



Questing Heirs

Genealogical Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 15102

Long Beach, California 90815-0102

NEWSLETTER

Volume 35

Number 10

October 2002

REGULAR MEETING -- Sunday, October 20, 2002 -- 1:15 pm

Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall

1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach (one block west of Cherry Avenue)

1:15 – CLASSES

BASIC: County Courthouse Records - Where They Lived, with BettyBelle (Bryant) Feldman

INTERMEDIATE: What You Should Know about Archives, presented by John McCoy

Join us for the surprising story of how archives function and suggestions
for how you can overcome the obstacles you encounter.

For a full description of this class, please see page 79.

Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments **2:15** Sign up to borrow the microfilm reader

2:30 - GENERAL MEETING

NEIL COOMBS

Searching for Ancestors in New England: A Brief Overview

Neil is a member of Mayflower (Chilton, Doty, and Brewster), Sons of the American Revolution (Lt. Stephen Coombs of Bath, Maine), the Royal Society, London, and the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston. His pedigree from Abraham Morrill (1637) of Dorchester, Massachusetts is currently being considered for membership by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Questing Heirs Board Meeting to follow



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REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS

(562) 432-4908

THANKS TO OUR SEPTEMBER HOSTS:

Irma (Folks) OLSON, Jayne (Miller) LUBICK, Linda (Powell) ARTUS, Priscilla (Colvin) NIELSEN

OCTOBER HOSTS:

LaVerne (Jeffrey) MAXWELL, Ruth (Coats) CHRISTESON, Norma (Splits) GRADY, Richard HOOVER



FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERT'S

(562) 431-7790

August Income	\$	349.42
August Expenses	\$	82.50
Balance at end of August	\$	2,557.36



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Betty MARR

(562) 433-0370

RENEWALS

Congratulations, folks, you're doing so well getting those renewals sent in!

A special thanks to those who were able to subscribe at a higher level than the basic membership.

Alberti, Cathy	Sustaining		to 9/03	Lubick, Jayne	Individual		to 9/03
Bowers, Patricia	Individual		to 9/05	Lyons, Georgie	Individual		to 9/03
Coles, Evelyn M	Individual		to 9/03	Maxwell, LaVerne,	Family		to 9/03
Cox, Elizabeth	Individual		to 9/05	Ruth Christeson &			
Day-Elliott, Cynthia	Individual		to 9/03	John Gabriel			
DeLapp, Richard E	Subscription		to 9/03	McCoy, John	Patron	\$200	to 9/03
Doud, Wm & Florence	Family		to 9/03	Miller, Harriet	Sustaining	\$50	to 9/03
Dunning, Dorothy	Individual		to 9/03	Nielsen, Patricia	Patron	\$100	to 9/03
Goring, Helen L	Individual		to 9/03	Rainey, Caroline	Individual		to 9/03
Gross, Carmen	Individual		to 9/03	Rhodes, Jack	Individual		to 9/03
Hargrave, MaryEmma	Individual		to 9/03	Olson, Irma	Individual		to 9/03
Hoover, Richard	Patron	\$150	to 9/03	Smith, Frances	Contributing	\$35	to 9/03
Johnson, George & Polly	Sustaining	\$50	to 9/03	Strawn, Phyllis	Individual		to 9/03
Johnson, Hazele	Individual	\$25	to 9/03	Tarbell, Marjorie	Contributing		to 9/03
Larson, MayBelle	Individual		to 9/03	Werts, Dave	Sustaining	\$50	to 9/03
Leveille, Frances	Individual		to 9/03	Wright, Virginia	Individual		to 9/03

CORRECTIONS TO THE ROSTER

No matter how carefully I tried to get the roster checked, those nasty gremlins snuck in somehow!

