



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

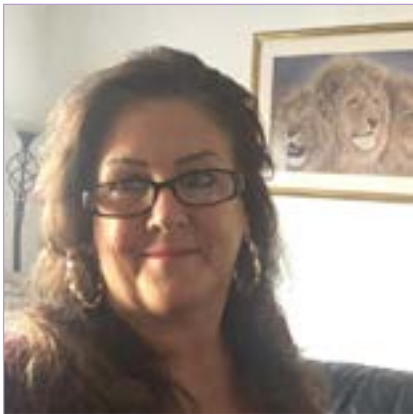
May 2021

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 37, No. 5

Live From London! Dr. Penny Walters

“Searching for Ancestors When You Are Adopted” Saturday, May 15 2021



Some girls or women feel unable to look after their baby or feel forced to give the baby up. Some babies were given to relatives to look after, others were fostered or adopted, or abandoned. Subsequently, people have gaps in their personal history and may want to find out about their biological family. This session will discuss the practical realities and the excitement and pain of researching a “new” family. Some relatives don’t want to be “found,” others have been desperately searching for years. Most people can ask family for information about their relatives, whereas adopted people often can’t. We will look at the invaluable information that can

be revealed to adopted people through DNA testing, and the resultant matches and ethnicity estimates, to supplement any paper trail. Reunions may not go as well as expected, so some adopted people can find a lot of satisfaction in finding other relatives, or constructing an ancestral tree, all of which can help with identity and a personal narrative. Penny will reflect briefly on her own adoption story, and discuss the variety of ethical dilemmas that can arise when searching for relatives or ancestors, as described in her 2 books, *Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy* and *The Psychology of Searching* (Amazon). We will also discuss how people can sensitively help adopted people with their search.

Dr. Penny Walters has been a University lecturer for 30 years in Psychology and Business Studies. Penny’s interest in genealogy started after having her first child and then wondering about her biological parents, as she was adopted. DNA testing has revealed 94% Irish heritage; and fascinating insights into her children’s heritage. Penny lectures internationally in-person, presents webinars, and writes articles about a variety of genealogy topics including ethical dilemmas, the psychology of searching, adoption, ethnicity and identity, Irish heritage, and mixing DNA results with a paper trail. Penny has authored the books: *Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy*, and *The Psychology of Searching* both available in paperback or kindle on Amazon. Please get in touch to discuss booking her as a speaker. Website: <https://www.searchmypast.co.uk>

Saturday, May 15, 2021
[You must register for this meeting.](#)
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the class.

9:30 - 10:25 am PDT
Virtual Special Interest Groups will meet prior to the general meeting using the same Zoom link.

10:30 - 11:00am
Business Meeting with President and Committee Reports

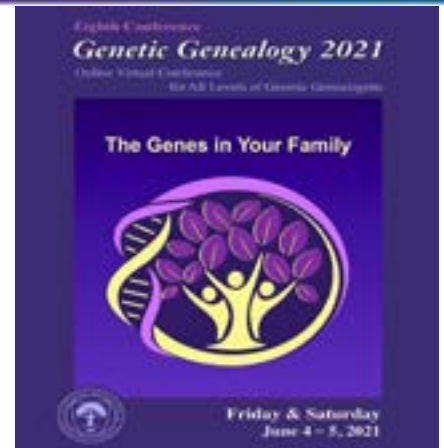
11:00 - 12:00 Noon
Elizabeth O’Neal, VP, Introduction of Speaker

VIRTUAL EVENTS, MEETINGS & GATHERINGS



[REGISTER HERE](#)

You must register for May general meeting and virtual classes. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the class.



www.genealogyjamboree.com

President's Message: Karen Stanton Ramsdell, Interim President



Dear Members,
Spring is in the air and there is much to celebrate!

Mother's Day (May 9) and Memorial Day (May 31) are two May observances that have their roots in post-Civil War America. Both events originated in 1868; Mother's Friendship Day to reunite families divided during the Civil War and Decoration

Day to honor soldiers who died during the Civil War. Today, on Mother's Day we celebrate motherhood and all mothers and mother-figures and their contribution to our society. Memorial Day now commemorates all men and women who have died while serving in the military for the United States.

Library News. Another reason to celebrate is the progress towards returning to a semblance of life BC (Before Covid). Library Director Kathie Morgan is developing a plan and preparations to reopen the Sahyun in the coming months. Zoom monthly meetings will continue through September. Standby for news about the timing of in-person classes, webinars, Lunch & Learn.

Annual Membership Meeting. Save the date, June 19, to attend our Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom. This is an important meeting for members to attend and participate in the election of Board members and the approval of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. The program speaker will follow the business meeting and election.

