



# Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

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Crakers Editor

Next Meeting: **Feb 16, 2017**

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## 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](mailto:whiteman@westmont.edu).

## COSMO AUDITOR

Bob Thompson has indicated that he will no longer be able to perform the duties of Cosmo Auditor. He has performed this job for many years and we would like to express the Club's appreciation for this voluntary professional service.

The annual audit is important and helps to insure that Cosmo's books and procedures have been properly maintained. The Club has a number of professionals with financial backgrounds that have had experience with audits, either as auditors or the financial manager of the entity being audited. This is a great position for someone to get more involved with Cosmo without a large commitment of time (roughly ten hours per year). Please contact George Surmeier if you would like to volunteer for this important position.

## Website and Online Membership Roster

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

Don Chalfant and Jim Stubchaer have updated our online system. Members will now be able to access the roster via the normal club website; there will be a "TAB" that will lead to the password protected roster. The password will be provided in the email that covers the distribution of the Crackers.

## The Board of Directors approved an incentive program to urge current members to help recruit new Club Members:

If a current member brings a guest who is a potential new member, the guest will get a free lunch.

If by the next meeting the guest applies for membership, the guest gets another free lunch.

If applicant is approved by the Membership Committee, the inductee gets another free lunch.

The sponsor of the guests should contact the Club President upon arrival and he will provide the lunch voucher for the guest.

## NEXT MEETING

**Feb 16**

**Tim Metzinger**

**Santa Barbara's Early History**

**Introduction by Don Chalfant**



Tim Metzinger is a partner in the law firm of Price, Postel and Pharma. He handles a wide range of civil litigation matters, including business litigation, real estate litigation, employment litigation and probate and estate disputes.

## Dress Code

The dress code is updated for the cooler months. Jackets and ties are suggested attire

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

**March 2**

Sarah Greenstreet will be introduced by Charles Greene and will discuss "THE OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM: PLUTO".

**March 16**

Peter Rupert will be introduced by Karl Hutterer and will discuss the "ANNUAL ECONOMIC REVIEW".

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Discussion Group meets once a month in the upstairs room immediately following our regular luncheon programs. Future topics to be discussed are as follows:

February 16, Jim Davis: Philosophy, Physics, and The Great Mystery

March 16, Gordon Bjork: Money and The Moral Limits of Markets

April 20, Gerard Kuiken: Limitations of Physics or Is A Theory of Everything Possible?

May 18, Bob Weber: What to Do about The Growing "Useless Class."

**BRIDGE**

Join us for FUN Bridge upstairs at the Elks Club after all regular meetings; we play until 3:30 pm. If you would like to play you are asked to call Ed Loper to sign up. Chair Ed Loper, 967-8630, [oliveloper@cox.net](mailto:oliveloper@cox.net).



**TENNIS**

The tennis group plays doubles four times a week on a private court off 122 Patterson Avenue, behind the office buildings, starting at 7:45 am Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All tennis players are invited. Contact Harrison Stroud at (805) 653-5117, [stroud@hotmail.com](mailto:stroud@hotmail.com) or Jim Subject at (805) 964-2020, [jsubject@aol.com](mailto:jsubject@aol.com).



**GOLF**

Mondays, we usually meet at the Santa Barbara Golf Club (Muni). Tee times most often begin at 10:15 am. Contact Ron Singer (805) 684-1355 or [rsinger916@aol.com](mailto: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 games on Wednesdays and Fridays at other area courses. Contact Ron Singer to get on the mailing list. The website [cosmogolfclubs.com](http://cosmogolfclubs.com) is up and running. New members may use it to register and for additional news.



**MONEYBALL RETURNS!**

The essence of the ever-popular Moneyball format will remain, though with some tweaking of the rules for last year's tournament, based on observation and feedback. As always, each player will have opportunity to contribute to their team's performance, and handicaps will be used. By the way, has anyone heard from Team #7 in last year's tournament? They were last seen packing into the back country in search of their last moneyball...

Time: 10:00  
Place: Glen Annie Golf Club  
Date: Thursday February 23  
Cost: \$50 includes cart and prizes  
Signup: at Cosmopolitan Club Meetings  
or  
by email to [abclarke3@hotmail.com](mailto:abclarke3@hotmail.com)

(please include full name, GHINnumber, and a contact phone number)

or  
[sestonefield@gmail.com](mailto:sestonefield@gmail.com) - same info

**EVERYBODY WELCOME!! MEMBERS AND GUESTS!!**

**THE WEATHER WILL BE SPECTACULAR!!**

Your faithful conveners,

A..B. Clarke and Stephen Stonefield (aka The Brothers Gimme)

**CRUISE TO SAN DIEGO, BAJA PENINSULA, SEA OF CORTEZ AND PUERTO VALLARTA ON A PRINCESS SHIP.**

March 28 to April 7, 2017

This trip is for Golfers and NonGolfers alike. It will depart from Los Angeles; transportation from Santa Barbara will be available.

