

# California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

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## Message from the President

Happy New Year!

A new year always brings the sense of new beginnings and new opportunities – a fresh slate for new ideas and advancement. That is why I am particularly looking forward to **this year's annual meeting on January 13th at 10:00**. It will be a hybrid meeting so you can attend in-person or via Zoom. I do hope you have it on your new calendar and have registered via EventBrite.

After a brief review of 2023, a short business meeting and election of board members there will be two presentations that I am excited about. Evan Wilson will give a report on the 10 Million Names project which is a new initiative to identify the descendants of the 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in the U.S. prior to emancipation and to restore their names to history. CGS will play a key role in this national effort – come learn how you might contribute.

Next, Roger Prince and Joanna Shear will give an update on the Focus2025 work which has been ongoing for most of the past year. You'll want to hear what they've learned so far and what is planned to conclude this planning effort that will guide how CGS progresses in the coming year.

After the annual meeting those attending in-person will enjoy a potluck lunch that will be followed by an Open House. I hope to see you there and in the library in the new year.



CGS would like to welcome new members Dr. Michelle Rippey, Daniel Arnold, and Michael Lindstedt

# Tips & Talk



## Happy New Year!

We are excited to announce that our joint project with the Oakland FamilySearch Center is building momentum. We have seen an increase in attendance and received compliments on the quality of the classes that have been presented.

Classes are now scheduled through the end of May. *Click here for the flier.* Upcoming presentations include a multi-class series for Black History month, a three-week series on DNA, a three-part German research series as well as classes on Irish, French Canadian, Hawaiian, Mexican, African American research, and more.

- Classes are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:00 am. and also most Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Be sure to check the flier for the specific dates.
- Topics are being presented by expert genealogists volunteering their time.
- Classes will be in person and also on ZOOM
- **NOTE: This year participants must register on EventBrite. *Click here for the registration page.*** Once registered, you will be sent a reminder a few days before the class with a zoom link.
- More detailed descriptions are on EventBrite and will be in the CGS Blog the week of the class.

We are looking forward to seeing you. Also, please, as a courtesy to our speakers, let us know if you will not be attending.

And feel free to come early and/or stay late for some one-on-one assistance.

Signups appreciated on [Eventbrite](#). Calendar of classes available at [the OFSC webpage](#).

## Classes and SIGs

We are pleased to continue to offer our [classes](#) and [special interest groups](#). We have online classes available as well as some opportunities to meet in-person. [Please visit our Events and Education page to learn more.](#)

All remote classes will now have live closed captioning. If you feel you need a bit of extra help in either of these areas to have a successful experience with our Zoom events, email [events@californiaancestors.org](mailto:events@californiaancestors.org) and we will be in touch.



### 2024 CGS Annual Membership Meeting, Potluck, and Library Open House

Join us for the hybrid 2024 CGS Annual Meeting and Open House at the CGS Library.

**Saturday, 13 Jan from 10 am to 1 pm**



## Round Table

Facilitated by Jacqueline Henderson and Lisa Gorrell, CG

This group is for CGS Members to connect. It is a venue where attendees can share things they've learned or found. Often this sparks ideas for others on their own research. It is also a great way to brainstorm ideas for new avenues of research when you get stumped.

2nd Wednesday of each month, next on **10 Jan from 6:30 to 8 pm**  
Email [Jacqueline](#) or [Lisa](#) for a link to the Zoom meeting.



## Book Repair Workshop

Facilitated by Bill O'Neil

Join Bill O'Neil to learn book repair techniques.

**Saturday, Jan 20 10 am to 2 pm**



## Mayflower Descendants Special Interest Group

Hosted by Robert Trapp

The Mayflower Descendants SIG focuses initially on Mayflower ancestry and how to join The Society of California Mayflower Descendants. The group discusses research in New England, parts of Canada and the upper Atlantic seaboard states. If interested, contact Robert Trapp at [r1946at@aol.com](mailto:r1946at@aol.com).

**Friday, 19 Jan from 10:30 am to 11:30 am**



## San Francisco Special Interest Group

Hosted by Sandra Huber

Whether you're just starting out researching your family history or have been searching for years and need ideas on how to get past brick walls or are interested in finding your ancestors' records in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, join the conversation with us to uncover information and create a more complete family story. If you are interested in joining the SF SIG, please send an email to [SFSIG@californiaancestors.org](mailto:SFSIG@californiaancestors.org).

**Saturday, 20 Jan at 10 am**



## Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group

Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

This Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group is perfect for new FTM users, people who are just FTM curious, and experienced FTM veterans. All Welcome!

Saturday, 20 Jan from 1 to 3 pm



### RootsMagic Users Group - SIG

Users of Roots Magic will meet to discuss helpful hints for using the software.

Our next meeting will be hybrid live/online. Please bring your laptop for a hands-on work session.

**Wednesday, 24 Jan from 1 to 3 pm**



### Field Trip to the Oakland FamilySearch Center

Join Jane Lindsey for this free CGS-members-only guided field trip to the Oakland Family Search Center. Collaborate with other members.

**Wednesday, 31 Jan from 11 am to 2 pm**



### 2024 Intro to Genealogy - 1st Saturday Free!

#### Overview and Focused Topics

Not sure how to get started with your family research? Interested in refreshing your skills? Join us for a FREE Introduction to Genealogy class on the FIRST SATURDAY of every month.

**Saturday, 3 Feb from 10 am to noon**



### Eastern European Special Interest Group

Hosted by Craig Siulinski

Come to a Special Interest Group (SIG) discussion focused on Eastern European Genealogy. Our group is open to all.

