

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

March 2002

Web site: <<http://www.diggles.com/ec/>>

San Francisco
March 29
Marilyn Schlitz

Exploring the Frontiers
of Consciousness



In this lecture, anthropologist and consciousness researcher, Marilyn Schlitz, will explore the link between mind and matter, reviewing research that bridges a high-tech psychophysiology laboratory, a mainstream medical center, and the rainforests of the Amazon.

Her presentation will highlight the work of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, founded 30 years ago by Apollo 14 Astronaut, Edgar Mitchell to stimulate breakthroughs in our understanding of reality and our place in it.

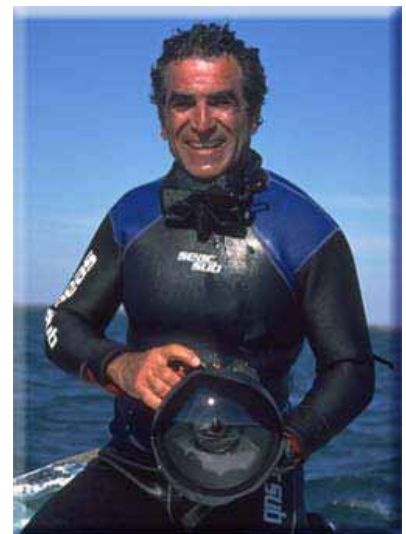
Marilyn Schlitz, Ph.D. is Director of Research at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Senior Scientist at the Complementary Medicine Research Institute at the California Pacific Medical Center. She has published numerous articles on psi research and psychophysiology, cross-cultural healing, consciousness studies, and creativity, has conducted research at Stanford University, Science Applications International Corporation, the Institute for Parapsychology, and the Mind Science Foundation, has taught at Trinity University, Stanford University and Harvard Medical School, and has lectured widely at sites including the United Nations and the Smithsonian Institution.

She served as a congressionally appointed Advisory Member for the National Institutes of Health Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and is currently on the Editorial Board of *Alternative Therapies and Advances in Mind Body Medicine*,

the Board of Trustees for the Esalen Institute and the Board of Directors for the Institute of Noetic Sciences. She also serves on the Scientific Program Committee for the Tucson Center for Consciousness Studies.

Coming in April

Amos Nachoum
Big Animal Photographer
at Ft. Mason Officers Club
on April 26



Amos Nachoum has led National Geographic expedition teams, and has co-produced wildlife documentaries. Mr. Nachoum's photos and essays have appeared in more than 500 publications. In addition, his work has been included in the books *The Living Ocean*, *Oceans*, and *The World of Nature*.

Date: Friday, 29 March 2002
Place: Ft. Mason Officers Club
Ft. Mason, Franklin at Bay
San Francisco
Time: 6:30 pm, no-host cocktails
7:30 pm, dinner
Cost: \$45 (by March 25)
\$50 (if posted afterwards
call Steve at (925) 934-1051)
Reservation Form on page 5



Children's art tells a convincing story of what recent Afghanistan has taught.

(Collection courtesy Dr. Chamberlin.)



San Francisco Afghanicist Bonita E. Chamberlin

Telling Things We Did Not Know
About This Old Country,
New to Many



DIGILES

You had to be there. Dr. Bonita Chamberlin has been: to understand the Afghan. Many times since 1976. She shared her appreciation of the people and the land, with the largest attendance of the year at February's joint meeting with the Society of Women Geographers.

She placed the American incursion into this crossroads of the world into a historical perspective. Our reason for being in this striking land ("stan" means "land", the land of the Afghan), may be driven by different forces, but we are just the most recent of a very long string of invading forces. No one before has beaten the people of Afghanistan. Perhaps we shall do better if we stay to help, rather than exit when our reason-for-being is done.

For help the Afghan need. The country, stark and beautiful with roots to the origins of civilization, has been beaten down to mere subsistence. A series of photos Bonita took during her first visit, when compared to recent pictures we all know and see, shows the dramatic change. A healthy cosmopolitan population, well fed and involved in everyday life, contrasted to a malnourished people, most scared by the turmoil of war and its aftermath.

