

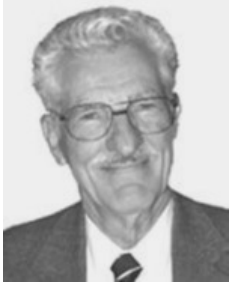


Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXV No. 11

Editor: Chuck Evans



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Club meetings are held 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Elks Lodge, 150 N Kellogg Ave, Goleta.
Meeting start time: 12 p.m. prompt
(Please arrive 11:30-11:45 a.m.)

In Memoriam

We have just received word that our friend and former Cosmo member **Don Archer** passed away in early November this year, at the age of 95. He had been a Cosmo member since 2002 but resigned in 2018 due to ill health.



Don was trained as a navigator on B-25 in the US Army Air Corps but just missed deployment in the Pacific as WW II ended in 1945. Following discharge he graduated from MIT in electrical engineering and worked as a radar antenna designer for Raytheon until retirement here in Santa Barbara. One of his lasting achievements was the development of the guidance system for the Patriot Missile. In retirement he was active in Cosmos and regularly worked out at the Montecito YMCA. Please read a much more complete obituary [HERE](#).

Cosmo Members Ailing

If you learn that one our members is ill or injured, please notify Editorial Assistant [Eric Torbet](#).

Free Lunch Guidelines for New Members

Upon a prospective member's first visit to a regular lunch meeting, he/she will be entitled to receive a free lunch, courtesy of the club. To arrange for this, the guest's sponsor will introduce the guest to the assigned "Guest Introduction" member stationed at the welcome desk. *The Guest Introduction member will provide a "chit" which may be exchanged for a meal ticket at the "Ticket Taker's" desk near the entry to the hall.*

A second set of chits will be given to a new member and his/her sponsor at the meeting where they are seated at the president's table and the sponsor introduces the new member to the membership at that meeting. *If the chits are not already at the Ticket Taker's table, check with the president to obtain these so that they may be exchanged for meal tickets.*

Website and Online Membership Roster

Access the Cosmo website 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. If you find any errors in your listing in the Roster, please contact Editorial Assistant [Eric Torbet](#).

Dress Code

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

Upcoming Meetings

December 5, 2019

“Experiencing 6 Years of Family Life Among Baffin Island Inuit Early in Their Transition to a New Way of Life”

Bob Weber will introduce our own **Bill Berry**, who will talk about his time living with the Inuit. Bill experienced daily life among the aboriginal hunter-gatherer survival culture, where older generations remembered years of poor food harvest when female infanticide, occasional cannibalism and suicide of the elderly and sick were needed to prevent extended family camps from dying out. The government responded to the Inuit desire for a better standard of living and a more secure and healthy life.

Bill Berry was born in Montreal in 1937, and raised in Ville de Lery, a French-Canadian farm village southwest of Montreal, where he learned French and became a lifetime bilingual. He graduated from McGill University in 1958 with a B.Sc. in geology and chemistry.

After graduation he became Area Administrator with the Canadian Federal Government on Baffin Island, which lies to the west of Greenland, in the Canadian Eastern Arctic. In this capacity he, with his cohort of Area Administrators throughout the Arctic, was called by the Inuit “INULIRIJI”: he who works with the Inuit. He remained there over six years with his young family, and will describe the experience in his talk.

The second phase of his career began with an MBA from the University of Western Ontario in 1967 followed by working as a Federal civil servant in Montreal for several years before subsequent years in the private sector in various industries with offices for government affairs such as the Canadian Textiles Institute, where he became Executive Vice President, followed by manager of Government Affairs Ultramar Canada, the largest refiner and marketer of oil products in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces. Next in 1987 to 1989 Bill was Executive Director of the Crop Protection Institute of Canada, the trade association of the Canadian pesticide industry. In all of these positions he was responsible for the advancement of industry issues and positions, contributing to the formation of public policies, using research, position papers and testimony to senior officials, Boards, Commissions and Parliamentary Committees.



December 19, 2019

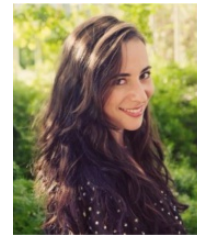
San Marcos High School Madrigal Choral Presentation

John Warnock will introduce the **San Marcos High School Madrigal Singers**, directed by **Eleni Pantages**. Don't miss this wonderful program that will definitely put you in the holiday mood. As in the past, spouses and friends are welcome at this luncheon.

The San Marcos High School choral program, under the direction of Ms. Pantages, consists of five ensembles, each dedicated to the cultivation of the choral art experience for students and the community. The Madrigal Singers have consistently received top-scores and adjudicators awards at music festivals around the country and internationally. They have traveled and performed in Paris (Notre Dame, La Madeleine), London (St. Paul's Cathedral), twice in Carnegie Hall, and sang for mass at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice and at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. This coming spring, they will travel to Seattle to compete.

