



California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

September, Vol. 19, No. 9

CGS would like to welcome new members Sue Fernstrom, Kathleen Moore, Karen Olynger, Cheryl Casciani, and Jim Jacobs

Celebrating Family History Month October 1 – 31, 2025

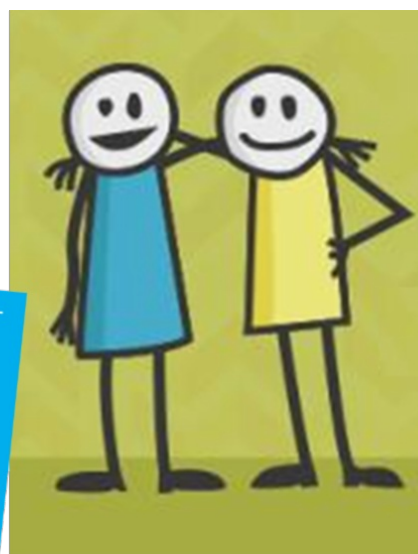
California Genealogical Society

Invite a Friend Program

Members will have an opportunity to treat a friend to a one-year complimentary membership with all the perks!

Free access to the CGS Library
Invitations to local members-only gatherings
Access to member-only website pages
Digital editions of The California Nugget and Jukebox Genealogy

Opportunity to attend member-only field and research trips (Boston 2026)
Ability to participate in Special Interest Groups
Discounts for CGS research services and Boston University genealogy courses



Send member and friend names and emails to freemembership@californiaancestors.org



CALIFORNIA HISTORY DAYS
Presented by Los Californianos and the California Genealogical Society

Friday and Saturday, Oct 24 and 25
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
California Genealogical Society Library
2201 Broadway, Oakland CA 94612

Free Open House, no registration, with multiple displays, videos, and speakers on early California history and its residents.

Two Case Histories: The Gonzales and Nii Families presented by Linda Okazaki, Saturday Oct 25 11:00 am – 1:30 pm with lunch break. Free Talk also available via Zoom with registration <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/two-case-studies-recreating-the-lives-of-our-immigrant-ancestors-registration-1549601091579>



More information at californiaancestors.org

Celebrate Family History Month at the California Genealogical Society Library

This October, the California Genealogical Society is excited to offer a variety of benefits, learning and social opportunities with the return of Family History Month to our library. Family History Month was established in October 2001 by the United States Senate to encourage families to research and celebrate their heritage. We're pleased to be part of a national acknowledgement of the value of genealogy.

<https://www.californiaancestors.org/family-history-month-2025/>

Benefits and Programs:

- Free access to our Library for non-members (waiver of \$5.00 fee) on all open days in October: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm. No registration needed.
- NEW! Free membership for a friend of a current member Oct. 1-31, 2025. Starting Oct. 1, members can send the name, address, email and phone number for themselves and the same information for a friend who has never belonged to CGS and obtain a year's membership for them. For more information, contact freemembership@californiaancestors.org

Consultation Fundraiser:

Private 50-minute in-person consultations by experienced volunteer consultants who will suggest strategies and resources to address general questions from beginners, those with California, Jewish, Japanese, and Irish ancestors, those from

Southern States and those seeking help with genealogy programs and more. \$35 for members of CGS and Los Californianos and \$50 for non-members. Saturdays in October, varying times and topics. Sign-ups for limited spaces start now at <https://signup.com/go/EKvCqzN>

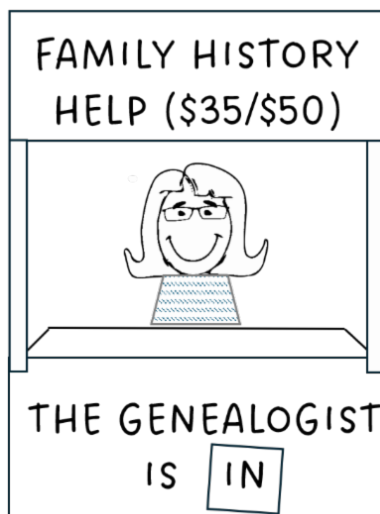
October 24-25 California History Days

Open House with docents and historic displays by Los Californianos, an organization founded to preserve the heritage of early Hispanic settlers in Alta California, on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24-25, 9 am - 4 pm. No registration required.

Case Studies on two immigrant families, the Gonzalez and Nii families who established new lives in San Francisco and Placer County, respectively. Zoom presentation and broadcast in our classroom, presented by Linda Okazaki on Saturday, Oct 25, 11-1:30 with lunch break from 12-12:30. Come to the library and bring a bag lunch (no registration) or register for online viewing through our Events page.

