

A photograph of a man wearing a dark jacket, glasses, and a blue baseball cap with 'SF' on it, standing behind a wooden podium. He is smiling and gesturing with his right hand. Behind him is a large projection screen displaying a title slide. The slide has a brown background with a decorative border and the text 'GENEALOGY and FAMILY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM' in white serif font. The podium has a circular logo on its front.

GENEALOGY
and FAMILY
HISTORY
SYMPOSIUM

GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM 2026

Richard Le, Manager, North Beach Branch
September 17, 2026
San Francisco Library Commission



GFHS: A History

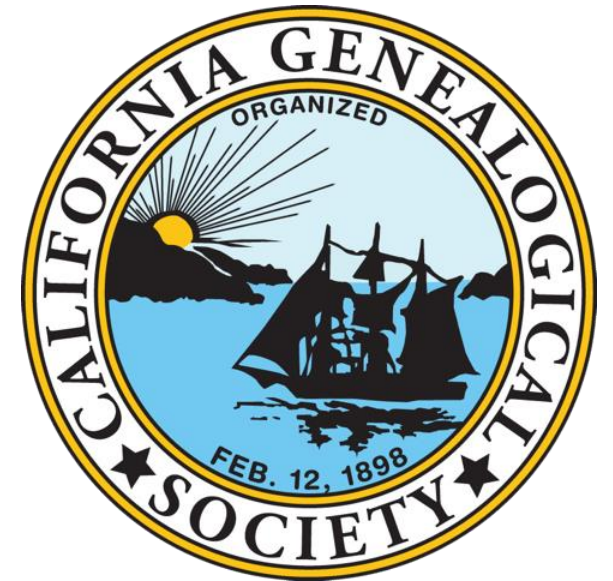
- **May 22, 2024: “Genealogy Conference”**
 - 140 attendees
- **Oct 23, 2024: Virtual symposium**
 - Rebranded as “Genealogy & Family History Symposium 2024”
 - 210 attendees on Zoom
- **July 22 & 23, 2025: Genealogy & Family History Symposium 2025**
 - Expanded to two days
 - 194 attendees total
- **Aug 12 & 13, 2026: Genealogy & Family History Symposium 2026**
 - Partnered with California Genealogical Society
 - Utilized Latino/Hispanic Rooms A & B
 - 375 attendees total

GENEALOGY *and* FAMILY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

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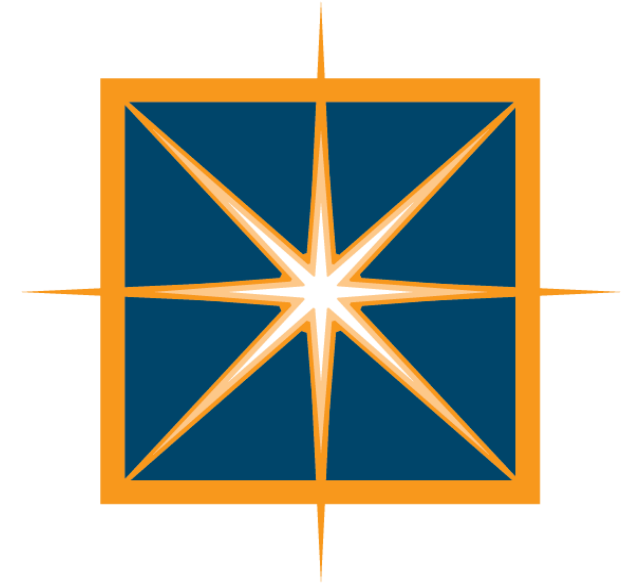
Partners: California Genealogical Society



