



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

November 2024

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 40, No. 10

November General Meeting

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, SB

Get Started and Organize Big Writing Projects For Success

Featuring Rhonda Lauritzen



Big projects need an organizational structure and systems to stay on track and avoid becoming overwhelmed. This class shares what I wish someone had taught me when I first began doing historical research and writing books. Learn best practices I've picked up along the way, including the specific files and infrastructure I set up at the start of each project. Finally, we will introduce new AI technologies and automations to make quick work of what used to be tedious...without sacrificing your unique voice. See which tools save time without a ridiculous learning curve.

Rhonda Lauritzen is a professional biographer with multiple published books and a regular speaker at conferences. She has an MBA from the University of Utah, served as CEO of her family's business, and a state college VP. Her writing journey began with her parents' family business saga, and in 2016, she founded Evalogue.Life. Since then, Rhonda has been hired to tell the stories of families, buildings, and cities. Her next two books will be traditionally published this fall: *A Child in Berlin* by Post Hill Press, and *Creative Insecurity: Lean Into the Unknown and Unleash Your Inner Misfit* by Simon & Schuster. She believes that when you tell your story, it changes the ending.

HYBRID Event — Live presentation via Zoom

In-person at the First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance

Special Interest Groups meet in person at 9:30 - 10:25

Membership Meeting meets in person and on Zoom: 10:30 - 11:00

Featured Speaker live in person - and via Zoom: ~11:00 - 12:00 Noon

Only Zoom attendees are required to register.

<https://tinyurl.com/2s36wsma>

Saturday, November 16, 2024



November Calendar

Use URL to find links to
these events

[https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/
calendar/#!calendar](https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!calendar)

Jewish Genealogy Coaching

Thu Nov 14 2024, 12:00pm PDT - 01:00pm

Beginning Genealogy SIG Meeting

Thu Nov 14 2024, 01:00pm PDT - 02:30pm

DNA Lunch & Learn

Fri Nov 15 2024, 12:00pm PDT - 01:30pm

Monthly Meeting

Sat Nov 16 2024, 10:30am

Zoom Lunch and Learn

Wed Nov 20 2024, 12:00pm PDT - 01:30pm

Writers' Group Meeting

Wed Nov 20 2024 10:00 am

Crowdsourced Brick Wall Research Assistance

Tue Nov 26 2024, 12:00pm PDT - 01:30pm

LIBRARY CLOSURES

Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 26 to Dec 1 2024

Winter Holiday Break

Dec 22 to Jan 6 2024

Remember The 2024 Annual Appeal

to support classes, library acquisitions, subscription websites, guest speakers and much more.

A BIG thank you to ALL the volunteers who made Family History Month a success - the instructors, IT team, Outreach & Education teams, last minute heroes - and especially Holly, Elizabeth, Molly, Scott, Jean, Robin, Rosa, Judy T., Jim, Cathy, Judy S., George, Ted, Harriett, Norma, Kate, William, Robert, Karen, and to all others quietly working behind the scenes.

Something to Remember

A Quote from Ted in his President's Message:
All of this makes me realize, again, that genealogy is not just about researching our dead ancestors—it is about the descendants, too. It is the living who must keep up the traditions, share the old stories, and nurture our kinship bonds. Thank goodness for the work of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society in supporting those vital family relationships.

Consider Volunteering for SBCGS

Scattered throughout this newsletter are items requesting help for various committees. Please consider adding an hour or two to your busy schedule!

President's Message

by Ted Tazer-Myers



Greetings Members and Friends!

Wasn't Family History Month terrific this year? I was so impressed with all the wonderful events including our Open House, the crucial role we played at the marvelous Faulkner Galleries for Raíces y Sueños: A Glimpse into Santa Barbara's Hispanic Family Heritage, 1850-1950 exhibit, and all the terrific in-person, online, and hybrid class offerings. Well done everyone!

On a personal note, something different happened for me at the end of October. I think it was triggered by a visit Nancy and I paid to my maternal grandfather's grave at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Richmond. I had never been there before. My grandfather's name was Edward James Tazer and his father was Slovenian. Ed Tazer (pronounced Tatzter in the old country) was an "All West Coast" basketball player at St. Mary's College in the late 1920s and I was named after him.