**Saturday, 24 Feb at 10 am**



### DNA Skills - SIG

The DNA Skills Special Interest Group will continue to develop their understanding of DNA techniques, review new developments in DNA testing and tools, and discuss member's research problems and case studies.

*Prerequisite: Completion of CGS DNA Series or equivalent DNA class / experience. Must have uploaded DNA test results at one of the common DNA websites.*

Please contact Mark McLaren at [greatscot@earthlink.net](mailto:greatscot@earthlink.net).



## Save the Date!

**February 24th** – How to Leave Your Genealogy: Don't Let it Get Thrown Away, presented by Lisa Gorrell. Lisa recently presented this topic for the first time, as the Key Note Speaker for the Maine Genealogical Society Seminar. Mark your calendars for February 24th.

**March 30th** – Photo Organizing and Preservation: You Can Do This, presented by Thomas MacEntee. Is organizing your photos your New Year Resolution? Let Thomas help you. Mark your calendar for March 30th.

## Volunteers



If you have been thinking about contributing some of your time and talent to our 125-year-old organization, take a look at our list of **Volunteer Opportunities**.

Want more information about a particular volunteer position? Contact [Volunteers@californiaancestors.org](mailto:Volunteers@californiaancestors.org) if you have any questions about CGS volunteer opportunities.

**Remember** - CGS has been around since 1898 and is operated solely by volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

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## Calling all members! Something new is in the works!

Over the past several years, CGS has developed a great library and digital scanning committee where a group of people meet weekly to work together. They also get to know one another and have a fun time doing it.

In 2024, plans are to expand the Membership Committee and the Events committee. Plans are to make the committee positions to be manageable; provide opportunities to work together and have fun. Most committee meetings will be Zoomed. Many committee members will have jobs that are easily done at home with a manageable number of hours per month.

Here is a very brief outline of the Membership committee and the positions we hope to have:

- Chair or co-chairs
- Volunteer coordinator
- Life Member Liaisons
- New Member Processing
- New Member liaisons
- Member Connect coordinator
- Member recruitment events
- Member only field trips
- Local member coffees

If you can work from home or are interested in hearing about the fun things we have planned for a specific committee project, contact Jane Lindsey at [jlindsey@californiaancestors.org](mailto:jlindsey@californiaancestors.org).

All other members who would like to volunteer in a manageable position from home or in the library, please contact Jane Lindsey or Lora Youngman, Volunteer Coordinator, at

please contact Jane Lindsey or Larry Youngman, Volunteer Coordinator, at [lyoungman@californiaancestors.org](mailto:lyoungman@californiaancestors.org).

Or maybe you have an idea you would like to share!

Hope to hear from you! I will see you at the annual meeting next Saturday!

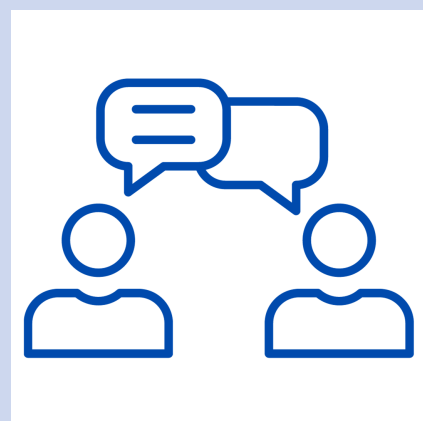
## Meetings & More

### CGS Annual Membership Meeting - 13 Jan at 10am

CGS members will meet online via Zoom and in-person at the CGS Library in Downtown Oakland. Please **register in advance** and sign in early to make sure you are able to see the program. We will send joining instructions the night before which will give you access to the online meeting.



In-person location: the CGS Library at 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, CA 94612-3031



### NorCal Group - Association of Professional Genealogists

The Northern California chapter of APG is back after a hiatus!

We are planning quarterly field trips, educational sessions during meetings, and more. A logo and a Facebook group are under construction. Quarterly virtual meetings are planned for the first Tuesday of February, May, August and November. All APG members in good standing are invited to participate. **You do not need to live in Northern California to participate in our group.** Interested parties should contact Linda Okazaki at [lindahokazaki@gmail.com](mailto:lindahokazaki@gmail.com).

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group, please contact [Jacqueline Henderson](#).

## Blogs and Videos

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 welcome your stories! If you have an idea for a blog post, a family history story you want to share, or would like to be an occasional or even regular guest contributor, please contact Blog Editor [Jennifer Dix](#).



From the  
California  
Genealogical  
Society

- [CGS Announcement: All Talks Now FREE](#)
- [Jane Lindsey honored for extraordinary service](#)
- [Call for Volunteers: The 10 Million Names Project](#)

# 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](http://Conference Keeper.org).

## Local Events

[Family History Library Webinar Series](#)

[Bay Area Genealogy Calendar](#)  
maintained by the Sutro Library

## National & International Conference Schedule

All events are subject to cancellation. Please check with each event's website prior to making plans to attend.

[Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh \(GRIP\)](#)

[Midwest African American Genealogy Institute \(MAAGI\)](#)

[Genealogical Institute on Federal Records \(Gen-Fed\)](#)

[The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research \(IGHR\)](#)

[IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#)

[Salt Lake Genealogical Institute \(SLIG\)](#)

[RootsTech](#)

[Ohio Genealogical Society Conference](#)

[National Genealogical Society](#)

## California Genealogical Society

2201 Broadway, Suite LL2  
Oakland, CA 94612-3031  
(510) 663-1358

Contact Us Via  
Email



Our library is open **Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm** and **Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm**

See **Directions and Parking** for info on Saturday visits, which have different procedures than weekdays.

Visits are free for members and non-members can pay the \$5 fee at time of the visit or join and have the fee applied to membership cost.

Join The  
Society

Renew Your Membership