



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

March 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 3

March Program and Special Event

A Hands-On Workshop for Genealogists

“Beyond the Report: Storytelling Essentials for Reluctant Writers”

Saturday, March 15, 2025 beginning at 9:00 AM

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, SB

FREE — IN-PERSON ONLY — Donations Gratefully Accepted.

In this hands-on workshop, you will gain actionable insights to craft compelling narratives ... without overstepping the truth.

Writing Session One: establish sound structural elements
Adopt best practices to organize your story for success. Consider beginning with oral history and great question prompts. Once your research is done, free-write the first draft. Utilize a timeline as the backbone of your story and then bring your characters to life with emotional resonance. Finally, experience a breakthrough when you decide on the most appropriate narrative voice. We will do in-class exercises to master these skills.

Writing Session Two: find the “Goldilocks Zone” of detail
Add interest to your piece by peppering it with the right level of detail and historical context—not too much or too little. Zero in on the most compelling emotional notes. Discover the theme of your story, even when you know precious little about an ancestor’s personality. By practicing simple techniques in class, you can make any story memorable.

A third session titled **Revise for Impact** will be presented via a webinar. More information coming soon!

SCHEDULE

Welcome and Short Business Meeting: 9:00 am

Writing Session I: 9:30 - 10:30

Writing Session II: 11:00 - 12:00

Followed by Q&A

(Times are approximate. SIGs will not meet.)

Enjoy light refreshments and beverages throughout the morning.

This workshop is for everyone, for those who have already published and for those who are considering preserving their family stories and documents in a vignette, blog, memoir, an article for Ancestors West, or a letter to a grandchild.

Speaker and Instructor: Rhonda Lauritzen



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 **Evaluate.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.

When you register, it helps streamline our planning for this event.

REGISTER HERE - FREE

<https://tinyurl.com/2m9exsz6>



President's Message by Edward Tazer-Myers



Dear Members and Friends!

Cousins. I've written before about how important second and third cousins can be in a family history or genealogy project—and I've recently been reminded of that fact again. A second cousin in Vermont, whom I've never met, asked her aunt (my mother's first cousin) in Georgia for some old photo albums bequeathed by her grandmother. After her aunt tipped her off

that I had done extensive work on the people in the album, my second cousin promptly scanned its pages and reached out to me for help in putting faces to the names of our mutual Slovenian and Austrian great-grandparents. It has been a lot of work (and there's still much more to do), but we are thoroughly enjoying our small victories—and each other!

I imagine many of you have had similar experiences and deeply value the connections you've cultivated with your cousins. But for those who haven't reached out much to DNA matches or more distant relatives on your extended family tree, I'd like to share a couple of methods I use to connect with these wonderful folks.

The first approach is what I call the “**cold call**” method—though it's more of a “cold message” these days. I review my extended family DNA matches on platforms like Ancestry, MyHeritage, 23andMe, and others, selecting someone who has recently been active. Then, I send them a friendly message through the app. More than half the time, they don't respond—but when they do, I immediately work to build a positive connection with timely, thoughtful, and caring messages. It's almost like making new friends in a school, workplace, or city. Admittedly, I often end up helping these folks more than they help me, but I remind myself that genealogy is a collaborative effort. Over time, some cousin—perhaps even one I've never met—will return the favor, just as many have unexpectedly offered me invaluable help in the past.

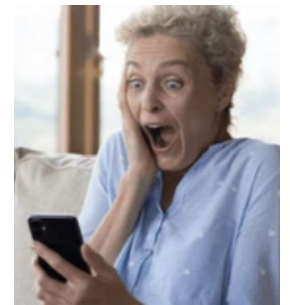
The second approach is to **nurture existing cousin relationships** with regular communication, usually by phone or email. Our conversations aren't always about genealogy; in fact, we mostly talk about their lives. I genuinely enjoy these chats because I'm interested in people—and in these cases, we share a common family culture and history. As a result, my extended family has grown significantly, filled with people who care about me (and a much longer Christmas card list!). More importantly, after years of cultivating these relationships, these cousins sometimes unearth missing pieces of family history or connect with another cousin who holds a crucial part of the puzzle. And when that happens, we celebrate together! This is exactly what happened with my newfound genealogist second cousin in Vermont, thanks to a tip from my mother's first cousin in Georgia. Wow!

