



# CHULA VISTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



*We Dig Our Ancestors*

Editor: Randy Seaver (619) 422-3397, [randy.seaver@gmail.com](mailto:randy.seaver@gmail.com)

CVGS Web Site: <http://www.CVGenealogy.org>

CVGS Blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

Volume 25, Issue 4

*Providing Genealogy Activities in South San Diego County*

April 2015

## WEDNESDAY, April 29<sup>th</sup> PROGRAM MEETING

from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

**At Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library Auditorium  
(365 F Street)**

**Donie Nelson on “Family Stories – Secrets, Lies and Surprises”**

Donie Nelson has been researching her Swedish/English/Scots-Irish/Spanish heritage since 1979. For over 30 years Donie worked in the entertainment industry developing motion pictures and television projects and she brings this knowledge of storytelling to her work as a consultant who assists researchers with editing, writing and publishing their family histories.

She is a past president of the Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society and coordinated the publication of their book: *Abbot Kinney’s Venice of America*. In partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library and the Southern California Genealogical Society, Donie created a monthly genealogical workshop program entitled *Genealogy Garage* which is held monthly in the History & Genealogy Dept. of the LAPL. More than 350 researchers attend this workshop annually. She is currently the editor of a national quarterly journal for Hispanic researchers and specializes in establishing outreach programs for genealogical societies—to date she has established four monthly research programs in Los Angeles and San Diego counties. She has served on the board of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the Southern California Genealogical Society. Donie is a founding member of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America-Southern California Chapter, where she served six terms as President and served seven years on the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America national board of directors.



### Table of Contents

April 29th Program Meeting .....	1	Research Trip to FamilySearch Library on 4/22	4
President’s Message .....	2	SCGS Genealogy Jamboree News .....	4
CVGS at Escondido Family history Fair .....	2	Advice for a Beginning Genealogist .....	5
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> Workshop .....	3	March 11 <sup>th</sup> Research Group Review .....	6
Next Computer Group Meeting .....	3	March 25 <sup>th</sup> Program Review .....	7
Lemon Grove Research Group News .....	3	SDGS Collection to be Dedicated at SDPL .....	7
Save the Date: June 27 <sup>th</sup> for Picnic .....	3	Genealogy News for March and April .....	8
Dorothy Alvord Passed Away .....	3	CVGS Society Information .....	9
<i>Who Do You Think You Are?</i> Information .....	4	San Diego Genealogy Events .....	9
		Genealogy Days in Chula Vista .....	10

## President's Message – by Virginia Taylor



It is with a heavy heart that I begin this month's message. We learned earlier this week that our long time member Dorothy Alvord passed away on 23 March. As most of you know she had fought cancer for several years but, unfortunately, it finely got the best of her. She will always be remembered for her ever ready smile and her sweet personality. She will definitely be missed.

I was glad to see that so many of our members attended both the Family History Fair in Escondido and the North San Diego Genealogical Society seminar. It is always nice to see how other societies put on a seminar. I hope all of you enjoyed listening to Judy Russell as much as I did.

The next thing coming up that I encourage all of you to attend is the Southern California Jamboree in Burbank. If you don't feel that you can give up the time or spend the money for the entire week-end at least consider going for one day. Amtrak stops very near the hotel if you don't want to drive. Jamboree will be June 5-7.

There are several good reasons for attending seminars. 1) you have the chance to meet other genealogists from different parts of the state or the country, 2) it gives you exposure to nationally and internationally known speakers. 3) if you are lucky a talk might help you break down a brick wall.

We have to make some adjustments in our summer meetings. We learned Thursday that the library will be renovating the auditorium May through July so our meetings will have to be moved. Lucky the Community Room at Bonita Sunnyside Library is available, so our May 27 and July 29 meetings will be in Bonita at our regular times. Don't forget that our June meeting will be our annual picnic at Gary and Wanda Brock's house. This year it will be on Saturday, June 27. Hopefully having it on Saturday will give more people a chance to attend.

