



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

April 2021

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

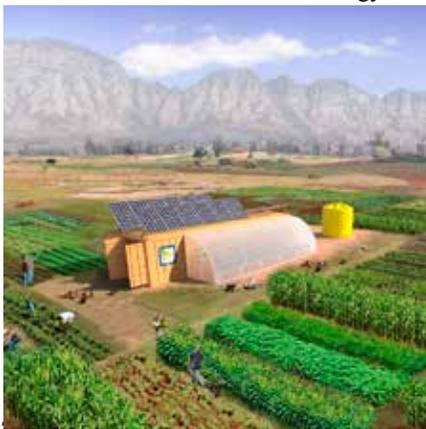
MONTHLY MEETING
FRIDAY, 23 APRIL 2021, 6:30 PM
GATHER BY ZOOM INVITATION

FARM FROM A BOX

Brandi DeCarli MN'21 and Scott Thompson MN'21

One of the projects recognized by The Explorers Club50 program honoring current unsung explorers was the team of Brandi DeCarli and Scott Thompson who were recently inducted as Members of The Explorers Club. They will be the NorCA Chapter speakers for April, describing their work to enhance food production in needy countries. They have prepared the following:

“ Everyone should have access to healthy food produced in a way that benefits the land and regenerates life. We failed to meet the foundational need of food for almost 700 million people last year. This trajectory will have 840 million people chronically hungry by 2030. Local farms, the ecological gatekeepers of our future, are our greatest asset towards achieving zero hunger and average about two acres. Our goal is to revolutionize local food production and enable communities to grow their own nutritious food with clean technology.



“ Farm from a Box is designed as a modular, plug and play infrastructure that provides independent solar power, water efficient drip irrigation, cold storage, connectivity, and a data platform that can optimize efficiencies and provide remote support. This technology can help us grow more efficiently at the community level while conserving resources and reducing our impact.



“How this project came about

Rather than directing advances in technology towards furthering an extractive industry, we uplift local and regional food production with a regenerative modular system designed to increase production sustainability and efficiency. Instead of mass production, our mission is to empower production by the masses. Our goal is to revolutionize local food production and enable communities around the world to grow their own nutritious food with clean technology.

“The idea struck in 2009. Scott had just started a nonprofit working with the UN-HABITAT to construct a youth empowerment center in Kisumu, Kenya. Brandi had just returned from working in South Africa. When we met, it was clear that we shared

a lifelong passion to help empower people in vulnerable parts of the world. Three days later, we went to work together on the Kisumu Youth Empowerment Center.



“ When we first set out, our intention was to create a mobile infrastructure that could provide people with the tools they needed to grow their own nutritious food. Over time, that idea has grown—we now see Farm from a Box as a tool that can transform local food production and make our global food system sustainable, equitable, and locally-based.”

Brandi DeCarli, MN'21 and Scott Thompson, MN'21 have recently been recognized for their work by inclusion in The Explorers Club 50, recommended by Lee Langan MED'99



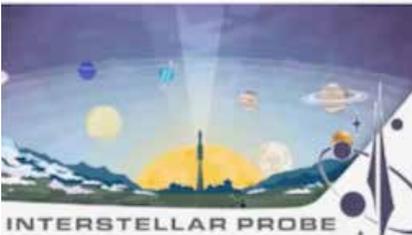
<https://farmfromabox.com>

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH INTO RELIGION AND SPACE

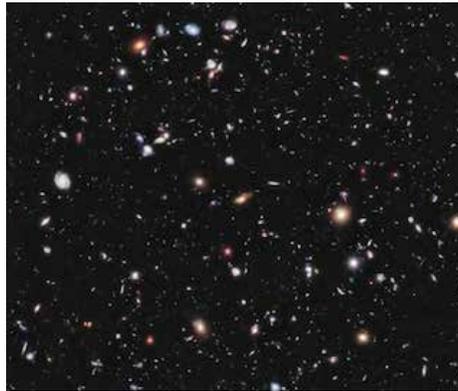
Religious and Spiritual Motivations for and the Understanding from Robotic Space Exploration

Deana Weibel MN'20, 26 March 2021

The presentation by Dr. Deana Weibel included descriptions of interviews with some of the many space engineers and program managers within NASA itself as well as with employees of the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena and the Applied Physics Lab (APL) of John Hopkins University in Maryland.



