



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter September 2020

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

September Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2020, 6:30 PM
Meet by Zoom Invitation

MISSION BLUE: HOPE SPOTS AROUND THE WORLD Liz Taylor MN'95 and Sylvia Earle MED'81



DONATE



PHILOSOPHY:

Hope Spots are special places that are critical to the health of the ocean - Earth's blue heart. Some Hope Spots are already formally protected, while others still need defined protection. Under Dr. Earle's leadership, the Mission Blue team has launched a global effort to shed light on these vital ecosystems and ignite support to safeguard them as marine protected areas.

EXPEDITIONS:

Mission Blue has launched more than a dozen expeditions around the world to explore Hope Spots highlighting research, conservation and educational efforts. Our team influences policymakers and creates compelling documentaries that educate and inspire the public.

On Friday 14 August, Bill Phillips, a retired CIA Senior Intelligence Service (SIS) officer and Chapter member, gave a talk on being a black American and his experiences growing up in the USA and overseas. He was introduced by Member Jimmy Friedman MN'19, whom he had met in India in 2002. Bill and Jimmy are long time friends and serious students and teachers of the martial arts.

Phillips was born in Chicago and grew up in the segregated south in the 1950's. Bill's Dad received his Ph.D from the University of Chicago (an extraordinary accomplishment for the time period), and then relocated to Arkansas where he was Chair of the Sociology Department at Arkansas A M & N College (now the University Arkansas at Pine Bluff). Bill's father taught and studied, among other things, race relations in America. Bill's mother was a professor of biochemistry at the same college. Both parents taught Bill and his brother, now a retired US Naval Commander and physician, to excel because they knew that was critical to their survival in an America racially hostile toward Blacks. He recalls as a child driving with his family to visit his grandparents who lived in Texas and making the trip at night to avoid dangerous racial situations. From Arkansas, Bill's family moved to Pakistan in the early 1960's where his father was a Fulbright Professor at the Punjab University in what was then Lahore, West Pakistan. Bill's Dad was one of the first Black Americans to be granted a Fulbright Professorship. Bill recalls being surprised to see all the brown people in Lahore. Their home was located on the outskirts of the American expat enclave. He attended the American "International" school where he learned Urdu and how to play cricket and soccer. After living in Pakistan for several years, the family returned to the US where Bill's father was a professor at Rutgers University. Bill and his family experienced instances of the prevailing racism of the times. As a pre-teen and teen in America, Bill was hassled, demeaned, belittled called the N...word, and on at least one occasion expelled from high school after a racially motivated fight where his food in the cafeteria had been soiled by a racist white youth. Bill was on the National Mall in August 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his "I have a dream" speech. He has strong memories of that event which have stayed with him throughout his adult life, helping him to be an advocate for racial justice and fairness.

As a student at Howard University in Washington DC in the late 1960's Bill majored in African-American history and deepened his understanding of slavery in the United States and how it played a part in creating the atmosphere for racial bigotry toward people with black skin prevalent in the America now. After graduation in 1972, Bill received a full academic scholarship to study law at Rutgers University, graduating in 1975. After working for the General Accountability Office (GAO), Office of General Counsel, Bill was recruited by the CIA and began a distinguished career lasting over three decades as a professional clandestine service intelligence officer working around the world. After finishing his service at CIA, Bill was hired by the National Nuclear Security Administration to be Director of Counterintelligence of Los Alamos National Laboratory. There he saw first hand the aggressive and nefarious activities of how America's adversaries manipulate and attempt to steal some of the country's

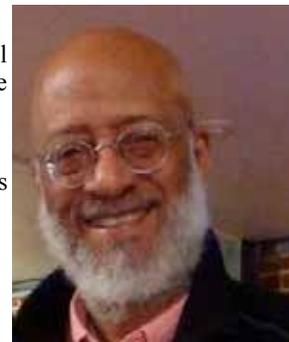
precious science and engineering secrets. After a career at LANL, Bill worked for BAE Systems Inc, before returning to intelligence work in Washington for a few more years.

While abroad with the CIA Phillips married a white American woman. As a biracial couple, he and his wife experienced first hand the insidious racism of the US. Upon returning to the US, from overseas, they tried to buy a home in Virginia and were subjected to all the redlining nonsense of the day that existed in the real estate industry. Bill also vividly remembers driving in Northern Virginia one night and being stopped by the police who wanted to know who was that white woman in his car. He remembers thinking of the Emmitt Till lynching.