### CVGS at the Escondido Family History Fair

We had about 15 CVGS members at the annual all-day Escondido Family History Fair. In addition to the keynote talk by Ancestry.com's Crista Cowan, there were six tracks of classes in five time periods. CVGS had a display table at the Fair, graced by the new poster board obtained by Jane Strawn.



### Stay up-to-date on CVGS Activities

Visit the CVGS Website: <http://www.CVGenealogy.org>

Visit the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

The Board Meeting and Program Meeting minutes are now posted on the CVGS website. Check them out at <http://www.CVGenealogy.org> on the Resources tab.

## May 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Workshop

The Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road) is in the Community Room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The program is TBD.

## Next Computer Group Meeting – April 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

The next Computer Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 15 April 2015 in the Computer Lab at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library (365 F Street in downtown Chula Vista, Calif.).

## Lemon Grove Research Group News

The Lemon Grove Research Group now meets once a month at the Lemon Grove Branch Library (location is 3001 School Lane in Lemon Grove) from 6 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. Contact Susi Pentico (619-690-1188, [SusiCP@cox.net](mailto:SusiCP@cox.net)) for more details. All are invited to attend. Beginners are welcome! Upcoming programs include:

- **Wednesday, April 15, 6 to 8 p.m.:** Program: “Workshop on your Brick Wall” with Susi Pentico
- **Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8 p.m.:** Program “TBD” with Susi Pentico

## Save the Date: Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> for CVGS Annual Picnic

The CVGS Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. To 2 p.m. at the home of Gary and Wanda Brock in Bonita. More details, including the theme and potluck dishes, to follow.

## CVGS Member Dorothy Alvord Passes Away

Our long-time member, Dorothy Alvord of Lemon Grove, passed away at the age of 66 on March 23, 2015 in her home. She was born to the late Robert and Gwynn Norgaard in San Diego in 1949. Dorothy graduated from Chula Vista High School in 1967. On August 12, 1975, Dorothy married the late Richard Alvord in San Diego. Dorothy enjoyed many artistic hobbies, but hand crafting miniatures and designing miniature houses was her favorite.

In addition, she was a very active and dedicated member of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society for many years, recently serving as Hospitality Co-Chair and Library Co-Chair. She started traveling the world as a flight attendant in the late seventies, and continued up until her trip to Denmark in 2014 to find her ancestral homes.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter Tiffany Alvord, Granddaughter Madison, and two brothers, Richard Norgaard, and Rob Norgaard. A Memorial service has not been planned to date.



– from Tiffany Alvord's Facebook page

## **Who Do You Think You Are? Continues on TLC on April Sundays**

The 2015 season of *Who Do You Think You Are? Continues on Sunday night, on the TLC Network at 10 p.m. PT.* You can watch a short video about the show at <http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/first-look/>.

There are 4 episodes in this season remaining with the celebrity subjects being:

- April 5 – Tony Goldwyn
- April 12 – America Ferrera
- April 19 – Bill Paxton
- April 26 – Melissa Etheridge

The TLC website should have each episode available to watch a day or two after the episode is shown on television.

## **Research Trip to FamilySearch Library on 22 April**

John Finch has planned a Research Trip to the FamilySearch Library in Mission Valley (4195 Camino del Rio South, San Diego) on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 am - 2pm. We are leaving just a little later to give them a little margin of time to prepare.

There will be a carpool leaving from the downtown Chula Vista parking structure (second floor, midway between the two entrances) just after 10 am. Please contact John Finch at [jan27@cox.net](mailto:jan27@cox.net) to get on the carpool list.

## **SCGS 2015 Genealogy Jamboree is June 5-7, 2015**

The SCGS Genealogy Jamboree is June 5-7, 2015 at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel (2500 Hollywood Blvd. in Burbank, California). This is the premier Southern California conference each year, with over 60 different speakers and about 120 presentations.

The Jamboree website is at [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com). You can register online at <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/catalog/index.php?Cpath=60>. Choose either the Members link or the Non-Members link on the list on the left margin.

