



The Searcher

Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter

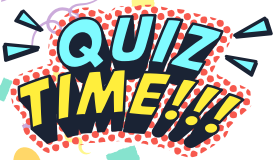
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL

SGS 41st Annual Meeting

Saturday, 27 April, 2024, 1:30-4:00pm
at the Palm Harbor Library

Join us for our yearly gathering!
Engage in fun games.
Test your knowledge of genealogy.
Connect with newfound cousins through the
FamilySearch app.
Celebrate our 41 years of discovering ancestors
and telling their tales.
Participate in the election and induction of new officers.

Remember there will be cake!



Genealogy and DNA IG

Monday, Apr 8

1:00-3:00 pm

PHL Conference Room

Hybrid Meeting

open to all members

TOPIC:
Ancestry & Genealogy Stories



President's Message



This is my last President's Message, and it has been a pleasure serving SGS for the last two years. I could not have done it without the support of all of you, especially the Board members. Thank you!

SGS needs your help going forward. We currently have an opening for Vice President that needs to be filled. Please step up, we need YOU.

Bob Pierro

Look What's Coming in May!

May Membership Meeting

25 May 2024, 1:30-4:00 pm

Palm Harbor Room, Palm Harbor Library

In Person - Hybrid Meeting

Evidence Analysis:
the source, the information, the evidence

Speaker

Debbie Wilson Smyth



Effective evidence analysis requires analyzing not only the source, but also the information it contains and the evidence it provides. This presentation offers an in-depth look into the evidence analysis process.


 A light blue, torn-edge graphic with the word "Spotlight" written in a green, cursive font.

Spotlight

Do You Have Cousins Nearby?

At the SGS April Membership meeting we will have a bit of fun with FamilySearch "Family Tree" app for smart phones. With it, you can find cousins and see how you are related to others. Maybe you are related in ways you didn't know, to other SGS members!

Please download this app before the meeting, or you can also download the app at the Palm Harbor Library, using the library wifi. You also need to have an account (free) at www.familysearch.org and identify yourself in the FamilySearch tree family tree: Account Settings, Family Tree Preferences, set the Family Tree Starting Person as yourself. The icon for the app looks like this:



Message from the Nominations Committee

Hello All,

The SGS Nominating Committee met earlier this week to discuss the positions that need to be filled for the 2024-2026 term.

We will be presenting a slate of officers at our April meeting and of course nominations from the floor will be accepted as well.

Our Board of Directors and Officers are an integral part of the success of SGS for the next two years. If you are interested in volunteering to be an officer and to be part of our great society, contact John Matthews, Marianne Bradley or Beth Bleich by April 25th.

Sincerely,

John Matthews, 612.875.3108 Marianne Bradley, 727.784.0420 Beth Bleich, 352.650.8421

A Word about our programs

The new language of hybrid meetings means we have to learn new words. Here are the words we will use on our flyers and flyettes:

Virtual = a Zoom meeting only

Hybrid = a live speaker giving a presentation & answering questions on Zoom to people in the library and on Zoom. This is what most of our meetings will be.

In Person = the speaker will be in the room with us.

Webinar = a recorded program online; no questions can be asked

Society News

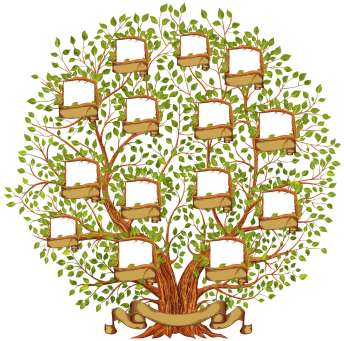
Genealogy Help Desk



Tues, Wed & Thurs
1:00-4:00 pm
PHL Genealogy
Section

Need help researching online, breaking down a brick wall. Beginners and members are encouraged to stop by! Come join us at the Help Desk!

Our monthly meetings are on the 4th Saturday at the Palm Harbor Library 1:30 - 4 pm



Our Genealogy Friends

Pinellas Genealogy Society
Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom
Saturday, Apr 20 @ 11 am - 1 pm
Finding Family: Hidden Roots in Your DNA. Our speaker was the first adoptee to identify his birth family through genetic genealogy DNA testing. Presented by Richard Hill.
<https://pinellaskenealogysociety.com/>

Tarpon Springs Library
Genealogy Research Group
Monday, Apr 8 @ 6:30 pm
CLUSTER GENEALOGY
<http://tarponlibrary.org/genealogy/>

Florida Genealogical Society – Tampa
<https://fgstampa.org/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
<http://www.jgstb.org/>

DAR, Caladesi Chapter
Members meet the 3rd Monday of the month, Sept thru May, 11:30 am, Dunedin Baptist Church. Contact Debbie Smyth, dsmyth927@gmail.com, for more information.

SAR, Clearwater Chapter
Members meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Sept thru May, 11:30 am, Dunedin Golf Club. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/SARCclearwater/> for more information.

