



# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

## FEBRUARY 2023

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

**MONTHLY MEETING IN PERSON  
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 6:30 PM  
DEEP OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH  
650 W. TOWER AVENUE, ALAMEDA**

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### **NorCA CHAPTER 50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY and MEETING EXPLORERS AS HUMANITARIANS**

Join us on February 25th to recognize many of our members' accomplishments, hear from several explorers about their humanitarian efforts and speculate on the exploration feats that will be hallmarks of the next 50 years of exploration.

Deep Ocean Exploration and Research (DOER) will open its workshop for our celebration. It's an active and interesting work area. But, be warned, wires and equipment are everywhere and there is no indoor heat, so wear comfortable, close-toed shoes and dress warmly.

#### Program

5:00 – 6:30 – Nibbles and drinks; social time and tours of DOER

6:30 – 7:15 Program

Celebration of NorCA's First 50 Years

Explorers as Humanitarians

Liz Taylor and/or Sylvia Earle: Welcome to DOER

Mikkel Vestergaard Frandsen, LifeStraw, Sceye, Humanitarian Philanthropist

Angela Abshier, Sail to Shelter

Jimmy Friedman, Aikido Training for One Million Indian Women

Peggy Callahan, Voices 4 Freedom, Mission Joy

Sylvia Earle and/or Lesley Ewing: Closing Remarks

7:15 – 8:00 – Cake cutting and more social time

8 PM – Move conversations across the street to Almanac for more food and drinks

\$39 before February 17th; \$25 for students, \$50 for everyone after February 17th,. Due to space constraints, we must limit attendance to 60 people, including speakers.

To sign up and make reservations online, go to [www.explorersnorca.org](http://www.explorersnorca.org), and click on the "About" section. On the right side of the "About" page are the paypal links.

To mail in your reservations, send checks to Anna Freitas  
161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.  
or call Anna at 925-457-6424 or send an email to: [treasurer@explorersnorca.org](mailto:treasurer@explorersnorca.org).

#### **CHAPTER FIELD TRIP**

##### **Robert Ferguson Observatory - Sugarloaf Ridge State Park**

Mark your calendars and RSVP. We have rescheduled the Chapter field trip to RFO for September 15th. A time of year that has one of the highest probabilities for good weather. Within one day of a new moon, viewing should be excellent. There will be reminders and important details in future Newsletters as well but Tom Dietz will be accepting indications of interest now. We'll look to open the payment system in the later Spring. Please email Tom at [www.tjdietz415@gmail.com](mailto:www.tjdietz415@gmail.com) indicating your interest in attending the event and if you would like to camp that night.

## SEEKING COEXISTENCE: A STORY OF HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN INDIA

### February meeting by Kim Frank, FN'18

In India's eastern Himalayas, where humans and Asian elephants inhabit the same shrinking forest and foothill areas, the past 50 years have seen the elephant population decline by 50%. Today humans and elephants are in great conflict, People and civilization - roads, railways, agriculture, etc. - conflict with the life of elephants that occupy the same space. But activists are working to establish ways that the two groups can survive together.



National parks have been established where the elephant is protected but the issue still remains that elephant and mankind must coexist. Vehicle traffic will usually, but not always, stop when elephants decide to cross the road. The accidental death of an elephant, locally considered a God, often results in some human ritual that may be performed.



Elephants do have an impact on local agricultural activity and much work is being done to educate local farmers to develop policies for getting along with the elephants. Tea garden owners have the opportunity to be part of the solution to the problem of co-existing with the animals. At Nuxilbari Tea, for example, the elephants do not trample the plants and are visibly relaxed, reflecting the policy of the estate to not harass them..



Elephants can and do inflict damage on the structures of modern Indian society. One example was shown of the destruction to a family's home. There is often no financial resource to make repairs, a matter of concern as monsoon season approaches.

The speaker's main objective has been to increase awareness in Western audiences — highlighting a regional issue on a global stage. But it is the individuals and animals on the ground whose voices she hopes to present, and who will ultimately lead the way from conflict to coexistence.

This story is important for showing that the government is trying to do something to address the issue. The creation of "protective" Parks where the local population is educated both to appreciate the elephants and to not tease them while also being able to continue their businesses of growing tea..



Rangers are confronted with an overwhelming job: patrolling for poachers, investigating conflict events, protecting both the elephant and the humans, all without adequate resources. Working as a ranger is a stressful occupation.



Elephants that are orphaned or caught as raiders of farms are inducted into the ranger teams and used, especially in inaccessible areas, as transportation and to ease the interaction with the wild elephants as well as to help dealing poachers and the local population.



A 2014 Idaho Literature Fellow with an MFA from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers and an MSW from the University of Pennsylvania, Kim was a 2013 Ucross Artist Residency Fellow. She is currently working on both a book and documentary film about human-Asian elephant conflict in the Eastern Himalaya, and in July of 2022 was awarded an Explorers Club Flag for leading the Asian Elephant from Conflict to Coexistence project.

