



Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXII No.3

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Crackers Editor

Next Meeting: **Aug 17, 2016**

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

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.

CHECKS FOR LUNCH AT ELK'S CLUB

Our hardworking ticket sellers would like to remind the membership that checks for the \$22 lunch are to be made payable to the Elks Club. In addition, to minimize long lines, they encourage people to have their checks prepared before reaching the ticket table

Website and Online Membership Roster

Don Chalfant and Jim Stubchaer have updated our online system. We now have a "public" and a "private" website. The "private" website is intended for use by Cosmopolitan Club members and includes an online membership roster that can be accessed with a password. The password will only be available to the membership and will be periodically revised to insure privacy.

An invitation to access the "private" website has been sent to all members with email addresses. It was followed with a separate email with the password.

The traditional printed roster has been printed and is available to members at the regularly scheduled meetings. So, if you have not yet obtained your copy of the roster, come to a meeting and collect yours

NEXT MEETING

August 18, 2016

Brian Kelly

The Air National Guard



Col. Brian Kelly has many years of expertise as a computer scientist, technology consultant, aviation consultant and vintner. He has been an active member on the Board of SEE International for over 13 years. Brian is married with four children and is actively involved in multiple non-profit organizations. Brian received his Bachelor's degree from Point Loma Nazarene University in History and Political Science. He holds a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in aviation and a Master of Aeronautical Science with a specialization in operations from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Harry Brown will introduce Brian, who will make a presentation to the membership on aerial fire fighting.

Dress Code

For Summer, the dress code is relaxed and jackets are not necessary. Please dress tastefully and with an emphasis on comfort

Annual Dues

If you have not paid them already, your annual club dues of \$60 are now past due. Payments should be made by personal check payable to the Cosmopolitan Club. Checks may be deposited in the box on the luncheon ticket seller's table or sent by mail to: Cosmopolitan Club of Santa Barbara PO Box 3993 Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3993

September 1, 2016

Jefferson Litten

Pathway to Clean Energy

Jefferson Litten is Director of Energy and Climate Programs at the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara. He administers CEC's initiatives in renewable energy, sustainable transportation and energy efficiency. Jefferson leads CEC's effort to bring community choice energy to Santa Barbara and sits on the South County Energy Efficiency Partnership (SCEEP), a collaboration of government energy managers and local utilities. He holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at UCSB and a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University. Karl Hutterer will introduce Jefferson.



September 15, 2016

Art Sylvester

Introduced by Charlie Greene

Geology of So. California

October 4, 2016

Ken Oplinger, SB Chamber of Commerce – CEO

Introduced by Karl Hutterer

October 20, 2016

Vern Bengtson

Introduced by Mead Northrop

Families and Faith

WINE DRAWING

Bob Zimels conducted the wine drawing. Henry Levy got a bottle of Riverbench '13 Chardonnay, A bottle of Kestrel Estate's '11 Syrah went to Ed Brown.



WELCOME OUR GUESTS

Herb Friedman introduced our four guests: Art Kvass hosted his son, Bob Kvass a retired Physicist. Charles Greene invited John Carter, a contractor while Jim Gravitt hosted John Traller a CPA with an interest in classic cars. Our fourth guest was Tom Boehme, a retired USSB professor, who was invited by Joe Swervo.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Our newest member is Gerhart Hoffmeister. Sponsored by Pete Kruse and Jim Subject, Gerhart was introduced by Pete.

Gerhart resides at 117 Calle Alamo in Santa Barbara, 93105. His phone is 805/682-1825 and his email is hoffmeis@verizon.net.



Retired from his professorship in European Literature at UCSB, Gerhart is interested in gardening, swimming, and music. He enjoys competing at tennis and ping-pong.

**REGULAR EVENTS
DISCUSSION GROUP**

August 18th: The Argument over National Security

Under the leadership of Jim Davis, members of Cosmo meet to discuss areas of mutual interest after the second regular monthly Cosmo meeting. Jim advises that until the video lectures on *The Great Debate* by Professor Pangle are finished the Group will meet twice a month as noted above. These sessions are held in the upstairs room immediately following our regular luncheon programs.

The 2016 Presidential election involves some major constitutional issues, ranging from separation of powers to a proposed amendment. It is timely to improve our understanding of how the Constitution was created, the arguments for and against federal power, and **The Great Debate** that illuminated the foundation of American government. The remaining topics to be discussed are as follows:

August 18th The Argument over National Security

September 1st The Deep Difficulties in Each Position

September 15th Debating the Meaning of "Federalism"

October 6th The Madisonian Republic

October 20th The Argument over Representation

November 3rd Disputing Separation of Powers, Part 1

November 8th 2016 Presidential Election

November 17th Disputing Separation of Powers, Part 2

December 1st The Supreme Court and Judicial Review

January 5th The Bill of Rights

Please join the Discussion Group for these 30 minute video lectures by Professor Pangle, a political scientist, and the associated group discussion of the content of the lectures.

Jim suggests that while we are engaged in videos, it is a good time to develop other topics for presentation. He urges members of the discussion group to think about topics they would like to discuss and would like to lead a group discussion on that topic. He suggests the following topics for a future time:

The Law of Unintended consequences

The Role of CO₂ in Life on Earth

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 7:45 am Mondays and Wednesdays. All tennis players are invited.

Contact Harrison Stroud at (805) 653-5117 stroud@hotmail.com or Peter Kruse.



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 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.



August 3rd found some 32 Cosmo golfers at the Ojai Valley Inn Golf Club for one of their scrambles. This proved to be a lovely spot to enjoy some time in the sun and bruise egos at the same time.

