

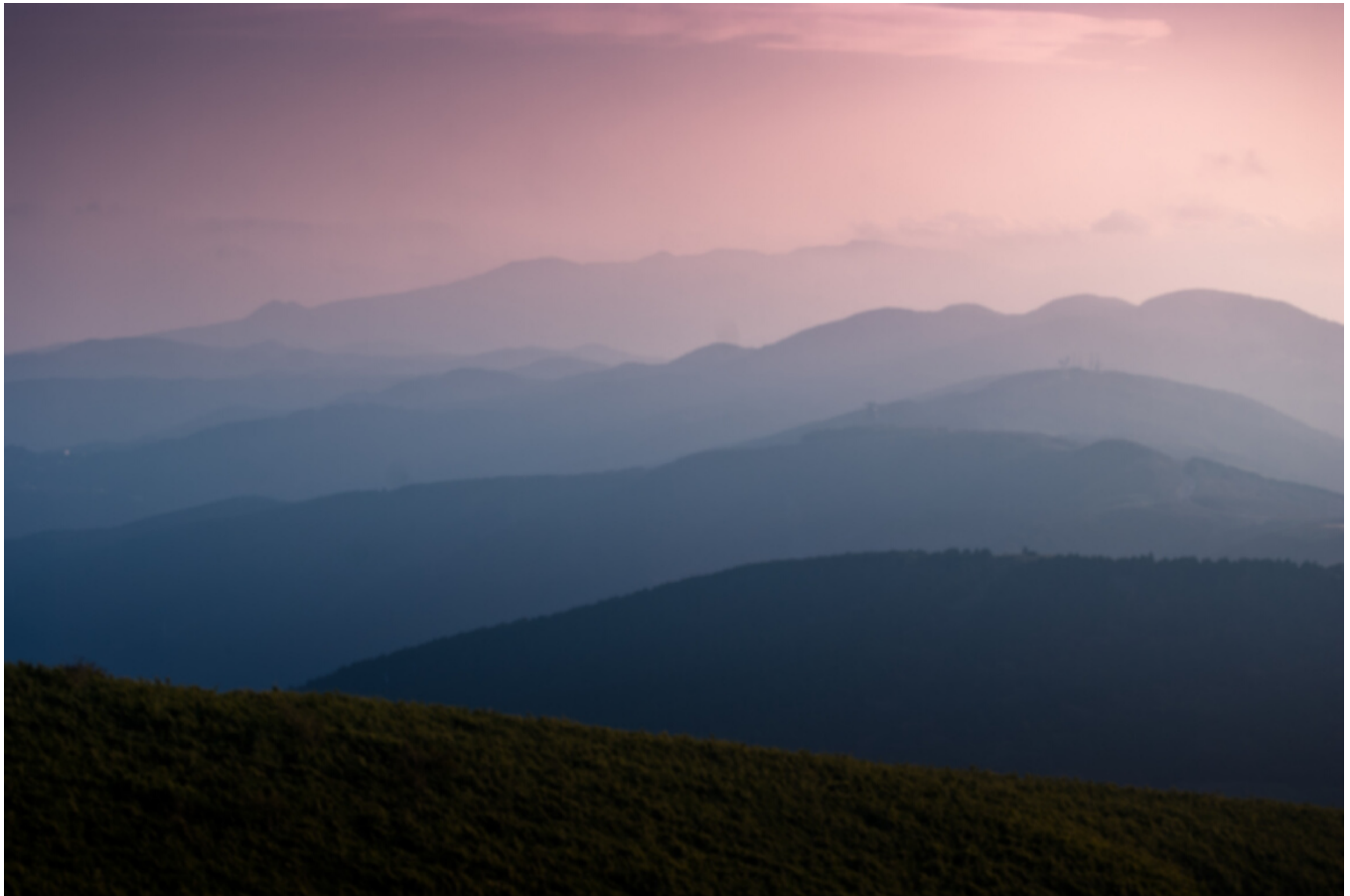
The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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BOOK ENDS NEEDED!

Two dozen book ends are needed for the expanded U.S. States section of the SVGS Library. They must be 7" to 9" tall as the books are too large and heavy for the smaller book ends.

If you have some to donate, please check www.stillygen.org for timing on the library's re-opening.