- ◆ Correct spelling: **Joycelyn** Proust. On the roster as printed the initial 'y' in her first name was omitted.
- ◆ Add member name and new address: **Naydean Updike, 12680 Excelsior St. #A, White Water, CA 92282-1506**. Honorary member & 1978-1980 President, for those who don't know her.
- ◆ Address correction: Mike Powers, **1009 Coronado Ave. #1, Long Beach, CA 90804**
- ◆ E-mail address correction: Mike Powers – **lunlake@pobox.com**.
- ◆ E-mail address correction: Bruce Brightman - **Bettbright@aol.com**. Between my monitor & my bifocals those two 't's sure looked like 'f's. Sorry about that Bruce (:>)

~ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ~

Accept No Substitutes!

Over the years, I have run into many cases where published abstracts or summaries of important documents have turned out to be incomplete or incorrect. Sometimes the errors are understandable. Perhaps the document was worded ambiguously to begin with. In other cases, however, it is clear that the compiler of the abstracts simply missed something important.

A typical case is the Revolutionary War pension file of James Uran. In the highly regarded "Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files" (Virgil D. White, 1990-1992, 4 volumes, National Historical Publishing Co., Waynesboro, TN), there is an entry for James Uran, but when I looked at the microfilmed documents at the National Archives, it was obvious that the abstracter had completely missed the clearly written information about the soldier's life. And the abstract failed to tell the most interesting parts of his military service. A section of the soldier's affidavit of 1832 appears below, along with my line of descent from the Uran family.

It is not surprising that errors would appear in any inventory of a large collection of documents. Many of the originals are difficult to read, and it is very easy to miss a paragraph, or even whole pages. Without these compilations, we would have no idea what information was contained in the many archives that hold the key to our genealogical investigations. But it is important to realize that the various inventories, abstracts, compilations, and summary repertoires that we use to locate archival documents are ALL subject to error.

We should always continue our search until we find the original document. We need to find out what it actually says, and we need to evaluate the document itself, in terms of authenticity and reliability. The original records are always the most interesting ones!

John McCoy, President



Revolutionary War Service of James Uran

State of Vermont)
SS)
County of Bennington)

On this 4th day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Myron Clark Judge of the Probate Court for the Probate District of Manchester in the County of Bennington & State of Vermont now sitting, James Uran a Resident of Dorset in said County of Bennington aged 71 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born at Swanzey in the County of Cheshire in the State of New Hampshire on the 3d day of April 1761, that his Birth was recorded in the Town Records of said Town of Swanzey where he lived, until on or about the month of March 1776 when he removed with his Parents, to the Town of Putney in the County of Windham & State of Vermont.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the

following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

That on or about the first of May 1779, his father was drafted at said Putney to go upon a tour of duty in the Vermont Militia of four & one half months to Pittsford in said State of Vermont - that he offered and did take the place of his father, & was in his stead enrolled in the Company commanded by Captain Parmelee Allen, Lieutenant Aylesworth, & the Ensign [he] has forgotten & in a Regiment commanded by Major Commandant Rowley agreeably to his present recollection of the Vermont Militia, that he immediately thereafter marched from said Putney to said Pittsford which was then a frontier Town, & was stationed at a Fort there, then under the command of the said Rowley for one month & one half or more, when his father hired a man by the name of Caleb Holton of said Putney to serve through the remainder of the said term of 4 1/2 months, & he worked upon the farm to pay said Holton's wages & the said Holton continued to serve in his place until sometime previous to the expiration of

