

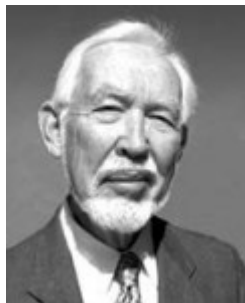


Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXIII No. 15

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In Memoriam

Cosmo learned recently that Gil Ashor, a member of the Cosmo community since 1991, passed away on February 6, 2018. His funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, February 17th, at 2 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 21 East Constance Ave on the corner of State St.



Gil first came to Santa Barbara many years ago when, as a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, he did an externship at Cottage Hospital. It was there that he met his wife, Carol, who was in training to become a nurse. After a three year stint in the Navy as a flight surgeon, Gil and his wife eventually made their way back to Santa Barbara.

Gil retired early so he could devote his time to serving people in Third World countries. For nine years, he organized annual medical missions to India to do heart surgery. He also served in African countries and Nepal.

Gil was a good man and a good friend to many. We will mourn his loss.

Cosmo Members Ailing

If you learn that one our members is ill or injured, please notify Curt Whiteman at 220-6833, whiteman@westmont.edu.

The Board of Directors approved an incentive program 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.

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; a "tab" will lead to the password-protected roster. The password will be provided in the email that covers the distribution of the Crackers.

Cosmo Joins Facebook

Cosmo now has its own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CosmoClubSB/>. You can also find a link to it on our homepage.

All posts will be public, so that even members who have not yet joined Facebook can see our posts; however, if you have already joined Facebook, be sure to "like" our page and "share" our posts.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Editorial Assistant Cora Danielson at cora.danielson@gmail.com.

Announcement

With the passing of Mike Rodrigue, Cosmo member Mike McGinnis will be taking over as Treasurer of Special Events.

Dress Code

The dress code going forward will be California Casual. Jackets and ties are always welcome, let the weather be your guide.

Who Said That?

“There is a providence that protects idiots, drunks, children and the United States of America.”

—Otto von Bismarck



NEXT MEETING

February 15, 2018

“Searching for Other Worlds”

Sandra Seale will introduce Dr. Rachel Street, a Project Scientist at the La Cumbre Observatory. Rachel joined the LCO in 2007 and considers herself privileged to have watched it grow into a unique resource for astronomy and planet-hunting in general.

For her talk, Dr. Street will discuss the discovery of exoplanets. Planets beyond those of our own solar system have long been the stuff of science fiction. We live in the era when fiction has become reality, and astronomers have discovered new worlds by the thousands. Dr. Street will explain how this can be done, as well as take a look at some of the extraordinary systems that have been found.



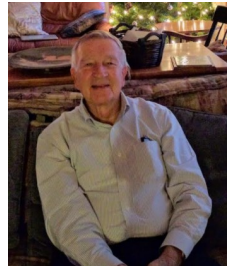
Rachel graduated from the University of Birmingham in her native UK in 1998, just as the first evidence for exoplanetary systems was being discovered. This inspired her to shift from studying extra-galactic targets to searching for planets closer to home. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in 2002 and moved to Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she was awarded a PPARC Post-doctoral Fellowship to work on the SuperWASP project. This project became the most successful wide-angle ground-based survey for exoplanetary transits.

March 1, 2018

“Healthcare and the Economy”

Kevin Ryan will introduce Gordon Bjork, PhD, and Daniel N. Ovadia, MD, MPH. Each will offer his perspective and research on issues facing American healthcare policy today.

Bjork has been a member of Cosmo since 2005. Prior to retirement he was the Jonathon B. Lovelace Professor of Economics at Claremont McKenna College. He has been a consultant to many private and public organizations. His last book is, “The Way It Worked and Why It Won't: Structural Change and the Slowdown of U.S. Economic Growth,” Praeger, 1999.



Ovadia has been a sole practicing orthopedic surgeon in Santa Barbara since 1985. He has had an interest in healthcare policy for many years, having developed a relationship with Stanford's renowned healthcare economist Alain Enthoven. In 2016, Ovadia completed a Master of Public Health program at UCLA.



For his portion of the talk, Bjork will present an overview of the Health Services Sector of the American economy. He will talk about its increase in relative size as a function of demographics, technology, and rising incomes. He will draw some contrasts with the systems of other advanced economies. He will outline possible changes, including a major expansion in Health Savings Accounts, expansion of Medicare coverage, shifting of Medicaid administration to the States, and changes in the organization of employer offered plans.

March 1, "Healthcare and The Economy" cont'd...

Ovadia will focus on the basic underlying principles of the ACA (Affordable Care Act or Obamacare) and how Republican opposition has attempted to undermine these. He will discuss the breakdown of healthcare spending in the US, particularly in light of the anticipated nearly doubling of Medicare recipients by 2030. He will also review a recent NYT article that compares the best healthcare systems in the world. Finally, he will offer his own solutions to America's healthcare ills.

REGULAR EVENTS

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group meets once a month in the upstairs room immediately following regular luncheon programs. The future topics are:

February 15, Bob Weber: **Using BRAC Commission Procedure in Federal Budgeting**

March 15, Dan Creasy: **The Limitations of Quality Assurance in Healthcare**

April. 19, Gerard Kuiken: **The Philosophy of Oneness**

May 17, Gordon Bjork: **Intergenerational Transfer**

June 21, Jim Davis: **A True Faustian Bargain: Controlling Evolution**

GOLF

Mondays we usually meet at the Santa Barbara Golf Club (Muni). Tee times most often begin at 10:15 a.m. Contact Ron Singer (805) 684-1355 or rsiner916@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. New members can use the website cosmogolfclubsb.com to register and sign up for additional news.



