



Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

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Crackers Editor

Next Meeting: Sep 5, 2013

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Next Meeting

September 5, 2013

Tim Metzinger, Esq.

"The Owens Valley Water War"

At the turn of the last century, the expansive Owens Valley, east of the High Sierra, was a pastoral paradise of ranches, green fields and orchards, supplied by a maze of canals brimming with water. The wellspring for this bounty was the Owens River, which flowed the length of the Valley fed by snow melt from countless mountain streams. But while Valley farmers blessed the river that nourished their crops, the adolescent City of Los Angeles, rapidly outgrowing its own water resources, also came to realize the value of that river. This is the story of how Los Angeles took the Owens River for itself, changing a garden into a desert and touching off the most explosive conflict ever experienced in a state renowned for its water wars.

Tim Metzinger is a partner in the local law firm of Price, Postel & Parma, which last year celebrated its 160th anniversary. Tim is an active participant in the Santa Barbara Corral of the Westerners, an organization devoted to the history of the Old West, and he has given numerous lectures on local history topics. While growing up in Ojai, Tim and his family vacationed every summer in the Eastern Sierras, and he has traveled and backpacked extensively throughout the Owens Valley.

Future Meetings

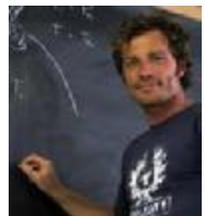
September 19, 2013

Dr. Matteo Cantiello

Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, UCSB

"Hundreds of Billions: The Quest to Understand Stars and Planets"

During the last 100 years, humankind made a giant leap in understanding the fundamental laws of nature. For example, while it was already clear that the universe is not



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<http://sbcosmo.com>
for current and archived issues of CRACKERS

Cosmo Member Ailing

If you learn of one of our members suffering from illness or injury, please notify Arlie Skov, 965-5101, askov@earthlink.net

Dues for 2013-2014

Dues for 2013-2014 are now Past due and payable at \$60/member. Checks can be deposited in a box near the entry to the Elks' Club or mailed to Cosmopolitan Club PO Box 3993 Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3993

Meeting Staff:

Ticket Sellers: Manny Espig & Harv Turner
Punchbowl: Kent Cullen
Invocation: Peter Kruse
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Montag

completely dark because stars like the Sun are shining, it was not until the advent of quantum physics that it became clear what their energy source is. Just in our Galaxy, 100 billions of stars shine thanks to the immense energy provided by nuclear fusion in their dense, hot cores. All in all, our understanding of the evolution of stars, from an early phase to their possibly explosive death, requires an impressive amount of physics and certainly represents one of the greatest successes of modern science.

At the same time an impressive series of technological developments led to the ability to observe the Universe with unprecedented details. Thanks to space telescopes like Kepler, our place in the universe changed dramatically in the last decades. For example we now know that planetary systems are not a lucky exception, but the norm. Hundreds of billions of planets, just in our Galaxy. Planets of size and, possibly, surface condition similar to the Earth seem to exist in abundance. Mead Northrop will introduce.

Wine Drawing

Bob Zimels conducted the wine drawing.

John Calvert walked away with the 2010 Van Ruiten Cab-Shiraz Meritage and Don Vogt captured the 2008 Santa Ynez Zaca Mesa Roussanne.



WELCOME OUR GUESTS 

Herb Friedman introduced our guests:

- John Robinson hosted by Ron Singer
- Lawrence Thompson hosted by Sherman Starr
- Sam Hale hosted by Don Vogt

In Memoriam

23-year Cosmo member and 1998-1999 club president Robert "Mac" McMillin passed away in early August. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Anna and family.



Regular Events

Bridge

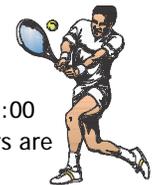


Results of July 18, 2013 bridge play were as follows:

1 st place:	David Kain	3570
2 nd place:	Hugh Vos	2660
3 rd place:	Steve Morgan	2530

Join us for FUN Bridge upstairs at the Elks Club after all regular meetings; we play until 3:30 PM. Chairman Steve Morgan, 637-1332, or smmphd@cox.net; Co-chair Ed Loper, 967-8630, oliveloper@cox.net.

