



# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

Also available at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

## October Meeting

Friday, October 25, 2019, 6:30pm

The Dolan Law Firm, 1438 Market Street, SF 94102

### HEADHUNT REVISITED: WITH BRUSH, CANVAS AND CAMERA

A Melanesian Story about the Art of Caroline Mytinger

Michele Westmorland FN'95

with photos of some of Mytinger's artwork

*Headhunt Revisited* retraces the improbable journey of Caroline Mytinger and her friend Margaret Warner, who crossed the Pacific on a quest to find and paint portraits of unspoiled civilizations of Melanesia. From 1926-1930 they embarked on an exploration of a remote world fraught with danger. Mosquitoes engorged with blood had to be snipped off with scissors; cockroaches the size of hummingbirds chewed on their toes; and a volcanic eruption threatened the very existence of the artwork.

Nevertheless, they persisted, carrying with them a growing collection of portraits, supplies for new works of art, and just enough money to ship their bodies home if needed.



After four years, Caroline returned with a wealth of ethnographic details including 25 oil paintings, more than 40 sketches, and journal entries that became the notes for two books on her travels. Her art is one of the first and only color interpretations

of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands during the early 20th century.



The 25 October Chapter meeting will include a talk about the Michelle

Westmorland's experience during the preparation of her documentary film. In 2005, she set out to learn how the culture has evolved since Caroline's journey. Remarkably, she discovered descendants of four individuals in Caroline's paintings. Armed with a camera and prints of Caroline's

original artwork, she was able to engender important dialogues with Melanesians regarding their past, change, adaptation, heritage and culture.

Westmorland then introduced Mytinger's work to Jeffrey Feeger, a renowned contemporary Papua New Guinean portrait artist. Jeffrey immediately saw a unique depiction of Melanesians, painted in color and with a true representation of humanity that he states, "can't be seen anywhere else." To honor her work, Jeffrey decided to produce a series of his own paintings with similarities to Caroline's artwork that capture "what it means to be a modern-day Papua New Guinean." His artwork and voice brings the legacy and story of Caroline Mytinger full circle.

*Headhunt Revisited* shines a light on Melanesia—its history, people and traditions—illustrating with painting, photography and filmmaking, that all forms of art are instrumental in communicating stories of culture and tradition. This documentary connects these artists in a story that is personal and universal, illustrating how art transcends time, genre and geography, continuing to inspire new generations of artists and non-artists alike about the importance of documenting culture and tradition.

Michele Westmorland is an American photographer who specializes in underwater photography. She worked in the corporate world for twenty two years before beginning photography. She is a fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers and of The Explorers Club. She runs her own company, Westmorland LLC, in Redmond, Washington where she resides.



## HARRY HOLMAN HICKS MN'87 1920-2019

Photos by Lee Langan



Harry's remains were interred at the Golden Gate cemetery with full military honors, being placed next to his beloved wife Cecilia and son Roland. Officiating at the services, both at graveside and in the cemetery chapel, was Emeritus Chapter Chair Captain Rick Saber. Others participating included Col. Leon McArdle and the ceremonial team from Travis AFB, a 3-man rifle corps that fired a salute, two officers to handle the flag ceremony and the playing of taps. Bag piper Melody Farquhar-Chang led the attendees from the gravesite to the chapel where a memorial service was held to celebrate the life of Harry Hicks. Speakers there included Emeritus Chapter Chair Bob Schmieder, Starr Potts\*, god daughter of Harry, Patrick Brent (one of Harry's polo buddies), Peterson Conway (god son of Harry), and several other speakers from the congregation. Amazing Grace on the bag pipes closed the ceremonies and many of the attendees repaired to the Weston SFO hotel to share Harry stories.

