

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Crista Cowan –

Crista Cowan has been employed at Ancestry since 2004; her involvement in family history, however, reaches all the way back to childhood. She frequently speaks at local and national genealogy events around the country. Watch her live show, *The Barefoot Genealogist*, weekly on the Ancestry YouTube channel at <http://ancstry.me/TBGVids>.

9:00 a.m.	Getting the Most Out of Ancestry – Chapel
11:00 a.m.	Using Ancestry DNA Results to Make Family History Discoveries – Chapel
2:00 p.m.	Ancestry Search Tips and Tricks - Chapel
4:00 p.m.	Using Ancestry to Meet the Genealogical Proof Standard - Chapel

Merrill White –

Experience Manager for FamilySearch International. Raised in Sparks, Nevada and is a graduate of Brigham Young University. While in college, he proudly played sousaphone for the Cougar Marching Band. During his over 19 years with FamilySearch, he has served in a variety of assignments including Managing the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, creating and launching the FamilySearch Discovery Centers, and Area Manager. He has been blessed with an amazing wife and five beautiful children.

10:00 a.m.	Using FamilySearch – Chapel
1:00 p.m.	FamilySearch – From Tablet to Tablet - Chapel
3:00 p.m.	Search Tips and Tricks on FamilySearch - Chapel

PRESENTERS

Denise Beeson –

Denise Beeson has been a Santa Rosa Junior College Business Instructor for over 25 years. She also teaches various genealogy classes in the SRJC Older Adult Program at the Family History Center. She has been researching her own French-Canadian genealogy for over 15 years and hopes to share her tips and tricks with others. She has a Master of Arts in Communication and a BA in French.

10:00 a.m.	Census Records – U.S. Federal and State – Multi-purpose Room
2:00 p.m.	Family History Education through FREE online Databases and Websites – Nursery

Pat Carhart –

Pat Carhart has been researching and writing family history stories for many years; introducing family and friends to stories discovered in her research. She has served as Program Chair on the Sonoma County Genealogical Society Board of Directors since 2012, participated in editing the *Portraits of Early Sonoma County Settlers* and is the leader of the Family History Writer's Special Interest Group.

10:00 a.m.	Telling the Tales of our Ancestors - Tips on Writing your Family History - Nursery
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Sharon Elwell –

Sharon Elwell has taught music, Spanish, ESL, and every grade level in California schools. She is the author of several memoirs about those experiences. Since she retired, the stories she collected along the way have come pouring out: three time-travel adventure stories about California's early history for third and fourth graders: *Jeremy and the Wappo*, *Jeremy and General Vallejo*, and *Jeremy and the Gold Rush Girl*. Her latest books, the *Almost True Tails of the Founding Feathers* series tells about the pets of Americas founders—Thomas Jefferson's mockingbird, Benjamin Franklin's squirrel, Martha Washington's parrot, and George Washington's hunting dogs, Topsy and Tippler. In these stories, the animals secretly direct the humans who are trying to found a new nation.

11:00 a.m.	Hidden Treasures of Memory – Multi-purpose Room
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Nancy O'Connor Evans –

Nancy O'Connor Evans, has been researching her Irish family for many years. Her great grandparents, like most Irish immigrants, came to America with few skills and even less money. They left the tenant farms of Ireland to work in the anthracite coalmines of Pennsylvania. The 2016 release of the Irish Catholic Parish Registers and the Irish Civil Records allowed Nancy to finally discover exactly where her Irish ancestors lived. Nancy O'Connor Evans is the Program Chair at the Marin County Genealogical Society.

3:00 p.m.	Irish Genealogy – Multi-purpose Room
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Laura Gonzalez –

Laura Gonzalez has been a public school teacher for over 25 years. An avid amateur genealogist, she's been searching for ancestors on and off for over 10 years. Eager to share what she's learned about Mexican genealogy, she occasionally teaches a class at Santa Rosa Junior College through the Community Education program.

11:00 a.m. Mexican Genealogy Tips - Nursery

Joanna Kolosov –

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Joanna holds a Master of Library and Information Science from UCLA. As an archivist, she has worked with collections ranging from the papers of former U.S. congressional members to those of local community activists. In July 2017, she joined the History & Genealogy Library, where she feels at home amidst the numerous historical research requests and special collections projects. Her recent projects include the creation of a web archive of the 2017 North Bay fires and instructing high-school students in family history research using Ancestry Classroom.

11:00 a.m. Discovering Your Public Library's Genealogy Resources – Primary Room

LaDawn Meade –

LaDawn Meade has been teaching computer science at Santa Rosa Junior College for over ten years, making the mysteries of computers simple and real. She has extensive experience with securing data, from personal data to massive databases and big data in the cloud.