Prostheses are a major industry: simple but essential in a country where millions of land mines remain to surprise a playing child or an incautious adult. And unspent munitions, many now ours, add to the burden of being aware.

Where does a country go? The people are so young, lucky to live to forty. Those armed are mostly children. The tallest building five stories: how to comprehend the World Trade Center? Taliban-taught to fear outsiders. Historically taught to be isolent without being arrogant. Led by a new leader who better be charismatic, for his task in massive. The Afghan know only to be wary; traditions run very deeply. These traditions need to be understood by the outsiders in order to effect any change, no matter how much one wants to 'help'.

The crossing of the north-south and east-west Silk Roads, the buffer between the bear of the north and the lion of the colonial empire, is once again a place to understand. A place where the conflict of religious tenants is evident, where the human condition is exposed, a place where the developed world needs to understand, appreciate and 'be there'.



Bonita gave us a bit of this insight in a polished presentation, for she has been called upon to help many gain some understanding of a part of the world hardly in focus before September 11.

She also illustrated the subject of her original interest in Afghanistan, the home-industry of gem mining. Rubies, emeralds, kunzite, lapis, tourmaline, aquamarine. This subject could have filled the evening, but for more current events. Read her book:

Gems of Afghanistan.

Classroom Pigeons

To Know Feathered Friends

I have won a Toyota 'Tapestry' grant of \$10,000 for my project "Pigeons in the Classroom". I will be the guest of Toyota (all expenses paid!) at the National Science Teacher's Association Conference in San Diego at the end of March.

Here is the project summary:

"Pigeons are attractive, docile, hardy animals that are inexpensive to keep and easy to handle. A wide variety of topics in a range of subjects can be investigated using these birds. This project will establish a teaching loft at Emery High School which will provide at-risk minority students with an opportunity to work directly with the birds. These students, in turn, will help local teachers and younger students to discover this common, yet amazing animal.

"This project is based on 'APIgeons in the Classroom', a curriculum unit I developed at the Agricultural Education Program of the University of California, Davis. The book will be produced on CD-ROM in a test version. A two-day workshop will be conducted with fifteen local teachers in which each educator will be given the CD-ROM.

The teachers will test at least three activities with their students during the school year and report on how well each worked. A one-day follow up workshop will be held after six months.

Teachers will also receive membership in the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology's 'AProject PigeonWatch'.

The teachers will learn how to handle the birds and how to use them to teach topics in science such as the role pigeons play in urban ecology. Since not every school can invest in a loft, the teachers will also receive instruction in how to do the studies outlined in Project PigeonWatch. These are observations of feral birds and do not require any equipment or other investment. Feral pigeons can be found anywhere, and this makes the observation exercises suitable for inner city schools at all levels. The data collected in PigeonWatch is

reported to the Lab, and it is posted on a web site. This gives the students a sense of participating in a real science.

—Eve Iverson, CO'86

SARAH WASHINGTON IRVING TAYLOR 1830-1907

Exploring, and correcting, an historic wrong!

These facts recall one small chapter in the rich history of Samuel P.

Taylor State Park in the redwoods of Lagunitas, Marin County. Sarah Washington Irving Taylor has finally been brought home to rest next to her husband, Samuel, after nearly ninety-five long years of separation.

Sarah was born July 16, 1830, in Fall River, Massachusetts. She was of Scottish descent; her forebears emigrated to New York from Shapinsha, one of the Orkney Islands, in 1763.

Her future husband, Samuel Penfield Taylor was a direct descendant of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Early in life, Samuel put together a group of adventurous men who sailed together round Cape Horn to San Francisco. Here, his entrepreneurial vision led him into the lumber business; from that sprung paper production.

Sarah married Samuel in 1855, while he was on a business trip east to gather paper-making equipment and men to run his emerging Taylor Pioneer Paper Mill. (His was the first paper mill on the West Coast.) Together, Sarah and Samuel raised seven sons and one daughter; this progeny carried on the business when Samuel passed into the Golden Hills the year of 1886.