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the said Term of 4 1/2 months but at what precise time he is not able to state, he was killed & scalped by the Indians as he had understood - that some time in the fore part of the year 1780, but the exact time is not able to state, he volunteered & was enrolled in Putney & served for the term of 3 months as a minute man in the company commanded by Captain James Clay & Lieutenant Jonas Keyes & Ensign David Ward & in the Regiment commanded by Captain Samuel Miner in the Vermont militia - & that in or was called upon & did turn out as a volunteer with a part of the said Company under the command of the said Lieutenant Jonas Keyes, to go to Royalton in said State upon an alarm in consequence of the destruction of that place by the Indians, that they marched to Bethel in said State of Vermont, where was a fort, & where many others were collected from the surrounding Country, & where said part of company was placed under the command of Captain Elisha Whitcomb of the State of New Hampshire, & the whole under the command of Major House of New Hampshire - that they marched from thence to said Royalton, which they found to have been burnt, destroyed & deserted - they then returned to said fort at said Bethel, where they were stationed until the 3d day of December of the same year 1780, when they were dismissed by parole, & he returned to his said home in said Putney, having been absent on said service about one & one half months - that whilst stationed at said Fort, he was almost constantly occupied in scouting & patrolling through the surrounding Country - that afterwards in the fore part of January 1781, he enlisted at said Putney for the Term of ten months, in the Company of Vermont Militia commanded by Col. Samuel Fletcher - that they soon after marched from said Putney, across the Green Mountains,

through Manchester, Pawlet &c. to Castleton in said State of Vermont, where they were stationed, & he continued to serve on scouting parties through the Country & at times to very considerable distances from said Fort, until the expiration of the said term of service, when he was regularly discharged by said Col. Fletcher, but has since lost said discharge, & he returned home to said Putney - that whilst there, General Enos commanded for a part of whole of the time at said Fort - that he remembered several other officers who were stationed there at that time, amongst whom were Isaac Tichenor afterwards Governor of said State of Vermont, then as he thinks serving in the capacity of Adjutant General, also Captain William Hutchins, Captain James Brookins, Captain John Stacks of Pawlet, Captain James Blakeley & others - that during the said revolutionary war he was at several other times called upon & did turn out as a volunteer on short tours of duty - & on one occasion which he has particularly remembered, but does not remember the precise day month or year, but thinks that it must have been in the year 1779 or 1780, he was called out in an alarm to go to Haverhill in the State of New Hampshire & Peacham in the State of Vermont - that he accordingly turned out & marched up Connecticut river to near Dartmouth College in the Town of Hanover, in the State of New Hampshire, where information was received that the cause of the alarm had ceased, & he with the others returned home to said Putney, on which service he was absent at least one week - that on or about the 27th day of July 1787, he removed from said Town of Putney to the Town of Pawlet in the County of Rutland, in said State of Vermont, where he resided until on or about the 4th day of June 1821, when he removed to said Town of Dorset, where he has since made his home.

John McCoy's Line of Descent from Jonathan Uran

- I. **Jonathan Uran** b. ____ 1732 d. betw.1792-1800, m. Abigail Hodgkins m. 1755 b. 21 sep 1736 d. 26 feb 1842 [daughter of Ezekiel Hodgkins and Margaret Lakeman], credited with service in Revolutionary War. (A son, **James Uran** b. 03 apr 1761 d. after 1840, m. Lucy ____ b. circa 1760 d. after 1830, also received Revolutionary War pension.)
- II. **Jonathan Uran** b. 26 sep 1774 d. 28 apr 1843, m. Sarah (Sally) J. Smith Haven(s) m. 05 mar 1807 b. 04 oct 1789 d. 22 jun 1882 [daughter of Nathaniel Haven and Elizabeth (Betsey) (widow) Snyder].
- III. **Elvira Uran** b. 11 jun 1812 d. 26 feb 1900, m. (1) John McDougall m. 02 jan 1833 ? b. 05 may 1810 d. ____ 1884, m. (2) Morey Schafty m. 08 apr 1893 b. 1820 d. 30 jan 1900.
- IV. **Carrie (Candace) Elvira McDougall** b. 20 may 1851 d. 09 feb 1942, m. James Jay Hamilton Reedy m. 13 apr 1871 b. 03 may 1853 d. 06 feb 1941 [son of William Michael Reedy and Mary Kerr Rankin].
- V. **Eulia Rose May Reedy** b. 05 may 1877 d. 21 dec 1967, m. (1) Walter Moses Victor m. 02 nov 1892 b. 12 mar 1865 d. 30 sep 1933 [son of Solomon Victor and Marion Danson], m. (2) Cleon Homer DePuy m. 1919? b. 08 nov 1875 d. 12 may 1946.
- VI. **Gertrude Marguerite Victor** b. 11 jul 1903 d. 20 sep 1993, m. (1) John Wyman McCoy m. 20 jun 1921 b. 07 oct 1898 d. 06 oct 1979 [son of Fred McCoy and Lillian Gertrude Baird], m. (2) Horace Victor McNutt m. 14 nov 1930 b. 23 nov 1901 d. 29 dec 1958, m. (3) Arlie "Nick" Harris m. 03 jun 1942 b. 18 jul 1907 d. ?? apr 1981.
- VII. **John Wayne McCoy** b. 01 apr 1922, m. Alice Eleanor Rice m. 10 jan 1947 b. 13 Jul 1925 [daughter of William Jenner Rice and Laura Claire Brock].
- VIII. **John Wynne McCoy** b. 5 Jun 1948.