For golfers, there will be opportunities in San Diego, Cabo San Lucas, La Paz, Loretto, and Puerto Vallarta. For non golfers, there are fishing, tours and loafing available. The price is exceptionally economical. Price check available at

<http://www.princess.com/find/cruise> Details.  
do?voyageCode=9709

Contact Ron Singer, Chairman, Golf Committee, Cosmopolitan Club of Santa Barbara, at [rsinger916@aol.com](mailto:rsinger916@aol.com)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Champion Trees Visit,

**Sunday, April 9, 2017**

**\$39 per person**

This is the annual SB Airbus tour which features a tour of 15 national champion trees in SB County recognized by American Forests as the largest of their species in the entire USA. The tour starts at 12 noon at the Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, followed by a bus tour from Goleta to Carpinteria. The bus will return to Goleta at 5pm. The tour includes private sites available only thorough this tour. There will be ample opportunities to touch and connect with our remarkable living natural wonders. The tour guide is Arborist Ken Knight. As this is not an exclusive Cosmo event .I recommend you make reservations early by calling SB Airbus 964 7759.

Upon making reservations notify Thore Edgren at 9674001 or [theman3@cox.net](mailto:theman3@cox.net).

If enough participating members are interested we can plan on dinner at 5:30pm in a Goleta restaurant.  
Thore Edgren

### OPERA LOVERS

#### Lunch at LCCC & Opera

On Sunday, March 5 we will gather at noon at the La Cumbre Country Club for lunch and from there drive to the Granada Theater for a performance of The Cunning Little Vixen by Janacek at the Granada at 2:30 pm. Humans and animals bump into one another in a moonlit Czech forest in this humorous and tender allegory about the circle of life. Filled with dancing dragonflies, talking frogs, a litter of fox cubs and some endearingly tipsy humans, this beautiful new production will warm the hearts and light up the faces of adults and children alike. Lunch & opera, \$92.00 in Section C, \$70.00 in Section D. Please contact Fred Sidon for further information and send cheks to him

### GOURMET DINNER SBCC SAVE THE DATE

Our annual dinner prepared by the students of the Culinary Arts program as SBCC will be held on Friday evening, April 21. Details to follow

Contact Harry Stroud for questions or early sign-up. This event always sells out. (805) 653-5117

### LAST MEETING FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Ticket sellers were Bob Thompson and Steve Ebbin; AB Clark managed the punchbowl. The audio-visual team of Bob Weber, Bill Alexander. Jack Patterson and Orlando Ramirez took care of the a/v electronics. Walt Clapp was Sergeant-at-Arms. Bill Alexander offered the invocation.

Erik Thorlaksson took home a '11 Jolete Pinot Noir Syrah, Former President Dan Cross picked up a bottle of Bob Hasler's delightful Mammoth Crest '13 Pinot Noir and Mike Rodrigue won a free lunch at our next meeting.

Harv Turner reported a delivery issue with Crackers for the last meeting. More than 50 addresses were not completed by Cox Communications. They are working on the problem. If you did not get your copy of Crackers, go to the Cosmo website Archive for a copy which is posted there.

## WELCOME OUR GUESTS



Bill Berry announded there were two guests;

Mike Cahill, guest of David Hughes, a retired insurance company owner with interest in hiking, owns a fast Corvette, and is the son of a former Cosmo President.

John Hartnett, guest of Peter Tredick, a Santa Barbara native, graduate of Cal Poly and recipient of a PhD in Plant Patholgy from Cornell and US Army Vet retired from Ruhl-mord-Hass.

John Kelley, guest of Bill Stancer, was present at the January 19th meeting, is an architect, California native, UCSB graduate, Santa Barbara resident for more than 45 years, with one grandson.

### MEMBER HEALTH REPORT

Dr. Curt Whiteman reported on the health status of several members:

Dr. Harry Brown is at home recuperating from chemotherapy to which he had a severe reaction. He has engaged a new medical team at USC and knows that an operation for his bladder cancer is in the future, as yet unscheduled.

Steve Little has suffered two strokes from which he is now recovering with the help of therapy to regain his ability to walk. He says he plans to return to Cosmo soon.

Dr. Curt Whiteman, reports that he has successfully completed an operation from bladder cancer and has had his first checkup which shows no spread to other locations.

If you know of any member undergoing medical treatmens which prevent them from attending meetings, please notify Curt so that we can keep these members in our prayers.

**SPEAKER AT LAST MEETING****February 2****Professor Ahmad Atif Ahmad****Muslims in America**

Introduced by John MacKenzie who heard Dr. Ahmad speak at his church Sunday School in a presentation that was informative and riveting.

