



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 26, Issue 4

Providing Genealogy Education in South San Diego County

April 2016

WEDNESDAY, April 27th GENERAL MEETING

from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

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

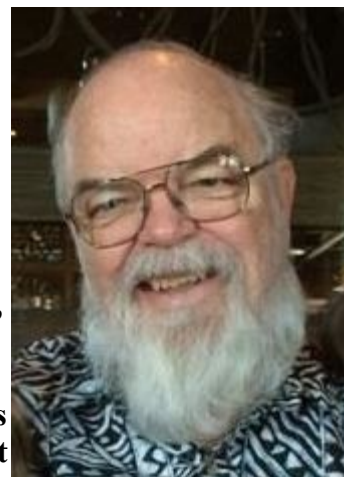
“The 10 Best FREE Genealogy Websites”

with Randy Seaver

Which free genealogy websites give the "most bang for the minute?" This talk will highlight genealogy education, data portal, and record collection websites that all researchers can use to improve their research skills, genealogy knowledge, find online records, and improve their family tree. NOTE: The handout for this talk will be provided at the end of the presentation.

Randy Seaver is a native San Diegan. His ancestry is mainly colonial New England and Upper Atlantic, has been pursuing his elusive ancestors since 1988, and has been online since 1992.

Randy speaks to Southern California societies, libraries and groups, and teaches "Beginning Computer Genealogy" adult classes at OASIS. He blogs daily about genealogy subjects at Genea-Musings (www.geneamusings.com) and the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe (<http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>).



Special Saturday Program on 30 April Features Mark Olsen of MyHeritage – See Page 5.

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President's Message – by Virginia Taylor



As I sit here listening to the rain falling on my skylight I can't help but think of the saying – April Showers bring May flowers. Don't know about the rest of you but my flowers are already blooming. My roses are almost in full bloom. I am also enjoying all the orchid trees around town. I think they are the prettiest they have ever been.

For much of the country April seems to be the time of reawakening and getting back into the swing of the season. The same is true for our society.

April is going to be a busy month. Along with all of our regular events we will be having a very special Saturday gathering on April 30, 1 p.m. to p.m. Mark Olsen from MyHeritage will be here to talk to us about MyHeritage – what they are and where they will be going in the future as far as technology is concerned. This is a very special treat for us. Mark contacted Randy to see if we would like for him to come to us while he was already in this area. He could have chosen any number of other societies but we are the lucky ones. It isn't often we can get someone of Mark's caliber to come speak to us. Please mark your calendar and get your reservation in soon so we will have some idea how many people will be attending. We have put the invitation out to all the other societies in the area so we expect to have a very large crowd. We will be meeting in the Civic Center auditorium just like we do for our regular general meetings.

After Mark's talk he will be available to answer questions and just generally have an informal talk with anyone who wants to talk to him. At that time we will be serving light refreshments.

The deadline has now passed for the high school seniors to turn in their scholarship applications. We are in need of a few people to help judge these applications. If you are interested please contact Susi Pentico – susicp@cox.net or 619-623-5250.

Let's enjoy the rain while we can. This may be the last we see until late in the year.

Please Register for Meetings on the CVGS Website

Please register for the Program Meetings, the Saturday Workshops, the Research Group and the Computer Group on the CVGS website – www.CVGenealogy.org. Log in with your member ID, then click on Events and the Register button for each event, and follow directions. This will help with meeting planning and speaker handouts. Soon, members will be able to download speaker handouts to their computer and print them out. You will receive an email reminder for the events from CVGS based on your registration.

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 "Members" tab.

Next Computer Group Meeting – 20 April 2016

The next Computer Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 April 2016 at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library (365 F Street in downtown Chula Vista, Calif.). There will be a “Beginning Computer Genealogy” class at 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room, followed by the regular “Computer Group” meeting in the Computer Lab from 12:30 to 2 p.m., both led by Shirley Becker.

This is an experiment. We are giving it three months. Class will start at 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room and go until 11:45 a.m. when we will break for lunch. It is called a “Beginning Computer Genealogy” group. If you have a laptop, you should bring it. Gary Brock will be demonstrating very basic computer tasks such as how to find tutorials and use them. We will move to the computer lab at 12:30 p.m. and stay until 2 p.m. Basic genealogy tasks are planned, such as going to a website, copying an item and placing that item in your database. We will use the lab computers at this point with a kind of fake database set up in Microsoft Word. We will delete those databases when we leave the lab. Hopefully, the attendees will have some basic knowledge at that point to follow on the computers. We want their input on what they would like to learn.

