



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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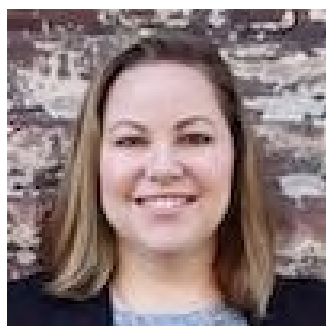
This Month's Presentation:

Tuesday October 20, 2020

"UNKNOWN DNA MATCHES"

Presented by:

(This will be via ZOOM video)



Irene will be discussing the ins and outs of working with unknown DNA Matches. Focusing on the AncestryDNA platform, she will present case studies that demonstrate how unknown matches can be useful, even if you do not think you have any mysteries in your family tree. Irene will walk through the process of handling unknown matches and explain how it is slightly different for those with unknown parentage. The presentation will also cover important considerations regarding ethics and contacting matches.

Irene specializes in genetic genealogy and unknown parentage. She is a fourth generation San Francisco native. She earned the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Re-

search in 2018. She completed ProGen 38 and co-
led the monthly virtual discussions for her group. Irene's passion is unknown parentage, and she volunteers for the non-profit 325 Kamra, Inc., which assists Korean Adoptees in getting DNA testing and finding their birth families. She currently serves as a Director on the Board of the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) and is Co-Chair of the UGA DNA special interest group. In addition to her volunteer positions, Irene is a member of the Firebird Forensics Group led by Barbara Rae Venter, which helps solve cold cases by identifying killers and giving victims back their names. Irene's love of all thing genealogy takes up most of her time, however she also enjoys taking road trips with her husband, three children, rescue senior Belgian Sheepdog, and rescue bunny. ■

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Notes on Last Month's Presentation:Tuesday, Sept 22, 2020**SOS FOR A PHOTO MESS**Notes by Russ Erickson

Ms. Jones is a credentialed professional photo organizer with an extensive educational and work history with government, education, and other groups. *Photomanagers* is her global professional group. They have 43 free classes on their internet site. September is the designated month for photo saving. There are 350 million photos on Facebook and 500 hours of videos go on You Tube daily!

The Safeguard 3,2,1 method of saving photos by Peter Krogh involves: 3 copies on 2 different media, with 1 stored offsite. Store photos in safe plastic boxes indoors away from heat and moisture. Those on DVDs can count on only 10 good years—test them yearly. To remember, check when smoke alarms are done. Hard drive data last longer—use 2. Photos can be stored in the cloud and Amazon or Google are useful, but photos might be in the public realm. (For Mac users, iCloud is secure) When you start, gather old photos, DVDs, flash drives, etc.

Sort your inventory. You can loosen old pasted photos from albums with dental floss, a hair dryer and spatula.

ABCS: Organize--A for 'Album'-worthy, B for 'Box' storage, C for 'Can' get rid of extras and undesirables, S for 'Story' of life photos. Note: *Photodetective* site can help identify photos. One can share photos once organized via photo montages, digital scrapbooks, gifts and wall displays. Prioritize: why are you organizing as you do?

A high speed scanner can do 30-40 photos per minute, and slower cheaper ones 6, saving as jpegs. Save by the year, who, what, and where categories. Use a 2 second rule when doing many—do not dwell and lose track. To write on the back of photos, she recommends "Stable" pencils, available in hobby stores.

A good book: "Photo Organizing Made Easy" by Kathy Nelson, on Amazon. When scanning photos, use 600 dpi (dots per inch) which allows good enhancement and one can double the density for copies. Less is fine if only posting. For old photo restoration, *Hollywood Photo Fix* site can lead to local resources. For facial recognition when tracking photos as people age, *Photoshop Elements* or *Google photos*. *Quicksan* and *Share* in Lafayette was mentioned as a photo working source. If keeping negatives, place in sleeves in a binder, but remember, many places no longer develop them and development might be expensive. Costco has good photo sections. Forever.com can permanently store photos. Note--if keeping precious photos and documents in a fireproof safe, make sure it is waterproof also.■

**A note from the SRVGS Board...**

For those of you who donated to the NARA digitizing projects as part of your membership renewal, we want to alert you to a change - those projects are completed. As a result, any donations that were collected but weren't donated will be divided between our Library Fund and our General Fund. Our membership form will no longer include the NARA donation option.

