



President's Message

Arlene Sampson

If you haven't visited our website in a while you are going to see changes and additions.

Monday at the "General Meeting" Esther Lloyd gave you a preview of the new calendar that is online. Information about all activities and scheduling of the multipurpose room is available to all members in detail.



It also allows you to <click> a link that takes you to additional information and flyers for registering for classes and other activities.

We now can renew our membership, sign up for a class or seminar and pay for the registration costs, if we choose, by credit card.

If you have a question, suggestion or an issue, you can contact any member of the Board of Directors, other Library contacts and volunteer positions by email on the web site. Someone should be able to resolve an issue or get the information that is needed.

I hope that I have piqued your curiosity about our website so that you might take a few minutes to revisit and reacquaint yourself with the vast amount of information available at your fingertips.

March 9th Speaker

David Jay Webber



The West Valley Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that Historian David Jay Webber will be the featured speaker at the March meeting. In addition to his Bachelor's Degree in History, David holds a Master of Divinity in Historical Theology. As a

professional genealogist, his extensive experience ranges from cataloging a New England library's collection to serving as a Professor of Church History in Eastern Europe. To help genealogists climb over those proverbial "brick walls" he will present on: "When You Can't Know 'For Sure'--Is It Still Possible To 'Kind Of' Know by Establishing Probable Genealogical Relationships Through Circumstantial Evidence?"

WVGS Library:

12222 N. 111th Avenue, Youngtown, AZ 85363-1225

Hours:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

6:00 - 9:00 pm Tuesday nights

12:30 - 4:00 pm Sunday

Last Saturday of the month open 9:00 am-6:00 pm

Closed Monday and Wednesday for classes/meetings

Telephone: 623-933-4945

Website: <http://www.azwvgs.org>

Monthly Meetings: September through May

Second Monday of each month - Doors open at 1:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Avenue, Sun City

Donations – Thank You!

Many, many thanks to all of our donors of materials, equipment and publications. This month's donors are: 50/50 Club, Donald Campbell, Covault Family, Beatrix Edwards, Mona Sarratt Knight, Mary Jo Lyon and Maureen Pierce.

Raffle Prizes

Charlie Mannino, Tidbits Editor

For our March meeting *Ghostlight Theater* has donated tickets for the 2:00 pm performance on April 25th to see the final show for the season, Neil Simon's *Lost In Yonkers*. Theater box office is located at 13541 West Camino Del Sol, Sun City West. A complete schedule of dates and times can be found at www.ghostlightaz.com.

Get your PIG ready for market

The Pig Homecoming
is on April 13th



March Calendar

- 2 WVGS Board Meeting, 1:00 pm
- 9 General Membership Meeting, 1:30 pm
- 16 Library Tour, 9:30 to 11:00 am;
call the Library to reserve a spot
- 16 Lunch With Your Favorite Ancestors, 11:00 am
back at 5 & Diner, Bell Road, Surprise
- 19 Research Night, 5:00 to 9:00 pm;
call the Library to reserve a spot

Welcome New Members

Bob Gallagher, Membership Registrar

Please welcome all the new members who joined the Society recently. The new members are: Sharon Amos, William Arliskas, Gerald and JoAnn Ballou, Kristen Barczak, Marian Beckman, Claudia Blackwell, Cecelia Blatecky, Ernest Blount, Sheri Boswell, Melanie Boyer, William Braby, Elizabeth Brown, Claudia and John Burr, Grace and Thomas Cabot, Barbara Davidson, Jeannette Disch, Karen Drought, Tracey Ann Dutson, Elizabeth Espelin, Ada Evans, Gary Frankeberger, Sharon Gearhart, Perry Gish, Carolyn Grace, Colleen Halter, Jerry and Lorna Hermanek, Diane Johnson, Lois Judson, Bob Knauf, Joyce and Richard Krause, Sarah Maxwell, Happi McQuirk, Janet and Robert McPherson, Christa Minogue, Beth Moore, Lois Mueller, Marilyn Muerder, Louise Myers, Carroll Northrop, Marlene Northup, Virginia Nyre, Jeri Oman, Angela and Randal Rios, Andrea Rollins, Catherine Schleh, Jan Smith, Millie Smith, Pam Sollami, John Staggs, Iris Staubus, Susanne Stencel, Shari Sullivan, Allen Tarrant, Jan Tuller, Joyce Ufford, Judy Wahlers, Elizabeth Waters, Sharon Watier, and Denise Yoder.

When you see these new members, be sure to introduce yourself and encourage them to participate in the Society's many activities. We welcome everyone to many years of continued membership, fellowship, and research within the Society.

The total active membership of the Society is 562 as of January 10, 2015.

Use Goodsearch.com

GoodSearch.com works much like Google, but WVGS receives a penny for each of your searches. Read the instructions on the home page and be sure to enter **West Valley Genealogical Society** in the lower box so we receive the credit.

