NEW

S S G H S

South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society

MARCH PROGRAM
By Shirley Koelling

Family Heirlooms, Genealogy Papers, and Photographs:
What & How:
Save & Donate Ideas

March 12

Peg Kapustiak is a well-known genealogy and local history speaker with almost 200 presentations in several states. She is a long-time member, volunteer librarian, and speaker for SSGHS. Sorting and deciding what to do with your family heirlooms, photographs, and family history research could be a daunting goal; however, the secret is to keep your series of projects small and manageable. Please come and share your ideas of projects you or others have done.

LIBRARY HOURS
3000 West 170th Place
Hazel Crest, Illinois
708-335-3340

(door at west end of municipal building)
Ring library doorbell for access.

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: CLOSED
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 1st & 2nd 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
3rd, 4th, & 5th CLOSED
Sunday: CLOSED

Writers’ Special Interest Group
By Carole Magnuson

Interest has been waning since the Writers’ SIG was organized in 2019. The first year we averaged seven members per visit, perhaps because it was a new idea; then came Covid-19, but we still averaged five members per meeting in 2020 with the shortened meeting schedule. However, in 2021 we only averaged 2.5 members per meeting within the nine meetings scheduled that year. Besides Covid-19, other reasons for not attending include: forgetting about the meeting date, having scheduling issues, or dealing with various illnesses. Another reason I heard was that there was not enough time to work on a writing project. These reasons may have led to some of the declines in attendance.

I try to develop interesting meetings by preparing handouts with tips for writing stories, demonstrating different software programs, and introducing websites that would be helpful in their writing journey. Not every monthly meeting includes demonstrations, but they always have discussions to help members with their projects. New members are always welcome, and the group generously helps them in all stages of their writing process. There is no “catching-up” involved because this is simply an open forum. I am happy to revisit any topic presentation or discussion that a new member would like to learn. The February meeting included creating a photo book with photos and short stories. For those who could not attend, I can repeat it on March 10.

With the start of 2022, I scheduled three SIG meetings: February 19, March 3, and April 23. However, I have a conflict now for March 3, and the meeting will be on March 10.

I am hopeful that with the decline of pandemic numbers, the attendance will improve in March and April. However, if it does not, I will reluctantly end the SIG after the April meeting with the caveat that if I receive enough requests to keep it going, I will start it up again. My goal would be to have at least four people attend each SIG on a Thursday or Saturday for SIG to function well.

My thanks to those members who have supported the SIG, and I hope meetings will continue. I welcome your participation, comments, and ideas. My email is cmkinhunter@gmail.com.

SSGHS TO OFFER ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION
By Linda Swisher

SSGHS is pleased to announce that it will now offer Ancestry Library Edition to library visitors, thanks to a donation from Elaine Bovenkerk. Ancestry® Library Edition, distributed exclusively by ProQuest and powered by Ancestry.com, delivers billions of census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more. Ancestry Library Edition features more than 7,000 available databases that include records on individuals from North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and more. Access sources like censuses, vital records, immigration records, family histories, military records, court and legal documents, directories, photos, maps, and more. Updates are ongoing, and new content is always being added. Popular and recently added collections include:

LIBRARY EDITION...
SSGHS News

**SSGHS News** (ISSN 0896-4408) is a membership benefit published monthly by **South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society**. SSGHS and the Society’s library serves south Cook and east Will Counties, Illinois. We are an Illinois not-for-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organization.

**Telephone:** (708) 335-3340  
**Web Address:** http://www.ssghs.org  
**E-mail:** info@ssghs.org

Research fee for a librarian — $20/hour (see website for Research Policy).

The Annual Membership year runs from September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022. Dues are:

- Individual  $30.00  
- Library or Society  $30.00  
- Family (two people at the same address)  $35.00  
- Contributing  $40.00  
- Supporting  $55.00

General Membership Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, except December and January, at the Society’s headquarters, 3000 West 170th Place, Hazel Crest, in the Municipal Center building, between Dixie Highway and Kedzie Avenue, and a half-mile north of 175th Street via California Avenue.

Newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of each month. We do not assume responsibility for errors, though we will attempt to correct them.

SSGHS News  
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**FEBRUARY PROGRAM SUMMARY**  
By Patty Higgins

In honor of Black History Month, we heard the local history of the Underground Railroad from Dr. Larry McClellan. Dr. McClellan is our President of the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society. He told us his interest began in 1970 as Governor’s State University was being organized, which led to research about racial history and justice in the area. Illinois had not been considered important in the history of the Underground Railroad, but, as he did his research, many stories kept emerging about freedom seekers traveling through our area on their way to Canada. It turns out that several corridors to freedom passed through the Chicago area, and there are significant sites throughout that make this area historically significant if considering the story of freedom seekers.

