



San Joaquin County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 690243, Stockton, CA 95269-0243

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com~sjgs/index.htm

Volume 34 Number 4

April 2013

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Charlie Lambaren

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MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Monday,
April 1, 7 p.m.,
at the home of Virginia
Kranz, 6 West Loretta,
Stockton

General Meeting
Thursday, April 18
6:00 p.m.
Troke Library
502 W. Benjamin Holt
Stockton

Thursday, April 18, 2013

5:45 p.m.

Margaret Troke Library
502 W. Benjamin Holt Drive, Stockton

Cultural Challenges in Researching Chinese-American Family History

Five thousand years. One hundred seventy generations. Documents in a foreign country over seven thousand miles away. Elizabeth Lew uncovered all this from her heritage in China—without even knowing the language of her ancestors—and published her findings in the 584 page book, *House of Liu: A Han Dynasty Genealogy*.

From this five thousand year heritage, Elizabeth Lew was able to extract not only the distant history, but the stories of her ancestors' immigration to America, their quest to follow rumors of incredible opportunities here, and their struggles through the Chinese Exclusion Act and life in the Chinatown settings of Oakland and Antioch.

Author Elizabeth Lew does not speak Chinese herself, but was able to extract the information needed from records dating back thousands of years. At our April meeting, she will explain the process she used as an American researcher to navigate challenges of bridging the language barrier. Also, she'll cover the need, in researching ethnic heritage, to understand such regional factors as naming customs, arranged marriages and other cultural aspects.

Ms. Lew's presentation will include examples of Chinese genealogical records. In addition, for those interested, she will have signed copies of her book available for sale after the meeting.

A short membership business meeting will follow the presentation. Refreshments will be served. Join us—and bring a friend!

SJCGS Sponsors A Walking Tour

This month, the SJCGS has arranged with the Stockton Cambodian Buddhist Temple to provide a **guided walking tour** of the Temple display of statues showing the life and story of Buddha.

This display is a perfect example of how oral family history in ethnic groups is passed along from generation to generation.

You can see a sample of the displays by following this link:

<http://www.visitstockton.org/Things-to-Do/Arts-Entertainment/stockton-cambodian-buddhist-temple>

The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, **April 27**. We will meet at the Temple, located at **3732 Carpenter Road** in Stockton.

This is a free event. However, if you plan on attending, please R.S.V.P. by email to sherifenley@gmail.com.

Heritage Writer's Class At the Haggin Museum

If you have the goal of writing about your family history, but would appreciate some guidance in how to go about the task, you may be interested in an upcoming class series offered by the Haggin Museum.

The Heritage Writers Community—all experienced faculty and published authors—will present five sessions on the elements needed to produce a credible piece of historical writing.

Classes meet weekly on Tuesday morn-

ings from 9:00 to 11:00, beginning **April 16**. Tuition for the class series is \$65 for Haggin Museum members and \$75 for nonmembers.

If you are interested in this Haggin Museum event, you may contact the museum at (209) 940-6315 or email them at education@hagginmuseum.org.

The registration form may be downloaded from their website at http://hagginmuseum.org/education/writing_history.shtml

Come Early For This Month's Membership Meeting!

You may have noticed the new starting time for our monthly meetings, listed on the front cover of this newsletter. Please be sure to join us **starting at 5:45 p.m.** for our meeting this month. We would like to encourage members to take advantage of the fifteen minutes ahead of each meeting to socialize as well as sign in, participate in drawings or other special details preceding our speaker's presentation.

April meeting agenda:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 5:45—6:00 | Check in and greetings
Turn in survey
Enter drawings |
| 6:00 | Featured Speaker
<i>Elizabeth Lew</i> |
| 6:45 | Break for refreshments
Book sales |
| 7:00 | SJCGS Business Meeting
Vote on proposed bylaws
Drawings |
| 7:40 | Adjourn meeting |

From Our President

Dear SJCGS Member,

We had an excellent presentation from Del McComb at the February 28 membership meeting. The local author took us back to San Joaquin County during the Civil War so we could visualize how local residents were involved in supporting the troops.

