



# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

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

**January Meeting**  
Friday, January 24, 2020  
The Dolan Law Firm, 1438 Market Street. SF

## RAPA NUI, THE EXPLORERS CLUB, AND HISTORY

Jo Anne Van Tilburg PhD FN'09



Rapa Nui (Easter Island) is a challenging archaeological puzzle, a World Heritage site, and an historic destination for at least four Flag Expeditions. New excavations by the UCLA team led by Jo Anne Van Tilburg in Rano Raraku, the statue quarry on Easter Island, cast an innovative new light on age-old questions.

Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg is an archaeologist and head of an international, interdisciplinary team conducting major excavations in Rano Raraku, Easter Island's Statue Quarry. She is an Associated Researcher of the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club, with an extensive list of awards, publications and public outreach, including numerous appearances on PBS and BBC, and has appeared twice on CBS 60 Minutes with Anderson Cooper.

As an associated researcher of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, Dr. Van Tilburg directs the UCLA Rock Art Archive. The Archive team received the California Governor's Award for Historic Preservation at Little Lake in the Owens Valley, and published *Rock Art at Little Lake, An Ancient Crossroads in the California Desert* (Van Tilburg et al. eds. 2012), which was given the JoAnne Cotsen Book Award. She is an active member of the Getty Conservation Institute's (GCI) Rock Art Network ([www.bradshaw.org](http://www.bradshaw.org))



Dr. Van Tilburg advocates for site preservation and was appointed twice to the United States National Park Service Advisory Committee, U.S. National Landmarks Commission. She received a major grant from the Site Preservation Committee of the Archaeological Institute of America in support of excavations in Rano Raraku, the famous Easter Island statue quarry. In November 2018 on Rapa Nui she was honored for that work with the Mata Ki Te Rangi award.



## 2019 Holiday Party

A roaring good time was experienced by some 50 Explorers and Sirdars who gathered at the lavishly decorated home of Rick and Aldeana Saber in Marin County on 15 December. There was the usual abundant and delicious member-



contributed culinary delicacies and varied libations laid out for general enjoyment. Along with a varied array of wines, there were several varietals provided by Jim and Von Hurson of Valiant Winery. Proceeds from the sale of these wines support military services and activities for retired veterans. Chapter members are encouraged to try these wines out. At the end of the evening, departing guests were each gifted with two items from the late Eugene Boudreau's vast Mexican

collection donated by his wife Sibyl. One was a Turkana headrest and the other a Tarahumara scarf. As usual, the event extended into the late hours. The Chapter extends its appreciation to the Sabers for the use of their home for this happy event.

### Turkana headrest, 19th-20th century.



The nomadic lifestyle of the pastoralist Turkana peoples of northwestern Kenya and their custom of wearing elaborate coiffures made the use of light, portable headrests a necessity. There is evidence that different styles of headrests and degrees of elaboration reflect the age and status of their owners. (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

### Tarahumara Scarves

The Tarahumara or Raramuri, as they call themselves, inhabit the Copper Canyon in Mexico. The actual name Tarahumara was what the first Spanish called these Native American people. Today, the Tarahumara are Mexico's second largest native Indian group with between 50,000 & 70,000 people.

Today the Tarahumara live in caves, under cliffs and in small wood and stone cabins in remote areas. They live a simple life undisturbed by modern technologies. Due to severe drought in northern Mexico, the Tarahumara have suffered famine in the past few years.



Maggie Blake, Jeanine Rossi

Von Hurson



Jim Hurson, Anna Freitas, Rick Blake

Von Hurson



David Hirzel, Alice Cochran, Adeana Saber

Von Hurson



Kathy Dolan

Dede Whiteside



Party Survivors: Don Dvorak, Paul Freitas

Von Hurson



Kathy Jepsen, Karine Langan

Dede Whiteside



**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  
Durbin, Thomas  
Dutcher, Susan  
Dvorak, Don  
Dvorak, Elaine  
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  
Wilken, John  
Winter, Mordechai  
Wren, Sherry

**SIRDARS**

Baye, Karin  
Blake, Maggi  
Blumberg, Marion  
Boothe, Barry  
Brandt, Jim  
Clever, Karoli  
Cohn, Lawrence  
Coolidge, Oliver  
Crowder, Wendy  
Durighello, Joy  
Fish, Sandra  
Friedman, Christen  
Gill, Naveet  
Gorenberg, Peter  
Hirzel, David  
Hutchison, Ann  
Isaac, Nancy  
Jepsen, Kathy  
Johnson, Fred  
Judd, Kathy  
Kidd, Joe  
Langan, Karine  
Longo-Cohn, Mary  
Mami, 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**

Happy new year and new decade to everyone. 2020 comes with so many expectations – for twenty – twenty clarity of vision, as the step toward the Jetson's future when we would all have personal jetpack, and as a milestone for change. Now it is 2020, Y2K is a distant memory and I still do not have my own jetpack. In the world of exploration, the first two decades of the 21st century have brought us the Mars Rover, the first successful solo dive to the Mariana Trench, the discovery of hidden chambers in Tutankhamen's tomb, sequestration of the human genome, the first human-powered solo traverse of Antarctica, the first cycling of the silk web, over 560 Flag Expeditions and thousands, if not millions, of solo and group expeditions of overall exploration. The coming year and decade most certainly hold the promise for many more discoveries, expeditions, and advances in all realms of exploration.



