

Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol. LVI No.04


Editor: Hank Macchio

Access the Cosmo website
<http://sbcosmo.com>
for current and archived issues of
Crackers and special events
information

DRESS CODE

Summer dress code in effect through end September. Our Sep.17th meeting will be HAWAIIAN SHIRT DAY.



<i>Crackers Editor</i>	Next Meeting: September 03, 2009
	Next Editor: Jim Munroe
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Dues are Past Due

Make your check for \$60 payable to Cosmopolitan Club. Hand deliver it to Treasurer David Kain, or mail it to Cosmo Club, PO Box 3993, S.B. CA 93130.
Dues delinquencies will be dealt with after October 1st.
(A visit from Guido?)

Lost & Found at our July 4th Picnic

(1) A Nature Conservancy canvas bag with a garage door opener inside.
(2) A pair of light purple plaid fabric place mats.
Contact Bob Zimels at (805)-962-3211 or zsloth@cox.net to retrieve your items.

SAVE THE DATE

COSMO Christmas Dance –



December 8, 2009 at the La Cumbre Country Club.

SEPTEMBER 3RD PROGRAM:

Dr. Robert Reid "Healthcare Reform: They're Shooting with Real Bullets This Time"

Dr. Reid has held the position of Director of Medical Affairs of the Cottage Health System for 14 years.. Prior to joining the Cottage hospital system, he

practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Santa Barbara for 24 years, delivering over 5,000 babies. In 1998 he served as the president of the California Medical Association, representing over 35,000 physicians in the State. He has served as president of the County Medical Society and served as Chief of Staff of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital in 1991-92. He is in the process of retiring from the Cottage Health System.

Dr. Reid received his BA in English Literature at the University of Colorado in 1961 and his Medical Degree and post-graduate training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the same institution. He served as a Captain in the medical corps at Vandenberg Air Force Base from 1966 to 68.

Future Programs:

September 17
Alan Heeger "Solar Cell Production"

October 1
Ted Tedesco "Aspen Institute in Santa Barbara?"

October 15
Dan O'Dowd "Computer Security"



Wine Drawing

John Mackenzie scored a 2006 Malbec donated anonymously, and Bob Cook won a bottle of Sid Ackert's 2007 Chardonnay.



Welcome Our Guests

Doug McCartney hosted by Ben Walsh.

Proposed for Membership

Steven M. Morgan, PhD, 1524 Olive St., #1, S.B. 93101. (805) 637-1322; smmphd@cox.net

Born in the Bronx on June 15th, Steven's PhD is in Psychology. During Steven's 30 year career he worked in the California State Hospital system and retired as Clinical Psychologist at the Santa Barbara Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health facility. He is a member of the American College of Forensic Examiners [ACFE]. Steven has lived in Santa Barbara for 15 years and enjoys Golf, Fishing, Horseback Riding and Bridge.

His sponsor is Ron Singer.

Regular Events

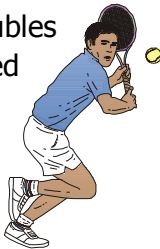
Bridge - Winners on August 20th

David Kain	4920 Points
Mac McMillen	4000 Points
Ed Loper	3290 Points



Join us for FUN Bridge upstairs after all regular meetings, and play party bridge until 3:30 PM. Contact Pres Gould at (805) 964-6568 or pwgould@cox.net.

Tennis - The COSMO tennis group play doubles twice a week, and all tennis players are invited to join us. We play at a private court in Shadow Hills starting at 8 AM Mondays and Thursdays. Contact Bruce Long, (805) 692-4072, or bruce93103@cox.net, or Walter Mead at (805) 682-3045.



COSMO Computer Society - Meets monthly upstairs at the Elks Club on the third Tuesday. Discussion starts at 10:00 AM. The feature presentation starts at 10:30 AM, concluding with a no-host fellowship



luncheon in the Elks Grill. All COSMO members are welcome. Jim Stubchaer & Bob Gerity: Program Co-Chairs; Howard Glenn: Chair, (805) 967-2633 or hbglen@cox.net.

S. A. G. E. Investment Group - Meets at 10 AM on the first Tuesday of each month at the Elks Club on the 2nd floor, followed by a no-host lunch in the grill downstairs. S. A. G. E. does not select or buy stocks. Dick Evans, Chairman (805) 967-6930 or dickevans@mac.com.

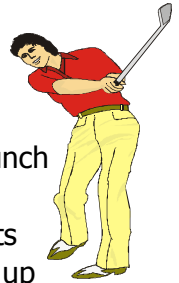


Golf - Thanks to Marty Tucker and Lynn Garten for directing and arranging the Aug 12th COSMO Golf Tournament at Montecito Country Club.

Next Golf Tournaments

Glen Annie: Tuesday, September 15th

Cost \$55 includes Greens Fee, Cart and Lunch at the Frog Grill. Tee off at 12:45 PM. A Scramble Format will be used. Arrangements made by Bill Montag and Harv Turner. Sign up at our next meeting or contact Ron Singer (805) 684-4044 or RSinger916@aol.com.



Montecito Country Club: Wednesday November 11th, (probably our final opportunity for at least some time since course is scheduled for reconstruction) – Details will follow.

Weekly

Mondays at Santa Barbara Golf Club (Muni). Tee times from 9:30 AM. to 11:00 AM. Regular senior rate is \$25 for 18 holes, not including cart.

Contact **Ron Singer** (805) 684-1355, rsinger916@aol.com

by Friday before the Monday to secure your tee time.

Mondays at Twin Lakes (Par 29) - For those who want to work on their short game, each Monday at 9:00 AM.