THANK YOU!
Michele Heiderer

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FROM THE EDITOR

It's really hard to know what to write in this moment of time. As we have been told, what seems like hundreds of times by now, we are living in unprecedented and uncertain times. The core idea that really keeps me sane right now as I see so many people around the country suffering (physically, socially and/or financially) is gratitude.

When I get frustrated and confused by the contradictory things I read online or see on television about what we need to be doing, I try to re-focus my attention on the good things in my life. I am very thankful for the extra time the kids are home right now because I feel like it has strengthened our relationships. My husband still has to go into work a few days a week, but I love having him here working from home on the other days. I also find myself listening to more podcasts and audiobooks when I'm not working, and coloring with my pencils a lot. These things help me escape the real world for just a few moments and find some calm. I hope that you are also finding some moments of calm amongst the uncertainty and are staying healthy and safe.

Any submissions for the next issue of the newsletter should be sent by

Sunday, June 21st.

Please send any newsletter submissions or questions for the Editor to newsletter@stillygen.org.

- Leah

Upcoming Events:

In keeping with the current social distancing requirements we believe it prudent to postpone our Annual Meeting until July. We hope to have an outdoor meeting and keep it brief, IE: Election of Officers only.

Location TBD...

Please watch for additional information on this in the July/August Newsletter.

NwGC 2020

After untold hours of discussion and anguish, the difficult decision has been made to cancel the Northwest Genealogy Conference 2020, originally scheduled for August 12-15.

This decision was not made lightly. After considering the myriad issues yet to be resolved surrounding the COVID-19 virus situation, this was the most prudent course of action to take. We know this will be a disappointment for our members and for attendees who have come to the Conference to receive excellent training and teaching at the Premier Genealogy Conference in the Northwest.

Information regarding refunds, etc. will be posted on the NwGC webpage.

Thank you for your past, and future, support of the NwGC.

Phil and Lisa Bartlow
Co-chairs

The Rug Rats

Now known at SVGS as the "Thursday Morning Group"

by Ruth Caesar

You're probably asking yourself, why would anyone ever name a genealogy group "The Rug Rats". Well, I can tell you a little about that from my personal knowledge and attendance of that "group" of genealogists in training.

One day back in the 1990's while visiting Cinderella Styling, a local beauty shop, I was introduced to the patron sitting at the station to my left, her name was Edna Robbins. Edna told me she "taught" genealogy to a small group of people out of her home every Thursday morning at 10AM. When she discovered I was a budding genealogist, she invited me to join in.

So, the very next Thursday I arrived at her door and was shown down to her basement. It was a very large space which contained microfilm and microfiche machines and loads of microform materials as well. I was really blown away that an individual could collect so much information and then so generously share it with others.



Edna's basement (L to R)-Edna Robbins, Mary Clos, Jackie Hoerner, (Hoerner grandson), Betty Morgan, Jessie Beck and Pat Manning



NARA (L to R)- Phyllis Hebert, Jackie Colburn, Cathy Burke, Jackie & Bill Hoerner, Bob Brackinreed, Edna Robbins, Jessie Beck and Betty Morgan, and Pat Manning (not pictured)

Edna always had a weekly "lesson" for us to read aloud and then we'd discuss our "brick walls" and brainstorm about ways to overcome the "issues". She also took us on many field trips including some to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Always preparing us for how to research for each facility.

So, why did Edna affectionately call us her "Rug Rats"? Well, I'm told it was because she thought of us as her kids. At least, in so much as, she wanted us to learn and do well with our genealogical research.

When Edna passed away the "Rug Rats" wanted to continue to meet so they asked SVGS if they could use a table at the society for a couple of hours on Thursday mornings.

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Since the society's mission has always been to "teach" genealogy it's needless to say they were very welcoming and the "Rug Rats" tradition was able to continue. I'm the only one left from Edna's home group that still regularly attends the Thursday morning group at the SVGS Library. But, now and again, we get a visitor



Edna Robbins at Dan & Ruth Caesar's wedding

from those good old days. Just recently Pat Manning dropped by to join us.

I attended Edna's meetings over several years with so many wonderful people. Then, as now, my closest friends are all genealogists, so no one was surprised when I married my husband in December of 2001 and my side of the aisle was full of my genealogy friends from "The Rug Rats". No matter what we call ourselves, we always call ourselves friends.