The expectation is that the attendees will follow up at home by practicing on things they will learn in class. In two months, if they practice we will try for more advanced things in the lab. If it doesn't work that way, we will answer requests for assistance and we will discontinue the extra class.

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, April 20, 6 to 8 p.m.:** Susi Pentico will discuss “Land Records.”

Next CVGS Saturday Workshop – 7 May 2016

The May 7th Saturday Workshop will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Room at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road). The subject will be “Researching for Land Records Information” led by Susi Pentico. Learn what land records can tell you about your ancestors. Learn about Grantor and Grantee indexes, Recording of Deeds, and where to find these records.

Save the Date – Chula Vista Family Discovery Day is Saturday, 21 May

The Chula Vista Family Discovery Day will be on Saturday, May 21st at the Chula Vista Stake on East H Street. Randy Seaver will be the Keynote speaker, and there will be classes and an exhibit hall. Watch for more information in the coming months. This is a free event for all.

The “New” Auditorium at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library

Did you like the refurbished Auditorium setup, with the space in the back for refreshments? We have been asked to keep all food and drink off of the new carpet and seats. For our convenience the library will provide an extra table and chairs in the alcove area for our general meetings. Please eat and drink only in this area. I know it can be a bit inconvenient but we want to help keep the auditorium looking nice for as long as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

March 30th Program Review – Toni Perrone

Toni Perrone was the speaker at the CVGS program meeting on Wednesday, 30 March on “The Land of Hansel and Gretel: Genealogical Resources for Hessen.”

She discussed the history of the area in Germany known as Hesse, including maps showing all of the boundary and jurisdictional changes since 700 AD. Key events were the 1871 formation of the German Empire, the effects of world Wars I and II, and the 1991 combination of East and West Germany. Hessen now is a state in west-central Germany with a population of about 6 million people, with major cities of Wiesbaden, Kassel, Frankfurt and Darmstadt. In 1946, Hesse was formed with major districts of Hesse Nassau, the Duchy of Hessen, Waldeck, and Rhineland-Palatinate. Persons traveled on the rivers. The Rhine flows north and then northwest through Hesse to the North Sea. Toni said a timeline and up-to-date maps for each historic period are essential in order to find records.



Emigration from Hesse to America started in 1707, when emigrants from Braunschweig settled in New Brunswick, New Jersey. In 1751, more emigrants settled in Dresden, Mass. Between 1776 and 1783, mercenary soldiers were hired by the British to fight the colonists in the Revolutionary War, and they were referred to as Hessians. Many of them were from Hesse. Thousands stayed in the United States after the war, with some receiving land grants in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Hesse was the homeland for the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, who wrote folk tale and folklore books in the 1840s and 1850s. Hansel and Gretel was one of the stories. In the early 1800s, some Hesse families sent their young children to the USA to live with former Hessian soldiers and their families. In the 1848-1861 time period, Kassel and Darmstadt paid for the passage of about 140,000 emigrants to America.

Toni described some of the major reference works available for researchers with Hesse ancestry. These include the Emigration Books (Auswandern), Town Lineage Books (Ortsippenbuch), Military and Emigration records. The handout for the talk provided source listings and links to these and many more resources, and many of them are in the Immigrant Library in Burbank where Toni works. She also noted that many links for Hessen are online at www.genealogylinks.net/europe/germany/he.htm.

The handout for Toni's talk is available on the CVGS website (www.cvgenealogy.org) as are reference materials from the Immigrant Library in Burbank with information about researching in all of the German states.

SDGS Software User Groups

- Reunion (for Mac) 1st Tuesday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Library, Seminar Room, 10301 Scripps Lake Dr; Anne Alves, facilitator.
- Family Tree Maker (PC and Mac) 1st Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the FamilySearch Library, 4195 Camino del Rio South; Dave Tooley, facilitator.
- RootsMagic (PC and Mac) 4th Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the FamilySearch Library, 4195 Camino del Rio South; Randy Seaver, facilitator.

Saturday Special Event on April 30th Features Mark Olsen of MyHeritage

Mark Olsen of MyHeritage will present “MyHeritage – Amazing Technology Changing the World of Genealogy” on Saturday, April 30th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library Auditorium (365 F Street in Chula Vista).

