



We Dig Our Ancestors

CHULA VISTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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



Volume 25, Issue 5

Providing Genealogy Education in South San Diego County

May 2015

WEDNESDAY, May 27th PROGRAM MEETING

from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

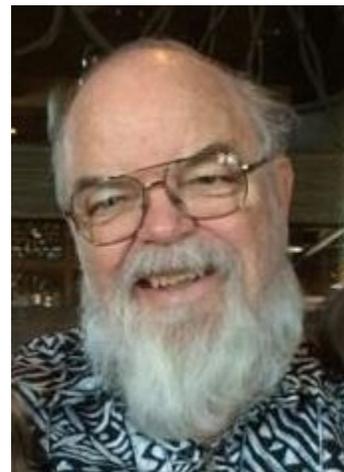
**At Bonita-Sunnyside Library – Community Room
(4375 Bonita Road)**

Randy Seaver on “Probate Records – My Favorite Record Type”

Probate records are Randy's absolute favorite record type for identifying and proving family relationships. This presentation describes the overall probate process, the different kinds of probate records, and how to find and obtain probate records in repositories and online record collections.

Randy Seaver is a 4th generation San Diegan. His ancestry is mainly colonial New England and Upper Atlantic, with some colonial German, French and Dutch forebears, and several 19th-century English immigrants. He has been pursuing his elusive ancestors since 1988, and has been online since 1992.

Randy is a former President of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society, and is currently the Newsletter Editor and Research Chair. He speaks to Southern California societies, libraries and groups on many genealogy subjects, and teaches "Beginning Computer Genealogy" adult classes at OASIS several times a year. He is a member of NGS, NEHGS, SCGS, SDGS, CGSSD and CVGS.



He blogs daily about genealogy subjects at Genea-Musings (www.geneamusings.com) and the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe (<http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>).

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President's Message – by Virginia Taylor



Change is good and we are going to have quite a bit of change this summer. First of all due to the renovation of the Civic Center Auditorium from May 1 to July 31 we will have to move our meetings. The May and July general meetings will be held at Bonita-Sunnyside Library. The dates and times remain the same.

Our June picnic at the Brock house will be on Saturday, June 27th. We have members who still work or are otherwise occupied on Wednesday and cannot take part in our activities. Hopefully having the picnic on Saturday, these people will be able to attend.

I know that changes cannot accommodate everyone but do hope that we will reach the ones who have not been able to attend in the past.

Another change we want to try is at the end of each general meeting we would like for the attendees to stick around for 30 minutes or so to talk to the others about their surnames and areas where their ancestors settled. Many of our members have found cousins just by talking to others. Let's start talking and see how many new cousins we can find. Let's start with our May meeting in Bonita.

Did you enjoy Donie Nelson's talk about her family stories? Would you like for us to do something similar? If so contact Susi Pentico and ask her to plan a workshop around family stories. I think that would make a great workshop.

Another sad note this month. One of our founding members, Nina Schultheis passed away last month. She has not been active for several years due to health issues but in the early days she was very active and is one of our Honorary Life Members.

Who's Due to Pay Dues?

Now that we are using the Wild Apricot service for our website, the program will keep track of our due renewal dates automatically. For example, if you paid your 2015 dues on December 12, 2014, you will get an email on or near December 12, 2015 reminding you to pay your dues. Be on the lookout for these reminders.

If you are curious about when your dues will be due, just fire an email to me (Karen Smith) at freelady72000@me.com and I will give you the date.

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.

June 6th Saturday Workshop

The Saturday, June 6th Workshop at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road) is in the Community Room from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Shirley Becker will discuss and demonstrate the Reunion genealogy software program for Mac computers.

Next Computer Group Meeting – May 20th 2015

The next Computer Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 in the Computer Lab at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library (365 F Street in downtown Chula Vista, Calif.). Shirley Becker will lead this group and will visit some free genealogical resources.

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) for more details. All are invited to attend. Beginners are welcome! Upcoming programs include:

- **Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8 p.m.:** Program “More Breaking Down Brick Walls” with Shirley, Virginia and Bethel.

