover.

Thank you, continuing members, for your renewals last month! And a Warm Welcome to our newest members. New members since the last issue of Tree Tips are: **Dawn Dietz, Diane Francis, and Gregory Gallant.**

New members: The digital version of our "New Member Packet" is in process and will be made available for viewing on our website. Please watch for an announcement. Once the Sahyun Library reopens, you will be able to pick up a packet there and also at a monthly General Meeting.

A note about renewals: In order to reduce the amount of mail that our volunteers need to handle, please renew online if possible. Thank you!

REMINDERS AND TIPS

Please continue to monitor the Society website at sbgen.org for status updates regarding the Sahyun Library, meetings and educational classes.

Need help with your research? Our mentors are still available to help either by email, phone or in some cases video conferencing. 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.

It was great to "see" so many of you at our virtual General Meeting last month and I look forward to seeing you again at our next meeting.

Take care and have a wonderful Mother's Day! Molly



Contact Information

President: Karen Ramsdell, ksramsdell1107@gmail.com Library Director: Kathie Morgan, 682-4456

President Elect and Librarian Scheduler:

Connie Burns, connieburns12@hotmail.com V.P, Membership: Molly Gleason, membership@sbgen.org Newsletter Address Corrections: membership@sbgen.org

Vice President, Programs: Elizabeth O'Neal, lizybth@gmail.com

Ancestors West: Kristin Ingalls, antkap@cox.net

Adult Ed Genealogy Classes: Norma Eggli, neggli@cox.net

Carp Library Genealogy Classes: Holly Snyder, hs_spartan@yahoo.com

Sales Table: Kristin Ingalls, antkap@cox.net

Tree Tips: Diane Sylvester, sylvester.diane@gmail.com

 $DNA: George\ LaPlante, sbgeorgelaplante@gmail.com;$

Paul Cochet, 566-1036

Facilities Manager: William Noack, 805-617-0435

Interior Facilities Manager: Jim Friestad, ronjim@cox.net

Exterior Facilities Manager: Cheryl Jensen, cfitzjen@cox.net

Outreach, Tips, Ideas by Holly Snyder

Haven't seen the Santa Barbara Italian Pioneer Exhibit at Rancho La Patera/Stow House yet?

Don't worry, you can take a virtual trip to see the exhibit!

Click here to view the exhibit: https://sbgen.org/cpage.php?pt=247

The exhibit will reopen once Rancho La Patera/Stow House is able to reopen.









"Family Matters" Student Art Exhibit UPDATE

Who: All students are welcome to submit their artwork!

What: SBCGS Annual Student Art Exhibit - the annual in-person exhibit at Sahyun Library and a new virtual exhibit!

When: Please submit by September 27.

How: Mail in artwork, arrange for pick up if local, or email a scanned jpg of artwork to be placed in the virtual student art exhibit.

Please forward the flyer to your grandchildren and/or anyone else who may be interested. The flyer is a jpg file so you can post on Facebook as well. We will send back all physical artwork after October. *See more details in the attached flyer.

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



Katherine R. Willson

Professional Genealogist ~ Speaker ~ Educator ~ Artist

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Katherine R Willson has just posted an update to her Genealogy on Facebook list (updated in May 2020), which catalogs every genealogy-, history-, and ethnic culture-related group and page on Facebook, in which the primary language used is English. It's a very useful resource!

Download the 419-page PDF file containing 16,000+ links to genealogy & history Facebook groups/pages (in English) here: "Genealogy on Facebook" List

https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/genealogy-on-facebook-may-2020.pdf

There is a clickable table of contents at the beginning of the list, starting with U.S. states & territories in the first section, other countries in the second section, and various categories in the third section (adoption, African American, Jewish, surnames, etc.). Clicking an entry in the table of contents will take you directly to that category within the list, and clicking a link will take you directly to that Facebook page/group.

The theme of the next issue of Ancestors West will be **Surprises!**



What was the ONE biggest surprise you discovered while doing your genealogy?

