



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

January 2024

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 40, No.1

“Finally Get Organized! Conquer the Clutter Using Your Natural Learning Style”

Speaker: Elizabeth Swanay O’Neal

Saturday, January 20, 2024



Have you tried organizing your family history documents, photos, and digital files, but you just can’t find a system that you can stick to? Start organizing according to your natural learning style! This talk will help you identify your specific learning style and will share brain- and research-based organizing strategies for each style. Learn how you learn so you can finally get organized with the right system for YOU!

About the Speaker:

Elizabeth Swanay O’Neal is a professional genealogist, writer, educator, and national genealogical speaker. Her specialties include methodology, technology, and online research resources.

Elizabeth has studied at the National Institute for Genealogical Research (NIGR, now known as GenFed) in Washington, DC; the Forensic Genealogy Institute (FGI) in Dallas, Texas; and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is the Education Director for the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society; President of the Second Life Virtual Genealogical Society; Director of the NGSQ Study Groups program, and a Genealogy Consultant for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

As a family history lecturer, Elizabeth has given presentations for Legacy Family Tree Webinars, RootsTech, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Utah Genealogical Association, and many others. Her professional memberships include the Association of Professional Genealogists, where she serves as president of the Southern California Chapter, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and she is an active member of the public speaking club Toastmasters International.

HYBRID Event!

This special program will be in person at the First Presbyterian Church (State and Constance, Santa Barbara), and on Zoom.

Special Interest Groups will meet in person.

9:30 - 10:25 am on January 20, 2024

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

Program featuring Elizabeth Swanay O’Neal

Only Zoom attendees are required to register.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkce6gpjstHNFwdI3JpipX9LyvniBzrN>

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

January Meetings

Find links to all Zoom events here:

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/>

Beginning Genealogy SIG Meeting - ZOOM ONLY

Presented by Jean Foster

Thursday, January 4, 2024; 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

DNA Lunch & Learn

In-Person Only

Presented by George LaPlante

Thursday, January 4, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Lunch and Learn

In-Person Only

Presented by Rosa Avolio

Tuesday, January 9, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Jewish Genealogy SIG Meeting

In-Person Only

Presented by Harriette Hinderstein

Thursday, January 11, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Zoom Lunch and Learn

ZOOM Only

Presented by Rosa Avolio

Wednesday, January 17, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Society Monthly Meeting - HYBRID

Saturday, February 18, 2023

10:30am - 12:00pm

First Presbyterian Church and Zoom

Crowdsourced Brick Wall Research Assistance

ZOOM ONLY

Tuesday, January 23, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Presented by Jean Foster

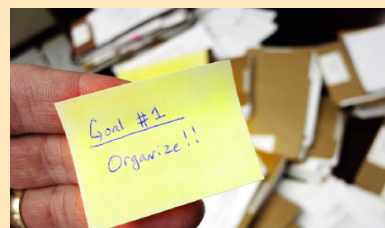
January Speaker: Elizabeth Swanay O’Neal

In-Person and on Zoom

“Finally Get Organized! Conquer the Clutter
Using Your Natural Learning Style”

Saturday, January 20, 2024

First Presbyterian Church, SB



Presidents' Message

by Ted Tazer-Myers



Have you made any New Year's resolutions this leap year? I don't usually like to make them as the process seems a bit artificial, but not this year. All kinds of resolutions have been popping unbidden into my head from almost every area of my life: social, physical, spiritual and...genealogical.

One of my personal commitments is to work through the 366 daily genealogy tips enumerated by Lisa A Alzo in the January/February 2024 issue of Family Tree Magazine. We start out with learning about U.S. copyright law on January 1st, set genealogy goals for the coming year on the 2nd, take an inventory of our supplies and research materials (identifying what we still need) on the 3rd, and ending with a reflection on December 31st about how far we've come, what we've accomplished, and setting new goals for 2025! It sounds pretty simple, but I am convinced that if I stick to the plan, I will be a better genealogist for it.

