



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

June 2026

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 42, No. 6

WELCOME TO SBCGS's MAY MEETING IT'S FREE and OPEN TO ALL!

"Are Your Ancestors Prussian, German, or Both?"

Featuring **Nancy Loe**

Nancy Loe, a professional genealogist and archivist with decades of experience, helps family historians search smart, find more, and stay organized. Visit sassyjanegenealogy.com, where you'll find Nancy's e-books on research methods and practical skills.

A Live In-Person Presentation

SATURDAY, June 20, 2026

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon



New Location

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
909 N. La Cumbre, Santa Barbara**

Website: www.sbgen.org

Are your ancestors Prussian, German, or both?

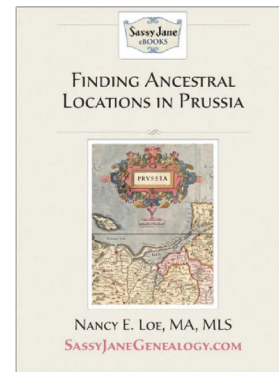
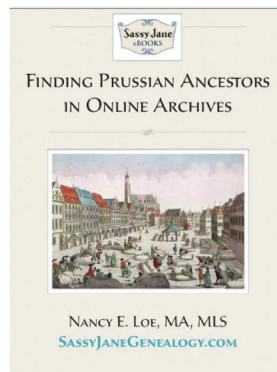
- This presentation explores German, Polish, and Prussian gazetteers, maps, databases, and other resources for locations of German-speaking ancestors from Prussia (Brandenburg, East Prussia, Pomerania, Posen, Silesia, West Prussia).
- Discover where your Prussian ancestors lived, and what place names are in use today. Once you have your geographic bearings in Prussia, primary and secondary sources are easier to find for your family history research.

Schedule:

- *Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and informal discussions with the Society's Special Interest Groups*
- *A short business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.*
- *Nancy's presentation is at 11:00 a.m.*

Parking:

There is ample free parking at the church.



PLEASE REGISTER

Choose how you want to attend: In-Person at Trinity Lutheran Church or on Zoom
sbgen.org or <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/m2ihGWhOOUG1Be40JdXISw>

President's Message

by Marie Sue Parsons



As I begin this column, I realize that it is my last one as President of our wonderful society. The year went fast, as I was only doing half of the usual president's term as detailed in our bylaws. As my time ends, I want to extend my profound thanks to the nominating committee, the

board of directors, and all of you, members, for allowing me to lead you this past year.

I am so proud of this society, and I hope you all realize what an amazing group this is—you are members of one of the most giving and goodhearted groups around. Have a genealogy question? Someone will spend time helping you answer it. Setting up for a program or an event? Someone will jump in and assist. Have a project that needs a couple more volunteers—they'll show up. Already heading up a committee or an active member of one? Then you know how amazing all our members are.

So I want to encourage all of you, if you aren't doing so already, but have ever thought of joining a group of fun folks, and giving some extra time each month by helping our society to accomplish all that it does, please consider volunteering in some small way. A few hours a month, or more if you so choose, and I promise you, you will not regret it! We have been proud to call ourselves an all-volunteer organization, and we want to keep it that way as long as we can.

If you're just curious about all that goes on, feel free to visit our board meetings to observe, currently held at 10:30 at the Sahyun on the morning before our monthly society meeting. Or ask about current committees and see which ones sound most interesting to you. Maybe there's just a one-time need that you might be able to fill -- just to check us out. We need you! And you'll make some wonderful new friends!

And, as always, see you in the library!
Marie Sue



On-Demand Webinars. SBCGS Members, take advantage of free On-Demand Webinars created by Thomas MacEntee! They are 45-60 minutes long with real-world examples, step-by-step how-tos, and a downloadable, detailed PDF handout for each session. One new webinar by Thomas MacEntee will be added quarterly to maintain year-round fresh content. Sign in and then click on On-Demand Webinars:

<https://sbgen.org/membership-welcome-page/>

Zoom Meeting Updates

by Robin McCarthy

On **Friday, June 5th** at 11 am PDT, the third installment of “**Essential Skills for Genealogists**” will be available to watch — covering “U.S. Census Records from 1790–1950 and Beyond.” This is a free, independent webinar offered through Family Tree Webinars and not hosted by SBCGS. Register here: <https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/6/5/essential-skills-for-new-genealogists-part-3>