I know I've had dozens.



My first years in genealogy were spent putting names on a chart. It was not until later I began reconstructing my ancestor's actual lives. We never know when we go poking about what we will find. Colorful characters are fun to discover; scoundrels are not. I've got a few of those and I was gob smacked when I found I had slave owners in my family.

The hardest part of this issue will be for you to choose just one surprise. It can be about one person, one family, one family story. Perhaps your DNA disproved the family belief that your great-great grandmother was NOT a Cherokee Princess. Sometimes surprises come by unearthing something the family was trying to hide. Surprises can be good...or not so good.

If you do not have any surprises to share, please remember that any other stories you would like to submit will be accepted, too.

Submit your story to me, Kristin Ingalls, at antkap@cox.net by August 1, 2020, following these guidelines:

- Your story should be between 200 and 2,500 words and submitted as a Word document
- Any photos or visuals you would like to submit should be high-resolution jpegs sent as an attachment. These should be annotated.
- Please attach a short biography of yourself (a paragraph or two). You may want to include your profession, how you got interested in genealogy, any interesting tidbits about yourself.
- Also attach a photo of yourself to go along with your bio. We really want members to get to know each other and this is a perfect way.

We all think this will be a fun issue, so start writing your stories now.

CALLING ALL STUDENT ARTISTS!

"FAMILY MATTERS" ART EXHIBIT



In recognition of Family History Month, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) invites **students of all ages** to submit artwork reflecting the theme *Family Matters*.





This is <u>not</u> a juried competition and prizes will not be awarded. All entries reflecting the theme will be displayed and given a ribbon.

Theme: "Family Matters"

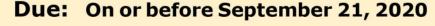
Size: No larger than 12" x 18". No frames please.

Media: Pen and ink, charcoal, paint, markers, color pencils, pastels, mixed media, collage



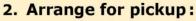
Please write in pencil on the back of the artwork or include in email:

- Student's name, age, and school.
- The title of the work and/or a sentence or two about the subject of the artwork (optional)
- The medium of the work (i.e. pen & ink, paint, collage, etc.)



Artwork Delivery Options:

1. Mail: SBCGS Library – 316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101



- Call SBCGS Library 1+(805) 884-9909 leave a message for Outreach Coordinator Holly Snyder; or
- Email SBCGS at <u>info@sbgen.org</u> Subject "Student Art Exhibit Attn. Holly Snyder"
- **3. Virtual exhibit only entries:** Email scanned jpg of artwork and email to info@sbgen.org- Subject: "Student Art Exhibit- Attn. Holly Snyder"

Who we are:

SBCGS formed in 1972 to foster an interest in the study of family history through education, operation of a genealogy research library, and preservation of local genealogical records to enhance understanding of ourselves and our heritage. SBCGS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more about SBCGS visit SBGen.org.

May 2020

Budget Message

Dear Members,

As we near the end of our 2019-2020 fiscal year, it is time to approve the budget for FY 2020-2021. The proposed budget has a different format than you have seen in the past. Previously, members approved one operating budget that included combined property and operating revenues and expenses. However, the FY 2020-2021 proposed budget is presented as two budgets, one for the Society's property and a separate budget for the Society's genealogy operations and programs.

The board has been working on a long-term plan for property maintenance. The traditional operating budget format made it difficult to see the true cost of our property (rental income less property expenses) and the genealogy operations. To clarify these important financial considerations, the property revenues and expenses have been separated from the genealogy operating budget. This analysis paints a very important picture; the genealogy operating budget has a considerable gap between operating revenues and expenses. Traditionally, the gap was closed by use of property operating income and funds from the operating reserve which has caused us to defer important maintenance of our rented buildings and is beginning to cause serious problems.

In the long-term, the Society's property needs to be maintained and the Society's operating budget needs to be more self-sustaining, relying less on the property operations budget for support. The board will be establishing goals and a plan to narrow the gap which will include fundraising, trimming expenses where possible while continuing to provide excellent programs and services to our members and the community.