<https://www.californiaancestors.org/events-and-education/>

For more information contact kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org



Family History Month at the California Genealogical Society Library Consultation Fundraiser

Every Saturday: Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

50-minute one-on-one consultations with experienced genealogists who will answer beginner's questions and provide guidance for finding ancestors and for using genealogy software

\$35 for members of CGS and Los Californianos

\$50 for non-members

Spaces limited

Register at <https://signup.com/go/EKvCqzN>



2026 CGS Boston Research Trip

Sunday, February 1- 8, 2026

CGS returns to Boston for a week of research led by Matthew Blaine Berry, CG. The Charlesmark Hotel is 1 minute from the Boston Public Library, 6 minutes from American Ancestors, and 15 minutes from the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The trip, led by Matt Berry, includes:

- A seven-night stay at the Charlesmark Hotel
- Orientation and tour of the Massachusetts Historical Society
- Orientation and tour of American Ancestors
- Six days of uninterrupted research at your choice of top Boston research facilities
- Pre-trip meeting and consultation
- Research assistance by Matt Berry
- Daily continental breakfast (pastry and coffee)
- Two group dinners at local restaurants

Pricing:

\$1,399 single occupancy (airfare not included). The Charlesmark Hotel has double and queen rooms only.

Registration deadline: October 31, 2025.

Families around the World



Open House at the
Oakland **FamilySearch** Center



Saturday, September 6, 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM - FREE PARKING



Sunny Snow Shave Ice
available for Free!

- Take a free tour of the Oakland FamilySearch Center (children are welcome!)
- Sign up for a FREE FamilySearch account (help is available)
- Receive a coupon for a free color print of your Family Tree Fan Chart
- Enjoy classes, special interest groups, and one-on-one help

**Oakland
FamilySearch
Center**

4766 Lincoln Avenue
Oakland, California 94602
(510) 531-3905
fhcoakland@gmail.com

CGS and the Oakland FamilySearch Center (OFSC) have a history of partnering to grow the community of people interested in genealogy and family history in the Bay Area. To that end, the OFSC will be advertising our CGS Family History Month in October. We are advertising the OFSC Open House and "Getting Started" series in September.

Please come join us at the OFSC Open House on Sept. 6, see what the OFSC can do to help us in our research, talk with CGS members at our table and enjoy free parking and shave ice. The OFSC is also offering a series of classes in September to help get started with FamilySearch software. If you have wanted to

learn more about the resources and applications available for free from FamilySearch, September would be a great month to join their classes, either in person or via zoom.

Getting Started

Join us to learn how to get started with Genealogy and Family History.

Learn to gather your families information, organize that information, use software to help with research, printing fan charts, getting your family involved and more. Through classroom hands-on training we will help you become comfortable with **FamilySearch** software and how to let it help you find your family's history.



Three Sessions:

Session 1: Introduction to Genealogy and Family History Sign-up for a **FamilySearch** Account and begin using **FamilySearch**

Session 2: Learn and practice the fundamentals of using **FamilySearch**: family information, research, photos, stories, printing

Session 3: Learn and practice using the memories app with **FamilySearch**

1: 9/ 7 @ 2 pm, 9/10 @ 11 am
2: 9/14 @ 2 pm, 9/17 @ 11 am
3: 9/21 @ 2 pm, 9/24 @ 11 am

All three combined workshop
on Sept. 27 from 11 am- 3 pm

Find out about websites, training sites, and how you can grow your skills and get help

Check the OFSC Website "QR code" for the upcoming workshops.



Oakland FamilySearch Center

4766 Lincoln Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 531-3905
fhcoakland@gmail.com
FamilySearch.org





CGS members are getting together! Members can send a note to kflom@californiaancestors.org for RSVP information and location. Invitations are sent to the members in the region, but all members are welcome to attend events based on their schedules.

- Walnut Creek - September 25 (morning)
- Lamorinda - October 14 (morning)



Join us at the FamilySearch Center!

Tips & Talk is a cooperative effort between CGS and the Oakland FamilySearch Center which offers free genealogy education and a chance for us to get together in person. Class details are on the Oakland FamilySearch and CGS websites.

[Download the Tips & Talk schedule here](#)

Classes and SIGs

Calendar of events for the California Genealogical Society

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



Artificial Intelligence with FamilySearch for Discoveries and Breakthroughs

Presented by Kelvin Brewer of Oakland FamilySearch

Learn about full-text search, what it is, why and how to use it and the step-by-step process to access it on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org). Kelvin will cover how to refine your search for the best results and explain what you can do next, including attaching to your tree, creating a citation and copying, downloading and more.

Wednesday, 10 Sep. at 6:30 pm



FREE CLASS - Intro to Genealogy 2025

This month: Genealogy Basics Overview

Saturday, 6 Sep. from 10 am to noon (hybrid)



San Francisco (SIG)

If you are interested in joining the SF SIG, please send an email to SFSIG@californiaancestors.org.

Saturday, 20 Sep. at 10 am



CGS Members Report: DNA Surprises

DNA has become an exciting, if sometimes baffling, tool for genealogists. The results of matching may give us just the clue we need to break through a brick wall or introduce us to cousins we otherwise would never have known. Other times, we find something that leads to a whole new understanding and evaluation of our family history and ancestors. Hear three stories from CGS members illustrating these occasions.

