



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

June 2021

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 37, No. 6

Marian Burk Wood

“Planning a Future for Your Family’s Past”

Saturday, June 19, 2021



Ancestors’ photos, stories, documents, and heirlooms are part of your family’s past, and they deserve to be protected to share with future generations. Even if you have no obvious heirs for your genealogy collection, this presentation will offer ideas for paths forward. Learn about the PASS process for organizing and storing family history materials with today and tomorrow in mind; curating your collection to keep key items while finding new homes for other items; writing a “genealogical will” to safeguard your collection for the future; and sharing your family’s history now, before joining your ancestors.

Saturday, June 19, 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 Karen Ramsdell and Committee Reports

11:00 - 12:00 Noon

Elizabeth O’Neal, VP, Introduction of Speaker

Marian Burk Wood is the author of the Amazon best-selling genealogy book *Planning a Future for Your Family’s Past*. An experienced genealogy speaker, she has a special interest in helping people document, curate, preserve, and share family history. Marian holds a BA from the City University of New York and a MBA from Long Island University in New York. Her long-running genealogy blog provides practical tips and ideas at <https://ClimbingMyFamilyTree.blogspot.com>.

Google Earth for Genealogy

Tuesday, June 15

12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm (PDT)

Zoom Host & Moderator:
Robin McCarthy

Robin will show a video by Lisa Louise Cooke on the exciting ways to incorporate Google Earth into your family history. If you are unable to attend, you can watch the YouTube presentation [here](#).

[Register here!](#)

Crowdsourced Research Assistance

Tuesday, June 22

12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm (PDT)

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 L&L questions, ideas, and suggestions. Download, complete, and email the form to Rosa if you have a research question you’d like to have crowdsourced at an upcoming session.

[Register here!](#)

VIRTUAL EVENTS, MEETINGS & GATHERINGS



[REGISTER HERE](#)

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



www.genealogyjamboree.com

Carpooling for Conventions and Conferences

It makes sense for SBCGS members to carpool to genealogical events that are away from the Santa Barbara area. A request from a member is asking specifically about the National Genealogical Society’s Conference in Sacramento from May 25-28th, 2022. If you are interested, please send an email to [sbcs-education@sbgen.org](mailto:sbcgs-education@sbgen.org).

President's Message: Karen Stanton Ramsdell, Interim President



Oh, what a year! Fiscally speaking, the Society's year ends this month with the new year beginning on July 1st. **There are many reasons to celebrate, one reason being the Sahyun Library reopening on August 3rd. At the year-end, it is a good time for reflection. This year, more so.**

Thank You! Acknowledgment, a thank you, and sincere appreciation is due to outgoing board members: **Molly Gleason**, VP, Membership, **Milt Hess**, Director-At-Large and Technology Committee Chair, and **Neal Graffy**, Director-At-Large. I also wish to thank **Marie Sue Parsons**, **Rosa Avolio**, and **Elizabeth O'Neal** for stepping up as interim presidents over the past nine months.

Annual Membership Meeting - June 19th. Please plan to attend this meeting at 10:30am as we need a quorum of 10% of our membership (56 members) to vote for five Board positions and approve the FY 2021-2022 Budget. The Nominating Committee Report and the proposed budget are available for review in this issue of Tree Tips.

Highlights March 2020 – June 2021

On March 13, 2020, the Sahyun Library closed, and in-person gatherings were cancelled due to COVID-19 public health restrictions. Six days later, the Board held its first-ever board meeting via Zoom. Without skipping a beat, our incredibly talented volunteers pivoted the Society to an all-virtual platform. These are some of the highlights of the past 15 months. You will note that there are a lot of "firsts".