Weibel developed this research program as the result of her marriage to a colleague who was in the same department at Grand Valley University in Michigan. He was religious and had suggested that religion was pervasive in the space program. As a cultural anthropologist Weibel felt it would be interesting to investigate that possibility.



The basic objective was to study the spiritual beliefs that prevailed among the workers on the US space program. The participants in this research ranged from the Christian point of view of a Quaker to the agnostic point of view of most of the other interviewees who were highly trained scientists. Among those scientists who came to the space program with variable levels of organized religious belief, there were some for whom their understanding of their work expanded their acceptance of the presentations of organized religion, usually Christianity. For others, the thoughts were in the other direction, leading to a belief that religion was much more myth than fact.

In all cases, however, there was present a strong feeling of love for their jobs and admiration for the universe and the processes of exploration that were being

executed.

The single most interesting disclosure of the evening was that although all workers tried to keep mysticism out of the context, the repetition of “knock (on) wood” was a prevailing habit following any optimistic thoughts during an actual mission. An actual block of wood was kept available to facilitate the process. In the picture below, it lies on the table



as indicated by the finger.

Deana Weibel (MN'20) is a professor of anthropology at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. Her exploration of sacred sites, sacred objects, and people's experiences of them has taken her to a variety of pilgrimage centers from Chimayó in New Mexico to Lourdes in France and Boudanath Stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Looking for a dive trip this summer? The Aquarium of the Bay is running some small research dive trips. The next one will be this June -- to the Golfo de Papagayo, June 13 - 22, 2021, focusing on shark research and conservation, hands-on training and experience in shark tagging and underwater shark visual monitoring. For more information visit: <https://www.aquariumofthebay.org/tickets/#activities>

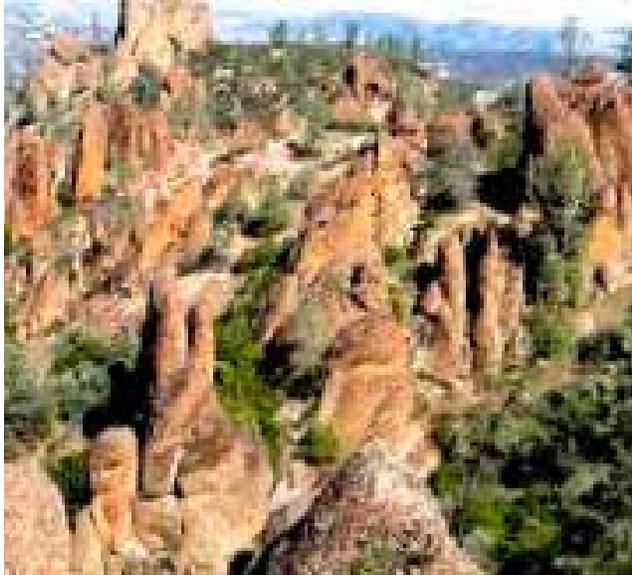
POST COVID-19 CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

- * **Chapter Annual Picnic:** Date and Time to be Announced (some time this Summer)
- * **Survival Field Medicine** with Dr. Paul Freitas: Date and Time to be Announced (hoping for early fall).
- * **Pinnacles National Park:** Early 2022, possible 2-day expedition.

For more information or suggestions, contact Jimmy Friedman MN' 19 - sfaikido@gmail.com.

PINNACLES TRAILS, CLIMBS, AND CONDORS

Anders Jepsen FN'03



A couple of weeks ago, Kathy and I visited Pinnacles National Park. Located about 2 hours drive from San Francisco, the park has 2 entrances, the older one south of Hollister on highway 25 and the newer one from Soledad heading northeast and curving through the pastoral rolling hills on highway 146. They are not connected. Pinnacles is the western half of a volcanic dome, located right on the San



Andreas Fault; The other half of the dome is on the eastern side of the fault, about 200 miles southeast, the result of millions of years of movement on the strike slip fault

Established as a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, it was declared a national park in 2016; It has cliffs, trails, camp grounds and a Visitor Center for each entrance. We entered from the southwest, did a quick tour, and found a trail that headed up into the natural beauty and volcanic structures. This area is also noted for several caves formed by large boulders from the peaks that are piled against each other at the base.

