

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 11 ♦ November 2004

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS ♦ 1969-2004

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102



MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p. m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2004

1:15	Class	Virginia Research, presented by Chuck Mitchell
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2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER
		WANDA BALLARD
		<i>The Spurgeon Story ~and~</i>
		<i>The Role of Indentured Servants</i>
		<i>in Establishing Our Nation</i>



~IN THIS ISSUE~

<i>Reports</i>	82
<i>President's Message: Where's the Good Stuff?, by John McCoy</i>	83-84
<i>Society News</i>	84
<i>Of Interest – Humor</i>	85
<i>November Meeting Information – On the Web</i>	86
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	87
<i>Calendar</i>	88

~MEMBERSHIP REPORT~
Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

OCTOBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 26 Guests: 3

NEW MEMBER

John R. Johnson Individual 9/05

RENEWALS

Betty J. Brandt	Newsletter	9/05
Barbara Cary	Individual	9/05
Jean K. Chapple	Sustaining	9/05
Aaron Day	Individual	9/05
Dorothy Dunning	Individual	9/05
Vickie Elliot	Individual	9/05
John F. Foord	Sustaining	9/05
Kathryn P. Foord	Sustaining	9/05
Yvonne P. Foster	Individual	9/05
Helen Goring	Individual	9/05
Carmen Gross	Individual	9/05
Lowell Harris	Family	9/05
Inga Harris	Family	9/05
Sandra A. Hollandsworth	Individual	9/05
Richard L. Hoover	Patron	9/05
George D. Johnson	Sustaining	9/05
Polly F. Johnson	Sustaining	9/05
Hazele T. Johnson	Individual	9/05
Donald Krokus	Contributor	9/05
John W. McCoy	Patron	9/05
Bette L. Perre	Individual	9/05
Elizabeth Reidy	Individual	9/05
Mary M. Smith	Individual	9/05
Helene H. Smith	Individual	9/06
Jacqueline Spohr	Individual	9/05
Marjorie J. Tarbell	Sustaining	9/05
Connie I. Williams	Individual	9/05
Tina Yanis	Individual	9/05

Please note that dues received at the October meeting are not on this list. They will show up in next month's report.

~NEWSLETTER~
Mike POWERS (562) 621-6631

I am happy to announce that in response to my plea last month for help with the newsletter, Linda Artuso has volunteered to take over as Newsletter Librarian.

In case you're wondering, what the Newsletter Librarian

does is to keep the newsletters we receive from other genealogical societies in packets by month, and make those packets available for members to check out and look over between meetings. The Librarian also keeps a book of information on upcoming genealogical events. If you haven't already done so, be sure to make use of these great resources.

I could still use some help with writing copy for the newsletter. I just don't have the talent for it, so it takes me forever! What it involves is simply taking information that has been submitted to us or gleaned from other sources and putting it in readable form. If you can spare a couple of hours a month for this, please contact me at (562) 621-6631 or at <lunalake@pobox.com>.

You may recall that a while back I started a couple of email lists for Questing Heirs members. One list was for news of a more time-sensitive nature, the other one was to receive the newsletter in PDF format as soon as it was finished. You also may be wondering what happened to those lists. Well, my hard drive crashed, and I hadn't backed up my address book. (I know, I know!) So I am going to start the lists over. If you'd like to be on either of these lists, all you need to do is to send me an email and let me know which list (or lists) you'd like to be on.

~FINANCIAL REPORT~
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

September Income	\$ 1665.52
September Expenses	152.60
Balance	\$ 2945.40

Thank you to all of those who paid their dues in September. Too bad all months can't be like this!

2004 Income	\$ 2637.95
2004 Expenses	2849.18

~REFRESHMENTS~
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thank you to our October hosts:

Cynthia Day Elliot	Kay Foord
Norma Grady	Joy Proust

Our November hosts will be:

Arlene Anderson	Jeanette Jones
Sandy Hollandsworth Swanson	
Tina Yanis	

~P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E ~

W H E R E ' S T H E G O O D S T U F F ?

At our September meeting, Nancy Bier held us spellbound with her presentation, "Tell the Story: How to Liven Up Your Genealogy." Her premise was that the best stories, the most interesting history, will be missed if we only search the basic records.

We teach our members to check the "usual sources" first: birth, marriage, and death records, census records, cemeteries, church records, wills — but these sources have limitations. Most of the time, they do not tell stories. These are extremely important sources, the required starting point for any genealogical research, but we must not stop there! We must also search the other sources that are harder to find, and sometimes read at great length between the lines, to uncover the really good stories that involve our ancestors.