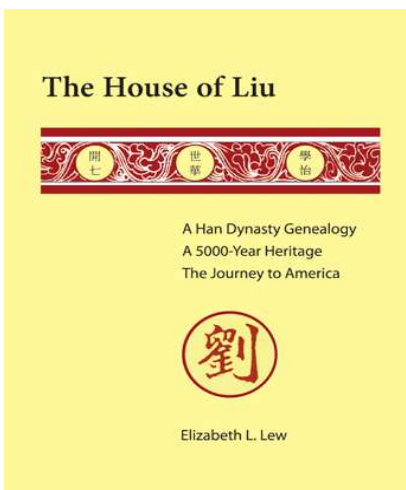
Our March 21 membership meeting was a roundtable discussion on "Breaking Through Brick Walls," (or how to track down elusive ancestors). This was an enjoyable, informative, and interactive learning experience as well as a chance to meet fellow members.

Our two beginning genealogy workshops on March 16 and 23 at Troke Library were well received. We will have another workshop on **May 18** which will be a continuation of presentations on military and immigration record research.

I want to thank our wonderful member volunteers who did a great job in helping on these two workshops. Workshop presenters **Jacqi Stevens** and **Susan Saunders-King**, gave fine presentations on military records, organizing and preserving documents, and how to display your heirlooms, artifacts, photos, and other collectibles from your family history.

We recently sent out a member interest survey to all our members. This survey only takes a few minutes to fill out. We need to know what you want out of this organization so that the Board can better meet your interests. This is critical to the success of the SJCGS. If you have not already done so, please help us out by completing and returning the survey—or bringing it with you to our **April 18** meeting. Thanks!

Lori Calhoon
SJCGS President, 2013
garycalhoon@comcast.net, 209-474-6448



Book Sale at April 18 Meeting

The book written by our featured speaker will be available for purchase during this month's meeting. *The House of Liu* contains seven chapters, from history of the earliest Chinese dynasties through modern times, including the author's grandfather's family story of immigration to California. An index, appendix and synopsis of the book are also included in this 547-page paperbound volume. The book may be purchased for \$43.50 each, by cash or check only. Ms. Lew will be happy to sign your copy at our April 18 meeting.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

Thursday, April 18: General membership meeting at the Margaret Troke Library from 5:45 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. Featured speaker: Elizabeth Lew.

Saturday, April 27: Walking Tour of Cambodian Buddhist Temple at 10:00 a.m. Meet at 3732 Carpenter Road, Stockton. Please see article on page 2 for RSVP information.

May

Monday, May 6: SJCGS Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. All members welcome to attend.

Wednesday, May 8: The California Genealogical Society hosts their members-only field trip to the State Library and State Archives. Further info [here](#). Not a member? Join [here](#) for \$40 per year.

Saturday, May 18: Beginners' Genealogy workshop at Margaret Troke Library from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Military Records and Immigration Research, Part II.

Thursday, May 23: General membership meeting at the Margaret Troke Library from 5:45 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. Featured speaker: Anita Bautista, Vice President of the Filipino American Historical Society, presenting on Filipino Heritage and Family History.

June

Monday, June 3: SJCGS Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. All members welcome to attend.

Friday-Sunday, June 7-9: Southern California Genealogy Jamboree in Burbank. For more information, see <http://genealogyjamboree.org/>

Friday-Saturday, June 28-29: Family History Expo in Sacramento. For more information, see their website at <https://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent/index/62>.

Did You Know?

The San Joaquin County Genealogical Society just passed its Sixtieth Anniversary in 2012. According to SJCGS Board Member and Research Chair, **Charlie Lambaren**, our Society was founded in January, 1952, by Mrs. Dwight Curtis, Sr.

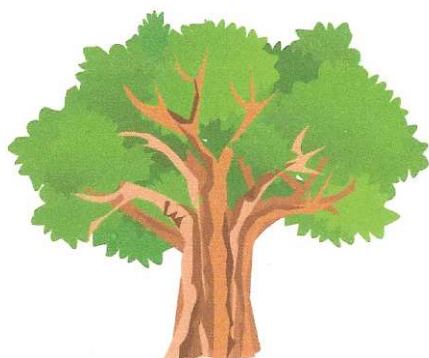
Mary Curtis was a former genealogy instructor at Stockton College. With discontinuation of her class in 1952, the Society became the means to provide further training and resources to our county.

