

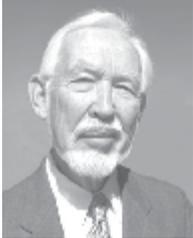


# Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

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Next Meeting: **Jan 15, 2017**

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## 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 on-line 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 Board of Directors approved an incentive program to urge current members 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.

## Dress Code

The dress code is updated for the cooler months. Jackets and ties are suggested attire

## 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](mailto:whiteman@westmont.edu).

Tom Bruce has left Cottage Hospital and is recovering at home, 1141 Via del Rey, Goleta, Ca. 93117. Tom suffered a stroke in Mexico on a family Thanksgiving vacation. Since Tom cannot speak, please send emails for him to his wife, [pybruce@chem.ucsb.edu](mailto:pybruce@chem.ucsb.edu).

## In Memoriam

We regret to report that longtime member, L.Bruce Long, died peacefully at home on January 6, 2017. A memorial service will be held at All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church, 83 Eucalyptus Lane, Montecito, on Saturday, Jan 28 at 11 am. Condolences may be sent to Bruce's wife, Jennifer, at their home, 4477 Shadow Hills Blvd. Apt.K, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105, phone 692-4072. Bruce was President of the Cosmopolitan Club, 2005 – 2006.

We are sorry to inform you of the death of Robert E. Cook, a longtime member and former President of the Cosmopolitan Club, 2003 – 2004. Bob was 94 years old and died on December 24, 2016,

## NEXT MEETINGS

**January 19**  
**Role of Carbon Dioxide in Life on Earth**

**Jim Davis, PhD.**



Dr. Davis received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in theoretical physics from CalTech and UCLA. Jim has published widely on subjects from basic science to public policy, testified at numerous

congressional hearings, and has been an invited speaker at numerous international conferences.

Davis reports carbon dioxide is essential to the development of life on earth and must be maintained at a sufficient level to sustain life on the planet Earth and in the seas. Some major contributors to climate changes will be discussed and compared to the role of carbon dioxide in such changes.

Key facts about the importance of CO2 will be given a historical context. The question of whether or not ocean acidification is a likely problem will be discussed. Examples of the influence of carbon dioxide on plant growth and sea life will also be reviewed. A final summary of the key points and other factors will be provided to sum up a possible favorable outcome.

**February 2, 2017**

**Muslims in America**

**Professor Ahmad Atif Ahmad**

**Introduced by John MacKenzie**

Ahmad Atif Ahmad is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California in Santa Barbara. He is the author of 'Islamic Law:

Cases, Authorities, and Worldview,' Pitfalls of Scholarship: Lessons from Islamic Studies,' 'The Fatigue of the Shari'a,' and a number of other publications. His research is in the area of medieval Islamic legal reasoning and its modern applications in national laws in the Muslim world and outside of it, Islamic financial jurisprudence, cyber religious law, and research and fatwa councils. At UCSB, he teaches introductory and advanced classes on Islamic law. Professor Ahmad will talk about Muslims in America, their sense of inclusion and exclusion, and the future of Muslim immigrants in North America.

**Feb 16, 2017**

**Tim Metzinger**

**Santa Barbara's Early History**

**Harry Brown**

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Discussion Group will meet twice a month until the series is complete. These sessions are held in the upstairs room immediately following our regular luncheon programs. The 2016 Presidential election involved some major constitutional issues, ranging from separation of powers to proposed amendments. The arguments for and against federal power persist today, and The Great Debate illuminates the foundation of American government. The remaining topics

to be discussed are as follows:

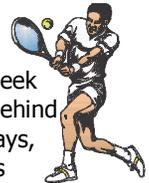
January 19th, The Bill of Rights

**BRIDGE**



Join us for FUN Bridge upstairs at the Elks Club after all regular meetings; we play until 3:30 pm. If you would like to play you are asked to call Ed Loper to sign up. Chair Ed Loper, 967-8630, [oliveloper@cox.net](mailto:oliveloper@cox.net).

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

**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](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. The website [cosmogolfclubs.com](http://cosmogolfclubs.com) is up and running. New members may use it to register and for additional news.

**CRUISE TO SAN DIEGO, BAJA PENINSULA, SEA OF CORTEZ AND PUERTO VALLARTA ON A PRINCESS SHIP.**

March 28 to April 7, 2017

This trip is for Golfers and NonGolfers alike. It will depart from Los Angeles; transportation from Santa Barbara will be available.