Let me list a few of the resources that have produced the best stories in my own research:

♦ **Court records:** Whether already published (early New England), on microfilm, or as manuscripts housed in various courthouses or archives, records of civil or criminal proceedings account for most of the really good stories I have uncovered, ranging from complaints about selling too much liquor "in the time of weighing of fish" (early New Hampshire) to theft of government mules (early Salt Lake City, the case proved that a sensational and highly questionable account of early Mormon life was not entirely fiction) and an incident involving a knife fight that revealed much about an

ancestor's character (Linn County, Iowa).

♦ **Newspaper records:** Though it is seldom convenient to find and read old newspapers, the sensational and the peculiar usually get reported. A dimly-recalled death in the family turned out to be a suicide worthy of an Italian opera plot, reported in at least half a dozen papers in two languages — and because it was a suicide, it was not indexed as an obituary in the New York Time Index. Another item, though not indexed, contained more on the theft of government mules. Another told the story of a daughter who was "left behind" in Illinois as a small child when the rest of her family migrated to Iowa—she had not seen her siblings in about 50 years, before they were finally reunited.

♦ **Local histories:** In some parts of the United States, local historians were busy even in the early 1800s. They talked to the "old-timers" and sometimes quoted them at length. Some of this material is published and indexed, some published but not indexed, and a great deal appears still to be in manuscript form. You will have to hunt even to discover that it exists, and then you may need to travel to the repository to study it in person. More and more of this material is finding its way onto the Internet.

♦ **Applications for homesteads, land warrants, and pensions:** While most genealogists know to look for Revolutionary War and Civil War pensions, there were many other types of applications, not all of them indexed. A remark

about a land warrant in a probate record in Davis County, Iowa led to a copy of family bible records and previously unknown chapters in the history of my Smith family. A homestead application turned out to contain a soldier's discharge papers, adding more information about his family, as well as proving that he was indeed the same Reuben Smith I was looking for. Other applications have contained information about family disputes, scandals, etc.

♦ **Documents relating to neighbors and relatives:** First, look for manuscript sources (journals, correspondence) relating to your own family. Then extend your search to journals and correspondence for related families, neighbors, and known associates (including commanding officers in the military, ministers from the churches your ancestors attended, etc.). This is especially important if any family members were involved in the Mormon trek or if they were Quakers. Both groups seemed to have had a special fondness for writing and saving journals, which often mention family, friends, neighbors, etc. Personal manuscripts end up in all kinds of strange places, ranging from the National Archives to various academic libraries and historical societies. It takes time to identify these institutions and then to find a catalogue of their holdings. Fortunately, more and more catalogues and finding aids are turning up on the Internet.

In all cases, it is necessary to be extremely creative with spellings of names when you are searching indexes! Even for apparently simple

[continued on next page]

~ S O C I E T Y N E W S ~

JANET TAYLOR'S RESEARCH

by Linda Artuso

Janet Taylor, a former member of Questing Heirs and past Publicity Chair, is currently in the Country Villa Seal Beach Health Care Center. Janet had collected genealogical information on her family, but is no longer able to organize and compile it into final form. Since she has no children and no close relatives in this area, a friend brought her papers to one of our meetings earlier this year.

I have organized Janet's information and placed it in a loose-leaf notebook, using the Personal Ancestral File program to create appropriate ancestry charts and family group records, and including the items of evidence on which they are based.

Here is a brief description of her ancestry:

Janet Louise Meldon was born about 1922 in Brooklyn, New York. She had one sister, Betty Ann, who was born on 8 Sep 1924. On 15 Apr 1950, Janet married Donald Joseph Taylor in Las Vegas, Nevada, but he died in Mill Valley, California, on 29 May 1966.

Janet's father, James Hyndman Meldon (1889-1948), was born in Scotland but immigrated to New York with his parents' family. His parents were William Bradshaw Meldon (1855-1911) and Mary Hyndman (1855-1916), but Janet could go back no further than their family on this line.

Her mother, Margaret Louise Veitch (1889-1978), was born in Brooklyn and died in New Jersey. She married James H. Meldon on 10 Sep 1920 in Brooklyn. Her parents were both from Scotland – her father, John Veitch (1859-1931), was born in Edinburgh and her mother, Janet Sinclair Perston (1860-1931), was born in Glasgow. They were married on 7 Oct 1887 in Glasgow. Janet was able to trace this line and its branches back several more generations.

We have donated this collection to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. They may add it to their book collection or microfilm it to save space.