Partners: Oakland FamilySearch Center



Partners: Sutro Library



Partners: Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group



Partners: Ancestry



Schedule Day 1

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

	TIME	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER	LOCATION
	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Services: Local Genealogy and Family History Organizations		Koret Lobby
55	10:15 a.m.	Intro to Genealogy	Jen Dix, CGS	Koret Auditorium
48	10:15 a.m.	DNA Part 1 - Introduction to Genetic Genealogy	Sue Severson, Oakland FamilySearch Center	Latino Hispanic Room B
25	10:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Open Discussions		Latino Hispanic Room A
125	11:15 a.m.	Using the Library's eResources for Genealogical Research	Brian Weaver, SFPL	Koret Auditorium
10	11:15 a.m.	Proud to be Portuguese	Ralph Severson, Oakland FamilySearch Center	Latino Hispanic Room B
57	1:15 p.m.	SFgenealogy.org	Ron Filion, SFgenealogy	Koret Auditorium
70	1:15 p.m.	Intro to FamilySearch.org	Ralph Severson, Oakland FamilySearch Center	Latino Hispanic Room B
65	2:15 p.m.	Government Resources for Genealogists	Vaile Fujikawa, SFPL	Koret Auditorium
45	2:15 p.m.	DNA Part 2 - Identifying an Unknown Parent or Grandparent Using Genetic Genealogy	Sue Severson, Oakland FamilySearch Center	Latino Hispanic Room B
53	3:15 p.m.	Storytelling Using the San Francisco History Center Archives	Christina Moretta, SFPL	Koret Auditorium
5	3:15 p.m.	Got Questions?	Jane Lindsey, CGS	Latino Hispanic Room A
25	3:15 p.m.	Hispanic Genealogy: Finding Spanish Records Around the World	Lucy Sweeney	Latino Hispanic Room B

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Schedule Day 2

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

	TIME	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER	LOCATION
	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Services: Local Genealogy and Family History Organizations		Koret Lobby
41	10:15 a.m.	Wu Zeitan and Imperial Rank Badges & the Chinese Imperial Examination System	Lee Pearce, Oakland FamilySearch Center	Koret Auditorium
10	10:15 a.m.	Russian American Discussion Group	Jim Russell, CGS	Latino Hispanic Room A
45	10:15 a.m.	Once Upon a Time...Creating Compelling Stories Out of Mundane Facts	Linda Okazaki, CGS	Latino Hispanic Room B
51	11:15 a.m.	Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research	Kelci Baughman McDowell, SFPL	Koret Auditorium
20	11:15 a.m.	Chinese Genealogy Discussion Group	Lee Pearce, Oakland FamilySearch Center	Latino Hispanic Room A
35	11:15 a.m.	Preserving Family Collections	Elise Hochhalter, SFPL	Latino Hispanic Room B
53	1:15 p.m.	Intro to Genealogy	Jen Dix, CGS	Koret Auditorium
5	1:15 p.m.	Japanese American Discussion Group	Linda Okazaki, CGS	Latino Hispanic Room A
15	1:15 p.m.	Using African American Funeral Program Archives to Enhance Your Research	Shawna Sherman, SFPL	Latino Hispanic Room B
88	2:15 p.m.	Researching National Archives Records Online	Marisa Lee, SFPL	Koret Auditorium
5	2:15 p.m.	Open Discussion		Latino Hispanic Room A
10	2:15 p.m.	African American Genealogy Discussion Group	Patricia Smith Jenkins, CGS	Latino Hispanic Room B
37	3:15 p.m.	Adventures in Filipino American Genealogy	Leo Esclamado	Koret Auditorium
5	3:15 p.m.	Got Questions?	Jane Lindsey, CGS	Latino Hispanic Room A

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Response

"The speakers provided such insightful and interesting presentations - thank you!" – Melissa (attendee)

"I had no idea how many online resources the library has for genealogy research." – Debra (attendee)

"The event at SFPL was fun, well attended, and well organized. So glad I had the opportunity to participate again." – Linda (presenter)

"Had some good follow up genealogy questions in GIC" – Dee Dee (Program Manager, GIC)