4:00 p.m. Preserving Photograph Collections – Multi-Purpose Room

George McKinney –

George McKinney is a retired engineer. He is the Founder and Coordinator of the Oakmont Genealogy Club. He has been doing genealogical research for almost 50 years and holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. His article *Searching for a Common DNA Ancestor: A Smithhart/Martin Case Study* was published in the Summer 2018 issue of **American Ancestors**, the Journal of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

11:00 a.m. Ellis Island Immigration– A Re-creation – Relief Society Room

3:00 p.m. DNA Advanced Techniques – Relief Society Room

Marilyn Pahr –

Marilyn Pahr found both of her grandfathers came through Ellis Island in 1911, emigrating from Poland. They both settled in the Chicago area, one in the stockyards straight out of Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle", the other worked for the gas company, initially shoveling coal. She cherishes her grandmother's polish language prayer book.

11:00 a.m. Ellis Island Immigration– A Re-creation – Relief Society Room

Eva Alma Paniagua –

Eva Alma Paniagua nació en Mexico. Obtuvo un título de Cirujano Dentista de la UNAM y ha trabajado como RDA en los Estados Unidos. Desde niña la interesado saber de sus antepasados. Cuando conoció la Iglesia, supo de la genealogía, pero su interés por saber de su familia fue mayor y continua investigar y buscar a su familia. Ella emocióna cuando encuentra a alguien nuevo.

Eva Alma Paniagua was born in Mexico. She graduated from UNAM Dental School in Mexico and has been practicing as a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) here in the United States. Since she was a girl, she has been interested in learning about her ancestors. When she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints she learned about genealogy work and became even more interested in knowing about her family. She loves to spend time investigating her family history and gets excited when she finds new information!

4:00 p.m. Mi Familia – Introducción a la investigación de historia familiar – Class in Spanish Language – Nursery

Sierra Pope –

Sierra Pope has been researching her family history for more than 20 years. She actively shares this information with her children to pass on their family history. Sierra has been a part of the Marin Genealogical Society for many years. She is currently the Registrar for the Society.

4:00 p.m. Using Timelines and Chronologies for Family History – Primary Room

Jeanne Porter –

When Jeanne Porter was sixteen, her French teacher gave her class an assignment to fill out a pedigree chart and some family group sheets. (She let them do it in English). The assignment fascinated Jeanne and she has been doing family history research ever since. She graduated from Brigham Young University in 1975 with a degree in Elementary Education and taught 4th grade in South Dakota. Jeanne is a volunteer at the Family History Center and gets very excited about helping other people with their research.

- 10:00 a.m. From Bankers Boxes to Order - Organizing Family History Documentation for Better Research and Family Sharing – Relief Society Room
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Elihu Smith –

Elihu Smith began his genealogical research at the request of his children. He found that his maternal grandparents had immigrated to the US from Galicia (Austro-Hungary) and Romania and elsewhere at least twice, beginning in 1911, and his paternal grandparents attempted to come in 1914 from Lithuania but were prevented by outbreak of WWI and then succeeded in immigrating in 1919 from what had then become Poland.

- 11:00 a.m. Ellis Island Immigration– A Re-creation – Relief Society Room

Jean Terribilini –

Jean is a native of Santa Rosa who was introduced to FamilySearch and Ancestry as a consequence of becoming a Santa Rosa Area Temple and Family History Consultant two years ago. Since then, she has attached sources to thousands of people in her family tree. It has been a steep learning curve and a wild ride. She and her husband are the parents of five children and eight (almost nine) grandchildren.

- 2:00 p.m. Strengthening Your Evidence: Attaching Sources in FamilySearch and Ancestry – Multi-Purpose Room

Jeffrey Vaillant –

Jeffrey Vaillant dipped into and out of genealogy with the middle part being raising a family. He dipped back into genealogy about ten years after his mother's death. She researched via pen and paper and postal mail. Jeff took her research and with the DNA and virus triggers plowed into family research. Research led to classes at California Genealogical Society (CGS), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) and local, regional and national conferences. Continuing education is a key to good research. He is a past President of CGS and the Sonoma County Genealogical Society and has served on the boards of many other genealogical associations. He has a BA in history and has a special interest in American Civil War research. He teaches monthly at the San Rafael Public Library. Jeff is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and is working toward certifications as a professional genealogist.

- 2:00 p.m. Civil War Records Research – Relief Society Room
- 3:00 p.m. Genealogy Software Programs – Nursery

Wendy Wheelwright –

Wendy Wheelwright is an avid genealogist specializing in older European scripts: Suetterlin, Fraktur, Gothic, etc. She volunteers at the Family History Center on Saturdays and is available to assist anyone working on ancestral lines through Europe, particularly in Silesia and Galicia. She can read older scripts of German, Latin, and Polish. She has particular skill in Hebrew/Yiddish variants of Germanic scripts and has assisted many people in tracing their Jewish lineage.

- 10:00 a.m. Crossing the Pond – Learning about your immigrant ancestors – Primary Room
- 2:00 p.m. Adoption Research – Primary Room
- 3:00 p.m. Searching for your Germanic Ancestors – Primary Room