I should share with you that coffee, tea and "goodies" were always part of the mornings at Edna's. And that tradition is one we keep up to this day on our Thursday mornings at SVGS. When normal society hours resume, drop in on our current Thursday Morning Group at 10 AM and you could be a "Rug Rat" too; at least in spirit....



Thursday Group Meeting Feb 20, 2020 (L to R) Sharon Posey, Lisa Bartlow, LeeRoy Kind, Eileen King, Mike Baker, Linda Holland, Phil Bartlow, Kay Crabtree, Susanne Brown, Jan Gale, Karen Looney, Leilani Lucrisia, Becky Foldesi, Jennifer Strickland, Diana Keehn, Ruth Caesar (not pictured)

NGS Live! Virtual Conference

The National Genealogical Society will be holding a virtual conference this year. The theme is 'Echoes of Our Ancestors' and will be starting May 20 with live and on-demand lectures.

To find out more information on the virtual conference or to register, please visit:
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/ngs-2020-live>

Annual Reports

President

Ruth Caesar

To begin this report I will tell you that the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS) and Library was doing well (like the U.S. economy and stock market) right up until the moment it became abundantly apparent that we would need to cancel our March 10th society meeting to keep our members and guests safe. The necessity to make that “hard” decision has been compounded multiple times since then with additional issues arising day after day.

In the near term how does SVGS move forward in this time of turmoil and uncertainty?

- Is it practical to wear masks and gloves to visit our genealogy library?
- Will keeping our facility adequately clean be possible?
- Will our Librarians be willing to volunteer at the library?
- Should we create more online options on our website? Is so, what?
- Where does SVGS go from here?

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society has been defined for the last 35 years by it's phenomenal volunteers and its kind and wonderful founder Marietta Roth. It is with a deep gratitude that I'd like to call out some phenomenal people. I will begin with our Executive Board. For the record I will say that Pam Liebelt will be greatly missed having resigned in February as our VP of the Library. She did so much to make our library what it is today. Her diligent efforts with society & conference publicity made SVGS & the Northwest Genealogy Conference (NwGC) well known in our region as well as nationally.

I wish her happy trails as she and her husband, Galen, move on with their lives to start fresh in Tennessee.

Next, you should know that we have been very lucky, in that, new member Pam Shoberg has agreed to take on those voids left by Pam L. I foresee that Pam S. will be a terrific replacement with a really deep bench to go to when she has to face a new issue. I look forward to working closely with her as SVGS navigates the upcoming year.

Vice President, Shirley Case has once again contributed her time and energy as our volunteer coordinator for the 2019 conference and had begun efforts toward our 2020 event. She has taken this responsibility to heart and never failed to come through for us. She's a great team member.

Our Treasurer, Anne Grimm has been a true asset in so many areas; keeping our books is the most obvious, but there are all the little things she does to keep things going. Ordering items SVGS and NwGC need to keep operating is an area she always comes through on. Vendor & door prize coordinator as well as personalizing swag bags for our NwGC presenters are other areas Anne shines in.

SVGS Secretary Michele Cozad, I call the “record keeper”. We have to stay on our toes with Michele. She's always watchful and concerned that SVGS business is properly documented. On more than one occasion she's produced much needed information from past issues and events that we had no idea records were even kept on. Michele is one of our most highly valued board members and I wish to personally thank her for her

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good work.

The Northwest Genealogy Conference has come a long way since the society began this educational endeavor. Lisa and Phil Bartlow have been exemplary Chairs. Providing the fortitude and leadership needed to make NwGC a nationally well respected and admired regional event.

Education Chair, Bill Grant has had several obstacles put in his path over this year as he has tried to schedule the quality speakers that we have come to anticipate. How SVGS will proceed in this area in the near term has yet to be determined.

Membership Chair, Joanne Wetmore has been a rock for our society for countless years. Always going the extra mile to keep up with member emails and new membership inputs. Joanne always has a smile and a kind word for others and is a blessing to have on our board.

Newsletter Chair, Leah Liebelt O'Neal has been a pleasure to work with. She has created beautiful newsletters for us to enjoy. Please don't forget to thank her for her kind efforts...

Our Publications Committee, Co-Chaired by Sue Walde and Helen Eliason, has accomplished a great deal in the last year and I will let their report speak to that. In addition to the duties of Publications, Sue has kindly assisted Pam Shoberg on many issues relating to our Library Management as well as the technological area regarding back up on our computers amongst other things.