Don't miss our final **Genealogy Tech Talk** on Sunday, **June 7th!** Robin will be sharing a few handy tips for using Ancestry, followed by a recorded demonstration of Lucidchart. Register here: <https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/6/7/genealogy-tech-talk-last-one>

The **Genealogy Do-Over Workshop** and the **Researching with AI Workshop** are going on summer hiatus and will return in September using the same Zoom links. Enjoy the summer, and we'll see you in the fall!



Writers' Group Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2025, 10:00-11:00 am
Moderator: Sharon Summer
ZOOM ONLY

We all want our writing about our ancestors to be interesting, as well as be factual. Join us for help. Read some of your work for gentle feedback and encouragement from participants. This month let's talk about what makes for engaging writing - starting the piece with a punch, find synonyms for verbs, shorten or add to, edit, edit.

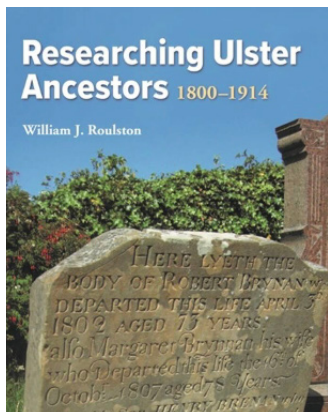
I'll offer some tips and others can say what helped them improve their writing. We are all learning.

Write now. Join us!

More Than Just Books

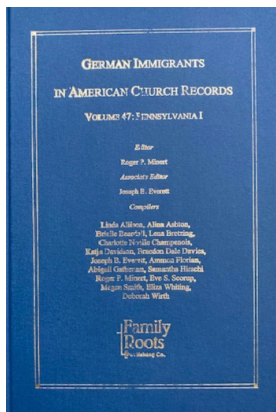
by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

IRISH researchers out there! A newly published and indispensable book for Irish family history research is on its way from those faraway Irish shores for y'all. **Researching Ulster Ancestors, 1800–1914** by William J. Roulston is a much-anticipated and welcome addition to his bestselling book already in our collection, **Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600–1800**, by the same author. (We also have the author's definitive work, **Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors**.)



Researching Ulster Ancestors, 1800–1914 provides a comprehensive guide to the rich range of genealogical sources available for the nine counties of Ulster up to the eve of World War I. As the book jacket states, “It not only identifies what records exist and where to find them, but also brings them to life through carefully chosen examples — demonstrating how they can be used effectively to uncover your family history.”

Another wonderful surprise was the arrival in our mailbox of Roger Minert's latest addition (**Vol. 47**) to his **German Immigrants in American Church Records** series — this one covering Pennsylvania. Rather than list all the towns included, just remember that Minert's books always contain a thorough and comprehensive index of names at the end of each volume.



Now, both of these books are on the pricey side, but they are filled with invaluable information. The Book Committee warmly welcomes any contributions you might wish to make toward their purchase. You can find the donation information on our website under “**Book Angels**” (have you visited it lately?). Feel free to donate online through Book Angels, or simply toss a few dollars my way — or into the donation jar — when you see me at a meeting.

So, what hidden gems are waiting for you at the Sahyun Library? Whether you're diving into your own genealogy or simply exploring the rich world of family history, we're here to support your journey.

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

The Burning of the Valleys: Daring Raids from Canada against The New York Frontier in the fall of 1780

From the Ashes: The story of the Hinkley (Minnesota) Fire of 1894

Polk County North Carolina Cemeteries

Estate Planning Workshop

by Mary Jacob, Development



Estate Planning Workshop
When: June 6, 2026, at 2:00 PM
Where: Sahyun Library

As genealogists, we spend countless hours researching and preserving the legacies of those who came before us. But have you considered your own legacy? Do you need a will or a trust? What's the difference between the two? How might taxes affect your plans?

This special estate planning workshop will address these and other common questions. It is a free, no-strings-attached program designed to provide general guidance on estate planning and help you think about the future of your family legacy.