QHGS ELECTION UPDATE

The Nominating Committee, made up of David Werts, Marilyn Brasher, and Cynthia Day-Elliott, presented its slate of candidates at the October meeting. They are:

- ♦ President: John McCoy
- ♦ Second Vice President – Membership: Jeanette Jones
- ♦ Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Myers

As noted in last month's newsletter, the elections will be held at the November meeting. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. However, please note that all nominees must give consent before their names are put into nomination. Also please note that only Questing Heirs members whose dues are current are eligible to vote.

The outcome of the election will be announced in the December newsletter, and the newly-elected officers will be installed at the December meeting.



REPRINTS OF NEWSLETTER PHOTOS

At the October meeting, Tina Yanis' reprints of her photos from the Long Beach Public Library dedication of their new Genealogy Department were a big hit. We also took orders for prints of the group photo from the Questing Heirs 35th Anniversary meeting in July. We are asking for \$1.00 per print to cover the cost of reproducing them. To order your copy, or to see a sample print, please see Mike Powers or Aaron Day at the meeting.

~ P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E ~

[continued from previous page]

searches, such as Ancestry.com, you may discover that “McCoy” and “Mc Coy” (with a space) are not indexed together, even when you use a Soundex search! If at any point you suspect that a computer search is not working as you expected, try searching for things you know should be there, to be sure you understand how the search function works. These things are seldom obvious!

~ John McCoy

~ O F I N T E R E S T ~

MEMORY GLITCH

*From CompuServe "What's New," October 16, 2004.
Submitted by Liz Myers, in hopes that it might explain
some oral family history puzzles.*

Your memories are lies. No matter how real they may seem, chances are they are just plain wrong. Our memories of events big and small are often a totally unreliable resource. They are quite susceptible to errors – innocent and accidental, according to memory expert Ulric Neisser. Why? The blame is on the brain and the tricks it plays on us.

USA Today reports that our memories are uncertain, fallible, and corruptible. It's easy to "misremember." You may think your brain records everything it observes with objective clarity. But it doesn't. It's not as if you can just cue up the video and watch what happened thirty years ago. The brain plays tricks on us. Some of us even come to believe that something we saw in a movie or events that happened to relatives or close friends were part of our own personal history – even though they are not. "We don't like the idea that our memories are filled with bits of fiction, but it's true for everyone, and we ought to accept it," University of California, Irvine memory researcher Elizabeth Loftus told USA Today.

Don't believe it? Memory expert Neisser conducted an experiment with college students. The day after the space shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986, he asked several freshmen to write down how they learned this news. Three years later, he asked the same students to again write down their memories of that day. More than twenty-five percent misremembered their own story in very significant ways and most changed some important details, reports USA Today. What's more, when they were handed their original handwritten account of the day, some of the students refused to believe their now-firm three-year-old memories were wrong.

"Our memories are us," Emory University psychologist Scott Lilienfeld, editor of the journal *Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice*, told USA Today. "It's very integral to who we are. Partly because our memories are imbedded in who we are, they are inevitably colored by our personality, our expectations, our lives. It is unnerving to realize that things we remember distinctly might not have happened or happened that way."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOPS

The National Archives and Records Administration in Laguna Niguel is offering the following workshops in the month of November:

♦ **Naturalization and Immigration Records**
This course examines immigration and citizenship records, emphasizing procedural changes from 1790 to the present as well as methods for locating both naturalization records and passenger manifests. Offered Wednesday, November 10 at 9:30 am.

♦ **Introduction to Genealogical Resources**
For beginners and those who want to brush up on their basic skills, this workshop addresses the use of Federal census, passenger arrival, naturalization, and military records, as well as basic reference works. Offered Tuesday, November 16 at 9:30 am.

Reservations are required and class sizes are limited. Please call (949) 360-2641, ext. 0 to reserve your place in each class you would like to attend.

Workshops cost \$7.50, payable at the door.

Picture identification is required to enter the facility.

It's easy to get there. Take Interstate 5 south, exit at Oso Parkway and head west. Turn left at La Paz Road. Follow La Paz through the intersection with Avila and make the next right on Allegra, a small side street in the midst of an office park. Go straight and park in any unmarked space.

~ S A D B U T T R U E D E P T . ~

Murphy's Laws of Genealogy

2. When at last after much hard work you have solved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that."

Submitted by Liz Myers, who found it on the RootsWeb GenHumor-L mailing list. To subscribe to this list, send an email with just the word "subscribe" in the body to <GenHumor-L@rootsweb.com>.

