

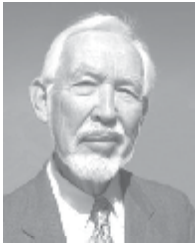


Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXI No.15

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Crackers Editor

Next Meeting: **Feb 18, 2016**

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for current and archived issues of CRACKERS

Cosmo Members Ailing

If you learn of one our members suffering from illness or injury, please notify Curt Whiteman, Memorial & Visitation Chair, 220-6833, whiteman@westmont.edu.

President Ron Stancer announced the death of Ed Vernon based on a report by Pete Kruse. A memorial service is as yet unscheduled. More information will follow upon receipt.

Dress Code

Jackets are the required dress code during El Niño season

Meeting Staff

Ticket Sellers: Bob Thompson & Ben Chambers

Invocation: Dan Herlinger

Audio-Visual: Bob Weber, Bill Alexander,

Jack Petterson & Orlando Ramirez

Sergeant-at-Arms: Steve Shaeffer

Punchbowl Host: Jerry Floyd

Photographer: Ron White

Time of Meetings 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

NEXT MEETING

February 18, 2016

Greg Spencer

"Quieter Virtues for a Noisier World" (photo)



Professor Spencer will discuss the importance of developing virtues that shape our lives and relationships. In his book, *Awakening the Quieter Virtues*, Spencer devotes chapters to overlooked qualities such as innocence, authenticity, contentment and generosity. He believes these quieter virtues get shouted down by our noisy, media-saturated culture.

Greg Spencer holds a BS degree in Speech Communication from Cal Poly, SLO and a Masters and PhD in Rhetoric and Communication from University of Oregon. He has been a professor of Communication Studies at Westmont College for 28 years. He has published two novels, *The Welkening* and *Guardian of the Veil*, two works of non-fiction, *A Heart for Truth* and *Awakening the Quieter Virtues*, as well as essays and poems. He loves family, gardening and tennis. Dwight Coffin will introduce Professor Spencer.

March 3, 2016

Brooks Firestone

Direction of Country and Politics



Dr. Charles Greene will introduce Brooks Firestone, a business/family/political man who is trying to grow old gracefully.

Brooks is known as an innovator and respected leader in the wine industry. Los Angeles Times Magazine said Brooks is the man who finally put Southern California on the world wine map. He served two terms (1994-1998) as a member of the California Assembly representing the 35th District, which stretches from the northern end of the Santa Ynez Valley (Los Alamos) to include all of the cities of Ventura, Ojai and Santa Paula in Ventura County. He served one term (2002-2004) as a Santa Barbara County Supervisor. Brooks Firestone is retired from elective politics and

pursues his favorite hobbies of landscaping, choral singing, writing and enjoying his fourteen grandchildren. He does follow public affairs and participates by writing editorials and helping good candidates. He is not happy with the current situation.

April 7, 2016

Dr. Denise Montell

Near Death Experiences At The Cellular Level



Jim Davis will introduce Dr. Montell, the Duggan Professor of Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology at UCSB. Professor Montell’s laboratory studies the formation, maintenance and rejuvenation of normal adult tissues. A crucial feature of tissue homeostasis is maintaining the proper balance of cell survival and death. In order to eliminate abnormal or dangerous cells, organisms have evolved cell suicide mechanisms, most famously the form of programmed cell death known as apoptosis. However excess cell death can cause degenerative diseases, so cell survival is critical too. We have discovered that cells that have progressed far along the apoptotic pathway, past previously points of no return, can actively reverse the process and survive. This process, which we have named anastasis (Greek for “rising to life”), has implications for cancer, degenerative disease, and regenerative medicine.

WINE DRAWING:

Bob Zimels conducted the wine drawing.



John Jezek took home a bottle of 2014 Eberle Vinyard’s Viognier and Vern Hannah won a bottle of 2012 Mettler Family Winery 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon.

NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

President Stancer announced a program, effective immediately, to encourage the recruitment of new members.

The Club will provide a free lunch for a first-time guest. If he submits a new member application within one week of his first guest visit, his sponsor will receive a free lunch. If he is ultimately inducted into membership, both he and his sponsor will receive a free lunch at the meeting when he is inducted. The sponsor must present a free lunch voucher, signed by the President, to the ticket sellers. Vouchers can be obtained either from the President or the Sergeant-at-Arms, and membership applications can be downloaded from the Club’s website.

The incentive program will continue through our regular meeting on May 17, 2016

REGULAR EVENTS

DISCUSSION GROUP

Under the leadership of Jim Davis, members of Cosmo meet to discuss areas of mutual interest after the second regular monthly Cosmo meeting.