SGS Board 2022-2024

President: *Robert Pierro*
Vice President: *John Matthews*
VP/Membership: *Shari Harmon*
VP/Programs: *Jean Van Horn*
Treasurer: *Joan Baptist*
Secretary: *Janet Sidor*
Past President: *Debbie Smyth*
Directors: *Redd Slyker*
Ann James
Kim Croco-Brooks

Committee Chairs & Others

Education: *Ann James & Jean Van Horn*
Facebook: *Beth Bleich*
Help Desk: *Marianne Bradley*
Historian: *Ann James*
Library Liaison: *Peter Cannon*
Publicity: *Redd Slyker*
Newsletter: *Kim Croco-Brooks*
Registered Agent: *Shari Harmon*
Sunshine: *Mary Jane Hough*
Web Development: *John Matthews*



Bob Bryan
John Matthews
Linda Schneider

Suncoast Genealogy Society

c/o Palm Harbor Library
 2330 Nebraska Ave.
 Palm Harbor, FL 34683



Check our website:

sgsfl.com

Email us:

info@sgsfl.com

Connect with us on

[Facebook](#)

Proud Partner with



SPRING BEGINNERS GENEALOGY CLASS



Jean teaching how to organize your work



Shari telling a story to Steve & Judy Tovee



Catherine Jirikowic showing Marianne what she found



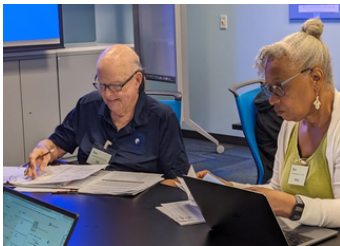
Margaret Smith & Shari



Marianne & Katie Graves looking at 15 generations



Catherine Jirikowic & Trish Pierson



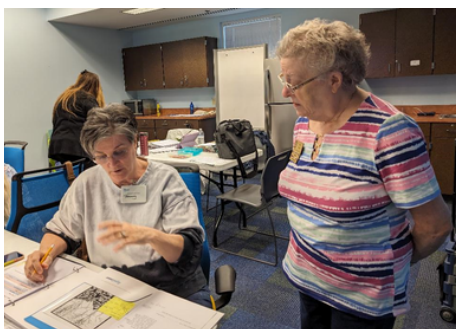
Ed Groth & Vera Thomas



Kathy & Mike Spainhower with Jean



Chris Dobey asking Margaret Smith, "How am going to get oranized?"



Rosemary Parks searching her roots with Ann

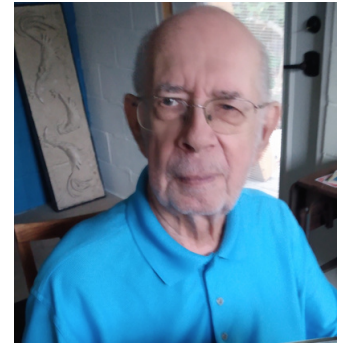


Our Graduates

Salute to longtime SGS Member

Lewis O. Harris, Jr. was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and grew up on the family farm in East Deerfield until his mid-20s. He has had a life filled with family, varied interests, and contributions.

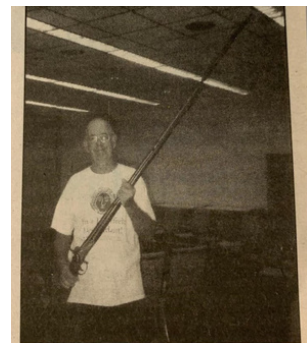
On the farm, he helped his father with raising turkeys but also spent time watching the old railroad roundhouse nearby. As a teenager, he and his buddies would bring their old cars to the farm to fix up and then race on oval dirt tracks in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut. They were some of the original hotrodders. Now that Lew has retired he watches car races on TV.



Lew moved to FL on Halloween 1969. Halloween is his birthday. He was an architectural draftsman. Before computers, he drew by hand steel construction plans. He drew plans for hospitals, jails, airports, and hotels. After he retired computers did the work of hand-drawn draftsman.



Robert Shaw & Lew Harris (Book Sale)



Lewis Harris holds an 1834 Eli Whitney family gun said to once belong to his cousin in the Northern Army during the Civil War.

He retired at age 62 1/2 to volunteer at the Palm Harbor Library. His sister Jeanette, who founded the Palm Harbor Library, needed someone on Tuesdays in the mornings to work the magazine donations.

Lew stayed on in the afternoons on Tuesdays to run the Suncoast Genealogy Society Help Desk. He has been a member of the SCGS since 1999, on the SGS Board of Directors from April 2006 to April 2018 and ran the used book sales at the seminars. He also ran the used book sales at the seminars, gathered the books and stored them during the year. He has worked at the Help Desk since 2000.

Lew became interested in genealogy from written family stories shared within the family and attending family reunions from different branches of his family. He joined "Sons of the American Revolution", and is still active in the Clearwater Chapter of SAR.

Lew is a Legacy in the Greater Gasparilla Distance Race. At 86 he is the oldest original runner. He has run every race for 46 years. This year he retired from running. He was honored at the GGDR press conference at the Columbia Restaurant in February of this year. Lew ran the New York Marathon in 1990.

Lew has many hobbies/interests that have kept him busy. He is a Boston Red Sox fan still. His interest in railroads led to a model railroad display in his garage, which gives him a great deal of enjoyment. He also had fun playing golf. He has owned many Mustang cars and has rebuilt a 1970 Grabber Blue Mustang. He and his wife, Margaret, went on many Mustang Club tours of the United States and Canada.

Lew is lucky to have two sons and a daughter in the area. He enjoys the "family get-togethers" which happen often.



Lew & Margaret Harris