This in-person workshop will be led by attorney Teresa Rhyne, who specializes in estate planning. Please note that the program will not be recorded.

Pre-registration is required. To register, you need to log in as member on the SBCGS website, then click on Calendar at the top of the page, scroll through the calendar to June 6, click on Estate planning Workshop and then click the Register Now button at the bottom of the page.

If you need a ride to the event, please contact Mary Jacob at development@sbgcn.org and she will help make arrangements. bottom of the page.

Books, continued

Chester County South Carolina Deed Abstracts

Acadian Church Records, 1679- 1757

An Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia (oversize)

A history of Caswell County, North Carolina

History of Perth County (Ontario, Canada) to 1967.

Historic Maury {County}, Tennessee

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Marsha Martin Carol Kosai Gretchen Beckert

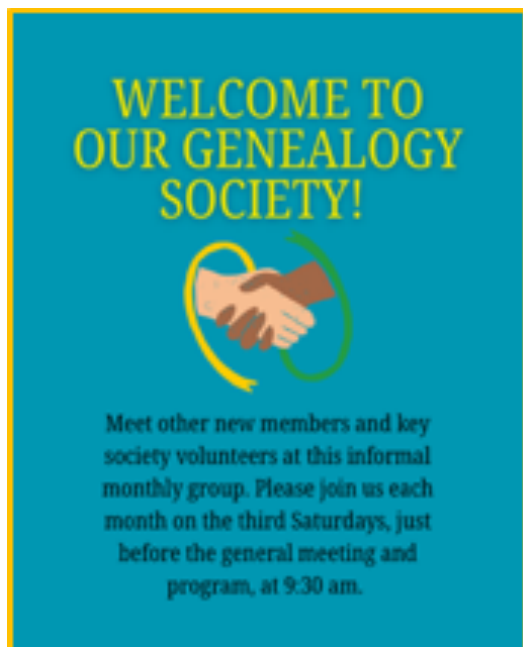
Marjorie Friesad Karen Harris

Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

NEW MEMBERS in April & May

Kathy Quiroz
Alan Schroeder
Jeri Waite
Debby Aceves
yldefonso Osuna
Mary Ellen Broeffle
Patricia Raabe
Paul Drapkin
Whitney Katherine Duncan
Darlene Ferrona
Patricia Bigoni
Kelly Lennoon
Anthony Louis Castello
Edward B. Frieburg
Karen Raders
Leticia Spaethe
Kristine Sanchez



Attention New Members: At our May 16 general meeting, we started an informal group for new members. **Between 9:30-10:30 am -- before the business meeting begins -- new members can get to know each other and meet key volunteers in the Society.** Those who've been in the society for less than a year are encouraged to join this table and learn from other members each month.

As always, new members may find **New Member packets** under the Members' Area of our SBCGS website. After signing in, find Membership Packet on the Member Resources page. There are also packets at the library; stop by and pick one up.

Volunteers: As well as coordinating the helpful coaches, **Kathy Cremeen is now our Volunteer Coordinator.** Please contact Kathy at kajcremeen@gmail.com if you need a coach, wish to become a coach, or wish to volunteer. A recently-updated list of coaches is available.

There are volunteer opportunities in all areas of our genealogy society. At this time, we are in particular need of people with financial and technology experience.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon June 20

Dedication and voluntary service is a special donation to the work of our Society. We could not do it without this reliable, personal participation. For a nonprofit organization, there is no substitute for human investment, and our 85+ volunteers supply it. This modest luncheon honors that commitment.

Genealogy Tip of the Month:

Genealogy
Tip
of the
Day



by Michael John Neill on May 24, 2021
Some researchers will “believe” something when they have three sources that provide the same piece of information. One has to be careful using this approach. Sources may all contain information from the same person or “original source,”

which does not really mean that three “sources” agree. It could only mean that the same person gave the information three times. And there is always the chance that the second two “sources” got their information from the first.

Think about who provided the information, why it is in the record, and how reasonably the informant would have known the information. That's a good way to get started with information analysis.

