



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter JANUARY 2021

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

**JANUARY MEETING
FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY 2021, 6:30 PM
GATHER BY ZOOM INVITATION**

THE STUFF OF LEGEND: WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TELL YOU A STORY

Diana Pickworth PhD, FN'01

“Inspiration for new Explorers must be engendered at a young age, and long before ten years old.” For a curiosity to develop: to both learn and experience the universe in a unique manner that indeed may lie dormant until truly needed, a child must receive the inspiration from an adult whom enchants, inspires and invests time in them by giving love and sharing a personal passion, the subject of the passion is less important, it is rather the intensity and single-minded pursuit of an interest. I would argue that it is solely the passion of the elder for his own field of research that fuels the child’s inner world.

The child may essentially absorb the energy transmitted.” My own enthusiasm to create “Acorn explorers” developed after reading *The Last Child in the Woods*. Louv R., *The Gardener and the Carpenter*. Gopnik, A., *Shepherding a Child’s heart*. Tripp, T., *The Geography Of Childhood*. Nabhan G.P.&Trimble, S. and *A Child’s Work*. Paley, V.G. A vast decline in outdoor play, freedom

to explore alone, a measurable loss of vocabulary to reference the world we live in, have changed beyond imagining the world of today’s child. To address the latter, I have begun an illustrated children’s alphabet book, my working title “An Alphabet in Nana’s Woods” derives from personal experience with my grandson.

The interface between the offered broader experience to the young child and the experience of the adult is vast. And I feel that the goal is not to teach the child about one’s own subject at all. Far from this concept, it is purely to inspire the child to be fascinated, observant and curious.

As an example of an enduring thirty-year project of research and scholarship that holds one of my passionate interest I have chosen to speak about the relationship between my archaeological research in the Near East and the effect of conflict, both ancient and modern at the site of Nineveh, Mosul in modern northern Iraq.



NARWHAL: REVEALING AN ARCTIC LEGEND

John Wilken – SM'18

Explorer John Wilken’s passion for marine biology ignited when he stepped out onto the tidepools of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve at four years old. Fascinated with the abundance and diversity of marine life at his fingertips, Wilken quickly developed an exploratory relationship with the ocean.



Further ventures included whale watching, visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and SCUBA diving. As an Eagle Scout, Wilken was hired at the Pennington Marine Science Center on Catalina Island, where he worked full-time as an aquarist and science educator for the Boy Scouts. After that experience, Wilken decided to pursue a degree in Aquatic Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In 2015, at 19 years old, Wilken was selected by the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) to join the Smithsonian Narwhal Tusk Research Program on an expedition to Pond Inlet, Nunavut. Wilken will discuss his experience as a member of the team, relaying the challenges and learning opportunities presented by the Arctic.



He’ll provide details on the setbacks and successes the team encountered as they pursued their goal of collecting organ and tissue samples from a female narwhal. He will also highlight the contrast between the social and environmental worldviews of the team and Pond Inlet’s Inuit community.

HOLIDAY PARTY A ZOOMING SUCCESS 13 DECEMBER 2020



Some of the attendees

With an attendance of about 70, the Chapter's annual Holiday party did a good job of bringing members together, but it was a bit tricky to keep up with the action in all the rooms that were humming along at the same time. Chair Lesley Ewing introduced the event and guided us all between the various breakout rooms. Several Rooms had been established to address particular interests of the attendees. These were:

RECIPES

The Recipe section, hosted by Chair Lesley Ewing, reviewed the various submissions and discussed the plan for the mailout to members after the New Year. The meeting then morphed into a breakout on Wine.

WINE TASTING

Hosted by Jim and Von Hurson, the participants had a chance to taste and learn about 4 of the Valiance wines that they produce. Beforehand, they had made available bottles of Rose of Pinot Noir, Tempranillo, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. (One had to buy a couple of bottles ahead of time to have ready to taste. Such is the limitation of a Zoom wine tasting). Considerations of such oenological matters as bouquet and balance were addressed for attendees.

EXPLORATION PHOTOS.

The viewing of past exploration photos was chaired by Anders Jepsen who had a collection from past photo contests. In addition to those, there were choice pics from Jim Prigoff's collection from an Afarica trip and his urban art, as well as some of the interesting photos from Bob Schmieder's expedition to Heard Island.

TRAVEL

Hosted by Vice-Chair Tom Dolan, what started as a consideration of travel details quickly became a general sharing of experiences of trips to Asia, Egypt and around the US. Doctors who participated shared their experiences and had tips of how to deal with particular health issues while travelling. The impact of the covid-19 pandemic on travel across the world has the potential to change what were the general rules for travel and survival.

ANTARCTICA

At this break out room, hosted by Joan Booth and Paul Freitas, there was great interest in learning how to visit and explore the Antarctic continent. Joan and Paul told of their experiences and answered many questions.

