



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

May 2024

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 40, No.5

## “Opening ‘Pandora’s Box:’ A Story of Family Secrets Exposed with DNA Testing”

**Part I: Solving the Paternal Puzzle**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**



“Growing up, I always held a tinge of suspicion concerning the events of my birth. My parents divorced when I was a teenager after decades of a very tumultuous relationship. While in my 30s, I specifically remember a conversation with my dad in which I jokingly inquired about my paternity. Sadly, he passed away in 2009. Eleven years later, in January of 2020, the truth began to unfold. The first half of this presentation explains the science behind DNA testing and shares the story of how I was able to prove the identity of my biological father... even though he refused to be tested.”

**Part II of this 2-part talk will be shared in our 12 June 2024 “Webinar Wednesday.”**

### About the Speaker:

**Marcy Mullen MSEd, MPH, PhD** is a former professor of Clinical Pathophysiology,

Medical Genetics, Biomedical Ethics, and Immunology for SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica College, and the Sage Colleges in Upstate NY. Locally, she has taught a variety of pre-med/nursing courses for Cuesta, Allan Hancock, and CalPoly, as well as the American Heart Association and the Red Cross. She is the former clinical director of a LASIK surgery center, has served as a paternity consultant, and worked for nearly a decade as a medical technologist and EMT. Currently, she is the area manager for Halo Unlimited, providing newborn hearing screening services at Sierra Vista in SLO, Twin Cities in Templeton, Marian Regional in Santa Maria, and Cottage Health in Santa Barbara. She is also the sole proprietor of MED Training & Consulting Svcs. in Morro Bay.

### **HYBRID Event! — Live Presentation**

This program will be on Zoom and in person at the  
First Presbyterian Church

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

<https://tinyurl.com/534pdpm8>

### **More Information:**

Special Interest Groups will meet in person at the church.

9:30 - 10:25 am

Business Meeting will be in person and on Zoom.

10:30 - 11:00am

Featured Speaker (live via Zoom)

~11:00 - 12:00 Noon

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

## May Meetings

Find links to all Zoom events here:

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

### Presenting Your Family History

The first half of the presentation will cover various types of writing using your family research, from an article to a book.

Zoom Only

Mon May 6 2024, 11:00am PDT

### Webinar Wednesday: Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist

Presented by Annette Burke Lyttle

Zoom Only

Wed May 8 2024, 05:00pm PDT

### Beginning(and Intermediate) Genealogy SIG Meeting ZOOM ONLY

Presented by Jean Foster

Zoom Only

Thursday, May 9, 2024; 11:00 am-12:30pm

### Jewish Genealogy SIG Meeting

**In-Person Only**

Presented by Harriette Hinderstein

Thursday, May 9, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

### DNA Lunch & Learn

**Zoom Only**

Presented by George LaPlante

Friday, May 17, 2024; 12:00pm -1:30pm

### May General Meeting

**HYBRID**

Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, May 18, 2024; 10:30 am

### Crowdsourced Brick Wall Assistance

Moderator: Jean Foster

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 12:00 pm

**ZOOM Only**

### Calling All Volunteers!

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**Food, Drink, Fun!**

At the Sahyun Library After the Meeting

Between 12:30 and 3:00 pm

If you have volunteered this past year, please come by the Sahyun. We'd love to thank you in person.

**Register Here:** <https://tinyurl.com/2vmbcndt>

**Important:** The In-person Lunch & Learn has been changed to the first Thursday of each month. There will not be a Zoom Lunch & Learn in May.

## Presidents' Message

by Ted Tazer-Myers



When I first joined the Society, I mostly attended the monthly General Meetings to listen to the featured speaker. My thinking was that this was an excellent deal: I could hear a professional genealogist deliver a great talk in about an hour with essential tips and tricks that I could use in my research—for no additional charge beyond my membership dues. I still feel this way and very much look

forward to each speaker that the Education Committee queues up.

However, I have a confession to make: for several years I often didn't arrive at the meeting until 11:00 a.m., skipping the Special Interest Groups that start at 9:30 a.m. and the Business Meeting that runs from 10:30-11:00 a.m. After the talk, I would usually purchase a book, sample one of the Social Committee's delicious snacks, and then race home. Recently, however, these sections of the monthly meeting have become the highlight and I wouldn't miss them for the world!

The SIGs allow members to have a small group face-to-face experience to discuss topics that most interest them. The topics include Jewish, Irish, German, and French Canadian heritage genealogy, plus Beginner, Technology, Writing, DNA, and Civil War. To top it off, experts in each topic facilitate the table discussion. Everything is so interesting that I have trouble deciding which table to participate in, though recently I have gravitated toward the Irish table as Nancy and I have a heritage trip there coming up in the fall. Sharon Wilson leads the group and has a wealth of resources and knowledge to help us with our research.