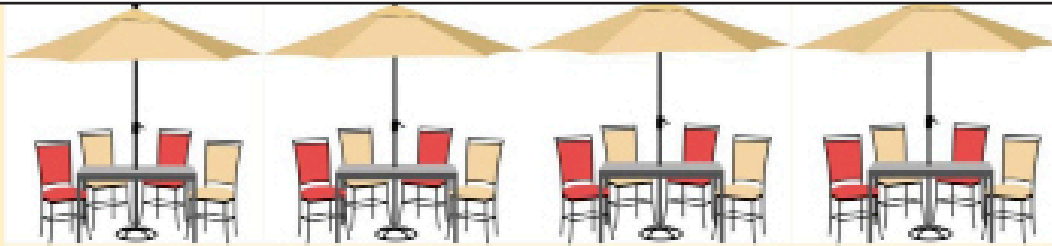
SBCGS Leadership Board & Operations Updates

Your Society's leadership is committed to advancing our mission and serving our members. The Board of Directors provides strategic direction, while the Operations Leadership Team oversees programming, services, and daily operations.

To stay informed, visit the **Members Section** at sbgen.org. Once logged in, navigate to **Member Resources** to access the latest **Board Minutes and Operations Leadership Notes**.

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.”



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Please Join Us for a Special Celebration

Your dedication and voluntary service make a tremendous impact to our genealogical society. This luncheon is a way of giving thanks for all you do.

- Date:** Saturday, June 20
Time: 12:30-2:30 pm, following the general meeting
Location: Patio of Sahyun Library, 316 Castillo St.
Who: all who have volunteered in the past year

What to Expect

- Salad Fest, beverages and dessert
- Remarks from our president
- Warm appreciation.

Please RSVP by June 16

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2025/6/21/volunteer-appreciation-lunch>



Please RSVP by June 16

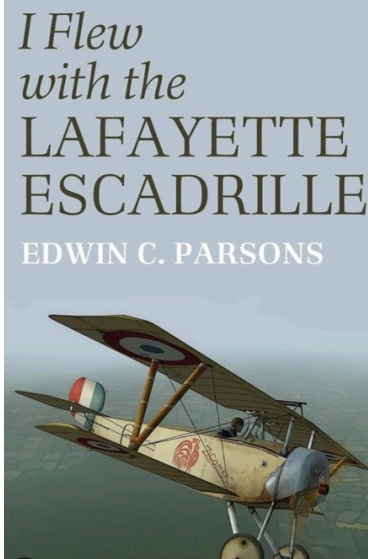
<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2025/6/21/volunteer-appreciation-lunch>

Book Reviews — From the Shelves of the Sahyun

by Pat Caird

I Flew with the Lafayette Escadrille

By Edwin C. Parsons



WOW!! Edward C. Parsons' book, **I FLEW WITH THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE**, copyrighted in 1937, and again in 1967, is well worth reading.

On April 20, 1916, a group of eager “plucky young Americans” who truly loved nothing more than to fly, went to France, donned the uniforms of the French aviators, and, as pursuit units, fought the Germans at the beginning of WWI.

The Lafayette Escadrille (squadron) was made up of 38 organized volunteer combatants. You will learn why they chose to stay on with the French even when America entered the war, serving until February 18, 1918.

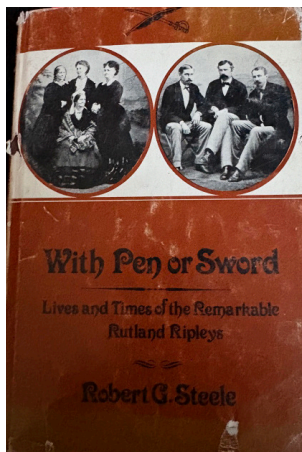
As one of those eager aviators, the author pulls you right into their wild, risky lives. Drawings and photos of the planes and their very young pilots are plentiful. Parsons' description of their looks, personalities, audacity, fearlessness, aviation experiences, and much more, make it hard to put down this book.