Kim Frank is an Explorers Club Fellow, whose work has been published in Earth Island Journal, Oceanographic Magazine, The Explorers Journal, Maptia, American Literary Review, Sidetracked Magazine, DuPont Registry, FRANK, and in SVPN magazine where she served as Editor from 2014-2017. Her books include *Born to Ice* with National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen, and *Amaze* with Sea Legacy founder Cristina Mittermeier.



Learn more about Kim at <https://kimfrankwriter.com>  
or follow her stories on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kimfrankwriter/>



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wildlife are not killed or culled. Elephants who are orphaned or raiding ar  
st Department where they team with mahouts and rangers for conservati





## IN MEMORIUM

### DONALD HEYNEMAN PH.D. FN'78

Don Heyneman and his wife Louise were a regular presence at our in-person meetings for decades. Don was always attentive and smiling during the presentations and regularly shared his accomplishments and travels with us. Don and his wife Louise moved to Novato a few years ago and the distance plus Covid limited their attendance at recent meetings. After one of Don's presentations a fellow explorer said "Don Heyneman is our chapter's expert parasitologist and has traveled to more disease-ridden Third World countries than anybody I know. Always the optimist, always encouraging, his advice was always practical." That describes Don to a T.



In 1992, when Don spoke to our chapter, he was identified as a peripatetic parasitologist and his topic was "Humans and Helminths". But a dictionary was never needed when listening to Don. He had the enviable ability to make parasitic worms become fascinating to the lay folks as well as the experts. During his official teaching career, he was often voted best professor and this skill extended into his day-to-day conversations.

He brought a deep medical knowledge to his teaching and research. But, like all good explorers, he was a good observer – chasing a tsetse fly across the savannah to learn its flying speed and recognized the pesticide benefits of the fruit of endod while watching women in Ethiopia use it to wash the clothes.

Don also was an avid hiker and mountain climber. Early in his career, he headed to the cold regions, joining the Ski Troops of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in the Colorado Rockies. His vocation took him frequently to tropical areas, like Egypt, Sudan, and Malaysia to research tropical parasites; but continued climbing much of his life. He climbed Mt. Langley when he was 74 and the next year, he did a circumambulation of Mt. Kailash. Well into his 90s, he was walking about 2 miles daily to tour his neighborhood.

Don died at his home in Novato on August 2, 2022. The remembrance of his life will be held on what would have been his 98th birthday, February 18, 2023. Donald Heyneman's Family has invited Don's explorers' friends to join them for his Memorial Service on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 10:30am with a reception to follow. Both will be at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco. Everyone whose lives were touched by Don is invited.

Don's obituary can be found by doing a web search – 'Donald Heyneman Obituary'.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to:

-Amazon Conservation Team at <https://www.amazonteam.org/donate>

-Earth Justice at <https://tinyurl.com/2n3jkxhw>

ECAD April, 22 2023  
"The Explorers Club Annual Dinner"  
Reserving a chapter table

If you have purchased tickets and want to sit at a NorCA chapter table,  
please let  
Jimmy Friedman ([sfaikido@gmail.com](mailto:sfaikido@gmail.com)) know ASAP.

**HONOR ROLL**  
**Paid up Dues for 202**

**Member**

Bruffet, Leonard  
Cohn, Francesca  
Dietz, Thomas  
Ewing, Lesley  
Freitas, Anna  
Freitas, Paul  
Friedman, James  
Friedman, Lincoln  
Hargreaves, Kyle  
Hemming, Peter  
Jepsen, Anders  
LaBonte, Alison  
Pickworth, Diana

**Sirdar**

Cohn, Lawrence  
Crowder, Wendy  
Friedman, Christen  
Hirzel, David  
Jepsen, Kathy  
Kobetz, Joyce  
Kobetz, Paul  
Koehler, John  
Longo-Cohn, Mary

**A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR**



This month, we'll be meeting in Alameda at the workspace that has been provided to us for free by Deep Ocean Exploration and Research. At the beginning of my recent term as chair, the Board of Directors directed me to provide a combination of in-person social events and zoom presentations for the program year. This event will be a bit of socializing along with a short program. A bunch of people are helping to bring it together and we hope you sign up for it and attend.

As we move into more in-person events, please remember to RSVP and pay the event costs through Paypal or by check. In-person events offer many advantages over zoom meetings, but one draw-back is that you cannot decide to attend a few minutes or hours before the event and just show up. That can work for the picnic, but when we need to rent chairs, give the caterer a head count or when the space can only accommodate a limited number of people, we need to know, in advance, that you are coming. This is not meant to discourage you from coming to Chapter events, but if we ask you to sign up in advance or note an attendance limit, please help by letting us know you'll be coming and save your spontaneity for zoom and open attendance events like the picnic.

We'll announce the programs for March, April and May soon. The May meeting, May 19th, will be our Annual Meeting. My term as chair ends at the end of June and it's time for new voices and new energy. The Annual Meeting will be a time to elect new officers, elect new directors and set the stage for the 2023/2024 program. Please consider getting involved. Feel free to contact me or Jimmy Friedman if you want to know more about the officer and director duties. If you want to get more active in certain areas, the best way to make that happen is through your energy and participation. There will be more about the Annual Meeting in future newsletters; this is just an early request.