Newsletter Copy Deadline

The San Joaquin County Genealogical Society newsletter is published nine times a year: monthly from January through June and September through November.

Upcoming copy deadline is **April 20, 2013**. Guest submissions pertaining to topics of *specific interest* to the San Joaquin County Genealogical Society are welcome. Please submit articles to afamilytapestry@gmail.com.

Teen & Adult Program



A Free Genealogy Workshop for Beginners

Saturday, May 18, 2013
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Session 1
11 a.m.

**More information on Immigration,
Naturalization, and Military Records!**
Presented by the San Joaquin Genealogical Society

Break for Lunch

Bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy between sessions

Session 2
1:30 p.m.

**Volunteers will help you research your
family histories through Internet Resources**

Space is limited. Pre-registration is required.
Sign up at the Troke Branch Library's Information Desk.
Participants may bring their own laptops.

Troke Branch Library
502 W. Benjamin Holt Dr., Stockton
(209) 937-8221 or (866) 805-7323 (READ)



STOCKTON
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
**PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

www.ssicpl.org

Fan and Follow SSJCPL



This free program is provided
through the generosity of the
San Joaquin Genealogical Society and
Friends of the Stockton Public Library

Did You Remember To Complete Your Membership Survey?

The SJCGS Board's purpose is to serve the membership. That's you! We want to provide interesting activities that you would like to attend and participate in.

Recently, our President, Lori Calhoon, emailed a survey to each of our current members. This survey should only take a few minutes to complete, and can be returned either to our Post Office Box address, or brought to our meeting on April 18.

If you have already completed and returned the survey, thank you for your input! If you haven't been able to do so yet, please consider adding your voice by completing your survey now and either mailing it, emailing it, or bringing it with you to our April 18 meeting. A copy of the survey is included with this newsletter.

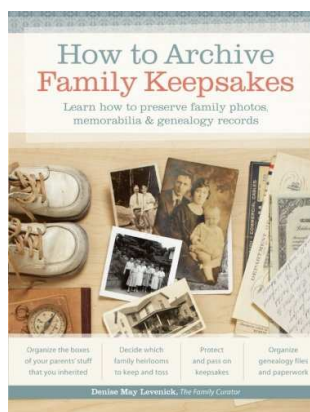
Be sure to include your name on your survey and return it to us by April 18 if you wish to be included in our **drawing** for free **one-year SJCGS membership**.

We would really appreciate your help in completing this membership survey. Don't hesitate to add any additional comments. We will create our future activities based on what you want, so please tell us your ideas!



Special Book Giveaway At Our April Membership Meeting!

In preparing for our Troke Library Beginners' Genealogy Workshop on Organizing, Preserving, Storing and Displaying Your Genealogical Material, one book became indispensable in preparing for the workshop: the new book on that very topic by Southern California genealogist, Denise Levenick.



We are honored that **Denise Levenick** donated a copy of her recently-published book, ***How To Archive Family Keepsakes*** to SJCGS.

If you have not yet seen this helpful guide, the *In-Depth Genealogist* recently wrote a review describing the book in more detail (which you can read [here](#)).

Denise's new book currently lists for \$24.99 [on Amazon](#), but since we were teaching on the subject, she has donated a copy of her book to be given away at our April 18 meeting.

Be sure to join us for our Thursday, April 18 meeting at Troke Library, beginning at 5:45 p.m.—and be sure to **enter your name in the drawing** for this valuable resource.

Photograph, left: SJCGS members Charlie Lambaren, Susan Saunders-King and Melinda Lambaren work with Troke Library patrons during a recent Beginner's Workshop presented by SJCGS volunteers. Join us and volunteer to help at our next workshop on May 18. Photo courtesy Paul Sevilla

SJCGS Membership Questionnaire 2013

Please send to SJCGS, P.O. Box 690243, Stockton, CA 95269-0243 by April 18, or turn in at membership meeting that day and you will be entered into drawing for a free membership for one year.

In order to serve you better, our Executive Board needs to find out **about what you want to get out of your SJCGS membership**. Why did you join? We will appreciate your help on this- this is your organization. Thanks for your help!

The following are activities you might be interested in attending/ participating in. This will only take a few minutes!

