



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

November 2021

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 37, No. 11

Judy Nimer Muhn, Speaker

French-Canadian and Acadian Genealogy
Saturday, November 20, 2021



For Our Next Issue of
Ancestors West
Kristin Ingalls, AW Editor

Let me suggest several themes you may want to write about for our next issue:

- Odd or unusual occupations of our ancestors
- Ancestors and relatives who changed professions
- What were some of the odd tools of the trade most of us would not recognize?
- Did any of your ancestors work in dangerous trades?
- How about writing about family myths. What stories you were told and how have you researched them to find the truth.
- How fun to share your family's long-established traditions they brought from "the old country." A member just shared with me concept of the Danish "Hygge." You will have to look it up! What were these customs and are they still observed?
- None of the above, but I have a great story to share.

What better way to get to know each other than sharing our stories?

The deadline for your submissions is February 1st, 2022. Be sure to read the Guidelines printed in all Ancestors West issues.

Send those stories to Kristin Ingalls at antkap@cox.net

Land Acknowledgment Statement

"The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish."



From extensive experience in researching the founding families of Canada, this session includes information about online research resources, key social media help areas, and the fundamental tools of this elaborate and well-documented group of people.

Judy has been researching her family tree from the age of 12, specializing in French-Canadian, Acadian, Native American, and Michigan research. Beginning as a professional genealogist in Europe in 1993, she has lectured at National Genealogical Society conferences, RootsTech,

Federation of Genealogical Societies as well as conferences in Europe and around the United States. Traveling extensively around the world, Judy has visited and researched in the villages and archives of Germany, Scotland, France, Quebec, and Ontario where her or her husband's family lived. Owner of Lineage Journeys, she conducts research for clients and offers presentations in churches, libraries, and organizations.

Judy is the President of the Oakland County Genealogical Society, Vice-President and Social Media committee member and blogger for the Michigan Genealogical Council, and Awards Chair of the National Genealogical Society, Ontario and Quebec Genealogical Societies, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan and many more.

A nonprofit specialist, Judy is an Organizational Development Consultant for NEW – Nonprofit Enterprise at Work in Ann Arbor, sharing her expertise in fund development, strategic planning, board development, nonprofit governance, and more, as well as long expertise in volunteer management from years of executive staff work in Girl Scouting, the American Red Cross, and various United Way locations.

Saturday, November 20, 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 PST

Special Interest Groups will meet prior to the general meeting using the same Zoom link.

10:30 - 11:00am

Business Meeting with President Art Sylvester and Committee Reports

~11:00 - 12:00 Noon

Program

Elizabeth O'Neal, VP, Introduction of Speaker and Zoom Host

Presidents' Message

Arthur Sylvester, President
Robert Bason, President-Elect



Society members enjoyed three wonderful events in October in spite of COVID restrictions. Volunteers aplenty made the events possible and take place seamlessly.

Foremost among the events was the annual open house, held mostly outdoors on the Sahyun Library patio on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Thirty-three non-members attended. We'll have to wait to learn how many of them became members of the Society. Following my duties as parking lot attendant, I wasn't able to get beyond the many platters of amazing cookies arrayed at the front door.



The second event was the "Picnic in the Cemetery," held on a fine day in the Goleta Cemetery and splendidly organized by Holly Snyder and

her cadre of volunteers who role played notable people interred there. The picnic was organized by Kate Lima. Roses to all!

The third event that impressed me was Nancy Loe's Zoom presentation for the monthly meeting entitled "How to Think Like an Archivist." She reviewed how to access various archives having genealogical information that the average genealogist doesn't turn to. Nancy is no average genealogist, so her lecture opened new doors for many of us average folks. The recording of her webinar is available in the Webinar Archives in the Members Area of the Society website. I commend it to your attention. You may break a brick wall with the tips Nancy has there for you.

I maintain November has the best weather the County can offer. Not only has it brought co-President Bob Bason back from his respite in Vermont, but it is a fine time to go to the Sahyun Library to further your genealogical research before the upcoming busy holiday season. It's open 10 am to 4 pm Tuesday and Thursday, and on Saturday afternoon after the Society's General Meeting. Library Directory Kathy Morgan has made sure that the library is fully compliant with COVID protocols, so that patrons may work confidently and comfortably.

Art Sylvester
Co-President



Did You Remember About the Annual Member Share Program?



December is almost here, which means it's time to get ready for our favorite program of the year: the Annual Member Share. We'd love to have YOU participate by sharing a brief, 15-minute talk!

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- An interesting genealogical discovery you've made
- Your trip to an ancestral homeland
- A research skill that could benefit others
- The story of a family heirloom or other memorabilia

This meeting will be held via Zoom, and you are welcome to use slides (i.e., PowerPoint, Google Slides, etc.) or photographs to illustrate your talk. Please let us know if you need help doing this.