- Communication with our members started early and often and continues today. Tips for Stay-at-Home Genealogists was launched to supplement Tree Tips.
- Ancestry.com agreed to allow remote access by our members to the Ancestry.com Library Edition.
- Within a few weeks, the Education/Zoom Committee formed created a "first-ever" Zoom platform for a robust schedule of virtual classes, general meetings, special interest groups, and even Happy Hour! Attendance remains strong.
- The spring seminar with Tom Jones was successfully rescheduled to October 3 as a virtual event.
- The virtual platform made geographic boundaries and distance disappear. We engaged speakers from the east coast and Europe. Members and non-members who live out of the area or out of state were able to participate. We even have one regular guest from England.
- Board and committee volunteers logged over 8,000 hours continuing the work of the Society.
- Filling leadership roles proved to be a challenge during the pandemic. Fortunately, members stepped up to fill vacant key positions.

- Six quarterly issues of Ancestors West were published featuring 72 articles written by our members.
- The Outreach Committee quickly adapted to a virtual exhibit platform which included the Family Matters Student Art Exhibit, the Jewish Heritage Exhibit, and, currently showing, the African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990 Exhibit.
- The Records Preservation team continued their quiet, behind the scenes work, added more than 21,000 local records to our website database for a total of 226,000.
- In October 2020, the Board established a Property Maintenance Reserve Fund to provide long-term funding for the Society's property maintenance.
- The Property Committee caught up on deferred maintenance. The buildings and grounds look spectacular!
- The Society's financial picture is solid and debt-free with assets over \$2.7 million.
- Revenues are down due to the drop in membership; expenses are significantly down due to the Library's closure. Donations met expectations largely due to a significant and generous donation and a bequest. The Annual Appeal exceeded our goal.
- The Operating Reserve (50% of the current budget) is fully funded. The Endowment Fund has topped \$600,000 and the Property Maintenance Reserve Fund balance is off to a good start.

What does the future hold for the Society?

The Society has a bright future. The past fifteen month pause on the "way we used to do it" presents a unique opportunity to reflect on our organization, what we learned during the pandemic, build on our strengths, and decide what we want the Society to be in five years. The Board and committee chairs will meet in July to begin the conversation.

Thank you for the support you have given the Society over the past fifteen months and staying the course. I now pass the baton to the new, and familiar, leadership of **Art Sylvester and Bob Bason**. This will be a fun year!

Karen Stanton Ramsdell
Interim President

SBCGS extends heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of our member, Jeanne, who recently passed.



Jeanne Lenore Mangin Gunderson
Warden GOODALL
August 21, 1924 – April 9, 2021

Jeanne taught at Monroe Elementary School until she retired in 1980. She was a world traveler. In all, she visited 68 countries and loved to share her travel tips with others. Jeanne also enjoyed genealogy and belonged to the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society.

*May you find comfort in all the special memories
you shared Jeanne.*

Membership Corner by Molly Gleason

Hello everyone,

The last three years have flown by and 2020 is just a blur. My term as your 2nd VP for Membership is coming to an end this month. It has been my pleasure to serve in this position and, especially, to get to know you better and hear your stories. We are fortunate to have such a dynamic and vibrant society, and I look forward to continuing our genealogical pursuits together in the future.

A Warm Welcome to our newest member, **Elizabeth Macken**!

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 coach.** The Society has over thirty volunteers in our Coaching Program who are ready to share their extensive expertise in several areas of genealogical research with our members. Please contact the coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, kajcremeen@gmail.com, if you would like help – or would like to help others. To view a list of our coaches and contact information on our website, **click on** Members Area **then** Coaches for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly.
- **Need help renewing?** Contact Membership at membership@sbgen.org.

Have a wonderful Father's Day and safe journeys this summer!
Molly



June Tech Tips by Milt Hess, IT Chair



This month's tech tip has nothing to do with genealogy, but it's about a technology issue we all deal with – scam telephone calls. Like most everyone, my wife and I get the occasional call about warranties and 'suspicious activity' on an account. They're random and relatively infrequent, so we just hang up and grumble a bit. During the past two days, however, she received the same call about suspicious activity on her iCloud account about eight times an hour. I decided that enough is enough, and I filed a complaint with the FCC on the website consumer-complaints.fcc.gov. I was able to provide details about the calls, including the number the scammers wanted us to call. To my amazement and delight, the calls stopped immediately after I submitted the complaint. I don't know what the FCC did, but filing the complaint worked better than I thought possible. If you find yourself besieged by scam calls, go to this FCC website and file the complaint. They actually do something to make the calls stop.