Save the Date: Saturday, June 27th for CVGS Annual Picnic

The CVGS Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 27th, from 11 a.m. To 2 p.m. at the home of Gary and Wanda Brock in Bonita (4397 Allen School Road).

Attendance is free but we ask that you bring a dish for pot luck, perhaps an old family favorite, and a \$5 donation to cover cost of hotdogs, brats, fixings and beverages furnished by the society.

The theme will be "Coming To America - Immigrant Stories" and will include a large display board with a timeline where you can place a profile form (supplied) of an ancestor to show their place in time. A display table will also be available for you to show family artifacts. Attendees may present their material with explanations and stories.

Parking will be available on the property with assistants to help you park. No need to park on the street. Golf cart service will be available to transport you and your belongings to and from the parking area if needed. Tacoma, the retired racehorse, will make an appearance so bring your carrots and/or apples and you'll be his friend for life.

In support of the Salvation Army's year-round toy drive, members might also consider bringing a packaged toy to donate.

Save the Date: Saturday, November 7 for CVGS Seminar

The CVGS Fall Seminar will be on Saturday, 7 November at the Bonita Golf Course from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a catered lunch. Please keep this date open. The seminar planning is in the final stages and we hope you will really like the event. The speakers, topics and registration fee will be set soon.

Report on 4/22 Research Trip to FamilySearch Library

The Field Trip to the Family Search Library on April 22nd resulted in research successes of various degrees for the fourteen participants. We allowed ourselves a little extra time to spend at the facility for this trip, meeting there just after 10 a.m. with a target completion time of 2pm. This provided for an extra hour of research compared to our former visits.

Library Staff had been alerted to our visit and they were ready to provide the professional grade assistance that is their hallmark. A few of our members had either never been to the facility before or had a long absence and were given a tour and introduction to the many records available. Some of us had prepared for the work, ahead of time, and were ready to wade into the library stacks or utilize the many premium web sites not typically available to us at home.

Comments overheard alluded to significant discoveries, to confirmation of data, to, well, let's just say, an elimination of a prospect. Nobody expressed disappointment in this excursion and several were already talking about our next foray, now tentatively set for Wednesday, 23 September to the San Diego City Central Library.

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. 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/>

Carlsbad Cole Library Closed September to February

Work on Cole Library is expected to begin in the fall and be completed shortly after the New Year. The construction schedule will not be finalized until the General Contractor is on board, but the current plans are for Cole to close mid-September and re-open in early February.

During this time, all related genealogy services and the genealogy collection that is housed at Cole Library will not be available. However, the North San Diego County Genealogy Society will continue to meet and function. Be sure to check our website and newsletter for any changes of venue for meetings and events. To keep informed of the updates of the Cole Genealogy Library closure: check the city website at <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=730&TargetID=61>.

Ancestry Academy – A New Way to Learn About Family History

Ancestry.com announced the launch of [Ancestry Academy](#) in April, a new educational website that offers exclusive, high-quality video courses taught by genealogy and family history experts. Ancestry Academy courses cover a wide range of relevant family history topics and offer something for genealogists of all levels.

Here are a few things we think you'll love about Ancestry Academy:

Learn at your own pace – Ancestry Academy's in-depth courses are broken into a series of short lessons that let you learn when you want and how you want. Watch a course all the way through or pick and choose the lessons most interesting to you.

Test your know-how – Try out your skills and take optional tests to make sure you're getting the most out of every course.

Learn on-the-go (coming soon!) – Learn at home or on-the-go with the free Ancestry Academy app, available for iOS and Android devices later this spring.

New courses added monthly – Continue strengthening your family history expertise with new courses added every month.

Free courses – Courses about Ancestry products and websites (AncestryDNA, Fold3, Family Tree Maker, etc.) are offered for free. Simply log in with your Ancestry account or create a new account to start learning.

And much more – Ancestry Academy courses are loaded with other helpful tools like closed captions, digital handouts, course placeholders, and more.