For golfers, there will be opportunities in San Diego, Cabo San Lucas, La Paz, Loretto, and Puerto Vallarta. For non golfers, there are fishing, tours and loafing available. The price is exceptionally economical due to the membership of Ron Singer as an Online Vacation Shareholder, which he is sharing. Price check available at <http://www.princess.com/find/cruiseDetails.do?voyageCode=9709>

Contact Ron Singer, Chairman, Golf Committee, Cosmopolitan Club of Santa Barbara, at [rsinger916@aol.com](mailto:rsinger916@aol.com)

**Last Meeting January 5, 2017**

Ticket sellers were Ted Ross and Paul Fink. A.B. Clarke managed the punchbowl. The audio-visual team of Bob Weber, Bill Alexander. Jack Patterson and Orlando Ramirez took care of the a/v electronics. Walt Clapp was Sergeant-

at-Arms. Bill Alexander offered the invocation.

Bob Zimels conducted the wine drawing. Paul Coyne received a 2014 Pinot Gris from Henry Estate Winery. A 2013 Columbia Valley Merlot from Reid Vineyards was won by Bob Zimels.



George Surmeier won the free luncheon for the January 19th meeting.

**WELCOME OUR GUESTS** 

Gordon Bjork introduced our guest, Peter Tredick, hosted by Bob Hayes. Peter was an attorney in Washington D.C. where he was Counsel to the House Labor Committee.

**Proposed for Membership**

Allan Wolinsky

3749 Gregory Way #1

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Proposed for membership by Ron Singer and Mike Nutik

Cell #: 780/908-4151

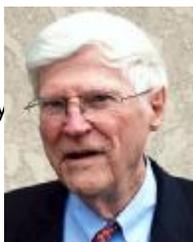
email: [allanwolinsky@gmail.com](mailto:allanwolinsky@gmail.com)

Allan and his wife Dalia relocated in Santa Barbara upon his retirement from his position as legal counsel for the government of Alberta, Canada in 1998. He enjoyed a career in law for 25 years following his formal studies in Political Science, Philosophy and Law. Allan has served as Chairman of YMHA and vice-president of the Jewish Community Centre as well as President of the Canadian Zionist Organization of Western Canada.

His avocations include travel and reading and he is active in the sport of golf.

**Welcome New Member**

Bill Stancer introduced our new member, Thomas Boehme, who was sponsored by Joe Szerwo and Bob Zimels, Tom holds a BS degree in Physics from the University of Oklahoma and a PhD



in Math from the California Institute of Technology. He served in the USAF and retired as a Professor of Mathematics in 1993. He is a member of the National Geographic Society and the American Numismatic Society. Tom and his wife, Gail, have two children and have lived in Santa Barbara since 1963. Tom plays golf and tennis.

Dr. Thomas K. Boehme, 6511 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, Ca. 93117, ph 805-967-4402.

cell 805-259-6203, email [tboehme@aol.com](mailto:tboehme@aol.com)

**January 5, 2017 SPEAKER**

**UPDATES on CITY PROJECTS and ISSUES**

**Paul Casey, City Administrator of Santa Barbara**



Paul Casey was introduced by Dwight Coffin and spoke on many wide-ranging topics of interest. He has 19 years experience in Santa Barbara city management and has served as City Administrator since 2014, managing a budget of \$305 Mil. and overseeing 1,000 fulltime employees and 500 parttime employees. Casey provides leadership and guidance on the development of many city projects and policy issues for the Police, Fire, Publi works, Parks and Recreation, Airport, Harbor, Library and Planning departments. He gave us an overview of many current issues and City projects as follow:

District Elections - In Novemeber, 2016, districts 1,2,and 3 moved to district elections. In November, 2017, districts 4,5, and 6 will hold district elections; Helene Schnider, Bendy White and Frank Hotchkiss will be termed out and a new Mayor will be elected.

Drought Planning – Storms have evaded Santa Barbara as we experience the worst drought in recorded history. El Nino was a complete bust and there has been zero runoff into resevoirs. Gibraltar reservoir is completely dry, Lake Cachuma is 7% full; there is not much goundwater.