The topic of discussion for the February 18th meeting of the Discussion Group is:

HOW MUCH PRIVACY AND FREEDOM WOULD YOU GIVE UP TO ENHANCE INTERNAL SECURITY FOR AMERICA? This discussion will be led by Kevin Ryan.

Other topics that Jim Davis has prepared for future discussions:

“Is There a Scientific Method?” *History and Status*

“Social Movements and Belief Systems”

Jim asks those interested to suggest other topics for future meetings.

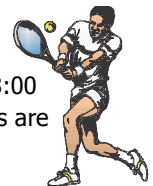
BRIDGE

Join us for FUN Bridge upstairs at the Elks Club after all regular meetings; we play until 3:30 pm. Chair Ed Loper, 967-8630, oliveloper@cox.net.



TENNIS

The tennis group plays doubles twice a week on a private court in Shadow Hills starting at 8:00 am Mondays and Thursdays. All tennis players are invited to participate. Contact Bruce Long at (805) 692-4072 or bruce93103@cox.net.



GOLF

Golf Chairman Ron Singer reported the website cosmogolfclubsb is up and running and encouraged new members to use it to register for the new Independant Golf Club and for additional news. Go to the “Events” page and take the one-question survey we are using to gauge interest in the proposed overnight outing. If you haven’t renewed your 2016 club membership, go to the “Home” page for information.



Mondays, we usually meet at the Santa Barbara Golf Club, (Muni). Tee times range between 9:30 am and 11:00 am, most often beginning at 10:15. Regular walking senior rate is \$26 for 18 holes.

Contact Ron Singer (805) 684-1355 or rsinger916@aol.com by the prior Friday for your tee time. These outings are a great way to gain new members, so invite your friends.

We also have additional games at various courses. Contact Ron Singer to get on the e-mail notification list for the Floating Golf Game Circuit. Wandering Wednesday and Floating Friday locations will include courses throughout the tri-county area. A. B. Clarke, Stephen Stonefield and Stan Clothier select the floating golf game sites.

Cosmopolitan Club of Santa Barbara is having its annual Out-of-Town Golf Trip March 13 - 16, 2016.

The Westin Lake Las Vegas Hotel is a five-star property. Rooms are spectacular. Two golfers per suite (double occupancy). Includes three nights lodging, regular breakfast each morning and complimentary shuttle service to Las Vegas Strip.

Three Golf Games: Dragon Ridge Country Club, Reflection Bay Golf Club, and South Shore Golf Club. Regular guest prices for these three courses would be nearly \$900. Ron Singer has negotiated a price of \$548.60 per golfer, double occupancy. To share the room with a non-golfing friend, add only another \$157. There will be several wives/sweethearts making this trip.

This event has sold out. Call Ron Singer to be added to the waiting list.

Senior Legal Issues Seminar

Peter Kruse

The first follow up seminar on Estate Planning issues was held on February 4 after the Cosmo meeting in the upstairs meeting room and was attended by 20 interested Cosmo members. An outline of Estate Planning issues was distributed and the members raised a series of personal experiences in their own estate planning, including: the pitfalls and benefits of full family disclosure, the attempt of in-laws to become involved in the distribution of your estate, and the existence of the so called "double step up" for community property assets. There will be three more seminars, one after the first Cosmo meeting of March, April and May in the upstairs meeting room. All interested members are invited. Call Pete Kruse with any questions at 805-338-4233 or email at sbpete8@gmail.com.



SPECIAL EVENTS

February 23, Tuesday

~~March 3, Tuesday~~, Warner Bros. Studio Tour

For the first time, Cosmo members will tour and explore the 110 acres backlot of **Warner Bros. Studios**. From screenwriting and casting to audio mixing and the glory of an award season, we will enjoy a truly immersive look at how the magic of Hollywood is made.

The bus is scheduled to depart the Elks Club at 9 am, with the tour beginning at 11 am by tram. Following the tour we will lunch around 2 pm before departing for home. Lunch is at member's expense. This event is sold out. Contact Harry Stroud at 805-653-5117 to be added to the waiting list.