### SOUL OF A NATION - ART IN THE AGE OF BLACK POWER

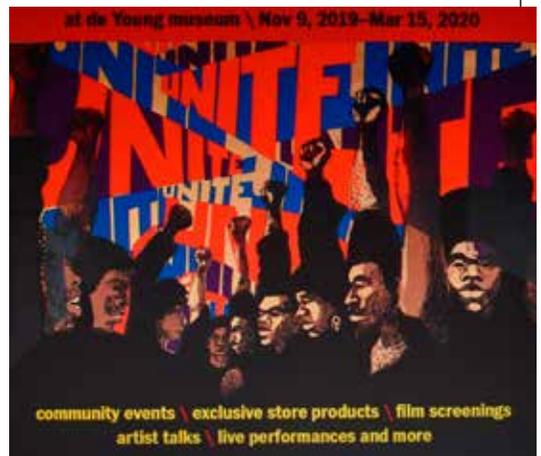
Jim Prigoff



The exhibit opens November 9, 2019 at the de Young Museum in San Francisco. The show was curated at the Tate Museum in London and then went to Golden Bridges in Arkansas and the Brooklyn Museum. To their credit, the Broad Museum in LA. saw the show there and brought it to LA where it has had a great run. The de Young, also saw it, and is bringing it to San Francisco. Likewise Houston will bring it there in 2020.

It is a powerful show of very important art. I have personally been involved as the show at the Tate Modern originally projected 14 murals from Robin Dunitz and my book "Walls of Heritage - Walls of Pride". The de Young will project 20 full size images that we have supplied to them, plus some others.

I will personally be at the show on November 9th from 9am when it opens until about 2 pm. I am hoping that those explorers within traveling distance might stop by so that I can personally discuss the show with you.



## **Material Science and Forensic Engineering at the CreoLa Robert N. Anderson FN'89, Friday, 27 September 2019**

The September meeting was a special and unique one — not only our first meeting of our new, 2019-2020, Chapter year, but also a meeting to celebrate the life of our long-time member, Harry Hicks, MN' 87.

In the afternoon before the chapter meeting, many chapter members joined with Hicks' family members and friends for the interment of Harry's ashes at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. Harry's wife, Dede Whiteside Hicks, MN '13 — as was Harry, a beloved member of our chapter — graciously greeted everyone and, for the afternoon, brought Harry back to life.

Dede was the prime mover for the September meeting, arranging for us to take over CreoLa Bistro in San Carlos for the evening. There we had a packed house, including many Hicks friends who joined our Chapter members for dinner and then a talk that would include more reminiscences of Harry's eventful life as a member of The Explorers Club.

Our speaker for the evening, Robert Anderson, Ph.D., FE'89, is the president of RNA Consulting, Inc., a company that specializes in forensic material and metallurgical engineering. His talk, re-titled "Common Ground: Forensic Engineering and Archaeology Investigations" gave us an overview of a way of exploring for the answers to mysteries that few of us had known about previously. And at the same time, Dr. Anderson, a long time friend of Harry Hicks, related delightful tales about some of his adventures with Harry.

With his wife, DRU, behind the computer running his slides, Dr. Anderson began his talk by explaining what a forensic engineer is. This is a person who uses engineering methodologies and technology to analyze past events, and is often a person who will testify in court about his findings. Personally, he has been to court more than 100 times. Over the years, the way he employs his engineering analytical expertise has evolved as he has branched out to many different fields, including art objects, archeological finds, causes of accidents. . . .

One case that he became involved with early in his career had to do with analysis of Etruscan art. He commented that the Etruscans were very artistic, and in his analytical work, found that the waters of swimming pools used for mental health had lithium in them, the reason the waters were so good for mental health. At the time, he was working with a professor of Art History, for Dr. Anderson a very different experience from being an engineering professor. The experience made him realize the need to explain the causes of things, not just focus on the final result.

After giving us a broad overview and discussing examples of his work briefly, Dr. Anderson moved on to describe several particular efforts in more detail. He began with the story of his investigation of the disappearance and then death of a prison guard in Mexico, working on this as a forensic legal investigation. The issue was when a prison guard had died, a question vital for whether his widow would receive insurance compensation for his death. Dr. Anderson described his analysis and evidence handling of the burnt wreck of the car in which the man was found dead years after his disappearance. It was a complex and technologically sophisticated bit of work. Ultimately he was able to determine the man had died just beyond a few weeks after he'd disappeared — a time frame that meant the widow could collect. The case was settled in her favor.

Another story was about his work at the Taj Mahal in 1980, a trip on which he was accompanied by his children and his wife.