Early-bird registration (until April 30) is \$125 for SCGS Members and \$145 for Non-Members for the three-day Jamboree (Friday, 5 June to Sunday, 7 June). You can add the June 4th DNA Day Plus Add-on to Jamboree for \$125 (SCGS Members) or \$135 (SCGS Non-Members). You can add Jamboree meals also using the Jamboree Meals link. There are a number of additional workshops available also.

A printed syllabus can be added for \$25. The digital syllabus on CD will be provided to registrants as part of the registration fee. There will be livestreamed presentations online, but the schedule is not yet available. The livestreamed videos may be free or fee.

Stay up-to-date with the latest Jamboree news on the Jamboree blog – <http://genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com/>

## Advice for Beginning Genealogists, by Randy Seaver

A society colleague asked this question recently:

**"I'm only a beginning genealogist, and I'm overwhelmed by how to start, what's best to do, in what order, etc."**

This is an excellent question, and there are many possible answers to the question. Here are some of my answers after some reflection about them:

- 1) At the beginning, take a "Beginning Genealogy" course** - either online at websites (e.g., [RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees](#) or [Guide to Family History Research](#)) or at a local genealogy society or adult education center. Become familiar with the overall process, the terms, the standards, the paper forms, available repositories, and online resources. See [A Guide to Research](#) for the research process and for more details. Use the [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) for information about record types, localities, and specific records.
- 2) Organize your research** - use folders or binders for papers, organized by surname, or locality; use digital file folders for digital records (scanned photos, scanned documents, downloaded documents, etc.), organized by surname and family; use a genealogy management program (an online tree, or download software) to keep track of all of the name, relationship, date, place, source, notes, media, etc. information; maintain research logs and to-do lists to keep track of what you have done and want to do.
- 3) Become familiar with different record groups** - start with vital records, census and cemetery records, and gradually learn about church, military, migration, citizenship, court, land, tax, town, newspaper, directory, and other record types. The sooner you understand why and how these record types were created, and how to access and obtain them, the faster you will become a competent genealogy researcher.
- 4) There may be published books and/or periodical articles in local or distant repositories on your ancestral surnames and localities.** Other researchers may have found information about your ancestral families. Don't believe everything you read on the Internet in online family trees or on websites. Use this information as a guide, but don't completely trust it. Try to verify the information by doing your own research in records.
- 5) Understand that all of the records are NOT digitized or online in databases behind a subscription wall** - perhaps only 10% (or less) is currently online, and not all of those are indexed. The "other 90%" are in repositories (e.g., libraries, archives, courthouses, historical/genealogical societies, attics/basements, etc.) and may be organized into record groups, or not. There are many records online that are FREE to access; others are behind a subscription wall. You can access many subscription sites for free at local FamilySearch Centers or some local libraries.
- 6) Join local, regional or national genealogical societies so that you can benefit from the knowledge and counsel of other researchers.** Most societies have monthly programs with knowledgeable speakers on varied research topics. Some societies have a mentor program or a research advisor group where you can ask questions and receive advice.
- 7) Continue your genealogical education through reading, online webinars, all-day seminars, multi-day conferences, weeklong institutes, or semester long certificate classes.** This is lifelong learning, it's more than two weeks of training and now "I are a genealogist."

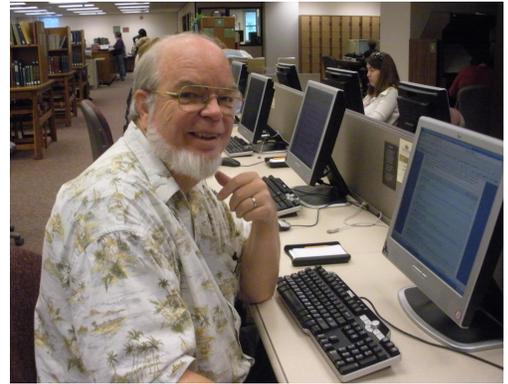
(continued on page 8)

## Research Group Meeting Review – 11 March 2015

We had 18 attendees at the March 11th CVGS Research Group.