Help Wanted: With the Sahyun Library reopening in a few months, the Tech Team is seeking a volunteer to coordinate with the Library Committee to help keep all of our computers, printers, and scanners working properly. Our support contractor, Latitude 34 Technologies, takes care of resolving technical issues, but we want to have a volunteer in the Society to coordinate with them. If you're interested in performing this liaison role, please contact me at ITchair@sbgen.org.

SBCC Extended Learning

How to Research Your Family History: Level 1

Curious about your family history? Not sure where to start? Already started but not sure where to go next? Topics include various sources for records: the census, vital records, military records as well as how to compile, organize information and create your own genealogy toolbox. Lots of new internet hints and additional information for the Intermediate genealogists too!

Course #: 001412LE/23867, Instructor: Norma Eggli

Currently the class will be taught Online using Zoom – videoconferencing – this is subject to change

Cost: \$63+ Materials: \$5 (handouts will be mailed to you)

Registration starts 7/9/20 at: <http://sbcc.augusoft.net/> (This course is found under Do-It-Yourself Category)

Time & Dates: Wednesday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM; Sept 8- Oct 20, 2021. If you have any questions or need help to register, please contact me, Norma Eggli, at egglin@sbcc.edu.

Fall 2021 Tuition Assistance:

If you are new to the Fee-based system, you must create a student profile in order to receive the tuition assistance electronic voucher, which will be applied to your account. At this time, applications can only be submitted online.

Form submission deadline is Thursday, June 10 at 4:00 p.m.

Applicants will be notified by June 28.

Fee-based Fall 2021 class registration starts July 9.

Fall Semester runs August 23 - December 11, 2021.

Volunteer Corner featuring Rick Closson



This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Rick Closson. Rick joined the Society in 2019 and is currently a member of the Property Committee. He has contributed his time most generously to several projects including rebuilding the deck of the Victorian House and painting. Thank you, Rick, for sharing a little about yourself and your many accomplishments.

Rick's first encounter with genealogy was at his birth, when he was middle-named for the man family lore held was his great-great-great uncle, president Ulysses Grant. A more elaborate genealogical introduction came three decades later when a New Jersey cousin wrote a detailed typewritten report on the recent family lineage that cast doubt on any close connection: Great Grandmother "Elizabeth (Grant Closson) always contended she was related to Ulysses S. Grant – I suspect a second or third cousin."

In between, Rick earned his Doctor of Pharmacy and completed his residency training at UC San Francisco. His 40 year career included teaching (Wayne State University, Detroit, and UCSF) and institutional practice (Detroit, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Oxnard) with over 60 academic publications, including a book on compounded ophthalmic drugs, and chapters in other people's books, but none related to genealogy.

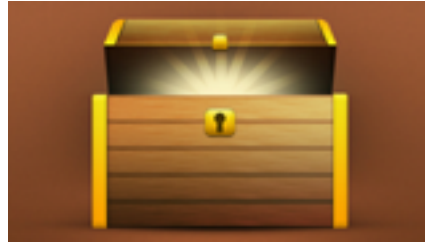
Only since coming to Santa Barbara in 1984 has his interest wandered toward ancestors, but rarely his own. He recently searched for the cousin's 1979 written family history among a dozen jumble-packed boxes of records, photos, and other perishable ephemera labeled "Evacuation" in case of natural disaster. It reconfirmed the unlikely connection to president Grant. For good measure Rick scanned the 10-page document, emailed it to all known relatives, and has been entering the data in the family tree on FamilySearch.org.