To participate, please contact VP Programs Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal at programs@sbgen.org by 10 December 2021.

We can't wait to hear your story!

November Zoom Calendar



Tuesday, November 9

Virtual Lunch and Learn Tuesdays
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Zoom Host & Moderator:
Rosa Avolio

Saturday, November 13

Virtual New Member Orientation
and Sahyun Library Tour

10:00 am to 11:30 am
Zoom

Friday, November 19

DNA Lunch and Learn
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Zoom

Saturday, November 20

General Meeting & Special Interest Groups
9:30 am to 12:00 pm
Zoom

Tuesday, November 23

Crowdsourced Research Assistance (Lunch & Learn)
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Zoom Host & Moderator: Rosa Avolio

MORE INFORMATION HERE

<https://www.sbgen.org/eventListings.php?nm=216>

Volunteer Corner



This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Liz Smith. Liz joined the society in 2018 and recently took on the role of Publicity Director. She's been publishing our events, both our Zoom events and those in person. She has publicized in our newspapers and online news sources. Our Open House event made the front page of the SB NewsPress. Thank you, Liz! And thank you for sharing a little about yourself.

I was born in Lodi, California, and grew up in Stockton, Sacramento, and Marysville/Yuba City. My parents (Everett Smith II and Debra Gipson) divorced when I was young and both remarried, and I have five younger half-brothers.

My interest in genealogy began in junior high school when we had a family history assignment. My mom helped me collect information and photos from both of my grandmothers and extended family, which I put together in an album for the school project. Unfortunately, in January 1997 our home was flooded when a levee on the Feather River broke, and the album was destroyed, along with most of our own family photos.

Later that year I graduated from Lindhurst High School and moved to Santa Barbara to study film at UCSB. On a visit home to Northern California, I found that my mom had a document "Spillman Ancestors and Descendants - Descendants of Gotthard Spielmann." This history was put together by a distant cousin of my maternal grandmother (Dorela Spillman), and traced our family back to Gotthard Spielmann, born in Seelbach, Siegen, Germany around 1525-30. This has been such an amazing document to have a copy of!

My dad's side of the family is more of a mystery. My grandfather (Everett Smith) died a couple months before my dad was born, and my grandmother (Wanda Hurst) remarried a few times and had a total of eight children. I was fortunate to grow up with a large number of aunts, uncles, and cousins, but I don't know much about the Smiths, and it's a challenging name to research! I have an aunt who occasionally sends me photos and documents she has held onto over the years, and that has recently included documents from my grandfather's military service during World War 2, letters from my grandfather to my grandmother, and a 1941 sale contract from when my grandparents purchased a Dodge sedan in Batavia, Ohio for \$320.

I met my husband Casey in Santa Barbara; he was born and raised here. He is also a Smith, so that is my maiden name as well as my married name. We were married in 2009 in the Mural Room at the Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse. We have two children, Griffin, age 9, and Isla, age 3, and a black lab named Dubbel. I've worked for the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division for over 14 years, and Casey has brewed beer at The Brewhouse for 10 years.

I joined the Society in 2018 after bidding on a couple hours of

New Books by Chris Klukkert



The year is flying by and the day that the 1950 census is finally released is now that much sooner. I for one, can't wait! I have started my list of people I want to locate on there.

Meanwhile, we have gotten a few more books in and have some requested books on order. Our wonderful cataloger, Chris Gallery, is on a short break to visit family, so the New in the Library list is shorter than usual this month. But, folks, there are still about forty New In the Library books on our shelves ready for your review.

Come on in to the Sahyun and have a look for yourself.

- The Fledging of Bedford Road: A pre-schoolers Schenedtady of 1938-1943.
- Schenedtady (NY) During the Revolution
- Madison County, Missouri Veterans: (3 Volumes and Index)
- WW1, WW2 and Vietnam and Korea Veterans
- Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups.

We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Lynn Ashcroft John Wurzel Rich Perez
Laurie Hannah Christine Klukkert Robin McCarthy**



Picnic at the Cemetery: Lunch at Grace Gathering Church

genealogy research assistance at a City employee fundraising auction. The research was provided by former City employee and Society member Kate Whan, who spoke so highly of the Society. I began volunteering earlier this year doing publicity for Society events. I hope to be able to dedicate more time to researching my family history soon!

Membership Corner by Kate Lima, 2nd VP Membership

Hello all, I hope you had a rewarding and eventful Family History Month.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Cynthia Anderson **Stephen Bates**
Nancy Eldridge **Cam Gittler**
Miranda Harter **Lisa Marciano**
Barb Marx **Scott Missman**
Richard Prato

*Please pick up your New Member Packets online
or when you visit the library.*

And a bountiful thank you to our continuing members
who renewed in October!

