

# THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSN

0897-9899

May/June 2019

Oakland, California

## MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at Noon.

### **EBGS 40th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON.**

Pier 29 Restaurant, Ballena Bay, Alameda - Noon

A reservation form is at the back of this issue. We hope you can join us - bring a friend if you would like.

Directions: From the Posse Tube continue on Webster Street to Central Avenue and turn right. Take a left turn at the stoplight at Ballena Blvd, keep to the right and follow the road along the water. Restaurant and parking lot will be on your left around the curve.

From the Park Street or Fruitvale Bridges: From Park Street turn right on Central Avenue and follow above directions.

## JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Oakland FHC Library meeting room.

### **IRISH RESEARCH - Speaker: Sandra Huber**

Sandra is the leader of CGS San Francisco Research Group and has several years of genealogical research experience.

Since her family/ancestors are primarily Irish, she has spent many years doing Irish Research and has discovered many tips that she will be sharing with us. Bring your pencil and notepad and be prepared to learn much that will aid your Irish Research!

### **Looking Back at March:**

Sue Severson shared her vast knowledge of DNA research and how useful it can be to your family research and especially helpful finding lost cousins and birth parents of adopted persons.

### **Looking Back at April:**

The FHC library was closed for painting. We had been promised a meeting room, but somehow the information did not go through the proper channels. The staff at the Visitors Center were gracious enough to offer us a corner of the lobby in which to gather. At that point, since some members had already left, there were only four of us to 'gather'. So Sally Stevens, Carolyn Storm, Joyce Schleicher, and Kathleen Young had a round table discussion of sorts and discussed many options for future programs and research.

We will likely reschedule the program on "How To Write An Obituary" in July.

**EBGS NEWS:**

Our Recording Secretary, Jean Christie, has been ill. We miss her and wish her well and a speedy recovery.

**Dues Are Due:** You will find a renewal form at the back of this newsletter. Please be sure to also enclose \$10 if you wish to have your newsletter mailed to you via snail mail. Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership. The society thanks you and is most grateful for your support.

**Open House at the Oakland Mormon Temple and Family History Center:**

Sally has made arrangements for our members to join a small group tour of the Oakland Temple on **Friday, May 10, 2019 at 10 a.m.** If you want to join this tour, please call on email Sally Stevens.

The temple has recently been updated and has not been open for public tours since it was originally built. This should be a fascinating tour, come early!

**Our Annual May Luncheon:** This year will be our 40th Anniversary! Reservations have been made at Pier 29 for our luncheon on May 8th. A reservation form is available on the last page of this newsletter. The luncheon will cost \$30 per person - \$29 for lunch and \$1 towards a beautiful cake to celebrate the occasion. We are looking forward to celebrating our 40th year and hope to see many of you there!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**The Oakland FHC Library** offers the following on-going classes/workshops. ALL classes at the FHC are free and open to everyone interested. Sometimes there might be a small charge for handouts. You can check their website to view information on these workshops and upcoming classes. They are not always mentioned in this newsletter as they do not coincide with the mailing date.

**African-American Workshop:** 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

**MAC-GEN Genealogy** meetings/workshops for Mac Users. Second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. More info at [www.macgen.org](http://www.macgen.org)

**Swedish Genealogy Research Workshop:** Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Need some help with your Swedish research? Join our experts on Thursdays for some individual assistance. No appointment necessary, and it is free!

**Hispanic Research Workshop:** Wednesday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Come join the group and learn more about researching your Hispanic ancestors.

**Personal/Family History: Write Your History in Stories:** 2nd Thursday each month, 1-2 p.m.

Instructor: Ken Miller, staff genealogist. Does writing your personal history sound intimidating? Does "I was born..." seem like a boring way to start? How about writing your memories one story at a time? Come once or come monthly or come when you can. Set aside the 2nd Thursday of each month and spend an afternoon jump starting your memory. Write one story each time you come and you could have quite a personal history recorded by the end of the year.

**San Francisco Research:** 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. on the **3rd Saturday** of each month at the California Genealogical Society - 2201 Broadway Ste LL2, at the corner of 22nd Street, Oakland, CA. This is an open forum meeting group to help each other looking for ancestors pre and post 1906 in San Francisco. Bring your questions and/or your experience and join the discussions. For more information email: **SFSIG@CALIFORNIAANCESTORS.ORG**.

**Oakland Family History Center:** The temple and grounds are presently being renovated and spruced up in preparation for their **Open House beginning May 11th through June 1st**.