And then he went on to "What About Harry." Dr. Anderson launched into his memories of working with Harry Hicks, who was the one who had persuaded him to join the Explorers Club. The two men shared an interest in archeology and studies of ancient cultures. In particular, Dr. Anderson worked with Harry on his study and analysis of the ancient Aryan Vedic head that Harry had found — a study to determine its age. The best they could do was to determine that it was made from natural, unrefined ore smelted and cast. From this, Dr. Anderson concluded that it was at least 2000 years old.

After a couple of other short stories, Dr. Anderson moved on to another more extensive one. This was the tale of his investigation of the cause of the 1913 fire that destroyed "Wolf House," a 26 room mansion under construction for Jack London in Glen Ellen, California. Over the years, there had been many theories about the how and why of the fire. Dr. Anderson's goal, working with the California State Park system, was to determine just what in fact had happened. To do this, he embarked on a multi-week on-site investigation. He analyzed the condition of the wood, traced the fire start back to the unfinished kitchen, where linseed oil soaked rags had been left on a mantel at the end of a construction day. He concluded that after the workers left, the rags had spontaneously combusted, and started the fire that burned down the structure.

Dr. Anderson concluded with a bit more about his explorations/analyses/adventures with Harry. The last story was of a trip to Glastonbury in England in 1988. Their goal was to see if they could definitively link a King Arthur to the site, as they carried out what he described as an "unearthing" expedition. They were unsuccessful, but perhaps not all that disappointed. The mystery remained, and they concluded that might just be the way it should be after they were told that it might be best to keep the idea of the possibility alive, rather than prove King Arthur had not been there. They agree and quit.

It was a wonderful evening of stories, and perfect as the way to end a meeting that was so special, in part a tribute to Harry Hicks. In Dr. Anderson, we had a speaker who not only knew and worked with Harry, but also a man who could convey the spirit of Harry. And so, with Dr. Anderson at the front of the room, Harry was with us throughout the room.

**Joan Boothe MN'07**

HONOR ROLL  
Paid Up Dues 2019

MEMBERS

Alexander, Jim  
Alexander, Linda  
Allan, James  
Amaral, Julia  
Bekins, Joan  
Berg, Barbara  
Bibas, Bonnie  
Blake, Rick  
Bolt, Kendra  
Boothe, Joan  
Chang, Joyce  
Chase, H. Keith  
Cook, Sandra  
Cooper, Alan  
Day, Peggy  
Dehmel, Rick  
Diggles, Mike  
Dolan, Tom  
Dvorak, Don  
Dvorak, Elaine  
Durbir, Thomas  
Dutcher, Susan  
Elkus, Patty  
Elkus, Rick  
Ellis, Scott  
Estey, Sue  
Eustace, Alan  
Ewing, Lesley  
Finney, Luke  
Ford, Arthur  
Fox, Susan  
Freitas, Anna  
Freitas, Paul  
Friedman, James  
Hemming, Peter  
Hermaly, Brenden  
Higgins, Robert  
Holmes, Robert  
Horne, William  
Hurson, Jim  
Hurson, Von  
Hutchison, Alan  
Isherwood, William  
Jepsen, Anders  
Klein, Ronald  
Kvenvolden, Keith  
Langan, Lee  
Lapham, Ellen  
Lidicker, William  
MacDonald, Robert  
Mangus, Rodney  
McCown, George  
McInturf, Alexandra  
Nichols, Alan  
Nichols-Rygh, Becky  
Prigoff, James  
Ross, Sandy  
Saber, Rick  
Schmieder, Robert  
Smith, Steve  
Straka, Bill  
Tarter, Jill  
Velivela, Vignan  
Weil, James  
Winter, Mordechai  
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Baye, Karin  
Blake, Maggi  
Blumberg, Marion  
Boothe, Barry  
Brandt, Jim  
Clever, Karoli  
Cohn, Lawrence  
Coolidge, Oliver  
Crowder, Wendy  
Durigello, Joy  
Fish, Sandra  
Friedman, Christen  
Gill, Naveet  
Gorenberg, Peter  
Hirzel, David  
Hutchison, Ann  
Isaac, Nancy  
Jepsen, Kathy  
Johnson, Fred  
Judd, Kathy  
Langan, Karine  
Longo-Cohn, Mary  
Mani, Cassandra  
McLoughlin, Liz  
McNulty, Edward  
Messeri, Edward  
Nikas, Jim  
O'Keeffe, Bonny  
Patterson, Tom  
Pennathur, Sudha  
Saber, Aldeana  
Schmieder, Kay  
Smith, Koda  
Straka, Barbara  
Townsend, Tiffany  
Van Austen, Bob  
Van Austen, Judy  
Weiman, Mark  
Yoder, Karl