I also love our pithy and upbeat Business Meeting. Leaders like Elizabeth Swanay-O'Neill, Kate Lima, Chris Klukkert, Holly Snyder, Kristin Ingalls, and Charmien Carrier update us on current and future happenings at the Society, with their talks backed up with beautiful themed slides created each month by Terry Marks.

It makes me feel so proud to be part of an organization whose volunteers do so much to support each other and provide a first-class experience for our members.

So, if you have a chance, please join us at 9:30 a.m. on May 18th! We will be sure to welcome you with a smile and listen to your stories. :)

Ted Tazer-Myers, President

## Preserving Our Past, Investing in Our Future

### Exciting Development News! By Ted Tazer-Myers

The Board and the Development Committee have been tirelessly raising funds for Society programs and projects.

#### Memorial Patio & Garden

In September 2023, the board initiated the Memorial Patio & Garden Project, aiming to expand outdoor space for events while honoring individuals who passed and were vital to the Society's growth and success.

We're thrilled to announce a \$50,000 donation from **John Woodward**, a dedicated member, volunteer, and benefactor since 1997. His contributions have been instrumental in various Society endeavors, including our property acquisition, the library expansion, and supporting programs, equipment, and property improvements.

John's generous contribution towards the project has propelled us to achieve Phase 1's fundraising goal of \$100,000. In addition to John's gift, fifty-six members collectively donated over \$10,000, and a \$50,000 bequest from long-time member John Fritsche was specifically allocated for this project in March.



With Phase 1's fundraising goal achieved, we're now commencing the project's conceptual design and engineering, led by Fred Marsh. Contracts have been approved with Common Ground, a landscape architectural firm, and Langan Engineering, for civil engineering work. With conceptual design, we will be able to obtain a realistic cost estimate for the project.

Phase 2 will focus on additional fundraising and preliminary and final design and approvals, with Phase 3 encompassing permits and construction.

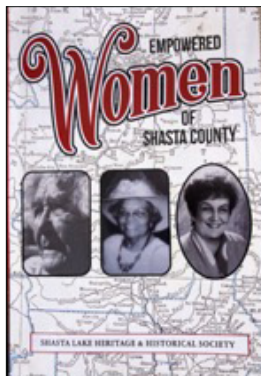
#### Grants for Outreach & Library Equipment

Under the guidance of Mary Jacob and supported by grant writer Lori Call, our grant writing team submitted our first grant application to the Williams Corbett Foundation for \$10,000 to purchase Education Display Systems (smart television, interactive smart board, wall rail hanging system, display easels, etc.). We eagerly await the foundation's decision, expected around the first of June.

## Books at the Sahyun

Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

The editor of the newly published *Empowered Women of Shasta County*, sent me a copy of the book last week, and in it is included the story of my Dad's grandmother,



**Amanda Johnson Klukkert** that I wrote and submitted almost two years ago. I was also surprised to see that I am acknowledged in the Preface too. What a thrill to be in a published book! If that isn't a motivation to keep writing, I don't know what is! (A thank you and shout-out to our very own Sharon Summer.)

Amanda's backstory was although she was unable to read or write, she had been

one of few women to apply for Sole Trader Status from the Shasta County Superior Court. At that time (1885) the court had to give legal permission for a married woman to be able to carry on her husband's business if he was sick or unable to do so on his own. Berend Klukkert, was at that time, unable to work due to some temporary debilitating injury or illness. Mind you, Amanda was seven months pregnant with her seventh child when she applied for Sole Trader status. The official approval paper read like this:

*"The said Amanda J. Klukkert, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to carry on in her own name, and on her own account as a Sole Trader, the business embraced in her notice, to Whit: That of farming, Poultry raising, cutting and delivery of firewood, and raising of stock of the place mentioned at the Homestead of herself and husband of said Shasta County, Calif."*

Yes – a woman at that time had to go to Court to receive the money for the work that I suspect she was already doing all along for no money! By the way, Berend did eventually recover to take back his duties and Amanda lived on until 1913.

What was a fun surprise to read what the editor had added at the end of my piece that came from something I had written to him in the back-and-forth e-mails between us. It reads like this:

*"Christine Klukkert wrote: 'My grandmother,' wrote my father to me for my 1976 sociology class assignment on family, 'was a typically dedicated old-world wife and mother; 'And," he added, 'she had no voice in family decisions.'*



Amanda Johnson Klukkert & Berend Klukkert, Circa 1910

That sad and narrow interpretation of Amanda's life does not reflect the spectacular strength and value of women's contribution in those pioneer years (and beyond). I can only imagine that 'having no voice' might obscure the reality of the significant accomplishments in which Amanda played a key role."