Since Halloween was coming right on the heels of my visit to St. Joseph's, I decided on a whim to look up Slovenian traditions about Halloween. What I found surprised me. It isn't All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) on October 31st that Slovenes celebrate—it is All Saints' Day (aka All Hallows' Day) on November 1st, one of the most important holidays in Slovenia and central Europe. And although it is Roman Catholic in origin, non-believers cherish the holiday as well. In fact, All Saints' Day is a national holiday for remembering the dead.

Slovenes spend the entire week leading up to All Saints' Day tending the graves of their ancestors (and even friends), cleaning, weeding, and decorating the graves with flowers, candles, and mementos (sounds a bit like Día de Los Muertos, doesn't it?). Different descendant families are assigned to graves so that no plot is left untended. On the day itself, a priest blesses the graves in a solemn, tear-stained ceremony with all the attendees dressed in their Sunday best. This event is followed by good food and drink at the homes of relatives. When Nancy and I visited my cousins in Šmarje pri Jelšah in 2022, they told me that just the previous year they traveled around the countryside visiting at least five homes of relatives, some of whom they hadn't seen for years. It took all day and the family was exhausted, but ecstatic, when they finally returned home.

All of this makes me realize, again, that genealogy is not just about researching our dead ancestors—it is about the descendants, too. It is the living who must keep up the traditions, share the old stories, and nurture our kinship bonds. Thank goodness for the work of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society in supporting those vital family relationships.

Ted

Development Committee

Mary Jacob, Development Director

We are excited that President Ted Tazer-Myers has launched our 2024 Annual Appeal campaign by sending letters to all members. The funds raised this year will directly support the programs and services that matter most to you—our classes, library acquisitions, subscription websites, guest speakers and much more.

We're off to a fantastic start, with a dozen generous members already contributing within the first week! Their support has set the wheels in motion toward our goal of raising \$20,000 by December 31.

We invite all members to join these early donors by making a contribution that is meaningful to you. Together, we can reach our goal and continue to enrich our Society for everyone.

Thank you for your support!

Donations can be made online at:

<https://sbgen.org/donate/#!form/Development> or by sending a check made out to "SBCGS" with a note in the memo "Annual Appeal."

Ancestors West

Charmien Carrier, Editor

The deadline for submitting stories to Ancestors West is February 1, 2025. Themes are to be announced in the next issue of Ancestors West. We welcome any family story about genealogy you wish to share. We also have ongoing columns about heirlooms and obsolete items. Sometimes, a photo and caption will do.

Thank you, and please keep on writing.

As a reminder, AW writing and submission guidelines, including the preferred format for your stories and photos, are on the inside back cover of AW. Please send your stories to Charmien Carrier: charmien2940@gmail.com

Website News

by Rosa Avolio

SBCGS is unique in that all of its members are volunteers. It's crucial for organizations like ours to have multiple people who understand how things operate.

Besides conducting workshops and lunch and learns, Rosa Avolio is currently the society's webmaster. She will be leaving that position in December.

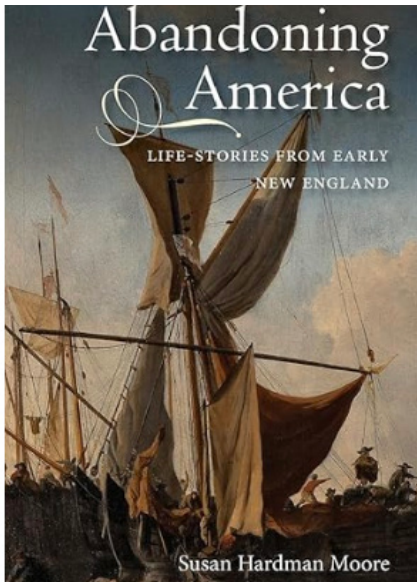
The webmaster does not need to know how to design a website or use Wordpress; this is more of a management position to oversee things. The webmaster does need to be aware of all parts of the site and will work with our contracted web designer and our volunteer Robin McCarthy.

Please, if you think this might be interesting, or a service to our society, or even if you are just curious, drop Rosa an email at webmaster@sbgen.org

Rosa would love to chat with you and work out an apprenticeship which will make the transition very easy!

Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair



Our library just got a great new book which you will read more about in the soon-to-be released Ancestors West. The book is titled *Abandoning America: Life-stories from Early New England*. We all know about the immigrants to early New England that pioneered and settled there, and many of them were our very own early ancestors. However, how about the ones who went BACK to England, discouraged or unhappy here? A fascinating read for sure. In its pages I found a brother – or perhaps he was a cousin, who tried to make it there in the Massachusetts Colony, but for reasons I have yet to have enough time to read about, he returned back to his home English country. I can't wait to get a longer and deeper look inside that book!

We've also received two more new books from the New England Genealogical and Historical Society, and, as always, they do not disappoint. The first is Vol 2 of the *Early Vermont Series Settlers* book which is a true find for those with early Vermont roots. Another NEHGS newly acquired book is the meaty *Freeperson Families in 1790 – Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. In our quest to diversify our collection and round out areas of research, these books deliver all they promise.

This Fall our library staff is also making a foray into the donated book stash to add and catalog some new treasures to our collection, as several of the new titles listed here suggest. They cover a wide range of topics and I love when we get some obscure titles and small areas covered by books that we might not have known existed, if they had not been donated. Thank you out there! This month you see some Calaveras and Siskiyou County (California) titles as well as a really hearty Oak Park (Cook County), Illinois title. I know more books have been added since my short trip to New Mexico, and I will be anxious to see them all when I come into the Sahyun again this week. I hope to see many of you there too – looking for the very book that has some other clue to solve your own family mystery. 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:

Abandoning America: Life-stories from early New England
The Complete Guide to Lineage Societies: The Who, What Where Yesterday, A Historical View of Oak Park, Illinois- Prairie Days to World War I

Con't in next column

A Note From Our Librarian

by Laurie Hannah, Library Director

Hosting a Meeting at the Sahyun? With our new updated audio and video systems in the Jackson Family classroom and the Woodward Reading Room, you might be excited to host your next outside group meeting there. Here are a few tips for reserving a room and using the space.

Two meeting rooms are available for use and can be reserved individually. The kitchen, bathrooms, and outdoor patio and garden space are also available for use during the meeting.

- The Jackson Community Room (classroom) has meeting space for 35 people
- The John Woodward Reading Room has space for 10 people.

For either room, please fill out a reservation form online. The library director will get back with you to make sure you have read our facility use guidelines and to let you know if the requested date is available. You can pay for the room in advance or on the day you use the room. Groups are encouraged to reserve a room during normal library open hours; however, you can reserve a room when the library is closed as long as a SBGCS member attends and opens and closes the building.

Please note that we no longer use a paper calendar reservation system at the library reception desk. Several volunteers work together to take your reservation and add it to the calendar.

That's all there is to it! We hope to welcome you and your group to the Sahyun soon.

REMINDER: The library will be closed for the week of Thanksgiving from Nov. 25 through Dec. 2.

Laurie Hannah, Library Director



Fair Time! History, Stories, Photos Galore! The Siskiyou Pioneer – 2019

Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky 1797-1812

Sam Yancy Discovered Twain Harte Again (History of there and TW Lake)

Between The Rivers: A History of Early Calaveras County, California

Freeperson Families in 1790 – Plymouth County, Massachusetts

American Migration Routes: Part II-Stagecoach, Steamboat, Canal & Early Railroad Routes

Early Vermont Settlers to 1771 (Vol. 2)

We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Jill Jamal Karen Harris Cathy Jordan
Gwen Patterson Holly Snyder**

The BookNook

Kristin Ingalls, Chair

HELP WANTED

Do you.....

Love books?

Like to chat with nice people?

Enjoy talking about history and genealogy?

Making money?

Then, my friend, there is a place for you !!

The BookNook welcomes you to join our team. You can research books to add to our sales shelves, have fun shmoozing with folks at our monthly meetings,

and best of all.....making money for our Society.

Contact BookNook Chair, Kristin Ingalls – who will probably write a fun little rhyming jingle about how wonderful you are!!! Email antkap@cox.net



1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial Exhibit - June 2025

(Gledhill Library Photo, SB Historical Museum)



Keep the stories and photos coming! 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.

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.”

SBCC 2025 Genealogy Classes

Spring fee-based tuition assistance applications for SBCC opens November 4, 2024. Submission deadline is December 4, 2024, at 6 p.m. <https://3cbg.sbccc.edu/extendedlearning/tuition-assist.php> The scholarship is for \$125. You can apply online or go to Wake Center or Schott Center Main office.

