



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

*Researching the World*

November 2022

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 38, No.10

## "The Genealogy of 316 Castillo St."

### SBCGS General Meeting

**Saturday, November 19, 2022, 9:30 - 12 Noon**



The program for our November 19th meeting is a unique one in celebration of our 50th anniversary as the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. It will comprise three talks: one on the prehistory of the property at 316 Castillo Street; one on the history of the property during the Sahyun family stewardship; and one on the acquisition of the property by SBCGS.

**Heather McDaniel McDevitt**, an archaeologist who works in the cultural resource management sector, will cover what is known about the property from pre-historic times, i.e., Chumash, through the late 1920s.

**Mel Sahyun** will cover from the 1920s or so when the Sahyun family came to Santa Barbara. In 1949 they bought the property with the intent to build a laboratory to investigate new drug compounds. Mel has the "inside scoop" on the family and the pharmaceutical lab his parents established, owned, and ran.

**John Woodward** will cover the transition period — beginning in the mid-1990s — when the Society needed space for its growing library resources and the Sahyuns (by then son Mel, trustee for his mom's estate, and Mel's wife, Irene) were looking for a nonprofit to donate the property. John acted as intermediary for that somewhat involved process.

We hope to see you for this special presentation either in person or on Zoom.

### **HYBRID Meeting!**

This meeting is in person at the First Presbyterian Church (State and Constance, Santa Barbara), and on Zoom.

Special Interest Groups will meet only in person.

**9:30 - 10:25 am on November 19, 2022**

Special Interest Groups will meet in person at the church.

**10:30 - 11:00am**

Business Meeting will be in person and on Zoom.

**~11:00 - 12:00 Noon PDT**

Program with Heather, Mel, and John will be in person and on Zoom.

**Only Zoom attendees are required to register.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kceqsrz8jGNFjNgDbIYzy-dWCa1HWCsM7V>

**Problems with links? Go to Calendar at <https://sbgen.org/>**

**The library will be OPEN from 1-4:00 pm following this meeting.**

## **SBCGS Celebrates 50 years – Sunday, November 13 Santa Barbara Carriage Museum**



Please join us as the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society celebrates our Golden – 50 year – Anniversary Sunday, November 13th at the Santa Barbara Carriage Museum, 129 Castillo Street.

Festivities begin at noon with live music from the Decent

Folk (with SBCGS favorite Gary Jensen), with lunch provided after 1:00 p.m. by Country Catering (Country Meat Market, with a vegetarian option).

Following lunch will be a short program featuring the highlights of our 50 year history by Karen Ramsdell, with acknowledgements and appreciation, all hosted by our MC, local historian Neal Graffy. No Anniversary celebration is complete without cake, toasts and an abundance good cheer.

There will be plenty of time for tours of the Santa Barbara Carriage Museum, photos, rekindling connections with old friends, and meeting new ones.

**Prices:** \$25.00 for SBCGS members; \$35.00 for non-members

**Please RSVP no later than Monday, November 7th**

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xdh-br9cab&oeidk=a07eje8tazr40750051>

**Special acknowledgement:** This event was made possible due to a generous sponsor who encouraged SBCGS to hold an event to celebrate this milestone accomplishment.

**Additional sponsorships** are gratefully accepted from our website by selecting "50th Anniversary Luncheon Sponsorship" for the Donation Purpose:

<https://sbgen.org/product/50th-anniversary-appeal/>

**Or send a check** to 316 Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 with notation: 50th Anniversary Luncheon Sponsorship.

**Questions? Contact**

[development@sbgen.org](mailto:development@sbgen.org).

**Having trouble registering?**

Please call the library at 805-884-9909



## Presidents' Message

Arthur Sylvester



Happy Hallowe'en, Everyone,  
Are we there yet? I look at how active the Society and its members were during this past month of October, and believe that we may be coming out of the pandemic sufficiently to believe we may be moving back to "normal" at last.

October, our Family History Month, started off with a splendid open house, a special party in itself. As many as 37 members turned up on a beautiful day to showcase the Sahyun Library, its grounds, and to welcome prospective new members. We had a magnificent pictorial display of the library history in the Jackson Community Room. We even had some other history groups set up tables to highlight their upcoming events. Two tables were loaded with delicious things to eat, including my favorite - antipasto kebobs. It was a grand time enjoyed by all.

The remainder of the month was chock full of in-person courses, on-line seminars, webinars, and a lot of hard work behind the scenes by dedicated volunteers to make all of it happen. The attendance at some of the on-line events was as great as is usual for an in-person monthly meeting.

Next time you visit the Sahyun Library, notice how the exterior sparkles. On an October morning, the Property Team power washed the exterior of the building and its windows. Freeway, railroad, and Castillo Street grime gradually accumulates to where we need to call upon Society friend Martin Peterson and his power washer to spray it off. Rain gutters were cleaned out in anticipation of desperately hoped for rainfall, and windows and lintels were washed. The runoff water irrigated the landscaping.