Ahmad Atif Ahmad is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California in Santa Barbara. He is the author of 'Islamic Law: Cases, Authorities, and Worldview,' 'Pitfalls of Scholarship: Lessons from Islamic Studies,' 'The Fatigue of the Shari'a,' and a number of other publications. His research is in the area of medieval Islamic legal reasoning and its modern applications in national laws in the Muslim world and outside of it, Islamic financial jurisprudence, cyber religious law, and research and fatwa councils. At UCSB, he teaches introductory and advanced classes on Islamic law. Professor Ahmad will talk about Muslims in America, their sense of inclusion and exclusion, and the future of Muslim immigrants in North America.

Dr. Ahmad was an energetic and articulate speaker who described Muslims in America in very familiar terms. He suggested their presence could be viewed through different prisms which emphasize different aspects of their experience.

One way to approach their presence is historical. Muslims were present in America from the first colonization by various western powers. However, their impact as Muslims went unnoticed because they were small in number, operated within the dominant cultures and were not perceived as outliers. A second historical period was during the continuation of slavery; there were a greater number of slaves who were Muslims before captivity. However, they did not have much freedom to practice their religion and largely abandoned their faith due to lack of community and their otherwise desperate condition. A third period of interest is since 1965 when the quota system for entry into the US which was limited to mirror the initial peoples of the US was changed to include new immigrants. This has slowly attracted immigrants from modern Muslim countries and who have become more visible, particularly since the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Dr. Ahmad suggested the behavior of these immigrants can be viewed from other perspectives to see how they have fared.

Social Scientists have approached the study of Muslims in the US with a quantitative approach, emphasizing the numbers who have arrived and tried to explain how they have integrated (or not) based on sophisticated sampling. The work here is in disarray, there are estimates they comprise from 3.3 to 9 million residents of the US. There is no place on a national identity card that specifies religion as a data point. There are many factors to consider, such as conversion, intermarriage, political views and voting patterns. The data is sketchy and not particularly helpful except to

indicate the factors which contribute to an assessment of the community.

Using the approach suggested by Samuel Huntington, there are factors to consider on an individual basis to assess the current status of Muslims here. One is based on the classic intergenerational relationship between the parents and their children—many children reject the beliefs and life styles of their parents for the more secular approach of Americans in general. Another is based on the effect of mobility on the family and community. Much of the historical patterns of traditional Muslims were tied to a particular community and its social mores. Modern mobility has dramatically altered the impact of community as the diaspora occurs. The ties to the community were not specifically focused on economics, but rather to common values. But these values are now in question and secular society has a great impact on whom the modern Muslim believes himself to be.

There is no question that more traditional enclaves of Muslims exist in the US, but they are not representative of the majority. There is certainly some impact of radical elements in immigration patterns, but these are limited. Goals of different groups in the community do not match.

Some of the views of Muslims which raise concern are based on observation of natural reactions and are not necessarily based on power relationships. An example is the natural ability of women to deal with children that is commonly accepted and is the basis for the roles of women.

Dr. Ahmad suggests that Muslims in America are adapting to the culture in the same way that other cultures have done so during our history. And that the secular culture of America is very powerful and that Muslims will quickly become very similar to their contemporaries in the general culture.

Jim Davis asked about the Nation State and our national motto, E Pluribus Unum, out of many, one. Dr. Ahmad suggested that Nation States are losing credibility. For Muslims, the Ottoman Empire was that sort of entity, but it did not well represent the Muslim values, was too big to be effective and failed. He suggests that the large Nation States are having the same problem. He suggests that democracy as a process is not trusted. Citizenship is in crisis as reflected by the movement of rich people to give it up for transitory tax advantages. Inevitably, as Muslims become acculturated into the US, they must give up some of their traditional culture.

Fred Sidon asked about the relationship between Islam and the Arab states, which represent only a small part of the world wide Islamic community. The Arab tradition goes to the four tribes of Arabs and certainly does not represent the world wide community. Some of the prayers are in Arabic, but that is more of a convenience than a necessity of the religion; actually Islam accommodates prayer in many languages. It is hard to make such a diverse community "pure"; diversity breeds tolerance.

Another often cited comment on Muslims relates to the movement by some communities to apply Shari'a Law to

themselves. The UK has experienced this phenomenon, but the impact has been misunderstood. The UK approach is to permit local communities to apply Sharia Law to themselves so long as it is not repugnant to the fundamental law of the broader community. One area of application is finance and the limitations on interest. Another is in family law. Female Genital Mutilation and Honor Killing are local practices, not sanctioned by Sharia Law and certainly not applicable to a diverse society as the US.

Regarding the prospect of redrawing the national borders in the Middle East to more accurately reflect the cultures

present, Dr. Ahmad suggest this could be done, but only if some powerful agency has the will and will use its resources to accomplish this result. He doubts that there is anyone presently interested in affecting such a result.

In the after presentation individual questions, Dr. Ahmad suggested that the so called "Lone Wolf" problem was an individual manifestation of isolation of the actors from their traditional community and values and from the new secular values. He suggests this is a sociological/psychological issue that will be hard to resolve on other than an individual basis.

