



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

November 2023

Volume 45, Number 10

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### November Program

16 November 2023 7:00 P.M.

Installation of 2024 Officers and Directors

Ancestors Night. These are special short presentations from our own members honoring persons, places or things from their genealogical past. Always interesting and enlightening!

### Presidents Message

by Vicky Wolff

I am looking forward to Ancestry Night coming up in November. It is always interesting to see what people have brought to share about their family histories. Some people bring furniture, some letters to share. Others might have a special Bible to share with all their ancestors name, date of birth and death information listed. A way of life your ancestor had or letters from home. The list goes on and on as to what you might share on this special evening. Be sure to sign up as to what you will be sharing with our membership. Karen Souza will be taking sign-ups at this month's meeting.

I have been saying for years that we need to get the younger generation involved in Genealogy, and now we have an opportunity to do just that! Our own Lewis Ruddick has an "in" with a local Scout Master and we will be helping with both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to achieve their merit badge in genealogy. I am over the moon with this news and so should you be! Let us not forget for each of us to volunteer your time and talents with each other and make our organization GREAT! Our Scholarship Committee is working on our fall scholarship for a deserving MJC student.

### Ancestors Night Program

by Karen Souza

Ancestors Night. These special short presentations from our own members honoring persons, places or things from their genealogical past. Always interesting and enlightening!

*Mark your Calendars! Sons of Norway Lutefisk Dinner, November 18, 2023 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 547 Rose Ave., Modesto. \$25 per person. Contact Linda Silva for tickets or questions at 209-300-1260.*

**Valyrie Jevert - RIP**

.... It is with a heavy heart that we let you know that our member Valyrie Jevert has passed away. Tentative services are scheduled for October, 19th at Lakewood Memorial. Valyrie had been our Historian.

**OBITUARY**

Valyrie Jevert

May 5, 1946 – October 8, 2023

Valyrie Jevert, age 77, of Turlock, California passed away on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

A visitation for Valyrie will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2023, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Lakewood Funeral Home - Heritage Chapel, 900 Santa Fe Ave, Hughson, CA 95326. A funeral service will occur Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, 900 Santa Fe Ave, Hughson, CA 95326. A committal service will occur Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Lakewood Memorial Park - Tuolumne Garden, 900 Santa Fe Ave, Hughson, CA 95326.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.LakewoodHughson.com](http://www.LakewoodHughson.com) for the Jevert family.

Lakewood Funeral Home & Memorial Park

## Valyrie Jevert

### May 5, 1946 - October 8, 2023



**Turlock, California** - Valyrie Jean Jevert, known affectionately as Valyrie, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2023, in Turlock, California. She was born on May 5, 1946, in Ridgecrest, California, to the late Weldon and Deana Sparrow. Valyrie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Carl Jevert, and her sister-in-law, Bonita Sparrow.

Valyrie was a devoted mother and grandmother, cherished sister, and loyal friend. She had a lifelong passion for travel, gardening, genealogy, flight, and piloting. She enjoyed exploring places around the world, tracing her family's roots, and nurturing her beautiful garden. Above all, she experienced true happiness caring for those she loved. Valyrie will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Valyrie is survived by her loving children: Shel Randol (Brandy), Noel Terrell-Snow (Rick), Brian Terrell (Shauneen), and Mike Jevert (Sonia). She is also survived by her sister, Kathleen McAndrews (Richard), and her brother, Eldon Sparrow. Valyrie was adored by her grandchildren: Corey Higgins (Megan), Brendan Sutton, Anja Snow, and Grayson Terrell. She was also blessed with a great-grandchild, Elijah Higgins.

Valyrie Sparrow was in the first graduating class at Sherman E. Burroughs High School in Ridgecrest, California, furthering her education at Bakersfield Community College. She pursued successful careers as a Travel Agent and later, a Real Estate Property Manager.

A memorial service will be held at Lakewood Funeral Home & Memorial Park in Hughson, California, on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Genealogy Society of Stanislaus County (GSSC) or the Turlock chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Contributions can be made directly to these organizations in Valyrie's memory.

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Our Special Collections Room at the Stanislaus County Library is LOADED with quality genealogical research materials. You can research what we have there by downloading the Room's [INDEX](#)

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To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. – Chinese Proverb.

**2024 Officers and Directors**

By Martha Carter-Bhatti

**2024 Voted and Approved Officers and Directors**

In accordance with the bylaws of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County (GSSC), President Vicky Wolff appointed a Committee at the August Board meeting to nominate officers for next year.

The Nominating Committee for 2024 officers is Martha Carter-Bhatti, Karen Souza, and Lewis Ruddick. The Committee has nominees for all offices.