Your SBCGS Board made ten resolutions for 2024, too, although we call them strategic "goals." Here is a sampling:

1. **Form a Development Team.** We held our first meeting held on December 7th and the second scheduled for January 11th. Mary Jacob has identified many promising grant opportunities and the team includes two professional grant writers, so we are well on our way!
2. **General Meeting.** Elizabeth Swanay -O-Neal and the Education Committee are looking for new sites that would be more accommodating to our needs and our budget. The Committee is also developing some innovative programs like webinars and "Bricks & Brags." Let Elizabeth know what that is or if you have any ideas and want to get involved.
3. **Marketing Plan.** An energized team has been formed that includes at least one professional marketer and will meet virtually on the 11th to better understand our brand and how to get the word out.
4. **Identify a Social Chair.** Heather McDevitt-McDermott stepped up with Scottish flair and has big plans for 2024, including small study groups. If you are interested in "getting together" with others who share your passion for solving mysteries and filling out the leaves in your family tree, please get in touch with Heather.
5. **Website.** Rosa Avolio continues to respond to members' needs and requests to build the most attractive, functional and accessible website we've ever had. One new feature that Rosa just launched is blog. The first post was made just a few days ago. Check it out!

Of course, there are many other initiatives happening at the Society, some not as visible like our ongoing records preservation efforts (thanks especially to Robin McCarthy and her team) and others more visible like our rehabilitation of the Victorian in an-

tipication of renting it out to a young family starting mid-January. Thanks to Fred Marsh, Bob Mueller, and all the skilled volunteers who have given their time, labor, and treasure (or in Chris Klukkert's case, chandelier!) for this important security effort.

In gratitude for all our wonderful Society members and in anticipation of another wonderful year!

Ted Tazer-Myers, President

Website News

Rosa Avolio, Webmaster

We hope you had a chance to check our **new blog**, and then subscribe, so you can receive notification of our latest blog posts, and other news and events related to genealogy in Santa Barbara County and beyond. Our goal is to provide valuable insights, resources, and support to help you in your genealogical journey. The blog is found here:

<https://sbgen.org/start-your-search/sahyun-library-updates/>

Then, be sure to take a look at our new page for listing **volunteer opportunities**. You'll be surprised at some of the fun and interesting openings. Scroll down a bit to see new listings such as Periodicals Manager and Zoom Moderator.

<https://sbgen.org/get-involved/volunteer/#!/board/VolunteerPositions>

All About Our Books at the Sahyun

Chris Klukkert, Book Buy Chair

New Year – new books! That is what we aspire to in our library. We are just up and running here again at the Sahyun, and need to catalog awaiting books and get them up on our shelves. So for now – come on in and see what you can find. Who knows? The very book you need it waiting for you on our shelves.

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Joy Chamberlin Bob Goeller Dorothy Oksner
Chris Ervin for the SB Historical Museum
Holly Snyder



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."

Membership

Kate Lima, Membership Chair



Welcome to our newest member
Kim Lieberman

A big welcome also to returning members
Leslie Fagan
David Petry
Gary Robbins
John and Lorelee Weaver

I'd like to extend a big, happy thank you to our continuing members who renewed in December. Thank you, we're glad you're here!

A TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR, 2024

What resolutions, if any, have you made? Do any include ancestry research? I am pulling some ideas from a past Tree Tip piece, written by the previous Membership Director, Molly Gleason. I've changed it up a bit but her words bear repeating...



RESOLUTIONS FOR MEMBERS

I will...