Look for that very book to appear on our New In The Library shelves when I donate a copy for our library.

What books on your family awaits your search? Come into the Sahyun and see for yourself. We look forward to your library visit and we encourage and welcome suggestions for other genealogy books for our collection.

Here are the books from the New In The Library Shelf:

- *50 Websites for South Texas and Northeast Mexico Genealogy History of Port Henry, New York*
- *Las Villas del Norte: The 1757 Census of Laredo, Dolores, Revilla, Mier,*
- *Camargo, and Reynosa.*
- *Clark County (WA) Pioneers: A Centennial Salute*
- *History of Port Henry, New York*
- *Cambria County, Pennsylvania (3 different books)*
- *The Canary Islanders of Louisiana*
- *History of Union County, Iowa*
- *History of the Church of The Brethern of the Western District of Pennsylvania*
- *Aztec Club of 1847: Military Society of the Mexican War*
- *Rogers County (Oklahoma) History & Genealogies*



We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Bob Bason Karen Lim Eve Savage Karen Harris  
and**

**Valerie Jackson in honor of Lea Gettings of Lompoc**

## Membership

Kate Lima, Membership Chair

### Welcome to Our Newest Members



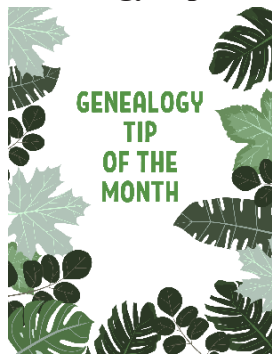
Lawrence Behrendt  
Charlene Maria Huston

### And to our returning members

Linda Brophy  
Ray Higgins

*Also, a big thank you to our continuing members who renewed in March. Thank you, we're so glad you're here!*

### Genealogy Tip of the Month



It can be frustrating when a gossip column in a small-town newspaper mentions a relative and doesn't provide clues about their life that we'd like to know. There are two things to keep in mind:

- Newspapers were supposed to print "news." Information that all the locals knew (but those of us 130 years later don't) wasn't "news" to individuals who actually received the newspaper when it was printed.
- Those gossip columns served as the Facebook posts of their day. Do all your posts on social media include all those details about you or your family members that someone may want to know in 100 years?

(From the Facebook page "GenealogyTipOfTheDay.com," April 28, 2019)

### Need help? Work with a Coach!



We have many people you can contact, so check out the list of Coaches after you sign in. You'll see a list under "Members Area" called "Coaches for Members." This kind of research will take off to a whole new level!

Or email Kathy Cremeen for information:

[kajcremeen@gmail.com](mailto:kajcremeen@gmail.com)



## Ancestors West

Please send your stories to Charmien Carrier, editor:

[charmien2940@gmail.com](mailto:charmien2940@gmail.com)

To see digital issues of AW,  
from 1974–Current, go to our website:  
<https://sbgen.org/society-publications/#gsc.tab=0>

### Happy Mother's Day!

Do you know the story of how Mother's Day came to be? A woman named Anna Jarvis created the holiday in honor of her own mother, who had organized women's groups to promote health and friendship in her West Virginia community. Jarvis's mother had dreamed of a memorial day honoring all mothers' work. Jarvis promised to fulfill those wishes after her mother's death in 1905 to honor her memory. On May 10, 1908, Jarvis held what is considered by many to be the first Mother's Day celebration. President Woodrow Wilson officially designated the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day on May 9, 1914. (Information from Britannica.com.)



(Picture from [www.vintag.es/](http://www.vintag.es/))

**WELCOME**  
TO OUR *blog!*

Be sure to check our **new blog**, and then subscribe so you can receive notification of our latest blog posts 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/>

# Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

## Happy May and Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

We start the month off with a special event at the Santa Barbara Cemetery this Saturday honoring Santa Barbara's early Chinese community members and their burial customs and the history in this cemetery. We are also excited to have our first phase of the Santa Barbara AAPI virtual exhibit go live this month! We will feature the family biographies in this first phase and will include some new content. A special announcement will go out when the exhibit page goes live. We will also be represented at SB Trust for Historic Preservation's Community History Day on Saturday. We will be assisting children create their family tree.



### Picnic in the Cemetery 2024

**Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024 @ 10am;**  
**Lunch will start about 12:30 pm**

**Locations:** Santa Barbara Cemetery and then lunch will be at the LDS Church/FamilySearch Center of Santa Barbara.

**Actors:** Wilbur Hopkins Tate, Betsy Green, Mel Sahyun, Helen Wong, Heather McDaniel McDevitt, and Jonathan Smith.

Registration information will be provided soon! We will also need volunteers for group leaders, check-ins, set up, and clean up. We will be putting out an official call out in the summer months.