I will defer to the Publicity Report to provide you details regarding this committee. What I

will share with you is that our Publicity "Team" of Sue McNeil and Pam Shoberg is fabulous! They are always organized and on top of the needs of the society as well as the conference. Sue McNeil has gone above and beyond all expectations creating amazing things for the NwGC, not the least of which was the 2019 Conference syllabus. Pam and Sue have been able to work together to provide noteworthy media advertising for our event and society.

Publicity committee member, Dana Carney has been an active participant with the Downtown Arlington Business Association (DABA) and has shared a great deal with SVGS about the goings on in and about the town. Dana as NwGC Speaker Coordinator has been our communication conduit relating to conference speakers for the past 2 years. This has been a very successful method and we are grateful for all Dana has done.

Ways & Means Chair, Karen Looney, has only recently joined the SVGS Board and is a good fit. She had little time to get her feet wet as Chair before the COVID-19 outbreak caused so much disruption in our lives. I am hopeful that Karen will be able to secure adequate funding for SVGS's general operating expenses for the upcoming year. Additionally, Karen has been working for the last several months as an "assistant" to our Treasurer. This has entailed coordinating with Anne via email (as Anne is in Arizona) and assisting with the accounting as well as making SVGS deposits as needed.

Suzanne Brown just took on the duty of scheduling our librarians. This was a great help and will lessen the burden on Pam Shoberg as she transitions into VP of the Library. A special thank you goes to Michele & Steve Heiderer for building and painting the

additional bookcases the Library was in need of. Dee Saunders is always and has always been one of our highly regarded librarians with her engaging smile and wit. She has set up refreshments for all our monthly meetings, she takes great care to see there's something for everyone.

I'm also very grateful to Flynn Kennedy who has put in untold hours creating to do lists so volunteers have options that they can pitch in with. Flynn is willing to take on anything the society needs and she can always be depended on to accomplish any task she takes on.

Former SVGS President, Kay Crabtree has been assisting SVGS in so many ways, for so many years. She and Flynn are two of the volunteers who input our new books to our online library catalog. Many, many others assist and care deeply for our Library and I am indebted to them all for their efforts.

My hope is that the SVGS Board, librarians, volunteers and members will pull together and work as a team to find our way through these difficult times for our society and the society at large.

A final thought.....If we knew a year ago what would be coming our way to start this year how many decisions might we have changed?

As you may have realized by now there are currently more questions than answers. And I'm told hindsight is "2020".

If you would like to share ideas with SVGS please email us at info@stillygen.org.

Stay healthy and stay safe.

VP of the Library

Pam Shoberg

On February 1, 2020, the SVGS Board accepted Pam Liebelt's resignation because she was moving out of state. Then, I accepted the position of Interim VP of the Library as her replacement. She has left big shoes for me to fill. Thus, most of my time since then has been spent trying to learn everything I could about the library and the people who generously volunteer as librarians and assistant librarians.

On January 23, in preparation for her leaving, Pam Liebelt called a meeting of the Library Committee to discuss the transition of her duties to myself and others. Because there is so much involved in maintaining this library, I am grateful beyond words to those who have volunteered to share some of the leadership responsibilities.

Here is the list of people who volunteered in that meeting:

- Scheduling Librarian meetings twice a year - Pam Shoberg
- Schedule librarians - Susanne Browne
- Training - Flynn Clarke Kennedy
- On-Line Catalog (keeping it current) - Flynn & Kay Crabtree
- Photo Collections - Sue Walde
- Database subscriptions - Anne & Pam S.
- Newsletter Articles, "From the Library Stacks" - Pam S.
- Beginning Genealogy Folder - Flynn
- Organizing Library Projects - Flynn
- Asset Inventory (maintain) - Pam S.
- Arrange Events - Michele Cozad can schedule

Since this initial meeting in January, I have

had informal meetings with various key people with the most experience with various aspects of the library. Thank you to everyone who spent hours familiarizing me with the holdings and operations of the library. I also enjoyed brainstorming with them about ways that we could improve our excellent library. We had scheduled a meeting on March 19 to discuss library plans and projects, which was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions. So, the library is currently in a state of limbo. On a personal note, I miss seeing everyone more than I can express and hope that we will soon be able to re-open the library.