In the subsequent discussion, there was a question about Linda, his wife. Phillips described her as a Superwoman, who had a professional degree from Yale. They met in India, married and had two 'brown' sons, now adults, who work and live in the Bay Area. Linda's family was knowledgeable about racism but included a grandfather who had not had much experience with black people. When they met, he had not been informed that Phillips was black. After the initial shock, Bill and his wife's grandfather went on to have a good, long conversation and a healthy relationship.

With regard to the racism toward black Americans today, Phillips feels our country is going through a significant and lasting transformation as a result of the George Floyd killing. He understands that it is hard for white people to talk about racism, and feels many are afraid of it and black people because they don't understand it, have not learned about it, and have few meaningful relationships with blacks. Bill also sees the current crisis as one where Black Americans can no longer continue the struggle by themselves. Blacks are exhausted. More hard work needs to be done by all the races, and particularly the white dominant race in America, the race that controls many of the levers and buttons of power, locally and nationally. He further suggests that Law Enforcement Training must modernize and provide alternatives to the existing violent solutions such as choke holds and shooting, that are presently taught and used as default techniques. Certain issues and situations should be handled by people with specialized training.

When his wife got a job in San Francisco with Salesforce in 2016, Bill retired from government service. This led him to reconnect with his long time good friend Jimmy Friedman and renew his study and investigation of the universal principles of the marital art of Aikido. Jimmy Friedman introduced Bill to the Explorer's Club. Bill spends his time occasionally presenting on national security and global intelligence global issues at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford, training in Insight Meditation/Mindfulness, and participating as a member of the Board of Directors of San Francisco Achievers - an SF based organization providing scholarship and life assistance to selected black males in the SF Unified School District.



Continued on Page 3.

EXPLORERS CHAPTER CONNECT ZOOMS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Robert Schmieder FE'86 Lesley Ewing FN'93 Cheryl Leonard MN'20 James Prigoff MN'67
Timothy Radke MN'13 Lee Langan FN'19 Jimmy Friedman MN'19 Ann Passer
Stephen Smith FB'96 Silvia Vasquez-Lavado MN'19 Joan Boothe MN'07 Daphne De Jong MN'19

CHAPTER CONNECT is an Explorers Club Zoom program for EC Chapters to learn about each other. The latest one was last Thursday, 10 September at 4 PM. It was our first chance to learn about two new members, Silvia Vasquez and Daphne De Jong, and to welcome them to the Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club. Tim Radke, who is Vice President for Chapters, and Ann Passer were the National Club's hosts. More than 1000 viewers monitored the call. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/TheExplorersClubNYC/videos/3635088393208405/> to replay the video.

ON BEING BLACK IN THE UNITED STATES (Continued from Page 2)

Q. How can non-black (white) people help? A. It depends on the attitude of the white person. Racism toward blacks is not a north or a south shame, not an individual shame; it is a national shame. Many here today in TEC are "seniors" now. We are supposed to be wise. If we see something wrong, we must say something.

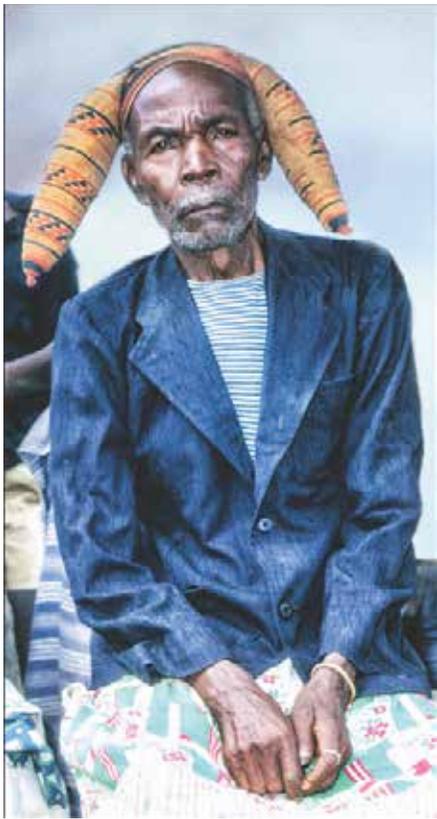
Q. What would you like to see happen? A. A good education for all children, the abandonment of stereotypical comments by politicians, more social intermingling between people who are different, and finally, more civility in public discourse. People must be fearless in wanting to resolve the ugliness of race hatred in the United States. This requires personal courage.

