



LINKS



The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society



JANUARY 2026

SBGS News & Information

Vol 32 No 1

Guest Speaker – January 20th



Peggy Jude
presents



Figuring Out a Mystery Match ~ How Am I Related to This Person?



Do you have a DNA match that you don't know how they are related to you? Using an actual case study we present the four steps to figuring out who the match is and how you might be related.



Introducing our Guest Speaker

Peggy Jude is a speaker, educator, and researcher for over 40 years, teaching in five areas: DNA, Genealogical Technology, Preserving Family History and Heirlooms, Methods and Records, and Swedish Genealogy. She is a co-course coordinator for the Foundations in DNA course at the Institute for Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR), a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, a graduate of ProGen, and multiple advanced genealogical institutes.



Mail Your Reservation in Now!



Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings must be in **9 DAYS** prior to the luncheon.

January reservations must be in the SBGS post office box by **Sunday, Jan 11th!**



Allow 4-5 days for mailing!



Next meeting Jan 20 ~ The Elk's Lodge, 1630 S US Hwy 41, Ruskin, Lunch 12 noon/Program 1pm



January Menu

Teriyaki Chicken
w/ Pineapple sauce,
Rice and Carrots

OR
Vegetarian meal:
Vegetable Stir Fry
w/ Rice & Veggie

Meals include:
Salad, Coffee & Tea
(hot/iced) and Dessert

Any questions, call Vicki:
864-607-1330



Genealogy Tech Forum

Monday - Jan 5th 10:30 - 12:00

To join in, use this link:



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89121558159?pwd=zJCcv8yFkdMO3DrnImM3Hd3TaDKub1.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2155 8159 Passcode: 402463

Topic: *Exploring AI for Genealogy - Part 2*

Please log in few minutes before start time



Free General Genealogy Websites

Access Genealogy <https://accessgenealogy.com/>



This grab-bag of free genealogy records keeps growing. Click the Databases tab to search data from Southern states, military records, small-town newspapers and the Guion Miller Roll index to Cherokee tribal members. The latter supplements what was already a must-bookmark site if you have Native American roots.



Allen County Public Library <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>

Though based in Indiana, this library's online reach extends much further—reflecting its status as the nation's second-richest genealogy library.



FamilySearch www.familysearch.org

More than 3,000 online collections (and growing) make this the internet's largest home to free genealogy data, with recent updates spotlighting Italy, South America and US vital records. You can share and record your finds in family trees and a "Memories" gallery, and get research help from the wiki.



HeritageHub www.hcplc.org

Free to your home computer courtesy of your library card via Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative. Once logged into HeritageHub, explore your family history with this collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices, 1704 – today. You may want to review the HeritageHub tutorial before you begin searching.

HeritageHub

<https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>

Since its launch in 1996, this modest website has grown into a useful collection of how-to help and databases. It's strongest on passenger records, heritage groups such as Palatines and American Indians, and less-familiar records, such as those for residents of orphans and almshouses.



(continued on page 4)

REMINDER

Just a Suggestion

Bring a container to use if you need a "doggie bag" to take home leftovers. This is not mandatory. If you need a "to-go" meal for someone, let Vicki know at the check in table.



Elephind.com
Relaunched

Good news! Free for a limited time, this historical newspapers website which closed a few years ago has relaunched. It now boasts new search features and thousands of pages to mine for genealogical gold.



Johnny Appleseed was a real person! His real name was John Chapman, and his hometown was Leominster, MA.



The 2025 – 2026 Officers South Bay Genealogical Society

President - Cathy Rebhun.....	643-4649
Vice Pres - Dru Thomas.....	634-9513
Secretary - Lynn Freeland	407-782-5086
Treasurer - Glenda Hall.....	760-4219
Director - Beth Clarke.....	892-7938
Director - Mary Ann Davis.....	703-579-7776
Director – Marsha Doane.....	748-6864
Director - Judy Lee.....	614-440-9755
Director - Vicki McDonnell.....	360-608-1647
Director - Scott Niblick.....	757-613-3948
Director - Nancy Shrom	995-1165
Director - Linda Vitale.....	