Membership Chair

Joanne Hoidal Wetmore

Another busy year as membership chair.

We have 260 members, and with COVID-19 disabling us from using the library at this time, I hope the members are using the Society's web site to learn about what is going on within the society as there is information that may be beneficial.

As always another year has flown by and I'm still learning, just when I think I have things down pat, up jumps the devil and I'm learning something new again, I guess that is why I enjoy being Membership Chairman. I do thank Ruth Caesar for her patience in this department and to Michele Cozad.

Conference Committee

Lisa & Phil Bartlow

NwGC 2019 proved that our team can be flexible, roll with the punches and still produce a successful event. There were some anxious moments when Thomas MacEntee announced he would be unable to travel because of a medical situation, but fortunately, technology is one of his strong suits and his presentations on Saturday were live streamed and Janet Camarata stepped in to give the Beginning Genealogy session on Wednesday.

As usual, we were barely able to take a deep breath before the work began for the 2020 conference. Phil Bartlow and Ruth Caesar were the primary grant writers and did such an amazing job, the results were very successful from both Snohomish County and the City of Arlington. Dana Carney does a wonderful job of taking care of communicating with our speakers, making sure contracts are taken care of and answering any questions they might have. Pam Shoberg joined the team to get our web pages set up and create the new registration site. It was a big task and we are grateful for all of her hard work. She also teamed up with Sue McNeil to handle our publicity efforts. Sue did another outstanding job of designing our print materials. With Anne Grimm enjoying the sunshine of Arizona, Karen Looney has been on hand to take care of any financial matters. Our other valuable team leaders are Michelle Cozad (catering and mailing) and Shirley Case (volunteers).

Now for the bad news.....unfortunately, due to the many uncertainties regarding the COVID-19 virus situation, it has been decided to cancel NwGC 2020. Thank you so much for the many hours of effort that were put in up to this point!

Education Chair

Bill Grant

This last fiscal year has been more than a real challenge. It is not necessarily the speakers, but the weather and COVID-19. The speakers have had a great attendance. The monitor and sound system has worked well to accommodate more patrons. Thanks to all who have participated.

2019

June - Lisa Labovitch from the Everett Public Library, "Tips and tricks for researching local history and genealogy using computer resources"

July - Annual BBQ at the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

August - Northwest Genealogy Conference at Arlington High School-BPAC

September - Pam Liebelt, Computer Scanning Project

October - Janet Camarata, DNA "WATO" "What are the odds"

November - Mary Kathryn Cozy, "Google and its Genealogy Tools"

December - Annual Holiday Potluck

2020

January - Not a good start for 2020 – Cancelled because of snow

February - Richard A Hanks, "The Parentage and Personality of Abraham Lincoln"

March - Cancelled because of COVID-19

April - Cancelled because of COVID-19

May - Cancelled because of COVID-19

I hope you will stay safe in these trying times. Educational opportunities are available in our newsletter, The Stillaguamish Star and online.

Treasurer

Anne Grimm

Our year started out well. Members and non-members alike made donations which helped greatly with our overhead. The beginning of 2020 has not been kind. With the pandemic, we've had to close the Library which means many donations have stopped coming in. At this time we do not know when we will be opening the Library. Members are diligently renewing their memberships--thank you. If you'd like to make a contribution please use our donation tab on our website.

We greatly appreciate your support. We will definitely get the word out when we open.

The Treasurer's report is available for review in the SVGS office.

Tombstone Project

This project has basically been put on hold until we can obtain financial support to continue with the mission of placing headstones on unmarked graves in the Stillaguamish Valley. In 2019 we assisted The Sons of Civil War Veterans in locating an unmarked grave in the Arlington Cemetery. With a "Thank You" to our founder Marietta Roth and her great record-keeping we were able to provide paperwork that identified the gravesite of "Ben Carroll" (ethnic name Bencente Carella) to the cemetery. SVGS also coordinated the ordering and installation of the headstone. To bring this to completion we also uploaded a photo of the new white granite headstone to Findagrave.com. As we move toward "normalcy" we hope the Tombstone Project can resume its mission soon.