Kudos. Kudos and thank you to Rosa Avolio for organizing and hosting basic Public Relations and Development (fundraising) presentations. The presentations, held via Zoom, were attended by more than a dozen members who had an interest in one or both topics. Welcome aboard Liz Smith, Public Relations Coordinator, and Development Director Nancy Loe and team members Andrea Pfister, Bob Goeller, Chris Galley, and Rosana Swing.

Board News.

Honors Luncheon - At its April meeting, the Board decided to postpone the Honors Luncheon until the fall of 2022 due to the uncertainty of venue availability. The Honors Luncheon, held every two years, is a cherished Society event that recognizes volunteers for their outstanding efforts towards the development of the Society. The last luncheon was held in November 2019.

Board Nominations - The Nominating Committee (Theresa Calvin, Molly Gleason, Kathie Morgan, and Karen Ramsdell) reported on the proposed slate of board nominees to be presented to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting in June. The proposed slate of nominees will be posted in Tree Tips.

Property Team - The Property Team, led by Fred Marsh, oversees the management and maintenance of the Society's 1.5 acres, seven buildings, non-landscaped areas and gardens, and parking area. Undoubtedly to many of us, the most important building is the Sahyun Library but there are also four buildings that the Society

rents out for storage purposes.

During this past year, the Team caught up with deferred maintenance of the rental buildings and attended to the non-landscaped grounds improve the property's appearance, security, and fire safety. The redwood building adjacent to the Library received a new roof, the Victorian house and garage were freshly painted, trees were trimmed, and the perimeter fencing was repaired. These projects were accomplished thanks to a generous \$20,000 donation from John Woodward to paint the Victorian and garage and the hands-on carpentry and vegetation clearing work of team members. Fred and I also met on site with our District Councilmember, Oscar Gutierrez, discuss the public health and fire safety issues related to the homeless encampment just outside our perimeter fence. The Councilmember observed the issues first-hand and was introduced to the Society which included a tour of the Library. The City did a major encampment clean up a few weeks ago and indicated they would schedule a cleanup every two weeks.

Thank you, Property Team, your work is appreciated! Team members include Fred Marsh, Chair, Bob Goeller, Rick Closson, Cheryl Jensen, Bob Muller, William Noack, and Marilyn Compton.

As a side note, the house and barn have an interesting history. In 1947, in response to the planned construction of Highway 101, Southern Pacific Railroad relocated its roadmaster's house and outbuildings from 322 Bath Street to the property owned by Dr. Melville Sahyun at 322 Castillo Street. The roadmaster house is a one-story Folk Victorian style building. It is thought that the barn (garage) was built around 1900. Today, the Society rents the house and garage to tenants who use the buildings for storage purposes. Soon, I hope to see your smiling faces in-person. In the meantime, enjoy our beautiful spring weather, continue to follow CDC advisories, and enjoy the Society's Zoom classes and monthly meetings.

Karen Stanton Ramsdell
Interim President

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIG) will meet prior to the General Meeting on May 15! The following groups will be virtually available beginning at 9:30 a.m. (*topic and host subject to change*):

- Beginning Genealogy SIG, hosted by Jean Foster and Norma Johnson
- Civil War SIG, Host Dorothy Oksner
- French Canadian SIG, Host Charmien Carrier
- Genealogy Tips & Talk SIG, Host Merna McClenathen
- Italian SIG, Host Rosa Avolio
- JewishGen SIG, Host Milt Hess
- Writing SIG, Host Sharon Summer
- Eastern Europe Genealogy, Host Diane Sylvester
- German Genealogy, Hosts William Noack and Susan Lundt
- Irish Genealogy, Host Sheila Benedict
- African American Genealogy, Host Holly Snyder

Contact SBCGS

www.sbgen.org
806-884-9909

info@sbgen.org
316 Castillo Street, SB

Membership Corner by Molly Gleason



Hello all,
Recently, while researching a 19th century ancestor, I discovered he might have been in the Civil War, which led me to the GAR records. Nothing conclusive about the ancestor yet; however, one thread led to another and I was reminded that Memorial Day was initially called Decoration Day and began as a tribute to the Civil War soldiers. My parents and grandparents used to refer to the holiday by

that name. To quote from the US Department of Veteran Affairs website: “Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.” A century later, in 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress.

Right on schedule, flowers are blooming everywhere in the country. Our Santa Barbara City Rose Garden is at its peak. So, enjoy this beautiful month! As the naturalist Edwin Way Teale said in his book *North with the Spring*, “All things seem possible in May.”

My best wishes for a wonderful Mother’s Day and a grand Decoration Day!

