



# Crackers

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol LXV No. 12

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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 **Duncan Craven** passed away on November 23, at the age of 90. He had been a Cosmo member since 2004, and served on the Board. His wife Wendy is grateful that a number of Cosmo members came to his recent funeral service. You can read his official obituary [HERE](#), but here is an excerpt:



Duncan grew up in England, and studied medicine at Oxford University, and specialized in Radiology. He moved to California in 1970 to work at UCLA, eventually becoming Professor of Medicine. In retirement, he thoroughly enjoyed attending Cosmo meetings, and also played tennis and traveled around the world. He leaves behind Wendy his wife of 50 years, 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

## 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](http://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

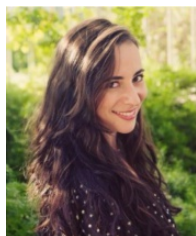
For our regularly scheduled luncheon meetings, California Casual dress will be the preferred style year round. Let the weather be your guide.

## Upcoming Meetings

December 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' 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).*

January 2, 2020

### Opera Carmen

Chuck Curtis will introduce our own **Albert Mercado**, who will speak about Bizet's opera *Carmen*. After retiring from 41 years in space and defense, Albert decided to pursue one of his favorite passions: classical music and operas. He enrolled in a special opera training program at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in LA, in a 1-year program prepared by Placido Domingo to study opera presentations. After completing the course and becoming a member of the Opera Speakers Bureau,



Albert has given multiple presentations at theaters, clubs, universities, and libraries.

*Carmen*, an opera in four acts by French composer Georges Bizet, was groundbreaking in its realism and rapidly became one of the most popular Western operas of all time. Today it is the third most popular opera at the Metropolitan. It is the source of many memorable and widely recognized songs, notably those known by the popular names "Toréador Song" and "Habanera." *Carmen* also is the best-known example of opéra-comique, a genre of French opera not necessarily comic but featuring both spoken dialogue and sung portions. In contrast to its current reputation, it was initially condemned by early critics, who were unaccustomed to seeing the lives of the common folk, much less the world of gypsies (in Mérimée they are specifically identified with the Roma), smugglers, deserters, factory workers, and various ne'er-do-wells given centre stage.

## Special Events

December 3, 2019

### Christmas Dinner & Dance

Our annual Christmas dinner/dance was a happy affair although its size was reduced from previous years. Many members were to be found on the dance floor cutting the rug and such. The band played a great selection of old-timer music super for dancing or just listening.

Here are a few photos taken by Bob Weber walking around the venue (more can be found on our [Facebook page](#), with higher resolution)...



## 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.

The deadline for reserving a place in this show has passed, but contact [Thore Edgren](#) to see if there is still space.



## Regular Events

### 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*

**January 16** (Jim Hemmer): *Origins of Proto Indo-European Language (3,500-3,000 BC)*



### 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](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. New members can use the website [sites.google.com/view/cosmosb/home](https://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](mailto:jsubject@aol.com) or Joe Abram at (805) 845-8579, [jabrammd@gmail.com](mailto:jabrammd@gmail.com) for additional info.



## Last Meeting

**December 5, 2019**

Ticket sellers were Mike McGinnis and Gerhart Hoffmeister. The punchbowl host was Faiz Faruki. Audio-visual duties were handled by Bob Weber, Bill Alexander, and Orlando Ramirez. Gerard Kuiken was sergeant-at-arms. The invocation prayer was offered by Bill Alexander.

### Wine Drawing

Bob Zimels awarded George Surmeier an Oyster Bay 2018 sauvignon blanc. Chuck Curtis took home a bottle of Bogle Vineyards 2016 zinfandel.



## Program Synopsis

### “Family Living with the Inuit”

Bob Weber introduced our own **Bill Berry**, who gave a heartwarming story of his life above the Arctic Circle with the Inuit tribe. We heard of the challenging life the natives endured, that he and his young family joined, and of the love that they all shared.

Bill started his presentation by talking in Inuktitut and even sang us a song in this dialect. He introduced himself as Saumiralak, translated "The left-handed person of lesser importance". Your editor was impressed by his complete immersion into the Inuit life, not only speaking the language but enduring ice age conditions wearing the traditional clothing, hunting seal in his own kayak, racing with his own dog sled team and eating lots of seal (he said that polar bear tastes terrible). His young family with three sons also adapted to this unconventional life.

Bill gave a slide presentation that showed us Inuit geography and history. His maps showed the wide-



spread colony locations above the arctic circle and how they evolved over the centuries. His photographs told of the precarious conditions they endured, surviving by killing an occasional seal for food and its skin. Starvation, infanticide and suicide by the sick and old were common. As western culture came in, they eagerly accepted new opportunities that improved their lives. Over the last few generations they have shifted from a hunter-gatherer culture to a wage and settled society with new opportunities as nurses, teachers, mechanics, oil field workers and pilots.

His photos also told a story of community and mutual welfare. We saw how a culture living in stressful conditions banded together and shared resources. We saw them including these foreigners they called "qallunait", known for their bushy eyebrows. A very special story was the close interrelationship of Bill's family with the Inuit. They still communicate after all these years, with his son still in touch with an Inuit daughter that he was smitten with those years ago.

In all, it was a delightful visit of a family that lived with the Inuit tribe and adopted them as part of their family.