Saturday, 13 Sep. from 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Family Tree Maker (SIG)



Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

Check out the FTM-SIG website, <http://ftm-sig.org> to find the topics for the upcoming meetings.

Saturday, 20 Sep. from 1 to 3 pm

**CGS
SIG
Online**



**Eastern European (SIG)
Hosted by Craig Siulinski**



Irish SIG -Using Irish Naming Conventions to Discover the Delany Family

Presented by Susan McKee

This case study shows how Irish naming convention can be used as a powerful tool to analyze and predict family names and aid in the search for family units in Irish records in the mid- to late 1800s.

Saturday, 27 Sep. at 6:30 pm

**CGS
Online**



RootsMagic Users Group (SIG)

Wednesday, 24 Sep. from 6:30 to 8 pm

**CGS
SIG
Online**



**DNA Skills (SIG)
Hosted by Mark McLaren**



Discover More: Leveraging FamilySearch's Cutting-Edge Tools

Presented by Denise Plaskett

Discover how new functionalities can clarify information in change logs and streamline the process of merging duplicate profiles, making your tree more accurate than ever.

Wednesday, 8 Oct. at 6:30 pm

Two Case Studies: Recreating the Lives of Our Immigrant



Ancestors

Presented by Linda Harms Okazaki

Linda Okazaki will present her extensive research and the resulting case histories for two immigrant families. Originating from different parts of the world, the Barrango's and the Gonzalez' journey ended in San Francisco.

Saturday, 25 Oct. at 11 am

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

Volunteers

Volunteers wanted for the CGS Board!

The coming year presents us with unique challenges and opportunities as we navigate the changing economic and technological environment for nonprofits. The **CGS Board** is a group of diverse, talented and dedicated volunteers. We are seeking two or three more people to join the team and help us shape and steer the society into the future.

If you are interested in lending your talents, or if you know someone else who might be, please contact Rudiger Wolf (VP and Nominating Committee Chair) at 925-699-7040 or at rwolf@californiaancestors.org

Your Help is Needed for a One-Day Program!!

CGS seeks volunteers to help residents of Albany learn about their roots for the **Path to Belonging** program. The program will take current and vintage photographs from residents and create a giant collage at the Albany Community Center. It will be a time capsule of who is living in Albany now, with stories of all the many places residents have come from. CGS has been asked to help residents find some of these photographs and historic documents.

On Sunday, September 21, at 2 p.m. CGS board member Grant Din will provide a brief overview of examples of what can be found from family and online and how some work can be done at home. Then for a couple of hours we hope to have many volunteer genealogists helping Albany residents learn about their family histories and search for documents and images about their ancestors.

The Portrait of Albany will be a collective community portrait, and people have already begun to come together to explore themes of home and belonging. It's a fascinating project and it's exciting that CGS will be a part of it. If you would like to volunteer or know of others,

Join Our Team of Dedicated Volunteers!

Looking for a way to meet more CGS members, give back to the society, and even boost your own genealogical research skills? We'd love to have you join our volunteer team! The CGS Volunteer Committee helps match members with manageable, meaningful opportunities—and it's one of the best ways to get to know fellow family history enthusiasts.



Our committee usually reaches out by phone to connect members with opportunities, but we'd love to hear from you directly! If you're interested in lending a hand in any way, let us know—we'll help you find a role that's both manageable and fun. Here are a few ways you can get involved right now:

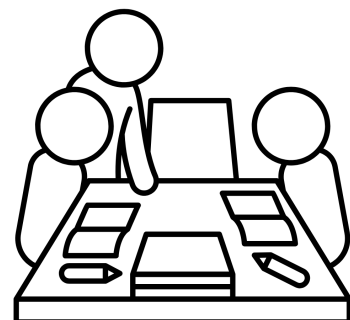
- **Marketing Committee:** Help spread the word about CGS and all the wonderful things we do. Creative ideas and team spirit welcome!
- **Fundraising Committee:** Support CGS's future by helping us plan a few lively fundraising events throughout the year. (We already have some fun ideas—now we just need a team!)
- **Website Assistance:** We're looking for volunteers to help keep our website fresh and up to date. Some tasks are technical, but many are easy to learn.
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Are you familiar with QuickBooks? Help our Treasurer, Cindy Thomson, this year—and maybe even consider stepping into the Treasurer role in 2026.
- **Membership Committee:** Help us stay connected with our members, especially our Life Members. We meet monthly on Zoom (and even have an annual in-person luncheon—always a good time!).

If you're interested or just want to learn more, reach out to us! There's a place for everyone, and we'd love to have you join the fun.

Meetings & More

CGS Board Meeting - 13 Sep. at 10 am

CGS board members and guests 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.



Blogs and Videos

From the California Genealogical Society

- [Why We Celebrate Labor Day](#)
- [California Migration Museum](#)
- [Library of Congress Research Guides](#)
- [Looking to the Future](#)
- [Squire Shelton](#)

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 us here](#).

California Genealogical Society

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

Contact Us Via Email



Our library is open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 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](#)