MyHeritage has created technology that will blow off your socks! From automatic record matching to new technology not yet announced MyHeritage is on the forefront of technology. This automation and these advances in technology are helping millions connect with their past faster and more accurately than ever before.

Mark Olsen is a Business Development Manager at MyHeritage. He has a degree in Genealogy and Family History with Spanish Emphasis from Brigham Young University. Mark and Sara are the proud parents of seven children and two grandchildren. Mr. Olsen serves as a Director on the FGS board of directors.



Please register for this special event by visiting our website: www.CVGenealogy.org and selecting the “Events” link, then scroll down to the “CVGS Saturday Special Event” and click on “Register.”

Chula Vista Library has Genealogy Books

Are you aware that we have over 3,000 genealogy books and periodicals in our library for you to utilize? Not every thing is on the internet and they say it never will be.

It has been suggested we start an evening/weekend stop-by library event. We used to host a day and an evening event and it helped draw in working people and helped people to work with the books and garner more information. John Finch does a meeting every Wednesday morning, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, in the small conference room near the genealogy book shelves. Would you like an evening to drop by and spend time doing research? Would you like a Sunday to spend time researching? What time would you like? Please let me know at SusiCP@cox.net.

Remember the LDS FamilySearch Library in Mission Valley

The LDS FamilySearch Library in Mission Valley (4195 Camino del Rio South) is open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. I personally like to go Thursday evenings.

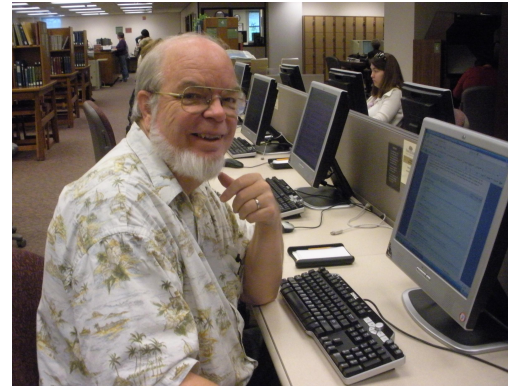
Besides a book collection and a microfilm collection, this facility provides FREE access to a number of free and commercial genealogy websites, including Ancestry.com, Fold3, Newspapers.com, MyHeritage, Findmypast, AmericanAncestors, and more.

Research Group Meeting Review – 9 March 2016

The Chula Vista Genealogical Society Research Group meeting on Wednesday, 9 March had 18 attendees, including one guest.

In the first hour, Randy discussed some of the recent genealogy news items, including:

- * RootsMagic announced that the program can now read native Family Tree Maker files (all versions of FTM) without a GEDCOM import.
- * Software MacKiev has an upgrade for Family Tree Maker 2014 for Windows and Family Tree Maker for Mac 3 at a discount price. Existing users of the programs will have a free update.
- * GenealogyInTime Magazine published their Top 100 genealogy websites for 2016 - see <http://genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2016-page01.html>.
- * Ancestry.com and Findmypast.com added 10 million Irish Catholic Church records to their collections.
- * MyHeritage announced Record Detective II technology to their features, and offers Record Matches for their large Books collection.
- * There are about 30 videos from the 2016 RootsTech Conference available for free at <https://www.rootstech.org/video2/4739804696001>.
- * Randy's research in land and probate records for Amos Plimpton (1735-1808) of Medfield, Mass.



In the second hour, the group discussed these issues:

- * Karen Y. noted that her father's grandparents corresponded with cousins in Norway, and she has his family group sheets. She connected at the Escondido Family History Fair with Robin who found her great-grandfather's records.
- * Jean's mom had her 2nd-great-grandmother's name, and was able to go back to the 1700s in France. She immigrated to the US in 1848.
- * Jane noted that the German Society in America is now working with a society in Germany to help researchers with German ancestors find their families in Germany. The 2017 conference will be in Minneapolis. Back in October, the SDJGS speaker discussed the USCIS pre-1906 naturalization documents that could be obtained for \$20. Her DelVecchio immigrants didn't obtain theirs until later, apparently.
- * Karen S. asked if there were specially trained people who wrote things down in pre-20th century times for wills, deeds, court records, etc. There were court or town clerks, registrars, justices of the peace and others who were educated and would perform these services for a fee or as a job.
- * Susi is in contact with 2nd or 3rd cousins who share her father's DNA. One is a 16-year old adoptee in Greene County, Pennsylvania where she has ancestry.
- * Linda needs a new computer to replace her Windows 7 machine from 2009 with Legacy Family Tree. She is reading *Consumer Reports*.

