



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXX No. 1 June - 2024

June Presentation

Tuesday June 18, 2024 at 10 am

A NEW STRATEGY: Organize to Break Through

Research Barriers (VIA ZOOM)

BY KIM RICHARDSON



Discover how to use simple items like index cards and sticky notes to organize and overcome the confusion caused by “too much” information swirling around in your mind. Interact with research in a new way and engage in activities that transform you into a problem-solving dynamo.

Kim Richardson accidentally became a genealogist when her grandmother and grandaunt asked for help researching a few ancestors. She loved learning about those ancestors and has been researching nearly daily since that time, including professionally. Kim's favorite genealogy activity is empowering others to

break through barriers to achieve their genealogy goals. She discovered why complex genealogy problems feel overwhelming and created a tool called Brick Wall Buster Cards to conquer confusion and solve tough problems.

Kim graduated from Mississippi State University. She retired from service to the State of Mississippi after 25 years as an advocate for victims of violent crime and working in highway traffic safety programs. She continues to work in a professional capacity conducting genealogy research and teaching others that they can solve genealogical brick wall problems. She has researched for *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *Finding Your Roots*. She also wrote the “Mississippi Research Guide” for *Family Tree Magazine* and regularly writes for various genealogy society magazines. ■

A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out to all members a few days prior to the meeting. If you have any friends or family that would like to attend, have them contact Steve at president@srvgensoc.org prior to the meeting for the link. If you have any Zoom questions or issues, please contact Steve Watty at 925-766-6706 or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.

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President's Message

By Steve Watty



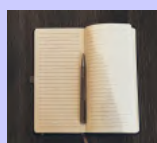
Thank you for your support during the last six years as I served in your SRVGS President position. These years were challenging to say the least. The society traversed the Covid Pandemic without interruption when we converted quickly from in-person meetings to the Zoom platform. Missing was the in-person social interaction but we met online and our programs group continued providing seasoned genealogy speakers in a safe environment. Zoom helped us maintain our local membership base and even grow with membership now living throughout the world.

With the combined efforts of our board and technical staff the society converted and upgraded our website to a first-class communication tool. The monthly society newsletter is always professionally published and even envied by other societies.

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continued and evolved thanks to the excellent SIG leadership. These groups meet now either in-person or on Zoom providing common research interaction and learning opportunities.

Society revenue and expenses were within budget parameters maintaining our established goals. Our dues categories were simplified but the rates have been maintained for years on the lower tier when compared to other genealogical societies. Most expenses have increased over the past few years, offset by donation revenue, without the need to increase membership dues.

When I turn over the President responsibility to Scott Hefner in June, I know that the society will be in good hands. He will have a supportive and knowledgeable board and committee group backing him. Again, thanks to all our membership for the opportunity to serve you, it has been extremely rewarding. ■



Board of Directors Election Results

By Karen LaDuca

At the May 21st general meeting elections were held for Officers for the next two year term, June 2024 - May 2026. The slate presented was unanimously approved by the 46 members in attendance.

President - Scott Hefner
1st VP - Steve Watty
2nd VP - Karen Olynger
3rd VP - Juie Basel
Recording Secretary - Karen LaDuca
Corresponding Secretary - Barbara Shapas
Treasurer - Jill Zollinger

Many thanks from the members in attendance to Susan Hanck, Hospitality Chair, and Karen Olynger for decorating the beautiful lunch area at the this meeting and for providing and serving the delicious luncheon. And thanks to all those who helped Susan and Karen with set up and clean-up. It was so nice to be able to meet in person and have some social time. ■

Membership Dues Increase

Effective June 30, 2024 the membership dues for SRVGS will increase by \$10 a year for both the individual and family memberships. The new dues structure will be \$30 for an individual and \$35 for family memberships.

The operational costs associated with running our organization have increased during the past few years, including professional speaker fees, and website maintenance. We understand that any increase in dues can be a concern, and we want to assure you that this decision was made after careful consideration and analysis. Our goal is to maintain the quality and sustainability of our organization while continuing to offer valuable benefits to our members.

Thank you for being a valued member of SRVGS. We look forward to continuing to serve you and enhancing your membership experience. ■



Join the New Italian Research SIG

Are you interested in doing research in Italy for yourself, a family member or friend? Join our Italian Research SIG and learn what records are available online and where to access them, along with strategies for finding that all important town of origin and how to decipher the Italian records. We have 3 members so far but we need you! Meeting type (Zoom or in-person) and date TBD once we have a large enough group to get started. Contact SIG leader Karen LaDuca at kblquilt@comcast.net or SIG coordinator Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com to join.