Spring 2025 SBCC Genealogy Classes How to Research Your Family History Level 2 -includes beginning (The class is repeated twice)

Registration starts January 9, 2025

Fee-based class registration starts at 9 a.m.

First Class session (10.5 hours)

Course/Class Number:

001413LE/25866 – in-Person

001413LE/25867 – Online via Zoom

Cost: \$78.5 (this includes handouts) Wednesdays 9:30 -11:00 am.

7 sessions 2/5/2025-3/19/2025 Wake Campus Rm. 4 (Computer Room)

Second Class session (15.75 hours)

Course/Class Number:

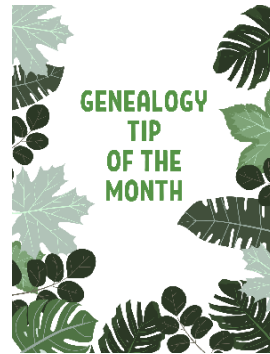
001413LE/25868 – in-Person

001413LE/25869 – Online via Zoom

Cost: \$115.25 (this includes handouts)

7 sessions 4/3/2025-5/15/2025 Thursdays 4:00 PM - 6:15 PM

Genealogy Tip of the Month:



From *genealogytipoftheday.com*, September 21, 2017 (Michael John Neill)

When communicating with a new relative whose interest level in genealogy is not quite known, take it slowly.

They:

- might not be able to reply immediately—give them some time
- might not be quite as interested in the family history as you—believe it or not,

it is possible

- might be put off if you share too many “black sheep” stories immediately—they might think you are only out to share the “family dirt”
- might not want to read five rambling paragraphs in your first email—get to the point
- might not respond if you immediately point out errors in their online tree—don’t make them feel like you are proofreading their tree
- might not be interested in sharing details of their personal life—they may be your fifth cousin, not your “bestie.”

Your goal is to establish a line of communication and see if there’s a willingness to share/exchange information. Keep that goal in mind.

Membership Spotlight

Kate Lima, Membership Chair



NEW MEMBERS in October:

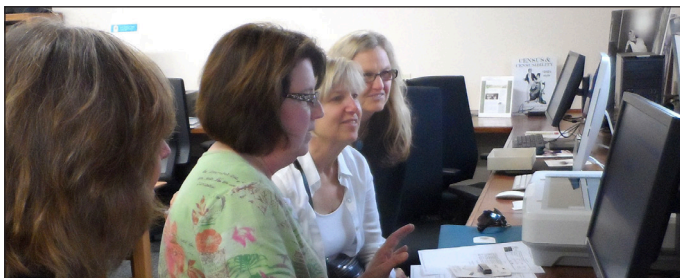
Marsha Cooke
Elizabeth Ann Fairfield
Mary Foley
Linda Leigh Haggard
Charles Hanna
Thomas Lambert
Sandra Melendez
Nancy Mondok
John Profant
Lani Wolff

Returning Members

Georgine Carter
Stephena Held
Judy Miller

New member packets can be found under the Members Area. Once you sign in, a list appears below the words “Members Area,” and the packet is third from the top of that list. Also, we have packets at the library, stop by and pick one up!

Also, we extend a big and enthusiastic thank you to our continuing members who have renewed!



Coaches: This wonderful membership benefit is available to all our members. We have people who can assist in many areas of genealogical research - whether it is translation or research assistance or simply another pair of eyes! Please contact Kathy Cremeen at kajcreemen@gmail.com if you need a coach OR wish to become a coach. You can also look at the list from our website, sbgen.org. Log in and look for “Find a Genealogy Coach” on the list to the left.

Volunteer Hours

Each month we collect volunteer hours from people who have worked for the Society. If you worked even one hour, please let us know! Email volunteers@sbgen.org and let us know. Why is this important? We need these numbers when we apply for grants, which support our programs, events and exhibits. Please remember to send them in!

Quote: Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. – Mark Twain

HONORS LUNCHEON

A WONDERFUL EVENT!

Our Honors Luncheon took place on Saturday, November 2nd. We honored three of our long-time, hardworking volunteers: Chris Klukkert, Robin McCarthy and Karen Ramsdell. We gathered at The Club and Guesthouse at UCSB; though parking was a bit of a mess, the rest of the afternoon was spectacular. The food was fantastic and the venue was intimate, with stunning views of the University’s lagoon and expansive lawn. We had over 80 people in attendance, and the conversations and good vibes filled the space. Our three honorees allowed us to thank them, which is often not easy for these boots-on-the-ground people.