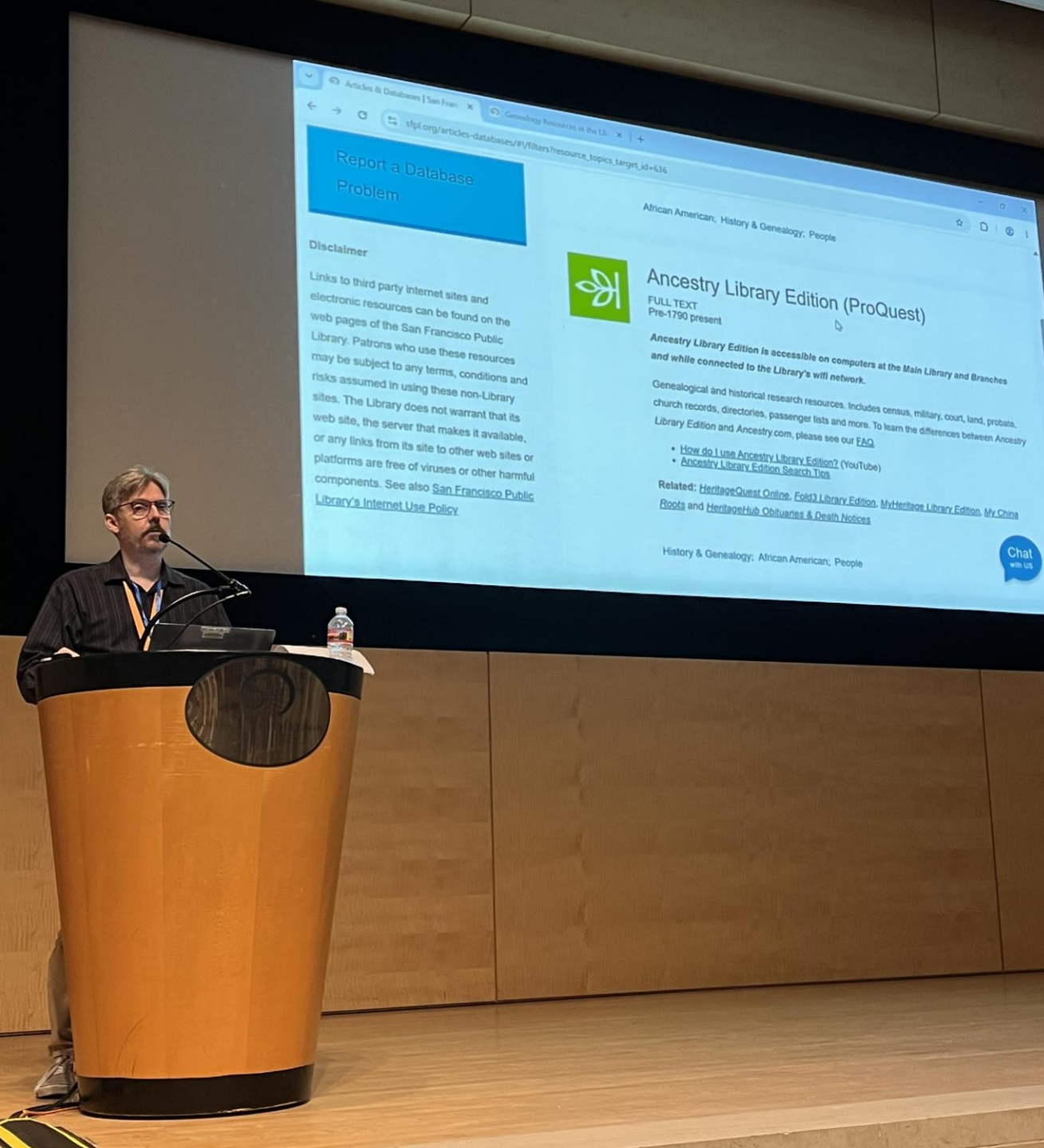
"Oh, yes, lots of genealogists here in SFHC!" -- Andrea (Program Manager, SFHC)

"It was a pleasure meeting you and attending your presentation on African American funeral programs...Your presentation gave me and our team a great deal to consider regarding the value of funeral programs as genealogical and community-history records." Darlene (Coalition for a Just and Equitable California)

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Thank you!