And lastly, several dedicated members spent a lot of voluntary October hours planning the November 13 celebration of the Society's Golden anniversary. The gala affair will be held at the Carriage Museum down the street from the Sahyun Library; you will want to be a part of the festivities I assure you, so I urge you register for it right away if you have not done so already.

Art Sylvester, President



## Immediate Volunteer Opportunities

### Refreshments Coordinator

A person is needed to oversee refreshments for the monthly General Meetings and occasional other events. The time commitment is approximately six hours per month, 8:30 am - noon on the third Saturday of each month (except August).

#### General Tasks:

- Arrange for volunteers to bring snacks.
- Attend the monthly General Meetings at the church; arrive early (8:30) to set up the refreshment area.
- Make coffee and clean up after the meeting.
- Monitor the refreshment area during the meeting; rearrange and tidy up as needed.
- Lock the church if you are the last person leaving.

**Please contact the [Kathy Cremeen \(Volunteer Coordinator\)](#) if you can help.**

### Accounting Assistant

Assists the SBCGS Treasurer and Finance Officer with clerical and other finance related tasks. The time commitment is approximately 4-5 hours each month.

Duties: Collects, opens and sorts SBCGS mail. Review expense reimbursement requests. Collect cash and checks; prepare deposits. Upload financial documents to Box.com. File financial records monthly. Be trained to serve as back up resource for Quickbooks data entry and reconciliations and other online accounts.

Requirements: Available to volunteer about 4 hours per month; knowledge of Society operations. Activities could be done during a shift as a Library Assistant volunteer (especially on a quiet day). **Contact: [Kathy Cremeen \(Volunteer Coordinator\)](#) or [Bob Goeller \(Finance Officer\)](#) for more information**

## New Content on Our Website

Recordings, along with accompanying handouts, can be found on the Family History Month 2022 page (which is under Classes in the Webinar Archive) here: <https://sbgen.org/membership-welcome-page/webinar-archive/family-history-month-2022/>

Handouts are also posted on the Meeting and Class Handouts website page here:

<https://sbgen.org/membership-welcome-page/handouts-from-meetings-classes-series/>

And, drumroll, please, 15,327 more obituary records have been added to the database since last month.

Birth, death, burial, marriage, naturalization, court, tax, and land records, among others, will be coming soon. Collections not yet digitized will be added in the future, including some historic marriage, death, burial, and local cemetery indexes. Record images, when available, can be purchased. Members receive a discounted price when logged into the website.

<https://sbgen.org/start-your-search/search-database/#/search>



## Research Tips by Rosa Avolio

### What's free on ancestry.

*Genealogy TV with Connie Knox* 10 minute video on You Tube:  
<https://youtu.be/95HrdnctZaQ>

*Ten Free Things to Do on Ancestry*

<https://www.ancestry.com/corporate/sites/default/files/2001-corp-16-10-things-guide-v2.pdf>

### Ancestry behind the leaves

*Video series by Crista Cowan interview Ancestry Team members about how records are acquired and added to Ancestry.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvNIJ6Y7l6g>

### Jewish research

If you're doing Jewish research you probably already use the premier site Jewish Gen but recently I discovered the Center for Jewish History in New York City. (<https://www.cjh.org/visit/plan-your-visit/>) In addition to historical exhibits they have a research library that you can search online. (<https://search.cjh.org/primo-explore/search?vid=beta>)

### This month's featured library premium subscription:

**Find My Past** - Available for members at The Sahyun

*Getting started on searching FindMyPast* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l87f3AV2a3A&feature=youtu.be>)

*Find your British ancestors in the 1921 census* (<https://www.youtube.com/user/findmypast>)

## CONTACT SBCGS

**www.sbgen.org    info@sbgen.org    806-884-9909**

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**\*BOARD MEMBERS**

## All About Our "New In The Library" Shelf by Chris Klukkert



Our cataloger, Chris Gallery, has been on a wonderful Fall sojourn, and she will have lots of books to start in on when she returns this week. We continue to receive some wonderful donations that will be at the top of the list for Chris to catalog and for you all to check out on our New in the Library shelves.

We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Finn Mortensen    Marj Friestad    Elizabeth Badart  
Robert Smitheram**

And, don't forget, there is a fun new addition to the New In The Library bookcase. Library Director, Laurie Hannah, has started a **"Staff Picks" shelf**, with some of the books already within our library holdings that librarians or patrons have found particularly helpful, insightful or essential to their genealogy research.

We look forward to your library visit and we encourage and welcome suggestions for other genealogy books for our collection.