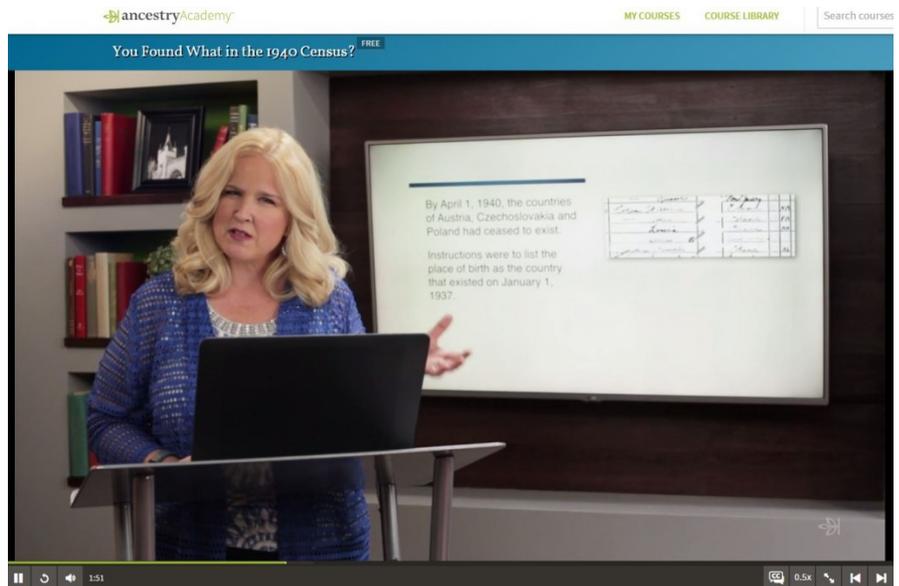
In addition to Ancestry Academy we will continue to provide our weekly livestreams hosted by Crista Cowan, as well as other educational content in our robust Learning Center, all in an effort to provide quality family history education and help every person discover, preserve and share their family history.

Get unlimited access to all Ancestry Academy courses for just \$11.99 a month, \$99.99 a year, or as part of your World Explorer Plus subscription. [Click here to see all the courses you can take today.](#) See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/04/16/introducing-ancestry-academy/#sthash.5qqMTo1n.dpuf>

Family Tree Webinars – Quality Genealogy Presentations

Family Tree Webinars (www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com) continues to provide FREE webinars with presentations on genealogical topics every week. Some are free for only one week after their live presentation, and others are free to view at any time. A year's subscription to FamilyTreeWebinars is \$9.95 per month or \$49.95 per year.

You can register to view an upcoming webinar at <http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> The Archived webinars (over 235 of them!) are listed at http://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars.php.



Research Group Meeting Review – 8 April 2015

There were 20 attendees at the CVGS Research Group on 8 April 2015.

In the first hour, Randy discussed and demonstrated:

* **AncestryDNA "New Ancestor Discoveries"** - Ancestry claims that "You don't need to research records or build a family tree -- AncestryDNA now transports you to the past." Um, really?

* **Chronicling America newspapers**

(<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) is a FREE website with historical newspapers from 1835 to 1922 at the Library of Congress, searchable by keywords, date ranges, etc. There is also a listing of all of the newspapers ever published in the United States from 1690 to recent times.

* **GenealogyBank newspapers** (<http://www.genealogybank.com>) is a commercial (\$70 per year retail) website with several different collections - Newspaper Archives (1690-2010); Recent Newspaper Obituaries (1977-today); Historical Documents (1789-1994); Historical Books (1749-1900); Social Security Death Index (1936-2011) - FREE). There are 6,500 newspapers, and over 1.8 billion records, available on GenealogyBank. They can be searched by name, keyword, and date range. The full run of the San Diego newspapers are online there.

The second hour was devoted to answering questions, discussing research problems, and telling about research successes.

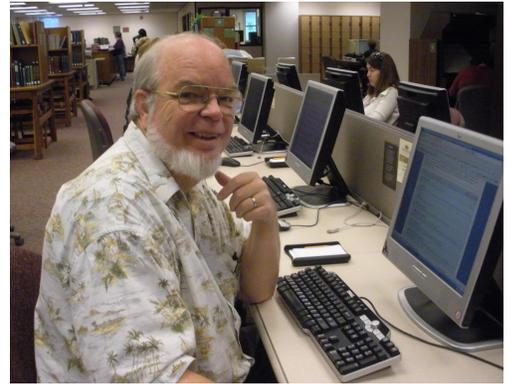
* Tameron's uncle was kicked out of the Los Angeles Police Department in 1938. She wants to find out why. She has family information, but no death date. She found his wife in the 1940 U.S. census living without him. A search in the California Death Index found he died in 1941 in Los Angeles. With the date, Tameron can look for more newspaper articles and perhaps an obituary for him.