The following nominees for the 2024 offices were presented at the September Board meeting. They will be presented and voted upon at the October general meeting.

- President Vicky Wolff
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Karen Souza
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jackie Niemeyer
- Secretary Pam Atherstone
- Treasurer Roxanne Ferrari
- Directors at Large
  - Martha Carter-Bhatti
  - Joyce Hickman
  - Joann McDonald
  - Amy Mowery
  - Marge Scheuber

Voted upon by the General Membership 19 October 2023



Not desiring to drive all the way to Salt Lake City to do LDS Library quality research . . . .

**FamilySearch Opens New Center in Las Vegas**

16 Oct 2023 8:07

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter with permission <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13267740>

FamilySearch has renovated a 1932 revival-style Tudor chapel to create a new center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The new center features a computer lab with 47 computers and 10 interactive discovery stations for visitors of all ages and groups interested in learning more about their family heritage. A play area for small children is also available for parents.

The free center also provides equipment for people who want to convert old photos, slides, negatives, 8mm film, VHS videos, books and other heirlooms to digital form. The center recommends bringing a portable memory drive to store new digital files.

You can read more in an article by Trent Toone published in thechurchnews web site at: <https://www.thechurchnews.com/members/2023/10/13/23915880/familysearch-opens-new-center-in-las-vegas#&gid=1&pid=1>



**Save The Date! Get Ready for 2024!**

**TCGS Salt Lake City Research Trip 2024**

**May 19, 2024 through May 26, 2024**

**Plan to Join Us Next Year!**

We have been invited to join the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society's Salt Lake City trip. If you are interested contact their Vice President, Sandy Turner at (209) 605-2891 or [mamaturner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamaturner@sbcglobal.net)

THE ARGYLE SWEATER SCOTT HILBURN



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**GSSC Writing Group**

The Thursday, November 9, 2023 meeting of the writing group will be held at Joann MacDonald's. Please contact Joann to let her know you are attending. (209) 521-2140 or [jmastergardner@aol.com](mailto:jmastergardner@aol.com)

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**October Meeting Photographs**

By Heidi Arno



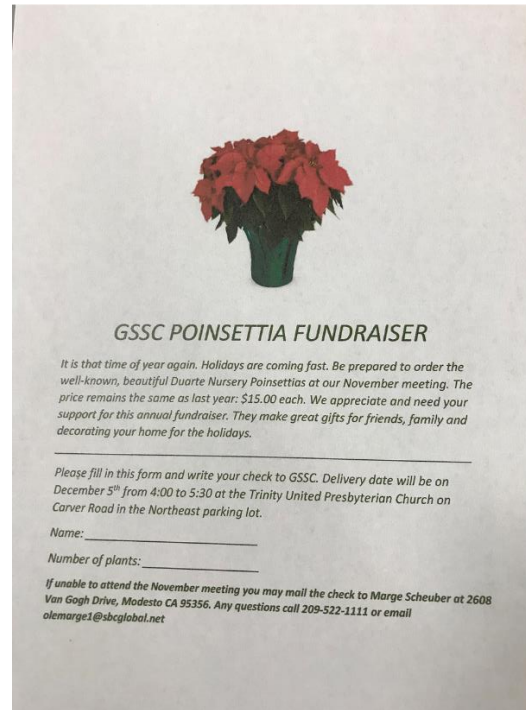
Our Speaker Robert Givens



Some of our attending members



Our break snacks



Our Holiday Fund Raising project

During our long holiday break consider asking a friend, neighbor, business acquaintance, other club member to join you at our monthly meeting to share our interest in genealogy.

## Growing Your Genealogical Research

By Lewis M. Ruddick

### Genealogy Course Subjects

The course includes the following topics:

- Getting started and organizing your research
- Sources of information
- Units of administration – townlands, parishes, etc
- Civil registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Church records
- Census and census substitutes
- Land, property and valuation records
- Wills and testamentary records
- Emigration and transportation
- Military records
- Occupational and educational records
- Local Government records
- Law and order records
- Electoral records
- Workhouse records
- Directories, newspapers, journals, gazetteers
- Getting started with DNA testing

As I do nearly every month in preparation for this newsletter, I searched the internet for ideas to put in our publication that will be of value to you and assist you in your genealogical research or writing. Since mid-year I have noted a reoccurring “list of things” shown on most of the genealogical internet sites. The above was found at Roots Revealed

(<https://rootsrevealed.co.uk/>) under a genealogy writing course program topics outline.

As I looked at it I realized that it well laid out a genealogical research guideline for someone just beginning their genealogical research. Particularly when coupled with the basic genealogical research forms we have available for our members.

**Need a how do I start my genealogy outline? Here you are!**

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Did Your Ancestors pass through the “Show Me State?” New resources are now available!

