Looking back... 1972
...into the Future! 2022
Lois Byrd, President, pres@azwvgs.org

May is the month of new beginnings. Flowers are blooming in the desert. Fresh fruits and vegetables are arriving on our tables. Our winter friends are leaving for the north. May is a good time to make improvements around the house. So it is with the WVGS Library, too. We have a new sidewalk. Soon we will be improving our parking lot. We keep rearranging our shelves to make space for new materials.

There is a new Future Site Committee beginning their search for a new future home for our library. The "search list" includes (1) more space for our collection to grow, (2) a location accessible for our members, (3) comfortable research workspace for our members and guests, (4) technology equipment and space to meet future developments, and (5) work and storage space for the many volunteer tasks. There is a Future Site Fund beginning to grow to support this project.

The WVGS future is beginning to bloom. Let us each nurture that growth.

Pigs Off to a Flying Start
50th Anniversary Committee

The “Contribute to the Next 50 Years” piggy banks were introduced at the March membership meeting and thanks to everybody’s participation we collected more than $200. Please continue to drop any coins, bills or checks whenever you see them available.

If you would rather take one home and return it at a later date we will have them available at the Library and the monthly meetings for your taking.

Calendar of Events
May 2........................................... Board Meeting (in person)
May 9...................................Membership Meeting (in person and virtual)
August 15............................... Deadline for Septembers Tidbits

General Membership Meeting
May 9, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Do You Know What You Don’t Know?
Identifying and Filling the Gaps in Your Genealogy Education - Connie Sheets

Family history and genealogy is the perfect hobby if you love lifelong learning. Whether you are just starting to build your family tree or have been researching for many years, there is always something new to learn. In 2022, opportunities for expanding your genealogical skills can seem overwhelming. This presentation will address the skills you need to overcome your “brick walls” and how to develop them.

Connie earned a Master's degree in education from the University of Missouri and is a retired social service professional with experience in staff training and development.

She has been researching her family history since 1980, holds a certificate from the Boston University Genealogy Research Program, and has attended many advanced genealogical institutes in person and online. She served for several years on the Board of Directors for both the West Valley Genealogical Society and the Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board, and is currently the chairperson of the WVGS Education Committee. She has been lecturing about and teaching family history and genealogy since 2012.

1950 Census Resource

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 census was released, and users can access it for free through a dedicated website at https://1950census.archives.gov/. This population census is the 17th decennial census of the United States. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has digitized and is providing free online access to the 1950 Census population schedules for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

WVGS is the number one Genealogical Library in Arizona!
Mission Statement

"The Society and its Library invite, welcome and help persons who are interested in genealogy regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, or national origin. Our goals are to provide access to reliable research sources using the best technology practices, provide quality educational opportunities, encourage collaborative research, promote scholarly publication or research by the Society and its members, and archive and preserve genealogy records."

The West Valley Genealogical Library operates as a reference library, with resources and technology available for on-site research.

Monthly Membership Meetings:

September through May, second Monday of the month. The Library is closed on meeting days. Monthly meetings are currently being held in person but are available on Zoom, as well.

Current Hours

Check the website for the most recent schedule

Monday and Friday .................. 12:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday ........ 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sunday .............................................. closed

Closed the second Monday of each month from September to May for Monthly Membership Meeting.

WVGS Library
12222 N. 111th Avenue
Youngtown, AZ 85363-1225
623-933-4945

Please check our website at https://azwvg.org for current information.

Member Highlight

Gladys M. Smith, member for 26 years

Based on my recollections I have been an active member of WVGS for 26 years. My first meeting with WVGS was actually through the genealogy book collection by the Sun City group that was held at the Sun City West R. H. Johnson Library. I followed up the discovery of the books by attending a very informative lecture by one of the main members of WVGS…I wish I could remember the names but 98 years of memory is cloudy! My next experience with WVGS was taking a beginning genealogy six-week class in Sun City with a woman and her husband, both active members of WVGS. In looking at various pieces of documentation research, it appears I began actively researching about 1994. I believe I joined about that same time. I remember many different locations for WVGS meetings. Everything from churches and an office building to an Art Center on Bell Road. I remember the excitement of purchasing the current location of WVGS Library and offices. While I was never an officer, I did volunteer for many activities, especially the mailing committee.