Wednesdays at Ocean Meadows (Par 36) - For those who want to work on their long-ball skills. Tee off for an easy nine holes on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM

Fridays at a variety of nearby courses - Contact Ron Singer to get on the e-mail list and you will be notified of the location of the next "Floating Golf Game". Recent venues have included La Purisma, Glen Annie, Soule Park, and Rancho San Marcos.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Opera Santa Barbara – Friday Oct 2nd – World Premiere of *Séance on a Wet Afternoon* at the Granada at 7:30 PM. Pre-opera dinner at Café Buenos Aires at 5:45 PM.

Opera Santa Barbara commissioned award winning composer Steven Schwartz to write the opera, *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, based on a book and movie by the same name. Schwartz won awards for *Pippin*, *Godspell*, *Wicked* and many other Broadway successes, but we will be attending his first opera. Total cost, including tickets, dinner, wine, tips and taxes is \$112.50 per person. Dinner options include Beef, Seafood, Chicken or vegetarian main courses. Contact Fred Sidon at (805) 967-6757 or frsidon@impulse.net to make your reservations and select your dinner choice. Seating limited - First come, First served -- so hurry.

The Special Events Committee NEEDS YOUR INPUT on desired Special Events for the 2009 – 2010 year. What would you participate in, if offered? It could be a repeat of an event that you missed before or something that the club has yet to try.

Share your ideas with Thore Edgren, at (805) 967-4001 or theman3@cox.net .

Last Meeting:

Steve Cushman "The Santa Barbara Economy"

Bob Hankins introduced Steve Cushman.

For the last 20 years, Steve has served as President of the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce. He earned his BA from UCSB and has completed graduate course work in Public Administration at San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego. Steve's past positions include: Professional Baseball Player, California Angels Director of Athletics, City of San Diego Director, San Diego Marathon Development Director, San Diego Heart Association Executive Director, San Diego State Athletic Foundation Associate Director, Southwest Museum Executive Director, and Santa Barbara Downtown Organization Executive Director.

Although Steve had just announced his candidacy for the post of Mayor of Santa Barbara, he scrupulously adhered to the COSMO bylaws of: No discussions on Race, Religion or Politics.

Once his light-hearted introduction was over, Steve regaled the COSMO audience with a blizzard of facts and metrics to describe the City of Santa Barbara and to characterize the current state of the local economy. Following are an assortment of the "takeaways" from Steve's presentation:

- There are 405 ground floor stores on State Street from the Beach to Victoria St.. During the peak of the 1991 recession, 47 storefronts were vacant. Three months ago, there were 37 vacancies. Today 18 storefronts are vacant. Rent reductions on vacant properties — commercial rents are 30% off of their peak — have stimulated new business openings.
- Santa Barbara officially is 21 mi² in area with 19 mi² of water. Huh, where's all the water? Well, it seems that to capture the Airport as part of the City of Santa Barbara, the beach front and a channel connecting the City to the Airport was incorporated into the city limits. Now, that's government creativity at its best.
- There are about 9M visitors to Santa Barbara annually – about 35,000 visitors per day who spend at least four hours in the City. Visitors want to Shop, see the Beach, see something cultural, and eat Mexican food in that order. Visitors contribute about \$1 Bn to the Santa Barbara economy each year – that's about 50% of the City's budget. The limiting factor to tourism is likely to be a shortage of adequate Parking spaces.
- Retail sales are off about 10%; spending by visitors is down about 10%; and restaurant/hotel revenues are off about 15%. The net is a 20% drop in Occupancy Taxes and about a 10% to 15% drop in Sales Tax revenue. All-in-all, Santa Barbara will be seriously in the Red unless spending is curtailed. *Since cutting spending is not likely, Santa Barbara is waiting for the "Tooth Fairy". (Editor's comment, not attributed to Steve.)*
- Commercial Real Estate sales are way down from an average of 60 transactions per year in a normal year, with only 12 transactions in 2009 through August.
- Airport traffic is down 15% from its peak.
- Residential Real Estate prices have declined at least 30% from their peak – similar to what happened during the 1991 recession. Steve thinks that it will take two more years for this

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- market to recover.
- Unemployment in the City is about 6% vs. 8% for the County. Partially as a result, the Homeless population is up 15% compared to pre-recession levels.
 - There are 10,000 businesses in Santa Barbara — about 63% have zero employees. The economy creates about 2,000 new jobs each year, and UCSB graduates about 1,000 highly skilled people each year. The challenge is to keep these new graduates in Santa Barbara. No surprise, affordable housing is just not available for the new grads, and traffic jams from/to Ventura make the commute untenable.
 - Some Good News – Cottage Hospital's \$800M rebuild is on track; Freeway widening is about to become a reality; and construction is surging caused by rebuilds after the tragedies of the Gap, Tea and Jesusita fires.

There are copious examples of Santa Barbara's "let's make growth and change almost impossible" attitude coupled with the stagnating financing realities of the current recession – Fess Parker's newest hole-in-the-ground; the Miramar Hotel fiasco; El Encanto re-build

stalled; a \$140M project about to start over; etc. Nonetheless, Steve was confident that Santa Barbara will emerge more-or-less unscathed from the present recession. The City has beauty, a world-class university and a vibrant downtown. The Gross economy will grow; however, the population is unlikely to grow beyond its historical rate of 1% per year.

The short Q&A after Steve's presentation dealt with varied topics such as Santa Barbara's "Gray Panther" population, Gang Violence and the Homeless problems in the City. True to his initial commitment, Steve steered clear of politically laced answers, except to state the obvious that Santa Barbara today is the product of 20 years of Liberal governments.



Steve Cushman