### A Million New Records From Missouri

17 Oct 2023 8:06 copied with permission <https://eogn.com/>

The following is a notice written by Reclaim the Records:

#### **Updated public datasets now available for more years of the Missouri Birth Index and Missouri Death Index, including the first pandemic era death files**

Hi again from [Reclaim The Records!](#) Today we're announcing a **big update to two important record sets** that we initially put online a few years ago. Big, like *about a million records*, including the (or one of the) first-ever full state death data files available from a state department of health from the pandemic era.

And as usual, we're releasing it all for FREE use, reuse, downloading, uploading, remixing, and — best of all — for searches on our free websites, including searching by surnames, given names, soundalike names, common nicknames, close spelling variants, wildcard searches, names combined with dates, and even searching by specific date ranges with no name data at all. Yay, open data!

#### **But first, the juicy backstory**

Between 2016 and 2020, our organization filed, fought, and eventually won (yay!) a huge Missouri Sunshine Law case against the state's Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). [We had asked them](#) for something pretty simple, just lists of people who were born or who had died in the state, which is something that their state law explicitly allows, and which they had given out or

sold in more limited fashion to journalists and researchers for decades. We thought such data could also be useful to genealogists and other researchers.

The full story is too long for our newsletter but the extremely interesting details of the obstacles thrown up by a government agency to block access to public information by imposing excessive fees can be found by clicking on this [link](#). The effort of Reclaim the Records has made Missouri records available to the public.

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**Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking. – Author unknown**

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**Our Annual Poinsettia fund raising is now in progress. Check your friends, neighbors, co-workers to see if they would like to receive the finest Poinsettia plants in our area for their holiday display. Beautiful bright red blossoms! The order flyer is attached.**

**Contact Marge Scheuber (209) 522-1111 if you have questions**

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**BSA Troops 451 & 2451**

By Lewis M. Ruddick

We have reached out to BSA Troops 451 and 2451 with an offer to assist their members without genealogy merit badges to assist them achieve this scouting merit goal. This offer is also extended to any of the other troops in our region who would wish to receive our Society's assist in achieving their Genealogy Merit Badge. We KNOW genealogy and can assist. Contact Vicky Wolff (209) 529-9430 or Lewis Ruddick (209) 667-0536

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**This will be your last issue until January 2024.**

**Wishing All - Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024**





## **GSSC POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER**

*It is that time of year again. Holidays are coming fast. Be prepared to order the well-known, beautiful Duarte Nursery Poinsettias at our November meeting. The price remains the same as last year: \$15.00 each. We appreciate and need your support for this annual fundraiser. They make great gifts for friends, family and decorating your home for the holidays.*

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*Please fill in this form and write your check to GSSC. Delivery date will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:30 at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church on Carver Road in the Northeast parking lot.*

*Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_*

*If unable to attend the November meeting you may mail the check to Marge Scheuber at 2608 Van Gogh Drive, Modesto CA 95356. Any questions call 209-522-1111 or email [olemarge1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olemarge1@sbcglobal.net)*



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Submit articles for publication to the editor via email: [lruddick@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lruddick@ix.netcom.com) by the 15th of each month.

Address changes: Send address, email and phone number changes to Maybelle Allen at:  
 US Mail: Joyce Hickman c/o GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352  
 Email: [gssc-founded1968@gmail.com](mailto:gssc-founded1968@gmail.com)  
 Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman)

GSSC web page: <http://stanislausgenealogy.org/>  
 The newsletter is posted at this website, along with other interesting society-related items.

General meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month, except July and December at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Telle Center, at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

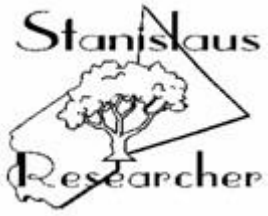
Board meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month Ridgeway's Restaurant, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA

2023 Officers		2023 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions:	Vacant
1st Vice President	Karen Souza	Audit:	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Budget:	Roxie Ferrari
Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Historian	Heidi Arno
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Membership	Joyce Hickman
Director at Large 1	Joyce Hickman	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis & Logan Ruddick
Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Publicity	Vicky Wolff
Director at Large 3	Joann McDonald	Queries	Colleen Norby
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter Bhatti	Registrar	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Julie Condrin	Seminar:	Vacant
Past President	David Wolff	Research Trips	Heidi Arno
		Mentor	Joann McDonald
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Acquisitions:	Vacant
		Special Collections & Workshops	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Martha Carter Bhatti

Updated 10-16-23.

We have 69 members for 2023

[website GSSC](http://stanislausgenealogy.org/)



Genealogical Society of  
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