~NOVEMBER MEETING~

SPEAKER: WANDA BALLARD

Our speaker for November will be Questing Heirs member Wanda Ballard. She has spoken for our group many times. Her theme will be "The Spurgeon Story, and the Role of Indentured Servants in Establishing Our Nation."

Wanda Ballard was born in Torrance, California. She began actively researching her Family History many years ago. She has been with the Whittier Area Genealogical Society for more than ten years, and is also a past President. She is also a Questing Heirs Genealogical Society member. her husband John shares her interest in Genealogy, and he has been active on the Board of the Whittier group.

Wanda became interested in the Newgate Prison of London when she discovered that several of her ancestors had been arrested, and spent time there around 1700. Some of her ancestors eventually moved westward, and are the Founders of Santa Ana. She will also share information about Indentured Servants.



CLASS: VIRGINIA RESEARCH
presented by Chuck Mitchell

Be sure to join us on Sunday, November 21, at 1:15pm, as Chuck Mitchell gives a presentation on Virginia genealogy, which will encompass geography, history, repositories, collections, and personal experience.

~ON THE WEB~

ANCESTRY.COM UPDATES
<<http://www.ancestry.com>>

1900 U.S. FEDERAL CENSUS

This database now features indexes for Alabama, Alaska Territory, Arizona Territory, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indian Territory, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma Territory, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas.

SAN FRANCISCO PASSENGER LISTS

With the latest update adding the years 1951-53, this database now includes the years 1893-1953.



NARA ACCEPTING ONLINE ORDERS
<<http://www.archives.gov>>

All of the most frequently requested records in the National Archives can be ordered online at <http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html>. The site requires that you register as a user and that you pay with a credit card. Using Order Online, you can order copies of passenger arrival records, copies of specific pages from the Federal census, copies of Eastern Cherokee applications, copies of Federal land entry files, Federal military pension files for the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, and military service records for the Revolutionary War through the Spanish American War.

The archives will continue to accept paper forms. Paper forms can be ordered by e-mail to <Inquire@nara.gov> or by calling the toll-free number, 1-86-NARA-NARA (866-272-6272).



SEARCH SWEDISH CHURCH RECORDS
WITH GENLINE FAMILY FINDER
<<http://genline.com/>>

Did you know that over 1,000,000 Swedes – approximately 20 percent of the population – emigrated from 1840 to 1930, most going to North America?

Now, over 10,396,489 images of original church records, from the 16th to the 20th century, are available in the Swedish Church Records archive. New volumes are being published regularly, as well.

Counties available: Kalmar, Östergötland, Värmland, Kronoberg, Göteborgs & Bohus, Jönköping, Malmöhus, Kristianstad, Blekinge, Halland.

Counties currently in production: Västernorrland, Västerbotten, Norrbotten, Skaraborg, Örebro, Sörmland, Kopparberg (Dalarna), Jämtland, Älvsborg.

This is a pay site, however, a free tryout is available.

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

**Utah Genealogical Association
10th Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy
Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 15, 2005
Salt Lake City**

The Institute's objective is to provide the best possible educational opportunity for each student. Renowned genealogical instructors have been selected to develop the courses and teach the classes. Students register for one of nine courses of study, each including twenty hours of classes and/or labs, or for one of two unique problem-solving courses with professional consultants and assignments in the Family History Library.

Cost is \$280 for UGA members, \$320 for non-members. The price includes tuition for one of the ten courses, Monday morning orientation breakfast, Monday evening plenary session, and the Friday evening completion banquet.

Optional evening classes are available for students and friends who would like to receive additional instruction outside their course from nationally-known speakers.

Courses and coordinators include: American Records & Research with Paula Stuart Warren; Mid-South States Research with Mary E. V. Hill; English Research with John M. Kitzmiller II; Researching Romance Language Areas with George Ryskamp; Colonial American Research with Kory Meyerink; U. S. Military Records with Larry L. Piatt.

For more information, contact the Utah Genealogical Association by phone at (888) INFO-UGA, by email at <institute@infouga.org>, or visit their web page at <<http://www.infouga.org>>.



**National Genealogical Society Conference
Thursday, January 20 – Saturday, January 22, 2005
Phoenix, Arizona**

A premier opportunity to sharpen your skills and develop some new areas of inquiry and expertise will occur in Phoenix, Arizona on January 20-22, 2005. The speakers' list reads like a who's who in genealogy: Elizabeth Mills, Helen Leary, Thomas Jones, Mark Lowe, Kay Freilich, Ann Fleming, David Rencher, Cyndi Howells, Bob Velke, Roger Minert and Shirley Reimer, Barbara Little,

Craig Scott, Pamela Porter, Sheila Benedict, Pat and Thomas Shawker, Connie Lenzen, Ted Steele, Ilene Murray, and Beau Sharbrough.