* Jean wanted to know how to sync her Family Tree Maker database with an Ancestry Member Tree. The FTM Knowledge Base has explicit directions.

* Lorrie's ancestor was Isaac Stallings (1810-1893), migrating from North Carolina to Indiana to Iowa. We found his Find A Grave memorial, and Ancestry.com had a number of Suggested Records for him. But she doesn't have a subscription - we recommended using the computers at the FamilySearch Library in Mission Valley, or San Diego City and County public libraries.

* Virginia found a newspaper article with the 1911 marriage of her ancestors on MyHeritage.

* Diane G. shared her poster of her ancestor "Don Martin Casillas" who was a Spanish architect who built cathedrals in 16th century Spain and Mexico. She likes the MyHeritage smart matches because she can contact other researchers. Diane has done autosomal DNA tests on 23andMe for her four sons - the results say two are Britain/Ireland, one is Iberia, and one is French/German.



The next Research Group meeting will be Wednesday, 13 May 2015, at 12 noon in the Conference Room at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library.

April 29th Program Review – Donie Nelson

The CVGS Program meeting on April 29th had 42 attendees, who heard **Donie Nelson** speak on **"Family Stories: Secrets, Lies and Surprises."**

Donie said that "you don't have to be a celebrity to have family surprises" and "Secrets, lies and surprises bring dull facts to life and bring generations together." She suggested that we embrace the black sheep in our family tree because they are colorful and human. Each surprise leads to a family story that can be shared over generations.

Yesterday's scandal may become today's exciting family story. Stories can bring your ancestors to life. All families have secrets, but they can reveal truths. Secrets are concealed by lies.

Donie told a number of her own family stories that illustrated her points. Her father, Raymond Nelson, had Swedish and Scots ancestry, and her mother, Corinne Valdez, had Spanish and Scots ancestry. Her father ran off to join the circus for five days, and worked for bootleggers on the upper Missouri River in the early 1930s. Her parents tell different stories about how they met in Trinidad, Colorado, but they eloped to Raton, New Mexico to marry.

Donie was named after her paternal grandmother, Donie Current, and Donie is short for Caledonia (there was a song about Caledonia).

One of her mother's ancestors was Antonio Valdez, an early 20th century politician in Colorado, whose grandmother was Mary Clorinda Romero who was literate and a Jehovah's Witness. Her mother's given name came from Clorinda.

Antonio Valdez was married three times, and there is a fascinating 40-page 1923 divorce document. This line goes back into the early 1800s, including a Jose Joaquin Young who rode with Kit Carson all over the West.

As Donie showed, there is some truth in every story, but sometimes it is difficult to sort out the story from the actual events. Truth makes your family history memorable, and your stories may inspire family members to become researchers.

CVGS Honorary Life Member Nina Schultheis Passed Away

Former CVGS President and Honorary Life Member Nina Schultheis passed away on 21 April 2015.

There will be a Memorial Service on May 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the Greenwood Mortuary in the Last Supper Chapel. After the service, there will be a Celebration of Life get together at our home, 763 Gretchen. Hope you can join us. Sincerely, Larry and France

Nina served the Chula Vista Genealogical Society as 2nd Vice Pres./Membership from 1993 to 1995, 1st Vice Pres./Programs from 1995 to 1997, and President 1997 to 1999. Nina was awarded Honorary Life Membership in CVGS in honor of her leadership and service several years ago.



May 2nd Saturday Workshop Review, by Susi Pentico

The May 2nd Saturday Workshop was successful with 27 of our members in attendance.

