



Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXI No.16

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Crackers Editor

Access the COSMO website at
<http://sbcosmo.com>
 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.

Dress Code
 Jackets are the required dress code during El Niño season

Meeting Staff
 Ticket Sellers: Bob Thompson & Manny Espig
 Invocation: Peter Kruse
 Audio-Visual: Bob Weber, Bill Alexander, Jack Petterson & Orlando Ramirez
 Sergeant-at-Arms: Walter Clapp
 Punchbowl Host: Kent Cullen
 Photographer: Ron White

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



NEXT MEETING

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.

March 17, 2016

Santa Barbara Opera Presentation



Fred Sidon will introduce the Moshers Studio Artists for a musical program. These artists perform previews of coming opera performances and other significant arias.

April 7, 2016

Ladies Day

Speaker: 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. Dr. Montell earned a B.S. degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at the University of California, San Diego and her Ph.D in Neuroscience at Stanford University. She was a post doctoral fellow at Carnegie Institution where she developed a new model for studying cell motility *inter vivo* using a powerful combination of cell biology and molecular genetic approaches. She has served on the faculty of John Hopkins School of Medicine where she served as Director of the Graduate Program in Biological Chemistry and was found director of the Center for Cell Dynamics. She joined UCSB in 2013 to pursue her interests in research, teaching and program building. She will discuss a process she has discovered which can reverse the process of cell death, *apoptosis*, with a process rising to life, *anastasis*, which has implications for cancer, degenerative disease, and regenerative medicine.

Notice. As in Ladies' Day in previous years we will take your cash or check at the meetings leading up to the event. That means March 3 and 17. **We do not take your money the day of the event.** At the two March meetings Program Committee men will be set up to take your paid reservation – or you my mail a check to the club treasurer, indicating "Ladies Day." It's \$44 for a couple, \$22 single.

WINE DRAWING:

Bob Zimels conducted the wine drawing and drew the magic ticket giving Fred Sidon a bottle of Riverbench Winery 2013 Chardonnay. A second draw awarded a bottle of Mettier Family Vineyard 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon to Mike Rodrigue.



Bill Berry introduced Joe Burns a retired CPA Auditor. Joe's interests include golf; his host was Dwight Coffin.

Also, omitted from the previous Crackers were Guests Peder Estrup hosted by Kevin Ryan and Everett Stevens hosted by Walter Clapp.

NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

President Stancer recently 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.

For the March 17 meeting Jim has prepared the following topic for discussion:

"Is There a Scientific Method?" History and Status

For a future meeting the topic will be "Social Movements and Belief Systems"

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

BRIDGE

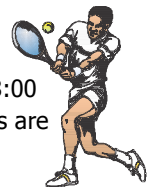
Join us for FUN Bridge upstairs at the Elks Club after all regular meetings; we play until 3:30 pm. Chair Ed Loper, 967-8630, oliveloper@cox.net.



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.com is up and running and encouraged new members to use it to register 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.

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

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 "Hysteria". 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. Call Thore Edgren to check availability

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

LAST MEETING

Professor Greg Spencer



Dwight Coffin introduced Dr. Greg Spencer, Professor of Communication Studies at Westmont College. Professor Spencer earned his BS in speech communications from

Cal Poly SLO, and a masters and PhD in Rhetoric and Communication from the University of Oregon. He has published two novels, the *Welkening* and *Guardian of the Veil*, two works of non-fiction, *A Heart for Truth* and *Awakening of the Quieter Virtues*, as well as essays and poems.

Professor Spencer launched his presentation under the title of "Wading into the Vitreous Waters." He discussed virtue, defined as more than just "middle age moralizing." He explained how our culture appears to favor "resume virtues" over the more sustaining "eulogy virtues." Among the virtues he discussed are modesty-- the humility of knowing one's weaknesses—and discernment.

In the moral struggles of life, Professor Spencer said we must fight for presence in our communication. Mobile devices are the enemy as witnessed when two young people sitting together at a table text each other instead of talking. Devices such as smart phones conspire against conversation and silence. Professor Spencer cited writings of Professor Sherry Turkle of MIT on the social consequences of impersonal communication—undermining relationship, creativity and productivity. He questioned whether we in *Cosmo* could influence our grandchildren to make their communications more personal. He noted that in his personal life he enjoys talking to the server in a restaurant to learn that person's name and interests; also he frequently opens conversation with the person next to him in the check-out line in a supermarket, again promoting presence. He suggested that a commitment to presence in our communication could lead to the benefits of undivided attention, dynamic interaction, knowing the whole person and the joys of empathetic relationships.