Pinnacles has been a paradise for mountain climbers since the 1930s. The exhibit includes a photograph, shown at left, of David Brower, past president of the Sierra Club and founder of Friends of the Earth, on an early climb at Pinnacles. As a young man in the 1930s, Brower was an accomplished rock climber who made several first ascents of various peaks. The exhibit tells that Brower installed the first rope and piton aides for climbers there. The rock-climbing boom of the 1980s brought increased attention to this national monument--among climbers anyway. Dragonfly Dome, Condor Crags, Swallow Crack, Toilet Seat and Spasm Block are some of the colorfully-named rock faces reached by the monument's more than 500 climbing routes.*

We made a point of visiting the northeastern side of Pinnacles on our way back from Monterey, cutting over to Hollister and adding an extra 40 miles to the drive. It was worth it. There are several challenging trails that visit many of the peaks.



Recently, Pinnacles was visited by a team of bird habitat specialists to update the official nesting count at Pinnacles. They sighted 14 condors as well as several golden eagles and red tailed hawks and many smaller birds. At one point, at the top of the High Peaks Trail, the team came across a group of about 6 condors, wings outstretched to catch a few rays.



Condor photos by Nate Vorapharuek

* The local camp store provided needed refreshment before we hit the trails. The camp ground looked perfect for an overnight if the Chapter should arrange a field trip.....great for stars at night too.

HONOR ROLL
Paid up Dues 2021

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Amaral, Julia
Austin, Jenifer
Ballou, Philip
Berg, Barbara
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Bruffet, Leonard
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, James Thomas
Thom

Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Dana, Don
Dietz, Thomas
Diggles, Michael
Dolan, Thomas
Durbin, Thomas
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
Estey, Sue
Eustace, (Robert) Alan
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Friedman, Lincoln
Hemming, Peter
Hermalun, Brendan
Heydorn, William
Higgins, Robert J.
Horne, William
Hutchison, Alan
Jepsen, Anders
Kelley, James
Klein, Ronald
Kvenvolden, Keith
Lapham, Ellen
Laverty, Laurence
Lee (Akey), Katherine
Miller, Gregory
Nishimine, Kendall
O'Kane, Teresa
Prigoff, Jim
Ross, Sandra Miller
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Bob
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Weil, James
Winter, Mordechai
Worden, Simon
Wren, Sherry

Sirdars
Baye, Karin
Boothe, Barry
Brandt, James
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Dolan, Kathy
Durighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Friedman, Christen
George, Marianne (Mimi)
Grubbs, Melodie
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Johnson, Fred
Judd, Kathy
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassandra (Cassie)
Nikas, A. James III
Oesterle, Matt
O'Keeffe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Phillips, William
McKinley III
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay
(Kathleen)
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark
Yoder, Karl

FROM THE CHAIR – the April Edition

Spring is here, I am a bit giddy with my post-Pfizer vaccination and ready to try my hand at some poetic verse: Spring is sprung, the grass is ris. I wonder where my car keys is?



Yes, it's time for road trips and a measure of safe exploration. Two springs ago, many of us had ventured to NYC for ECAD; one spring ago, ECAD was cancelled and we all quickly learned how to make masks from bandanas or scraps of fabric and coffee filters; this spring the big topic is Pfizer, J&J or AstraZeneca. But soon, it will be "how was your expedition?" or "where are you heading next?" We'll be back soon with tales of travel and new discoveries.

Spring also brings to mind the concept of spring cleaning. On the east coast, for me, that always meant changing the storm windows for screens, airing out spaces that had been closed up against the cold and preparing the garden for new plants. Regardless of location, it a time to clean house, recycle things that we no longer use and clearing out things that no longer work. For our chapter, it means welcoming in some new energy, getting new officers or directors, encouraging people to help with events, or picnics or field trips, keeping what is working with the chapter and finding new opportunities. We're not going to be jumping back into huge events and social encounters immediately, but I want to cautiously think about a future that is more than zoom and want your help.