THANKSGIVING



November is the time of year when we traditionally set aside time to recognize our good fortunes and give thanks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members who have given so generously through donations, and also by increasing their membership levels. These

people have helped us tremendously as we navigate the pandemic's effects on our society. Thank you so much.

My thanks continue for the speakers and volunteers who helped throughout Family History Month:

- **Sheila Benedict** - Finding Irish Ancestors
- **Nancy Loe** - Using Macs and iPads for Genealogy and our monthly meeting speaker, Think Like an Archivist
- **Rosa Avolio** - Lunch & Learns and the Italian SIG Meeting
- **George LaPlante** - DNA Lunch & Learn
- **Milt Hess** - Jewish Gravestones & Funeral Practices
- We had many volunteers behind the scenes as well, a big thank you to all who gave of their time and talents.



We had a wonderful **FHM Open House** with many volunteers, as well as our popular Picnic in the Cemetery event. Both were organized by the **Outreach Committee: Cherie Bonazzola, Jeanine Fox, Kate Lima, Karen Ramsdell, and the Chair, Holly Snyder**. Both events were well attended, and people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to the Outreach Committee and all the many volunteers who lent a hand.

We truly have so much to be grateful for; I love this time of year when I can reflect just a little longer on just how fortunate we are.

Need help? Work with a Coach. The Society has over thirty volunteer coaches who are ready to share their extensive expertise

in several areas of genealogical research with our members. Please contact our Coach Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, kajcremeen@gmail.com, if you would like help – or would like to become a Coach. To view a list of our coaches and their contact information, click on Members Area, sign in, then click on Coaches for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION and TOUR OF THE LIBRARY



We have a New Member Orientation coming up on Saturday, November 13, from 10:00am through 11:30am. We are also calling this a Tour of the Library since so many people haven't been to the brick-and-mortar building in quite a while. I hope you will attend.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, Kate, at membership@sbgen.org with your questions, comments, and suggestions.

Contact SBCGS

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Interim President: Art Sylvester, Bob Bason
Library Director: Kathie Morgan, 805-682-4456
Past-President: Karen Ramsdell, Governance@sbgen.org
2nd VP, Membership: Kate Lima, membership@sbgen.org
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1st Vice Pres., Programs: Elizabeth O'Neal, programs@sbgen.org
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Interim IT Chair: Rosa Avolio, rosaavolio@mac.com



OUTREACH by Holly Snyder, Outreach Chair

Picnic at the Cemetery

Our Picnic in the Cemetery fundraising event was a success! We had a little over 60 attendees, about 15 volunteers, and 6 actors. Don't let these clouds fool you, it turned out to be a beautiful day to listen to the spirits of six historical figures at the Goleta Cemetery. Afterward we headed over to Grace Gathering Church to have lunch and enjoyed each other's company in person once again. Check the next issue of Ancestor's West for the actors' full scripts and pictures! The video, brought to you by Nimmer Pictures, Inc., can be viewed here (<https://sbgen.org/cpage.php?pt=333>).

A huge thank you to the actors, numerous volunteers, two generous donors who made the filming possible, and all the attendees coming from near and far for making it such a success! See names below.



The actors: L-R: Ken Gilbert, E. Bonnie Lewis, Alfred Smith, Leslie Roby Ervin, Betsy J. Green, and Neal Graffy;



Outreach Cemetery Committee: Kate Lima, Karen Ramsdell, Holly Snyder, Jeannine Fox, Cherie Bonazzola (not in picture)

We Love Our Volunteers - Thank You All!

Actors: Leslie Roby Ervin (Stella Haverland Rouse), Ken Gilbert (Ralph Paulin- stepped in a week before the event!), Neal Graffy (William N. Hendry), Betsy J. Green (Anne Stronach Hendry), E. Bonnie Lewis (Miles H. Lane), and Alfred Smith (Joseph Sexton)

Volunteers (behind the scenes and day of event): Michelle Fitton, Bob Lima, Dorothy Oksner, Marie Sue Parsons, Sharon Summer, Robin McCarthy, Chris Klukkert, Diane Sylvester, Liz Smith, and Kristin Ingalls and her AW crew

Group Leaders: Rosa Avolio, Debbie Kaska, Kat Kosiec, Dorothy Oksner, Art Sylvester, Jace Turner

Researchers: Jim and Marj Friestad, Outreach Committee, Phil Levien, and the actors. We would also like to acknowledge the Gledhill Library at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, John and Ruth Lane owners of Lane Farms and descendent of Miles Lane, descendants of the Hendry family, and our own Genealogical Society for their contributions to our research.

Last Chance!

- If you haven't seen the **SB Italian exhibit** at Rancho La Patera/Stow House yet, you have till November 28. Please check their website, <http://goletahistory.org/visit/>, for their current hours.
- **"Family Matters" student art and SB African American exhibits** will be up until the end of November at the Sahyun Library. These are viewable Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-4pm, except for Thanksgiving.