



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

February 2023

Volume 45 Number 2

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February 16, 2023
 6:00 P.M. Souper-Supper
 7:00 P.M. Black History Program

Presidents Message

By Vicky Wolff

Happy February everyone and also Happy Valentines day as well. February is our famous Souper-Supper with homemade soups being made by your new officers and board members. Don't forget to come one hour earlier so we can partake of our supper before we have a meeting! 6PM for our supper and 7PM for our meeting. What a treat! Also, February is Black History Month, which we will also be celebrating. There is a lot to learn about Black History, so you won't want to miss our program. March we will be celebrating Women's History. We have a lot planned for you this year and hope you plan to attend our meetings and be part of our events as we all continue to work on our family histories.

Photos from January Meeting

By Heidi Armo





Save the Date for a Beginning Genealogy Class April 29, 2023 at 2 pm. It will be held in the library's makerspace room at the downtown Modesto Library. More information to follow later.

We still have copies of the GSSC Cookbook: The Cooking Gene. Judy and Joyce would be more than happy to fill your order. See our website [stanislausgenealogy.org Publications](http://stanislausgenealogy.org/Publications) to order your copy.

If you missed the January General Meeting and wish a copy of the Code Talkers PowerPoint program please email lruddick@ix.netcom.com and request a copy. You will receive the program and handouts.



[RootsTech 2023 March 2 to 4– It is FREE again this year](#)

RootsTech is a place to learn, be inspired, and make connections through family history. Hosted by FamilySearch and sponsored by other leading genealogy organizations, we have hundreds of expert classes, tips and tricks videos, and inspiring stories that can help you experience family history like never before.

Since 2011 RootsTech by FamilySearch has been a family gathering unlike any other. The annual conference, first held in Salt Lake City, Utah, has grown and changed since those early days. From in-person to the entirely virtual, world-wide conference held just last year, RootsTech has always been a celebration of connection—past, present and future

Don't forget your Valentine!

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland, and the United Kingdom. [Wikipedia](#)

Significance: to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora

Date: Wed, Feb 1, 2023 – Wed, Mar 1, 2023

Observed for: 53 years

Also called: African-American History Month

Event Length: 1 [Month](#)

Observed by: [United States](#), [Canada](#), [United Kingdom](#)

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.

In 1915, Harvard-educated historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) and minister Jesse Moorland founded what's now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. That organization established Negro History Week in 1926, which strived to inspire schools and communities to organize local celebrations and host performances and lectures.

Woodson was tireless in his lobbying to establish Negro History Week as a program to encourage the study of African-American history. He dedicated his career to the subject and wrote many books on the topic. His most famous volume is *The Mis-Education of the Negro* (1933), which has become required reading at numerous colleges and universities.

Negro History Week was the second week of February. Why? To coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. President Lincoln, of course, was the 16th U.S. president and paved the way for the abolition of slavery with his Emancipation Proclamation. Douglass was an escaped slave turned activist and author, and a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement to end slavery.

The civil rights movement of the 1960s helped elevate Negro History Week to national prominence... and turn it into a month-long celebration. As a result, in 1976, President [Gerald Ford](#) made things official, proclaiming February to be Black History Month.

You don't have to look far to notice the many impressive achievements of black men and women in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, entertainment, and many others. Here are some of the most notable names you're probably hearing celebrated this month (and Biography's website does a wonderful job of profiling many others):

Harriet Tubman – Underground Railroad “Conductor,” Civil Rights Activist

Alice Ball – Chemist

Josephine Baker – Singer, Dancer, Civil Rights Activist

Martin Luther King, Jr. – Baptist Minister and Social Activist

Rosa Parks – Civil Rights Activist

Mary Jackson – Scientist, Mathematician, NASA's First Black Female Engineer

Maya Angelou – Civil Rights Activist, Author, Poet

Joycelyn Elders – First African-American U.S. Surgeon General

Colin Powell – U.S. Secretary of State, Four-Star General (U.S. Army)

Barack Obama – U.S. President, U.S. Senator, Lawyer

<https://blog.frontrange.edu/2019/02/18/five-fascinating-facts-about-black-history-month/>

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GSSC web page: <https://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 at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

Board meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month, The Secret Garden, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave., Modesto, CA.

2023 Officers		2023 Standing Committees	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions	
1st Vice President	Karen Souza	Audit	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Budget	Roxanne Ferrari
Corresponding Secretary	Martha Carter Bhatti	Four Generation Charts	Julie Condryn
Recording Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Historian	Heidi Arno
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Director at Large 1	Joyce (Plis) Hickman	Memorial Day	Membership
Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Mentor	Joann McDonald
Director at Large 3	Joann McDonald	Newsletter & Website	Lewis & Logan Ruddick
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter-Bhatti	Nominating	Membership
Director at Large 5	Julie Condryn	Planning	Officers & Board
Past President	David Wolff	Programs	Karen Souza
		Publicity	Vicky Wolff
		Queries	Colleen Norby
		Research & Publication	
		Refreshments	Joann McDonald
		Seminar	
		Special Collections Room & Workshops	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Martha Carter-Bhatti
		Trips	Heidi Arno

Updated 20 Jan 2022.

We have 60 members for 2023

[website GSSC](#)



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Stanislaus County
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