Tennis



The tennis group plays doubles twice a week at a private court in Shadow Hills starting at 8:00 AM Mondays and Thursdays. All tennis players are invited to participate.

Contact Bruce Long (805) 692-4072 or bruce93103@cox.net.

Cosmo Computer Society



Cosmo Computer Society meets monthly on the third Tuesday upstairs at the Elks Club. Discussion starts at 10:00 AM, and a feature presentation starts at 10:30 AM, concluding with a no-host fellowship luncheon in the Elks Grill. Cosmo members, spouses and guests are welcome. Bob Gerity, Program Chair, Howard Glenn, Chair. 967-2633, hbglennc@cox.net.

S.A.G.E. Investment Group



S.A.G.E. meets monthly at 10 AM on the first Tuesday at the Elks Club, followed by a no-host lunch in the grill downstairs. At S.A.G.E. we discuss past and possible future trends in the economy and the stock market. We would welcome your participation. Chair: Walter Naumann, 448-5061, wjnaumann@aol.com.

Golf



Wednesday, September 11

Cosmo Golf Tournament, Montecito Country Club

Join us for another tantalizing challenge presented by the MCC course. Buffet lunch is available starting at noon, followed by a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Fee per player is \$60.00 which includes cart, greens fee, lunch and prize money awarded to the top three teams immediately after the round is completed. Competition format TBA. Contact Marty Tucker, 969-0760, tuckmet@aol.com to make your reserva-

tion. You may send your check, payable to Cosmo Club, to Marty, POB 1192, Summerland 93067. Please include your handicap.

Mondays - Santa Barbara Golf Club (Muni). Tee times range between 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Regular walking senior rate is \$26 for 18 holes. Contact Ron Singer (805) 684-1355 or rsinger916@aol.com by prior Friday for your tee time. Twin Lakes (Par 29) at 9:00 AM. Work on your short game. These outings are a great way to gain new members, so invite your friends.

Additional play at various courses - Contact Ron Singer to get on the e-mail notification list for the Floating Golf Game Circuit. Mondays are usually at Muni, Wednesdays are often at Glen Annie, and Friday locations have included La Purisma, Glen Annie, Soule Park, and Rancho San Marcos. A. B. Clarke and Steven Stonefield will select the floating golf game sites, so you may contact either of them. Ron Singer, Golf Chair: rsinger916@aol.com.

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, September 8, 2013

Circle Bar B Dinner-Theatre

"The Fox on the Fairway"



Join us for this hilarious golf tale farce. Cosmo has reserved 18 tickets for this Sunday matinee performance. Cost is \$42 per person which includes lunch and the performance. Please make reservations ASAP with Bob Zimels (zsloth@cox.net or 962-3211). Your payment must be received no later than September 4.

Saturday, November 23, 2013

SAVE THE DATE for the 3rd Annual dinner/concert at Andersens and the Santa Barbara Symphony



Last Meeting

August 15, 2013

Stanley Ostern, MD

"World War II Experience as a Polish Jew"



Dr. Stanley Ostern

Dr. James Shaw introduced Dr. Stanley Ostern, a man with two lives. His second life started after he emigrated from Poland to the U.S. after WWII. He subsequently received a medical degree from New York Medical College, completed a residency in internal medicine, served as captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps, and subsequently practiced Internal Medicine in Santa Barbara for 33 years. Since his retirement in 2000, he has been very active as a lecturer on the WWII Holocaust.

Dr. Ostern's first life began with his birth as a Jew in Stryj Poland in 1935. In 1941 this area was taken over by the Germans when they invaded Eastern Poland and Russia. Most of the Jews were transferred to ghettos, where they were subsequently killed or died of disease or starvation. Stan Ostern and his mother managed to escape the Nazi persecution by escaping from the ghetto and hiding in an underground bunker for the remainder of the war.