Through my research, I have become a member of The Daughters of the American Revolution proving four ancestors and an added bonus of identifying descendants of the Mayflower. I wished I would have kept track of the number of letters, stamps and reels of microfiche I have used.

Respectfully submitted by Anita H. Smith

What is a GEDCOM?

GEDCOM is actually an acronym for: GEnealogical Data COMmunication.

It’s a type of file with specific rules that allows digital family history products to exchange information. It has been around so long that all the software companies can read and export it.

The First 50 Years

1995
In 1995 an Amtrak train ran off the rails, leaving one man dead. It remains one of Arizona’s most enduring unsolved mysteries. The question remains, who did it?
The online auction website ebay was founded.
U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor of Arizona became the first woman to be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

1996
IBM’s Deep Blue computer defeats Chess Champion Gary Kasparov.
DVD’s are launched in Japan.
The Internet exceeded 10 million users. (In 2022, 4.95 billion people around the world use the internet)

1997
After more than 25 years of growth in the valley and in society membership, it seemed the name should reflect the broader geographical area where the more than 500 members resided. A majority were in favor of changing the name to West Valley Genealogical Society. On September 1, 1997, the library moved to 11116 W. California Avenue, Youngtown.

1998
The Arizona Diamondbacks franchise was established as an expansion team and began play in 1998.
The search engine Google was founded.
Apple Computers revealed the iMac computer.

1999
The file-sharing service Napster was created.
Eleven countries began to use the Euro as their currency.

2000
U.S. President Bill Clinton issued an executive order creating Agua Fria National Monument and Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument.
Arizona became the 20th most populous of the 50 U.S. states.
The final Peanuts comic strip was published. The first Peanuts comic strip was published on 1950.

Volunteer of the Month

Gale Kristof - April 2022

The goal of the Volunteer of the Month is to recognize special contributions to WVGS. This month’s recipient was nominated by more than one of our members for his work to raise money for the Society over the last twelve years.

He does one thing for us, but he does it faithfully. He is at the church with his truck to pick up our donated cans and bottles, sort them, find the best current price, and deliver the proceeds to WVGS.
He is our gregarious Recycle Man - Gale Kristof.

Gale grew up in St. Louis, became an engineer and moved to Phoenix in 1960. He became interested in genealogy shortly before he retired from Honeywell in 1989.
His father’s parents were Hungarian, his maternal grandfather was Italian and his maternal grandmother was French. It was those French relatives that interested him the most, and he and his wife Dee eventually traveled to France to meet many of them.

Gale not only takes care of recycling bottles and cans for WVGS but is active in other local organizations and charities, as well. He has enjoyed meeting people all his life and, from personal experience, I know he can talk your ear off.

Gale raised more than $10,000 for WVGS in the twelve years he has been recycling. We are a total volunteer organization and Gale certainly represents what a single volunteer willing to help month after month, year after year, can contribute.

Gale was unable to accept his certificate and pin at the April Membership meeting since he was not feeling well. I expect he might enjoy some “get well” cards from us. His address is Gale Kristof at 6246 N 34th Avenue in Phoenix, zip 85017.

Seen in the AARP Bulletin

If Ben Franklin was alive today we would be listening to “Poor Richards Podcast.”
Fundraising Opportunities for WVGS

Director of Fundraising
dir.fundraising@azwvgs.org

Start iGiving in two easy Steps:
1. Join iGive.com for FREE
2. Shop online at any of the 2400+ stores in the iGive network. You’ll see all your favorites, including Amazon, Best Buy, Staples, eBay, Walmart, Staples, Expedia, Pottery Barn and more.

It’s free, it’s easy and every purchase you make generates a donation to the West Valley Genealogical Society. Raise a penny per search at www.iGive.com.

Amazon Smile
- The Amazon Smile Program is up and running. Check the WVGS website under “Fundraisers” for instructions. A percentage of qualifying purchases are returned to WVGS.

Fry’s Cards
- Link your VIP card using #80153.
- 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.

Want to help further? Have an idea for Fundraising?
Need help with above programs? Contact Director of Fundraising at dir.fundraising@azwvgs.org.

