

President's Message

Arlene Sampson

April is National "Volunteer" month and the West Valley Genealogical Society publically recognizes our volunteers at the General Meeting in April. Members devote hours to the Society performing many tasks that keep the Library clean and open to our members and the public, greeting Library patrons when they enter the Library, and helping where and when they can. There are many other things done by the volunteers that aren't so apparent; deciding what books need to be included in our collection, accessioning those books, keeping track of our financial needs, keeping the computer lab up and running, and doing many other tasks that need to be done.



The Society runs only because of volunteers who dedicate their time and energies to keep us afloat. No one is paid for their time. They bring their life and work experiences to the Society which enhances and projects the Society forward. Located at your seat at the April General Meeting will be a list of all the volunteers who currently serve the Society in a multitude of areas. Please look at the list and see how many names are there and what they do for the Society.

I want to sincerely thank all the volunteers in the Society for their time, expertise, and dedication to the Society. Without you the Society wouldn't exist.

April Calendar

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

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

April 13th Speaker

Susan Smith

"Using Libraries for Genealogy Research"



Susan Smith recently retired from being a library paraprofessional at the Surprise branch of the Maricopa County Library District. She was first hooked on genealogy research in 1982, and has attended conferences and classes on genealogy for the last 33 years to keep abreast of the latest changes and improvements.

Donations - Thank You!

Many, many thanks to all of our donors of materials, equipment and publications. This month's donors are: 50/50 Club, Carol Abernathy, Byron Bailey, Jean Belzer, Patricia Brodrick, Lynne Corbett, Peter & Beverly Craig, Martha Emmon, Jean Ferries, Sue Firth, Sam Jones, Mona Knight, Dee Snook and Karen R. Zeppenfeld.

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*.



Genealogy Seminar



More than fifteen plus WVGS Members attended the March 21, 2015, Genealogy Seminar in Fountain Hills, put on by the Family History Society of Arizona (FHSA). The featured guest speaker was nationally known genealogist and published author, Lisa Alzo, who was terrific!

WVGS Members in attendance were: WVGS President Arlene Sampson, FHSA President Suzanne Brayer, Bea Edwards, Bob & Cathy Gallagher, Carol Daly, Dee Snook, Jaci Hirschthal, Michelle Warren, Peggy Morphew, Sally Pavia, Sandy Enkey, Ann, Stephanie and several others.

The lucky winner of the door prize for a 2015 Membership to WVGS at the FHSA Seminar was Randy Gibbs of Tucson.

Inventory 2015

Our inventory takers for 2015, were Sue Black, Lynne Corbett, Liz Crabbe, Shirley Klovstad, Del Kunz, Peggy Morphew, Sally Pavia, Carol Roath, Jean Sinchak and Kathi Thanos. Due to their great efforts, the more than 14,600 books have been accounted for. Additionally this year, Lynne Corbett and Sue Black are doing the same for the more than 1,700 maps we hold. Special thanks goes out to Sue and Lynne for doing so much of the inventory and to Peggy Morphew for her very special skills in tracking down “missing” books. Although there are a few books missing, we hope to locate them soon. However, if they just happened to jump in among your notebooks, please drop them off in the library administrator’s office – no questions asked.

Get your Pig Ready for Market

The Pig Homecoming is on April 13th

If you want a receipt, count your coins and put them in a baggie with your name and amount.



March Volunteers of the Month

Barb Behrman, Director Membership Outreach

Wally and Shirley Klovstad

It was a lucky day when on Dec. 22, 1998, this couple joined the West Valley Genealogical Society. They have been active and huge contributors to the growth and success of the Society ever since. Before they settled in the West Valley they lived in Minneapolis where he worked for Honeywell and she raised two daughters, Cathy and Julie.



When WVGS purchased the Library building in 2001, Wally joined the Property Management Committee and continues to this day as a great volunteer and handy man par excellence. He and another wonderful volunteer built all the periodical shelving and media storage shelving. He did wall and ceiling repair, the latter, after an electrician put his foot through the ceiling while installing wiring in the attic. He did more ceiling repair after our new lighting was recently installed. He installed the alarms on all emergency doors and helped install and modify the aides desk last year. Without any big projects right now, he’s been repairing chairs and vacuum cleaners which saves a lot of money that we would have to spend to purchase new ones. He can do just about anything that needs done and is always ready to help wherever he can. You can quickly see that this outstanding volunteer has been vital in the efficiency and well-being of our wonderful Library. In his spare time, as if he has any, he is the leader of the Norwegian SIG.

But we can’t leave out the volunteer efforts his wife has done over the years. Shirley has been a long time shelf reader so we can find the reference books for which we are looking. She also works every year on the book inventory, a huge job that takes time and patience (it can be a bit boring). In addition to her assistance here, she also volunteers at a branch of the Glendale Public Library.

In the summer they wander north to Utah. I would suggest that they take that opportunity to relax after a full and active winter but really I think they are probably involved in volunteer opportunities there. I understand they both are avid genealogists, and maybe they do a lot of research at the wonderful library in Salt Lake City.

The March Volunteer of the Month Award was presented to a great couple who help keep our Society strong and active, Wally and Shirley Klovstad.

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

Suzanne Brayer, Instructor

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

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.



Lunch With Your Favorite Ancestor

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

*Monday, April 20th
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



Put These Numbers In Your Wallet

Office Max Perks.....#012748337
Staples Rewards #04050-4355-5
Or just use WVGS phone number 623-933-4945

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

Welcome New Members

Bob Gallagher, Membership Registrar

Please welcome all the new members who joined the Society recently. The New Members are: Claude Breshears, Judith Calise, Gay Caudill, Connie Crome, Betty DeRentis, Janet Dunkel, Tony Gunn, Barbara Hamilton, Monica Hockersmith, Alma Holt, Melanie Houser, Wayne Hunt, Ann Karrow, William Mahan, Trish McCulloch, Charlotte Pakonen, Rod Pakonen, Jennie Roesner, Singrid Rutherford and Margaret Willis.

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 602 as of March 10, 2015.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Cathy Gallagher



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

- 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 noon
- Sweden *Oct-Apr 3rd Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- British Isles 4th Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Writing Family History 4th Thursday, 9:30 am
- 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

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

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 \$65.00 Balance Due \$32.50
- *Portrait & Biographical Album of Warren County, ILL.* Chapman Bros, 1886
Cost \$65.00 Balance Due \$32.50
- *The History of Allen County, Ohio*, Warner & Beers, 1885
Cost \$65.00 Balance Due \$30.50
- *The History of Ashland County, Ohio*, George W. Hill, 1880
Cost \$65.00 Balance 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

Attention Seasonal Visitors

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

Bulk Mail Is Not Forwarded.

For an additional cost of \$8, your *Desert Tracker* can be mailed by USPS

First Class Mail, which would then 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

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!

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.

Aluminum Cans

Gale Kristof, The Can Man

The membership did a great job this past month with 100 pounds of aluminum cans.

We are now close to \$300 year-to-date and just slightly below last year at this time.

Thanks to all and keep up the good work.



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.

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.

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

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

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.