Danville Family Search Center
2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo
Phone: (925)552-5920

Family Search Center Changes

Kevin Ganschow, gans5@sbcglobal.net, has been appointed the new Director of our Danville FSC, replacing interim Director Rudy Wolf who has been transferred to the Oakland FSC. Current hours are below but look for changes soon. Appointments are not needed.

~~Monday 10-1~~
~~Tuesday 2-5~~
~~Wednesday 1-5~~

The FamilySearch Center will be temporarily closed until the roof leaks are repaired and the drips on the computers are eliminated! We'll let you know when.■

New Honorary Life Members

At the May general meeting certificates were presented to two new Honorary Life Members:

Bill George

Bill joined SRVGS in 2009 and has been our SIG coordinator since 2011. He is the leader of the FamilySearch SIG which he started in 2013. He has been co-webmaster since 2020 and has given assistance to the Society in the areas of Tech and Media. He has assisted in providing Zoom presentations and has put a great deal of effort into setting up our digital archives.

Steve Watty

Steve joined SRVGS in 2014 and took on the job of Treasurer from 2015-2017. He was elected 1st VP in 2017 and since 2018 has served an impressive 6 years (3 terms) as President.

Calling for RootsTech Reviews...

RootsTech is over but it's not over. The in-person component happened in Salt Lake City at the end of Feb/beginning of March, however many of the presentations are available on-line in case you were unable to attend in person.

Were you able to attend or listen to any of the sessions? Do you have any comments on any of the sessions that you were able to view? We'd like to publish any comments you have, a one liner or a paragraph or two, positive or negative.



rootstech

There are sessions available for viewing even from past years so if you have any comments, let's put 'em here in our newsletter for everyone to take advantage of ..."fabulous, don't miss it" or "forget it...a waste of time" with details of the session itself. <https://www.familysearch/rootstech/> Reply to your newsletter email or send your comments to me, your newsletter editor at Barbara.thurston@sbcglobal.net ■



Like us on
Facebook

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****June 2024**

- 18 Tuesday-10am, The June General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Kim Richardson will present **A New Strategy for Brick Walls**.
- 25 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

July 2024

- 16 Tuesday-10am, the July General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Steve Little will present **AI-Assisted Genealogy via Zoom Link**.
- 23 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

August 2024 No meetings or events

September 2024

- 17 Tuesday-10am, the September General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Lisa Vogel will present **Travel Our Tree: Walking in Your Ancestors' Steps**.
- 24 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

October 2024

- 15 Tuesday-10am, the October General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Our own Gay Scott will present **The Witchcraft Crisis of 1692**.
- 22 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

November 2024

- 19 Tuesday-10am, the November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Bob LaPerriere, M.D will present **Women's Issues on the Overland Trail**.
- 26 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

December 2024 No meetings or events. ■

Notes on May Mini-Ed

"DNA Testing Company Updates and Autosomal Match Strategies" presented by Mark McLaren

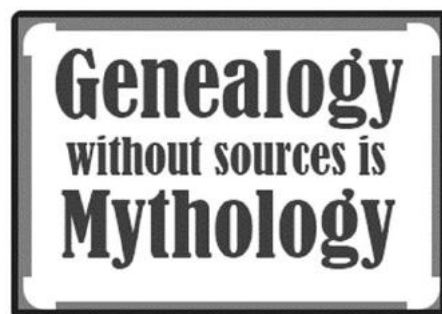
by Karen LaDuca

Many thanks to SRVGS member and DNA SIG leader Mark McLaren for his excellent presentation at the May general meeting. The recording of the entire meeting is available in the Members Only section of the SRVGS website thanks to Bill George. Bill also included video time stamps to make it easy to find the portion of the meeting that you want to see.

Mark has shared the slide deck from his presentation as well for our membership. These will be available only until the June general meeting.

Mark's talk was focused on autosomal DNA tests. He listed many strategies for using your DNA results and figuring out how your matches are related to you. An important one is to focus on those with large shared SEGMENTS, not just those with large total shared cMs because if your total shared cM is less than 10, it could be false. He also had a slide giving some "Sleuthing" tips which should be very helpful. Mark explained how he utilizes the "dot" system for family lines available at Ancestry and My Heritage. He goes back to 2nd great grandparents and assigns a different color dot for each one. Also included in the slides is a copy of a relationship chart from the Shared cM Project (used with permission) that should help in determining your likely relationship to your matches.