The FY 2020-2021 Society Operating Budgets consist of the proposed Property Operating Budget and the Society Operating Budget. At the June Annual Meeting, the board will present and recommend approval of these two budgets.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@sbgen.org. In the subject line indicate "Budget".

Karen Ramsdell

President

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society FY 2020 - 2021 Operating Budgets

Property Operating Budget		Society Operating Budget		
	2020-21 Budget		2020-	-21 Budget
		Operating Revenue		
		Restricted Donations		6,477
		General Donations		22,923
Property Revenue		Membership Dues		22,490
Rental Income - Buildings	44,820	Booknook Sales		7,100
Rental Income - Parking	21,600	User Fees/Other Revenue		3,585
Property Revenue	\$ 66,420	Operating Revenue	\$	62,575
		Operating Expenditures		
		Administration & Liab. Insurance		40.050
		Booknook Purchases		19,358 2,546
				11,235
Property Expenses		Education/Monthly Meetings Library General & Information Tech		28,960
Accounting	2,000	Membership		1,420
Gardening, Grounds Maintenance & Repair	,	Publications		6,440
Property Insurance	1,892	Records Preservation		1,780
Property Mgmt. Fee	2,750	Library Repairs and Maint.		5,600
Property Taxes	10.000	Taxes & Fees		535
Rental Repairs and Maint.	2,100	Utilities (excl. water & Trash)		13,725
Water & Trash	3,300	Library Book Purchases/Webinar		4,500
Property Expenses	,	Operating Expenses	¢	96,099
Property Expenses	φ 40,202	Operating Expenses	Φ	30,033
Property Net Operating Income	\$ 26,138	Operations Operating Income	\$	(33,524)
	20,.00	operations operating means	·	(00,02.)
Transfer to Operating Income	\$ (26,138)	Transferred From Property Operating Income	\$	26,138
		Transfer From Operating Reserve to Balance Budget	\$	7,386
Net Balanced Budget	\$ -	Net Balanced Budget	\$	-

The Operating Reserve Account had a balance of \$78,397 at 3/31/20. A certain amount is available annually to transfer to the operating account to cover shortfalls.

4/21/2020

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance, Santa Barbara, CA June 29, 2019

Call to Order

President Karen Ramsdell called the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 10:54 am. The total membership is currently 608 and over 100 members were present. Thus a quorum was present. The minutes from the Annual Membership Meeting held on June 16, 2018 were approved as written.

1. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget

Financial Officer Bob Goeller presented the proposed FY 2019-2020 budget in the amount of \$144,595.00

Bob Goeller made a motion to approve the budget and was seconded by Chuck Huber. Unanimous approval.

2. Election of Officers

Robin McCarthy, Nominating Committee Chairperson identified the committee members: Robin McCarthy, Alex Grzywacki, Charmien Carrier and Theresa Calvin.

The committee was tasked to select nominations for the offices of President-Elect, 1st Vice-President, Programs and Secretary (one-year term extension, due to the recent By-Laws revision). The nominees are:

- President-Elect, Connie Burns
- 1st Vice-President, Programs, Elizabeth O'Neal
- Secretary, Theresa Calvin

Members were asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, the recommendations of the nominating committee were put forth for a vote. Unanimous approval.

3. Directors-at-Large

The Nominating Committee selected the following members for Director-At-Large positions:

- Rosa Avolio
- Marilyn Compton
- Neal Graffy
- Fred Marsh
- Judy Thompson

Members were asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, the recommendations of the nominating committee were put forth for a vote. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Calvin SBCGS Secretary

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Nominating Committee Report May 2020

The Nominating Committee hereby nominates the following slate for Secretary of the Board and Directors-At-Large, each for a three (3) year term beginning July 1, 2020.