**Lesley Ewing, FN'93**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers

**CHAPTER CELEBRATION PARTY**  
**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**  
**THE EXPLORERS CLUB**

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 25th, 2023, late afternoon

WHERE: Deep Ocean Engineering and Research, Alameda

PRESENTATION: Explorers as Humanitarians

WHAT: Nibbles, sips, conversation, & celebration of our chapter and a short program

More information to follow soon

**February 2023 Issue**  
**Northern California Chapter**  
*Established 1973*



**CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM**

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93  
 Vice Chair: Jimmy Friedman MN'19  
 Secretary: Joyce Chang MN'17  
 Treasurer: Anna Freitas MN'17  
 Treasurer@explorersnorca.org  
 Webmaster: Leonard Bruffett MN'21  
 Field Trips: Tom Dietz FN'20  
 Newsletter Editor: Anders Jepsen FN'03  
 ajviking@aol.com

**2023**

(face to face if possible)

January 27 . . . . . Kim Frank  
 Human-elephant conflict in India . . . Zoom  
 February 24 . . . . . 50th Anniversary meeting  
 March 31 . . . . . Speaker  
 April 22 . . . . . ECAD (NY)  
 April 28 . . . . . Laurie Marker  
 May 19 . . . . . Speaker  
 June . . . . . Summer Picnic or Celebration

**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 23 . . . . . Brandi DiCarli & Scott Thompson  
 Farms from a box . . . . . Zoom  
 May 21 . . . . . ANNUAL MEETING  
 May 21 . . . . . Alison Fundis  
 Deep Sea Exploration. . . . . Zoom  
 September 24. . . . . Ashley Lemke  
 Archaeology Below the Surface . . . . . Zoom  
 October 15 . . . . . Dr. Craig Clements  
 Wildfire in the West . . . . . Zoom  
 November 19 . . . . . Dr Roberto Junco  
 Caribbean Archaeology . . . . . Zoom

**2022**

January 28 . . . . . Scott Warnasch.  
 Iron coffins  
 February 25 . . . . . Satya Gontcho a Gontcho  
 Astro physics and Cosmology  
 March 25 . . . . . Randall Reeves  
 Sailing round the Americas and Antarctica  
 April 22 . . . . . ECAD  
 April 29 . . . . . Bryan Heisinger  
 The Hester Lake B-24 Wreck  
 May 20 . . . . . Annual Meeting  
 Urban Mobility and UAVs . . . . . Aaron Singer  
 June 12 . . . . . Chapter Picnic  
 September.23. . . . . Sonia Meyer  
 Speleology & Expedition Caving . . . . . Zoom  
 October 28 . . . . . Ed Bernbaum  
 Sacred Mountains of the world . . . . . Zoom  
 November 18 . . . . . Ryan Weed  
 Interstellar Human Exploration . . . . . Zoom  
 December 11 . . . . . Holiday Party

**CHAPTER DIRECTORS**  
**(Past Chairs and Elected Directors)**

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

Paul Freitas MD MN'10  
 Kimberly Chambers MN'16  
 Bill Phillips MN'21  
 Satya Gontcho A Gontcho MI'21  
 Tom Dietz FN'20

**Chapter Email Addresses**

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treasurer@explorersnorca.org  
 secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org  
 fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

**MEETING VIDEOS**

“Our Chapter has been recording our zoom meetings and the previous in-person meetings. Please go to our Chapter website explorersnorca.org and click on “Videos of Past Presentations”. Presentation videos on the website go back to 3/22/2019.”

**SPEAKER SERIES OPPORTUNITY**

Apply to present to the third annual Next Generation Explorers Network (NGEN) at the Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD) Speaker Series!

This event will celebrate and share the work of emerging Explorers Club members. At the Speaker Series, the selected speakers will present their work to an audience of other members during the Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD) weekend. The free event will take place on Saturday, April 22nd, 2023 in the morning, at the Clubhouse (46 E 70th Street, New York, NY). The application cycle will close on January 16, 2023 at 5:00pm ET. The speaker applications will be evaluated based on a blind rubric. The selected speakers will be notified by February 16, 2023.

This event is being organized by:

**Brianna Rowe '11, Lizzie Rosenberger '17, Adam Gordon '15**

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER DUES**

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. A new chapter club year started on January 1st. Member dues are \$25 annually; sirdar dues are \$50 annually.

The Honor Roll is a listing of individuals who have paid their dues. To verify whether you have paid your dues, just check the Honor Roll list on the prior page.

Dues can be paid on-line by clicking on the paypal link on the website. The weblink to paypal buttons can be found on the “About” page on the right side.

If you prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club. Mail the check to Anna Freitas, 161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Please note that Northern California Chapter dues can be tax-deductible.

**Anna Freitas MN'17, Treasurer**