## MEMBER ORIENTATION

*We have a Member Orientation this month — and it's for both new and old members! For all who have joined this past year, or all who are long time members, mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 5, at 10 am***

Details:

### MEMBER ORIENTATION

#### And Tour of the Library

**November 05, 2022**

**10:00 am - 11:30 am**

By Kate Lima, Laurie Hannah, Marie Sue Parsons, Kathy Cremeen

#### In-Person Only

Sahyun Genealogical Library

316 Castillo Street

Santa Barbara, California United States

This is an opportunity for our members, new and old, to get acquainted with the Sahyun Library and all the resources it has to offer. Learn about the benefits of membership including our subscription databases and access to restricted content on the website that is available only to our members, such as handouts and recordings of past presentations.

All members are welcome. So those of you who would like a refresher or are just feeling a bit nostalgic, please join us at the Sahyun Library on Saturday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m. for this in-person only tour.

Kate Lima ([membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org))

Laurie Hannah ([SahyunLibrary@sbgen.org](mailto:SahyunLibrary@sbgen.org))

## Outreach

by Holly Snyder

### 50th Anniversary Exhibit



This month is the perfect month to come into the Sahyun Library and view the Society's 50th Anniversary exhibit! For those of you who have been longtime members, enjoy the walk down memory lane. For those of you who are newer, enjoy learning about the history of the Society and all the outstanding work our volunteers poured themselves into. Come anytime the library is open!

### Goleta Library Display Case



Another successful display at the Goleta Library has been completed! For those of you who missed the display, or may want to see it again, you will have one more chance to see it! This display will be shown at our 50th Anniversary luncheon at the Carriage Museum on November 13.

Come check it out!

### Speaking Engagements in the Community



Are you part of a group who has a speaker series? If your group would be interested in having one or two of our speakers give a talk on genealogy, our Society and genealogical library, please contact Dr. Larry Basham at Outreach@sbgen.org. Our speakers can go to your group's meeting location, or your group is welcome to hear the talk at Sahyun Library. We can also arrange group tours of Sahyun Library if interested!

#### 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."*

## Book Nook

Kristin Ingalls, Manager

### The Book Nook Woke Up !!

After snoozing through the pandemic, all the hustle and bustle of the library these days has reinvigorated the books on the Book Nook shelves. Many treasures are waiting to find new homes. Let me suggest two recent books by our own Society members!

Betsy Green has written an in-depth book about silent movies filmed on the fabled estates of Montecito, California. She carefully documents the more than 60 movies produced here, beginning in 1911 and ending in 1928.



The chapter for each movie contains a lively synopsis, behind-the-scenes info, and photos from the movie and the million-dollar mansions. These photos are a fascinating look into the world of glamor and riches over 100 years ago. A great gift for any movie lover!



Stephan R. Frenkel, the guest speaker at our September monthly meeting, spent over five years researching and weaving together the life of his paternal grandmother, Clara. She was born and raised in the time known as La Belle Epoque in Europe. This beautiful world was shattered for Clara and her family and she fled her homeland in 1939, safely arriving in the United States. It is curious that one of the few things she took with her was her album of autographed photos of the illustrious figures of that time – actors, singers, politicians, authors. But this is much more than a story of Clara. Mr. Frenkel has put her story into the historic and social context of European history. A must-read for those who are hoping to write their own family stories.



## Membership

by Kate Lima

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

### WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS!

I hope you can join us this coming Saturday, November 5 at 10am for a New Member Orientation. Whether you're new this past year or any time during the pandemic, or anyone who is interested in learning more about the Society, please come!

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

### THANKSGIVING

November is the time of year when we traditionally 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

- Elizabeth O'Neal – Strategies for Brick Wall Busting
- Elizabeth O'Neal – RootsMagic User Group
- Robin McCarthy – Family Tree Maker Users Group
- Rosa Avolio – The Sahyun Library and its Resources
- Sharon Summer – Writing Your Family History
- Jean Foster – Beginning Genealogy
- Sheila Benedict - Finding Irish Ancestors
- Cathy Jordan – Finding and Researching Civil War Soldiers
- George LaPlante – DNA Research
- Norma Eggli – Searching the Web, Free Genealogy Websites
- Norma Eggli – Exploring FamilySearch.org
- Norma Eggli – Fold3, Military Records and More
- Nancy Loe – European Ancestors: Why they left and how they got here, 1820-1920
- Rosa Avolio – Open Mike Sharing Stories

We had many volunteers behind the scenes as well that made Family History Month a great success. I send a big thank you to all who gave of their time and talents.

We had a wonderful Open House with many volunteers. What a wonderful day! The event was organized by the Outreach Committee: Cherie Bonazzola, Jeannine Fox, Kate Lima, Karen Ramsdell, and the Chair, Holly Snyder. This event was 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.

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION / TOUR OF THE LIBRARY

We have a New Member Orientation coming up on Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 am through 11:30 am. 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.

