



California Genealogical Society
CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

February 2026, Vol. 20, No. 2

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REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The slate of Board candidates including new member Pat Smith was approved by the membership. The 2026 Budget was approved and the Board announced the following officers:

President: Roger Prince

Vice President: Rudy Wolf

Treasurer: Cindy Thomson

Recording Secretary: Evan Wilson

Corresponding Secretary: Adelle Treakle

The 2025 Annual Report was presented and will be posted with past issues [here](#). See edited breaking news from the 2025 Report below.

Moving Forward Committee Update

The Moving Forward Committee (formerly the Focus 2026 Committee) was formed in May 2025 to identify a new home for CGS as our lease in the Breuner Building approached its end.

In October, the committee partnered with commercial realtor Erik Sorenson to explore potential spaces in Berkeley. After touring several properties, the committee submitted a lease proposal for a particularly promising location.

By November, negotiations were underway for **1841 Berkeley Way**, a ground-floor space that offers both

RootsTech and other
Outside Events

Volunteer
Opportunities

- Outreach Event in
Albany

Your CGS emails
Explained

**Above: Chinese New
Year begins Tuesday,
February 17, marking the
start of the Year of the
Horse.**

flexibility and room to grow. The property offers several appealing features: proximity to public transit, a small number of dedicated parking spots plus ample street parking, a neighborhood perceived as safe, abundant natural light, and even a private outdoor area suitable for events.

When agreements are confirmed, the committee will begin to implement plans based on close collaboration with the Library, Technology, Manuscripts, Vertical Files, DAC, and other teams. Developing a clear and coordinated moving plan from the Breuner Building to the new site will be an essential next step.



Website Modernization Update

The Board approved a major website modernization effort in Fall of 2025 to help us communicate more effectively, improve access to our digital collections, and better serve the CGS community.

Since then, the Website Committee has interviewed six design agencies, reviewed proposals, and selected a design partner. The agency is now assessing our needs and technical infrastructure, with a full report and recommended plan expected by the end of January.

A major goal is to simplify “behind-the-scenes” work for volunteers—membership lists, event management, communications, and more—so they can focus on helping members and researchers.

As this project moves forward, we will invite volunteers and members to participate. Your input will help shape a website that is easier to use, more powerful for research, and a welcoming destination for anyone interested in genealogy.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact [Rudiger Wolf](#).

But She's Not There

In the next issue of the *Jukebox Genealogy* newsletter for CGS members, we will be sharing stories about our hard-to-find female ancestors. Maybe you finally found that elusive woman. Perhaps you are still hitting a brick wall in your search for her. It's a story worth sharing!

Tell us all about it by emailing

Jukeboxgenealogy@CaliforniaAncestors.org.

We will publish your tales and photos in the March edition of the newsletter. Submissions should be no longer than 300 words, and may be edited for length and clarity. Look for **past issues** of *Jukebox Genealogy* on the CGS website!



CGS would like to welcome two new members this month:

Gwen Becker and Daniel Burnett

Upcoming Member Gatherings

CGS members are getting together! Invitations are sent to the members who live in a region, but members are welcome to attend any gathering that works for their schedules. However, spaces are limited. Reserve a spot below. For RSVP information and location, send a note to kflom@californiaancestors.org



Oakland Family Search Center

- Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- [Oakland RSVP](#)

Sacramento

- Wednesday, March 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- [Sacramento RSVP](#)

Oakland Family Search Center

- Thursday, March 12, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- [Oakland RSVP](#)

Walnut Creek Library

- Thursday, March 26, 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m
- [Walnut Creek RSVP](#)

Lamorinda

- Monday, April 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- [Lamorinda RSVP](#)

Member Focus

Happy Valentine's Day from Kathleen!

You may know CGS Member **Kathleen Beitiks** as the former Volunteer Chair and Nominations Committee Member. Born an O'Donnell, she belongs to the Irish SIG and has found her Texan immigrants' origins in Dungloe, County Donegal. She is also a fourth generation Californian, a former newspaper reporter and the author of *Westwood Park: Building a Bungalow Neighborhood in San Francisco*. She remains a committed neighborhood volunteer and busy grandmother. On top of that, she has an extensive set of vintage postcards. Last month's New Year's greeting was from her collection. Below is one from 1919 sent to her grandmother Zillah Forbes of San Luis Obispo, California and shared with us with her best wishes. Thanks, Kathleen! Our members are so talented and multi-faceted. Want to share your interests, photos, art, collections and more about yourself? Send an email to [the eNews](#).



Education Calendar

NEXT LEVEL CLASSES

NEW EVENT ACCESS FOR MEMBERS IN 2026

Members no longer need to register for most events. Members will get all the information for classes by logging into the CGS website. All classes are free for members. Non-members must register on EventBrite and pay a \$5 fee.