A Warm Welcome to our newest members: **Michael Imwalle and Heather McDaniel McDevitt**.

And, thank you, continuing members, for your renewals last month!

New members: The SBCGS New Member Packet is available for viewing on our website. Click on Members Area then New Member Packet.

The packet includes helpful information about the library and instructions for renewing as well as adding or changing information in your individual profiles. In addition, it includes “how to get started in genealogy” tips, forms, and references to several genealogy sources including free websites and Santa Barbara County facilities for local and worldwide family history research. Paper copies of the New Member Packet will also be available at the Sahyun Library and the monthly General Meetings once we resume normal operations.

REMINDERS AND TIPS

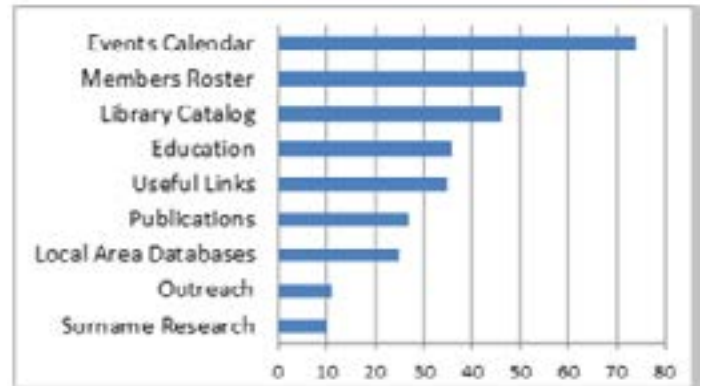
- **Help Wanted!** We need volunteers to help with several of the Society’s on-going operations. To view a list of the volunteer opportunities on our website, click on Volunteers.
- **Need help with your research?** Work with a Mentor. The Society has over thirty volunteer mentors in our Mentor Program 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@sbgen.org

March Tech Tips by Milt Hess, IT Chair



To better understand how members use the Society’s website and how they feel about it, the Tech Team developed a short survey instrument and sent it to the membership. We sent 501 surveys and received 95 responses, a 19% response rate.

The survey demonstrates that the website is used actively by Society members, many of whom expressed satisfaction with it. Two-thirds of the respondents visit the site at least several times a month. The site is used most often to access the events calendar and membership roster, but other sections also receive significant traffic:



The comments and suggestions also identified areas that members would like to see improved. Some of the comments described the website as unintuitive and verbose and suggested training on what’s on the website and how to find it. There were also specific suggestions for reorganizing and adding content. For example, it was suggested that the site highlight Board of Directors news. We’ll take this feedback into account as we continue work on developing a new website.

SBCGS extends heartfelt condolences to the friends and families of two of our members who recently passed.

Rocky Bellman, 1943 — 2021

Tranquilla Frey

May you find comfort in all the special memories you shared them.

[gmail.com](mailto:member-ship@sbgen.org), if you would like help – or would like to become a Mentor. To view a list of our mentors and contact information on our website, click on Members Area then Mentors for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly.

- Need help renewing? Contact Membership at member-ship@sbgen.org.

Thank you everyone and Good Luck with your genealogy pursuits this month!

Molly



Volunteer Corner featuring Jeannine Fox



This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Jeannine Fox. Jeannine joined the Society in 2018 and shortly thereafter joined the Outreach Committee. As with past exhibits, she had a major role in creating the now open “Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990 Exhibit” by assisting with research and interviewing family members.

Jeannine is currently working on

the upcoming “Picnic at the Cemetery” event at the Goleta Cemetery and has taken inventory of the “residents.” Thank you, Jeannine, for all you do! And, thank you for sharing your most interesting story!

I grew up in Southern California the eldest of 9 children. My parents, Lorraine and Ronald Wida, were young when they had me, 17 and 22, respectfully. It wasn't always easy growing up and living in a 3- bedroom home in the suburbs of Los Angeles with so many children, but my parents made it work. Little did I know at the time, that it was great preparation for my life long profession of teaching.

I walked a mile to and from St. Anthony's Elementary School in San Gabriel (not in snow and ice), but in the warm California sun. It was a great time to grow up in Southern California. We were able to go to the beach, mountains, Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm and many museums without crowds and traffic. I also had the advantage of living close to my maternal grandparents and great grandparents and getting to visit with them.