The next CVGS Research Group meeting will be at 12 noon on Wednesday, 13 April 2016 in the Conference Room at the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library.

Who Do You Think You Are? on TLC Starting April 3rd

The 8th season of the popular *Who Do You Think You Are?* genealogy series debuted on Sunday, 3 April at 9 p.m. on The Learning Channel (Channel 36 on Cox Cable). The subjects for this series are:

- Sunday, 3 April: Aisha Tyler tracks down her 2x great-grandfather, whose story had been lost over generations, and uncovers an astonishing tale of a prominent ancestor whose struggle to keep his illegitimate son a secret made headlines.
- Sunday, 10 April: Scott Foley finds a relative who risked his life for one of America's founding fathers, and an ancestor who suffered unspeakably during one of this nation's darkest times.
- Sunday, 17 April: Katey Sagal is shocked to learn of her family's Amish roots, and digs deeper as she realizes the level of dedication to their faith.
- Lea Michele nails down where her mysterious paternal ancestors came from, and learns of the dire economic circumstances they endured while trying to emigrate to the U.S.
- Chris Noth learns his ancestors suffered during one of the greatest catastrophes in American history, and a relative who fought in one of the bloodiest battles of all time.
- Molly Ringwald explores family lore of Swedish royalty which uncovers her ancestors' harrowing lives and a brave woman who forever changed her family's fate.

Watch Legacy Family Tree Webinars for More Genealogy Education

Family Tree Webinars site continues to provide interesting and informative genealogy webinar presentations by notable speakers on a near weekly basis. The complete list of upcoming webinars can be found at <http://familytreewebinars.com/>. For April and early May, the scheduled webinars are:

- Wednesday, 13 April, 11 a.m.: Mary Hill on "U.S. Land Records – State Land States"
- Tuesday, 19 April, 11 a.m.: Geoff Rasmussen on "Watch Geoff Live: DNA"
- Wednesday, 20 April, 11 a.m.: Jill Morelli on "Fire Insurance Maps – The Google Maps of Their Day"
- Wednesday, 27 April, 11 a.m.: Kirsty Gray on "England and Wales – Rummaging in the Parish Chests"
- Wednesday, 4 May, 11 a.m.: Thomas MacEntee on "Google Drive for Genealogists."
- Wednesday, 11 May, 11 a.m.: Denise May Levenick on "Dirty Pictures – Save Your Family Photos From Ruin"

These 90-minute webinars are FREE to watch live at 11 a.m. Pacific time and for seven days after the live presentation on the website. After seven days, they are added to the Webinar Archive behind the Family Tree Webinars pay wall (\$49.95 for a one year subscription). There are over 330 webinars available in the Archive now. Most of them have an accompanying handout available only to subscribers. This is one of the best genealogy education bargains around.

Library Use Survey Coming! - by Wanda Brock

A Chula Vista Library Use Survey, including questions about the genealogy book collection, will be distributed this month. The survey was developed by the society's Library Committee (Wanda Brock, Ann Stevens, Ana Castro and John Finch). It will be distributed via email and at the society meetings and should be returned to the Library Committee members.

Genealogy Industry News

- MyHeritage announced new Book Matching technology which searches ALL your names in your MyHeritage tree at once in nearly 450,000 books and then notifies you of probable matches found within any of the books. The Book Matches are in the “Discoveries” tab > “Record Matches” and in the “Compilation of Published Sources” collection. See their blog post at <http://blog.myheritage.com/2016/04/myheritage-launches-book-matching/>.
- The Family History Guide (www.thefhguide.com) is a huge website aimed for beginners and advanced genealogy researchers alike. It is not a simple ebook published in PDF or some other format. Instead, it is a full interactive guide that contains some of its information on the Family History Guide’s own web site and adds hundreds of links to other web sites that also contain useful information. The new Guide is now available on the www.FamilySearch.org website in the Learning Center AND in the Family History Center Services Portal.
- One of the recently added databases on Ancestry.com is the U.S. Homestead Records, 1861-1936 (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60593>). The database description is: "Homestead files consist of unbound documents that include final certificates, applications with land descriptions, affidavits showing proof of citizenship, register and receiver receipts, notices and final proofs, and testimonies of witnesses. These documents are part of the Records of the Bureau of Land Management (formerly known as the General Land Office), Record Group (RG) 49. The collection currently includes records from Arizona, Indiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, and part of Iowa. Additional records will be added in future updates."

