



Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

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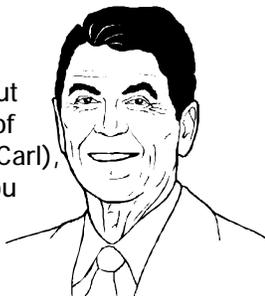
Next Editor, Jim Munroe
Phone: 563-2973
email: jsmspin@cox.net

Our Star Spangled Banner. Kudos to Mr. Harold Englund. Have you fellow voice-challenged gentlemen noticed that our National Anthem has been more singable lately? Mr. Englund has oooched the key down from (some other key) to g. Many of us can now get through the entire song without needing to shift octaves more than once or twice.



Next Meeting, Jan 17

January 17: Lou Cannon will speak about Reagan's Disciple, which is also the title of his new book (co-authored with his son, Carl), to be released in February, 2008. Both Lou and Carl are authors of numerous books and former (Lou, San Jose Mercury News and the Washington Post) or active reporters on the presidency and the national scene. Lou's talk will highlight Ronald Reagan's agenda and legacy in the G. W. Bush era and look as well at other recent presidencies. This is Lou's fifth book on Ronald Reagan, considered by many to have been an extraordinary leader. Introduction by Charles Chester.



Future Programs:

February 7, Cynthia Kaplan will speak on "Elections and Democracy: Putin's Russia" Dr. Kaplan is a member of UCSB's Political Science Department and an expert on the politics of the former Soviet Union and its ethnic politics. She acquired this expertise in part as a result of having visited these countries over 60 times with research residencies in Russia, Tatarstan and Estonia. She has participated in the International Research and Exchanges Board's scholars programs four times. She has served as the director of the UC – Systemwide Study Center in Moscow. As you may be appreciating, her credentials and intimate participation in political research and public



communication in this vital political arena are difficult to summarize in this invitation. Be sure not to miss this timely presentation. Introduction by George Handler.

February 21, Juan Campo will speak on "Crisis in Pakistan: Politics, Religion and the Prospects for Democracy". Dr. Campo holds a BA degree from USC and an MA and PhD from the University of Chicago in Religious History. He specializes in comparative studies of Islam. He has lived abroad and studied in Egypt, India, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. His talk will cover how Islamic Radicalism and US Foreign policy have combined to undermine Pakistan's political stability. He will provide some guidelines for understanding the current crisis in Pakistan and the rise of suicide bombings by the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Introduction by Arlie Skov.



Clearly, your committee is working on many future programs. And your suggestions to Chairs Bob Hankins or Dave Kain will assure the continuing quality so vital to our organization.

Wine Drawings. Our winners were: Robin Durkee who made off with the Summerland Cabernet Sauvignon, and John Bracken, who copped the Summerland Sauvignon Blanc.



Mr. Sherman Condin, who shall now and henceforever be known as Squire Condin, has taken stock of his liquor cabinet and petitioned the Chair to accept a donation of "a number of bottles of liquor" to be included in our luncheon drawings. Our wise leader has seen fit to accept his offer. (Clearly, Mr. Kruse is mindful of the potential reaction to any other response. Such words as . . . impeachment, effigy, banishment to Coventry come to mind.) Good call Mr. Pres. So come earlier folks as seats may be less available at future luncheons. You may wish to consult the S.A.G.E. group on the soundness of purchasing an extra luncheon/drawing ticket.



Welcome Our Guests

Kent Cullen's son Paul came all the way from Dallas to visit.

Roster updates. Don Chalfant announces that printed copies of Roster Supplements and Corrections can be found in this mailed Crackers. These will be suitable for cutting out and pasting onto the blank pages of our rosters, beginning with page 77. (Back there right after Bob Zuckerman.)

Regular Events:

Bridge winners for Jan 3 (four tables)

Howard Glenn	4450
Hal Thompson	4240
Pres Gould	3640



Join us for not too serious bridge after lunch Jan 17. We play until 3:30. Contact Pres Gould at 963-6568 or pwgould@cox.net

Regular Events:

Cosmo Computer Society. If you probably missed the January meeting held on Tuesday the 15th, February's will be Feb. 19 (sure enough, the 3rd Tuesday.) No program details were available at press time.



Golf:

Weekly on Mondays: At Twin Lakes, 9:00 A.M. (Tues. on Monday holidays). \$9.00 for 9 holes (par 29); have fun improving your short game. Easy walking, flat course, open to all Cosmo members.



Weekly on Wednesdays: At Ocean Meadows, 8:30 A.M. \$14.00 for 9 holes (par 36) with play card. Improve your long shots. Open to all Cosmo members.