HONOR ROLL
Paid up 2020 Dues

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Austin, Jenifer
Ballou, Philip
Beebe, Morton
Berg, Barbara
Blake, Richard
Boothe, Joan
Carter, Susan
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, James Thomas
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Dana, Don
Dehmel, Richard
Dietz, Tom
Diggles, Michael
Dolan, Thomas
Dutcher, Susan
Ellis, Scott
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Friedman, Lincoln
Hemming, Peter
Hermalun, Brendan
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Higgins, Robert J.
Holmes, Robert
Horne, William
Hutchison, Alan
Jake, Kristi
Jepsen, Anders
Kellen, James
Klein, Ronald
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Laverty, Laurence
Leonard, Cheryl
Mangus, Rodney
McCown, George
Meniketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nishimine, Kendall
O'Kane, Teresa
Prigoff, Jim
Ross, Sandra Miller
Roush, Col. John
Saber, Rick
Schmidt, Wendy
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Vasquez-Lavado, Silvia
Velivela, Vignan
Wilken, John
Worden, Simon
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Baye, Karin
Blake, Maggi
Blumberg, Marion
Boothe, Barry
Brandt, James
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Dolan, Kathy
Durighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Fish, Sandra
Friedman, Christen
Gorenberg, Pete
Heyneman, Louise
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassandra
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
Oesterle, Matt
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldenna
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark
Yoder, Karl

FROM THE CHAIR – January 2021

Happy new year and welcome back to our 2021 meeting events. Despite the promise of vaccines (some of our members already have gotten their second shots!!!), we'll be having zoom meetings through May. A late summer, in-person chapter picnic might be possible and an outdoor ECAD in New York might also be possible for late spring or early summer. But, for the meantime, be cautious about your exploration efforts. January 20th will mark the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed Covid case in the US and now is not the time to be cavalier.



We're trying to keep you engaged with the chapter even though we're doing so from our own homes. The January 22nd meeting will be an evening with authors, featuring Diana Pickworth, FN'01 and John Wilken, SM'18. For our February 26th meeting, Prof. Kent Lightfoot will talk about fires and indigenous land use practices. Francesca Cohn, SM'19 took a class with Professor Lightfoot and suggested him as a speaker for our chapter. On March 26th, Deana Weibel, MN'20 will talk about her recent research into religious and spiritual motivations for robotic space exploration. Our connection with Deana is one of the unexpected benefits of the pandemic; she lives in Minnesota, found us from our web presence and wanted to join our chapter to have some club involvement while everything is happening through Zoom. Meeting plans for April (in the 23rd) and May (on the 21st) are still in development. In May, in addition to a presentation, we will have our annual meeting to elect officers for the 2021 - 2023 period. Mark your calendar now for all future meetings and expect more information about the annual meeting and election in future newsletters.

We will continue to have open Board of Directors meetings. The next two scheduled meetings will be February 7th and April 13th; they will be zoom, and anyone who wants to learn more about how the chapter works or just has some free time is welcome to join us.

Explore safely and bring back good stories,

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

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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

2021

January 22 Diana Pickworth & John Wilken
Explorations (2) Zoom
February 26 Kent Lightfoot
Fires & indigenous land use practices . . . Zoom
March 26 Deana Weibel
Motivations for robotic space exploration . Zoom
April TBA
May 21 TBA/ANNUAL MEETING

2019

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

2020

January 24 Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg
Easter Island Dolan
February 28 Dr. Robert Griffith
Endangered Rhinos Dolan
March 27 Cheryl Leonard
Found Objects and Music RESCHEDULED
April 24 Dr. Paul Auerbach
Enviromedics RESCHEDULED
May 24 Dr. Sandra Cook
Foreign Devils on Silk Rd RESCHEDULED
May 22, 9:30 AM: Roz Savage
The Gift of Solitude ZOOM Presentation
May 29, 7:30 PM ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING
June 5, 8 PM. Elliot Jessup
24 hr Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim TO BE ZOOMED
September 20 Explorers Club Chapter VP
Intro to Northern California Chapter . . . Zoom
September 25 Liz Taylor and Sylvia Earle
Mission Blue- Hope Spots. Zoom
October 30 Mimi George
Vaka Taumako Project Zoom
November 20 Cheryl Leonard
Found Objects and Music. Zoom
December 13. Holiday Party
. Zoom

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

Sandra Cook MN'16
Paul Freitas MN'10
Jimmy Friedman MN'19
Kimberly Chambers MN'16

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

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vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org
secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter tries to record all of our dinner meetings. Videos of recent speakers' presentations are available on the Chapter Website.

DO YOU 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 2021 DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2021. New members who signed up in the 4th quarter of last year are covered for this year.

Sirdars have annual dues of \$50.00. In addition to their national dues, Explorer Club 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.

ECAD 2021

ECAD 2021 is being planned now, with one option to be an outdoor event somewhat later in the Spring. Check the main website for more details closer to Spring 2021.