Phillips ended the meeting with an expression of hope. He cited his sons whom he felt were indicative of the positive attitude of the next generation. "There are different optics today". His sons rarely see individuals (their friends) based on their skin color, ethnicity, religious belief, or sexuality, but rather seem to accept people based on who they are. Dr. King would smile at this.

Editor's Note: Over the years at CIA Phillips was awarded several national honors including the CIA's Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the Latin America Division Medal, Two Meritorious Unit Citations, the National HUMINT Collector Award, as well as numerous CIA Exceptional Performance Awards. It was a pleasure and honor to have Bill speak to us about the important topic of racism in America.

Review by **Anders Jepsen MN'03**, with extra details from the speaker.

A wonderful book of images and stories has emerged from the vast array of information marshalled by Ed Ross during his lifetime. *Far Away Faces* is a compilation of human face photographs taken during his many decades of exploration around the world. The primary motive of that exploration was the search on five continents for new species of the Embiididae family, a bug that lives almost exclusively in a silken web. But the sight of Ed on his knees digging in the dirt inevitably drew curious local inhabitants, which, because of his charm and skill, resulted in another human face for his files.

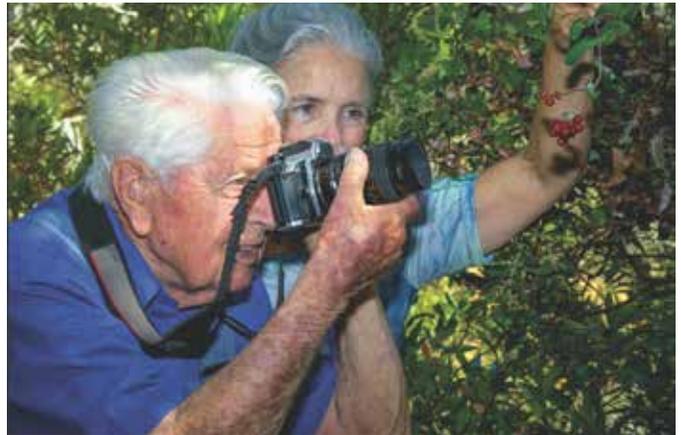


The array of photos in this book is a wonderful cross section of those local inhabitants, ranging from indigenous people still outside the norms of current civilization, to those who have inhabited the earth 50+ years ago and who wore the style of the times. And those styles varied greatly, ranging from modern Europeans to rural and jungle Africans to exotic Indian and Asian.

But there's more: not only several brief anecdotal sections that describe the circumstances under which the pictures were taken, but also specific

archaeological details about two different cultures.

The Bushman of Botswana gets special attention, providing a memorable description of the nomadic life of the bushman as his small community of souls migrates from one garden patch to another in the Kalahari desert. He speaks of the steatopygia that has developed among them, suggesting its role in survival of the community as a mechanism for storage of food for lean times, with a whimsical reflection on the effect of the phenomenon on the health of modern humans. He also suggested that the development of characteristics that we humans exhibit (compassion, sharing, cooperation, love) were genetically fixed adaptations azaevolved because of the need to get along with other humans for small community survival.



with this review, I found myself leafing through the book several times, first a general look at the faces, but then again with an eye for hats, then for facial decorations like tatoos and colors, and finally even for clothing. Each picture is more than a face, it is a culture, and the pleasure experienced from thinking about each of those characteristics became a joy in itself. *Far Away Faces* is truly an exploration of the world, to be savored over and over.

What got Ross started shows the value



Mangyan Memories is a story about an indigenous family in the Philippines province of Mindoro that he was able to study as an army malaria specialist during WW2. It provides commentary and pictures of that primitive group during the modern world. That note was published 22 years later in 1968 in *Pacific Discovery*.

In selecting a few pictures to include



of family. In a pre-TV world, reading books was the pleasure and pastime of the Ross family. As a boy Ed liked to camp in his teepee in the back yard, and to eat the bulbs he had dug up, obviously already a natural survivalist. He reported being influenced by the childhood book *Two Little Savages* by Ernest Seton. His interest in photography was inherited from his father, and his skill was exceptional.