(area code 813 except noted)

Research Tip



Don't forget the siblings of your ancestors. You may find additional information while researching them.

Genealogy Quotes

"When you finally go back to your old home, you find it wasn't the old home you missed but your childhood."

Sam Ewing



TIPS TO GET ORGANIZED

Keep an updated research to-do list. I follow this advice with a research log in a spreadsheet on Google Drive. I can use my phone or computer to add ideas that come to me while doing other research. When I complete a task, I check it off and enter any findings (and then pat myself on the back).

Tips

Diane Haddad - Family Tree Magazine Newsletter 6 Jun 2020

ORGANIZE

ROUNDTABLE



Come to the luncheon meeting a bit early and enjoy the

Round Table Discussion.

It convenes at 10:30am prior to the luncheon meeting. Bring your questions and the "group" could help you find the answers. If you have not attended this SBGS "EXTRA" give it a try and join the group.



Grandma's Cures



Flies or bees bothering you?



Spray them with hairspray and they will take a quick dive.



Pinellas Genealogy Society Annual Seminar

February 28th – Doors open 8am

Hybrid Seminar

(in person and virtual)



Featuring
Diana Elder



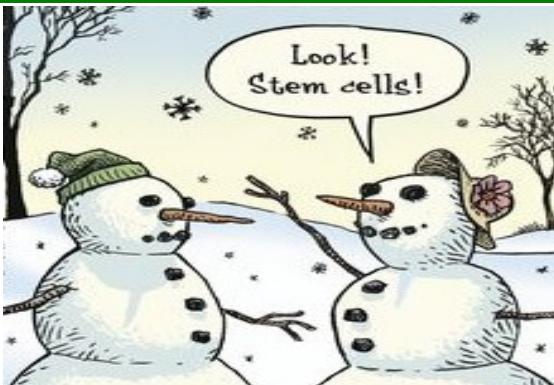
Plus Breakout Speakers:

Lori Coffey - Denise Manning
Susan Luce

Registration begins 1 Jan 2026

For info go to their website:
pinellasgenealogysociety.com

Genealogy Funnies



BACK UP YOUR FILES



It is the first of the month and a new year! It's time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups!

Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule. The first day of the month is easy to remember, so I would suggest you back up your genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, if not more often.



Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files. Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?



Eastmans Genealogy Newsletter – 2 Feb 2020

SouthShore Regional Library Genealogy Center



If you plan to use the computers in the Genealogy Center, you are no longer able to use your library card. You need to stop at the information desk in the center of the library and get a sign-on to access the databases on the computers. However, you are still able to use your library card from home to access the databases, with the exception of Ancestry and JSTOR.



MAKE NOTATIONS



Keep notations of when you have reached out via email or web-based form to a person, organization, government entity, etc. Some will respond in an hour, and for others, you may not hear back from them. Then, if you are still interested in a reply, follow up in the future. First, don't assume that they even saw your first email/contact. A lot does get lost in e-space! Second, even if they received your email, it might have slipped down their email queue, got misfiled (who hasn't done that), or just disappeared (it does happen). Third, send a follow-up email. I find follow up emails along the lines of "I didn't know if you received my initial email," "I've been having issues with my email and hoped I hadn't missed a response from you," or "I know we are all busy and I'd love to hear back from you about xxx." The key is not to assume the reason for the lack of a reply and politely re-query. I find this frequently does the trick and with no hard feelings! A follow-up email resulted in a court clerk graciously sending me a document I had initially emailed about three months earlier.



*By Diane L. Richard - Internet Genealogy Newsletter
Research Tips & More! Vol 9 #16 - 28 Jul 2022*



CONTACTS



SBGS: southbaygs@gmail.com

SBGS website: <https://southbaygenealogy.org/>

Roots Magic Help - Beth Clarke: beth7938@gmail.com

Luncheon Reservations - Vicki McDonnell: (360) 608-1647

Membership - Cathy Rebhun: cathy3359@yahoo.com

Programs/Newsletter - Dru Thomas: sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com

Free General Genealogy Websites



(continued from page 2)



RootsWeb <https://home.rootsweb.com/>

This venerable free site still serves up how-to articles, databases of surnames and US locations, mailing lists, pedigree files and much more—making it an oldie but a goodie.



