



## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is March 21, 2025

Presentation is: Researching Ancestral History for My Historical Fiction  
Novel by Julia Park Tracey



Julia will talk about her mysterious adopted great-grandfather and her search for who he really was. Her findings led to her writing the novel, *The Bereaved*, about a Civil War widow (her 3rd great grandmother) trying to find her children after they'd been taken away on the Orphan Trains. Further research after that led her to write her latest novel, *Silence*, about a Puritan widow who is punished with a year of silence for speaking her anguish aloud, based on her 7th great grandmother. She is at work on another novel about other ancestors, this time in Virginia right before the Revolution of 1776, when Quakers and enslavers butted heads.

Julia Park Tracey is an award-winning author, journalist, and poet. Her affinity for family history led her to several foremothers whose stories begged to be told. *The Bereaved* tells of her third great-grandmother Martha, a poor widow, and the choices she made to survive with four hungry children as the Civil War erupted around her.

Julia was selected as Poet Laureate for the city of Alameda, California, and served from 2014 to 2017. Her short fiction and poetry have been anthologized and published in print and online in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan.

Julia's work has appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, Huffington Post, Salon, Redbook, and Good Housekeeping. She has been recognized by the California Newspaper Publishers Association for her editing and writing.

Julia currently lives in Grass Valley

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The **Genealogy Group** will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. They meet at the LDS Family History Center (3275 Cedar Ravine Rd, Placerville) on **the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** of each month 1-3 p.m.

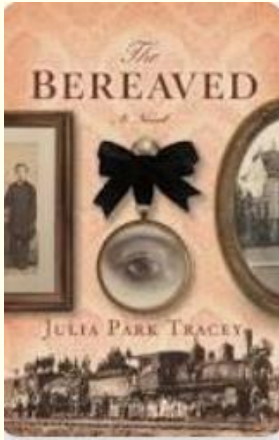
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## The Book Group meets on March 13<sup>th</sup>

They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Placerville Main library  
(345 Fair Lane, Placerville) from 1-3 PM

*The Bereaved* by Julia Park Tracey

March Book



Based on the author's research into her grandfather's past as an adopted child, and the surprising discovery of his family of origin and how he came to be adopted, Julia Park Tracey has created a mesmerizing work of historical fiction illuminating the darkest side of the Orphan Train.

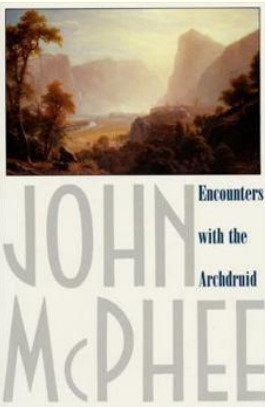
In 1859, women had few rights, even to their own children. When her husband dies and her children become wards of a predator, Martha bereaved and scared flees their beloved country home taking the children with her to the squalor of New York City. She manages to find them shelter in a tenement packed with other down-on-their-luck families and then endeavors to find work as a seamstress.

A naive woman alone, preyed on by male employers, she soon finds herself nearly destitute. Her children are hungry, with no coal for their fire. Illness lays them low and Martha begins to lose hope.

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*Encounters with the Archdruid* by John McPhee

April Book



*Encounters with the Archdruid* by John McPhee chronicles the ideological clashes between prominent environmentalist David Brower, often called the "archdruid," and three individuals representing resource exploitation: a geologist, a resort developer, and a dam builder, through a series of encounters in various wilderness settings, highlighting the tensions between conservation and development in the American landscape.

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<b>Sierra Renaissance Society of El Dorado County Calendar</b>		
<b>2025 Dates</b>	<b>Presentation Subject</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>January No Meeting</b>	No Presentation	
March 21, 2025	Researching Ancestral History for My Historical Fiction Novel, <i>The Bereaved</i>	Julia ParkTracey
April 18, 2025	From There to Here, the Role of the El Dorado Community Foundation	Bill Roby, Amy Pooley
May 16, 2025	How To Get More Out Of Art and Life!	Deborah Pond-Hinde
June 20, 2025	Travels to Bhutan, Nepal & India	Steve and Dickson Schwarzbach
July 18, 2025	Ice Cream Social	
August 15, 2025	American Inspirations: Where Music and Art Meet	Keith Atwater
September 19, 2025	The History of ARC's Wakamatsu Farm	Melissa Lobach
October 17, 2025	The Future of Healthcare in Western El Dorado County	Mindy Danovaro et al
November 21, 2025	Veteran Panel Discussion	Dick Morris & Panel
<b>December No Meeting</b>	No Presentation	
<b>All meetings will be held at the Mother Lode Lions Hall 4701 Missouri Flat Rd. Diamond Springs 1-3 PM</b>		

**For those who have yet not paid your dues for 2025, they are due.**

It's **Renewal Time** for 2025. If you haven't renewed already, you have three options:

- Pay by check or cash at the March meeting,
- Send a check to EDCF, PO Box 1388, Placerville, Ca. 95667. Please, make check payable to EDCF and put Sierra Renaissance Society on the memo line,
- Or go to the EDCF website and pay by credit card. The URL is listed below.

The dues remain at \$20 for the year and we thank you for your support.

Link  [Renew your membership online](#)

## What's Happening this Month

**Tuesday**  
March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Genealogy Group** meets 1-3 PM  
Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family Center  
3275 Cedar Ravine Rd. Placerville

**Thursday**  
March 13<sup>th</sup>

**Book Group** meets 1-3 PM  
Placerville Main Library  
345 Fair Lane, Placerville

**Friday**  
March 21<sup>st</sup>

**Monthly meeting** Researching Ancestral History for My  
Historical Fiction Novel, ***The Bereaved***  
by Julia Park Tracey  
4701 Missouri Flat Rd. Diamond Springs  
Mother Lode Lions Hall 1-3PM

**Tuesday**  
April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Genealogy Group** meets 1-3 PM  
Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family Center  
3275 Cedar Ravine Rd. Placerville

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Link to You Tube videos of previous presentations:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sierrarenaissancesociety6812>

A PDF of the newsletter can be found on the SRSedc.com website  
at the link below:

[Newsletter in PDF link](#)