Recognized on November 2, 2024, for their contributions to SBCGS, were (l-r) Robin McCarthy, Karen Ramsdell, and Chris Klukkert.

December General Meeting



December will be our **Members Share** at our general meeting. This includes food! We invite all members to bring a sweet or savory treat that you enjoyed at some point in your life. Please help make the day special! And, please, if you have something that you would like to share, contact Elizabeth S. O’Neal at programs@sbgen.org. (Suggestions for topics: personal family story; research tip; inspiration in a library or cemetery or on-the-road; a surprise find; unique ways to share family history; and so many more)

Volunteer Spotlight on Robert Goeller

This month Kate and the Membership Team spotlight Bob Goeller. Bob is a longtime member and volunteer; he's not only been on committees that focus on the hard tasks of finance and property, but he also shows up every month at the General Meeting to help set up. I work with him on this and I so appreciate his hard work. Thank you, Bob!

Bob's SBCGS bio:

I joined the Society in 2011 after moving here from Greenwich Connecticut in December 2010 to care for my mother. Initially I helped with the setup for the monthly meetings carrying and arranging books for Kristin's popup book nook. I then started with assisting with sound and setup a task I continue to do.

At the time Marie Sue Parsons was the VP of Programs. Upon her elevation to President I was asked to do her job which I did for 4 years. Early on I was asked to join the Finance committee when they were just finishing the construction of the new addition as I had spent 25 years bidding and supervising the electrical work on large commercial construction projects across the Northeast at our family's firm.

I have now completed 6 years as leader of the Finance Committee. I was a Board member from 2012 to last June and have served on the Property Committee since inception and the Investment Committee for about 7 years. I do these tasks because I enjoy it and the people who make up the Society.

Up Coming Event

submitted by Holly Snyder, Outreach

Family Day at the Carpinteria Valley Museum of History

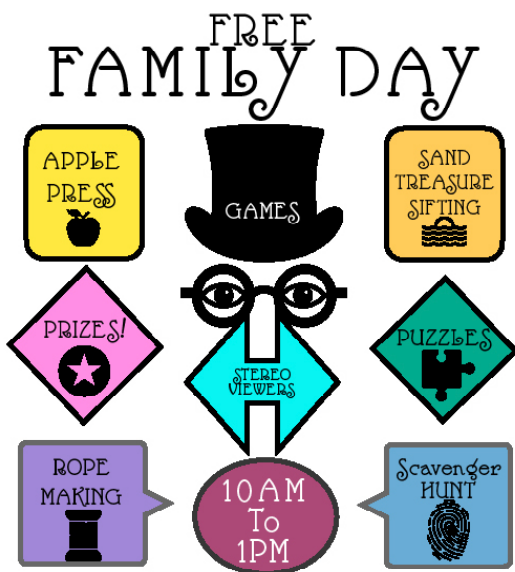
Saturday, November 9

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Carpinteria Valley Museum of History

FREE TO ATTEND

Stop by our table at CVMH's Family Day!



🌸 Saturday, November 9th 2024 🌸

AT THE
CARPINTERIA VALLEY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

050 MAPLE AVENUE, CARPINTERIA
CALIFORNIA 93013

805.684.3112 CARPINTERIAHISTORICALMUSEUM.ORG

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES,
A PARTNER OF THE NEH. VISIT WWW.CALHUM.ORG.

Important Reminder

Ralphs Community Donation Program



One of the ways in which Ralph's partners with the neighborhoods in which they serve, is through the Ralph's Community Contribution Program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have

to do is shop at Ralphs and swipe your Shopper's Card. Details here:

<https://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program>

<https://sbgen.org/donate/#!/form/Development>

Speaking Engagements in the Community



Speaking engagements this month: Santa Barbara Yacht Club (October 28)

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!

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

We are winding down with all of our outreach activities for this year, but want to say a huge thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped set up, take down, table at events, helped with check-ins, website registration and calendaring, provided research lookups, provided treats, were group leaders at the cemetery, participated as actors at the cemetery, and so much more! We couldn't have done our exhibits and events without you!

Past Event Recap: Santa Barbara Senior Expo, October 17

We had about 30 or so attendees come to our table with a lot of interest in their genealogy. The power outlets didn't work so we were unable to do genealogy lookups; however, we promoted our general meeting, Santa Barbara Hispanic Heritage exhibit, and other Society information. There was great enthusiasm overall. A few people who we spoke with came to our general meeting!