The public is welcome to visit and tour the facilities from May 11th through June 1st. Tickets are required, and they are FREE. Their purpose is mostly for crowd control and security reasons. Sally will try to arrange a tour for our members during the Open House. If you wish to obtain tickets, please visit this website for more information. **WWW.OaklandTemple.Org**.

**African American Genealogical Society of Northern California:**

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA.

**A Special One Day Genealogy Seminar with Dr. Thomas W. Jones:** Nationally known genealogical methodology and problem-solving expert. Saturday, August 3, 2019, Imperial Room Lorba Linda Community Center. Presented by the Genealogical Society of North Orange County, CA. For more information: **www.gsnoc.org.ca**

**ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

**Family Tree Magazine - May/June 2019 Issue:**

In their article "*Diamonds in the Rough*" they have explained how to get better results from these four free websites: The National Archives and Records Administration **www./archives.gov**.

The Library of Congress **www.loc.gov**,

Library and Archives of Canada, **www.bac.gc.lac.ca/pahges/home.aspx>**.

Internet Archives **www.archive.org**.

Each of these websites are somewhat difficult to navigate. This article is most helpful...check it out. If you do not subscribe to the magazine, you can find a copy at your local FHC library.

**The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society - Vol. XXXVIII, No. 3/4, August/November 2018:** Includes a long article on "Holocaust Records on Ancestry.com by Ted Bainbridge Ph.D. You may likely find a copy of this journal at the Oakland FHC if you are interested.

**Ed Keelin's "Genealogy Website Review,** Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter:: **Genealogy Search by Kinrawler.com:** **http://kinrawler.com/yp./index.ph**.

Enter your surname and place. Many hits will be from USGenWeb county sites or archives with a few *Ancestry.com* and *Genealogy.com*. Most of the information was from transcribed information. However, they gave information needed to add source information to your records...which can help in obtaining copies of actual records. Another link that may show up regularly is *genealogytrails.com*. The amount of information available on this site is amazing since it finds so many diverse links that you may not find on your own

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR RELATIVES

By Mary E. Maurer

I hear it all the time, "I wish I had asked my grandmother (other relative) more questions about our family!" It seems there are always vital pieces of information that we realize we need for our family history, after our relative's funeral.

Perhaps you haven't asked questions because you don't know what to ask, or you may have so many questions that you don't know where to begin. Try to simplify the task by creating the following list. I've grouped the questions by topic so you can ask them at different times and occasions.

If you visit with your relative frequently, you may want to ask 5-10 questions each time you visit. Or you might want to ask related to one topic. Family holiday gatherings may not be the best time to ask too many questions, although some answers would be entertaining and informative for the whole group. And remember, most people love to talk about themselves!

You may want to video the exchange, take notes by hand or type answers on a laptop. Do whatever is most comfortable for you and for your relative. And be prepared for extended answers and stories. Once someone gets started on a topic you may be surprised by the memories that come flooding back.

These are just suggestions. You'll want to adjust them according to your relative's age, your relationship, and what you already know. But, these should get you started. (I've included a few personal notes in parentheses). Another suggestion: answer the questions about yourself so your children or grandchildren won't have to ask YOU.

### Personal

What is your full name? Why did your parents choose that name for you? Did you have a nickname? (My grandmother's name was the last name of the doctor that delivered her).

When and where were you born?

What is your earliest memory?

Who were your friends when you were growing up? Who were your childhood heroes?

Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names? (My grandfather had a pet cow.)

Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?

Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?

What accomplishments were you the proudest of?

What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?

### Home

What state did you live in as a child? Do you know why your parents lived there? Were there other family members in the area? Who? (Several members of my father's family went to California to seek work).

What is the first house you remember? What was it like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?

What other homes did you live in as a child? How did you end up living where you are now?

### Family

What do you know about your family surname?

Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?

Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?

Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who usually did the cooking? What were your favorite foods? What food did you hate? (My dad loved liver and onions and I hated it)

How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?

Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?

What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?

Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?

Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?

Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?

Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles, or other memorabilia that have been passed down to your family?

### Church

What was your religion growing up?

What church, if any, did you attend?

Do you have any special memories of a service, camp, or other church event?

### School

Where did you attend grade school, high school, college?

What were your best and worst subjects?

What school activities and/or sports did you participate in?

Who were your best friends in school?

Did you ever get into trouble in school?

Did you ever receive any rewards in school?

### Entertainment

What kind of games did you play growing up?

What was your favorite toy, and why?

What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?

What were your favorite songs and music?

Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles, clothes?

Was there a favorite "hang out" place in your town?

### Work

What is/was your profession? and how did you chose it?