- Members should first [log into the CGS website](#), then go to the [Events & Education](#) page and find the class you want to attend.
- The Zoom link, link to handouts, and survey will be directly beneath the title of the class. Put the link in your personal calendar and log in on the day of the event.
- If members would like a reminder email, register. Click on the title on the Event & Education page which will take you to EventBrite, and then click on "Reserve a Spot". There is no fee for members.
- You do not need to enter code, just click on Plus for number attending.
- Please note: speakers may not upload handouts until the evening before the event so check back on the Events and Education page on the day of event if not there before.

Questions? Contact [Events](#)

FINDING LIVING FAMILY MEMBERS



[Finding Living Family Members to Advance Your Genealogical Research](#)

With Jane Lindsey

Learn ways to find and contact close or distant living family members, who may provide stories, photographs or even answers to questions that will enhance your research.

Wednesday, Feb. 18
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Zoom (free to members, \$5 for non-members) and in-person (free to all) at Oakland Family Search Library.

Starting this Month: Three Part Series to Shape Up Your Tree

Doing some closet cleaning? Ready to clear out the old? This series fits that mindset perfectly. It will help you review, validate, and tidy up your tree entries so you can move forward with confidence. **All sessions will be recorded.**



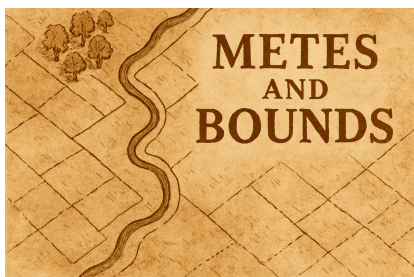
[Precision Research: Finding Your Ancestors in the Right Context](#)

Three Part Series Presented by Pam Brett

Unlock the power of focused research by learning how to pinpoint the intersection of **person, place, and time**. This hands-on series will level up your research game.

Saturdays, February 28, March 7 and March 14
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

And in March, more from Lisa Gorrell, CG, on understanding early land records



[Land Records in Former Colonial States: What is Metes & Bounds](#)

Wednesday, March 18
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Zoom (free to members, \$5 for non-members) and in-person (free to all) at Oakland Family Search Library.

Ongoing Intro Series & Member Special Interest Groups



Free Intro to Genealogy

This month: *Using the Census*

[Register here](#)

Saturday, Feb 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.



San Francisco SIG

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

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Family Tree Maker (SIG)

Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

NEW DAY, TIME, and PLACE THIS MONTH

FRIDAY, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m.

**In-person only at the Oakland FamilySearch Center
Speakers Mark Olsen and Duff Wilson from MacKiev**

[REGISTER here for this event and more info](#)

For much more information please visit the FTM-SIG website, <http://ftm-sig.org>

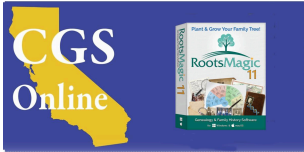


DNA Skills (SIG)

Hosted by Mark McLaren

If you are interested in joining the DNA Skills SIG, please send an email to [Mark McLaren](mailto:Mark.McLaren).

Monday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



RootsMagic Users Group (SIG)

Hosted by Keith Montgomery

[Register here.](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

In-person and Zoom Classes at the Oakland FamilySearch Center

CGS and Oakland FamilySearch Center volunteers collaborate to host free, fun, informal discussions on a variety of topics. Open to all. See the OFS Google [website calendar](#) for a schedule of all their classes and events. February events are also shown below

Tips & Talk

February 2026 Schedule

Come join us at the Oakland FamilySearch Center for our free educational sessions

4	FEB, WED	● 10:30 – 10:45am ● 1 – 2pm	*15 Min Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy - Oakland German Genealogy SIG - Robert Jackson (Oakland, In Person)
10	FEB, TUE	● 11am – 12pm	Hawaii Research Group - Cindy Thomson (Oakland, In Person)
11	FEB, WED	● 10:30 – 10:45am	*15 Min Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy - Oakland
18	FEB, WED	● 10:30 – 10:45am ● 1 – 2pm ● 1 – 2pm ● 6:30 – 8pm	*15 Min Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy - Oakland Danish SIG - Jared Weaver (Oakland, In Person) Norwegian / Swedish SIG - Esta Weaver (Oakland, In Person) CGS: Finding Living People - Jane Lindsey (Oakland)
20	FEB, FRI	● 10:30am – 4pm	CGS: FTM SIG w/ Mark Olsen (Oakland In Person Only)
25	FEB, WED	● 10:30 – 10:45am ● 6:30 – 8pm	*15 Min Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy - Oakland African American Workshop (Electra Kimble Price)

All classes are free and NO registration is required

Classes will be facilitated by volunteers from the Oakland FamilySearch Center & California Genealogical Society



Oakland FamilySearch Center
4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA
510-531-3905
fhcoakland@gmail.com

California Genealogical Society
2201 Broadway LL, Oakland, CA



Roots Tech and Other Outside Learning Opportunities

RootsTech 2026: March 5-7

Billed as the world's largest family history event and hosted by FamilySearch, RootsTech features keynote speakers, hundreds of online and in-person genealogy classes (free online), a virtual Expo Hall, and daily forums, covering everything from DNA to ethnic research. The theme for 2026 is **Together**.

