

# CSGA Newsletter



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## The Anatomy of an A-File An inside look at four Alien Cases from one box sitting in the NARA Pacific Region-San Francisco Collections

by Cath Madden Trindle, CG

*This is part two of an article on the A-Files found at NARA Pacific Region-San Francisco. Please see the July-August 2012 issue for details about the A-files and how to access them and for the first two stories. Below are two more examples of what can be found in these files.*

### Catherine Webster(A3617752)

Catherine Webster was born in Dublin 12 December 1866. She arrived in New York in August 1925 on the SS Berengaria. This was not her first arrival, but rather a return from a trip home. She first arrived in the United

States on 23 March 1920 and, at the time she filed her Alien Registration form, had been a resident for 20 years, 9 months.

Catherine was a widow living at 20 Borica Street in San Francisco. She lists herself as a housewife with no relatives living in the United States. She had formerly been Catherine Cowan and had never been arrested. The only document in Catherine's file is the AR-2. According to Marisa Louie, archivist at the National Archives at San Francisco, The "NOTICE! NOTICE!" sheet in this file indicates that there may be material in other record series—such as visa files or certificate files—that were not consolidated with the A-File.

While we characterize the A-Files as

incorporated into a Naturalization Certificate File ("C-File") if she naturalized before March 1956.

"I would encourage researchers to perform an Index Search Request with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Genealogy Program to see whether there is material in other historic record series relating to their ancestor.

See <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy/> for more information."

### Chew Poy (A10761817)

In 1920 in Wo Fung Village, Chew Poy was married in an old custom marriage which had been arranged by his mother Ng Shee. The village with about twenty

houses was completely occupied by the Chew family, but his only immediate family present at the time was his mother. His father Chew Wen Art was in

Sydney, Australia and he had no siblings. Just months after the marriage Chew Poy left his bride Jan May Kew to travel to America. He arrived in the US in April of 1921 on his way to Mexico where he remained until 1926. In August of that year he jumped the border at Calexico, Calif-

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**NOTICE! NOTICE!**  
**THIS FILE IS NOT CONSOLIDATED**

"comprehensive" files, the practice of consolidating all documents relating to an individual really only began after March 1956. "Catherine Webster COULD have become a naturalized citizen though this is not reflected in her A-File. For example, her Declaration/Petition could have been

## An Interesting Topic

The Solano County Genealogical Society newsletter of August-September reported on an interesting topic that would be presented at their general meeting. Two sisters were going to relate their experience of cleaning out their family home of 50+ years after their parents passed away. Among the items they had to sort through were family treasures which needed to be distributed, a vintage California book, and compiled family history binders with letters and clippings. A focus of the talk will be the "pitfalls and pleasantries of such a process" They will provide the audience with options for handling estate property and steps to make the process easier. This might be an interesting topic for any genealogy society and it's not one I have seen in speaker topics before. PR

## Congratulations to Lake Havasu Genealogical Society

The Lake Havasu Genealogical Society of Arizona is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. For 14 years, their library collection sat in a member's garage but in 2001 they were able to purchase their own building. The library now houses over 3,000 books, CDs, microfilm and microfiche and they now have 3 computers as well. Volunteers staff the free library and they offer beginner classes and monthly meetings. The library is located in the Shambles Village on the main street. Next time you're visiting Lake Havasu for a vacation, stop in and say hi. Their website is at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~azlhgs/>.

## About CSGA

### Our Mission:

- Serve as an information source for the California genealogical community
- Form a communication link between societies and the genealogical community
- Identify, assess, inventory and preserve the genealogical sources within the state
- Promote and advertise genealogy

### CSGA Newsletter

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PO Box 27343, San Diego, CA 92198-1343 or to [peggyrossi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggyrossi@sbcglobal.net).

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## President's Message



### Fall Open Board Meeting

Our final board meeting of the year will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 in Sacramento, after Family History Day at the State Archives.

Family History Day will be a wonderful opportunity to take some free classes and see our state-of-the-art State Archives. Please check out the Family History Day blog at <http://fhdnewsline.blogspot.com/> for more information on this all day event.