Online Book Store is Open

WVGS members have online access to our store that sells gently used and reasonably priced genealogical books. Shop when it's convenient for you and have books sent to your home or choose to pick them up at the WVGS Library.

Support the Genealogical Society and shop at azwvgs.org.

February Volunteer of the Month

Barb Behrman, Director Membership Outreach

Esther Kidwell

Our Volunteer of the Month awardee for February is described as being "Johnny on the Spot." Many of the past recipients have been described in much the same way, but when I asked people about this lady, every one used those exact words. She joined the Society in 2000 and ever since has been willing to do just about anything needed. She is well known for helping at both the Annual Seminar and the Open House year after year.



In her earlier life, she worked for US Airways which provided the opportunity for her and her husband to travel around the world not once, but twice. I'm sure she has some great stories about her travels. She was raised in Virginia, but as with many of us, at some time in our lives, realized that Arizona is just about the perfect place to enjoy sunshine, warm weather with few bugs, and headed for the Southwest and Sun City to establish a new home here.

After moving here, when she wasn't busy helping out with some project for the Library, she volunteered at 4 Paws. A real cat lover, she was so enamored with one particular kitty with tuxedo markings on his chest that she adopted him and named him, Big Boy -- which he is! He is as devoted to her as she is to him. Too many scratches from other over enthusiastic cats forced her to leave that activity...giving her more time to work on her own genealogy and help at the WVGS Library. Someone told me she has learned that she comes from Viking stock. I doubt if too many of us can make that claim. She is devoted to the Society and genealogy as is obvious in her home with bookshelves covering an entire wall, filled with genealogy books.

A special lady, a faithful friend of WVGS, and someone you can call on in a crisis, we congratulate Esther Kidwell as the February Volunteer of the Month.

Put These Numbers In Your Wallet

Office Max Perks.....#012748337
Staples Rewards #04050-4355-5

Or just use WVGS phone number 623-933-4945

"Have you weighed your PIG recently?"

Fatten it up before turning the funds in at the April 13th General Meeting,



Lunch With Your Favorite Ancestor

We would love to have you join us with a story about your ancestors

***Monday, March 16th
from 11 am to 1 pm***

Come share family memories and mementos
now back at the

***5 & Diner Deluxe
11341 W. Bell Road, Surprise***

All lunches require sign up and a \$5.00 fee; lunch and tip on your own

Contact: Sharon Brown at dir.fundraising@azwvgs.org

Non-Genealogical Used Book Sale

If you missed the sale in February here's a second chance.

March 14th at Sharon Brown's house
18224 W. Maui Lane, Surprise

Afternoon Luncheon and Tea

Save the date - April 27th - 1:00 pm

Space is limited



Cost: \$15.00
(Donation to the Library)

Sign up at the Library

Find Us On Facebook

WVGS has a Facebook page? To access, just click the Facebook symbol on our web site, or from home, type in "West Valley Genealogical Society." Once there, view the page and give us a *Like*.



Fund Raising Opportunities for WVGS

Sharon Brown, Director of Fundraising
dir.fundraising@azwvgs.org

Fry's cards

- Link your VIP card using #80153
- WVGS will get a percentage of your purchases
- Need help, contact Sharon Brown

Albertson's Community Rewards

- Pick up a rewards card at the Fundraising table at the general meeting or at the Library
- WVGS will get a percentage of your purchases

Office Max & Staples

- When checking out, give the cashier the Library phone number, 623-933-4945
- WVGS will get a percentage of your purchases

Marley's Restaurant

- Located at 15226 W. Bell Road, Surprise
- Put the Library phone number 623-933-4945 or WVGS on top of your receipt
- WVGS will get a percentage of your purchases

Goodsearch.com

- Use this search engine on your computer
- WVGS will get one cent for every search entered

Aluminum Cans

- Continue to turn in aluminum cans in a plastic bag at the monthly meetings (preferred) or inside the Library

Cookbooks on sale

- \$10 for cookbook *only \$5.00 for the CD*

And remember to continue stuffing your piggy banks for the April Homecoming!

Aluminum Cans

Gale Kristof, *The Can Man*

Not a good month this time, only 44 pounds of cans. It would be great if we could average about double that. Total-to-date for the year is \$176.82. We definitely need more cans.



I guess the Super Bowl was so exciting to watch that not enough people took time to get another drink or two or three. Thanks for your effort.

PLEASE NOTE: Do not leave cans in the caged area behind the Library due to thefts. Bring them into the Library or to the General Membership meeting.

Buffalo Soldiers of the Indian Wars

Our February speaker, James "J J" Jones, played football in college and with the Pittsburgh Steelers. After leaving professional football because of a knee injury, he has worked in the fields of law enforcement and security. Some of the highlights of his security jobs were at the 1976 Republican Convention and as a bodyguard for Angelo Dundee and Mohammad Ali.

Sargent Major "J J" Jones and his wife Diane founded the Buffalo Soldiers of the Indian Wars 1866 — 1890 organization to educate the public about the contribution the Buffalo Soldiers made in the settlement of the West.