**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](mailto:kajcremeen@gmail.com), if you would like help – or would like to become a Coach. To view a list of our coach

## Development

by Mary Hall

### Season of Gratitude

November is a month where we often take time to reflect on that for which we are grateful.

Should you feel inclined to show your gratitude for SBCGS, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary this month, please take a look at our new website and the “50th Anniversary Appeal” gold button, at the top of the page.

Our annual appeal this year will Celebrate SBCGS' 50 years and the many endeavors, activities, projects and accomplishments we've achieved since 1972....all done by many SBCGS volunteers.

#### 50th Anniversary Appeal

*Clicking on the 50th Anniversary Appeal button gives you the option of donating in recognition of a special SBCGS volunteer or individual that you especially appreciate, honoring a SBCGS family member or ancestor, supporting the Library, or donating towards our annual (50th Year) appeal early and electronically, via secure credit card.*

*You can even help sponsor our 50th Anniversary Luncheon to be held on Sunday November 13th at the Santa Barbara Carriage Museum.*



### Choose an option

**50th Year Annual Appeal**  
**50th Anniversary Luncheon Sponsorship**  
**Education Programs**  
**General Library Support**  
**Research Assistance**  
**Volunteer appreciation**  
**In recognition of . . . (provide person's name in Notes box at payment)**

The SBCGS Sahyun Library depends on donations in order to do what we do each year, at our beautiful property and compound at 316 Castillo Street. We, in turn, are grateful for the generosity of those who help us sustain our mission of serving the genealogical needs of the Central Coast community for over 50 years.

*The Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable California corporation. All gifts are deductible for personal or corporate tax purposes to the fullest extent of the law. Our federal tax identification number is 95-3080681.*



es and their contact information, click on Members Area, sign in, then click on Coaches for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, Kate, at [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org) with your questions,

A very soul-filled Thanksgiving season to one and all.

# The 50th Anniversary of SBCGS

## "Finding Family and Making Friends"

Sunday, November 13, 2022

1:00 — 4:00 PM

Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum

### ■ Event Location

Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum  
129 Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(Ample free parking; the facility is handicapped accessible.)

### ■ Celebration Schedule

12:00 Welcome. Music by "The Decent Folk" with Gary Jensen

1:00 Catered luncheon servings begin

1-4 pm Throughout the festivities

- Tours of the Western Art and Carriage Museum
- Master of Ceremonies, Historian Neal Graffy
- Commemorative Souvenir Program
- Recognition of Achievements and Appreciation
- Honored Guests
- Birthday Cake and Toasts!

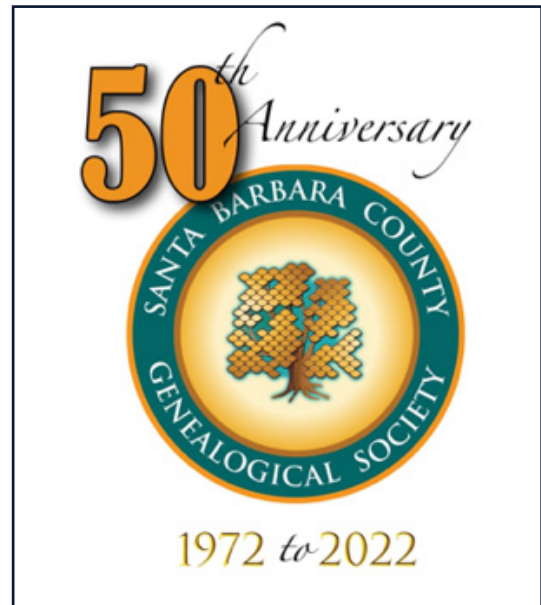
### ■ Luncheon Choices

#### **Buffet Luncheon with Meats Included with Registration**

Garlic Herb Chicken, Grilled Tri-Tip, Freshly Made Salsa, Creamy Horseradish, Garlic Roasted Red Potatoes, Grilled Seasonal Vegetables, Baby Greens Salad (Fresh greens, balsamic vinaigrette, candied pecans, dried cranberries, feta cheese), Fresh Baked Rolls

#### **Vegetarian Buffet Luncheon Included with Registration**

Red or Yellow Bell Pepper filled with a Vegetarian Medley, Freshly Made Salsa, Creamy Horseradish, Garlic Roasted Red Potatoes, Grilled Seasonal Vegetables, Baby Greens Salad (Fresh greens, balsamic vinaigrette, candied pecans, dried cranberries, feta cheese), Fresh Baked Rolls



### ■ Registration Information

SBCGS Members	\$25
Registration and Luncheon	
Non-Members	\$35
Registration and Luncheon	

Up to two guests per member may be invited

### ■ Register Online Here

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xdhbr9cab&oeidk=a07e-je8tazr40750051>

### ■ Donations

<https://sbgen.org/get-involved/#donate>

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