Our meeting will be held at 6 pm at Coco's restaurant (1830 Arden Way, Sacramento). We will have a private room. Each person will order their own dinner from the menu. Everyone is welcome to come. Please let me know if you plan to be there as I have to give the restaurant a total number in advance. Thanks! Just send me an email at [SueMHR@aol.com](mailto:SueMHR@aol.com).

### CSGA Election

There is a ballot included with this issue of the newsletter. All individual members should vote and one person (usually the president) from each society should vote. I'd like to introduce the candidates.

– **President, Jamie Mayhew** – Jamie has been researching her family tree, off and on, since the age of fourteen. After raising a family and working full time, she returned to research in the early 1990s. Jamie has a Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies.

She is also the immediate past president of the North Orange County Genealogical Society and currently serves as their Edu-

cation Chair. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is a Family History Consultant. Her business, California Cousins, specializes in Southern California, southern states and New England research. Jamie lives in Orange County

– **Second Vice President, Cat Nielsen** – Cat joined CSGA in 2008 as webmanager. As webmanager, she has served on the CSGA board and worked closely with other board members. She is a past president of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society and has spoken at various genealogy events.

She has held senior level positions in the technology industry, consulting with many US corporations. Her education includes a BA in Geology, an MBA in Marketing, an Adult Education Teaching Credential, and she is a certified Project Manager.

She enjoys finding ways to blend genealogy, technology, and her business skills. Cat shares her interests and skills with her students at Acalanes Adult Education program.

As second vice president, Cat looks forward to working with society and individual members. She wonders, "How can CSGA serve its membership better? What are members looking for in an organization such as CSGA? How can we work together to expand information pertaining to CSGA and genealogy?" Cat lives in the Bay Area.

– **Treasurer** – At this writing, we still do not have a candidate for this office. If you are interested or know someone who is interested in becoming our treasurer, please let me know right away at [SueMHR@aol.com](mailto:SueMHR@aol.com).

– **Director at Large, Elizabeth Swanay-O'Neal** – Elizabeth is a family history researcher specializing in the preparation of lineage society applications and the use of technology and social media. She has been researching her own family for 25 years and providing research assistance to others for 5 years. She enjoys writing and lecturing about genealogy and is the author of an award-winning genealogy blog, "Little Bytes of Life."

Elizabeth is vice president of Second Life Chapter of APG, social media coordinator for the San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society, and a California notary public. She also serves as webmaster for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She holds a California teaching credential and is skilled at working with young people. She is a current Director at Large for CSGA, appointed to fill out an unexpired term. She lives in Santa Barbara County.

– **Director at Large, Janice Sellers** – Janice is a professional genealogist who specializes in newspaper and Jewish research. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Council for Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, and several other societies. She is also the editor of two genealogy journals. She has volunteered at the Oakland FamilySearch Center since 2000. As a Director at Large for CSGA, she will be interested in working with ethnic societies. Janice lives in the Bay Area.

The offices of First Vice President, Secretary, and three Directors at Large will be elected next year.

*Please use the ballot found at the end of this newsletter.*

## Spotlight on genealogical research facilities

*A series of articles about places to do research*

### Fallbrook Historical Society

260 Rocky Crest Rd., Fallbrook, (at the corner of Rocky Crest and Hill St., entrance on Hill St.).

Thursday and Sunday from 1 to 4 PM and by appointment.

Phone 760-723-4125.

Website: [www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.com/](http://www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.com/)

The museum is free but they love donations.

There are three buildings on the grounds: the main museum which includes a research area, the Pittenger House, and the Barn. These buildings hold an amazing collection of artifacts, mostly from the Fallbrook area. They are arranged in collections and include such things as the organ from the old original Baptist Church, miniature replicas of early Fallbrook buildings, housewares, farm

implements, antique cars, Native American artifacts, and the Pittenger House which is an old Victorian house that has period furnishings. It was once the home of William Pittenger, a Methodist Minister and Civil War soldier. And much more!