1. Request help from a Coach if I am having trouble getting started with my research or if I run into a brick wall. I will go to the SBCGS website and click on "Members" area then "Coaches for Members" from the sidebar of the home page. Or I will contact the Coach Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, at kajcremeen@gmail.com.
2. Visit the webinar archive on our website to watch at least one presentation.
3. Share an interesting genealogy discovery I have made. I will write a story for "Ancestors West."
4. Go to the website for information about upcoming meetings, webinars, and classes. (Members and non-members will need to register for events shown on the website "Events Calendar" – including the Monthly Meeting via Zoom – unless otherwise noted.)
5. Ask for help if I have trouble renewing my membership. I will send an email to membership@sbgen.org
6. Volunteer for one or more functions, or help at the library.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

February 3, 2024, 10am-12noon

Save the date and please register!
Registration begins on January 2.

We will have a presentation, a tour of the library and then we will check out some software that's available on our computers. This is available to new members and anyone else who wants to jump back into their research.

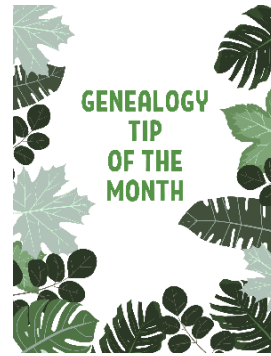


VOLUNTEER THANK YOU!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who work so hard at the Sayhun as well as behind the scenes. The number of volunteers on hand is precariously low, and people have

taken up the slack with a remarkable can-do attitude. Thank you all so much.

GENEALOGY TIP OF THE MONTH



Go beyond the big wars. The United States has been in wars besides the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the two World Wars. Is it possible that your ancestor served in one of the Indian wars, the Spanish-American War, or the Philippine-American War? Involvement in any of those actions would have generated service and possibly pension records. (From "*GenealogyTipOfTheDay.com*," January 17, 2014.)

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE SURVEY!



This month we share the results of the question "*What would you like to see added to our website?*"

One answer stood out among all: keep Zoom available, and add Zoom offerings. We hear you! Our Program Director, Elizabeth Swanay-O'Neal, and others are hard at work. Stay tuned for more Zoom!



I explored Utah

05/18/2023

TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

Our society will once again visit the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. We'll head over for the week of March 19-26, 2024. You can stay longer or shorter than this, depending on your schedule. The rate will be the same regardless of how many days you stay: \$108 for a standard room and \$118 for a deluxe. If you're interested please contact Rich Williams at the Plaza Hotel to secure a room, 801-521-0130. And don't forget to email me at membership@sbgen.org so I can put you on our list. I hope you can join us!

I look forward to hearing from you! Please contact me at membership@sbgen.org with your questions, comments, and suggestions. Cheers! Kate

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to the new year with another Picnic in the Cemetery event, community speaking engagements, and more partnership opportunities. Continue to read Tree Tips to learn the latest SBCGS's Outreach news.

Speaking Engagements in the Community



Speaker's Bureau has been busy providing talks and library tours to community organizations every month this year. We have spoken to over 200 people out in the community this past year and we look forward to many more in the new year. This month, Dr. Larry Basham will be speaking to Vista del Monte on January 23 at Sahyun.

Outside groups can request a visit and/or tour here:

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/> Please share the link to anyone who may be interested.

Has your group already had a talk with Larry, but would be interested in a follow up talk or a workshop style activity? We can do that too!

Picnic in the Cemetery 2024



Outreach is beginning their preparations for the next Picnic in the Cemetery! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 26, 2024. More details coming soon!

Interested in being an actor? We have some great historical figures to portray and we will help you with the script process and rehearsals. Please email Outreach@sbgen.org if interested!

1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial



Did your family live in Santa Barbara during the 1925 earthquake, or maybe you know of a family who lived here during this time? If so, we would like to hear from you! Maybe you have a diary with written accounts or remember stories your parents or other family members told. We would like to share these recollections during the centennial commemoration in 2025. Please contact Outreach@sbgen.org if you have anything to contribute or can put us in touch with someone whose family lived in Santa Barbara in 1925.