March 6, Opera Luncheon and Performance

Interested members will attend a Noon lunch at La Cumbre Country Club followed by a 2:30 Santa Barbara presentation of "Elixir of Love" (L'Elisir d'Amore" by Gaetano Donizetti at the Granada Theater for a cost of \$91.00 per person for lunch and tickets. Contact Fred Sidon. Make checks out to Cosmopolitan Club and send them to Fred at 551` Las Palmas Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

March 10, Thurs. SBCC Garvin Theater Play and Dinner

Enjoy an evening performance at the Garvin Theater preceded by a dinner at the Mesa Cafe Banquet Room. The play, "In the Next Room" or the vibrator play, is a comedy about marriage, intimacy and electricity. The play takes place in a seemingly perfectly well-to-do Victorian proper home where gentleman and scientist Dr. Giving has invented an extraordinary device for treating "Histeria". Cost: \$65 per person.

We will meet at the Mesa Cafe Banquet Rm. for dinner at 5:30 pm. Social hour is from 5-5:30pm. Wine can be purchased or a \$10 corkage fee. The cafe is located at 1968 Cliff Dr., SB. The play begins at 7:30 pm. The Garvin Theater is located on the SBCC West Campus.

There is a limited number of tickets so make early reservations. Send your checks to Thore Edgren, 6545 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, Ca. 93117.

April 24, Opera Luncheon and Performance

Interested members will attend a Noon lunch at La Cumbre Country Club followed by a 2:30 Santa Barbara presentation of two one act Operas, "Suor Angelica" and Gianni Schicchi" by Giacomo Puccini at the Granada Theater for a cost of \$91.00 per person for lunch and tickets. Contact Fred Sidon. Make checks out to Cosmopolitan Club and send them to Fred at 551` Las Palmas Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

HELP WANTED

Seeking motivated Cosmo members to fill these important positions:

The Audio-Visual committee is looking for a member who will attend most meetings and has had, or would like to gain, some training in the operation of the A-V equipment at our meetings. Please contact Bob Weber, wwwwebersb@gmail.com, 696-6941 for additional information about this important job.

The Board is seeking a member to take on the job of Historian/Archivist. Interested parties should contact President Bill Stancer, wstancer@cox.net, 682-8939 or any board member for details. The successful candidate will have the ability to organize photos, documents and memorabilia, and work with our webmaster to make these available to our members.

LAST MEETING

February 4, 2016

Albert Mercado



“Giacomo Puccini and Madame Butterfly”

Fellow member, Albert Mercado, grew up in a musical family. His mother performed in small singing parts at the Scala di Milan, and Al learned musical instruments from an early age. Although his career was as a soccer player and an engineer and manager of many government classified projects, Al decided to study operas in retirement. He enrolled in a program created by Placido Domingo that included learning all aspects of opera. Upon completion, Al became a member of the Opera Speakers Bureau, where he gave many presentations at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, universities, libraries, schools and clubs, often supported by opera singers. Jim Davis introduced Mercado.

The presentation covered the life and accomplishments of the famous Italian opera composer Giacomo Puccini, who was born in Luca in 1858 prior to Italian unification.. After graduation from the Milan Music Conservatory in 1883, he presented his first opera, La Villi, which is not well known but peaked the interest of Gulio Ricordi, who became his patron and publisher. . Puccini created many famous operas such as La Boheme, Tosca, Madame Butterfly during his golden age from 1896-1906. Golden Girl of the West, Il Trittico and Turandot were created after the golden age and were introduced in Europe and the United States.

Mercado also reported on the scandalous life style of Puccini, particularly in his cohabitation with a married woman, and her suspicions about his relationship with the family maid, Dora Manfredi, and the eventual payment to her family large sums in damages for the slander of her

good name by his married roommate.

Mercado’s presentation included an account of the development and interpretation of Madame Butterfly with actual segments of the opera. For the first time at the Cosmopolitan Club this presentation incorporated video, music and voice projections. The material was presented as videos taken from YouTube of a production of which Alberto is particularly fond. The presentations were gripping and included spectacular presentation by the principal characters of the opera. This was a stunning presentation enjoyed by all, opera lover or not.

**SEMI ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
2015-2016**

Semi-Annual Financial Report July through December 2015

Jul - Dec 2015

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Income | |
| Dues | \$11,395.00 |
| Initiation Fees | \$675.00 |
| Total Income | \$12,070.00 |
| Expenses | |
| AV Technical Support | \$300.00 |
| Badges | \$178.04 |
| Crackers | \$2,687.47 |
| Gratuities | \$1,750.00 |
| Insurance | \$1,636.00 |
| Lunches | \$732.30 |
| Memorials | \$150.00 |
| Merchant deposit fees | \$4.58 |
| Other Expenses | \$210.42 |
| Purchase of Assets | \$74.99 |
| Roster | \$1,123.89 |
| Total Expenses | \$8,847.69 |
| Net Income | \$3,222.31 |