In the first hour, Randy reviewed the genealogy news and his own experiences, including:

- \* **Research at the Family History Library** in Salt Lake City
- \* **RootsTech 2015** videos are available at <http://rootstech.org/video/4050134760001>
- \* **RootsTech/FGS Conference photos** from the exhibit hall and social events - all from Randy's blog [www.geneamusings.com](http://www.geneamusings.com)
- \* **Randy's Who Do You Think You Are? Story** with family photos (see <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarestory.com/timelines/1ljVI112FALXkqV7Wn0Cmw>)
- \* **Genealogy Gophers** is a new FREE genealogy book website – [www.gengophers.com](http://www.gengophers.com)
- \* **MooseRoots** is a new FREE genealogy data website (all US census records indexed, plus more) – [www.mooseroots.com](http://www.mooseroots.com)
- \* **Family Tree Now** is a new FREE genealogy data website (including Public Record Index data by family) – [www.familytreenow.com](http://www.familytreenow.com)
- \* **Ancestry.com** will modify the look and feel of its website in May 2015. The biggest change will be in Ancestry Member Trees with the addition of a LifeStory feature.



In the second hour, the attendees shared their research challenges and successes, including:

- \* **Virginia and Bethel** went to FGS/RootsTech in Salt Lake City, and enjoyed the conference and the Family History Library.
- \* **Virginia** found an ancestral record at 4:30 p.m. on the last day she was there. At dinner one night, she had a "Hank Jones moment" while talking about genealogy to others at the table.
- \* **Bethel** found her 2nd great-grandfather's naturalization record on microfilm. She found the books on the shelf for her ancestral county and found a book that listed teachers at the schoolhouse with her relative's name.
- \* **Shirley** found a relative in the MyHeritage databases residing in Australia.
- \* **Susan** wondered if her great-grandfather David Richards (1867-1917), born in Wales, died in Ohio was the same person as the David Daniel Richards found in some records.
- \* **Carole** is still looking for information about her great-aunt, and found a California State Library mural depicting the Rose Parade in a book.
- \* **Susan** attended the Escondido Family History Fair and found out she could join the DAR.
- \* **Ralph** noted that there was great staff help and advice when he visited the Family History Library.
- \* **Sam** found his family in a Hardin surname book. The migration trail was from Wales to Canada to Virginia to Pennsylvania to Kentucky.
- \* **Mary Lou** joined the Niagara County New York Genealogical Society for \$15 per year. Users can search their resources for free. As a member, they will answer email requests for lookups in books, records and cemeteries.
- \* **Gary** demonstrated how to find the CVGS Library Book titles in the Members section of the new CVGS website.

The next Research Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 8 April in the Auditorium of the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library (365 F Street in downtown Chula Vista).

## March 25<sup>th</sup> Program Review

**Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew** was the program speaker at the March 25th CVGS monthly meeting in the Auditorium of the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library, with about 35 in attendance.

Her presentation was titled "**Across the Prairie: Land Records in the Public Land States.**" This was an excellent overview program about land records, particular those in the Midwest and West that follow the Public Land Survey System set up in 1785.

Jamie noted that land records exist for more people in America than any other record, and that very few have been lost over time. You can learn many things from land records, including locating a person in a time and place, determining their neighbors and associates, and perhaps obtaining the maiden name of the wife and the children's names. The records may provide information for family stories.

Jamie described the differences between State Land States (which generally use metes and bounds), Federal Land States (which use the public land rectangular survey system with meridians, ranges, townships, sections and aliquot parts of sections). There are also several unique states which have both systems. In the State Land States, the land was distributed prior to 1776 or before the state joined the USA. The metes and bounds were denoted by markers (trees, rocks, streams, stakes), directions and distances in rods and chains and links. The U.S. government set up the Federal Land States in order to raise money for the new government after the Revolutionary War, to compensate soldiers for their service, and to encourage western migration.

The process of obtaining land was covered, with descriptions of Bounty Land, Land Laws, the Preemption Act of 1841, and the Homestead Act of 1862. The latter law provided up to 160 acres of free land to US born or naturalized citizens over age 21, or those who had filed papers to become naturalized. They had to live on the land for five years, improve the land including a structure, and after six months could buy the land for \$1.25 an acre. Jamie showed several photographs of sod houses made from the thick prairie sod, and of families with their livestock and tools in front of their homesteads.