Dr. Ostern told the gripping saga of his survival from the Holocaust by holing up in a bunker with his mother and 33 other Jews for 2 years. Dr. Ostern's father, a medical officer in the Russian Army left Stryj in 1942 when the Germans invaded Poland. Before he departed, he helped his family elude the Nazi persecution of the Jews by first smuggling Stanley, his mother and a cousin out of the ghetto and secreted them in a barn, which was the office of a friendly SS officer/coworker (Germany and Russia were allies at this time). The three of them stayed in the barn until they could be admitted into the bunker.

The bunker was built under the house of a baker named Starko. The bunker was built to accommodate 16 people, yet 35 people were holed up in it for 2 years without seeing the light of day. 6 of the 35 occupants were children. The bunker was built in 1940 in anticipation of the Nazi

occupation and the horror attendant therewith. It had a hand pump for water, a gas stove and gas lamps for lighting and a pit for toilet facilities. The odor in the bunker was stifling and, in spite of the unsanitary conditions, his mother was the sole victim of illness.

Entrance to the bunker was through a closet in the house, down a trapdoor into the cellar. There were also two crawl spaces under the walls. The walls were backfilled with sand to provide a solid sound should a soldier strike the outside wall with the butt of his rifle. This was a common tactic to detect hiding spaces.

There were straw bunks for sleeping and a sand floor. During the winter, the floor flooded which added to the already uncomfortable surroundings. They had no radio, so the only contact with the outside world was through Starko. He also provided bread and other provisions as best as he could. If the Germans ever found the bunker, not only would the Jews be imprisoned and/or killed, but Starko and his entire family would be at peril.

Food was very scarce and hunger was always with them. Food was rationed to one meal a day, and even at this extreme there was little to go around. The one thing in abundance was rats (Dr. Ostern called them their pets). The bunker was overrun with them.

Germany occupied the Stryj area in Poland in 1942 and forced all Jews into ghettos until they were called to "report for resettlement" (aka, the "Final Solution"). The refugees in the bunker all had cyanide pills to swallow if captured. Dr. Ostern's grandfather was a miller who proudly claimed he lived in 4 countries even though he never left Stryj. This area was originally Austria, later became Hungary, then Poland and finally the Ukraine. The grandfather disappeared shortly after the Germans took over and was never seen nor heard from again. In 1944 the Russians regained the territory and liberated all of the Jews, including the occupants of the bunker.

Dr. Ostern's father returned to Stryj after the war. He was unaware of the fate of his wife and child during the intervening 2 years so he married a co-worker, who in 1944 was 6 months pregnant.

She remained behind in Russia. Dr. Ostern remained unaware of this marriage until he received an email from someone claiming to be his half-brother. The half-brother had used Google and the internet to track down Dr. Ostern and they held a reunion in 2006. The half-brother turned out to be a neer-do-well and, among other things, demanded \$450,000 as his half of the inheritance.

Dr. Ostern, the exact opposite of his half-brother, came to the United States in 1946 as an illiterate 11 year old and who couldn't speak English. From that dismal beginning, with hard work and determination, Dr. Ostern graduated from medical school and enjoyed a successful practice.

Dr. Ostern briefly discussed the atrocities committed by the German physicians on the Jews. The physicians were "free wheeling," acting solely on their own interest in conducting experiments on humans and did whatever pleased or interested them. In contrast, other war criminals claimed they were ordered to carry out the tortures, etc. while the physicians could not make the same claim.

The Doctor Trials were the first of 12 trials at Nuremberg, Germany following WW II. There were 23 defendants of which Herta Oberheuser was the sole female. She was a physician at the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp and assistant physician to Dr. Karl Gebhardt (another war crime defendant) at the Hospital in Hohenlychen.

Dr. Ostern directed us to the "Portraits of Survival" exhibit at the Jewish Federation of greater Santa Barbara. It is an interactive display of contemporary portraits, narratives and archival material depicts the journey of Santa Barbara survivors and refugees before, during and after the Holocaust. Visit <http://www.jewishsantabarbara.org/Portraits-of-Survival.aspx> for more information on this.

You may also watch Dr. Ostern's interview about his survival experiences at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHnLHxvBP60>