USGenWeb <https://www.usgenweb.org/>

This website has been up and running for 20 years and recently got updated to provide users with a smoother mobile experience. Its state and county pages and special projects remain as vibrant as ever. Just found an ancestor who lived in, say, Stone County, Arkansas. There's a page for that, as for almost every other place your family may have landed.

David Fryxell - Family Tree Magazine Newsletter - 9 Jan 2024



CLUES

Records with Immigration Clues

Cemetery Records: Tombstones or burial records may include biographical detail.



Censuses: Details vary by year: birthplace (starting in 1870), birthplace or foreign-born status of parents (starting in 1870), number of years in the United States and naturalization status (starting in 1890, however most of 1890 lost), immigration year (1900-1930), and mother tongue (1910-1930).



County Histories: These may profile early and prominent residents.

Home Sources: Old letters and family Bibles may give information about birth names, hometown or immigration year.



Death Records: These often give the birthplace of the deceased and their parents.

Naturalization/Alien Registration Records: Applications often required immigration port, year of arrival, and name of the ship.



Newspapers: Publications local to the port may report on recent arrivals.

Obituaries: These cover various biographical details, possibly including birthplace and year of immigration.

Diane Haddad Family Tree Magazine Nov/Dec 2025

A Friendly Reminder

Membership Renewal dues of \$25 per household are due December 31, 2025.

Please remit your check payable to **South Bay Genealogical Society** so you won't miss any LINKS, news, and announcements. Please use the renewal form in the LINKS and mail \$25 to our Membership Director, Cathy Rebhun. Or bring it to the January Meeting. Thank you for your continued support! Without **YOU** there is no SBGS!



Here are the programs scheduled before our summer hiatus.

Feb 17 – Lori Coffey

Three 20 min programs on Tech Tips, Ancestry Fixes & Revolution in the South



March 17 – April Min

Forensic Genealogy



April 21 – Carol Weidlich

Virtual Cemeteries

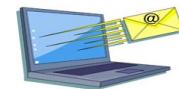


May 19 – Debbie Smyth

Probate Records

Whenever you change your address, phone, or e-mail, please notify SBGS at:

southbaygs@gmail.com



ON THE BOOKSHELF

Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music That Made a Nation

By Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw



In the book *Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music That Made a Nation*, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham and Grammy Award-winning entertainer Tim McGraw explore some of the most influential American songs from the Revolutionary War to the 21st Century.



Music is an important aspect in every culture and has likely been so since civilization began. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that songs can shape and influence the very societies that create them. *Songs of America* explores various eras of American history such as the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Women's Suffrage movement, the Great Depression, and the Civil Rights movement through key songs that were written in response to the political and social events and ideas prevalent at the time.

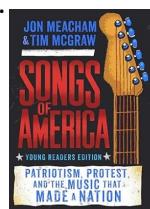


Since the creation of the nation there has been no single ideology adopted by all Americans. This can be shown with examples from each era, reflecting the predominant ideas on politics, patriotism, and society but also those created to give voice to contrasting political ideas and protest and counterculture movements.

This book is a fascinating look at many of the songs that have defined us as a nation and how the nation has in turn been shaped by them.



Article courtesy of Karen Fortin



Finding Your Roots

Back for Season 12



The popular TV series *Finding Your Roots* hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is scheduled to premier a new season on January 6th. Confirmed guests for the new season include actor Lizzy Caplan, filmmaker Spike Lee, and Tony Award-winning Broadway stars Kristin Chenoweth and Darren Criss.

In part from a press release, Gates said the new season will be "filled with inspiring stories from our wonderful guests."

Finding Your Roots airs on PBS at 8:00pm Tuesdays, on Spectrum Channel 3. So mark your calendar and/or set your DVR.