Registration is open. Visit RootsTech.org to register and build your schedule.

NGS 2026 Family History Conference "America at 250" (May 27-30)

Grand Wayne Convention Center In Fort Wayne, Indiana and virtually.

[Registration discount](#) ends in February.

GRIP Registration Opens February 3

The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh will be holding nine virtual courses in June, and eight in-person courses in July, with the new addition of two special courses in the fall. <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Genealogy Society of Vallejo and Benicia: "Using Artificial Intelligence" by John Watson

Thursday, Feb 5, 1:30 p.m.,

In-person only. Free.

Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734

Marin St., Vallejo

More information at www.gsvb.org



Looking for a particular topic? Search sites below for listings.

Bay Area Genealogy Calendar



A list of genealogy, family history, and local history events in the San Francisco Bay Area posted every month, hosted by the Sutro Library. The [calendar](#) covers in-person and virtual events from the following counties: Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and of course, San Francisco.



ConferenceKeeper.org is the most complete [genealogy calendar of events](#) anywhere! You will find thousands of genealogy webinars, seminars, conferences, workshops, podcasts and more, from genealogy societies, libraries, and other organizations all around the world. Sign up for a weekly email update.

Volunteer Opportunities

Special Outreach Event: Help New Genealogists at the Albany Public Library

CGS volunteers will return to Albany again on **Wednesday, February 18 from 6-8 p.m.** to help residents learn about their family history in free mini-consultations at the Albany Public Library as part of the [Journeys to Albany: Path to Belonging](#) project.

There will be a brief intro to the resources of the library from 6-6:30 by CGS member Grant Din and then for 90 minutes our volunteers will work one on one with individuals and their families for about 15 minutes each to help

answer questions and get them started in their own research. We gave this workshop last September and had a great response.

We are seeking volunteers - please email Grant at gdin@californiaancestors.org if you'd like to help.

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! Above right, just some of the



volunteers enjoying the Volunteer Open House and Brunch hosted by **Jane Lindsey** on January 4. See [current opportunities here](#)

CGS Emails Explained



The California Genealogical Society sends regular emails to members and subscribers. Here's a quick guide to what you may see from **California Ancestors**, listed by mailing frequency. See how to subscribe if you're not receiving something you want, unsubscribe and read items on our website.

CGS Blog

Frequency: Weekly

Content: Informal genealogy musings and topics, research strategies, stories, and curated websites

Editor: Debbie Mascot

Subscribe: enter your email on the [blog page](#)

Unsubscribe: Via the link in your email

Click here to [Read online](#)

eNews

Frequency: Monthly, sent on the 1st

Content: Society news, Board updates, upcoming classes, and member gatherings

Editor: Maureen Hanlon

Subscribe: Automatically included with membership;

Unsubscribe: Click Unsubscribe at the bottom of any issue.

NOTE: Unsubscribing from the eNews will also unsubscribe you from *Jukebox Genealogy*

Click here to [Read online](#)

Jukebox Genealogy

Frequency: Every other month on the 15th

Audience: CGS members only

Content: A fun, interactive newsletter featuring member stories, surveys, serendipities, and genealogical “aha!” moments. Each issue includes a song tied to a genealogy theme and invites members to share their own stories. Past themes have included meeting new relatives, family letters, and DNA discoveries.

Editor: Nancy Cork

Subscribe: Automatically included with membership

NOTE: Unsubscribing from *Jukebox Genealogy* will also unsubscribe you from the eNews

Click here to [Read online](#) (member login required)

The Nugget

Frequency: Twice a year (Fall 2025 available)

Content: The society’s research journal

Format:

- Digital version emailed to members/subscribers who request it
- Print version mailed via USPS

Editor: Jennifer Dix

Subscribe: Automatically included with membership

Click here to [Read online](#) (member login required)

Messages from the President

Frequency: As needed

Content: Important announcements, time-sensitive updates, and invitations to member and volunteer events

Audience: CGS members

California Genealogical Society

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

Contact Us



Our library is open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

See [Directions and Parking](#) for info on Saturday visits, which have different procedures than weekdays.

Visits are free for all on First Saturdays and always free for members. 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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