During the June 20, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting, members will vote on the following slate of nominees. Nominations may be made from the floor prior to the vote but *please obtain the permission of the nominee beforehand.*

Mary Jacob, Secretary



Mary Jacob worked at UC Santa Barbara where she held a number of positions until she retired, including Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Acting Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Prior to coming to Santa Barbara, she taught geography at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts where she also served as Dean of International Affairs. She is currently president of Friends of Navdanya, a non-profit organization that supports the work of Navdanya, a sustainable organic demonstration farm, seed bank network and research & farmer training center in India.

Mary's interest in genealogy was sparked when she took courses in American historical geography as an undergraduate and graduate student. She often wondered how her great-grandparents (who hailed from England, Ireland, Luxembourg, Michigan and What Cheer, Iowa) all ended up in rural Indiana and what routes they took to get there. However, that spark did not fully ignite until several months before she retired in 2016 when she took Norma Eggli's intermediate genealogy class through Adult Education.

Per Norma's advice, Mary joined the Society which she has found to be an absolute gem of an organization. She has used the Mentor Program and broke through one of her brick walls by participating in the "Brick Walls" learn-at-lunch meetings. She volunteers there on the third Sunday of the month. Knowing the value of indexes, Mary also volunteers as an indexer for the Society as a way to pay it forward.

Bob Muller, Director-At-Large



Bob Muller was born and raised in Santa Barbara but his life during graduate school and most of his career was spent on the other side of the Mississippi River. His longest stay was 24 years in the Bluegrass State at the University of Kentucky. Bob and his family came back to Santa Barbara and his childhood home in 2000 and completed his career at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Since retiring in 2012 he has pursued old passions and new – outdoors, horses, more recently grandchildren, and of course genealogy.

Bob's first dabbling in family history research was in 1990s when some of the early web crawlers were popular. One afternoon, while escaping the drudgery of grading term papers for his forest ecology class, Bob typed in his grandfather's name and his hometown and came up with a brief story about his grandfather and his mother. I was hooked. Like most of us, Bob says, "I am almost more interested in finding out what kind of characters my ancestors were.

Were they moonshiners, cowboys, druggists (legal and not so much), barbers/dentists? What were their migration stories; what trails did they blaze; what hardships and pandemics did they face?"

Bob currently serves on the SBCGS Garden and Property Committees. He joined the Society in 2012. He previously served on the Board of the Goleta Valley Historical Society including a term as President.

John Woodward, Director-At-Large



John Woodward currently serves on the SBCGS board as a Director-At-Large and has served on the board since 1997.

John was born in Morristown, New Jersey and following college and law school, in Denver, John came to Santa Barbara in the late 1960's. Before opening his law practice John became interested in the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. He served from 1972 until 1979 as its executive director.

John joined SBCGS in 1990 and was instrumental in the negotiations when the Sayhun family gifted their property to the Society. As a Life Member he has participated in every facet of the Society's planning and development. John was honored by the Society at its 2004 and 2017 Honors Luncheons for his many outstanding contributions to the development of the Society.

John has also served on the board of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library, and as Chairman of both City and County Historical Landmarks Commissions.

John's grandfather and father were disciplined and faithful genealogists, so it is not surprising that John has continued in their passion and can trace his family for many generations.

Marie Sue Parsons, Director-At-Large



Marie Sue Parsons is beginning another term as a Director-At-Large for the Society. A Life Member, she joined the Society in 2003 and has served as Secretary, VP Programs, and President. Marie Sue currently serves on the Property Committee and is the 2020 Seminar Chair.

Marie Sue recently was honored as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from NAWBO, the National Association of Women Business Owners for her work as a longtime Realtor. She currently partners with her daughter, Stephanie Young at the boutique Berkshire Hathaway office in the Fairview shopping center.

Marie Sue is currently researching Raymonds from Connecticut, Erskines, Bromleys, Wells, Frenchicks and her brick wall, Kate Mattingly, her third great grandmother.