Purchased water is fairly inexpensive when available. Santa Barbara purchases desal and State water from other re-sources and transfers it through State pipes to Santa Barbara.

City residents have accomplished 35% conservation. There is no outdoor watering of lawns which will come back. It is important to water shrubs and save our trees. Desal was permitted in the 90's, and the city is bringing the plant back on line. The desal project costs \$70 Mil. And will provide 1/3 of the City water supply. As water is more scarce, the city will keep desal running after the rains come.

The City is willing to negotiate with Montecito where water is sorely needed. Montecito Water District wanted to partner with the City and then bailed; now they want back in. If the City can get a fair deal from Montecito, they are willing to partner.

Police Department – The new Chief, Lori Lutelow, comes

from San Diego and is starting well. Police officer recruitment has been a big problem. It takes one year for recruits to get through the Academy. The City has filled 140 of 141 police officer places.

Policy Issues – Vacation rentals by owners have increased through online rentals such as AirB&B. Some homes are run 100% of the time for vacation rentals. Existing ordinances do not allow rentals of less than 30 days. There will be a reduction in vacation rentals because of neighborhood complaints.

Marijuana will be legal in 2018 since Prop 64 passed. The City Council passed a moratorium on the cultivation, distribution and sale of non-medical marijuana until September, 2018.

Smoking and alcohol are now allowed on the beach, but the Council may ban those on the beach, in City parks and on Stearns Wharf. Also, the Council may change the regulations for the sale of alcohol.

Financial Condition – of the City is OK. Revenues are not growing as fast as in the past. Property taxes are relatively strong. Sales taxes are lagging because of internet/on-line sales, as reflected in the closure of the downtown Macys store at Paseo Nuevo. Revenues from TOT, Transit Occupancy Tax (bed tax), are levelling off. Vacation rental revenue (bed tax) of \$1.3 Mil. is also levelling off. Casey has no idea what the revenue from marijuana taxes may be.

Infrastructure - the urgent need of investment is the challenge of Santa Barbara. The elimination of the Redevelopment Agency lost the City \$30 Mil. per year. The City needs to retrofit several downtown parking garages to be seismically safe. The Police headquarters must be replaced and will cost \$80 Mil. Also, the City has aging Fire stations. Gas tax, State and Federal support for street repairs are drying up. The City has invested \$2 Mil. per year in streets; \$7 Mil. would be better; \$12 Mil. would be ideal. The City has an infrastructure shortfall of \$500 Mil. A revenue measure such as a sales tax if needed to close the gap. A ½ cent or a 1 cent increase in City sales tax is the solution.

Projects – for the last two years there have been extensive investments around lower State St.

The Cabrillo Blvd. Bridge has been replaced and the Mason St. Bridge is almost done. The temporary bridge may be kept for bikes and pedestrians. The Entrada Project building 123 hotel rooms, commercial spaces and parking at the site of the old California Hotel on mason St. Is progressing well. Tony Montesano is expanding the Harbor View Inn. MOXI – the Wolf Museum of Exploration and Innovation is nearing completion on lower State St.. The City provided a 50 year lease at \$1 per year to build the science and technology museum.

Unfunded Pension Liabilities – the City is a member of CALPERS which provides a defined benefit plan to California public employees and earned a 7.5% rate of return over 30 years. CALPERS has never recovered from 2007 and has reduced its expected rate of return to 7%. The State must address unfunded liabilities on a statewide basis. The promise of lifetime medical benefits for City employees is a killer, unless they accept that Medicare takes over at age 65. Public Safety employees retire at age 50 after 30 years service with a benefit of 90% of salary. Employee unions pay 9% of salary to pension funding. Santa Barbara pays 50% of salary for retirement benefits of public safety officers. Cities can go bankrupt providing these benefits, but cannot compete to recruit employees unless CALPERS adopts a statewide solution. Casey does not yet know the changes CALPERS will implement.

Homeless Situation – is a discouraging problem of all coastal cities. Casa Esperanza is now a sober living facility on Casique St. The city cannot “arrest” its way out of the homeless. The City spends \$3 Mil. per year on the homeless situation which has been a federal, societal issue since the Reagan era.

M.T.D. – the Metro Transit District is purchasing new, larger shuttles for the downtown State St. routes. Those shuttles now charge fares because the homeless rode all day when free.