What was your first job? How much were you paid?

If you could have had any other profession, what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?

What was the worst job you ever had? Best?

Military Service

Were you in the military? What years? What branch of the service?

Did you volunteer or were you drafted?

Where did you serve? What was your rank? What were your duties?

What do you remember most about your time in the service?

Marriage

When and how did you meet your spouse? Where did you go on dates?

What was the full name of your spouse? Siblings? Parents?

What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where and when did it happen?

Where and when did you get married?

Where did you live when you got married?

Other

What world event had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family? (There may be stories about the Depression years)

How is the world most different than what it was like when you were a child?

This wonderful article was originally published in Volume 28, No. 5, 2019 of "Huellas Del Pasado - Footsteps to the Past" the newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America - Southern California.

## EBGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**Mail to: EBGs, P. O. Box 1648 Alameda, CA 94501**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Apt.#/ P.O.Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00    Receive newsletter by mail \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

Total amount enclosed.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation to EBGs in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

May we hear from you by July 1, 2018      Thank you for your support.

Office use only: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amt \_\_\_\_\_ Ch# \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON – MAY 8, 2019

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant, 1148 Ballena Blvd. Alameda, CA  
Directions will be printed in May/June LIVE OAK. Time is NOON

Teriyaki Chicken\_\_\_ Shrimp Louie\_\_ Caesar Salad w/chicken\_\_\_ Pasta Primavera

Salads served with a cup of clam chowder. Teriyaki Chicken served with choice of clam chowder or tossed green salad w/zesty Italian dressing, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh steamed vegetables. Meals include roll and butter, coffee or tea Tax and tip are included. Cost: \$30.00 per person, which includes a \$1 donation towards a nice birthday cake to celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

Mail your check and this form to:

EBGS c/o Joyce Schleicher, 4345 Detroit Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619

Name\_\_\_\_\_Amt. Enc. \_\_\_\_\_ No. Persons\_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to seeing many of you there. Guests are certainly welcome

### EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY A Non-Profit Organization Established in 1979

#### MEETINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month – 10 am  
Family History Center Library  
4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland, CA

#### Visitors welcome!

Typically a speaker discusses genealogical record sources, research techniques, research tips.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all...  
Individual/Organization - \$20.00  
Request an application by writing to: P. O. Box 1648, Alameda, CA 94501  
or download from our website.

#### BOARD MEMBERS

President Sally Stevens  
Recording Secretary Jean Christie  
Treasurer Joyce Schleicher  
Membership Starr Brown  
Publicity Lynne Bajuk

Editor: Carolyn Storm [c-kstorm@juno.com](mailto:c-kstorm@juno.com)  
Programs: Carolyn Storm

### MUSINGS FROM THE 1940'S

How many of these are familiar to you?

How about roller skates and learning to ride a two-wheel bicycle?

WWII ended. I remember my grandmother went out on her front porch and banged pots and pans to celebrate! She cooked for years after that with dented pots and pans.

Wasn't it during the 40's that Birds Eye Frozen Foods came on the market? No more canned green peas, hooray! My family moved to Alameda during the 1940's. My mother was delighted to find asparagus growing in the backyard. We ate lots of asparagus, which I hated at the time but love now.

I had my first permanent in the 40's...the beauty operator used one of those scary machines that had clips on long wires that she attached to each curler!

I and almost all my friends had chicken pox and measles. Thank goodness they have vaccines for those diseases now.

Without television, we played a lot of board games, read a lot of comic books, and worked a lot of jigsaw puzzles....and communicated with family members.

We took our lunch pails to school, and sometimes our bag of jacks or our jump ropes, or baseball mitts.

God knows that we are stuck with our ancestors and relatives.  
That must be why he lets us choose our friends.  
Choose them wisely, treat them kindly, and they may last a lifetime.



Typically a speaker discusses genealogical record sources, research techniques, research tips.

Occasionally, working meetings are held at sites of genealogical interest.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to all...

Individual/Organization - \$18.00

Family - \$25.00

Foreign - \$20.00

Request an application by writing to: P. O. Box 1648, Alameda, CA 94501  
or download from our website.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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Membership	Starr Brown
Publicity	Lynne Bajuk
Editor	Carolyn Storm
Programs	<b>c-kstorm@juno.com</b>

Webmaster	William George <b>williamgeorge@gmail.com</b>
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Website	<b><a href="http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/">http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/</a></b>
Blog	<b><a href="http://caebaygs.blogspot.com">http://caebaygs.blogspot.com</a></b>
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**EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A**

**NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

**EST. 1979**