Chicago was a hub of activity with activists ushering freedom seekers north to Canada. Estimates indicate that about 10% of freedom seekers passed through Illinois, where some 40 sites were identified in the area. Lewis Isbell was born into slavery but freed in 1823 and brought to Paris, Illinois, where he was raised and learned the barber’s trade. In 1838, Lewis came to Chicago as a businessman and pioneer to help freedom seekers, yet few today know of him. In many cases, like Lewis, young white families and young black families formed a network of farms and safe houses to shelter travelers from the slave catchers trolling the area.

The Little Calumet Region had many Dutch immigrants sympathetic to the escaped slaves making Roseland and South Holland areas significant in the Underground Railroad history. The Ton farm and the Kuyper farms in the area were known safe-havens.

Of the many stories, Dr. McClellan related the story of Caroline Quarlls, a woman born into slavery in 1826, escaped in 1842 to Alton, Ill., and fled to Canada. He tells her story in his book *To The River*. She was the first enslaved persons to travel through Wisconsin. Many of her descendants live in Detroit and across the river in Canada.

Dr. McClellan also has a book entitled *The Underground Railroad South Of Chicago*. These books expand on the summaries he gave in his talk. An additional book is in the works. Contact Dr. McClellan directly to purchase copies of his books. Also, copies are available in the Collection at South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society. The Collection is non-circulating, but anyone is welcome to visit and read the books at the library.

We had a good turnout of about 20 people in person and twice as many joining us via Zoom. Although we recorded the program, we are working on technical details about posting the presentation on the SSGHS website. ■

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**Calumet City Historical Society**  
**“Our Lady of Knock Parish”**

Program is Sunday, March 13, 3:00 p.m. (which follows the General Membership meeting & refreshments). Guest speaker is current Pastor Emeritus Fr. Pat Lyons. Our Lady of Knock was formed in 1957 as the third Catholic parish in Calumet City, Ill. Two other parishes, St. Andrew the Apostle (est. 1892) and St. Victor (est. 1925), were bursting at the seams. ■
MARCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 2
Ash Wednesday.
SSGHS Library open
from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 5
SSGHS Library open
from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8
SSGHS Board of Directors Meeting
at 7:00 p.m. — All members welcome.
SSGHS Library open
from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 10
Writer’s Special Interest Group,
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
The library is closed otherwise.

Saturday, March 12
10:00 a.m.—General Membership Meeting.
Program held in person and via Zoom.
SSGHS Library open
from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 13
Daylight Saving Time begins.
SSGHS Library closed.

Thursday, March 17
St. Patrick’s Day.
SSGHS Library closed.

Saturday, March 19
St. Joseph’s Day.
SSGHS Library closed.

Saturday, March 26
SSGHS Library closed.

Sunday, March 27
Laetare Sunday.
SSGHS Library closed.
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE  
By Donna Work

Happily, our membership continues to grow. We have added two returning members, Edward and Patricia Siemsen of Tinley Park, Illinois, and Helen Stone of Oak Lawn, Illinois. And also, two new members, Tim and Marge Stanlan of Burbank, Illinois, and Pia Moore of Chicago Heights, Illinois. Our total membership has reached 198. Our fervent hope is that Spring 2022 will see an end to the pandemic, and people out and about again, will find our Virtual and In House Programs and Library to help grow their Family Trees! March will see the addition of Ancestry.com Library Edition to our SSGHS Library, thanks to a generous donation from long-time member Elaine Bovenkirk. So spread the word! We hope to see you in the Library! Happy Hunting!

Incidentally, we are in dire need of someone who can help us understand how to save our monthly ZOOM programs so we can link them to our ssghs.org Members Only webpage. If you can help us, please contact Larry at mcclellan.larry@gmail.com.

USED BOOK SPECIALS  
By Paula Malak

This month's offerings will be Family Histories. Prices include tax. Shipping is an extra $4.00.

- Your Family and Mine: Meredith, Alderman, Brodnax and Trube – $7.00
- Grupe and Knigge Family Tree – $1.00
- One Heron Line – $2.00
- Bishop Ancestors of Ira Elmore Bishop (founder of SSGHS) – $0.50
- The Kendall Family History – $1.00
- Olschwanger Journal — two issues — Fall/winter 1993 and December 1984 – $1.00

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

March 12 – “What Do I Do With My Family History Photos & Momentos” by Peg Kapustiak.
April 9 – “The Monee Creamery” by the Monee Historical Society.
May 14 – SSGHS Birthday / Show & Tell.
June 11 – “Power Tools For Genetic Genealogy at My Heritage” by Michelle Bray Wilson.
July 9 – Field trip (TBA).
August 13 – “Pullman: The Man, the Company, the Historical Park” by Kenneth Schoon.
September 10 – “Back to School: Making the Most of School Records” by Tina Beaird.

SSGHS Library is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library

WHAT’S NEW  
IN THE LIBRARY

MORE NEW BOOKS TO CONTINUE NEXT ISSUE

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