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 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All tennis players are invited. Contact Harrison Stroud at (805) 653-5117, stroud@hotmail.com or Jim Subject at (805) 964-2020, jsubject@aol.com.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Lunch at LCC & Opera

Sunday, March 4

Opera Santa Barbara presents "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" (The barber of Seville) by Rossini on Sunday March 4th at 2:30 p.m. Fred Sidon is forming a group of Cosmo members, along with the Italian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the French, so that group rates can be obtained. There will be a lunch at the La Cumbre Country Club at NOON, SUNDAY, MARCH 4th, followed by the opera. Lunch including opera tickets is at \$70 in Section D and \$98 in Section C of the Granada. Please let Fred know your choice as soon as possible. E-mail: frsidon@impulse.net



Proposed for Membership

Judith Fontana and Phillip Holland
259 Moreton Bay Lane, #2
Goleta, CA 93117

Judith and Philip are a husband and wife couple who are interested in joining Cosmo. Their co-sponsors are John Warnock and Jim Stubchaer.

Judith is a retired registered nurse. She worked in her profession for 30 years before finally retiring as the Director of Nursing at Goleta Valley Hospital. She enjoys sailing, hiking, RV travel, choral singing, music, drama, film, and book clubs. She is also currently a member of the Santa Barbara Humanist Society. Through Cosmo Judith hopes to learn from educational speakers, meet new and interesting people, and encourage female participation.

Proposed for Membership cont'd...

Philip is a retired civil engineer. Philip also worked in his field for 30 years. His last position involved working as a civil engineer/hydrologist for the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District. He was also a member of the American Public Works Association (APWA). He enjoys sailing, hiking, and RV travel. By joining Cosmo, Philip looks forward to stimulating speakers and socializing with current members. He is also interested in giving his own talk, describing his experiences with offshore sailing in the Pacific.

LAST MEETING: February, 2018

Selling tickets were Fred Marsh and Ted Ross. The punchbowl host was Paul Coyne. Vern Kemp performed the sergeant-at-arms duties. Bill Alexander and Bob Weber did the audio-visual duties. The invocation was delivered by Bill Alexander.

Welcome Our Guests

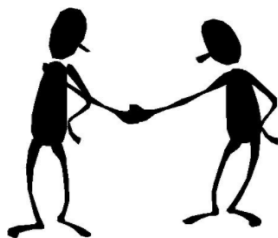
Putt Mills introduced the guests.

Edie Ostern was hosted by her husband, Stan Ostern.

Barton Kramer from Chicago, Illinois, was hosted by Ron Singer. Barton reported he plays golf and tennis, and loves to travel.

Charles Rosenberg was hosted by George Surmeir. Charlie is a recently retired financial advisor. He enjoys music, reading and discussing politics.

Note: At the last meeting, Judith Fontana was introduced as a guest along with her husband, Phillip Holland, but her information was not included in the last issue. Our apologies for the oversight. Please learn more about her and her husband under the "Proposed for Membership" section.



LAST MEETING

February 1, 2018

"Beyond Bagels, Lox and Fiddler on the Roof: What is Jewish Culture?"



Rabbi Steve Cohen, senior rabbi of Congregation B'nai B'rith for 14 years, discussed how many contemporary Jews reject traditional Jewish religious practice and belief, but remain loyal to their Jewish heritage and identity. He commented on non-religious elements that constitute "Jewish culture", and how they have changed.

Before 1800, Jews all over the world lived in self-contained Jewish communities. They spoke their own language (Yiddish in eastern Europe), and consumed their own kosher foods. They had no close friends that were non-Jewish. They often lived in small villages. In cities, they lived in ghettos (Jewish). They celebrated different festivals, had Sabbath on a different day.

In 1800, with the French revolution, the walls of the ghetto came down. Jews were invited to be part of society. However, there were some dramatic experiences, two in particular. In the Dreyfuss Affair in 1894, a French Jewish Army officer was accused falsely of treason. The matter was not resolved until 1906. There was a great deal of anti-Jewish feeling. And then there was the Holocaust. In Germany, if you were a Jew, you were the enemy.

Many Jews came to America in the late 1800's and early part of the 1900's. They held on to their religion, and were proud Americans. In the early 20th century, Jews began embracing science, even though religion and science were in opposition to each other. The vast majority chose science. That debate is alive today.

Some 30 to 40 years ago, there were Jewish neighborhoods in cities. In 2018 Santa Barbara, there are no Jewish neighborhoods. What is Jewish culture? Rabbi Cohen said there is a set of values, usually not shared with non-Jews, but which are certainly practiced by many others. First is a passion for education, including understanding music. When they are very young, Jewish children are read to early and often, as well as encouraged to learn a musical instrument. American Jews are politically progressive, left of center. 75-85% of young Jews in America today marry non-Jews. Many young Jews say, "I don't believe in God, but I am a proud Jew." They do not pray, but are culturally Jewish.