We ended 2019 on an auspicious note with a wonderful gathering of explorers, sirdars and friends at the Sabers' home. Along with wonderful hospitality from Aldeana and Rick, attendees enjoyed some surprises from two of Gene Boudreau's collections – a Tarahumara scarf and Turkana headrest – with a demonstration of each by Sibyl Boudreau. We will all start 2020 being both stylish and well-rested.

We are starting the winter season with a great program by Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg about her work on Easter Island. Then, in February, Dr. Robert 'Griff' Griffith will talk about his work with endangered Rhinos. March is ECAD, with a yet-to-be finalized chapter presentation. April will bring us a talk by Dr. Paul Auerbach about Enviromedics, and we will finish the season with a presentation by Dr. Sanda Cook. We are on a month-to-month schedule at the Dolan Law Center; but rest assured, that with this great line up of speakers, we'll be sure to have space for each one of them.

If anyone is interested in attending ECAD and sitting at a Chapter table, please let me know. Two tables have already been organized informally and we can add a third if there is enough demand.

On behalf of all the board and officers, best wishes for a happy, healthy and exploration-rich year.

**Lesley Ewing, FN'93**

**EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER**



**ECAD**

The 116th Explorers Club Annual Dinner will be a once-in-a-lifetime gathering, including a keynote by honoree Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace — and a special appearance by honoree, songwriter and conservationist Paul Simon.

Contact Lesley Ewing if interested in sitting at the Chapter tables.

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Northern California Chapter  
Established 1973



**CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM**

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93  
chair@explorersnorca.org  
510-459-0858

Vice Chair: Tom Dolan MN'14  
tdolan@outdoorstorms.com

Secretary: Joyce Chang MN'17

Treasurer: Anna Freitas MN'17

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.)

**2020**

January 24 . . . . . Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg  
Easter Island . . . . . Dolan  
February 28 . . . . . Dr. Robert Griffith  
Endangered Rhinos . . . . . Dolan?  
March 15 . . . . . ECAD NYC  
March 27 . . . . . TBA  
. . . . . Dolan?  
April 24 . . . . . Dr. Paul Auerbach  
Enviromedics . . . . . Dolan?  
May 24 . . . . . Dr. Sandra Cook  
. . . . . Dolan?

**2018**

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 MEEETING plus . . . Dr. Paul Hunt  
Hannibal". . . . . Dolan  
June 9: . . . . . Picnic  
. . . . . Tilden Park  
September 27 . . . . . Robert Anderson  
Material Science & Forensic Engineering CreoLa  
October 25. . . . . Michelle Westmorland  
Headhunters Revisited. . . . . Dolan  
November 22 . . . . . Dr. Barbara Bekins  
Windows into Subduction . . . . . Dolan  
December 15 . . . . . Holiday Party  
. . . . . Home of Rick and Aldeana Saber

**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**

chair@explorersnorca.org  
vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org  
secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@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).

**MEETING VIDEOS**

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

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE CHAPTER?**

There are lots of tasks that come up during the course of a year: speakers, meetings, field trips, membership, newsletter, etc. A good place to get started is by volunteering to serve on a committee. Talk to any of the Chapter Officers or Directors for more information.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 2020 DUES**

Welcome to the new year of 2020!

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2020.

Sirdars have annual dues of \$50.00. In addition to their national dues, members have optional dues of \$25.00. Dues can be paid by check payable to The Northern California Chapter of The Explorer's Club or by paypal. If you use paypal, there will be a \$2.00 fee for the service. If you pay by check, please mail your check to Anna Freitas, 161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Please note that Northern California Chapter dues can be tax-deductible depending on your individual tax situation.

To honor those who pay their dues, we will include on the monthly newsletter an honor roll of paid sirdars and members.

**CHAPTER MEETING  
Friday, January 24, 2020**

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 Picatta, Tri-tip of beef with parslid potatoes  
Vegetarian: Pasta Primavera.

Cost: \$49 before January 22; \$35 for students, \$60 for all after January 21.

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  
To sign up and remit your meal costs online, go to [www.explorersnorca.org](http://www.explorersnorca.org),