



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter DECEMBER 2020

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

**To all the Members and Sirdars of
the Northern California Chapter of
The Explorers Club**

*BEST WISHES FOR A
HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS*

2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

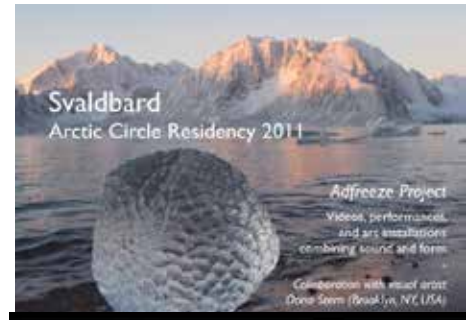
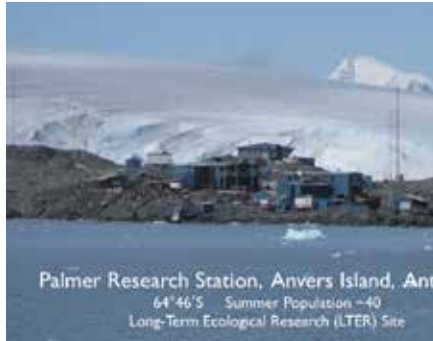
LISTENING, RECORDING AND COMPOSING AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

A COMPOSER'S SEARCH FOR MUSIC AT HIGH LATITUDES

Investigating natural environments and ecosystems and human relationships with them.

By Zoom November 20, 2020, Cheryl E. Leonard MN'20

The speaker at our November zoom Chapter meeting was one of our newer members, Cheryl Leonard, MN'20, a musician with an advanced degree in musical composition. 'How does that sort of thing fit into the world of exploration?' you might ask. This meeting gave as good an answer as one might hear from any of the other various professionals that are active explorer members in The Explorer Club. It gave a reason for going to those far away places; places that might have particular sounds, sounds that we don't experience in civilization, and recording them to bring back home for study. In the case of the speaker, she wanted to hear the sounds particular to arctic and antarctic environments.



Why the polar regions? The speaker's love of winter snows, physical challenges, trekking and adventure. And as a determined explorer she did the planning, got the support from the National Science Foundation, assembled the appropriate equipment, went to the regions, recorded the sounds and picked up relevant artifacts.

Why make Polar music? Ms. Leonard grew up in snow, loves snow and the outdoors, trekking, physical challenges and mountaineering. As a musician, she also loves unusual sounds.

This exploration required special technology including microphones and hydrophones for both air and underwater records as well as ultrasonic sensors to enable access to unique sounds. Operating recording equipment while wearing mittens made things more complicated. While the sounds of the icesheet crumbling into the ocean was fairly easy to obtain, that of the chattering penguins or the roaring walrus was trickier.



ATTENDEES AT ZOOM MEETING, 30 OCTOBER 2020.

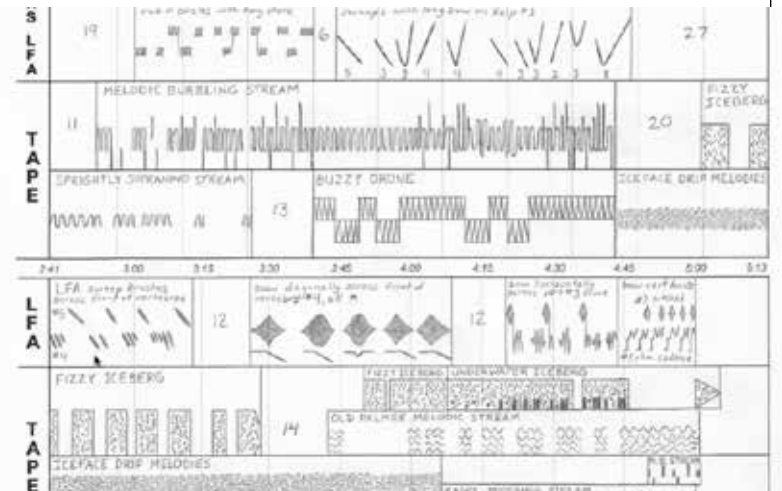


Part of the audience for Cheryl Leonard's talk; the speaker is in the upper right hand corner.