Interestingly, I've noticed a similar dynamic at the **Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society**. One member might share

a newly discovered research technique or resource with another member. The recipient actively listens, not just for their own benefit, but because they genuinely care about their fellow genealogist's work. Sometimes, this leads to an immediate breakthrough; other times, it simply builds a foundation for future discoveries. When a spirit of mutual sharing exists, that initial listener often recalls the conversation later and offers a valuable tip in return. I can't tell you how many times this has happened to me—at Special Interest Groups or while volunteering as a library assistant at the Sahyun Library. And every single time, those tips have proven invaluable.

In conclusion, genealogy websites are indispensable tools for our Society's members. But it's the relationships we cultivate—through real-time, in-person classes, workshops, Special Interest Groups, and impromptu meet-ups at the Sahyun Library—that yield the greatest rewards. These connections are what truly bring our family histories to life.

Ted



This woman just received a brickwall break-through after getting a response from a “cold message.”



Ancestors West

**MAY WE SUGGEST
Due May 1, 2025**

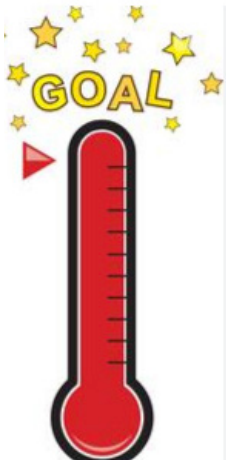


REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Do you have an ancestor who excelled
in any of the following?
Sports, Public Service, Inventions, Medicine,
Transportation, Science, Art, Music, Academia

Please send your stories to
Charmien Carrier, AW Editor
charmien2940@gmail.com

2024 Annual Appeal: A Heartfelt Thank You!



We are thrilled to share that, thanks to your incredible generosity, we have exceeded our fundraising goal!

Not only did we meet our target of \$20,000, but together, we raised \$25,240—surpassing our goal by an impressive \$5,240!

Your contributions will help ensure the continued growth and accessibility of our genealogical resources. These funds support the ongoing development of our extensive collection of both print and digital materials, available in the library and online.

Additionally, your donations enable us to offer tailored learning programs that cater to a wide range of skill levels, from beginners to advanced researchers, and serve genealogists across various geographic areas.

You might be wondering: *What happens to the surplus?*

The additional funds will be placed in our operating reserves, ensuring that we can respond to unbudgeted needs or take advantage of new opportunities that arise throughout the fiscal year. This surplus plays a crucial role in supporting the seamless operation of the Society.

Every gift truly matters, and your support is integral to realizing our vision of making the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society a premier resource for exploring ancestral, cultural, and ethnic roots.

Thank you once again for your generosity and commitment to our cause. Together, we're making a difference!

California Humanities \$5,000 Grant Received



We are pleased to announce the Society has received a \$5,000 grant from California Humanities to help mount our collaborative, community-based, bilingual exhibit, “**Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories,**

1850-1950” (September 21, 2025 –March 31, 2026).

The exhibit will offer a broader history of the Hispanic community than that generally recognized, by centering the voices of current Hispanic residents through their family histories.

Grant funding for this project will enable us to chronicle the multi-generational journey in participants’ own words, images and artifacts, alongside histories of Hispanic businesses, military service, cultural institutions and civic groups. The award will support community outreach and educational activities, professional services (English-Spanish translation, web design, display panel

mounting) and supplies.

The Outreach Committee collaborated with the Development Committee to write the grant proposal. We appreciate the support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in making the exhibit possible. Visit www.calhum.org.