At the last Board meeting, we had a lively discussion of next steps and ways to engage more of our members in the programs and activities. As some steps in that direction, Kim Chambers, will be convening a Speakers Committee. Scott Thompson, one of this month's speakers, will be part of a resurrected committee for event space; and Jimmy Friedman will be re-energizing the Field Trips Committee. These are covering existing 'tasks' but in a way that will divide up activities for group input and encourage chapter members and sirdars to participate. Also, late spring and early summer, Tom and I will be scheduling some listening sessions to get ideas about how you would like us to improve the chapter, and possibly using those ideas to put together a survey on the main topics to gauge which ideas might have traction with the larger community. Of course, if you have ideas now, feel free to share them -- you don't need to wait for the more structured process.

April 22nd is Earth Day. For the first Earth Day, I joined with thousands of others at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, to hear Allen Ginsberg recite poetry and scientists talk about this new thing called The Environment. Little did most of us know how life changing that day would be. Our April speakers are Brandi DiCarli and Scott Thompson and they became chapter members through the Explorers 50 campaign. Their program, Farm from a Box, is very much in the spirit of Earth Day -- supporting an opportunity for sustainable community agriculture.

I hope you are enjoying the spring weather and making plans for something that will bring you joy and new awareness. If you have thoughts about the chapter or want to get more involved, please contact any of the officers or directors.

Take care, explore safely and bring back good stories.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

A Link to a video on the American Buffalo

Larry Laverty, MN'19 recently got in touch with the chapter chair to share a link for his recent video about American buffalo in Yellowstone. I asked Larry to explain why he wanted to do this film. His response:

"I grew up the child of parents who loved animals. Their appreciation for them was infectious. Throughout my childhood, my parents would periodically load the family station wagon with my siblings and I as well as other family members and set out for America's great open spaces. Among the destinations of most of the trips was the world's first national park, Yellowstone. From an early age, I came to think of Yellowstone as the home of the buffalo. As years went by, I came to realize the relentless challenges these majestic animals faced, both throughout human history and at this national park today. I also came to realize that most Americans have never been to Yellowstone, and therefore have never had the opportunity to observe the buffalo as I had and develop an appreciation for them.

To this end, I conceived of the film, Where Buffalo Roam, as an introduction to this iconic animal, with the hope that more and more people would care about their lives and stand up for their survival.

The film: https://youtube.com/watch?v=TvN2qw2_aUU (Length: 13 min.)"

April 2021 Issue
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

April 23 Brandi DiCarli & Scott Thompson
 Farms from a box Zoom
 May 21 ANNUAL MEETING
 May 21 Alison Fundis and Sonia Meyer
 Deep Diving and Caving Zoom

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. Eliot Jessup
 24 hr Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim. Zoom
 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
 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

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

chair@explorersnorca.org
 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.

**ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 FRIDAY 23 MAY 2021, 6:30 PM**

Election of the Chapter officers for the 2021 - 2023 period will take place at the Annual Meeting which is scheduled for 6:30 PM Friday, 23 May 2021. A proposed slate will be presented by the Board of Directors, and nominations from the floor will be permitted. The by-laws specify that officers of the Chapter must be Members of The Explorers Club. Some officers have expressed interest in the available positions -- Anna Freitas, Chapter Treasurer and Joyce Chang, Board Secretary, have both expressed interest in continuing in their

positions; Lesley Ewing has expressed interest in stepping down as Chair; and, Tom Dolan has expressed interest in transitioning from Vice-Chair to Chair. All positions will be open for election and if you would like to learn more about any of the officer positions, feel free to contact Lesley Ewing, or any of the Directors, all of whom are identified in this newsletter and in the roster. While it is useful to determine interest in these positions prior to the Annual Meeting, nominations from the floor will be permitted.

ECAD 2021

HQ is tentatively thinking about holding an in-person, outdoor event the weekend of October 22nd, somewhere in the New York area. Don't book your plane tickets yet, but we are scheduling our October meeting for the 15th to avoid conflicts, just in case the Club-wide gathering does occur.