

Learn how to break down walls in genealogy searches

The focus for the Siuslaw Genealogy Society this year is breaking down brick walls without wearing a hardhat or using a sledgehammer. No matter how accomplished a person is as a genealogist they will eventually hit a roadblock in their search.

The Wednesday, March 20, meeting will feature two webinars to help in this exploration. "Ancestry DNA: How it can help with genealogy brick walls" and "10 Top Tips for How to Bust Through Your Genealogy Brick Wall" with professional genealogist Lisa Louise Cooke will provide information to aid in any genealogist's quest.

Make this the year that you provide connections, learn where you came from, find information for your children, inform your health choices and encourage compassion.

Stories handed down from one generation to the next about something an ancestor did can be inspiring. Family history is what makes a name and series of dates on a page into a living, breathing, person. Knowing that heart disease runs in a family can encourage those a person cares about to seek advice from doctors about how to avoid it. Families that have a genetically heritable disease in their genes can encourage younger generations to get tested for it.

Children who know that their ancestors were immigrants may feel compassion towards their classmates who are recent immigrants. Kids who know which countries their ancestors came from may feel for the people who live in that country today and who are in dire situations. Knowing this family history can help anyone find common ground with people who aren't part of their family tree.

All are welcome to attend the March 20 meeting at 7 p.m. in the Bromley Room of Siuslaw Public Library, at 1460 Ninth St. The program is followed by a brief refreshment break and the business meeting. More information is available at siuslawgenealogy.org.

Florence Unitarians come to the aid of SOS

On March 11, Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) member Jennifer French presented a check in the amount of \$2,175 to Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) Executive Director Bob Teter.

Every year, the FUUF congregation selects four to six local community service groups in which they want to support and donate to for two or three months at a time. This particular donation was collected for SOS each Sunday, from January through February.

SOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which began serving Western Lane County in 1986. The mission of SOS is to provide compassionate, respectful and confidential support to people in need.

"SOS is invested in the success of our clients," Teter said. "We want our clients to thrive, not just survive."

SOS provides protective order assistance, help with utilities, women's empowerment, veteran's assistance and emergency vouchers that offer help with shelter, fuel, showers, laundry, transportation, prescriptions, clothing and household items.



SOS Executive Director Bob Teter receives a check from FUUF member Jennifer French this week.

Visit www.florencesos.org for more information on SOS. For more information visit www.florenceuuf.org or stop by 87738 Highway 101.

Take a stroll through the Humboldt Botanical Gardens with the Walshes

The March 19 meeting of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) will be entertaining and educational. Tim and June Walsh have been involved with the Humboldt Botanical Gardens in Humboldt County, Calif., since its inception in 1991. He was on the first board of directors for the newly formed garden.

Once the rhody bug bit him, Tim didn't have a chance. He became completely immersed in the species Rhododendron;

first, as president of the local chapter, then as treasurer of the ARS; and now as the District 5 Director.

Hands-on knowledge of the gardens and enthusiasm for sharing that knowledge is Tim's goal.

Meetings are held at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101, in Florence. As always, the meeting is open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee, cookies and elbow rubbing with the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Tour Fivemile restoration, volunteer with Siuslaw Watershed on March 23

On Saturday, March 23, the community is invited for a tour of a valley-wide restoration project where Fivemile Creek meets Bell Creek, the largest tributary to Tahkenitch Lake. This is a multi-phase, multi-year project, restoring watershed function and floodplain connection. In sum, the project occurs in four phases spanning 10 years (2012-2022) and includes four miles of stream reconstruction, five miles of large wood placement, 112 acres of re-grading and native plant community restoration in

the valley bottoms, and six miles of road decommissioning.

Following the tour, volunteers are invited to join in planting native plants in Phase 4 of the project to help restore watershed function. There will be refreshments and hot drinks in the barn that serves as the native plant nursery.

There is limited parking at the site, so the group will meet at 9:30 a.m. and caravan to the project site together from the East Woahink Lake Day Use Area. Register at siuslaw.org.

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