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a Warm Welcome to our newest members

Blair (Steve) McMahon

Steve is interested in volunteering for IT and Web maintenance

Jeanne Cochran

Jeanne is interested in Norwegian ancestry



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Options, options, options.. you asked for them, we delivered. Members asked for additional ways to pay their yearly membership dues and donations to the society. The SRVGS website now accepts PayPal which includes those with a PayPal account or the use of credit cards through

the PayPal system. Renewing members will see this option on the website 30 days before our annual renewal period, next May. A reminder and additional information will be provided to the membership during the second quarter of 2021. Any new member will find this option available to them now, so inform your friends, family members and anyone interested in genealogy that our society would welcome their membership. It is easy to join and pay the membership dues through the website.

Our membership must be embracing the Zoom meeting technology as the society had 46 attendees at our last general meeting. This was our third meeting using this virtual format and each subsequent meeting gained attendees. Our next meeting scheduled for October 20, 2020, will feature a presentation by Irene Rossman speaking on "Unknown DNA matches". We welcome outside guests to our virtual general meetings, so please invite any friends or family members that may benefit from this presentation. If you provide their email address we will send a link for the Zoom meeting.

Another heartfelt thank you from the society to Bob Venter as he seeks semi-retirement from his Webmaster duties. After many years producing the old website he was instrumental in helping with the conversion to the new one. We are also extremely grateful that Bill George stepped up to now share in a joint Co-Webmaster role with Bob. Continue to check our website as new topics and research media will be added, keeping our membership informed on society happenings.

Stay safe and healthy everyone, hope to see you soon on Zoom. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2020

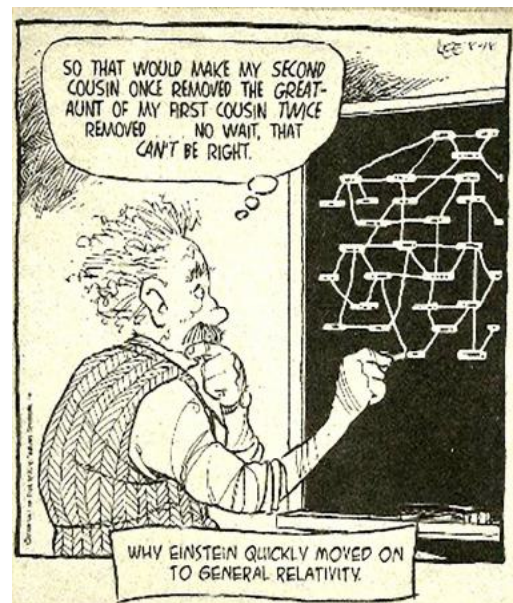
- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held via ZOOM video.
- 20 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The October General meeting will be via a Zoom Link, details to be sent out a few days prior to the event. Speaker will be Irene Rossman on **Unknown DNA Matches**.

November 2020

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held via ZOOM video.
- 17 Tuesday - 9:30 a.m.** The November General meeting will be via a Zoom Link. The speaker will be Beverly Lane on **Women's Suffrage**. *Note this time is a one-time-only change to meet our speaker's availability.*

December 2020

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The Annual cookie Exchange usually held in lieu of the monthly board meeting *will not* be held this year because of Virus Restrictions.
- 22** As usual there will be **no** December meeting ■



SRVGS FACEBOOK PAGE WANTS YOU TO LIKE IT

By: Ted Shapas

OK, I get it – you worry that Facebook will steal your identity or connect you with some strange person. But wait – **Facebook is also a boon for genealogy!** So, what's the best approach? First you need to set up a free account, and then you can avoid most of the Facebook drama simply by setting your preferences so that only a few friends can see what you post. You can also simply refrain from posting at all – just be a looker and reader!

Many genealogy organizations (thousands, actually, SRVGS included), have a site on Facebook known as a page. This allows the page operators to post things (news, tips, and articles) for visitors to read and maybe comment on. Many, like ours, are open to the public so you can simply go there (find it via the Facebook search box or click the link below), look around at the posts, and maybe click on some to read more. But what's even better is to "like" that page, in which case you don't have to search around for it – any time something new is posted, you will receive a Facebook notification. Click on that notification and like magic you will have the new post in front of you. So, dear members, please consider "liking" our Facebook page (not simply liking one of our posts; see example below) and you'll be glad you did! Here's a link that will get you right to it: <https://www.facebook.com/srvgensoc/> ■



Like us on
Facebook

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George



Irish/Scottish Research—Wed. Oct. 14th (the 2nd Wednesday) **10am-12pm, in a Zoom Meeting** until further notice. They share information from the internet, journals, DNA and books. Patty Erickson is the SIG leader. You may contact Patty at: russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search—Mon. Oct. 12th (the 2nd Monday) **1-3pm 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.



DNA—Mon. Oct. 19th (the 3rd Monday) **1-3pm 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 Mark McLaren at: greatscot@earthlink.net.