Member Highlight
Liz Crabbe, member for 25 years

About 1996-1997 I was advised by the Sun City West Library that the genealogy section was now located in Sun City on 113th Avenue in Youngtown. I joined the Society and started my genealogical pursuit of my mother’s ancestry. The logical place to begin was the Sun City Genealogy Library. The building was a former business/professional office located next to the Youngtown City Council offices. Upon entering the library, a patron was welcomed by a volunteer receptionist, usually Peggy Morphew, the Library Administrator, with a few books and collections lining the walls in the adjoining room and a table in the center. The Society outgrew the space so a move was made to 111th Avenue, across the street from our present location. As the Society grew more volunteers were needed, thus giving rise to my joining the various committees over the past 25 years.

My volunteer positions included 23 years on the Obituary Committee, shelf reading, annual seminars, the store, parking lot sale, digitizing periodicals and obits, and the Long Range Planning Committee.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Schedule
Check the website or contact facilitator for current information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British Isles</th>
<th>4th Thursday</th>
<th>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</th>
<th>Melissa Bird</th>
<th><a href="mailto:sig.british-isles@azwvgs.org">sig.british-isles@azwvgs.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3rd Thursday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Cathy Gallagher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.canada@azwvgs.org">sig.canada@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Document Trail</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Barbara Shroyer</td>
<td>....................TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*DNA Saturday (virtual)</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Barbara Shroyer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.dna@azwvgs.org">sig.dna@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*DNA Tuesday</td>
<td>1st Tuesday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Barbara Shroyer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.dna@azwvgs.org">sig.dna@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Tree Maker</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pam LaFond</td>
<td>....................TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Genealogy Beginners</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Connie Sheets</td>
<td>....................TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany/Poland</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Del Kunz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.germany-poland@azwvgs.org">sig.germany-poland@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Peggy Morphew</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.italy@azwvgs.org">sig.italy@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jim Rogers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.legacy@azwvgs.org">sig.legacy@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY/NJ/PA/DE</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Sandy Enkey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.ny-nj-pa-de@azwvgs.org">sig.ny-nj-pa-de@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Beth Gister</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.norway@azwvgs.org">sig.norway@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Karen Lee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.sweden@azwvgs.org">sig.sweden@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Your Family History</td>
<td>4th Thursday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Cathy Gallagher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sig.writing@azwvgs.org">sig.writing@azwvgs.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* DNA Saturday and DNA Tuesday are the same SIG, just smaller groups
** Genealogy Beginners is for those with less than two years of genealogy experience
TBD = To Be Determined
Current Class Schedule
Connie Sheets, Education Committee Chairperson

Novice Genealogy …………………………. Barbara Stenberg
Friday, May 20, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Novice Genealogy …………………………. Barbara Stenberg
Friday, June 17, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For more detailed class descriptions and to register, see: https://azwvgs.org/store/classes/
You may also register with cash or check at WVGS monthly meetings, or at the WVGS Library on the day of the class, if space is available. (See the above link to determine if space is available).

Check the WVGS website, eNews, Tidbits, or Facebook regularly as classes are added throughout the year, and some may be cancelled or rescheduled.

For further information, email Connie Sheets, WVGS Education Committee Chairperson, at classes@azwvgs.org

Fundraising

Tote Bags are Back in Stock
Clear plastic tote bags with the WVGS logo are available at the Library for $13.00 each. Each tote is large enough to hold a folder and your other personal items. The top zips so your items will not “spill out” or “get lost.” This item must be picked up at the WVGS Library if ordering online. Tote bags will also be available at the Membership Meetings.

Travel Mugs
The beautiful gold 15-ounce double-wall insulated Aspen Stainless Travel Mugs $10.00. These mugs can be used for your choice of hot or cold beverages and are equipped with a spill-resistant thumb-slide lid.

Lanyards
WVGS lanyards are 36” long, 5/8” wide and very comfortable. Only $5.00, they are available in yellow or green to use with your nametag.

All items are now available for sale online and are listed as “Specials.” Please see the store at https://azwvgs.org/store/wvgs-items.

Items can then be picked up at the Library at any time the Library is open, please bring your receipt.

Items can also be purchased directly at the Library with cash or check. Sorry no charge cards.

Short-form Will:
“Being of sound mind, I spent it all.”