Of even more interest to genealogists are the research materials. There are history books of Fallbrook, San Diego Co., and

California. There is a nice collection of Fallbrook High School yearbooks. There are cemetery records and records of clubs that have met in Fallbrook. And more. In addition to the book collection, there are files of information on various early Fallbrook families. And they have a nice collection of pictures of early Fallbrook and early Fallbrook settlers. A very interesting place!

### Sutro Library Lecture and Tour

*Wednesday September 26, 2012  
@4:30pm. (Elevators Stops Coming Up at  
5pm) 5th Floor J. Paul Leonard Library -  
Sutro Library, Location: 1630 Holloway,  
San Francisco, CA 94132*

“At last....The skies above are blue.”

– Etta James

The lyrics to Etta James' iconic song express wonderfully the feeling shared by many on the establishment of a permanent home for the Sutro Library. Since 1913, when it was donated to the California State Library by Adolph Sutro's heirs, this priceless collection wandered the desert of cramped basements and inadequate spaces. Thanks to the Library Building Project funded from a lease revenue bond approved by the California State Governor and Legislature in 2002, the Sutro Library is now

housed in the newly renovated J. Paul Leonard - Sutro Library @ the SFSU campus.

As many of you know, the Sutro Library not only has the distinction of having one of the most comprehensive Genealogical and Family History collections in existence, but houses some of the rarest and most unique manuscript and book collections the world has to offer. The Sutro Library has items as varied as a copy of Shakespeare's first complete collection of plays (the so-called "First Folio" published in 1623) as well as an original sketch of the HMS Bounty, the ship where that most infamous of mutiny's occurred.

Now that we are settled into our new building, the staff of the Sutro Library would like to invite you to attend a lecture, to be followed by a tour of our wonderful new facilities. Our distinguished guest lec-

turer will be Dr. Hermann-Victor Johnen. Dr. Johnen, who lives in Aachen, Germany and received his doctorate in economics from the University of Muenster, Germany, wrote his thesis on Adolph Sutro titled: "The Sutro Tunnel Project: A Chapter in the History of a German-American Entrepreneur in the U.S. West during the Industrialization Era."

An upcoming English language version of Dr. Johnen's thesis will be published by UC Berkeley. Dr. Johnen's lecture will last for 30 minutes.

Please be advised that the elevators stop coming to the 5th floor at 5 pm sharp. After that someone from the staff of the Sutro Library will need to physically come down to escort you up.

We look forward to seeing you.

Diana Kohnke  
Librarian

# A-Files

(continued from page 37)

nia. Chew Poy was in the San Francisco Bay area by 1940 when he was employed at the Quong Yuen Shing Company's bean curd factory. In November of 1959 when Chew Poy applied for Permanent Residence status he was employed at the Lantern Café in Oakland and living in that city. After he was granted permanent status in January of 1960, he applied for his wife Jan May Kew, then living in Hong Kong, to join him.

In a letter sent from the INS field office in San Francisco to the US Consulate in Hong Kong, many of the details of Chew

Poy's life were outlined. He had one son, Chew Buck See, living in China. Chew Buck See had six daughters. One was living in Hong Kong with her grandmother.

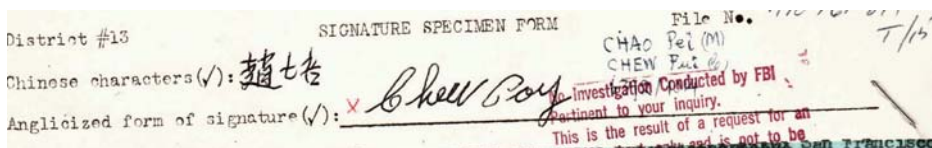
Jan May Kew had a sister and three brothers. Two of her brothers were living in Havana, Cuba.



The A-Files can provide a wealth of family information. You can find details on births, marriages, children, occupations, residency, taxes paid, membership in organizations, and much more.

For more information on the Smith (Alien Registration) Act and the creation of the Alien Case Files (A-Files) see the March-April issue of the CSGA Newsletter and NARA's Researching Alien Files (A-Files) at the National Archives at Kansas City (<http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html>).