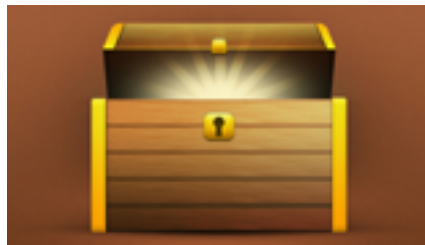
I graduated from Rosemead High School and my family moved to Goleta in 1971. My dad went to work for Joslyn Electronics as a plating manager. I attended SBCC and got an AA Degree in General Studies and got married. My husband and I returned to the San Gabriel Valley where I went to CSULA and graduated with a BA Degree in Child Development and earned two teaching credentials. I started substitute teaching for Baldwin Park Unified School District and then taught Pre-K, Kindergarten (my favorite!), first, and second grades for 11 years. During these years, my daughter, Christine, was born and I got to travel to Hawaii and Mexico.

I took a two- year leave from California, after a divorce, and moved with my daughter to Oregon. I worked as a Latchkey Supervisor for Columbia County and we got to experience a lot of the Pacific Northwest.

Saying goodbye to Oregon, we found ourselves back in Goleta. This time, besides substitute teaching, I worked as a tour guide and operations manager for an event company called IDP and did document control for Exxon Corp., for four years, while they built the oil refinery in Las Flores Canyon. I volunteered with my church's food pantry and was an assistant Girl Scout leader for my daughter's troop.

My son, Andrew, was born in 1994. I had met his dad while working at Exxon. We moved to Carmel, California, after my daughter

Ancestors West by Kristin Ingalls



As we are putting the final touches on the June issue of Tree Tips, let me invite everyone to submit a story for our next issue.

One of the most popular issues we did in the past

was stories about family heirlooms, letters, diaries, memorabilia and treasures that you, or your selfish sibling, now have. Because we have so many new members there might be more stories to tell. Or perhaps you have a great story but did not submit it last time.

There are so many memories attached to these treasures we have of our ancestor's pasts. And there will be even more memories when we pass them along to the next generation.

Treasureless? Got left out of the will? Your brother beat you to all the loot? Well, fear not....all good stories are welcome.

We eagerly await your submissions. The deadline is August 1, 2021. Stories should be between 250 – 2,500 words, submitted in a Word format. Photos always add so much to articles, so submit those separately with good quality resolution (300 dpi) along with captions. Send them to Kristin Ingalls at antkap@cox.net.

Thank you all for your continued support of our treasured publication, Ancestors West.

went off to college. In addition to raising my son and substitute teaching (pre-k thru high school), I had the opportunity to start my own Mommy and Me Classes and teach ESL through the Carmel Adult School Program. With Andrew in Scouts, I became a den leader and a pack leader. As a family, we traveled to England, Scotland, Australia and to many of our National Parks. My mom and I took a very memorable cruise to Alaska.

After my son went off to college, I moved back to Goleta for the third time and I got to realize my dream job of teaching art to grades 1st through 6th at Ellwood Elementary.

Now, I am semi-retired and living with my mom. I got involved with doing genealogy through some friends who belonged to SBCGS: Charlene Daly and Theresa Calvin. I took a Genealogy Class from Norma Eggli through SBCC Adult School and started researching my mother's paternal side of the family-the Rathbone/Rathbun line. I found out that my ancestors were among the first sixteen settlers of Block Island (Rhode Island). There is a plaque, at the harbor, with their names on it. After joining the SBCGS, Charlene suggested I join the Outreach Committee. It has been rewarding sharing ideas and working on both the Italian and African American Exhibits. My genealogy goals are to find out more about my Ukrainian and Italian ancestors on my father's side. My life goals are to do more traveling and never stop learning and doing.

~Jeannine C. Fox

Outreach

Thank you to everyone who has been able to view the exhibit and attend the virtual panel discussion on Friday evening! Hearing the stories from our exhibit first hand from our featured participants was incredible! For those who missed the panel discussion or were unable to watch the whole event, the recording will be available soon on our exhibit page and Santa Barbara Public Library's YouTube channel. Those who registered will receive an email with the link.

Exhibits

Virtual Exhibit:



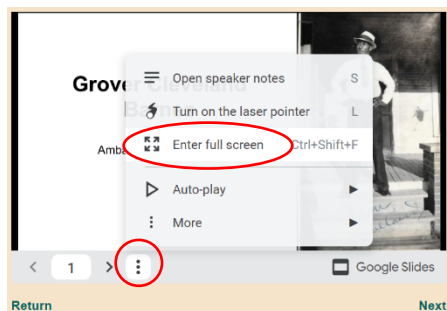
[Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990](#)

Sbgen.org-> Outreach

Explore the incredible life, culture, and contributions of nineteen featured local African American families and individuals, plus additional individuals and organizations recognized in these special areas: Arts and Culture, Athletes, Businesses, Churches, Famous Visitors, Military, and Organizations and Social Clubs.