Chair Lynn Garten, 969-2466, garten_sba@msn.com

Rancho San Marcos, February 13th. 11:00 A.M shotgun start, maximum of 24 players. Fee of \$60 includes greens fee, cart, warm up range balls and Box Lunch. Contact Golf Chairman, Lynn Garten, 969-2466

Tennis:

The Cosmo Tennis Group plays doubles twice a week, and all tennis players are invited. We play at a private court in Shadow Hills starting at 8 A.M., Mondays and Thursdays. Bruce Long, 692-4072 or Walter Mead, 682-3045.



The Lobero Theatre: **Stand By List** Several weeks ago we were down to the last two seats for this March 8 Opera Gala. Contact Frank Umanzio or Angelo Crippa for status of cancellations or wait list. Cost \$113 per person.

Trip to Getty Villa: Monday, February 25th.

Once again, arrangements have been made for a bus trip to the lovely Getty Villa in Malibu. The bus will depart from the Elks Club at 9 A.M., and will return at approximately 5 P.M. Members, spouses and friends are invited. We have room for 45 intrepid "culture vultures". Cost for the excursion is \$27 per person, and includes the cost of the bus and copious refreshments.



Checks should be made payable to the Cosmopolitan Club. There are a number of restaurants and food stands at the Villa. Sign ups started at the Dec. 20th meeting, and will continue in January. Checks may be mailed to Bob Zimels, 21 S. Alisos St (Unit #2), Santa Barbara, 93103-3466.

In Memoriam.

We mourn the passing of Charles Parkay. Charles has been a vital member of Cosmo since 1991 and is sorely missed. We offer condolences to his wife Elaine.

Last Meeting: Noah's Ark



Mr. Aaron is a World-Class helicopter pilot. As Richard Kennelly's question and his NASA affiliation bring out, it takes a lot of skill, training and commitment to acquire such helicopter expertise. And, his energetic preoccupation with exploring Mt. Ararat and dissecting a myth that has lasted hundreds of years provides a subject of potential interest to many.

The Bible provides lots of myths.

- And they all broke the silence with such a loud shout that the walls (of Jericho) came tumbling down.
- But she looked back at Sodom (or was it Gomorrah). Anyway. For this forbidden peek, she was turned into a pillar of salt.
- And when the people of Israel reached the other side of the Red Sea, the parted seas became unparted. The Bad Egyptians all drowned.

- And as the Chumash were walking over the Rainbow Bridge to Santa Cruz Island, some slipped off. But God recognized that they were worthy, so rather than allowing them to perish, he changed them into dolphins. And that is why we have dolphins.
- God was not pleased with the folks. So he told Noah to build an Ark. Then after the Ark was finished, The Lord said. Mr. Noah, in a week, I am going to bring 40 days and 40 nights of rain. And the flood will kill all of the unworthy people, all of the animals (and all the plants except edible lilies) not collected into your Ark. Now the lord well knew that Noah was 600 years, two months and ten days old at the time. But apparently, he was a youthful 600. So he said, you best hurry it up Noah. Because after the Ark is finished, you will have a week to select a male and female of all of the animals of the world *my underlines* and to lead them into stalls in your Ark so that they will not drown. Oh, and make sure that you also gather enough provisions to feed all of these passengers for the duration. And sure enough, the floods came and covered the highest peaks of the world, plus 22 feet (*I guess to make sure that the unselected giraffes didn't escape?*) And that will leave you the rest of the week to gather provisions for a voyage of 481 days, (plus an extra 8 weeks for things to dry out after the waters subside.) *Then, I presume that after things were "dried out" it took another season for planting, growing and harvesting, or else they survived on a diet provided by the lilies and the "extra" animals brought along. A tad more fodder needed there.*

How do we know all of these facts? Why because the bible "tells" us all about it.

Well, actually, that next-to-last tale didn't come from the Bible. It "only" came from lore handed down orally from ancient Chumash. But these ancient Chumash didn't have a written language with which to record their lore. But the Chumash decendants keep the story alive.

Clearly, these 'Biblical proofs' are not literally valid. Any *truths* that we find in these tales must be found in the symbolism employed by those anonymous authors. And clearly, symbolic interpretations of the written word of anonymous authors can be subjective; some would even say, argumentative.

So are there any serious scholars who would devote their time, talents and resources to trying to find Noah's Ark, or the link between Chumash and dolphins? *I ask rhetorically*

Better, and more satisfying to prove that you can land and take off in a state of the art helicopter at altitudes impossible to hover in or indeed to stay aloft in at speeds less than 20 mph.

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OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.
P. O. Box 3993
Santa Barbara, CA 93130



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