~ FEATURE ARTICLE ~

WHAT IS A VESTRY?

by Sherry Irvine, B.A., CGRS, FSA (Scot)

The word 'vestry' refers to both a room in the parish church and a meeting of parish officials. It was where the minister kept his vestments and prepared for divine service. The name of the room came to signify the group of men who governed a parish because it was where they met. The name did not change even if the location did, which happened frequently particularly on cold winter nights. In this example the proprietor of the inn had recently joined the vestry.

“ . . . We the undersigned, being the officers of this parish who have met at the church to settle last month's accounts, having gone through part of the business do unanimously agree to adjourn this Vestry to the Bell, the inclemency of the weather making it hardly possible to transact the whole here . . .” (Vestry Minutes, Upminster, Essex, 4th February 1799, quoted in "A History of Upminster and Cranham," by John Drury, 1986)

EVOLUTION OF THE VESTRY

The dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII left a vacuum in social assistance. Times of severe hardship towards the end of the 1500s led the government of Elizabeth I to assign to the parishes an increasing amount of secular parochial responsibility. It was easy to do because parish churches already had the authority to levy a rate for the maintenance of the church buildings and fittings. Acts of Parliament added the powers to assess and collect rates for the support of the poor and maintenance of roads within the parish.

The assignment of new authority was happening at a time when the influence of the manor courts was in decline. There was overlap for a time but eventually the manor courts lost their authority, their duties going to the vestries and the courts of quarter sessions.

The vestry took one of two forms, either open or select. An open vestry was comprised of all the male ratepayers, a form that worked in smaller parishes, but became a problem in populated areas. Members of a select vestry might be appointed or elected, generally from the more important men of the parish. In some parishes the same people served over and over again. In others there was a sort of rotation every few years and some managed to change officers yearly. It was customary for the incumbent minister to sit as chairman of the vestry.

The vestry appointed the local officers, usually the following: churchwardens, sexton, parish clerk, overseers of the poor, surveyor of the highways and constable. Sometimes the minister appointed one of the churchwardens. Appointments of the overseers of the poor, surveyor of the highways and constable would be endorsed at the court of quarter sessions. Duties were onerous and it is not surprising that someone wrote a handbook, "The Compleat Parish Officer," (1734 and rep. 1996 by the Wiltshire Family History Society). There are detailed descriptions for each official; a good way to catch some of the flavor of parish life.

Population growth and industrialization strained the old system. In the 1800s, due to huge rises in parish poor rates, the authority of select vestries was challenged and by the end of the century parish administration was completely different. Legislation in 1834 changed the poor laws and in 1894 created a new form of local government.

RECORDS OF THE VESTRY

The vestry and its officers kept records of parish business collectively referred to as the parish chest. Vestry minutes and accounts were among these. Today those that survive are deposited in county record offices. Some have been filmed for the collections of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and are cataloged by town or parish.