Registration is \$150 until December 1. The Wyndham Phoenix Downtown is both the Conference site and Conference hotel and is located near many cultural and research venues. For more information, please visit <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/edutripsphoenix.htm>>.



**Whittier Area Genealogical Society
22nd Annual Seminar
Saturday, February 26, 2005**

WAGS presents its 22nd annual seminar with guest speaker Dr. Gary Shumway at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.

Gary Shumway has degrees from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. He is Professor of History at California State University, Fullerton, where he has taught since 1967. He founded the Oral History Program at CSU Fullerton. His areas of teaching expertise are U. S. history, oral history, and Western history. Shumway is the author of a number of publications in the fields of oral history, family history, and mining history. He is a frequent and enthusiastic speaker at family history organizations and conferences.

Dr. Shumway's topics will be: "U.S. History for Genealogists: The Colonial Period," "U.S. History for Genealogists: The National Period," "Why My Ancestors Moved," and "Oral History for Genealogists."

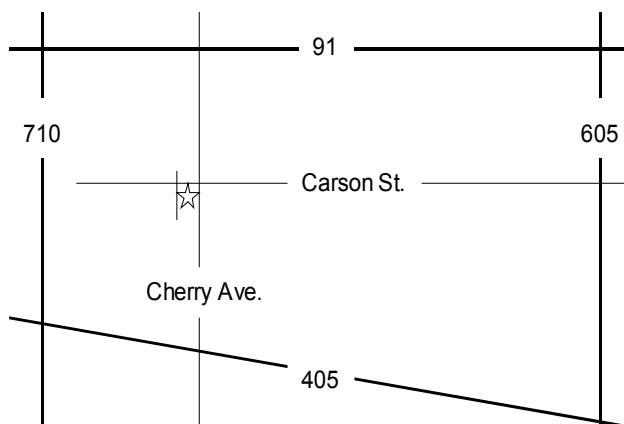
Price is \$25 for WAGS members, \$30 for non-members, and \$35 at the door, if space is available.

Refreshments will be available during the day. Deli lunches of turkey, beef, or ham sandwich, salad, and dessert will be available for \$6 for those who register by February 19. Other eating places are within walking distance, or you can bring your own lunch.

For more information, please visit <<http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>>, or contact John Hergesheimer, Seminar Director, by phone at 562-941-3184, or by email at <hergwerk@earthlink.net>.

~ C A L E N D A R ~

- ♦ Saturday, November 6, 9:00am – 1:30pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations, including Charlotte Smith speaking on “Finding Your Medieval and Royal Ancestors.”
- ♦ Saturday, November 13, 10:30am – 4:00 pm. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California. Speaker's subject: Pennsylvania Research.
- ♦ Wednesday, November 17, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Speaker: Ted Gostin. Topic: What to Do When There Are No Vital Records Available.
- ♦ Saturday, November 20, 1:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Caroline Rober, a Technical Director for the Orange Family History Center, speaking on Kentucky Research.
- ♦ **Sunday, November 21, 1:15pm. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue. See map at right. For more information, see page 86.
- ♦ Sunday, November 28, 1:00pm – 5:00pm. British Isles Family History Society monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.* Speaker: Jill Kirby. Topic: Titanic Connections From Southampton, Hampshire, England.
- ♦ Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 15. Utah Genealogical Association presents the tenth annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Wyndham Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information, please see page 87.
- ♦ Thursday, January 20 – Saturday, January 22. National Genealogical Society Conference. Wyndham Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix, Arizona. Please see page 87 for more information.
- ♦ Saturday, February 26, 2005. 9:00am – 4:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society presents its 22nd annual Seminar. Guest speaker Dr. Gary Shumway, Ph. D., historian. For more information, please see page 87.



*FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open free of charge to members of the general public interested in doing genealogical research. Volunteers are on hand and will gladly give you assistance. Regular hours for the Los Angeles FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LA FHC is located on the grounds of the Los Angeles Temple, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles; their phone number is (310) 474-9990. Their web page at <<http://www.lafhc.org>> provides details of their extensive collection. There are smaller FHCs locally, in Long Beach at 3701 Elm Avenue in Bixby Knolls, phone (562) 988-0509, in Los Alamitos, phone (714) 821-6914, and in Cerritos, phone (562) 924-3676. It is advisable to call ahead to the local centers, as their hours may change from time to time.