February is Black History Month.

Our local African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) will host an annual Black History Day - Sunday, Feb 10, 1 p.m. @ 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.

The national African American History Month has many events paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

CGS is pleased to provide a word-searchable PDF of The Colored Directory of Leading Cities in Northern California 1916-1917 thanks to the generous efforts of Lorna Jones and Electra Kimble Price. The directory lists nearly 10,000 African Americans in Northern California along with churches, lodges, and organizations. The directory is free to all and resides on our Databases page.

Other resources:
- Cyndi's List
- FamilySearch

February is also Lunar New Year in most of Asia.
This year we celebrate the Year of the Pig.
Learn about Chinese New Year at chinesenewyear.net.

Locally there will be celebrations in Oakland and San Francisco.

Other Resources:
- Cyndi's List - China
- Cyndi's List - Asia
- FamilySearch - Chinese Genealogical Word List

New CGS Board for 2019
Congratulations to ALL!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicky Kolakowski</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>2nd Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Sorenson</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>1st Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Berry</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>1st Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Cork</td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>1st Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewart Traiman</td>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>2nd Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Russell</td>
<td>Chief Investment Officer</td>
<td>1st Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicia Addison</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>3rd Term</td>
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<td>Richard Kehoe</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>2nd Term</td>
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<td>Arlene Miles</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Dix</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>1st Term</td>
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Stacey Hoover  Director  1st Term
Marisela Meskus  Director  1st Term
Chris Pattillo  Director  1st Term
Jeffery Vaillant  Director  1st Term
Linda Okazaki  Past President

Classes and SIGs

California Genealogical Society & Library
2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

Here is our wonderful line-up of classes and Special Interest Groups for this month.

When registering on Eventbrite you'll need your CGS membership number to complete the registration. If you do not know your membership number send a request to Membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction to Genealogy</th>
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<td>Due to popular demand, we have expanded our first-Saturday &quot;Intro to Genealogy&quot; class to a four-session series. The first class offers an overview of genealogy. Each of the next three sessions will begin with a quick review of the overview, followed by a more in-depth focus on the following topics: Census, Vital Records, and Organization. The classes may be taken in any order, and participation in one class is not required to attend others in the series. The entire series will be repeated two more times in 2019.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb 2, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m</td>
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<tr>
<th>Using German Documents to Build a Family Tree</th>
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<td>Once you've solved the mystery of where your immigrant ancestors came from in Germany, a whole world opens to you. It's not just the immense family trees that can be constructed and documented from official records that are increasingly available online. It's also the rich details of your ancestors' lives that can be derived from those records and from the contacts that you can make with local historians -- often your distant cousins -- in Germany.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb 9, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. ** wait list only **</td>
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<tr>
<th>Introduction to FindMyPast</th>
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<tr>
<td>Come to The Oakland Family History Center to do your research, and plan stay for a presentation on CGS's library's subscription website, Findmypast.com. Maureen Hanlon will share what's unique, especially for British and Irish researchers, the data you can get without a subscription, and basics of navigation and search techniques.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A CGS event held at The Oakland Family History Center Saturday, February 16, from 1 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Family Tree Maker SIG</th>
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<tr>
<td>Devoted exclusively to the popular, robust and easy-to-use Family Tree Maker™ software from Software MacKiev. Join FTM-SIG facilitators Ron Madson and Karen Halfon n the third Saturday of each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb 16, from 1 - 4 p.m.</td>
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<th>Eastern European Special Interest Group Quarterly Meetings</th>
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A group dedicated to Eastern European genealogy facilitated by Craig Siulinski and Vicky Kolakowski.

Saturday, Feb 23, from 1 - 3 p.m.

Excel for Genealogists

Stewart loves spreadsheets! He is an expert in Microsoft Excel using spreadsheets in genealogy quite frequently. Laying out all the data in Excel can help researchers see gaps in knowledge or correlations between data points. Breakthroughs can easily happen by visualizing data in spreadsheets. Stewart shows many examples of his use of spreadsheets to track newspaper clippings, a vital records catalog, tracking ancestor addresses over time, and tracking whole families over many censuses. Stewart will teach how to use Excel filter, sorting, color coding, calculations and many other functions.

