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Business

My Genealogy Services: Know Where You Come From

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov Photo Sophie Braccini

Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov met at the Contra Costa County Genealogy Society and became friends. When they brainstormed ideas for a new career that would combine flexibility and passion, genealogy quickly emerged. Together they founded My Genealogy Services, where they use their talents and endless patience for research to uncover the layers of data that reveal unique family histories, from the humble to the amazing.

Henderlong's curiosity about the Scottish roots of her paternal grandmother who was born in Washington state in 1898 led her to the field of genealogy. "I became addicted," she

says with a smile. She was able to trace that branch of her ancestry to the Highlands of Scotland in 1770 when her ancestor, Rachel, set sail to the new world at age 17. Along the way, Henderlong, a former attorney, discovered that the research needed to be pulled from various sources like census records, tax records, or the California death index. Patience was paramount to sift through hundreds of records and locate a match.

Yanov, who was a paralegal, studied history in college and had always been curious about her ancestors. She recorded everything her parents and relatives remembered. "I knew the stories (of my grandparents)," she

says, "and in the process of studying their life records, I discovered a whole new branch of my family I did not know." She found out about her great-grandfather's relatives through an Illinois newspaper's obituary that listed his siblings and those siblings' spouses. "It's like detective work," says Yanov. "And you have to be able to think outside of the box." She has since reconnected with this Illinois branch of the family that holds periodic reunions.

Henderlong and Yanov joined forces because they feel they have a similar work ethic and philosophy. "We both wanted to offer services that would be affordable," says Yanov, who knows how prohibitively expensive some genealogy services can be. "We can teach research techniques, we can consult and offer suggestions."

"We can also do all the research for people who are too busy to do it," adds Henderlong.

They note that while the Internet, in general, gives access to a lot of information, it's only the tip of the iceberg — only about 10 percent of available material is online.

"We have a client who did research online and had found that one of her ancestors was connected to the Mayflower immigrants, and she wanted us to do some checking," says Yanov. The two Lafayette ladies discovered that the ancestor of this client was married twice: his first wife had

ancestors on the Mayflower, while the second, who was the direct ancestor of the client, had none. "We searched documents in different libraries, compared it with the Daughters of the American Revolution records, and found the discrepancy," explains Yanov. "Then we looked at the birth and death certificates of the children of the two wives to confirm the true lineage." Everything has to be verified, Yanov adds. "Otherwise it's mythology."

Some of the stories they uncover can be quite fascinating, like one woman who knew that she had Cherokee blood. "We found that she is a direct descendent of the most famous Cherokee woman of all time, Nanyehi, known in English as Nancy Ward, who helped the patriots during the Revolutionary War, and has a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution named after her," explains Henderlong. The client has since applied for a tribal citizenship in the Cherokee nation and has gained admittance into the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Another client's grandfather was a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II. "The man never wanted to talk about it, but (after he passed) we were able to find testimonies and journals of people who were in the camp with him," says Yanov. Other research uncovered another client's "family skeleton" in-

volving a great-grandfather who killed his wife before committing suicide. "Everybody has (skeletons) and everybody has stories," says Yanov. "We go beyond names and dates; we look for these stories."

Sometimes the two virtually travel all over the world to find the roots, in some instances partnering with genealogists in other places. "My mother's ancestry is part Norwegian and in this country they have the farms' histories that date back to the 1600s," says Henderlong. As a result, she was able to connect with her Norwegian side of the family and establish new friendships with distant cousins she has visited and who have visited her.

The two women said that people often start this work as a legacy for their children, or as a gift to their mother or father. Henderlong and Yanov also do research for adopted individuals looking for their birth parents.

For more information, contact them at <http://www.mygenealogy-services.com>. For information about the Contra Costa County Genealogy Society, visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacccgs/.

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

business briefs

I Do DryStyle Lounge - New Hairstyle and Makeup Salon

3587 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette
(925) 299-0087 – idodrystyle.com



A Lamorinda Weekly mystery-shopper went to the salon on May 16 for a senior ball hair styling. The young woman, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "The person who did my hair was very professional and had good insight; I felt very pampered." Photo Sophie Braccini

Renée Pawele and Taylor Cercone opened the new I Do DryStyle salon in Lafayette a few weeks ago. Located in the Mercantile building next to Lavande on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, the salon offers blow-dry, makeup and massage services for all occasions, for one person or for a group in its private lounge.

Barbacoa and Table 24 Change Chefs

2 Orinda Theatre Square, Orinda
Barbacoa (925) 254-1183 – barbacoaorinda.com
Table 24 (925) 254-0124 – www.table24orinda.com
Mexican restaurant Barbacoa in Orinda's Theatre Square recently hired a new Peruvian executive chef, Remberto Garcia. The new chef is a veteran cook in this country with more than 20 years of experience at San Francisco's Fleur de Lys. "I do not want to change the dishes that are offered here 100 percent," he says. "I want to make what

we offer more flavorful." The chef uses spices and herbs to concentrate the flavors, without giving the dishes too much heat, and utilizes various techniques to create different textures and flavors in the food. Little by little he will introduce novelties for patrons to discover, without sacrificing the favorites. He will be also adding new desserts. Among the new dishes are the tuna taco with seared Ahi tuna and caramelized pearl onions, a quinoa green citrus salad with roasted pistachios, carne asada rolled tacos with house-made jalapeno sauce and roasted beet salad, and he is planning to add a ceviche a la Veracruzana. Table 24 also welcomed a new executive chef, Jonathan William, a Bostonian who brought with him a New England clam chowder and Maine lobster rolls that he added to the menu. William is continuing Table 24's tradition of offering seasonal, fresh and flavorful dishes for the whole family.

Moraga Loses One Restaurant, Gains Another Graze to Replace Shish Kabab Show in the Rheem Center

376 Park Street, Moraga
The Mediterranean bar and grill, Shish Kabob Show, closed and will be replaced by Graze — a "fresh salads, house-made focaccia, soups and braised entrees" restaurant. According to the father of the owner, the restaurant should open the beginning of June.

Jim Colhoun Receives Honors

BHG Mason-McDuffie bestowed Jim Colhoun with two awards during its annual awards event in San Francisco April 17. Colhoun received the Legacy Award, which goes to an outstanding agent that has been with the company for a number of years and has qualities that are reflective of the best that the or-



Jim Colhoun Photo provided

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

ganization has to offer. Colhoun's 2014 sales production also earned him a place among BHG's Top Ten, a ranking encompassing 30 offices and 900-plus agents throughout Northern California. He is a Certified Fine Homes Specialist and a Relocation Specialist who has achieved more than \$500 million in sales during his career. For more information on buying and selling real estate contact Colhoun at (925) 200-2795.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce: Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at the new location of Behymer & Steel Chiropractic at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 1043 Stuart Street, Suite 100.

Ribbon Cutting for Red Carpet Flooring at 5 p.m. Thursday May 28, 3561 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

May Mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday May 27 at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. suite B110.

Save the date for the first Rock the Plaza concert with The 925 Band from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 5 at the intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. No cost — just bring a picnic meal and enjoy.

Moraga

Save the date for the next chamber mixer at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 26 starting in the lobby of the Moraga Executive Plaza at 346 Rheem Blvd., Moraga. Non-chamber members invited, too.

Orinda

Ribbon Cutting for Parker Thatch at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 19-D Orinda Way.