



The Campaign for Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Santa Barbara, California

June 2009

A Santa Barbara Treasure

Yes, that's how KEYT described our Sahyun Library several years ago when they included us in a series by that title.

So who benefits from the Sahyun Library?

Do you think of the Sahyun as primarily a research library for members of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society? Certainly, the current majority of our users do belong to the Society. However, as our presence becomes better known, we find more members of the general community coming through our doors. When the Santa Barbara Public Library offered us their entire genealogy holdings a few years ago, they said that "since we send everyone to you for family history research, you might as well have these books." What a wonderful collaboration—each helping the other to do what we do best. We were honored! And, we love being a resource for the entire community.

But, we have also become a "Destination Library!" We've had researchers arrive by train from Southern California, as well as a regular stream of researchers from other states.

Various groups from out of the area also come to research at

the Sahyun. A genealogy class from Thousand Oaks brings 25-30 students yearly to take advantage of our collection. The British Isles Family History Society-USA (BIFHS-USA) has just made an arrangement with us to hold their September meeting at the Sahyun in order that their members can explore our substantial resources for British Isles research.

Other genealogical organizations have also held meetings at the Sahyun because they know the lure of a good research facility is likely to increase attendance at their meeting. The Board of the California State Genealogical Alliance has twice taken advantage of this opportunity and last October the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists met at the Sahyun. Some members of this latter group came a day early and stayed a day later in order to do more research.

So why do we need this campaign to raise funds for a new addition to our library?

Through the generous gift from the Sahyun Family and the careful stewardship of our Society, we have created a wonderful library that benefits a wide-ranging community! It's

interesting to note that in this challenging economic time, we have more students enrolling in the Adult Education Genealogy Classes (co-sponsored by SB-CGS) than ever before. There is a deep NEED in people to know about their roots and this is how we can give back to the community.

Our beautiful library is OUT OF SPACE and the few spaces you see on the shelves now are there because less frequently used books have been placed in storage to make room for new and exciting resources.

We are excited to have raised 57% of the Construction Costs and NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP to complete that goal of \$920,000. There are a number of ways that donations can be made—pledges over a 3-year period, gifts of stock (must be made directly from your brokerage account to our Society brokerage account—call Jan Cloud [965-7423] for instructions), etc. Remember, also, that those at least 70 1/2 years of age can make a gift directly from your IRA account to the Campaign tax free.

Thanks for your help,

Jan & Michol
Campaign Co-Chairs