Every chapter tells what their days were like. As you read, picture yourself climbing into one of these planes, eager to lift into the sky in pursuit of the enemy. Soon he appears and things happen fast. Feel the cold air whipping about as bullets burst through your windshield and fuselage, shrapnel spewing in all directions. Hold your breath as you nosedive or twist in and out of aerobatic moves to avoid the enemy or to lead him astray. Fly 50 feet above the trenches to machine gun the enemy and pray they don't hit you. Hold the stick between your legs so you can use your hands to release a bomb. Pray for a safe landing on home territory. Head to the bar for that much-needed calming remedy and discuss the loss of your comrade who wasn't quite as lucky as you were on this day. Did you have a relative who flew in WWI? Might one of these men be your ancestor?

With Pen and Sword

Lives and Times of the Remarkable Rutland Ripleys

By Robert G. Steele



As remarkable as the Ripley family of Rutland, Vermont was, author Robert G. Steele's ability to unravel the hundreds of letters, diaries, and a book written by a Ripley, seems equally as remarkable. His ability to knit together the stories of these “energetic, inquisitive, and prolific” [author's words] family members of the mid-1700s through the mid-1900s brings alive the strong characters of early Americans.

From the personal written words of the Ripley's, Steele gains a perspective of the depth of the various personalities which help explain why they chose to follow the various paths they took. He says that “One was the friend of Emerson and Longfellow; one fights valiantly in the Civil War; another, barely out of boyhood, leads the victorious Union forces into the Confederate capital, Richmond; another is drowned at sea; another, after a sojourn in the American West, settles in Japan. The Ripleys, in telling their story, tell the story of nineteenth-century America – flourishing, bold, and young at heart.”

His acknowledgements share the lengths to which he went to gather information. Numerous photos, the family tree, a map, and an in-depth index also help document this family's rich life.

To determine how one would use this book to expand upon his or her own family history, I would think that your ancestors who lived during this period may have experienced some of the same things as the Ripleys did. You cannot help but wonder about the lives they led and imagine yourself on any one of these paths.



**SAN DIEGO
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**
EST. 1942



San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program

Date: May 2023

Contact: Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs,
pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com

The San Diego Genealogical Society presents the California Pioneer Certificate Program honoring early pioneers who helped shape the state of California. The program is designed to assist those researching their California roots and issue formal acknowledgment of their ancestors to the development of California.

On the SDGS website, the California Pioneer Honor Wall was created to highlight the contribution early pioneers made to the development of California. Here, entry portals provide organized access to a searchable database containing more than 400,000 eligible California pioneers, along with biographical, genealogical, and historical information. The database consolidates pertinent records to aid research and is continually updated as new information becomes available. Additional genealogical and historical resources and finding aids are also provided. Each brick in the Honor Wall contains eligible pioneers' names and includes photos, biographies, and events.

Those interested in recognizing their descentance from early California pioneers are encouraged to complete an application. Supporting documentation submitted must show their ancestor was associated with one or more of the four following California historical events:

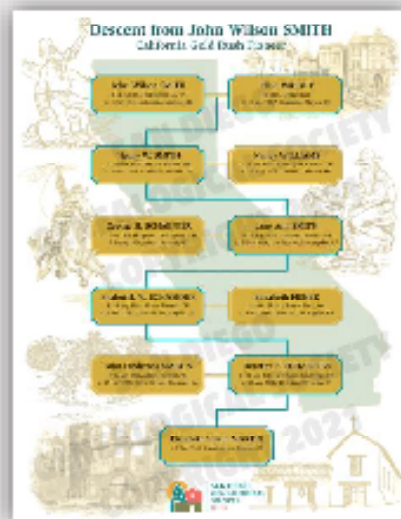
- California's Admission of Statehood (1850)
- The Gold Rush (1848-1860)
- The San Francisco earthquake (1906)
- California Mission period (before 1850)

Upon verification of submitted documentation, applicants will be issued a Certificate of Authenticity and Lineage Chart showing the pioneer's relationship to the applicant.

Membership to the San Diego Genealogy Society is not required to participate in this certificate program. The application and instructions are available in the Member Resources section of the SBCGS website.



California Pioneer Certificate



Lineage Chart



California Pioneer Certificate

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair



Old Fashioned 4th of July at Stow House

It's that time of year again! We are looking for volunteers to assist with set up, conduct genealogy lookups for the public, and clean up. We will also have some easy activities for children. Please consider volunteering with us this year! It is one of our favorite events! Bring your laptop or tablet and help visitors learn about their ancestors. So much fun!