The first presenter was Randy Seaver on "Exploring FamilySearch," and concentrated on the Research Wiki, searching the indexed record collections, and browsing those collections that are not indexed and must be browsed. These are "digital microfilm" that are way-pointed and often in many "volumes" of unindexed books. He did an interesting presentation on working within the system and talked about Probate and Land Records availability on FamilySearch. The key is to find the Index volumes that tell the user a volume number and a page number, or a case file number. Some collections are easy to use, and others are more difficult. He had a three page handout on exploring FamilySearch, and a two page handout on how to find New York probate records on FamilySearch.

Shirley Becker talked about, "Overcoming Scotoma!" Very interesting talk that affects what we read when we are doing our research. How we perceive a sentence has a major affect on our outcome in our research. She also talked about many links we can use to help in our research. Shirley had a three page handout.

Bethel Williams then presented her topic on "What Are Southern States?" She asked if we knew what made a southern state. The answer wasn't what most expected. She shared much data on each Southern State and gave pages of URLs for us to use in researching. ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, VIRGINIA make up the Southern States. URL's for each State. Her 40 page slide presentation with clues and ideas is available via email.

Susi Pentico presented on "Archives, Libraries and Societies." She mentioned a site by Mark Rabideau for Prussian/German Research. Fold3 is free for World War II records until May 15th. A research site for Kentucky was mentioned - on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westkygenealogy>. She shared many URLs and some sites to show the extent of Libraries, Archives and Societies we are not even touching in our research. Her master site for information was: <http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=state+archives+usa&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>. Susi presented a 3 page hand out of information and sites to search, reminding everyone that, when you start, to learn the History of the area, before the genealogy because you may miss key components not having the right historical information.

Ken Robison said, "With all these sites to see, when will we be able to do Research?" At least he said it with a big smile and eyes twinkling. Ken Robison won the door prize.

Caller Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed to be the first caller for our member roster. It is a simple job and all of the information will be sent via email so you will have a script. You will simply reach out to a third of our members (once a month) by phone to notify and remind them of upcoming events. Please consider doing this important job for our society! Please contact Membership Chair, Karen Smith (freelady720000@me.com).

Please Note: Chula Vista Auditorium Closed May Through July

The Auditorium at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library will be refurbished between May and July. Therefore, the May 27 program and the July 29th General Meetings will be held at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road).

Welcome New Members

Grace A. Haley

Current Membership (as of 5/1): 89

Karyn's Caring Corner

Cards were sent to:

Tiffany Alvord and family
Diane DeVincenzo

Meeting Host Volunteers

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 – Jacque Goodman – 619-482-0350
Page 3 – Pam Buchan – 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, May 12th, 9 a.m.

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN. SOCIETY COGG

Speaker: Mary Van Orsdol on

“Going Paperless:

Part II; Tips, Tricks and Surprises”

at Carlsbad City Council Chambers

contact: Pam Boyle (boylepam@gmail.com)

Saturday, May 9th, 10 a.m.

SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Speaker: Nancy Loe on

“Coming to America: Castle Garden, Ellis Island and Immigrant Ancestors”

at St. Andrews Lutheran Church

(8350 Lake Murray Blvd., San Diego)

contact: 858-279-7347

Saturday, May 16th, 9 a.m.

COMPUTER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

9 a.m.: User Groups

10:30 a.m.: Kitty Cooper on

“Advantages of Working With a One World Tree”

at UCSD-Robinson Hall

contact cgssd-board@ucsd.edu

Tuesday, May 26th, 9 a.m.

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN. SOC.

Speaker: Linda Serna on

“Researching Through Maternal and Sibling Lines”

at Carlsbad City Council Chambers

contact: Jean Tempke

(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

GENEALOGY DAYS IN CHULA VISTA

- **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 Type”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)
- **Wednesday, June 3, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting**, at CVCCB Library Conference Room
- **Saturday, June 6, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – CVGS Workshop: Shirley Becker: “Mac Reunion Genealogy Review”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)
- **Wednesday, June 10, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, at CVCCB Conference Room
- **Wednesday, June 17, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting**, at CVCCB Library Computer Lab
- **Saturday, June 27, 11 a.m. – Annual Picnic:** at Gary and Wanda Brock's home

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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) for program details.

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

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

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