The second part of Mark's talk focused on the 4 major DNA testing companies: Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, 23 & Me and MyHeritage. He gave an overview of each company's ownership status and current business model changes, followed by a thorough overview of each of the 4 companies. This should help in determining which company to test with and where you want to build a tree. ■



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE*By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator*

In June, 2024 we will have "normal", meetings on-line, except for the in-person German SIG at the Danville FamilySearch Center from 1pm - 2:45pm. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting.



FamilySearch - Monday, June 10th, (the 2nd Monday) from **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm in a Zoom Meeting**.

Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com



Irish/Scottish Research, Wednesday, June 12th, (the 2nd Wednesday) **10:00 am - 12:00 pm in a Zoom meeting**. They share information from the internet, journals, DNA and books. Patty Erickson has retired as SIG Leader after leading it for some 29 years. Patty is a Charter Member of our society, which began in 1985.

Leslie Stewart volunteered and is leading the group starting with last month's meeting. You may contact Leslie at lwvleslie@gmail.com.



DNA, Monday, June 17th, (the 3rd Monday) **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm in a Zoom meeting**. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only

open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. You may contact SIG Leader **Mark McLaren** at greatscot@earthlink.net.



Publishing, Thursday, June 20th, (the 3rd Thursday) **10:30 am - 12:00 pm in a Google Meet meeting**. Contact Kathy Javdani at kjjsc@aol.com for info on how

to join the meeting. Share information and ideas on how to publish and preserve your research. **Francie Lloyd**, is the SIG Leader and can be reached at frances_lloyd@comcast.net ►



German Research, Wednesday, June 26th, (the 4th Wednesday) **1 - 2:45 pm**, at the **Danville FamilySearch Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd, Alamo**. This is an **in-person meeting only (No Zoom)**. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG Leader **Karen LaDuca** at kblquilts@comcast.net) ■

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: **Scott Hefner**
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
Steve Watty

2nd V.P. Programs:
Karen Olynger
Wayne Mortensen
Barbara Thurston
Karen LaDuca
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Julie Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: **Jill Zollinger**

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
secretary@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
Karen LaDuca

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: **Barbara Thurston**

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George

Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: **Bill George**
webmaster@srvgensoc.org



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Summer is almost here! June is the perfect time to prep and learn more for you family history projects.

☞ The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is open from 10-2 Thursday and Friday and 10-4 on Saturday. Note that Saturday visits have different procedures than weekdays. Refer to the society's website to register for the following activities. Note any fees. Also, visit the website for access to available recordings and videos.

- Sat., Jun 1 from 10-12 the Introduction to Genealogy Group will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.
- On Sat., June 8 from 1-3, as part of the California History and Genealogy Workshop Series, there will be a hybrid meeting with a discussion of **A Californio Family in Transition – the Moraga Family**.
- On Wed., Jun 12 from 6:30-8 Lisa Gorrell and Jacqueline Henderson will host the **CGS Members Roundtable** – an online group discussion session.
- On Jun 15 from 10-12 Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG via Zoom**.
- Also, on Jun 15 from 1-3 Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will lead a hybrid meeting of the **Family Tree Maker SIG**. Fee for non-members. Register through the FTM-SIG website or contact Ron Madson (650) 576-4495 or Karen Halfon (415) 922-2255
- On Fri., Jun 21 from 10:30-11:30 Robert Trapp will guide the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** in person at the CGS library.
- On Sat., June 22 from 1-3 Maureen Hanlon and Keith Montgomery will host the quarterly meeting of the **Irish Ancestry SIG**.
- On Mon., Jun 24 from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details. ►

- On Wed., Jun 26 from 6:30-8 the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet online.
- On Sat., Jun 29 from 11-12:30 Stewart Traiman will present an overview of **LGBTQ Genealogy**.
- On Sat., July 6 from 10-12 the Introduction to Genealogy Group will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Vital Records**.

☞ To contact The Oakland Family Search Library, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library/Classes_and_Workshops for an appointment, to register for classes and/or workshops, check the website, email fhcoakland@gmail.com for an appointment or call 510-531-3905.