FROM THE CHAIR

We got the season off to a great start with our September meeting down on the Peninsula. Dr. Bob Anderson, FE '89 has traveled the world doing forensic work to help age date materials, determine causes of corrosion and examining the uses of new technology for exploration. Food at Creola restaurant was delicious and the evening event was fascinating. We will be working on the sound system to make sure speakers can be heard without needing to shout or hold the mic right next to their mouths.



In early October I headed to the Rio Theater in Santa Cruz to see a special *Born to Explore segment, Namibia: Land of the Cheetah*. It features our colleague and fellow explorer Dr. Laurie Marker FI'06 and Club President Richard Wiese FN'89. Laurie was home in Santa Cruz for the screening, and her mother was in the audience. You knew her mother had to be related to Laurie because she was dressed head to toe in a cheetah print outfit. If you missed the premiere in Santa Cruz, I suggest that you watch it when it appears later in the year on PBS, or through Amazon Prime.

I mentioned some upcoming events during the September meeting and will repeat most of them here. For October, we will have Michele Westmorland speaking at our normal dinner meeting on October 25th. Details of her talk are included in this newsletter so I'll not say more here. In early November, the aquanauts of the chapter might want to go to the 2019 Off the Reef Fall Benefit on November 2nd, that will honor Her Deepness, Dr. Sylvia Earle. Then on the weekend of November 16th and 17th, Lee Langan, FN '99 will be helping Sybil Boudreau with a very special ethnological estate distribution of Gene Boudreau's artifacts from the Tarahumara people from Mexico's Sierra Madre, and artifacts from the Turkana people of northern Kenya. Then the final event before our November dinner event will be an exhibit of amazingly new photographs on November 20th, put together by Past Club President and Chair Emeritus Alan Nichols and hosted at The Tamalpais in Greenbrae. Please save some energy for the November 22nd polar dinner meeting at Stanford Campus. We hope to have some students attend the reception to talk about their polar research and following dinner, we will have a Polar Panel, featuring several polar explorers from the chapter and the main club.

We are looking for a new space. We cannot meet at the Dolan Law Center after the October meeting. Other options and ideas are welcome. In the meantime, keep exploring. Lesley

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

**A special Special Event: November 17, 2019, Sunday from 1 PM to 4 PM  
Home of Sybil Boudreau, 1209 Beattie Lane, Sebastopol CA 95472**

Please RSVP to our Treasurer Anna Freitas, by November 14.  
Luncheon Fee: \$25 (\$35 thereafter)

The late Gene Boudreau, a loyal and frequent participant in the affairs of the Northern California Chapter, was an avid semi-professional ethnologist in addition to being a professional geologist. Any member that visited his and Sybil's home reveled among his archive of materials collected from the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico's Sierra Madre and the Turkana tribe of northern Kenya. Important pieces of these collections are offered by Sybil to our members, and you can come to this event and leave with unique treasures.

Most of the Mexican items have been taken for a museum in northern Mexican — they are essentially "going home!" However, there are many ceramic pots and many hand-woven blankets available for our members or guests to take. Sybil is offering the pots for \$10 to \$40 based upon their size and the blankets, appraised for far more, at \$50. The archive from northern Kenya is for you to peruse and find something you like, at what ever small donation you deem reasonable.

The collections were gathered over several journeys to these locales. Gene had an eye for everyday utilitarian items that he felt would no longer be used but represent their culture's craftsmanship. His trips were self-motivated and self-funded. All materials were gathered with the permission of the individuals who used or created them, and all were paid whatever sum was requested. Most trips were solo, although he did invite fellow explorers to join him on occasion.