Strategic Planning: Update on Board Retreat

The SBCGS Board invited several key volunteers (committee chairs, prospective board members, etc.) to join in a day-long strategic planning retreat on Saturday, February 22, with our planning consultant, Carrie Kappel. Carrie led the group through a series of exercises that form the basis of the strategic planning process, beginning with checking in on our vision, mission and core values. We used story-telling to identify and clarify our strengths and wishes for the future.

As we shared our stories, we identified themes and the conditions that enabled our successes. Carrie grouped the themes that emerged into three categories 1) programs (library services, education and outreach), 2) teams (board and volunteers) and 3) finance-fundraising-facilities. She then asked participants, working in small groups, to brainstorm concrete metrics of success and array them on a spectrum ranging from failure to epic success.

Participants generated a great deal of material that Carrie will synthesize and report back to the board. In the process, she will identify critical questions that require further research and discussion. Participants volunteered for teams that will engage in subsequent steps in the planning process. As noted in last month’s Tree Tips, the Board’s goal is to present the strategic plan to the membership and get its feedback at the May General Meeting.



Books at the Sahyun by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair



March is Women's History Month — And Yes, We Have a Book for That!

As the saying goes, “There’s a book for that”—and when it comes to Women’s History Month, our genealogy library has plenty! Whether you’re looking for guidance on researching the women in your family tree or simply want to explore the lives of trailblazing women throughout history, our collection has you covered.

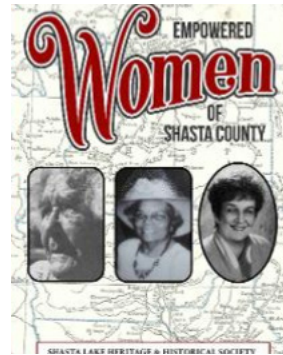
A great place to start is with two essential genealogy resources: *The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women’s Genealogy* and *A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors*. These books offer strategies for tracking down even the most elusive female ancestors—because let’s face it, women’s names have a habit of changing, disappearing, or being tucked away in records where we least expect them.



We’re proud of the collection we’ve built at the Sahyun Library. Our book committee works hard to ensure a diverse range of topics, and women’s history has never taken a backseat in our acquisitions. I can personally vouch for the value of these books — I’ve pulled many off the shelves myself!

For example, one of my favorite ancestors was an Oregon Trail traveler in 1862. To get a real sense of her journey, I turned to *Women’s Diaries of the Westward Journey* and *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*. These books helped me flesh out her story for a county publication, giving me a deeper understanding of what life was like for women on that grueling trek.

If you’re looking for more obscure sources, our shelves have some gems. I once consulted *A Pictorial History of Naval Women (WAVES), 1908–1988* to track down my cousin’s sister-in-law—and there she was! When researching my immigrant Klukkert family, I got completely lost (in the best way) in *Dutch Immigrant Women in the United States, 1880–1920*.



And for those of you with ties to Shasta County, (like me) *Empowered Women of Shasta County* is an incredible resource — I only wish every county had a book like it!

One recent intriguing addition to our collection is *Mutinous Women: How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast*. I need to check in with Laurie Hannah, who recommended it, to see what discoveries she’s made. It just goes to show that history is full of surprises—and sometimes, so is your family tree!

So, what book is waiting for you in our collection? Whether you’re diving into your own female ancestors’ stories or expanding your historical knowledge, we invite you to visit the Sahyun Library and see what you uncover. And if you have suggestions for new genealogy books, we’d love to hear them!

We look forward to seeing you soon – happy reading and researching!