Leonard returned home with her recordings and various specimens such as bones, shells and rocks. Her project then was to show how these items - the recordings and the other items - could be used in music. The result was the development of musical instruments of a sort and the composing of musical notation to be followed in performing with these instruments. The result was an array of unique items from which sounds could be produced. With collaborators, she was able to present performances which used them to show, among other things, the sound of water dripping from icicles such as she had heard in a chasm in the antarctic. The illustrations below show the way her music is displayed on paper to guide the player, and also shows how things were set up for a demonstration that was carried out at The Exploratorium in San Francisco.

3. Examine & Experiment

- search out musical elements in field recordings
- explore unique sounds the natural objects can produce
 - play "as is" or construct one-of-a-kind musical instruments
 - different playing techniques
 - methods of amplification: condenser or contact mics, hydrophones



HONOR ROLL
Paid up 2020 Dues

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Austin, Jennifer
Ballou, Philip
Beebe, Morton
Berg, Barbara
Blake, Richard
Boothie, Joan
Carter, Susan
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, James Thomas
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Dana, Don
Dehmel, Richard
Dietz, Tom
Diggle, 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, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Kelley, James
Klein, Ronald
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Lavery, 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
Boothie, 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
Mami, Cassandra
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
Oesterle, Matt
O'Keeffe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldena
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark
Yoder, Karl

FROM THE CHAIR – December 2020



December is always a time to take account of the past year -- and what a year it's been. We had two normal meetings then, overnight, group events shutdown and we all learned the difference between zoom and vroom. I am so impressed by how well everyone adapted; but, of course, flexibility and taking on new challenges are all part of being explorers. In March our dinner meeting was to be an in-person presentation and musical performance by Cheryl Leonard. Cheryl had to good sense to cancel mid-month and by the end of the month, it was very clear that her judgement was spot on. Members like Jimmy Friedman and Joyce Chang stepped up to give us a functional presence in the virtual world and by spring we started holding zoom meetings. Since few of us were going into the field this year, we even had a few summer presentations. And we are now back to our monthly presentations for the fall and winter. In November, we had an early Thanksgiving treat as Cheryl Leonard showed us some of her instruments, some of her compositions and a sample of her scoring notation. Cheryl has been in both polar regions, and obtained collection permits to remove bones, limpet shells and other objects she could use for music. We have gotten a brief glimpse of her work during the Chapter Connect and this presentation was a chance to learn more about her unique work.

December brought us both sadness and joy. Brigadier General (Ret.) Chuck Yeager, HON'63, died on December 7th. Known for breaking the sound barrier, he said afterwards, "Later, I realized that the mission had to end in a let-down because the real barrier wasn't in the sky but in our knowledge and experience of supersonic flight." He was not very active in our chapter; yet I always liked seeing his name in our roster and I will enjoy seeing his name in the 2020 roster for the next year that was sent out recently.

Another moment of joy this month was the chapter holiday party. We started with a recitation by Barbara Berg of the 2020 version of The Month Before Christmas by Shawna Hi and a toast to the chapter and to 2021. Then we took zoom to a new level and went to breakout rooms. About 55 members, sirdars and friends talked about all sorts of holiday traditions, various trips (road, diving and climbing), favorite exploration locations, or watched exploration slides taken by our members. I roamed from room to room, seeing great slides of African animals, hearing stories of exploration disasters, talking about wine terroir, legacies of WWII, and my favorite, talking about scotch and the 1907 Shackleton blend. The smaller rooms allowed folks to have more personal conversations, almost like a normal party. We finished by recording holiday greetings, and a message for the December 21st HQ Holiday Party about local holiday and end-of-year traditions.

2021 will bring new events and surprises. For the January meeting, Tom Dolan will be arranging a session with book authors. Expect more details soon as the calendar develops. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays, have a good new year, and with the good news about vaccines, we can start planning expeditions for 2021.

Take care and explore safely.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

Wanted for Up-coming Friday, 22 January 2021 Zoom meeting
Exploration – A book review

We are looking for several members of our chapters to present a briefing on their Exploration work that includes published work. This would be a 15-minute presentation followed by brief question and answer period. It's time for us to get inspired, and while we are still restricted in our field work we can motivate each other from our exploration past.

Please contact Tom Dolan, Vice Chair, of your interest to participate. tdolan@outdoorstorms.com

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Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
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 510-459-0858
 Vice Chair: Tom Dolan MN'14
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 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

2020

November 20 Cheryl Leonard
 Found Objects and Music. Zoom
 December 13. Holiday Party
 Zoom

2019

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
 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

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 sign up in the 4th quarter are covered for next 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.