Recap: Picnic in the Cemetery: A Live Historical Presentation, October 26



Picnic in the Cemetery was a success once again! We had three descendants, four members, two former exhibit participants, two historians, and a mother and daughter duo. One of the descendants became a member and felt this experience led her to feel closer to her great grandmother and gain a better understanding of what her life must have been like. We held most rehearsals on zoom, but had two rehearsals hybrid - with one hybrid meeting at the cemetery (thank you hotspot!!) The actors all wrote their own scripts and found or made their own costumes. The descendants even included some items handed down to them from their ancestors. Again, a big shout out to all of our volunteers! This event is a big production with many different pieces that come together to create a fun and educational event for everyone.

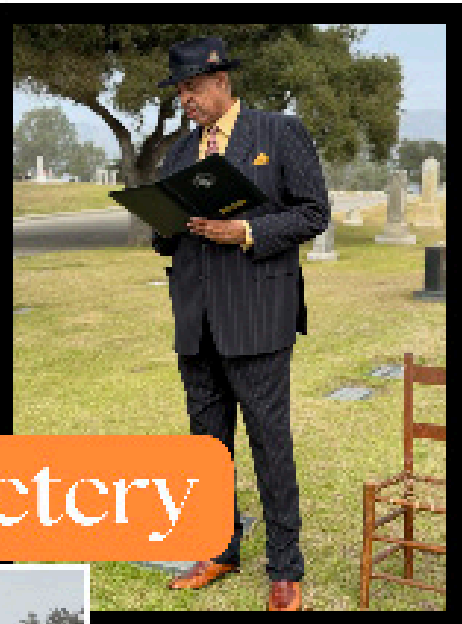
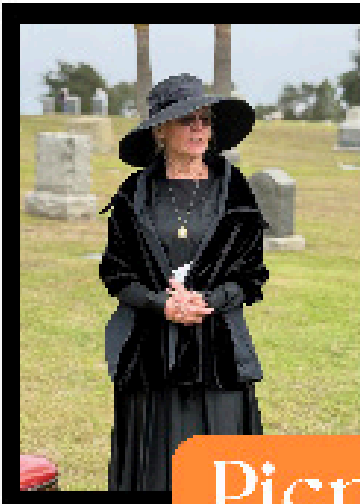
*We dedicated a couple of pages of Tree Tips to pictures from the event. More information about the event, scripts, actor biographies, and additional photos will be featured in the upcoming Ancestors West!

Recap: Santa Barbara Public Library Plaza Palooza, November 3



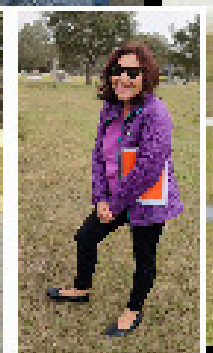
The Santa Barbara Public Library had a great turnout for their plaza opening. It was fun to see the excitement of attendees enjoying the newly remodeled plaza, entertainment, nonprofit vendors, film viewing, library tours, and more.

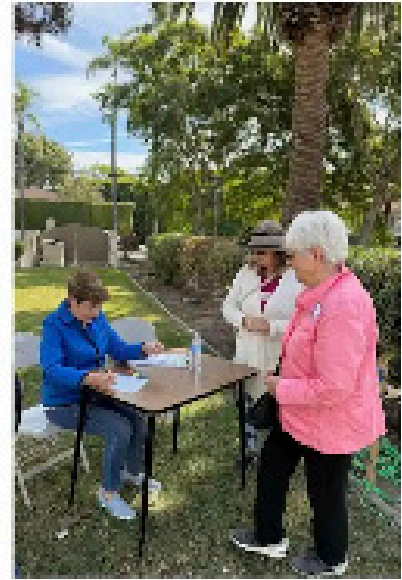
SBCGS had a table inside the library lobby, right in the middle of flow of traffic from outside to the library and the Faulkner Gallery where they were showing the films. We had around 25 or so people come to our table and engage with us with a few genealogy lookups. We had a wide range of ages and demographics interested in learning more about their ancestors. We hope to see some attend our general meeting this month and/or visit Sahyun Library!



Picnic in the Cemetery

2024





Lunch at the LDS Church