Lastly, Jamie provided information about where to find and how to obtain these records. The National Archives has Land Entry Case Files; the Bureau of Land Management website has land patents and certificates; FamilySearch has the Bureau of Land Management Tract Books online. In addition, there are several map companies and websites that offer state, county and township maps showing land ownership in the 1800s.

## SDGS Library Collection at San Diego Central Library to be Dedicated Saturday, April 25

The dedication ceremony of the San Diego Genealogical Society library books and materials to the San Diego Public Library will take place on Saturday April 25 at the San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Blvd. In San Diego. Refreshments will be served at 11 a.m. on the patio of the ninth floor. Immediately following will be a tour of the 9th floor, which has the genealogy collection, and the ceremony of the plaque dedication.

If you drive, there is a two hour free parking with validation available, and Ace parking immediately across the street from the library for a small fee. The San Diego Trolley stops at J. Street or Imperial Avenue are just two blocks from the library.

## Genealogy News for March and April

- FamilySearch has added searchable indexed databases for [New York City Births \(1846-1909\); Marriages, 1866-1938](#); and [Deaths, 1795-1949](#). See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list> for the list of all 1950+ record collections on FamilySearch.
- AncestryDNA has announced a new feature called “New Ancestor Discoveries” to go along with DNA Circles. See [An Exclusive Tour of AncestryDNA New Ancestor Discoveries](#).
- Canadian Genealogy Professional and Author Lynn Palermo announced the debut of [The Family History Writing Studio](#), a multi-media online resource designed to aid family historians seeking to turn their research into stories. [The Family History Writing Studio](#) offers tools and resources to help genealogists create engaging and compelling stories in shareable formats for today and tomorrow’s generation.

## Advice for Beginning Genealogists (concluded from page 4)

**8) Share your research with your family members or other researchers in conversations, in an online family tree, on a website or blog, on social media, etc.** Other researchers may share your ancestral families, or know of resources available in a locality, or are expert in a specific record group.

**9) It is easy to be overwhelmed as you visit repositories, search online for records, try to stay organized, learn software capabilities, attend classes or programs, etc.** Depending on your daily schedule and priorities, plan each day with the short-term goal of learning something this hour, or this day, or this week, or this month, and apply yourself to doing it. Have a long-term education plan to learn more about research processes, record types, localities, resources, etc. Success in genealogy research is built on many small successes in individual families and localities.

**10) We all started at the beginning - with our families, and we gradually became more knowledgeable about how to research, where to find resources, how to use software, etc.** You will find that every success finding an ancestral family leads to two more ancestral families, and so on. Steady progress can be made learning about your ancestral families, and moving your pedigree back in time. Sometimes we get stuck and can't find more information about the next family back on the chart.

Frankly, I think that the classical way to "begin" as described above is the best way to grow a competent genealogist. I know that websites like Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilySearch and others are enticing beginners with advertising that essentially says "enter your parents and grandparents names, and we'll show you your ancestry."

The truth is you have to work at it to go back in time, one generation at a time. Perhaps you will get lucky and the Record Hints, Record Matches or Leaf Hints will highlight records of your ancestors, and their parents. Perhaps some other researcher has a long chain of ancestral families in an online family tree. This doesn't happen for every researcher.

Finding the records yourself by searching, adding ancestral families to your family tree using genealogy software or an online tree, and writing family stories is the best way to become a competent genealogy researcher and to grow a thriving and blossoming family tree.

## Welcome New Members

None this month!

Current Membership (as of 4/1): 89

## Karyn's Caring Corner

Cards were sent to:

Diane Godinez  
Tiffany Alvord and family

## Meeting Host Volunteers

April 29: Sunny Van Cleave and Marta Brown  
May 27: Linda Espino and Joanna Ward

Contact Jo Ann Bonner to sign up!