Source: Andrew Koch, Family Tree Magazine Nov/Dec 2025

POIGNANT TOMBSTONE



George A "Georgie" Blount

26 Sep 1867 - 14 Feb 1873

Green Lawn Cemetery - Columbus OH

Georgie was fatally injured when he fell over the stair banister.

South Bay Genealogical Society
PO Box 5202
Sun City Center FL 33571

SHADES OF HISTORY

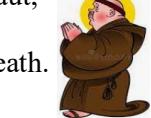
Dancing Mania



In July, 1518, Frau Troffea began dancing in chaotic fervour on the streets of



Strasbourg. She danced for a week straight, and soon others joined her. Within a month, the Dancing Plague of 1518 claimed between 50 and 400 victims. Historical sources make it clear the victims danced, but why they did remains unexplained.



Mysterious outbreaks had occurred before: in 1020s Bernburg, Germany, a Christmas Eve service was disturbed when revellers inexplicably danced around the church. In Aachen, 1374, a large-scale outbreak was recorded that spread to Cologne, Flanders, Hainaut, Strasbourg, Utrecht and other towns. In 1428 in Schaffhausen, a monk even danced himself to death.

Source: Dan Snow - historyhit.com

Old Terms for Diseases

In reading about a particular remedy or treatment used long ago, you'll often find the name of the disease or condition it was designed to treat. But you may not understand many of these terms. Multiple sources are available where you can look up these odd ailments, but the website below is one you might find useful.



Brianne Jelly-Bly has collected a long list of old diseases and tentative modern "translations" at

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~njmorris/general_info/disease.htm

Diseases were frequently known by more than one name. For instance, *American Plague*, *Bronze John*, *Dock Fever*, *Stranger's Fever* and *Yellowjacket* all referred to what we know today as yellow fever. *Day Fever* and *Diary Fever* both described a fever that lasted one day.



Saints' names were associated with two of the disease names on this list: *St. Anthony's Fire* and *St. Vitas Dance* (usually referred to as *St. Vitus Dance*). In both cases, these saints were associated in different ways with the treatment and/or cure of the diseases containing their names.

**CHRONIC
DISEASE!**

And some diseases had uncomfortably suggestive names. A good example is *Grover's Itch*, defined here as a "skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour".



Sue Lisk, Internet Genealogy Magazine, January 2023



SBGS BOOK FUND

The following books have been purchased for SouthShore Regional Library in memory of past SBGS board members.

Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research by Marie E. Daly in memory of Joan Weening; and **How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records** a Genealogist's Guide by Sunny Morton in memory of Bill Love.



LDS Genealogy

Not affiliated with FamilySearch or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

LDSGenealogy.com, is one of those websites I always overlook until I end up stumbling across it. I suggest starting with the U.S. Genealogy Records Directory, and selecting a state. At this level, you can focus on county or record types. I have found it particularly useful when I'm trying to figure out what church records might be online for a locale. As another gateway platform, it is kind of a different way to slice the pie of what is available to researchers online (they each slice a little bit differently, and yet that pie is sure yummy no matter which way you cut it). Take advantage of others who are helping you find the resources you know you need or discover you need.



Diane Richard, Internet Genealogy Magazine Newsletter, Research Tips & More, Vol 10 #16, 22 Sep 2023

Good Advice for Genealogists



If you are the last living link between your grandparents and your grandchildren—don't break the chain.



Ships and Sailors of the World's Navies

www.threedecks.org



Three Decks is your "go to place" for naval history. Their indexes include warships from about 75 nation-states from Algeria to Venice, cross-indexed with ship type or class; captains; officers; sea battles; dockyards; and other categories of information. The site page notes that their databases include 28,884 ships, 46,894 seamen, and 1,062 actions/battles. Besides the rolls of larger national navies, you can also search for pirate ships as well.



"Hits" of ships or mariners with the same name are arranged chronologically. Typically, one will find when and where a ship was launched; its dimensions and number of guns; known captains and other officers; a service history with the ship's stations and sea battles; ultimate fate; and a list of sources.