Shift Times:

10:30am-11am (setup),

11am-1:35pm (research help),

1:25pm- 4:15pm (research help & quick take down)

Interested in helping for a shift? Sign up: Email Outreach@SBGen.org



Heritage Quilt Display at the Sahyun

We will be displaying quilts from 1700s-1800s in our Jackson Community Room this summer in commemoration of the America's 250th anniversary. We will also accept contemporary-made quilts that replicate the style of the 18th and 19th century quilts.

DEADLINES: We need the emailed info (to Outreach@sbgen.org) no later than June 18th and the quilt on the weekend of June 27-28 when we will be putting up the display.

(Quilt shown: Calimanco, pre-1799, made from wool, hand-stitched, DAR Museum, <https://quiltindex.org/results/?collection=DAR>)

If you have a quilt that could be shown, please provide:

Printed: Your name and contact info and short description of quilt so we can quickly identify the quilt and its owner. Please bring with your quilt.

Email: A title for the quilt

- Name of quilter and relation to you
- Date or year span quilt was made
- Type of quilt design (if known)
- Who used the quilt?
- A little information about your great-grandmother (we want stories to go with the quilts too)
- Anything else you'd like the public to know about the quilt?
- Good quality scan of your great-grandmother if you can or a picture of a family member using the quilt.
- Can your quilt be displayed from July to October?



Picnic in the Cemetery (October 24, 2026)

We are looking for actors and cemetery residents at the Carpinteria Cemetery. Do you know someone buried in this cemetery who has a story that should be shared? Do you know someone who would like to be an actor? Contact us!

New to the Picnic in the Cemetery? It is a live historical presentation where actors portray cemetery residents and present to the public. View our past cemetery events here: <https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/attend-an-event/>.

If you would like to help with planning this fun event let us know! Email Holly at Outreach@SBGen.org.

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair



Member Tour at the Santa Ynez Historical Museum- July 22nd @ 10:30am

On this guided tour of the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum & Parks-Janeway Carriage House, visitors explore the cultural and ranching history of the Santa Ynez Valley from its earliest years through the early 20th century.

The tour begins in the museum galleries, where artifacts, photographs, pioneer tools, and ranching objects help tell the story of everyday life, local families, and the Valley's diverse communities. From there, the tour moves into the Parks-Janeway Carriage House, home to one of the finest collections of horse-drawn vehicles west of the Mississippi, including carriages, wagons, and stagecoaches, along with Western saddles, bridles, and tack. These objects highlight the importance of transportation, horsemanship, and the vaquero tradition in shaping ranching culture and work in the region, offering a deeper look at how people lived, worked, and moved through the Valley.

****Register on our calendar. You must be signed in as a member first to register.****

If this tour fills up, please email Outreach@sbgen.org to be put on the waitlist. You have a very good chance of going!



Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970 Exhibit

The exhibit at Sahyun will be coming down June 21st. It's next temporary home will be at the Santa Barbara Public Library in September and October in one of the Faulkner side galleries. There will be a public event on October 1st during Downtown's First Thursday.

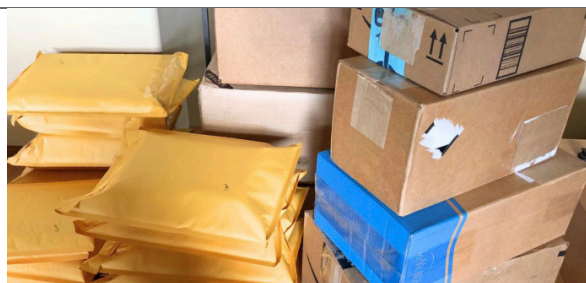
View our exhibit online at <https://sbgen.org/santa-barbara-hispanic-family-history-exhibit/>! It is available in English and Spanish.

Join our new Hispanic Genealogy Special Interest Group!

Anyone who is researching Hispanic ancestry or who wishes to learn more about this topic is welcome to participate. Next meeting will be at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 20 at 9:30 AM (before the general meeting). Please contact Yolanda Pérez (3yperez@gmail.com) for further information.