The winning team #3 of Rob Robertson, Bill Wilson, Patricia, and Stan Clothier was followed by team #2 with Bill Clothier, Ron Singer, Ron VanRossum, and James Alexander. Close behind was team #4 with Steve Kleeman, Mike Nutik, James Darnborough and Bill Kelly. Closest to Pin winners were: Steve Walden, Gregg Harrison, Bill Veigele, and Steve Kleeman. Contact Ron Singer to get on the mailing list. The website cosmogolfclubs.com is up and running. New members may use it to register and for additional news.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OCTOBER 11, PIPERS WINERY DIXIELAND JASS AND DINNER

Do not miss this opportunity to hear and dance to live traditional dixieland jass (yes "jass" not "jazz") and enjoy a BBQ dinner. The winery is located at the top of Rincon Mountain located 5 miles northeast of Carpinteria. Music commences at 1pm for your listening pleasure and continues to 4pm. A chicken and pulled pork dinner and dessert will be served at 4pm. Your admission includes wine and beer tasting; sodas and water will be furnished throughout the afternoon.

The dress is casual and attendees provide their own transportation. Carpooling is recommended. The cost is \$60/ person with a limit of 35, so make your reservations early. Send your check payable to Cosmopolitan Club to Thore Edgren, 6545 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, Ca. 93117 or pay at club meeting.

PETERSON AUTOMTIVE MUSEUM

We have planned a trip to the Petersen Automotive Museum in L.A. on Wednesday, Aug. 24. This is reputed to be one of the most fabulous car museums in the world. The museum has just completed a \$90 million restoration, and Thore said it is spectacular.

The cost of the trip is \$50, which includes the entrance fee, the bus costs and some refreshments. The bus will leave the Elks Club in Goleta at 8:00 AM, and stop in Santa Barbara and Carpinteria; its will return around 5:30.

Please let Bob Zimels know if you want to join us (962-3211 or zsloth@cox.net). Talk with Bob Zimels ASAP to see whether space is still available. Checks should be made out to Cosmo Club.

LAST MEETING

August 4, 2016

Ticket sellers were Paul Coyne and Steve Little, Punchbowl was ably handled by Don Archer. The audio-visual team of Bob Weber, Bill Alexander, Jack Patterson and Orlando Ramires took care of the electronics stuff. Sargeantof-Arms for this meeting was Steve Scheafer.

Folowing our rendition of the National Anthem and pledge to the flag, Ken Working provided the invocation. The ailing members report by Curt Whiteman included an update on the status of Bruce Long. Committee reports by Bob Zimels and Thore Edgren provided updates on the field trips for which you will find information elsewhere in the Crackers. Don Chalfant reminded members that the printed versions of the roster are available.

President Jim Davis reminded us that dues are now past

due; sixty-four members now have their dues outstanding.

PROGRAM

Gordon Bjork
Debt: How Big a Problem?



Introduced to our membership by Jim Davis, Gordon Bjork treated us to an insightful essay into the issue of our National Debt. Gordon is the J.B. Lovelace Professor of Economics, Emeritus, at Claremont McKenna College. After 42 years of university teaching, he retired in 2003 and joined the Cosmopolitan Club in 2005. He is the sole author of 4 books and a contributing author to 10. His lifetime of educational and governmental agency accomplishments are too numerous to list but here is a partial list:

Johnathon B. Lovelace Professor of Economics, Claremont-McKenna College and the Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management, President of Linfield College, Associate Professor of Economics, Columbia University, University of Carleton University in Canada. As a visiting Fellow he lectured at The Batelle Institute, University of Hawaii, and Nottingham University.

He consulted with and for: American Bankers' Assoc., American Mortgage Bankers' Assoc., Coopers and Lybrand, KPMG Intl., Security Pacific National Bank, First Interstate Bank, Lockheed Corp., Securities Exchange Commission, U. S. Treasury Department and other public and private institutions.

His Public and Community Service contributions have been substantial, ranging from staff work for Dr. Martin Luther King preparing testimony for the Ribikoff Commission, member of the US/Canada NAFTA, Secretary for the Rhodes Scholarship selection committee, and Superfund Sub-Committee Chairman.

Gordon received his education and early credentials from A.B. Dartmouth College, his B.A.M.A. from Oxford University, his Ph.D at the University of Washington. He was Phi Beta Kappa, Rhodes Scholar, and Haynes Foundation Faculty Fellow, receiving the George Washington Medal for Excellence in Economics and the CMC Presidential Citation.

The issue of how much debt is good and when does it become problematic has been argued by governments

and religions since ancient times. We learned that debt is a two-edged sword in the world of economics; too much or too little will result in imbalances that adversely affect a nation's economic health. Our nation's ratio of debt to GDP, in the area of 1:1 is considered to be among the safest in the world.

The U.S. national debt is held roughly one-third by the federal reserve, one-third by banks, insurance companies and financial institutions and one-third by outside governments and foreign companies. The U.S. debt is desirable even with its relatively poor investment yield because of its highly regarded liquidity and safety.

Gordon discussed the affect of population growth and demographics, noting that in 1900 immigrants to the U.S. had an average level of education greater than our native population at that time; This is no longer true. The result is that larger percentage of public spending is for housing, schools, and welfare. Additionally, increases in public spending for medical care and social security are a natural result of our aging population. A larger population is receiving assistance than is paying taxes. This deficit spending causes a steady increase in the debt-to-GDP ratio.

Deficit spending can be a successful strategy by a government, at least for a time. How long a time and how deep a deficit remains a question most difficult to answer, except in the past tense.

Is the National Debt a problem? In the short term, the answer is NO; In the long term, the answer is most assuredly YES.

Your scribe can state that those members who were present have a profoundly improved understanding of our National Debt issues. For those members who were not able to attend, well, you missed a good one.