Photo courtesy of Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum

BOOK ANGELS

Please be an angel and help us make these important acquisitions. These books have been approved and/or purchased by the SBCGS Book Acquisition Committee. The price listed here is half of what it cost SBCGS to purchase it.

To be an Angel and make a donation, click here:

<https://sbgen.org/get-involved/book-angels>

DNA Lunch & Learn is moving to a new day!

Beginning on Jan. 4th, **DNA Lunch & Learn** meetings will now be held on the first Thursday of the month from noon to 1:30 p.m. In-person-only meetings will be held at the library during the odd-numbered months. Please register through links in the Events Calendar or email reminders if you plan to attend in person. To assist people who live far away, meetings during the even-numbered months will continue to be held via Zoom only. Remember to email George LaPlante in advance with questions you wish to have covered during the meeting.

Volunteer Spotlight

• Judy Thompson •

This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Judy Thompson, a member since 2009. Judy wears many hats; she serves as a Library Volunteer, has digitized periodicals and indexed different types of records. I've had the privilege of working with Judy, mainly on the organization of the storage room (where she reigns supreme). We both went on the last Salt Lake City trip where we cemented our friendship. I'm pleased to share her story here (*Submitted by Kate Lima.*)

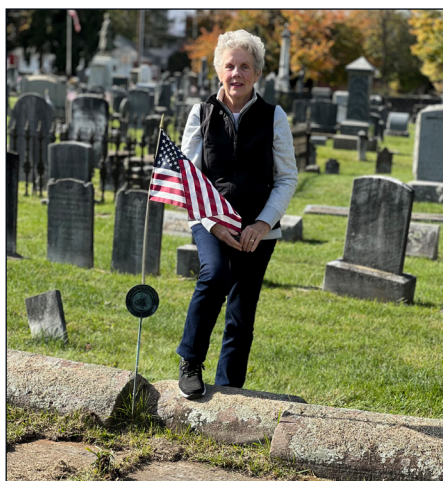
[Judy writes: This article was composed with the use of artificial intelligence. I started out by asking AI to give me an outline of what should be included in a short biography for a geological society newsletter. With that outline, I then filled out the parameters in a word document, copy and paste it into ChatGPT v.4, and asked it to create an informative narrative from the attached information. With a few edits, here is the final result.]

Judy Thompson has been actively engaged in genealogical research for many years, driven by her desire to uncover her family's history. Her journey in genealogy began in the scenic setting of Seward, Alaska Territory, where her paternal grandparents settled in 1916. Judy, who grew up in a large family with six siblings, was particularly influenced by her father's limited knowledge of his own grandparents and the memories of her paternal grandmother, who was a significant figure in her childhood.

Judy's academic path included completing high school in Anchorage, followed by a degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. Her interests are diverse, encompassing baking, calligraphy, needlework, quilting, and notably, genealogy. She has also recently been exploring the role of artificial intelligence in genealogical research.

Professionally, Judy initially pursued a career in teaching. However, influenced by friends in the airline industry, she became a flight attendant, first with Western Airlines in 1973 and later with a merger, Delta Air Lines, until her retirement in 2000. Her marriage to Don, a retired Delta Air Lines captain, and her career in the airline industry, provided her with ample opportunities to travel and explore her family history across the United States and overseas.

Judy's genealogical research officially started in 1990 with a quest to locate a young boy from the Painter family in the 1900 Pittsburgh Census. This endeavor led to a series of discoveries, including an ancestor who was a murdered judge and relatives involved in the Klondike Gold Rush. Additionally, her exploration into modern genetics revealed that one of her sisters, believed to be a full sibling, is in fact a half-sister. Judy is affiliated with the GSMD (General Society of Mayflower Descendants) and DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), both with ties to her paternal grandmother Miriam Culbertson Painter.



In addition to her personal research, Judy has made significant contributions to the wider genealogy community, particularly through her involvement with the Sahyun Library. Her organizational skills have been a valuable asset to the library, assisting visitors in the library, managing supplies, and becoming the "de facto" organizer of the back storeroom.