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

- *Forensic Genealogy: Theory & Practice* (NGS publication)
- *Death Valley to Yosemite: Frontier Mining Camps & Ghost Towns*
- *The Church of St. Charles (Grand Coteau, Louisiana) Baptisms 1819 – 1930*
- *History of Buena Vista County, Iowa (with biographical sketches)*
- *Dennis/Ephraim/McNeil 6th Family Reunion (Patterson Family Reunion Books)*
- *The Acadian Exiles in the American Colonies, 1755-1768*
- *Mission Santa Barbara, CA: National Historical Landmark District*
- *Tombstones in The Southeast Missouri Region*

We want to thank the following generous donors:

John Doordan Barbara Evans Thronburgh
Sheila Benedict Wendell L. Nichols
William Noack Gage Ricard

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 Spotlight

Kate Lima, Membership Chair



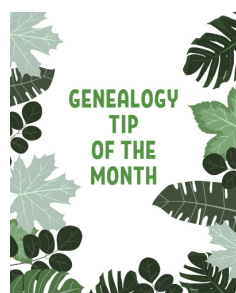
New Members in February:

Carrie and Rosminah Brown
Anna Campbell
Henry Esbenshade
Sheila Fink
Karena Jew
Steve Scheftic
Sylvia Shelton
Jeffrey Wilson

Returning Members:

John and Barbara Ahlman

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



Genealogy Tip of the Month:

From *genealogytipoftheday.com*, March 18, 2019 (Michael John Neill)

Practice on What You Know

An excellent way to learn about records, research, and methodology is to “rework” a family that you think you already know. Probably the best way to really understand court, probate, land, and other records is to completely research them on a family that’s “already been done.” Completely reading those records in families where you already know the family structure will allow you to focus on details (legal terms, especially) other than the family.

It’s a great way to broaden your understanding of records for those times when you don’t have all the names and relationships at your disposal.

And sometimes when you “redo” a “done family,” you realize that it wasn’t as done as you thought it was.

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. 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>



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 April 27 – May 4, 2025. Rooms for this entire week are full, but if you’re interested you can come for a shorter amount of time. Call Rich Williams at the Plaza Hotel for more information, 801-521-0130. And don’t forget to email me at limakate1@gmail.com so I can put you on our list.

I hope you can join us!



The Main-Begg Farmhouse, Goleta Valley, 1911

Tour of Main-Begg Farmhouse

March 22, 2025, 2:00 PM

Step back in time and experience a piece of Goleta’s rich history with an **exclusive tour of the Main-Begg Farmhouse!** Built in 1911, this beautifully preserved home once housed the Main and Begg families and served as a thriving farm throughout the 20th century.

The mission at the Main-Begg Farmhouse is to connect the past with the present through the preservation and restoration of its buildings and grounds. They strive to educate and enrich all audiences by offering programs that celebrate history and provide an intimate gathering place for the community.

This is a members-only event; please log in as a member at sbgen.org to register and secure your spot today. Here’s the link: <https://tinyurl.com/384f2693>

If the tour is full you may email Kate Lima at limakate1@gmail.com to join the waitlist.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to explore a cherished landmark. We hope to see you there!

Volunteer Spotlight

featuring Kate Lima



I thought I'd share my own biography this month; I had done this a while ago but want to share again, since I've met so many new people. Here you go!

I grew up in Los Angeles, attending Immaculate Heart High School in the Hollywood Hills before moving to Santa Barbara for college. In the 1980s I graduated, got my teaching credential, and started a family, divorced. The 1990s were spend as a single

mom, raising two children. In the 2000s I married again and helped raise a stepdaughter, then in the 2010s motherhood called once again to raise my grandson.

I worked at UCSB as a department manager for 28 years, first in the Classics department (Classics was one of my majors), then Art History, Economics, and finally Earth Science. I loved learning new things in each of these disciplines; I also loved making sure the departments ran smoothly and the faculty had everything they needed. By far my favorite part of the job was advocating for the staff I worked with, creating a happy home at each department. My job fulfilled me on so many levels, it was hard to make the decision to retire. I did so in 2019 and have immersed myself in this new chapter full of volunteer work, writing, and lots of genealogy.

