



# Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXIV No. 12

Editor: Merle Blasjo



Next Meeting: **December 20**

Next Editor: Fred Sidon

Phone: 805-967-6757

Email: frsidon@impulse.net

Next Sgt.-at-Arms: Vern Kemp

Phone: 805-618-8694

Email: vernkemp@yahoo.com

As in the past, a new member is provided a lunch chit at his/her new member introduction and will be seated at the president's table with the primary sponsor. This ticket will be provided by the president. The ticket sellers must understand that no lunch tickets will be provided without cash, check or a signed lunch chit.

## In Memoriam

Cosmo was sorry to hear about the loss of member Art Kvaas on November 16, 2018. Art joined Cosmo in 2005 and was an active member up until the time of his death. As a member of Cosmo's Special Events Committee, and as a board member of the Santa Barbara Symphony, Art arranged for Cosmo members to enjoy several Symphony events throughout the years. Amazingly, he would have been celebrating his 100th birthday next January. He will be missed.



## Cosmo Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee is encouraging all current members to recruit additional members. Please go to [www.sbcosmo.com](http://www.sbcosmo.com) and click on one of the four links at the bottom of the homepage, which include: a recording of a radio program interview with current members; a link to the Club email where prospects can request information about applying; a link to a downloadable Membership Application; and a link to review the Club's Constitution. We hope all of these tools will help in our recruiting efforts.

## Free Lunch Guidelines for New Members

To streamline the issuance of the free guest luncheon tickets, the president will pre-approve a number of luncheon chits and give these to the guest-intro desk manager (guest manager). A qualified guest will fill out the guest form with the sponsor. The guest manager will determine the guest's eligibility and provide the chit with his/her name on it and the name of the host/sponsor. Also, at this time, the guest manager will provide each guest with a brochure and an application for membership.

If the guest attends the following scheduled luncheon meeting and hands in a completed application, he/she is entitled to a lunch chit for that meeting.

## 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](mailto:cora.danielson@gmail.com).

## Dress Code

For our regularly scheduled luncheon meetings California Casual dress will be the preferred style year around. Let the weather be your guide.

### Website and Online Membership Roster

Access the Cosmo website <http://sbcosmo.com> for current and archived issues of Crackers. A link will lead to the password-protected roster. The password will be provided in the email that covers the distribution of the Crackers.

### Cosmo Members Ailing

If you learn that one of our members is ill or injured, please notify Curt Whiteman at 220-6833,

### NEXT MEETING

**December 20, 2018**

### San Marcos High School Madrigal Choral Presentation



John Warnock will introduce the San Marcos High School Madrigal Singers, directed by Eleni Pantages (pictured). \* Don't miss this wonderful program that will definitely put you in the holiday mood.

As in the past, wives and friends are welcome at this luncheon. Normal menu and salad bar choices will be offered.

\*Note: in the previous issue of Crackers, the Director of the San Marcos Madrigal Singers was incorrectly listed as Carolyn Ternoka-Brady. Ms. Pantages is the new director of this program.

**January 3, 2019**

### "Allergy in the Elderly"

Joe Abram will introduce Dr. Myron I. Liebhaber, MD, an Allergy, Immunology and Pulmonary specialist, to discuss "Allergy In The Elderly". A native of Arizona, Dr. Liebhaber spent ten years in Tucson's University of Arizona where, in addition to his BA, he earned a Master's of Science and Doctor of Medicine degree.



In 1972, Dr. Liebhaber started his residency at Stanford University Hospital, specializing in pediatrics, and becoming Co-Chief Resident in 1975. This was followed by

a two year fellowship in Allergy, Immunology and Pulmonary Diseases under Dr Norm Lewiston in Palo Alto.

In 1977, Dr. Liebhaber joined Sansum Clinic, where he has been serving the allergy and immunology needs of the community for the past 41 years. During this time he has also served as Director of Camp "Wheez," a day camp for asthmatic children, which he help found with sponsorship from the American Lung Association and the Sansum Foundation.

An author on over 30 scientific papers, Dr. Liebhaber served on the Board of Cottage Health Systems from 1996 to 2007. He was President of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society in 2002 and it's Physician of the Year in 2009. He continues to serve as a Clinical Associate Visiting Professor for UCLA.