We will be updating and adding the exhibit, so please check back often for the latest updates!

We would love your thoughts on the exhibit and panel discussion (if attended)! Contact Holly Snyder at Outreach@Sbgen.org.



Best Viewing:

1. Click on a **featured individual** to get to their presentation
2. Click on the **three dots** on the bottom bar of the slide presentation
3. Click on **Enter full screen** to enlarge the presentation
4. Press Esc (Escape) to exit full screen
5. Click on **Next** to go to the next presentation or **Return** to return back to the main exhibit page

- ❖ [Santa Barbara Italian Immigrant exhibit](#) will be open again on **May 8** at Rancho La Patera/Stow House! This is a culmination of our past exhibits at the Goleta Library display case and SBCGS's Sahyun Library. Open hours: weekends 1-4pm

Upcoming Events



- ❖ [Virtual Genealogy Jamboree & Genetic Genealogy Conference- June 4-12](#)
- ❖ **Picnic at the Cemetery- Oct. 23** (See past [cemetery events](#))



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World



Virtual Classes and Meetings: May 2021

• All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Advance registration is required.

• All times are Pacific Daylight Time

• Copy and paste this URL if the links on your device don't work: <https://sbgen.org/eventListings.php?nm=216>

• Ordinarily these events are a benefit of SBCGS membership. Please consider joining [here](#).

Monday, May 10

Finding John Lee: A Black Family Story - Free Virtual Presentation

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm PDT

Professional genealogist Nicka Smith will bring attendees on the journey she took researching her great-great-grandfather. Discover how DNA, online and offline genealogy converged to break down a more than 100-year-old brick wall revealing the life, times, and relations of a mysterious multi-ethnic man named John Lee.

About Nicka Smith:

Nicka Smith has extensive experience in African ancestor genealogy, reverse genealogy, and is expert in genealogical research in the Northeastern Louisiana area, and researching enslaved communities.

[Register here to attend.](#)

Tuesday, May 11

Virtual Lunch and Learn Tuesdays

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm PDT

Zoom Host & Moderator: Rosa Avolio

Come join us for our Tuesday Lunch & Learn. If you want research assistance, [go here](#) to download the form and email the completed form to Rosa prior to the meeting. All levels beginner to advanced.

[Register here!](#)

Friday, May 14

RootsMagic (Windows & Mac) User Group Meeting

11:00 am to 12:00 pm PDT

Zoom Host & Moderator: Elizabeth O'Neal
Elizabeth will answer your questions about the RootsMagic genealogy software program (for Macs and PCs) and discuss any new announcements about the upcoming RootsMagic 8 version. You do not have to use the software to attend.

[Email Elizabeth](#) in advance if you have specific RootsMagic questions (any version) you want her to address.

[Register here!](#)

LIVE FROM LONDON!

Virtual Monthly Meeting

Saturday, May 15

9:30 am to 12:00 pm (PDT)

Special Interest Groups Meet at 9:30

“Searching for Ancestors When You Are Adopted”



Speaker: Dr. Penny Walters

Zoom Host: Elizabeth O'Neal

[Advance Registration Required Here](#)

Special Interest Groups

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- German Genealogy, Hosts William Noack and Susan Lundt
- Irish Genealogy, Host Sheila Benedict
- African American Genealogy, Host Holly Snyder

[How to Attend Virtual SIG Meetings](#)
<https://sbgen.org/fileDownload.php?cid=29&sid=4>

Friday, May 21

DNA Lunch and Learn

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Zoom Host: Robin McCarthy

Moderator: George LaPlante

George will discuss recent DNA news and answer your DNA questions. Bring your lunch!

[Register here!](#)

Tuesday, May 25

Crowdsourced Research Assistance

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Zoom Host & Moderator: Rosa Avolio

Rosa Avolio and attendees will offer research suggestions for pre-submitted brick wall research questions. If no submissions are received in advance, it will be the usual Lunch & Learn questions, ideas, and suggestions.

Download, complete, and email [this form](#) to Rosa if you have a research question.

[Register here!](#)

Tuesday, May 4 - Tuesday, June 15

Free NARA Genealogy Webinar Series

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

During May and June, the National Archives is presenting a series of free weekly webinars at 10:00 a.m. PDT, varying on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

- Open with no reservations required
- Watch the broadcasts via YouTube
- Participate and ask questions via chat during the scheduled broadcasts
- After the scheduled broadcasts, video recordings and presentation materials will be available online”

This event is not sponsored by Santa Barbara Genealogical Society. You are invited to watch and participate in real time with the presenters and family historians from around the world on [YouTube](#).

[Details here](#) on classes, dates, times, descriptions, and links.