My interest in genealogy started because my friend Anneliese kept calling me, telling me about new finds in her family tree. Her enthusiasm prompted me to dip my toe into the swirling waters. Little did I know that I'd soon be diving headlong into the vast, bottomless lake of my ancestry! I had family lore passed down to me from my mother, and I wanted to find out whether they were true or not. Mom loved telling us that we are related to the Carters of Virginia (King Carter, mainly). It took years of research to acknowledge that no, we are not. There is a peripheral, roundabout link, but not a direct line. She also told us that we are descendants of Anneke Jans, who owned a large section of New York City. Researching this took years as well, and when I discovered the final link, my elation lasted for weeks. I am still uncovering stories I never knew, and I plan to write them down and share with my family – and Ancestors West!

I joined SBCGS in 2014 and began volunteering here and there, manning a table at the SB Fair and Expo, helping at the Stow House 4th of July event. Holly Snyder approached me to be on the Outreach Committee, and I've been helping her ever since. Now I've jumped into the role of Membership Director and I absolutely love it. I get to think of ways to make people feel happy and connected, just as I did as a manager at UCSB. Once again I feel fulfilled. Life is good.

A Note From Our Librarian

by Laurie Hannah, Library Director

Sahyun Library to Open for Evening Hours

We are happy to announce that we are going to bring back evening hours for library research during Daylight Savings Time. Starting Tuesday April 1, 2025 (no kidding!) and continuing through October, the library will be open on the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Library volunteers will be on hand to help in their usual capacity. We hope that providing extra hours in the day will give working folks the opportunity to visit the library during the week. We have over 20,000 books and periodicals and 8 online databases to provide you with a world of genealogical information!

Laurie Hannah Library Director

Community Events

by Holly Snyder, Outreach

“Black Pearls of Genealogy” with David Anthony Taylor — March 11th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

Location: UCSB- in 4603 South Hall OR Livestream



Family historian David Anthony Taylor will be exploring the Black Pearls of Genealogy website, TheBPOG.org, and the wealth of free tools it offers to support research into African American history.

For more information and to register:

<https://cbsr.ucsb.edu/events/black-pearls-genealogy-david-anthony-taylor>

“The Picture Bride Era: The Gentlemen’s Agreement of 1907-1908 Between the U.S. and Japan”

Free webinar hosted by NikkeiGen Mar 22, 1:00 pm



The Gentlemen’s Agreement of 1907 was an agreement between the U.S. and Japan that restricted the immigration of Japanese laborers. Wives and children of laborers were permitted to immigrate. This led to what is informally called “The Picture Bride Era.” Learn about the history leading up to this policy, how the agreement impacted immigrants, what

records were created, and why the policy expired in 1924. Attendees must register. The class will not be recorded.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2szj1y-FAQaGUsovmsANWxw>

1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial



SBCGS will be part of the centennial commemoration put together by **EQ25 on June 28!** We will have a table at this event plus have our own display at Sahyun Library that will be open to the public. Stay informed by

visiting EQ25.org and following their social media- Facebook: EQ25 and Instagram: @EQ25_SB.

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

UCSB Special Research Collections Open House Fieldtrip, March 26 10am-noon

For Society members only, Registration required, 20 max. (9 spots left!)



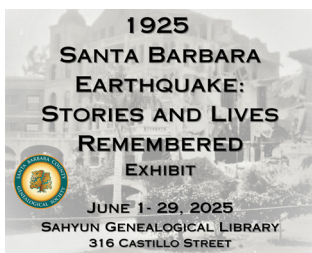
Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look of UCSB Library's Special Research Collections (SRC), hosted by Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber, Curator of Film & Television, Santa Barbara & Local History, and Oral History Collections.

This event offers Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) members an opportunity to delve into rare and unique materials that illuminate the vibrant histories of Santa Barbara and its surrounding communities. Don't miss this chance to connect with the past and uncover how UCSB Library preserves and shares Santa Barbara's legacy.

Venue: UCSB Library, Special Research Collections (Mountain Side, 3rd floor)

To register: Log into your membership on sbgen.org and then look for the event in the calendar. If you don't see the event then you are not signed in as a member. Not a member and want to join us? You are welcome to sign up to be a member on our website first, then you can register for the fieldtrip.

