



California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

November, Vol. 19, No. 11

NOTICE: The CGS Library will be closed Thanksgiving weekend.



In October, CGS volunteers consulted with attendees at the Wakamatsu Colony pilgrimage organized by the Nichi Bei Foundation.

Left to right: Sue Logas, Ken and Cindy Brennan, Grant Din, Linda Harms Okazaki, Melinda Yamane

CGS would like to welcome new members Gail Burris, Anne Borg, Katlyn Batuigas, Claire Johnson, Monique Davis, Yem Ling Fong, Andy Nold, and Sheila Marko



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 trip includes:

- A seven-night stay at the Charlesmark Hotel
- Orientation and tour of the Massachusetts Historical Society and American Ancestors
- Six days of uninterrupted research at your choice of top Boston research facilities
- Two group dinners and daily continental breakfast

>>> Join CGS for an info session and virtual meetup on November 5th. <<<

Pricing:

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

Registration deadline: November 21, 2025.



CGS members are getting together! 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.

Each session is limited in number. Use the appropriate link below to register for the gathering you want to attend. Additional location details will be provided two days before the gathering.

Oakland Family Search Center

- Thursday, November 13, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- [Oakland RSVP](#)

Walnut Creek Library

- Thursday, November 20, 10:30 to 12 p.m.
- [Walnut Creek RSVP](#)

Danville Member's Home

- Thursday, December 4, 10:30 to 12 p.m.
- [Danville RSVP](#)

Lafayette Member's Home

- Monday, January 12, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- [Lamorinda RSVP](#)



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.](#)

Info Session and Virtual Meetup for the 2026 CGS Boston Research Trip

Presented by Trip Leader Matt Berry

Come and learn how the Research Trip to Boston will benefit you. Also, get the chance to ask the organizers any questions you



have and connect with others who may be interested in going.

Wednesday, 5 Nov. at 6:30 pm



FREE CLASS - Intro to Genealogy 2025

This month: Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, and Death)

Saturday, 1 Nov. 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, 15 Nov. at 10 am



CGS Members: Projects that Took On a Life of Their Own

Presented by Cindy Thomson

CGS Member Cindy Thomson shares a fascinating Hawaiian history

Saturday, 8 Nov. at 1-2:30 pm



Eastern European (SIG)

Hosted by Craig Siulinski

Saturday, 22 Nov. from 10 am to 12 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.



RootsMagic Users Group (SIG)



DNA Skills (SIG)

Hosted by Mark McLaren

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

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!)

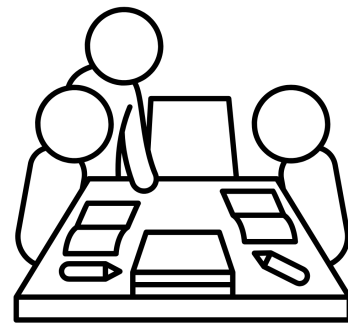
- **Website Assistance:** We're looking for volunteers to help keep our website fresh and up to date. Some tasks are technical, but many are easy to learn.
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Are you familiar with QuickBooks? Help our Treasurer, Cindy Thomson, this year—and maybe even consider stepping into the 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 - 9 Nov. 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.



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

Blogs and Videos

From the California Genealogical Society

- [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

[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](#)

California Genealogical Society | 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2 | Oakland, CA 94612 US

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