Publishing—Does not plan to meet in person. Members are contacting each other throughout the month during this stay-at-home pandemic. Francie Lloyd is the SIG Leader and can be reached at: frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



Legacy Family Tree— Does not plan to continue online or in person as the person teaching the group is unable to continue. If anyone would like to take over this responsibility, please contact **Sharon Clay** at: sharonclay@comcast.net.



German Research—Wed. Oct. 28th (the 4th Wednesday) **10am-12pm in a Zoom Meeting**. You may contact SIG Leader Cathy Tanaka at: cathytanaka622@gmail.com ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

October is Family History Month. So, this month let's dedicate ourselves to learning as much as we can so we can make some exciting breakthroughs.



The California Genealogy Society's Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is closed due to COVID-19. However, it now has a full schedule of online lectures and series scheduled through December. Sign up now on the website. Also, please check the site or Blog for future updates on the closure.

- On Thurs. Oct. 1st from 6-7:30, Susan Skilton will discuss via Zoom **Researching Mexican Lands Grants in Alta California**.
- On Sat. Oct. 3rd from 10:15-12:15, **Introduction to Genealogy** via Zoom. Pam Miller will present **Part 2 – Using the Census**.
- On Sat. Oct. 3rd from 10-12, Susan Goss Johnston will present **Exploring Military Records – Part 2-Service Records**. This is the second of 4 sessions. \$10 per session for members. \$30 per session for non-members.
- On Tues. Oct. 6th from 7-8:30, Mark McLaren will present via Zoom the second of six sessions on the **Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy**. The rest of the series will be presented on the 13th, 20th, and 27th of this month. The final class will be on Nov. 3rd. The series is \$100 for members or \$140 for non-members.
- On Sat. Oct. 17th from 1-3, Ron Madson will lead the **Family Tree Maker SIG online**.
- On Sat. Oct. 17th from 10-12, Susan Goss Johnston will present **Exploring Military Records- part 3 Before and After Records**. \$10 per session for members. \$30 per session for non-members.
- On Sat. Oct. 24th at 1, Michael Colbruno will share **The Naughty and Notorious of Mt. View Cemetery**.
- On Sat. Oct. 31st from 10-12, Susan Goss Johnston will present **Exploring Military Rec-**

ords- part 4 Seldom Used Records. \$10 per session for members. \$30 per session for non-members.

- On Sat. Oct. 31st at 1, Craig Suilinski will moderate the **Eastern European SIG online**.
- On Sat. Nov. 7th from 10:15-12:15, **Introduction to Genealogy** via Zoom. Lisa Gorrell will present Part 3 – Using the Census.



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html offers free webinars. Register in advance online. The upcoming presentations are:

- On Sat. Oct. 3rd from 10-11, Michael Strauss will discuss **Manifest Destiny: Researching Your Mexican War Ancestors**.
- On Wed. Oct. 21st from 6-7, Jean Wilcox Hibben will explore **Researching California Mission Indians Using a Case Study**.
- On Sat. Nov. 7th from 10-11, Johanne Gervais will present **Researching Your French Canadian Ancestors**.
- SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.
- Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await by Kerry Bartels
- Military Records at the National Archives by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- The Many Facets of the National Archives Website by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference by George Morgan.

- National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.

 The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), <https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx> 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 online.

- On Thurs. Oct. 1st from 3-4, author David Hill will discuss The Vapors: A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America's Forgotten Capital of Vice.
- On Thurs. Oct. 8th from 12-1, Don LeClair explore What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?
- On Thurs. Oct. 8th author David Michaelis will discuss Eleanor.
- On Thurs. Oct. 14th from 4-5, Jonathan D. Sarna will share The First American Jewish Woman Novelist: Uncovering the Story of Cora Wilburn and her Spiritualist Novel, Cosella Wayne (1860).
- On Thurs. Oct. 15th, Eileen Pironti will examine Using Bank Records in Family History Research.
- On Tues. Oct. 20th from 3-3, Dani Shapiro will moderate Claire Messud with Kant's Little Prussian Head and Other Reasons Why I Write: An Autobiography in Essays.
- Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted to the NEHGS website the following day.

 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 at www.dar.org offers two different types of programming. The Library Lecture Series features authors discussing their historical work and the Genealogy 101 Series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the public. See the upcoming

ing schedule here: www.dar.org/libraryevents.

 Ancestry offers online courses. Some are FREE, while others require a subscription. You can READ about what they have to offer at <https://www.ancestryacademy.com/browse>

 The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center <https://acpl-cms.wise.oclc.org/genealogy> offers a number of webinars. Register for them online.