## Telephone Tree Volunteers

Page 1 – Karen Smith – 619-656-0996  
Page 2 – Jacquie Goodman – 619-482-0350  
Page 3 – Pam Buchan – [pbuchan@cox.net](mailto:pbuchan@cox.net)  
Page 4 – Diane Godinez – 619-429-8880

## CVGS Society Officers

President:	Virginia Taylor
First Vice-President, Programs	Jane Strawn
Second Vice-President, Membership	Karen Smith
Treasurer	Gary Brock
Secretary	Karen Yarger

## Committee Chairs

Computer Group	Shirley Becker
Education	Susi Pentico
Historian	Susan Zimmer
Hospitality	Jo Ann Bonner/Ana Castro
Librarian	Wanda Brock
Newsletter Editor	Randy Seaver
Research Group/Queries	Randy Seaver
Seminars	Susi Pentico
Ways and Means	Bethel Williams
Webmaster	Gary Brock

## San Diego Genealogy Events

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN.  
SOCIETY COGG**

Speaker: Joel Weintraub on  
“Crowdsourcing the Path to the 1950 Census”  
at Carlsbad City Council Chambers  
contact: Pam Boyle ( [boylepam@gmail.com](mailto:boylepam@gmail.com) )

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

**SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Speaker: Dave Tooley on  
“The Photograph Record of the U.S. Civil War  
– My 45 year Fascination with this Visual  
Record.”

at St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
(8350 Lake Murray Blvd., San Diego)  
contact: 858-279-7347

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.

**COMPUTER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF SAN DIEGO**

9 a.m.: User Groups  
10:30 a.m.: John Finch on  
“Family Research and the The Civil War”  
at UCSD-Robinson Hall  
contact [cgssd-board@ucsd.edu](mailto:cgssd-board@ucsd.edu)

Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN. SOC.**

Speaker: Amy Davis on  
“Conducting Genealogical Research in the  
Early 20th Century: A Case Study”  
at Carlsbad City Council Chambers  
contact: Jean Tempke  
( [jtempke@roadrunner.com](mailto:jtempke@roadrunner.com) )

See all upcoming San Diego genealogy  
programs online at

<http://www.cgssd.org/events.php>

## 2015 Regional and National Events

June 5-7, 2015

**SCGS GENEALOGY JAMBOREE in  
Burbank, Calif.**

Info: [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com)

**GENEALOGY DAYS IN CHULA VISTA**

- **Wednesday, Apr. 1, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting**, at CVCCB Library Auditorium
- **Saturday, Apr. 4, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – CVGS Workshop: Susi Pentico: “Genealogy Societies on Facebook”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)
- **Wednesday, Apr. 8, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, at CVCCB Auditorium
- **Wednesday, Apr. 15, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting**, at CVCCB Library Computer Lab
- **Wednesday, Apr. 22, 10:30 a.m. – CVGS Research Trip** to FamilySearch Library (4195 Camino del Rio South, San Diego). Contact John Finch ([jan27@cox.net](mailto:jan27@cox.net)).
- **Wednesday, Apr. 29, 12 noon – Program Meeting: : Donie Nelson: “Family Stories: Secrets, Lies and Surprises”** at CVCCB Library Auditorium
- **Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – CVGS Workshop: Susi Pentico: “TBD”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)
- **Wednesday, May 6, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting**, at CVCCB Conference Room
- **Wednesday, May 13, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, at CVCCB Conference Room
- **Wednesday, May 20, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting**, at CVCCB Library Computer Lab
- **Wednesday, May 27, 12 noon – Program Meeting: Randy Seaver: “Probate Records – My Favorite Record Group”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)

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All CVGS Program Meetings are held, unless otherwise noted, at the **Chula Vista Civic Center Branch (CVCCB) Library**, 365 F Street, Chula Vista  
Contact Jane Strawn ([jstrawn2@cox.net](mailto:jstrawn2@cox.net)) for program details.

Visit our **Web Site** – <http://www.CVGenealogy.org>

Visit the **Chula Vista Genealogy Café** blog – <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

Chula Vista Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 3024  
Chula Vista CA 91909-3024

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