Judy continues to be active in genealogy, seeking to overcome various 'brick walls' in her research, assisting newcomers in DNA research, and planning travels with her sister, Pam, to visit sites significant to their family history. An upcoming trip to Salt Lake City

in March 2024 is anticipated to be a noteworthy addition to her genealogical pursuits. Judy's dedication to the Sahyun Library and the relationships she has built through her society membership have been sources of enjoyment and inspiration for her.

Judy's story underscores the ongoing nature of genealogical research. It highlights the continual discovery of new layers of history and family mysteries, embodying the persistent spirit of exploration that defines the field of genealogy.



CONTACT SBCGS

www.sbgen.org

info@sbgen.org

806-884-9909

President: *Edward (Ted) Tazer-Myers
Vice President, Operations: Karen Ramsdell
Library Director: *Laurie Hannah, SahyunLibrary@sbgen.org
Governance: *Karen Ramsdell, Governance@sbgen.org
2nd VP, Membership: *Kate Lima, membership@sbgen.org
Newsletter Address Corrections: membership@sbgen.org
1st VP, Educ&Programs: *Elizabeth O'Neal, programs@sbgen.org
Ancestors West: Kristin Ingalls, antkap@cox.net
Secretary: *Mary Jacob, maryjjacob8@gmail.com
Finance Director: *Robert Goeller, RGoel111@aol.com
Outreach: Holly Snyder, outreach@sbgen.org
Sales Table: Kristin Ingalls, antkap@cox.net
TreeTips: *Diane Sylvester, sylvester.diane@gmail.com
DNA: George LaPlante, sbgeorgelaplante@gmail.com;
Paul Cochet, 805-566-1036
Property Team Leader: *Fred Marsh, fmarsh2@cox.net
Library Facilities Manager: *William Noack, (805) 403-9197
Exterior Facilities Manager: Cheryl Jensen, cfitzjen@cox.net
Records Preservation: Dorothy Oksner, oksner66@gmail.com
Book Buy: *Christine Klukkert, ordway2@aol.com
IT Chair: *Molly Gleason
Publicity: *Liz Smith
Development Comm.: Mary Hall, development@sbgen.org
Directors at Large: Marilyn Compton, Bob Muller, Marie Sue Parsons, John Woodward, Heather McDaniel
McDevitt,
***BOARD MEMBERS**

Ancestors West

by Kristin Ingalls, Editor



According to my new calendar, a new year has begun! Traditionally this the time in our culture to take stock of where we are and resolve to do things...better, differently? The most common resolutions are consistently to improve finances, fitness, mental health, diet, weight, and somewhere in the top ten to learn a new skill.

This issue of Ancestors West will provide all our members to accomplish that last goal: learn a new skill!

There is no denying that technology has created a whole new world for all of us. Is that good or bad? There are many opinions on that topic, but to genealogy researchers tech-

nology allows us to do more and more research from the comfort of our armchairs.

The upcoming issue of Ancestors West hopes to enlighten our readers to some of the online sites available, especially the sites that are available at the library.

We know many of our readers have found helpful sites online and we hope you will contribute that information to the upcoming edition. No more procrastination – do this NOW !!

Our deadline is February 1, so that gives you a whole, entire month!

Send those finds to me: Kristin Ingalls at antkkap@cox.net



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

February 3, 2024, 10am-12noon
Save the date and please register!
Registration begins on January 2.

For more information and to register:

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2024/2/3/member-orientation>

DNA LUNCH & LEARN ZOOM ONLY!

February 1, 2024
12:00 PM

SBCGS member George LaPlante is hosting a **Zoom-only meeting** where he will discuss recent DNA news and answer your DNA questions. All experience levels are welcome.

Register at this URL to receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link to attend:

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAuceC-grz4qGtlC9oQ5i49oXAlkO2p_o9dP