Saturday, Feb 23, from 1 - 4 p.m. ** wait list only **

Building Skills for Successful Family History Research

This series is for family historians, both beginners and intermediates, who want to build a strong foundation of research skills to avoid wasted time and unreliable family trees.

This course will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library in four Wednesday evening sessions.

In-class group exercises and optional homework assignments will provide participants to practice skills with a wide variety of genealogical records found in a many different places including online websites.

A CGS event held at The Oakland Family History Center

Wednesdays, Mar 6 to 27, from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy, with Mark McLaren

The class is designed to be an introduction to DNA as an exciting new tool for genealogists. It is intended for individuals who either are new to DNA or looking to improve their ability to use it in their research. The objective of the class is to provide a basic understanding of all DNA tests and concepts. It will examine the available tools and strategies to more effectively manage DNA matches. It will also create a solid foundation for those interested in taking classes in more advanced skills.

A CGS event held at The Oakland Family History Center

Thursday, from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on the following dates March 07, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11

Hispanic Genealogy: Spanish Records with Lucy Jennings Sweeney

Discover how to search for your Hispanic ancestors, using records such as baptism and marriage. You don't need to know how to read Spanish. You will receive a resource list of online and print material.

Saturday, March 9, from 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Irish Ancestry Network Meetup

CGS will host the fourth annual meeting for members studying Irish Ancestors. In addition to networking and updates on Irish genealogy websites, Linda Darby, Maureen Hanlon and Victoria Kolakowski will share what they learned at the August 2018 Celtic Connections Conference in
Boston. There will be a Potluck lunch so bring your soda bread or scones or maybe even some corned beef.

Sunday, March 17, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Finding Your Japanese Roots in the U.S. and in Japan**

Join us for this encore presentation: Researching Japanese Ancestry.

The first half of the seminar will focus on background and research in the United States:

- The political climate and pertinent U.S. laws
- Internment camps and prefectures
- Repatriation and redress

The second half of the seminar will focus on research in Japan:

- Finding your koseki
- Understanding ohaka and kakocho
- Visiting relatives, cemeteries and temples

The seminar is suitable for both beginners and experienced researchers.

Sunday, March 10, from 1 - 4 p.m.

**Hard Drive Organization: Managing Images and Your Computer File Folders - with Tim Cox**

Every genealogist has a collection of photographs, scanned images of paper documents, and images downloaded from online sources. What is the best way to organize them on our hard drive? How do we identify each image?

Quickly learn how to:

* Name files for easy identification
* Organize folders that make it easy to find the files
* Properly identify scanned photographs with multiple people.

Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to Noon

**You Got Your DNA Results, What's Next?**

Three classes, each focusing on one of the larger DNA testing companies. Each class is for those who have already submitted a DNA sample and want to know the next steps and strategies to make family connections from the results. Completing any of one of these classes is a prerequisite to join the ongoing DNA study group.

- **Ancestry DNA Results**
  Saturday, March 23, from 1 - 4 p.m.

- **Family Tree DNA Results**
  Saturday, March 30, from 1 - 4 p.m.

- **23andMe DNA Results**
  Saturday, April 6, from 1 - 4 p.m.

Also visit our Eventbrite profile page to see the latest class additions and descriptions.

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**Growing No-show Trend for CGS Classes: Nominal Class Fees in 2019**

Free classes are a wonderful privilege of CGS membership that many enjoy. With our limited classroom space, classes are often full. This year, there's been a trend of registered members not showing up and not cancelling their reservation. The rate of no-shows has been running close to one-third of registered attendees. Examples below.

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1101577126079&ca=c1f58b43-0464-4e5b-b0b0-09e6494d48
Why does this matter? First of all, it means those on the waiting list have no chance to get notification and fill in those spots. Also our speakers can't help but be aware of the empty chairs and fewer folks to benefit from all the work they put into sharing their expertise.