*Thank you to Marisa Louie, archivist at the National Archives at San Francisco and Sharon Rummery, USCIS for their help in preparing this article.*



## Roseville Genealogical Society

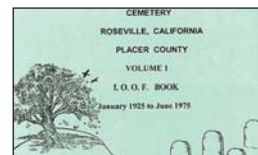
557 Lincoln Street, Roseville, CA 95678  
(916) 773-3003

The Roseville Genealogical Society has a wonderful collection of books for sale containing information from cemeteries and a funeral home in Roseville for various time periods from 1861-2010. For a more detailed description of the contents of each book, please visit us at <http://www.rgsca.org/publications.shtml>. To place an order please use the order form found at <http://www.rgsca.org/docs/bookorderform.htm>. All books are available for \$25, shipping and handling included, or for \$20 if picked up at one of our meetings.

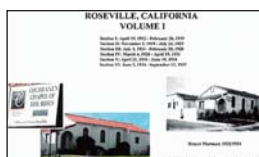
**Roseville Public Cemetery District  
Placer Co., CA, Vol. 4 NEW**  
Roseville and Union Cemeteries  
October 1998-March 2010



**Roseville Cemetery  
Placer Co., CA, Vol. 1**  
I.O.O.F. Cemetery  
January 1925 to June 1975



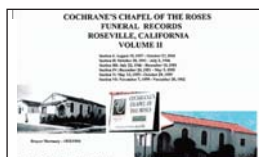
**Cochrane's Chapel of the Roses  
Funeral Records, Roseville, CA Vol. 1**  
April 19, 1912 to September 13, 1937



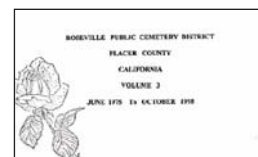
**Roseville Public Cemetery District  
Placer Co., CA, Vol. 2**  
Old Cemetery 1861-1924  
I.O.O.F. 1953-1960  
Union Cemetery 1862-2003



**Cochrane's Chapel of the Roses  
Funeral Records, Roseville, CA Vol. 2**  
August 19, 1937 to November 28, 1962



**Roseville Public Cemetery District  
Placer Co., CA, Vol. 3**  
Roseville and Union Cemeteries  
June 1975 to October 1998



## Society News

### Mendocino Society disbands

The Ft. Bragg Advocate-News reported "For nearly four decades, the Mendocino Coast Genealogical Society has been devoted to researching, recording, and preserving local history; the organization itself became history as the book closed forever at its traditional annual picnic, Aug. 14..."

The article stated that the large collection of research material will remain available at the Fort Bragg Library. A past president is continuing to compile card files on births, marriages and deaths and is storing the information electronically as well.

Thank you for all the hard work done over the years. We're sure the society will be greatly missed.

### International Heritage Festival

The Stanislaus Researcher reports they will have a booth at the International Heritage Festival, Gallo Center for the Arts, 1000 I Street Downtown Modesto, on October 6th. The festival includes entertainment, booths on different countries and folks in traditional dress. This festival is now in its 21st year. Sounds like a fun way to learn about your ancestors' home country.

### New England Ancestors in Oakland

The California Genealogical Society announces that the New England Historic Genealogical Society will be conducting an all-day seminar on October 26. There will be two lecture tracks and an optional dinner along with a limited number of private consultations at the CGS Library. The seminar will be held at His Lordships, 199 Seawall

Drive in Berkeley. The featured speakers will be Rhonda McClure and David Allen Lambert. To get more information go to: <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>.

### WAGS Seminar

The Whittier Area Genealogical Society reports that they will be making alternate plans for their seminar for February. The featured speaker was to be John Humphreys who sadly passed away on August 12. An announcement will probably be made at their September meeting, and CSGA will be sure to get it into the calendar.

They also announced that fall hours have begun at the WAGS library collection housed on the Whittier College campus. Visit their website for more details: <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>.

### Ancestors in Humboldt?

Do you have ancestors in Humboldt County? If you do and you're not a member of the Redwood Genealogical Society, you should be. Their wonderful quarterly, *Redwood Researcher*, is a treasure trove of information. Each issue is packed with data from burial records, newspaper articles, voter registers, obituaries and more. It's a terrific publication. Particularly fun are the news tidbits such as "The lady whose romance finger sparkles the brightest those days is Miss Frances (Brizard's office) Turner and the man who is responsible for the lovely diamond ring is Mister Elmer Miller." Enjoyable reading, even if it's not your family! Many thanks to the volunteers who put this publication together.