The vestry was the principal authority in the parish because of its role in the appointment of other officers and its ability to make rules or policies for the entire parish. Parish officers presented their reports and accounts to the vestry for acceptance.

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The broad responsibilities of the vestry led to a great variety of parish information being recorded in the minutes, including permission for the minister to keep pigeons and approval for the expenditure of funds on a quart of gin for an expectant mother (see Tate, W. E., "The Parish Chest," 1983). Parishioners' names appear frequently in vestry minutes and accounts. The records are therefore genealogically valuable as well as a remarkable account of the social life of a parish.

Sherry Irvine, CGRS, FSA (Scot) has been researching her British ancestry for thirty years. She is an instructor and study tour leader for Samford University's IGHR, and teaches for the online family history program of Vermont College. Sherry is President of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is the author of:

"Your Scottish Ancestry: A Guide for North Americans"
<<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=P1046>>
"Your English Ancestry: A Guide for North Americans"
<<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=P1045>>

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~ OF INTEREST ~

Submitted by MaryEmma Holley Hargrave:

LEISURE WORLD CREATIVE WRITERS' CLUB
invites you to their first
ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS

October 29, 2002, 8:15 am to 4:00 pm

Clubhouse 4, St. Andrews Drive, Leisure World
13553 Seal Beach Blvd. and Golden Rain, Seal Beach, CA
(accessible from the 405 and the 605)

Workshops on: (1) Memoir Writing; (2) Genealogy; (3) Cookbook Writing;
(4) Non-Fiction Writing; (5) Publishing Your Poetry

\$20.00 Registration Make check to Creative Writers Club
Call (562) 493-3063 or (562) 431-2177 Register by October 17



Submitted by Richard L. Hoover:

I had recently received some photocopies of obituaries that had appeared in a newspaper in the neighboring town to the one in which my parents were born. After finding the pertinent relatives' obits, my eyes strayed across to another column of news. I couldn't resist sharing this one.

Dateline: February 17, 1900, Norfolk (Nebraska) Daily News Frank G. Simmons, postmaster at Seward, Neb., was arrested and brought to Lincoln last evening, charged with a shortage of \$3,830.38. Simmons, who has long been prominent in state politics, admitted his shortage. Davis Figard, one of Simmons' bondsmen, when informed of the shortage and asked to take charge of the office, dropped dead. It is learned here that Simmons had been in financial trouble for some time.

~ ON THE WEB ~

From Ancestry Daily News, 18 September 2002 <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>. © 1998-2002 MyFamily.com Inc. and its subsidiaries.

ANCESTRY.COM TO POST UK CENSUSES, 1841-1901

With the posting of the U.S. Federal Census images for 1930 expected completion in the next week or so, Ancestry.com isn't resting on its laurels. With the completion of the U.S. Census Images (1790-1930), the company is poised to begin posting images of UK Censuses covering the years, 1841-1901.

While U.S. researchers have enjoyed online access to census image at Ancestry.com since the Fall of 2000, those searching for ancestors in the UK had a more difficult time of it. Now Ancestry.com is bringing these important censuses as close as your home computer!

The censuses, covering residents of Great Britain, Wales, Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands, will be available to Ancestry.com's UK & Ireland Collection subscribers and to subscribers of its UK based site, Ancestry.co.uk <<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>>. Stay tuned to the "Ancestry Daily News" for updates on the launch and postings as they become available.

From MISSING LINKS: A Magazine for Genealogists, Vol. 7, No. 22, 2 June 2002 <<http://www.petuniapress.com>>. © 2001-2002 Julia M Case.

Need a City Directory? Check Out This Web Site

Printed, microfilmed, and online U. S. city directories are referenced by state, locality, and repository and listed with call number, if available, or link at <<http://www.uscitydirectories.com/>>.

From The Searcher, Journal of the Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library, Vol. 39, No. 5, September/October 2002.