Review by **Anders Jepsen FN'03**

HONOR ROLL
Paid up 2020 Dues

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Austin, Jennifer
Ballou, Philip
Beebe, Morton
Berg, Barbara
Blake, Richard
Boothe, Joan
Carter, Susan
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, James Thomas
"Thom"
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Dana, Don
Dehmel, Richard
Diggle, Michael
Dolan, Thomas
Dutcher, Susan
Ellis, Scott
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Hemming, Peter
Hermalun, Brendan
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Higgins, Robert J.
Holmes, Robert
Horne, William
Hutchison, Alan
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Kelley, James
Klein, Ronald
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Laverty, Laurence
Leonard, Cheryl
Mangus, Rodney
McCown, George
Meniketti, Marco
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
Dietz, Thomas
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
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark
Yoder, Karl

FROM THE CHAIR – June 2020



Greetings everyone. What a strange couple of months. Normally, folks would be returning from the field with lots of stories and new discoveries; but this is not a normal year at all. As you'll see from this newsletter and the meeting announcement, we will be continuing our monthly events through Zoom. Sylvia Earle, MED'81, and Liz Taylor, MN'95, have agreed to start us off with tales of the deep sea. In October, we'll hear from Mimi George about voyages across the sea and then in November, we'll get to hear the talk Cheryl Leonard, MN'20, was preparing to give before all in-person events came to a screeching halt. I have some ideas for an end of year 'meeting'; but if you have any suggestions, please offer them.

Over the summer we had a special meeting with Bill Phillips. It was an interesting discussion about his experiences as a Black American in the US and as a representative of our government overseas. He was very open with his discussion and the folks who participated had a lot of great questions. JR. Harris, MR'93, who chairs the Club's Diversity committee joined us for much of the meeting and shared with us what is happening in New York to promote diversity throughout our membership.

I hope many of you were able to watch the Chapter Connect. I wish everyone in the chapter could have had time to talk about their exploration, but I think that the few who did participate did a great job representing the chapter and much of our diversity and energy. If you missed it, you can watch it through the Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=3635088393208405&ref=external>. I hope this link works; if it doesn't work, I am at my technical limits simply in providing this for you.

We have a few new members -- Tom Dietz, FN'20; Kip Evans, FN'20 and Jessica Sandoval, TN'20. Tom has been on our zoom meetings for a while as a Sirdar. Looking forward to meeting Kip and Jessica at some future meetings. I know about some of Kip's work and hope to learn about Jessica's interests soon. Please feel free to invite guests to our zoom meetings and encourage potential members to join us. They can follow Tom Dietz's route of becoming a Sirdar while going through the application process and that way they get their own invitations to our meetings. Or they can depend on you to pass on the meeting information.

I hope some of you will join us for the Board of Directors' Zoom Meeting on September 20th. Not all of the meeting will be open, but much of it will be and there will be time for members to raise concerns and ask questions. We might not have answers immediately; but will take the comments into consideration and discuss them at future meetings. We've been planning these open meetings for a while; but there were space limitations. With zoom, the space is less a concern and having interested members join us provides a way for more people to get involved with the chapter and determine if they want to run for the Board or have interest in becoming an officer.

I'll close for now with a quote from Wallace Stegner:

" That old September feeling, left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air. Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes have been wiped clean by summer."

If there ever was a year where we would need an autumnal beginning, this is the one. As explorers, I know we do not seek out the safe or easy path, but, for now, may you all stay well and use this time to plan your future explorations and treks for a time when they can be done safely.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Chapter newsletter serves its members not only by keeping them up-to-date on events of the Chapter but also by providing a forum in which members can express their thoughts and ideas. Notes submitted by members will be printed as time and space permit.

September 2020 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

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Allzoommeetings will open 30 minutes before
the presentations to give time to log and
and socialize

2020

September 25Liz Taylor and Sylvia Earle
October 30Mimi George
November 20Cheryl Leonard

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

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 TO BE ZOOMED

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 Champers MN'16

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

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secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
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MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter tries to record 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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 2020 DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2020. New members who sign up in the 4th quarter are covered for next year.

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.

ECAD 2020

In view of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Northern California Chapter is working to arrange for Zoom presentations to continue the monthly schedule until regular in-person meetings can be resumed.

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.