### NARA in NYC

This isn't really California related but if you are planning a trip to New York City and are thinking of using the NARA facility, you should know that they are moving to a new location. The new address will be the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House at one Bowling Green in Manhattan. According to a news release from NGS, the new facility will allow for greater research opportunities and will include new exhibit space for visitors. The move is expected to take place in mid-October, according to the NARA website. They also mention that some research services will be curtailed to enable the move. So if you are planning a visit, be sure to check hours and availability before you go. The website is: <http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/>.

### Los Gatos history

The July newsletter of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society featured an article about a website project called "Hooked on Los Gatos." It was begun as a collaborative effort between the Los Gatos Public Library and the museums of Los Gatos. The site includes photographs, maps, letters, postcards, scrapbooks, programs and audio and video recordings. There are links to about 100 collections. This sounds like an incredible website for those whose families came from that area. Probably worth a visit even if you're not from that area. The website address is: <http://www.historylosgatos.org/cdm>.

1940 census updates

Website news

Be sure to read  
the CSGA Blog at <http://www.csga.com/Blog/>

Genealogy news in California

Updates on legislative news

Don't forget to vote in the CSGA elections. The ballot is on the last page of the newsletter.

## Calendar of Events

**September 22** - Chula Vista Genealogical Society will sponsor a seminar aimed at beginners at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library, 4375 Bonita Rd., titled "Show Me My Roots." 10 am to 3 pm. No charge. Contact Virginia Taylor at [irishdoll@cox.net](mailto:irishdoll@cox.net) to register.

**October 6** - Fresno County Genealogical Society will host their annual seminar, featuring Linda Serna, 9 am to 4 pm, at the Woodward Park Library, 944 East Perrin, Fresno. For further information, please visit their website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcs/>

**October 6** - Annual fall seminar sponsored by the North San Diego County Genealogical Society will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Carlsbad City Council Chambers. This is located at the northeast corner of Pio Pico and Carlsbad Village Drive, in Carlsbad. The title of the seminar is "Impact of Politics and Religion on Our Ancestors' Migration." The seminar consists of four case studies presented by various members of our society. Lunches available for purchase.

**October 13** - A Brown Bag Seminar titled "Navigating the Ancestry Website" featuring Dayna Jacobs will be sponsored by the Monterey County Genealogical Society. 11 am to 4 pm at the Monterey Public Library, 625 Pacific St., Monterey. For further details go to [www.mocogenso.org](http://www.mocogenso.org) or contact Nancy Barton 831-659-4515 or Jeannie Pedersen 831-484-9350.

**October 13** - Family History Day at the California State Archives, 1020 "O" St. Sacramento. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is free. For more information go to <http://fhdnewsline.blogspot.com>.

**October 20** - Contra Costa Genealogical Society and the Concord Family History Center will present an all day seminar "Digging For Your Roots." 7:30 am to 4:30 pm at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. For more information email Jackie Hein at [lcjaki1957@aol.com](mailto:lcjaki1957@aol.com).

**October 20** - An all-day seminar featuring George Morgan will be sponsored by the Ventura County Genealogical Society. Seminar will be held at the LDS church at 3501 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura, 8 am to 4:00 pm. For additional information go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cavcgs/>

**October 20** - The South Orange County California Genealogical Society presents Loretto Dennis (Lou) Szucs, Vice President of Community Relations for Ancestry.com at an all-day seminar. She will be presenting "Breathing Life Back into Your Ancestors." Complimentary refreshments will be provided and there will be door prizes. Topic titles are listed on the seminar registration form which can be found on the SOCCGS website at: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/).