An attraction to Santa Barbara historic preservation and politics has produced another 125 nonscientific publications, including a couple in *Ancestors West*. Many are about the history and lineage of 85 subjects mounted on the 1927 exterior of Santa Barbara's Franceschi House, which were duplicated three years later inside Casa Casuarina, now commonly known as The Versace Mansion in Miami Beach. His paper on the sculptor who created the majority of those medallions has been accepted for publication in *Tequesta*, the *Journal of HistoryMiami*. Rick is a past president of the Pearl Chase Society and founding editor of its newsletter, *The Capital*. He is currently a director of the Santa Barbara Conservancy.

Long happy to pay more in combined Sahyun Library visit fees than an annual membership, Rick finally succumbed to logic and joined the Society in 2019. He joined the Property Committee last year expecting to do landscape gardening and cleanup, but has been more involved in the satisfying pursuits of carpentry and painting.

~ Rick Closson

Ancestors West by Kristin Ingalls



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 ancestors' 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**.*

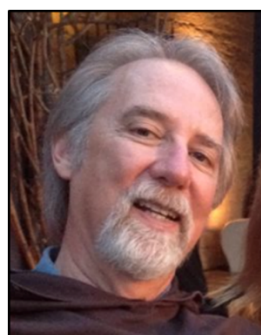
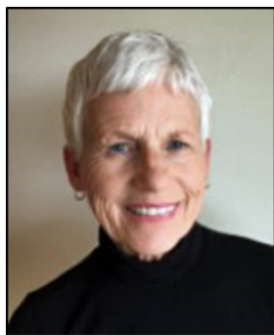
Important Reminder:

Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 19
10:30am
Board Officer and Director Election
Approval of the proposed
FY 2021-2022 Budget

News from the Board

Outgoing Board Members – Thank You!

Molly Gleason, 2nd, Vice President, Membership, Milt Hess, Director-At-Large and Technology Committee Chair, and Neal Graffy, Director-At-Large will step down from the Board on June 30. Thank you all for your service to the Society and the Board of Directors.



Nancy Loe Appointed Development Director



At its May meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Nancy Loe Development Director. In her new role on the Board, Nancy will lead the Development Team to create and implement the Society's fundraising strategies and plans.

Nancy is a professional genealogist and has worked professionally in libraries and archives for four decades. In 2010, Nancy started Sassy Jane Genealogy. A SBCGS member since 2010, Nancy recently served as Director-At-Large before her appointment as Development Director.

Liz Smith, New Public Relations Coordinator

Liz Smith, an SBCGS member since 2018, was recently selected to serve as the Society's Public Relations Coordinator. As coordinator she makes sure information about the Society's events and activities is disseminated to multiple media outlets.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee hereby presents its recommended slate of officers and directors for the terms stated below. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting, June 19, 2021, via Zoom. Nominations may be made from the floor, but please obtain permission from the nominee beforehand. Nominating Committee: Karen Ramsdell, Chair, Theresa Calvin, Molly Gleason, Kathie Morgan

1 Year Term - July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

PRESIDENT



ARTHUR SYLVESTER was Society president during its capital campaign for reconstruction of the Sahyun Library and was the project manager during the construction. Before retiring in 2003, Art was on the UCSB Geological Sciences faculty for 35 years. His interest in genealogy goes back to 1992 when Diane asked if his grandfather had brothers and sisters; Art didn't know in spite of living with his grandfather for 12 years. Now Art counts eight Mayflower passengers in his ancestry, and he has ruled out being of Scandinavian or Native American descent, in spite of family lore. He is the author of two books of vital records for Maine towns, Etna and Hampden, where his Sylvester family lived from 1630 to 1904. He is an FAA certified small drone pilot, a model railroader, and author of three books about southern California geology. Art and Diane have lived in Goleta for 53 years. They have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

PRESIDENT-ELECT



BOB BASON is a past president of the Society and, before that, was the "man behind the curtain" for the capital campaign for the new library and complete remodel. Before retiring in 2006, Bob had been an assistant chancellor at UCSB and Vice President of Planned Parenthood in New York City. Bob's interest in genealogy goes back to 1985 when his daughter asked him for the name of his grandfather and he didn't know. He determined he was going to do something about that. Now his public on-line ancestry.com site has almost 25,000 "relatives" with over 6,000 on-line pictures of them. He is well-known to members for his stories about his "Benshoof" relatives. Bob and his wife, Carol, have lived in Santa Barbara for 52 years. They have two grown daughters and four grandchildren.