In 2019, consistent with recommendations in the strategic plan and approval by the Board, some classes for members will have a small fee. This will be phased in over the year. Many classes, including our Introduction to Genealogy and a new series on the third Saturday of each month at the Oakland FamilyHistory Library, will be free. We also provide links with your class reservation and reminder to make it easier to notify us of a cancellation. We hope this will address the problem above and provide some much-needed funding for even more and better offerings.

Question? Please contact Maureen Hanlon

**Volunteers**

**Genealogy Saturdays Need You!**
Are you a CGS member who loves attending our Saturday genealogy classes, and would love to volunteer with our 121-year-old organization if it didn't involve a weekday commitment? If so, we have the job for you - become one of our Events Assistants!

Here's a chance to donate about an hour of your time (once a month) and attend one of our popular Saturday classes - all at the same time.

Feel free to submit the CGS Volunteer Form or contact Kathleen Beitiks for more details.

**Meetings and More**

**California Genealogical Society & Library**
**2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland**

- [Board Meeting -- February 9 at 10 a.m.](#)

  **Agenda:**
  - Officers Reports
  - Committee Reports
  - New Business
    - Nikkei Pilgrimage
  - Old Business
    - Job Descriptions, Policies & Procedures
Implementing Strategic Plan
• Educational Program

Annual Membership Meeting - April

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group then please contact Maureen Hanlon.

If your Society or Organization would like to use our facility as a meeting space for a nominal fee, please contact Vicky Kolakowski.

CGS Blog

Highlights from the California Genealogical Society Blog and Others

Please subscribe to the CGS Blog. If you haven't been receiving our blog posts on a regular basis, be sure to re-subscribe. It is a great source of information about classes, events, volunteers and members.

We want and need your stories. If you have an idea for an article, ongoing series of posts or monthly column, then please contact Blog Editor Jennifer Dix to discuss.

A State by State Series by Chris Pattillo

• CGS Library Collections: Maryland
• CGS Library Collections: Maine
• CGS Library Collections: Louisiana
• CGS Library Collections: Kentucky
• CGS Library Collections: Kansas

2019 Annual Membership Meeting -- by Jennifer Dix

Check it Out: Gigantic Model of 1940 San Francisco now viewable online -- by Jennifer Dix

January 12, 2019: Annual Meeting & Program -- by Chris Pattillo

2018 Annual Appeal: Thank You to our Amazing Members! -- by Jennifer Dix

Join the Genealogy Saturdays Team -- Jennifer Dix

Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

New York vital records timeline: Key dates that impact your research -- by Frederick Wertz

The First Transcontinental Railroad: Did Your Chinese Ancestors Help Build It? -- by Sunny Morton

How Did We Get the First U.S. Census? -- by Legacy Tree

New Scottish Records Available To Search this FindMyPast Friday -- by Dick Eastman

Include database on Jacobite Rebellion for you Outlander fans. 20 hits for "James Fraser"

Sisters Reunited Through DNA -- MyHeritage Blog

How Much Was Your Ancestor Worth? -- by Amy Johnson Crow
Events & Conferences

There are always many other events happening in the Bay Area and across the nation. For the latest events, check Conference Keeper.org.

Local Events

Bay Area Genealogy Calendar maintained by the Sutro Library

Major National and International Conferences:

Family History Library Webinar Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>RootsTech 2019</td>
<td>Feb 27 - Mar 2</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Now offering a Virtual Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)</td>
<td>Jun 15 - 17</td>
<td>Sacramento, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>National Genealogical Society</td>
<td>May 8 - 11</td>
<td>St. Charles, Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>50th Annual Jamboree 2018</td>
<td>May 30 - Jun 2</td>
<td>Burbank, California</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21 - 26</td>
<td>The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)</td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
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<td>Jun, Jul</td>
<td>Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Jul 28 - Aug 2</td>
<td>IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
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<td>Aug 21 - 24</td>
<td>Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 19 - 21</td>
<td>APG Professional Management Conference</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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**2020**

| Jan        | Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)                               | Salt Lake City, Utah      |

**Connect with Us**

*See our Volunteer page for opportunities or contact Kathleen Beitiks*

**Become a member of CGS**

Tel (510) 663-1358 - Fax (510) 663-1596

Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Email Stewart Blandón Traiman, eNews Editor with any questions.