This is Ms. Pantages's second year as the choral director at San Marcos, and she is an alumna of their vocal music program. She currently sings with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and has lent her voice to several films and TV shows, in addition to teaching choir and musical theater for the past decade.

The Madrigal Singers will be also be performing the day before, on Dec. 18, 7 p.m., at the San Roque Catholic Church in Santa Barbara (325 Argonne Circle).



Special Events

December 3, 2019

Christmas Dinner & Dance

Our ever popular annual Christmas Dinner/Dance party will be held at La Cumbre Country Club from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The price is **\$90/person**, the same as last year. We need your payment by Nov. 29, to allow for satisfactory seating arrangements. Contact Ron White if you wish to attend: dirongoleta@gmail.com or (805) 964-9742



This is always a perfect event for bringing your guests to enjoy their company in an outstanding venue.

Special Events, cont'd...

February 6, 2020

Hobby Day

All members who have hobbies and special interests such as Woodworking, Art pieces, Winemaking, Photography, Sculpturing, Pottery, Jewelry Making, Collections, Ceramics, etc. are invited to display their hobbies and special interests at this special club meeting.

A questionnaire titled HOBBY DAY SHOW was included in the [Nov. 7 Crackers issue](#), page 5. If you are interested, complete the questionnaire and send to Thore Edgren before Dec. 5.



Regular Events

Golf

Announcement: We're organizing a trip to San Diego for 3 days of golf, **Feb 16-19**. Contact Ron Singer for details and to get on the Cosmo golf mailing list.



Mondays we usually meet at the Santa Barbara Golf Club (Muni). Tee times most often begin at 10:15 a.m. Contact Ron Singer at (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. Contact Ron Singer to get on the mailing list. New members can use the website sites.google.com/view/cosmosb/home to register and sign up for additional news.

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 or Joe Abram at (805) 845-8579, jabrammd@gmail.com for additional info.



Discussion Group

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



December 19: No meeting this month

Last Meeting

November 21, 2019

Ticket sellers were Rita Norman and Gerhart Hoffmeister. The punchbowl host was Beverly Singer. Audio-visual duties were handled by Bob Weber and Orlando Ramirez. Gerard Kuiken was sergeant-at-arms. The invocation prayer was offered by Pete Kruse.

Wine Drawing

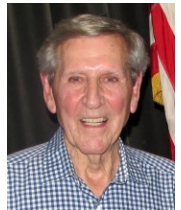
Bob Zimels awarded Bill Costello a Robert Mondavi 2017 Bourbon Barrels chardonnay. JC Elliot took home a bottle of Langford Estate 2017 pinot noir.



Program Synopsis

"The Case for Freedom to Choose"

Kevin Ryan introduced Cosmo's own **Jim Davis**, and said to prepare to have your minds bent by our in-house philosopher Jim. Jim gave a powerful commentary on a much-debated matter – can machines through Artificial Intelligence (AI) achieve the same level of intelligence as humans? Are we just more advanced physical things, more than advanced machines? Are we just wet machines made of flesh? Do humans have a level of freedom and intelligence that machines can never achieve? Jim examined the reasons to question the validity of the opinion that we are not free to choose our actions, that we do not have free will.



There is the nightmare scenario of AI robots: will there be AI robot killers? Jim Davis stated that is not likely, that no scientist will know how to create human level AI, and he believes that AI will serve us.

Two opposing ideas about Freedom to Choose are: con: humans are physical objects governed by the law of physics, and pro: there are no known laws for predicting

Last Meeting, cont'd...

human thoughts. Free or not free have profound social implications. Philosophers since Plato have debated this, whether we are free or not free to choose, but there are constant challenges. The legal community struggles with this all the time.

Throughout history, humans have shown extremely diverse differences in behavior, which illustrates humanity's mental and physical adaptability. An old question about Freedom to Choose is if you can undermine any earlier prediction of your decisions, is that evidence your choices are ultimately up to you.

First, ideas about AI. Jobs will be lost due to expansion of AI robots, but McKinsey's recent forecast is that twice as many jobs will be created. Typical issues about AI are will robots be able to have emotions or imagination.

Human brains and computers are radically different. The human brain structure is dynamic, and the extreme adaptability of the brain makes humans far more flexible than a rule-based machine.

Jim recommended a book *The Soul Machine, the Invention of the Modern Mind*, by George Makari. It is a history of the creation of the modern Western mind, from the time of crisis in religious authority and the scientific revolution.

John Locke stated that we are all created equal, that our brains are empty, and that we develop them on our own. That is inspirational, but hardly true.

Jim Davis concluded that thought is not closed off on some rule-based system like a machine – we can always think and perceive "outside the box". But we are "soul machines", always struggling with logic versus intuition and imagination.