Dr. Liebhaber's lecture will discuss the changing picture of allergies in the aged and its relationship to immunology. The importance of pollen counts and its effect on symptoms will be revealed.

**January 17, 2019**

### "New Technologies for Manipulating the Human Genome"



JC Elliot will introduce Dr. Stephen Poole, Associate Professor from the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental (MCD) Biology at UCSB. The cost of obtaining the first human genome sequence in 1991 was over \$2 billion and took a decade. Today, you can get your genome fully sequenced in a short while for <\$1,000, and costs will continue to drop. Advances in genetics have identified many genes involved in devastating human diseases, including Huntington Disease, Sickle Cell Anemia, Muscular Dystrophy, and many forms of cancer. New technologies in Stem Cells, Gene Therapy, and Genome Editing are rapidly progressing. Dr. Poole will focus on three of these new technologies: human stem cells, cancer immunotherapies, and CRISPR-Cas genome editing, and their potential use and misuse.

Dr. Poole received his PhD in Biology at the University of California, San Diego. He has been in the Dept. of MCD Biology at UCSB since 1989, serving as Vice-Chair for a number of years and Chair of the department from 2015-2018. His research has focused on the identification of genes important for embryonic development.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### DISCUSSION GROUP

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

January 17, Kevin Ryan: **What Constitutes Patriotism? Which Actions are Patriotic vs Unpatriotic?**

February 21, Gordon Bjork: **The Rising Cost of Education**

March 21, Jim Davis: **20th Century Revolution in Thinking**

April 18, Gerard Kuiken: **The Class-Caste system in India and the USA**

May 16, Jim Hemmer: **Usage of Anecdotal Evidence**

June 20, Bill Veigele: **Thanks for Nothing -- Imagination in Physics**

### 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 [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. New members can use the website [cosmogolfclubsb.com](http://cosmogolfclubsb.com) to register and sign up for additional news.

\*Ron Singer recently announced January 14 golf and dinner at Santa Barbara Golf club (free dinner to members who are both SB Golf Club members and Cosmo members). Contact Ron for more details.

### TENNIS

They play doubles four times a week on a private court off 122 Patterson Avenue behind the office buildings. The Cosmo Group starts rallying at 7:45 AM. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. All Club tennis players are invited. Contact Jim Subject at (805) 964-2020, [jsubject@aol.com](mailto:jsubject@aol.com) or Joe Abram at (805) 845-8579, [jabrammd@gmail.com](mailto:jabrammd@gmail.com) for additional information.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Recap: Christmas Dinner Dance — December 4

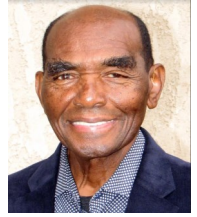
From Harv Turner, Editor at Large: "The annual Cosmopolitan Dinner-Dance at the lovely La Cumbre Country Club was a success in every way. Here are a few photos of our members and guests warming up prior to dinner. Thanks go to our organizers of this event for all the work they did to make the evening so special: President Albert Mercado, Steve Peterson, Thore Edgren, Ron White, and a few unsung heroes among them. The dinner was terrific, the band played just the right combination of super danceable music and the conviviality of the crowd was most evident. Everyone that this reporter chatted with seemed to be enjoying themselves. This event and our next Cosmo luncheon will certainly get us into the holiday mood."





## Welcome Our New Members

**James Edward Alexander**  
63 Whiteoaks Cir  
Bluffton, SC 29910



Ron Singer introduced James Edward Alexander. James Edward Alexander, a native of Valdosta, Georgia, entered the U.S. Air Force in 1951. He first served as a medical corpsman and surgical technician, but when the Air Force observed his communications skills, he was trained as a journalist and broadcaster with the Armed Forces Radio & Television Service. His last military assignment was as a senior instructor in broadcasting at the prestigious Defense Information School.

Following his retirement from military service in 1971, he held management and sales positions in commercial broadcasting. At age 52 he felt the urge to finally achieve a very special personal goal, and he attended law school where he prepared to pass the California Bar Examination on the initial attempt at age 56. He is still an active attorney, and is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, United States Circuit Court of Appeals (Ninth Circuit), United States District Court (Central District of California), and the State Bar of California.

James is the author of five books, and will publish another early next year.