## LOS CALIFORNIANOS MEETING

**Date: May 17-19, 2024, in Lompoc**



On Saturday, there will be docent led tour at the Mission La Purisima and at the Lompoc Museum. Saturday evening will include happy hour and the Dinner Meeting at Events Mission Valley. The guest speaker will be Dr. John Johnson, Curator Emeritus of Anthropology of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural

History. Complete details including how to register can be found here:

<https://loscalifornianos.org/calendar/>

## 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial



Photo courtesy of Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Did your family live in Santa Barbara during the 1925 earthquake, or do 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](mailto: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.

## Speaking Engagements in the Upcoming talks: May 6, at Maravilla



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.

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

## Historic Walking Tour of the Santa Barbara Cemetery

With Historian David Petry, author of *The Best Last Place: a History of the Santa Barbara Cemetery*



**Date: Sunday, May 26, 2024**  
**from 1 PM to 3:30 PM**

Meet at the Cemetery Chapel,  
901 Channel Drive.  
\$25 per person.  
Pay at the door.  
Cash or check.  
Please register at  
[dlpetry@gmail.com](mailto:dlpetry@gmail.com)  
or 805 689 3423.

*This is not a SBCGS sponsored event.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Bob Muller, a member since 2012. Bob has been a regular volunteer; quiet and unassuming, he can be found at Board Meetings with insightful ideas, and in the yard helping in a number of ways. Often, committee members get to the Sahyun really early to set up for an event and Bob is already there, blowing the patio clean.

Thank you, Bob, for everything you do.

### Spotlight on Bob Muller



I was born and raised in Santa Barbara, but rather than going to the beach most of my free time was spent camping in the desert and mountains. A friend and I started backpacking the John Muir Trail in the Sierras when we were 13. The focus on wildlands certainly was because both of my parents were botanists. Their idea (and mine) of a good Sunday was a trip up Figueroa Mountain to see the wildflowers. After college, my wife and

I spent 30 years on the other side of the Mississippi River for graduate school and career. Most of that time was spent in Lexington, Kentucky where I taught forest ecology to a generation of budding foresters at the University of Kentucky and conducted research on old-growth forests of the Cumberland Plateau. We were fortunate to be able to return to Santa Barbara in 2002 when I joined the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

My introduction to genealogy came while grading term papers one year for my forest ecology class and needed a break. This was in the very early days of the internet, but when I searched for my grandfather's name and his hometown up came a story about young Cornelius Mueller who had gotten into some mischief and had garnered the wrath of a local housewife. I was hooked! My initial objective was to trace my ancestors to their immigration from Europe. For the most part that was a straightforward goal. All but one of my family lines arrived in the migrations of the mid-1800s. The last traced back to early colonial times with the immigration of Nathan and Jonathan Gillet aboard the "Mary and John" in 1630.

Like so many of us, I did not ask the many questions that are in front of me now when I had the chance. Who was great aunt Hattie? Why did my great grandfather, James H. Kinsel, sell out of a very successful business career in Warren, Missouri in the 1880s and move his family with four teenage children to Santa Rosa, California? I have no evidence, but I suspect it was for the "green gold" in the initial harvests of the massive redwood and Douglas-fir forests of northwestern California. I always ask myself "Who were these people?" "Would I approve of them?" Or, more importantly, "Would they approve of me?" My most satis-

fying discoveries came from the county records of DeWitt County, Texas regarding the naturalization and land holdings of my great grandfather, Gustav Dietz, and from the court records of Jamestown, New York which explained why my wife's grandfather, Knute Albert Sundstrom, ran away from home at the age of 13.

I joined the Society in 2012 and for the past four years have worked with Cheryl Jensen on the Grounds Committee.

### News from the SBCGS Librarian



#### The Sahyun Library is closed Sunday May 12 in honor of Mother's Day.

- May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The National Archives has a wealth of material to discover about the history and life experiences of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who make the United States their home. <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month>.
- The Los Angeles Public Library has a section on Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month including books and other educational materials including a Genealogy Garage Video: Navigating Chinese Names with my China Roots <https://lapl.org/asian-pacific>

#### 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."



## **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

We are so grateful for all our volunteers - you are what make our society great.  
If you have volunteered this past year  
please come by the Sahyun,  
we'd love to thank you in person.

**Saturday, May 18**  
following the General Meeting  
Any time between  
**12:30 and 3pm**



We'll have food, drink and fun.

**Please RSVP by clicking on the QR code above,  
or visit our website.**

**<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2024/5/18/volunteer-lunch>**

Hope you can join us!