To provide you with some insight into what is available you can link to two documents that summarize both the Tarahumara and Turkana collections:

Tarahumara:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/x3x60cc0lkz00lj/BackinTime%2Bsamples.pdf?dl=0>

Turkana:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/k1m84tltqptfi3p/BoudreauTurkana%2Bsamples.pdf?dl=0>

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Northern California Chapter  
Established 1973



**CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM**

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Treasurer@explorersnorca.org  
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92  
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03  
ajviking@aol.com  
925-322-8893

**Chapter Calendar of Events**

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

**2019**

October 25 . . . . . Michelle Westmorland  
Headhunters Revisited . . . . . Dolan  
November 22 . . . . . Alan Nichols  
Polar Exploration Panel . . . . . Stanford U  
December 15 . . . . . Holiday Party  
. . . . . North Bay

**2018**

February 23 . . . . . Dr. Sherry Wren  
Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis . . Dolan  
March 30 . . . . . Kimberley Chambers  
Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . Dolan  
April 27 . . . . . Alan Eustace  
The Stratospheric Jump . . . . . Dolan  
May 25 . . . . . 3 Term EC Members  
Term Members Research/Annual mtg . . . Dolan  
July 21 . . . . . Chapter Picnic in Novato  
September 21. . . . . Michelle Trautwein  
Meet Your Face Mites: . . . . . Dolan  
October 26 . . . . . Sir Richard Feachem  
Shrinking the World Malaria Map . . . . . Dolan  
November 30 . . . . . Leon McCarron  
Exploration by Walking . . . . . Dolan  
December 16. . . . . Holiday Party  
. . . . . Home of Rick and Aldeana Saber

**2019**

January 25 . . . . . Pat Scannon  
Recent Discoveries . . . . . Dolan  
February 22 . . . . . James Nestor  
Outdoor adventure. . . . . Dolan  
March 22. . . . . Paul Saffo/Richard Weise  
Dynamics of Change. . . . . Aquarium of the Bay  
April 26 . . . . . David McGuire  
Swimming with Sharks. . . . . Dolan  
May 31 ANNUAL MEETING plus . . Dr. Paul Hunt  
Hannibal". . . . . Dolan  
June 9: . . . . . Picnic  
. . . . . Tilden Park  
September 27 . . . . . Robert Anderson  
Material Science & Forensic Engineering CreoLa

**CHAPTER DIRECTORS**

**Directors (Past Chairs)**

Joan Boothe MN'07  
Lesley Ewing FN'93  
Lee Langan FN'99  
Anders Jepsen FN'03

Alan Nichols FN'84  
Bob Schmieder FE'86  
Rick Saber MN'01  
Stephen Smith FN'96

**Elected Directors**

Jim Hurson MN'10  
Sandra Cook MN'16  
Paul Freitas MN'10

**Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number**

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vicechair@explorersnorca.org      secretary@explorersnorca.org      fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

Late arrival phone number for Monthly meeting at the Dolan Law Center  
The door will be locked and unattended after 7:15 p.m.  
Chapter Phone: 415.236.3459 (for message or locked door entry).

**CURRENT EXPLORATIONS**

- \* Chair Emeritus Anders Jepsen FN'03 has been in the field in Germany for tests of a new landmine exploration system to be part of the drone landmine detection program under study by Exploration For Humanity, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, as well as meetings with three of the 4 major landmine removal trusts, HALO and MAG in the UK, and the Danish Demining Group in Copenhagen.
- \* Chair Emeritus Alan Nichols FN'84 is working on an exhibition of exploration photographs and the stories they tell. Exhibit Opening November 20, 2019, at the Tamalpais Residence in Marin County with a reception to which Chapter members are invited.
- \* Jim Prigoff's interest in urban art has driven him to explore all over the world. An exhibit that includes much of his work is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter and is due to start at the deYoung next month. This is a unique opportunity to enjoy the fruit of his explorations.

**MEETING VIDEOS**

Our Chapter now records all of our dinner meetings. Videos of recent speakers' presentations are available on the Chapter Website.

**CHAPTER MEETING  
Friday, October 25, 2019**

Place: The Dolan Law Firm  
1438 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Time: 6:30 - reception  
7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program  
Meal Options: Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon  
Vegetarian Pasta Primavera.  
Cost: \$49 before October 23; \$35 for students, \$60 for everyone after October 22.  
Please mail reservations, checks to Anna Freitas  
161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.  
call Anna at 925-457-6424  
or email treasurer@explorersnorca.org  
You can also sign up and remit your meal costs online.  
Go to the website ([www.explorersnorca.org](http://www.explorersnorca.org)) and use the convenient payment buttons there.