Today, he lives in semi-retirement Bluffton, SC., but spends so much time here in California that he applied for membership in the Cosmopolitan Club of Santa Barbara to spend fraternal time with others like himself.

### **LAST MEETING: December 6, 2018**

The ticket sellers were Dave Medina and Al Align. The punchbowl host was Beverly Singer. The sergeant at arms was Ken Wolf. Bob Weber, Bill Alexander, and Orlando Ramirez were the audio-visual team. Bill Alexander provided the invocation.

## Proposed for Membership

**Thomas H. Mack**  
657C Del Parque Dr.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
Ph. 805.962.9590

Sponsors: Fred Sidon & Walt Clapp

Thomas "Tom" H. Mack is the President of Thomas H. Mack & Co., Inc., a consulting and asset management company. Tom earned his BS, MS, and MBA in the areas of Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of California and was a Baker Scholar at Harvard Business School. His previous job titles have included Mechanical Engineer, Securities Analyst, Director of Investment Policy. Tom is semi-retired, but outside of work, he is a member of the Birnam Wood Golf Club and a Senior Warden at All Saints-by-the-Sea Church. In his spare time he also enjoys cycling and fishing. By joining Cosmo, Tom hopes to engage in fellowship, camaraderie, and intellectual stimulation. He is also happy to lend his organizational skills to leading and conducting club activities.

## Wine Drawing

Bob Zimels conducted the wine drawing in which Richard Grossgold was the winner of a bottle of 2016 Ruffino Pinot Grigio and Harv Turner won a bottle of Bogle Petite Syrah.



## Welcome Our Guests

Bill Berry introduced the following guests:

Roy Barncastle was the guest of Ted Ross. Roy is a retired Program Manager for Hughes Aircraft (SBRC). After earning his B.S.E.E. in Electrical Engineering, Roy went on to work as an engineer for Navy-Pacific Point Mugu Missile Range and then worked for the next 25 1/2 years with Hughes Aircraft on related technologies and programs. He enjoys being active in his retirement.

## LAST MEETING

December 6, 2018

### “Beyond the Hype, Block Chains, Cryptography and the Uncertain Future”



Sandra Seale introduced Eric Saunders, the former Director of Engineering for the Las Cumbres Observatory. He received his PhD in 2007 for research in computational astronomy - specifically the application of computer science to enable new science with networks of telescopes. An expert in robotic telescope scheduling, he joined Las Cumbres Observatory, where a network of robotic telescopes was being constructed and deployed. At LCO he designed and built the network scheduler that prioritizes and coordinates the many robotic telescopes of the Observatory, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He recently left Las Cumbres after several years running the software and hardware groups to try something new.

Dr. Saunders now works on interesting problems as a software engineer at Interstellar, a blockchain start-up. His present project is StellarX ([www.stellarx.com](http://www.stellarx.com)), a decentralized cryptocurrency exchange based on the Stellar network.

Dr. Saunders began his presentation with the observation that ten years after the first bitcoin paper, much hype, speculation and confusion enshroud the subject of cryptocurrency and its technology base. To illustrate the effects, he showed price history of bitcoins from inception in 2009 to the present. Initially the supply vs demand price remained under \$500 until 2017 when the price spiked up to about \$17,000 as hype and speculative expectation dominated—but only for a short time. Within a year the price took a sharp fall to about \$6000 and has been on a gradual decline ever since. This result indicates that challenges remain before bitcoins can become a practical reality.

The bitcoin system, as other crypto currency systems, is based on a blockchain structure which stores ledgers of all transactions in the system. New transactions will immediately be updated on each user’s processor. The Stellar block chain technology, which supports international commerce, converts transactions to a common digital currency so that a single conversion is needed at any receiving terminal which may be on a different currency system.

The interchange is on a network like the internet, but decentralized with the majority of the processing taking place at the individual servers rather than at the network central. The Stellar Network is the basis for bitcoins and other similar systems. The transparency and multiplicity of the ledgers makes manipulation unlikely; however, challenges remain such as prevention of double spending of one’s account and maintaining adequate failure tolerance to prevent total system shutdown.

Dr. Saunders summarized the work in blockchain technology to include commodities other than currency, smart controls, micro transactions, direct personal money exchange, distributive voting and global unique identity. He emphasized that bitcoins are not appropriate for investment.