Booknook

Kristin Ingalls, Chair



Calling all BOXES !! We need YOU

Online book sales are very lively of late and I really need some shipping boxes. I know I can buy them at UPS, etc., but...I am too thrifty because that would cut into the profit I we make from these sales. And I am greedy.

I only need book sized boxes – not tiny little ones that your medications come in or the great huge ones you get with your new TV.

Sizes: 10 – 14 long, 9 – 12 inches wide, 3 – 6 inches deep. Or any combination of those sizes. It would be great if you could also remove any address labels. Dang, taking those off is ruining my manicure!

And, how about the little bubble wrap. Not those great pillow sized puffs, please, just the little ones we have so much fun popping.

You can put them into the back storage room and I will find them. A tremendous thanks to you all.

XXOO Kristin Ingalls , BookNook



Speaking Engagements in the Community

April and May were busy months for the Speakers Bureau! We wish to thank all of the groups and individuals who attended our talks!

The Outreach Committee is looking for more opportunities to spread the word about SBCGS. If you belong to a club, organization, or retirement community who have program speakers, please suggest us! They can request a speaker thru our website under "In the Community" (direct link: <https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/>), or email Outreach@SBGen.org and we will send an introductory description of the program and how to request a talk. All talks can be tailored to the group's interests and skill level!

June Volunteer of the Month – Karen Ramsdell

Happy June! After a busy May full of Salt Lake City research and travel we are excited to get back on track for our Volunteer of the Month! This month, we are proud to feature Karen Ramsdell!

SBCGS June Volunteer of The Month



Karen Ramsdell

- Member for 25+ years
- Author and researcher
- Former SBCGS president

Learn more about Karen in the caption and in our June issue of Tree Tips!

Karen is the utility player of our Society- she has served us in so many roles including President, governance, programs, and now as the co-director of programs. Karen says that she has truly enjoyed every single role over the years, but “what stands out most is the privilege of working alongside so many talented and dedicated people.” Through her work as President, Karen prepared for the role by reading through decades of board minutes and taking counsel from longtime volunteers. Many of our current policies represent the fruits of her leadership planted long ago.

Like many others, Karen’s journey into genealogy was fueled by her passion and curiosity for her own family. Despite always having a passion for history- she majored in it at UCSB and preserved airport history through her work as the head of SBA- her spark was unexpected and came through sifting through family photos and seeing her grandmother’s handwritten name on the 1900 census. Karen says, “I was hooked. Before long I was burning the midnight oil chasing family roots — and that search eventually led me to the Society. I joined the Society in 2000, just two years after the Society received the gift of the property that is now home to the Sahyun Library. Even without Santa Barbara roots, I quickly found the research support and community I was looking for.”

Karen’s genealogy experience is also truly a family affair- she and her daughter Holly have been research partners almost from the beginning (about 20 years!). They’ve researched different family lines together, travelled to ancestral homelands, and made many trips to the Family-Search library in Utah. Speaking on this, Karen says, “I feel genuinely lucky that she shares this passion with me — not many adult children want to spend their vacations in archives with their mother! She joined the Society in 2017 and is now our Outreach Chair, so we get to volunteer together as well. It’s one of the unexpected gifts this hobby has given me.”

Thank you Karen for all of your contributions and for your passion- we look forward to many more years of service and research together!

Submitted by Caroline McCarty, Social Media Chair



Judith Shirley ‘Judy’ Winkel, 1942-2026

We are deeply saddened to share the news of Judy Winkel’s passing on May 12, 2026, and extend our condolences to her beloved family and friends.

Judy was a member of SBCGS for many years and was especially known for her humor, kindness, and hilarious story telling ability. Those of us who knew her will always remember her stories of WWII in wartime Britain where she spent so much time in the air raid shelter. Judy was a passionate genealogist and spent countless hours at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City tracing her family roots back through centuries. She was also active in coordinating adoptions and foster placements for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels ensuring they found loving homes.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Encina Royale, 250 Moreton Bay, Goleta, on Saturday, June 6th at 11:30 am.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2027–2028 term. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on June 20. All members in good standing are eligible to vote.

The Nominating Committee thanks all candidates for their willingness to serve. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the Society's bylaws.

Questions may be directed to me at limakate1@gmail.com.