David A. Norris, Internet Genealogy Magazine Newsletter Research Tips & More, Vol 10 #16, 22 Sep 2023



PAY IN ADVANCE



Sign Up for Next Month's Reservation

You may want to try our "Pay in Advance" plan so you won't miss the next luncheon meeting because you forgot to mail in your reservation. We hope this will help so you won't miss the deadline. So don't forget your check book.

When you arrive for the current month's luncheon meeting, you can pay for the next month's luncheon and select your meal. This will alleviate these problems:

- Forgetting to mail your check & reservation on time
- Being too late to mail your check & reservation
- Missing the luncheon because the deadline has passed
- Plus you'll save a stamp (now 78¢) & envelope



*Reminder: Checks are not deposited upon receipt.
Sometimes it may be a couple weeks or more
Before they are deposited.*

February 17 Luncheon Meeting

Meat Loaf OR Pasta Primavera



Guest Speaker Lori Coffey

presents

Three 20 minute programs

Ancestry Fixes; Revolution in the South;
Tech Tips for Genealogy



Royal Maritime Museum Collections



<https://www.rmg.co.uk/collections>

Check out the large selection of the digitized holdings of the Great Britain's Royal Maritime Museum.



A notable feature of the site is its holdings of ship hull plans, which go back well into the early 1700s. A great many of the ships included served in North American waters during the colonial and Revolutionary War periods, as well as the War of 1812. If you type the name of a ship with "plan", you'll see the available ship's plans for the vessel.



The plans are mostly of British built vessels, so plans of foreign warships seized as prizes and taken into the Royal Navy do not usually appear. Plans may include profiles; bow and stern views; and deck plans. Masts and rigging are omitted, but they would have been more or less standard, so the hulls would have been more unique or distinguishable.

Other treasures include portraits, maps, photographs, paintings, and more visual materials. Included are many subjects related to the history of the U.S. and Canada.



David A. Norris, *Internet Genealogy Newsletter, Research Tips & More*, Vol 10 #17, 6 Oct 2023



IMMIGRATION Q&A



Where can I learn about my ancestor who immigrated to Canada, then crossed the border into the United States?

The United States began recording border crossings in 1895, at a time when almost half of the immigrants to Canada went on to the United States. More than four million arrivals from 1895 to 1956 are named on these "St Albans Lists." (They were stored in St Albans VT.)

They're on Ancestry.com

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1075/>

with index cards on FamilySearch

www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2185163

Ancestry.com also has Canadian passenger arrival lists from 1865 to 1935

www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1263

Diane Haddad Family Tree Magazine Nov/Dec 2025



Murphy's Law of Genealogy



The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end has been lost due to fire, flood or war.



**PLEASE SEND A CHECK FOR YOUR DUES
DIRECTLY TO OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, CATHY REBHUN.
(Use membership form below)
Make check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society
OR BRING IT TO THE JANUARY MEETING. THANK YOU!**

===== CUT < HERE =====

Please renew my Membership to South Bay Genealogical Society for 2026

Membership Renewal of **\$25.00 per household** is due December 31, 2025

When you renew, please bring your badge to the next meeting so it can be updated to show dues paid.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Make check payable to **South Bay Genealogical Society** and mail to Membership Director:

Cathy Rebhun – 5944 Watercolor Dr, Lithia, FL 33547

(Please note Membership on your check memo space)

===== CUT < HERE =====

Reservation for Jan 20, 2026, SBGS Luncheon at the Elk's Lodge, 1630 US 41 S, Ruskin

Lunch starts at 12 noon followed by Speaker's Program at 1pm

Please reserve luncheon(s) for: _____

Meal choice: Chicken _____ Vegetarian meal: Stir Fry _____

_____ A check for **\$18.00** per meal is enclosed. Please note lunch choice on your check memo space.

Mail this reservation slip, along with your check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society, to:
South Bay Genealogical Society - PO Box 5202 - Sun City Center FL 33571

Reservations must be RECEIVED in our PO Box by January 11th