Publications Committee

Helen Eliason & Sue Walde

Remember the 'good old' days when 3½-inch floppy computer disks were commonplace? First introduced in 1976, these floppies were a reliable tool used to transfer and retain computer files until they were phased out in the late 1990's. SVGS faithfully retained hundreds of floppies saving who knows what.

These floppies have been digitized and saved as readable electronic files by the Publications Committee. The mystery of what was on the floppies is now known - old SVGS newsletters, a variety of genealogical research projects, excerpts of SVGS publications and lots of odds and ends. Several stacks of CDs were also converted into digital format. Hundreds of photographs have been gathered and electronically saved.

After all these years, much of the genealogical data is available on the Internet. But a few historic files were well worth the hours invested in the project. All the files represent countless hours of hard work by devoted members and provide insight into the Society's history since its organization in 1985.

Another task that the Publications Committee took on was digitizing a dozen SVGS books currently available for sale. Most of the books were originally created in the late 1980's and 1990's using primitive publication techniques by today's standards. Fortunately, each book's paper pages were stored as 'masters' in cardboard boxes. Executive board member Shirley Case kindly offered the use of her high-speed copy machine that also had the capability of converting paper to digital format. In a matter of a few days, shelves of paper pages were quickly converted into digital PDF

files. Six of the 12 books are now converted and preserved in digital format. The other books will be fully digitized later when risks of the COVID-19 pandemic subside.

To date, the Publications Committee has gathered, converted and/or saved 101,199 digital files.



A bit of history - this was the Society's logo in 1999

Publicity Chair

Sue McNeil & Pam Shoberg

A number of people have promoted our society to the public in various ways over the past year. Publicity included meeting notices in local newspapers and the City of Arlington, blog posts, the events section of our website, and Facebook posts. Dana Carney continues to represent our society at the Downtown Arlington Business Association (DABA) monthly meetings. Leah Liebelt O'Neal uses our society newsletter to promote upcoming events. Most of our publicity work is related to our Northwest Genealogy Conference. We have used magazine ads, postcards, flyers, Facebook posts, banners, signs, and a brochure to spread the word about this event. On our website, we added information about every aspect of the conference and redesigned the registration process. One of the things that we most appreciate about this society is the way so many people pitched in to help, especially the entire conference committee who were actively involved in the design and production of conference materials.

Ways & Means Committee

This committee will be Chaired by Karen Looney once we return to "business as usual" – hopefully soon! This committee exists to locate grants that fit our mission and criteria, then apply for these grants and in many cases put together invoices to receive the funding. As more and more non-profits seek a limited number of grants we find ourselves receiving less assistance than in prior years. We thank The City of Arlington, Snohomish County, The Tulalip Tribes and The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians for their generosity in 2019. We keep our membership dues in line with what other societies membership rates are but keeping our library operations going far exceeds what we receive in dues. This is why grants are so vital to our mission. We ask all of our members to help us reach financial stability by donating what you can. We've made this easy with a "Donate" tab on our homepage at www.stillygen.org.

A Long Lost Cousin

by Michele Cozad

Yes there really is one! After years of hunting for anyone on my Polish side I finally hit the jackpot....thanks to Ancestry DNA I got a "hit" not much but enough that I contacted the person who put me in touch with my first cousin. I was greeted with a "Good Morning" call from South Carolina earlier this month from a cousin whom I have not spoken to since 1970 when that side of the family moved from Oregon and we lost touch. We are the only remaining grandchildren of the Polish immigrants who married in 1903 and he has their wedding picture - I can't wait to see it!

The Genetic Detective with NwGC Favorite CeCe Moore



ABC News has announced a new show for the summer called THE GENETIC DETECTIVE starring one of our favorite NwGC speakers!

The all-new series follows investigative genetic genealogist CeCe Moore as she uses her unique research skills to transform the face of crime solving. By working with police departments and crime scene DNA, Moore is able to trace the path of a violent criminal's family tree to reveal their identity and help bring them to justice.

Watch the show's debut on TUESDAY, MAY 19 (8:00 - 9:00 p.m. PDT).

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!

Newsletter submissions for the **July/Aug** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **Sunday, June 21st**.



Find us on Facebook:

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<https://www.facebook.com/Northwest-Genealogy-Conference-109884296091070/>



Check out our Blog:

<https://stillygen.wordpress.com/>



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HOME OF THE NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The Stillaguamish Star

MAY/JUNE 2020