Congress authorized the formation of six regiments (two cavalry and four infantry) of "United States Colored Troops" in 1866. These soldiers, commonly called "Buffalo Soldiers" distinguished themselves despite being issued old horses, scant ammunition and food, and faulty equipment. They were remarkably dependable — with their desertion and court martial rates being much lower than the "regular" white soldiers.

They built roads, forts and telegraph lines; they explored and mapped territories; they protected the settlers, the wagons and stagecoaches, and played a major part in the settling of The West.



"Have you fed your PIG lately?"

Get ready to turn your pig in at the April 13th General Meeting.



"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

Mark Twain

Classes

Connie Sheets, First Vice President

Please make checks payable to WVGS.

All classes are limited to the first 20 people to register unless otherwise noted.

Barbara Stenberg, Instructor

Novice Genealogy Monthly
Every third Friday unless noted 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Jean White, Instructor

Problem Solving (limited to 10 people) 3 Classes
Wednesday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm Mar 11, 18, 25

Suzanne Brayer, Instructor

Location, Location, Location: Using Maps in Research 1 Class
Friday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm March 27

Effective use of the Internet 1 Class
Thursday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm April 2

Byron Bailey, Instructor

Family Tree Maker 4 Classes
Tuesday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm March 3, 10, 24 and 31

Cathy Gallagher, Instructor

Digital Scrapbooking 1 Class
Wednesday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm Apr 1

For schedule of classes, dates, times, class descriptions and costs, please check our website www.azwvgs.org or call the Library at 623-933-4945.

50/50 Books Report

Janet Buchanan

The Society pays one-half of the cost of the books listed; interested members donate the remainder.

Members may suggest titles to be considered for the list.

The following books can be purchased through your participation in the 50/50 program. The "Balance Due" is after current contributions.

- *The Past and Present of Warren County, Illinois.* H F Kent & Co., 1877
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$32.50
- *Portrait & Biographical Album of Warren County, ILL.* Chapman Bros, 1886
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$32.50
- *The History of Allen County, Ohio,* Warner & Beers, 1885
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$30.50
- *The History of Ashland County, Ohio,* George W. Hill, 1880
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$32.50
- *The Early History of Auglaize County, Ohio,* J.D. Simkins, 1901
Cost \$65.00 Balance Due \$24.50
- *The History of Williamson County from the Earliest Times Down to the Present, 1876 (Illinois)*
Cost: \$45.00 Balance due \$22.50

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Cathy Gallagher



***Be Sure To Check With The Library Or WVGS Website To Verify SIG Schedules**

- **New Writing Family History**..... 4th Tuesday, 9:30 am
and **Saturdays TBD
- **NY/NJ/PA** *Sep-May 1st Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am
- **Italy** 1st Thursday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- **Maryland & Southern States**..... 1st Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Legacy**..... 1st Saturday, 10:00 am to noon
- **DNA** *Oct-Apr..... 1st Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Norway** *Oct-Apr 2nd Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am
- **Kansas/Missouri**..... 2nd Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **TMG** *Sep-Apr..... 2nd Saturday, 10:00 am to noon
- **New England States** *Sep-Apr 2nd Saturday 12:30-2:30 pm
- **Germany/Poland** 3rd Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am
- **Canada** *Sep-Apr..... 3rd Thursday, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- **Sweden** *Oct-Apr 3rd Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **British Isles**..... 4th Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Family Tree Maker** *Sep-May..... 4th Friday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- **Illinois/Indiana/Ohio**..... 4th Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Adoption** Watch for new dates/times or contact Lou McLean for details: mlm16ddm@yahoo.com

**Watch for new dates for the Saturday Writing Your Family History SIG

If there are any questions, call the WVGS Library or contact our SIGs Coordinator Cathy Gallagher at 623-266-1330 or sigs@azwvgs.org.



Benefits for Members

There are four Subscriber Genealogy Databases available as part of your WVGS membership. Be sure to take advantage of this generous benefit.

	Database Cost	Member Cost
New England Historic Genealogical Society	\$ 200	\$3.25
Ancestry.com	775	from our membership dues pays for these subscriptions
World Vital Records	600	
Fold3	<u>500</u>	
	\$2,075	

WVR and Fold3 are also available to members from home. Visit our website for instructions on how to access them.

Attention Seasonal Visitors

The WVGS Tracker is our Spring and Fall periodical. They are sent to all dues paying members generally in April and October. These publications are sent by USPS Bulk Mail.

Bulk Mail Is Not Forwarded.

An additional cost of \$8 is available to send your Trackers by USPS

First Class Mail, which would be forwarded.

It is the member's responsibility to change your address to reflect your location.

To do this please send an e-mail with your current address to: membership@azwvgs.org

You must do this each time you move with the season.

If you have questions, contact me at: pubmail@azwvgs.org

Shirley Conley, Bulk Mail Chair