The website has links to online classes at the other Family Search Regional Libraries and BYU as well as RootsTech classes.

In addition, the Family Search Library in Salt Lake City presents a number of webinars each month.

- In June CGS and OFSC volunteers host **Tips & Talk**. These are hybrid discussions at the Oakland FamilySearch Center held at 11 and 6:30 on various dates. Go to the OFSC website for more information on specific topics and to register for a session.
- Jane Lindsey will provide **French Canadian Assistance**. Appt. only.
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish Research**. No appt. required.
- On Wed., Jun 26 from 6-8 the **African American Research Workshop** meeting will be held on Zoom. ►

☞ The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinars/index.html offers a variety of webinars. Register online in advance.

- On Sat., Jun 1 from 10-11 Sheila Benedict will present **Comparison Case Studies in Forensic and Family Research**.
- On Wed., Jun 19 from 6-7 Edward J. Swierczewski Jr. will share **Why We Love Genealogy – and Sometimes Not!**.

☞ The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.americanancestors.org/events has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. It contains subject guides on a variety of genealogical topics, informative videos, webinars, online courses, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education. Register for its webinars on the society's website.

- On Thu., Jun 6 from 12-1 Danielle Rose will explore **Paths to Freedom: Tracing Enslaved Ancestors to Emancipation**.
- On Tue., June 11 at 3 Joseph McGill Jr. and Herb Fraizer will share **Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery**.
- On Fri., Jun 21 from 1-2:30 Curt DiCamillo will examine From **Plinth to Pen How the English Country House Inspired the Writings of Jane Austen**. \$15
- On Sat. Jun 22 from 11-12:30 David Lambert and Melanie McComb will present **Civil War Research: Tracing Union & Confederate Ancestors**. \$125.
- On Mon., Jun 24th from 3-4 Matthew Davenport will discuss his book, **The Longest Minute: The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906**.
- On Tue., Jul 9 Curt DeCamillo will preview the first volume(A-H) of his new book series, **A British Country House Alphabet: A Historical & Pictorial Journey**. ►

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted on the NEHGS website the following day. Many courses with fees are available on demand following their initial presentation.

☞ The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center offers many webinars. Go to <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> to see the current list and to register online. Also, explore the Genealogy Center Videos at <https://acpl.lib.in.us/explore-genealogy/our-services>. Recorded Genealogy Center programs can be found on the Genealogy Center section of the library's YouTube channel.

- On Tue., Jun 4 from 11:30-12:30 Wendi Goen and Yahm Levin will offer **Arizona Genealogy 101**.
- On Thu., Jun 13 from 3:30-4:30 Rusty Heckaman will share **Bluegrass Roots: Genealogical Records of the Kentucky State Archives**.

☞ Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to <https://familytreewebinars.com> to register.

- On Tue., Jun 4 at 7 Fiona Brooker will supply **Four Further Sources for New Zealand Family History**.
- On Wed., June 5 at 11 Dave Obee will discuss **Bridging the Gaps: Using DNA to Get Results in Eastern Europe**.
- On Fri., Jun 7 at 11 Thomas MacEntee will present **Hiding Out in the Open: Discovering LGBT Family History**.
- On Tue., Jun 11 at 11 Geoff Rasmussen will explore **Learn Genealogy 24/7 with Legacy Family Tree Webinars**.
- On Wed., Jun 12 at 5 Katy Bodenhorn Barnes will discuss **Puerto Rican Research**.
 - On Tue., Jun 18 at 5 Thomas Jones will examine **Editing Your Own Writing – Part 2**.
- On Wed., Jun 19 at 11 Sharon Gillins will present **Juneteenth-How Emancipation Came to Texas and How We Celebrate**.
- On Tue., Jun 25 at 11 Lianne Kruger will share **Finding Your Canadian Ancestors on MyHeritage**. ►

- On Wed., Jun 26 at 11 Gail Miller will offer **Kentucky and Virginia Tax Lists – 5 ½ Strategies and Identifying That Elusive Early Southerner.**
- On Fri., Jun 28 at 11 Elizabeth Shown Mills will answer **How to Find the Truth About a Family Story.**
- On Tue., Jul 2 at 7 Elizabeth O’Neal will share **10 Unexpected Places to Find Ancestor Photos Online.**

 The State Historical Society of Missouri has produced nearly 100 On-Demand programs through its virtual program series and past recorded events. Freely available through the Society's website, <https://shsmo.org>, on demand topics include genealogy, art, scholarship, signature lecture series, and more.