Exhibit: 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake: Stories and Lives Remembered



Location: Sayhun Library

Dates: June 1- August 16, 2025

Do you have a family story to share about the 1925 earthquake? We are accepting family stories about the earthquake and/or the aftermath and high-resolution scanned photographs until April 5.

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. Thank you to all who have participated so far!

Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit, September 2025



The exhibit steering committee is looking for participants who have ties to families, organizations, military service, and/or cultural institutions in Santa Barbara County between 1850-1970.

Outreach will also need help with interviewing families, research, assisting with writing some biographies, and editing. Interested in helping?

Please contact Outreach@sbgen.org if you can contribute in any way.



"This project is made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org."
(Photo courtesy of Yolanda Perez)

Speaking Engagements in the Community



Upcoming: The Social Club, March 23

Outside groups can request a talk 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!

SBCGS Nominating Committee

Kate Lima, Chair



The SBCGS Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for SBCGS President and Vice-President, Operations.

Background information: *Before 2022, the President managed both governance and operations. The Vice-President, Operations role was created to oversee daily operations, allowing the President to focus on governance. These leaders work closely together to guide the Society.*

Strong interpersonal, managerial, and leadership skills, along with a working knowledge of the Society, are desired.

President

As the Society's chief executive officer, the President:

- Leads the board and oversees governance.
- Presides over monthly board and general membership meetings.
- Works with the board to establish committees and appoint chairs.
- Guides policy, long-term planning, and the Society's overall direction.

Vice-President, Operations

The Vice-President, Operations:

- Is responsible for the Society's administrative and operations functions.
- Oversees team directors responsible for day-to-day operations.
- Leads the Operations Leadership Team's monthly meetings.

If you are interested in serving or know a qualified member, please contact Nominating Committee member Kate Lima at limakate1@gmail.com.

Also, if you'd like to start volunteering with the society, please consider a 3-hour shift at the library. We have lots of dedicated people to help get you started.

We love all our volunteers!



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society
and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

Announcing An Extraordinary and Unique Event
on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 9:00 am

Join Us on Our Regular Meeting Day for **This Hands-On Workshop For Genealogists**

“Beyond the Report: Storytelling Essentials for Reluctant Writers”

with Rhonda Lauritzen, Professional Biographer and Instructor

This workshop is free and in-person only. Donations gratefully accepted.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, Santa Barbara

In this hands-on workshop, you will gain actionable insights to craft compelling narratives ... without overstepping the truth.

Writing Session One: establish sound structural elements. Adopt best practices to organize your story for success. Consider beginning with oral history and great question prompts. Once your research is done, free-write the first draft. Utilize a timeline as the backbone of your story and then bring your characters to life with emotional resonance. Finally, experience a breakthrough when you decide on the most appropriate narrative voice. We will do in-class exercises to master these skills.

Writing Session Two: find the “Goldilocks Zone” of detail. Add interest to your piece by peppering it with the right level of detail and historical context—not too much or too little. Zero in on the most compelling emotional notes. Discover the theme of your story, even when you know precious little about an ancestor’s personality. By practicing simple techniques in class, you can make any story memorable.

A third session titled **Revise for Impact** will be presented via a webinar. More information coming soon!

Registering for this workshop helps streamline the planning process.
Registration is free.

REGISTRATION

URL: <https://tinyurl.com/2m9exsz6>



SCHEDULE

Welcome and Short Business Meeting:
9:00 am

Writing Session I: 9:30 - 10:30

Writing Session II: 11:00 - 12:00

Followed by Q&A

(Times are approximate. SIGs will not meet.)

Enjoy light refreshments and beverages throughout the morning.

• What should you bring to this hands-on workshop?

You will receive a packet of materials, but, In addition, you might want to bring your iPad, laptop, or favorite pens or pencils.

• Who should come to this workshop?

Everyone - those who have already started to write and those who have self-doubt and wonder if they even have enough information to begin; those who want to preserve a page of memories or those who want to write a book, article or blog; and those who want a way to preserve their research and family history.



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 **Eva-logue.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.