

Is there a witch in your family tree?

Did any of your ancestors live in a location, and during a time, where there were “witch trials” taking place? If so, then there could be some very interesting family history that is just waiting to be uncovered. There is potential that one, or more, of your ancestors were accused of being a witch.

At the Wednesday, Oct. 16, Siuslaw Genealogical Society meeting, members Mary Gill, Sally Daugherty and Karen Childs will share their connections to the “witch hunt.”

Gill said, “In addition to our family connections, we’ll talk about the history of witchcraft, whether you would be considered a witch in 1692, Puritan beliefs and the first witchcraft trial in each of the colonies.”

Between the years 1500 and 1660, up to 80,000 suspected witches were put to death in Europe. Around 80 percent of them were women thought to be in

cahoots with the Devil and filled with lust. Germany had the highest witchcraft execution rate, while Ireland had the lowest.

As witch hysteria decreased in Europe, it grew in the New World, which was reeling from wars between the French and British, a smallpox epidemic and the ongoing fear of attacks from neighboring native American tribes. The tense atmosphere was ripe for finding scapegoats.

The witches of Salem and nearby towns probably have hundreds of thousands of present-day descendants. If you have ancestry from early Essex County, Mass., you have an excellent chance of finding a connection to the Salem Witch Trials of 1692.

Whether your ancestor was actually a practicing witch, or someone accused of or involved with witchcraft or witch hunting, it can add a touch of interest

to your family history.

Of course, we’re not talking about the witches we think of today — the black pointy hat, the warty nose and the ragged broomstick. Most women, and men, who were accused of witchcraft were feared for their nonconformist ways more than anything else. It can still be fun to claim a witch in the family tree.

All are invited to attend this regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St. Maybe you’ll find you’re eligible for membership in the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches.

All are invited to become a member of the Siuslaw Genealogical Society and learn more about uncovering the hidden parts of your family tree. Many resources are free and it’s a great rainy-day activity.

For more information, visit siuslawgenealogy.org.

Rhody Society to highlight conference teachings Tuesday

This month’s program for the Florence Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will be entertaining and educational. Chapter president Mike Bones will repeat a presentation given by Marc Colombel at the 2019 Rhododendron Conference in Parksville, British Columbia.

The presentation will be Tuesday, Oct. 15, at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Colombel is a resident of France and is a member of the Scottish Chapter of the ARS. His interest in propagation by hybrid-



izing, cuttings and grafting is known the world over and he has published more than 200 articles on the subject. His presentations are down to earth and easy to understand.

Colombel has received the Silver Medal from the American Rhododendron Society and was named Knight of the Agricultural Merit.

The community is invited for a night of fun and education.

Unitarians to discuss ‘Power of the Mind’

Tomorrow, Oct. 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Dr. Dean Shrock will share a message titled: “The Power of the Mind.”

Shrock says, “Your mind is more powerful than you can even imagine.”

He will surprise attendees with some science and some uplifting stories about how to harness your mind to create “what some

might call magic,” says Shrock.

The fellowship is located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road. It is wheelchair accessible and each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

Visit the FUUF website at www.florenceuuf.org for more information.

Van Fans to host ‘Fun and Games’ Fundraiser Oct. 16

Get together with friends for a fun day of card games and lunch hosted by the Van Fans on Wednesday, Oct. 16. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch starts at noon.

The event will take place at the Florence Elks Lodge #1858, 1686 12th St. Ticket price, with or without card games, is \$15 per person and includes the luncheon.

There will be raffle prizes and games throughout the day.

The Friends of Florence Van Fans is a nonpolitical organization that sponsors this event twice a year. All proceeds go to support the Cancer Bus.

Tickets are on sale now. Call Sharon at 541-991-3209 or Lynn at 541-902-3254.

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Siuslaw News



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 Website:florence4square.com

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 Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections
 Adult Bible Class, 9:30am on Sundays.
 Sunday Services, 9am and 10:45am.
florencecrossroadag.org • office@florencecrossroadag.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC

1935 25th St. – 997-7660 • Pastor, Ron Allen
 Wednesday 6 p.m., Sun.; 11 am & 6pm, Bible Study 9:45am
 Sharing the Hope and Love of Jesus Christ
 to our community by being Living Proof of a Loving God

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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 Middle School and High School youth groups meet on Wednesday.

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 1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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To be included in this directory contact the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.

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