 Here are some other webinars, blogs, and podcasts that are available.

- Auntie Jen’s Family Trees, <https://Auntiejenstrees.blogspot.com/p/1950-census.html>
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <https://extremegenes.com/blog>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast www.genealogyguys.com
- Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems <https://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts>
- The Genealogy Squad <https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogysquad/>
- Lisa also has a genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled [Elevenes](#).
- Thomas MacEntee’s www.genealogybargains.com
- Judy Russell’s www.legalgenealogist.com
- Family History Fanatics www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/blog
- Connie Knox <https://genealogytv.org>

And there’s more....

The following are sites with large amounts of valuable information:

- The National Archives-www.archives.gov/research/genealogy offers a genealogy tutorial, genealogy research topics and a variety of charts and forms.
- The DAR Library – www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy offers help on the variety of genealogical topics. Also see the upcoming events schedule at www.dar.org/libraryevents.
- The Sutro Library hosts the Bay Area Genealogy Calendar, www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar. The calendar provides information about events throughout the Bay Area.
- Conference Keeper, <https://ConferenceKeeper.org>, lists conferences, events, calls for papers, contests, grants, volunteer opportunities, tours and more. To sign up to receive *Tami at Conference Keeper* which lists events that have been recently added, go to mail@sendfoxmail.com.
- The Sacramento Public Library Genealogy Program has a YouTube channel. Visit its playlist at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrW1_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R ■

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Let’s all extend a Warm Welcome to our newest member,

Jeff Walsh

Upcoming Special Events

- On Sat., June 8th from 9-4:30 David Lambert and Melanic McComb will present **Tracing Your Westward-Bound Ancestors** with five lectures, breakfast and lunch at Preservation Park in Oakland. Visit www.AmericanAncestors.org/California or contact Kathleen Mackenzie at 617-226-1226. \$150.
- From June 23-28 the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburg (GRIP), <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org.org>, will hold its virtual conference. See website for course descriptions and to register.
- From July 21st - 26st the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), ighr.gagensociety.org will hold a virtual conference. See website to register.
- From Sept. 11th - 13th the 7th WAC (We Are Cousins) Virtual Genealogy Conference will take place. Register at wacconference.com/register.
- On Sept. 20th and 21st the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org will hold its hybrid New York State Family History Conference. For details go to www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/about
- From Sept. 29 – Oct. 5 Stewart Taiman and Evan Wilson will lead the **2024 CGS Salt Lake City Research Trip**. See the CGS website for details and for early bird pricing thru June 30. ■

When was the last time you visited our Society's website www.srvgensoc.org? There's lots to see there including the latest list of speakers and their subjects that have been booked so far, into 2024. The Members-Only section, accessible using your login has contact info for our members, the recording of the previous month's speaker and handouts. The members-only area also has a recently added feature of bios on most of our board members as well as some historical pictures of our society's previous years. ■

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu., Jun 6 at 12 the Genealogy Society of Vallejo- Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will have its annual potluck at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum. Visit the society's website for details or contact the society at 707-334-0675 or president@gsvb.org.
- On Sat., Jun 1 at 11 the Solano County Genealogical Society, www.scgca.org, will have its monthly meeting via Zoom. Jill Morelli, the guest speaker, will present **Finding Dirk: Insanity in the 19th Century**. Guests are welcome. Send an email to the society at scgs@scgsca.org before 4 pm on May 31st to request a Zoom link invitation.
- On Sun., Jun 2 the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Daniel Horowitz will share **How I Found My Jewish American Family**. Register on website.
- On Thu., Jun 9 from 6:30 -8 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. Guest speaker Sara Cochran will discuss **Shamrocks, Leprechauns, and Harps: Researching Your Irish Roots**. Click under events on the society's website to register.
- On Mon., Jun 10 from 7 -8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a hybrid meeting. The guest speaker, Lisa Gorrell will explore **Researching Church Records**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under speakers.
- On Thu. Jun 20 at 1 the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will have Lisa Gorrell as their guest speaker at their hybrid meeting. Lisa will present **Did Your Ancestor Attend Church? Exploring Religious Records**. Register under events on the society's website. ■

"The more you know of your history the more liberated you are."
—Maya Angelou.