Please rate these with a number, 1-5—(#1- meaning you would definitely attend/ participate in, #2- very likely to attend/participate, #3- might attend/articipate, #4- probably not attend/ participate, #5- would not attend/ participate.) This will be kept confidential.

1. _____ monthly membership meetings (none in July, Aug, Dec) (will have a speaker or activity, social time, short business meeting)
2. _____ local genealogical field trips/activities having to do with history, genealogy, preservation, in our region
3. _____ attending a local SJCGS sponsored genealogy seminar workshop with regionally known guest speakers/presenters
4. _____ attend a SJCGS member workshop/round table, with member presenters covering various topics
5. _____ helping as a library workshop volunteer for beginners in their research or doing a short presentation at the workshop
6. _____ being a genealogy volunteer at Chavez Library or another local library
7. _____ attend a membership social event, potluck, picnic
8. _____ help with transcribing, digitizing, publishing local genealogy records.
9. _____ helping with local genealogical workshop queries (cemetery records, court records, etc.)
10. _____ contributing articles to SJCGS monthly newsletter, blog, or website
11. _____ attending SJCGS dinner meetings (with speaker) such as annual dinner meeting in January
12. _____ helping with a local preservation project such as a cemetery preservation, tombstone recording project
13. _____ helping to publicize, promote our society and its activities
such as helping to place flyers, posters in community
14. _____ serving on one of our committees or as a Board member, officer
15. _____ helping our membership chairman in reaching out to our members—telephoning about meetings, getting their feedback, etc.
17. _____ participate in community outreach efforts
18. _____ participate in small special interest groups (such as German, Irish)
19. _____ help to select genealogy books that will be donated to the Chavez library after a period of time to be exclusively by members

If you would like for your name to be included in the drawing, please enter your name here:

Get Organized!

For our March 23 Beginner's Workshop at the Troke Library, we shared some resources to help people organize, preserve, store and display their documents, research files and family heirlooms. It was suggested that these online resources be included in the newsletter, in case you missed the workshop. Just click (or control-click) the blue entries to access the material online.

Resources on Video or YouTube:

- A list of webinars and podcasts on [Organizing Genealogy Research](#)
- A listing of all [Genealogy Organization videos](#) available on YouTube
- A weekly listing of all upcoming genealogy webinars from Julie Cahill Tarr's [GenBlog](#)

Resources from FamilySearch.org Wikis

- Ideas on [organizing your files](#) and overall concepts of organization
- A listing of all other articles available on [organizing for genealogy research](#)

Resources from Blogs

- Professional Organizer turned amateur genealogist [Janine Adams' advice](#)
- Some thoughts on organizing paper vs. digital files from [Judith Beaman Scott](#)
- Using message boards and forums? Julie Cahill Tarr shares some ideas [here](#)

Resources with Decorating Ideas

- Lori Calhoon shared this [list from Rootsweb](#) with several links full of ideas
- *Your Story Coach* provides photos and descriptions of a few do-able [great ideas](#)

Troke Library Workshop
March 23, 2013
*Presented by
SJCGS Member Volunteers*



SJCGS President **Lori Calhoon** shares decorating tips for displaying family heirlooms and photographs. (Photo: Jim McWilliams, SJCGS Historian)



SJCGS member and workshop speaker Susan Saunders-King chats with a workshop participant before the start of the March 23 event at Margaret Troke Library. (Photo, above, courtesy Troke librarian Paul Sevilla; right: Jim McWilliams.)





San Joaquín County Genealogical Society

Dues are for the year – January to December 2013

\$10 per member – or – \$15 per family

We appreciate your support through your renewal of membership dues.

Circle Appropriate: Renewal New Member // Individual Family

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip code _____

Email Address _____

May we send your newsletters and announcements by email? Yes _____ No _____

I will help with the following (check all that apply):

_____ Research (Do research for those who request our Society's services)

_____ Projects (We always need transcribers and typists)

_____ Program Committee (Help set up programs and speakers for meetings)

_____ Volunteer work in the Genealogy Collection at the Chavez Central Library

Please mail dues to Barry Wood, 1910 S. Church St., Lodi, CA 95240

Make checks payable to San Joaquin Genealogical Society

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P. O. Box 690243

Stockton, CA 95269-0243