3 Year Terms – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

FINANCE DIRECTOR



BOB GOELLER currently serves on the Board of Directors as Financial Officer and is completing his first three-year term. He has been a member of the Society since 2011. Bob has served on the Board of Directors for eight years and has also served as 1st VP, Programs (2013-2017) and Director-At-Large (2017-2018). He is a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, Investment Committee, and Property Committee. Previously, he served on the Social Committee (2017-2019). Before coming to California, Bob was a Residential and Commercial Mortgage Broker executive for 18 years, an electrical contractor for 14 years, and a real estate developer and high-end home builder for 15 years.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



KATE LIMA managed various academic departments including Classics (one of her majors), Economics and Earth Science during her 28-year career at UCSB.

A SBCGS member since 2014, Kate has volunteered at SBCGS events and the Garden Committee's driveway beautification project. After her retirement, Kate increased her volunteer work. She, currently, serves on the Outreach Committee which has been a real source of joy through the pandemic.

Kate discovered genealogy about ten years ago, attempting to verify family stories, but kept bumping into brick walls. At the time she was busy with work and raising a grandson. After retiring in 2018, she began working on her

genealogy in earnest also submitting articles to *Ancestors West*. Kate has traveled to several states where her ancestors lived including New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. She hopes to continue her travels to, first, Oregon, then Idaho, Texas, Missouri, and Virginia.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



KAREN RAMSDELL served as president of the Society for four years and currently serves as past president. She is a member of the Finance, Investment, Governance, and Outreach Committees. Karen retired as Director of the Santa Barbara Airport in 2013, a position she held for 26 years. She served on the Goleta Valley Historical Society Board for many years. Karen's interest in genealogy began more than 20 years ago, prompting her to join the Society in 2000. She feels fortunate that her daughter Holly shares her passion for genealogy and love of travel. They have traveled to many of their ancestral towns in the U.S. and, in 2018, traveled to ancestral towns and villages in Germany and Switzerland. Karen

has lived in Goleta/Santa Barbara area since 1966 when she began her freshman year at UCSB. In addition to her daughter, she also has a grown son and four grandchildren.

SBCGS Operating Budgets FY 2021-2022

5/12/2021

Property Operating Budget

	2021-22 Budget
<u>Property Revenue</u>	
Rental Income - Buildings	44,820
Rental Income - Parking	21,600
Property Revenue	\$ 66,420
<u>Property Expenses</u>	
Accounting	780
Gardening, Grounds Maintenance & Repai	25,300
Property Insurance	4,800
Property Mgmt. Fee	2,726
Property Taxes	10,000
Rental Repairs and Maint.	2,000
Water & Trash	6,450
Property Expenses	\$ 52,056
Property Net Operating Income	\$ 14,364
Transfer to Operating Income	\$ (14,364)
Net Balanced Budget	\$ -

Society Operating Budget

	2021-22 Budget
<u>Operating Revenue</u>	
Restricted Donations	-
Annual Appeal & General Donations	20,500
Membership Dues	22,230
Booknook Sales	7,100
Life Membership Earnings	2,520
Operating Revenue	\$ 52,350
<u>Operating Expenditures</u>	
Administration & Liab. Insurance	6,605
Development	1,600
Education & Programs	9,300
Library Operations & Information Technology	51,693
Membership	700
Communications & Publications	6,670
Library Book Purchases	2,250
Operating Expenses	\$ 78,818
Society Net Operating Loss	\$ (26,468)
Transferred From Property Operating Income	\$ 14,364
Transfer From Operating Reserve to Balance Budget	\$ 12,104
Net Balanced Budget	\$ -



The Operating Reserve Account had a balance of \$158,623 at 4/30/21. A certain amount is available annually to transfer to the operating account to cover shortfalls.