SCGS [Southern California Genealogical Society] now has its own Rootsweb mailing list, where notices to members of the society's activities will be posted. Members must subscribe to receive the notices. To do so, log on to the Web site at <<http://www.scsgenealogy.com>>; you can sign up to receive either digest or mail mode.



~ INTERMEDIATE CLASS ~

What you should know about Archives, presented by John McCoy

Some assumptions to remember when dealing with archives and archivists:

- ◆ No archive has a complete catalogue of its holdings; there is always some material that has not been classified, or even examined.
- ◆ Some of the catalogue entries in every archive are wrong, documents have been described incorrectly.
- ◆ In every archive, at least part of the collection has been misclassified, and another part is misfiled, being restored, or is otherwise unavailable.
- ◆ Many records are in different archives, not the one where you thought they would be.
- ◆ The archive's budget was cut recently. Previously, it was merely inadequate.
- ◆ Talking to you really is keeping the archivist from more important work, such as preserving documents and obtaining funds.

Why does it work this way? Join us at 1:15 pm on Sunday, October 20 for the surprising story of how archives function and suggestions for how you can overcome the obstacles you encounter.

~ CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Thursday, October 3, 9:30 am. NARA Workshop: Preserving Your Family's History. National Archives & Records Administration, 2400 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel. For reservations & information, phone (949) 360-2641 extension 0.

Saturday, October 5, 11 am. Orange County Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue. Caroline Rober speaking on "Overcoming Dead Ends" and "Kentucky Research."

Monday, October 7, 9:30 am. NARA Workshop: Naturalization & Immigration Records. National Archives & Records Administration, 2400 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel.

Wednesday, October 16, 7 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly general meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library. Members' show & tell.

Thursday, October 17, 9:30 am. NARA Workshop: Introduction to Genealogical Resources. National Archives & Records Administration, 2400 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel.

Saturday, October 19, 10 am - 2 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Genealogy Workshop. Torrance Civic Center Library. An outreach to the public. Tables will feature different aspects of genealogical research and places to get information. Various items will be for sale and there will be plenty of room to sit with a friend and fill out basic charts.

Saturday, October 19, 1 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Caroline Rober speaking on "Overcoming Dead Ends."

Sunday, October 20, 1:15 pm. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. (One block west of Cherry Avenue; north of the 405 Freeway and south of the 91 Freeway.) See front page for class and program information.

Tuesday, October 22, 9:30 am. NARA Workshop: 1930 Census Search Strategies. National Archives & Records Administration, 2400 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel.

Sunday, October 27, 1 pm. BIFHS-LA British Isles Family History Society monthly meeting. Classes and meetings are free with plenty of free parking at the Los Angeles FHC,* 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles. Meetings held in the Main Reading Room at 1 pm on the fourth Sunday of each month, except August and December. Everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact Dorothy Losee at (310) 838-6085 or e-mail <dotom2@aol.com>.

Thursday, October 31, 9:30 am. NARA Workshop: Introduction to Military Records. National Archives & Records Administration, 2400 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel.

Saturday, November 2, 8 am to 4 pm, South Orange County California Genealogical Society Family History Seminar, Mission Viejo Civic Center, La Paz & Marguerite. Featuring Hank Jones as speaker, interesting displays and information tables. Heritage Album Display. SOCCGS book sale. Door prizes. Periodicals for sale. Several patriotic organizations represented. Quilt raffle.



* FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and is open free of charge to the public interested in doing records research. Regular hours for the Los Angeles FHC are Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm. Address of the LA FHC is 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles, phone (310) 474-9990. Red loose-leaf notebooks are available for self-help, and the volunteers will gladly give you assistance. Also, there are smaller FHCs locally, in Los Alamitos at 4142 Cerritos Avenue, just east of Bloomfield, phone (714) 821-6914, and in Cerritos at 17909 Bloomfield Avenue, next to City Hall and Library, phone (562) 924-3676. It is advisable to phone ahead to either of the smaller centers as their hours may vary.