- On Thur., Oct. 1st from 3:30- 4:30, Sara Allen will answer How to Approach and Solve Brick Wall Problems with DNA.
- On Tues. Oct. 6th from 11:30-12:30, Irv Adler will explore Researching Jewish Genealogy.
- On Thurs. Oct. 8th from 3:30-4:30, the topic of The Foundation of African Americans in Fort Wayne will be discussed.
- On Tues. Oct. 13th, from 11:30-12:30, Kim Harrison will share Genealogical Research Using Railroad Records.
- On Wed. Oct. 14th, Sara Allen will share Finding Unknown Fathers or Grandfathers by DNA.
- On Thurs. Oct. 15th, from 3:30-4:30 Melissa Tennant will discuss Death Business: Searching Funeral Home Collections.
- On Sun. Oct. 18th from 10-11, be at Meet Your Mishpocha: Virtual Open House.
- On Tues. Oct. 20th from 11:30-12:30, John Beaty will present Mayflower Research.
- On Thurs. Oct., 22nd from 3:30-4:30, Matt Pacer will share Family History Resources at the Library of Michigan.
- On Sat. Oct. 24th from 11:30-12:30, Cynthia Theusch will explore The History of Your House.
- On Tues. Oct. 27th from 11:30- 12:30, Trent Hanner will share Online Resources of the Tennessee State Library & Archives.

 Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. October's webinars include:

- On Tues. Oct. 6th at 11, Blaine Bettinger will examine Advanced DNA Techniques: Deductive Chromosome Mapping.
- On Wed. Oct. 7th at 11, Roberta Estes will explore Wrining Every Drop out of YDNA.
- On Thurs. Oct. 8th at 9, Judy Russell will discuss From Generation to Generation: An Updated Look at Kinship Determination.
- On Thurs. Oct. 8th at 10:15, J.H. Fonkert will present Geo-Genealogy as a Problem-Solving Tool: The Case of a 19th Century Female Teenage Immigrant.
- On Thurs. Oct. 8th at 11:30, Jill Morelli will share Spanning 150 Years of Record Loss: A Methodological Approach to Identifying Parents in Sweden.
- On Tues. Oct. 13th, at 11, Devon Noel Lee will examine Use MyHeritage Records to Quickly Discover and Write the Story of Your Ancestors.
- On Wed. Oct. 14th at 5, Paul Woodbury will discuss Dealing with Endogamy.
- On Tues. Oct. 20th at 5, Angela Packer McGhie will explore Using DNA Test Results to Confirm a Pedigree.
- On Wed. Oct. 21st at 11, Sunny Morton will present Comparing the Genealogy Giants 2020: Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, and MyHeritage .
- On Fri. Oct. 23rd at 11, Judy Russell will answer How Old Did He Have to Be...?
- On Tues. Oct. 27th at 11, James Tanner will share Jumpstart Your MyHeritage Family Tree with Instant Discoveries.
- On Tues. Oct. 27th at 11, MyHeritage Webinars will present The New Ethnicity Estimates .
- On Wed. Oct. 28th at 11, Gena Philibert-Ortega will discuss In Black and White: Finding Historical Newspapers From Around the World.



Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast <http://genealogyguys.com/> ►

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SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the link below or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/>

- Lisa also has an hour genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled *Eleven-tes*.
- Thomas MacEntee's www.abundantgenealogy.com
- Judy Russell's www.legalgenealogist.com
- www.ConferenceKeeper.org, lists conferences events, calls for papers, contests, grants, volunteer opportunities, tours and more. You can sign up at mail@sendfoxmail.com to receive *Tami at Conference Keeper* which lists events that have been added in the last week.

Save the Date:

On Mon. Oct. 13th from 7-9, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will have a ZOOM meeting. Susan Goss Johnston will discuss **What Became of Aaron Case**. For additional information contact: Tom Mathews at program@L-AGS.org

- On Sat. Oct. 17th, at 12, the Sonoma County Gene-

alogical Society, www.scgsonline.org will have a virtual meeting on **Reclaim the Records**. Check website for details. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

Please note that some conferences are opting to hold virtual presentations instead of their usual on-site conference. Visit the conference site for registration and updates.

- On Sat. Oct. 10th and 17th, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold its **2020 CCCGS Fall Webinar**. D. Joshua Taylor, Host of Genealogy Road Show (PBS) will present 4 sessions over the two day period. For more information and to register, go to www.cccgs.net.
- On Sat. Oct. 24th, The Illinois State Genealogical Society will hold the 2020 ISGS Virtual Conference. Register at www.ilgensoc.blogspot.com
- From Feb. 25th – 27th, RootsTech will present its annual conference virtually and completely free. Go to www.rootstech.org for more information. ■

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FIRST CLASS MAIL