**November 3** - "Proven Methods for Genealogical Success" featuring Tom Jones will be the fall seminar of the San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Classes will be held at the Menlo Park LDS Church at 1105 Valparaiso, Menlo Park. 9 am to 3: pm. For additional information go to <http://www.smccgs.org/>

**November 10** - An all-day seminar will be sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County featuring Christine Rose. Classes will be held at the Modesto Centre Plaza, 1000 L St., Modesto. 9 am to 3 pm. Registration is \$35 before Oct. 20; \$45 after Oct.20. Mail registration to Jeff Wells, 3533 Highmore Lane, Modesto, CA 95357.

**July 13, 2013** - This is an early notice because it is a change from the usual date. The Genealogical Society of North Orange County will hold their all-day seminar on 13 July. Featured will be Geoffrey Rasmussen. Seminar will be held at the Fullerton Public Library and Conference Center, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. For information go to [www.gsnocc.org](http://www.gsnocc.org).

## News from outside California

### Upcoming events outside California

October 20 - The Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society will sponsored a Fall Seminar featuring Joel Weintraub, Margo McKinstry and Ron Tanner. The seminar will be held at the Stan Fulton Building, UNLV Campus, 801 E. Flamingo Rd. For more information go to :

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvccngs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvccngs).

October 27 - the Genealogical Forum of Oregon's Fall Seminar will feature Craig Scott. The seminar will be held at the Milwaukie Elks, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Milwaukie, from 8 am to 4 pm. For more information go to <http://www.gfo.org/>

November 10 - Northern Arizona Genealogical Society will co-sponsor with NARA-Southern California an all-day seminar with Kerry Bartels, NARA archivist. Location will be the Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., founders suite A & B.

December 7 - Bouse Genealogical Society annual seminar featuring Geoff Rasmussen at the Blue Water Casino, 11222 Resort Dr., Parker Arizona. 8 am to 4 pm. Email [BouseGenies@gmail.com](mailto:BouseGenies@gmail.com) for additional information.

## Family Expo-Las Vegas

Mimi Lozano of SHHAR and editor of "Los Primos" forwarded us a link to a blog entry on Family Search that told about the National Council of La Raza's national conference held July 7-10 which also included a family history expo this year. The team of hosts was led by Mimi and they are pleased to report that many people expressed an interest in learning more about their family history.

Team leaders showed beginners how to access FamilySearch and the large number of Latin American and Spanish records that are already online. Thousands of people were provided informational brochures in both Spanish and English.

While this conference was not directly related to family history, it turned out to be an excellent place to provide information. Sometimes it can be beneficial to have booths at non-genealogical events if the cost is not too great.

If you are researching your Hispanic heritage, be sure to visit <http://www.somosprimos.com/> and take a look at the "Los Primos" newsletter. It is full of information to help you in your research.

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## California State Genealogical Alliance Membership Application



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Society contact \_\_\_\_\_ Society website \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type

\_\_\_\_\_ Genealogical Society \_\_\_\_\_ Business or Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Individual

**Annual dues \$30.** Newsletters are sent via email. Please submit additional \$7.50 to have your newsletter sent through regular postal service.

Individual life membership \$400.

Send form and check made payable to CSGA to: CSGA - Treasurer, PO Box 10195, Oakland, CA 94610-0195.



# California State Genealogical Alliance

## Ballot for 2013-2014

(Members only. One ballot per society or individual member please)

The following positions are open. .

President—two-year term (vote for one name only)

- Jamie Mayhew  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

2nd Vice-President—two-year term (vote for one name only)

- Cat Nielsen  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

Treasurer—two-year term (vote for one name only)

- \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

Directors at large—2-year term (vote for three only)

- Elizabeth Swanay-O'Neal  
 Janice Sellers  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

This ballot is meant to be a tri-fold self-mailer. Fold so that the return address is on the outside and seal with tape.

For a secret ballot, you may either refrain from using a return address label or put the ballot in a #10 envelope with your return address. Mail to the address below. In the latter situation, your ballot will be removed from the envelope and tallied separately from the envelope in order to maintain secrecy. Please mark outside of envelope to indicate ballot enclosed.

**Ballots must be received by December 1, 2012.**

**Mail ballots to:**

**CSGA, PO Box 10195, Oakland CA 94610-0195**

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STAMP

CSGA  
PO BOX 10195  
OAKLAND CA 94610-0195

**BALLOT**