— Kate Lima, Nominating Committee Chair

OFFICER POSITIONS — NOMINEES



KATE LIMA

Nominated for: President — One-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - Vice-President, Operations (Board officer); Executive Committee; Development, Finance, and Outreach Committees; Memorial Patio and Garden Recognition Ad Hoc Committee; library volunteer.

Society History - Member since 2014. Has served as Membership Director (2021–2024) and 2024 Honors Luncheon Chair.

Background - A UCSB graduate, Kate went on to earn a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities. She retired after a 28-year career at UCSB managing academic departments including Classics, Economics, and Earth Science.



KATHRYN FIELD

Nominated for: Membership Director — Two-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - Membership Director (Board officer); Executive Committee; Marketing Committee; Library Aesthetics Committee Chair; Periodicals Manager; library volunteer.

Society History - Member since 2017. Life member.

Background - Kathryn holds degrees in Environmental Science from Pitzer College and SUNY-ESF and a Human Resources certificate. She retired as Deputy County Executive Officer for Riverside County after a career spanning parks, personnel, and budget management. Since moving to Santa Barbara in 2020, she has served as HOA president and volunteers with Art from Scrap and UC Master Gardeners.



ROBERT GOELLER

Nominated for: Treasurer — Two-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - Investment Committee Chair; Finance Committee; Property Committee.

Society History - Member since 2011. Has served as Vice-President, Programs (2013–2017), Director-At-Large, and Finance Director (2020–2024).

Background - Before moving to California, Bob spent 18 years as an executive residential and commercial mortgage broker, 14 years as an electrical contractor, and 15 years as a real estate developer and high-end home builder. He brings broad experience in finance, contracts, and property management.

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE — NOMINEES

Five Positions — Terms as noted



CHARLENE DALY

Nominated for: Director-At-Large — One-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - This is Charlene’s first nomination to the Board.

Society History - Member since 2013. Has served as Membership Database Manager; Jewish Gen SIG; event volunteer.

Background - A New York native, Charlene earned her J.D. and later an M.B.A. from Boston College. She spent 31 years as a project manager in the aerospace industry in Goleta, followed by a second career as a contracts and quality control administrator at a local small business. Her experience in project oversight, contract management, and organizational administration is directly applicable to board service.



HEATHER MCDEVITT

Nominated for: Director-At-Large — Two-Year Term

Current Society Involvement

Director-At-Large (2022–present); General Meeting Refreshments Chair; Memorial Patio and Garden Project Team.

Society History - Member since 2021.

Background - An archaeologist and corporate cultural resources lead, Heather conducted graduate research on the Chumash village of Syujtun. A Goleta resident since 2014, she chairs Goleta’s Historic Preservation Commission and has served on several nonprofit boards. Her interest in genealogy deepened through research undertaken with her father.



PATTI OTTOBONI

Nominated for: Director-At-Large — Two-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - Director-At-Large (2022–present); Outreach Committee; library volunteer.

Society History - Member since 1994. Honors Luncheon Committee (2017, 2019, 2024).

Background - A Santa Barbara resident since childhood, Patti completed her nursing training in Los Angeles. She brings deep roots in the local cultural community: she led the Museum League’s ArtWalk for two decades and remains active with CAMA and the Pearl Chase Society, where she currently serves as Historian. She is also an avid birder and painter.



MELVILLE SAHYUN

Nominated for: Director-At-Large — Two-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - This is Mel’s first nomination to the Board.

Society History - Member since 1998; Life Member. The Society’s Sahyun Genealogical Research Library bears his family’s name for good reason — in 1998, Mel and his family donated the property where the Library stands today.

Background - A native Santa Barbaran, Mel is a retired physical chemist. He brings a strong grounding in analytical thinking along with a lifelong interest in history and photography.



LIZ SMITH

Nominated for: Director-At-Large — Two-Year Term

Current Society Involvement - Director-At-Large (2022–present); Public Relations Coordinator (2018–present); Marketing Committee member.

Society History - Member since 2018; Life Member.

Background - Liz attended UCSB and has worked for the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division since 2007, where she brings experience in public agency communications and community outreach. A Santa Barbara resident since 1997, she lives in San Roque with her husband and two children.