The database description also includes information about the process of applying and receiving a homestead - see the description at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60593>

- The Mocavo website closed on Wednesday 23rd March and your account will be moving over to Findmypast. Plus, over the coming weeks, all of Mocavo’s records and much, much more will soon be available on Findmypast.

What do I need to do? Your Mocavo account details will automatically be moved onto Findmypast. If you already have a Findmypast account, we’ll add 30 days to your subscription completely free as a little welcome gift. You'll receive more information about this in a follow-up email after it’s been applied.

- Findmypast has added these record collections and more over the last month:
 - British Newspapers
 - Royal Irish Constabulary Pensions, 1873-1925
 - Western Australia Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes
 - New York Research Periodical
 - New York State Religious Records, 1716-1914
 - British Royal Navy Seamen
 - Worcestershire Baptisms, Marriages and Burials
 - Middlesex Baptisms, 1543-1876
- *GenealogyInTime Magazine* has published their fifth annual Top 100 Genealogy Websites at <http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2016-page01.html>. Ancestry.com was #1, Find A Grave was #2, FamilySearch was #3, and MyHeritage was #4.

Welcome New Members

Daryl Hern
Janet Lundeen
Pauline Meza

Current Membership (as of 4/1): 92

Karen's Caring Corner

Cards were sent to:
Sunny Van Cleave
Gerry McKenna

Meeting Host Volunteers

April 27th: Shirley Becker and Marcia Mautner
May 25th: Linda Espino and Ana Castro

Contact Jo Ann Bonner to sign up!
(619) 421-3628

Telephone Tree Volunteers

Ana Castro – 619-781-8441
Karen Smith – 619-656-0996
Carole Sobke – 619-465-5286

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	Carole Sobke
Webmaster	Gary Brock

San Diego Genealogy Events

Saturday, April 9th, 10 a.m.

SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Speaker: John Finch on
"World War I" and
"Between the Wars"

at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
8350 Lake Murray Blvd., San Diego
contact: lbrady014@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 12th, 9:30 a.m.

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN.
SOCIETY COGG

Speaker: Mike McMahan
"Computer Backup Strategies"

at Carlsbad City Council Chambers
contact: Pam Boyle (boylepam@gmail.com)

Tuesday, April 26th, 9:30 a.m.

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN. SOC.

Speaker: Francie Kennedy on
"Mugbooks and County Directories"
at Carlsbad City Council Chambers

contact: Jean Tempke
(jtempke@roadrunner.com)

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CONFERENCES

SCGS 2016 GENEALOGY JAMBOREE

June 2-5, 2016

Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel,
2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA. 91505
Info: <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

GENEALOGY DAYS IN CHULA VISTA

- **Saturday, April 2, 1 p.m. – Saturday Workshop: Susi Pentico: “Researching for Land Records Information”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)
- **Wednesday, April 6, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting,** at CVCCB Library Conf. Room
- **Wednesday, April 13, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting,** at CVCCB Library Conf. Room
- **Wednesday, April 20, 10:15 a.m. – Beginning Computer Genealogy** class, CVCCB Conf. Room
- **Wednesday, April 20, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting,** at CVCCB Library Comp. Lab
- **Wednesday, April 27, 12 noon – Program Meeting: Randy Seaver: “Ten Best FREE Genealogy Websites”** at CVCCB Auditorium
- **Wednesday, May 4, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting,** at CVCCB Library Conf. Room
- **Saturday, May 7, 1 p.m. – Saturday Workshop: Susi Pentico: “Researching for Land Records Information”** at Bonita-Sunnyside Library (4375 Bonita Road)
- **Wednesday, May 11, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting,** at CVCCB Library Conf. Room
- **Wednesday, May 18, 10:15 a.m. – Beginning Computer Genealogy** class, CVCCB Conf. Room
- **Wednesday, May 18, 12:30 p.m. – Computer Group Meeting,** at CVCCB Library Comp. Lab
- **Wednesday, May 25, 12 noon – Program Meeting: Jim Bregante: “San Diego’s Waterfront- Through the Eyes of a Child”** at CVCCB Auditorium

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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>

Chula Vista Genealogical Society
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