An astute businesswoman and great helpmate to Samuel, Sarah still had time for valuable contributions to the welfare and destiny of young Chinese women who often arrived on ships sailing from Asia. Sarah had contact with Chinese laborers who worked for Samuel in the collection of scrap ragstock for use in printing

his quality paper. While the Taylors lived in San Francisco, Sarah would be rowed out to each arriving ship. As her faithful duty, and with cooperation of the ship's captain, she had the stowaway girls placed in her care. She and other public-spirited women conducted a Presbyterian Mission where they kept and protected these young women until they could marry legitimately and freely of their own choice. Often the alternative was slavery or prostitution.

The Taylor property was foreclosed upon during the 1893 financial panic in California. Those who took over the land refused trespass rights and maintained guards to prevent entrance to the former lands of Taylor.

Sarah moved to San Rafael where she died in 1907. Her family was denied burial rights on their former lands so they had her body cremated in Oakland. Her ashes remained there for the next 95 years.

Her wish was always to be buried next to her husband on the lovely hill overlooking the current Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Through persistence, tenacity, good luck and the blessings of the descendant Taylor family, this wrong has finally been put to rest. Two members of E Clampus Vitus-Yerba Buena One, a California Historical Society*, took up the challenge. Historian and San Francisco High School Principle James Dierke and Noble Grand Humbug Cap'n Crunch Saber are proud to have finally joined these two early pioneers at Samuel's historic gravesite. Even more remarkable is that this was done right about Valentines Day 2002 (well, on the 16th!), with Alan Taylor representing the family and about 20 others who came out to honor this heroine of the nineteenth century.

The actual dedication and day of honor for Sarah Washington Irving Taylor will occur 28 September 2002 when a magnificent convocation of E Clampus Vitus, their ladies and the Taylor family will give Sarah a final and resounding **satisfactory** for her part in early California.

Captain Rick "Crunch" Saber, FN'01
& Noble Grand Humbug
Yerba Buena One, E Clampus Vitus
(*A self-effacing group, with a mysterious past!)

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will be hosting an Extreme Explorers Speakers Series in April and May. They have courteously invited us to attend at the same discount that the Museum members receive. All talks will take place at the Natural History Museum, Jean Delacour Auditorium. Price per lecture (members and students): \$8; for the series: \$30. To register, or for more information, please call (213) 763-3534.

Pedaling to the Ends of the Earth with Steve Williams Saturday, April 6, 2:00 PM
Climbing to the Top of the World with Rick Ridgeway Thursday, April 25, 7:00 PM
Diving Deeper with Sylvia Earle Wednesday, May 8, 7:00 PM
Walking Across Africa with Michael Fay Thursday, May 30, 7:00 PM

New Members Invited to Brunch

Current and Former Chapter Chairs Hosted Get-together

On Saturday, March 9, Chapter Chair Lesley Ewing organized a brunch for the new members and their sponsors. It was held at Point Richmond, where Joe Rychetnik and Stephie Klein hosted the gathering. The morning began with an overview of the history of the chapter by co-founder Joe and continued with an expansion on that legend by past Chapter Chair Ron Reuther. This history was ostensibly for the benefit of the new members, but all of us 'young folks' were listening to every word.

Joe started out with the story of his return to the San Francisco Bay Area after working in Alaska. (He was a journalist and former Alaska State Trooper). He noticed that there were a large number of Explorers-Club members in this region, yet no good way for them to gather. A new Chapter was needed. He asked Charlie Elkus about it, and Charlie said he had made some efforts already so Joe and Charlie pushed harder and got the Northern California Chapter off the ground. The first regular meeting was held on February 12, 1973. Joe told of spending so much time making newsletters and getting meeting information mailed, that his job became The Explorers Club!

Ron Reuther, who became the fourth Chapter Chair (after Elkus, Richard Finnie, and Carlton Skinner) in 1989, told the story of moving the Club from an all-men's organization to, under the leadership of Charlie Brush, one comprised of men and women. The Explorers Club now has a woman President, we have a woman Chapter Chair, and Charlie's daughter, Dr. Karen Brush, is the Club Webmaster.

Ron has copies of many, perhaps all, of Joe's and other old chapter newsletters. Now the past newsletters since January, 1995, are on line. We are considering undertaking the daunting task of scanning those old newsletters and putting them on line as well. It would add over twenty years' worth of material to the chapter's cyber-library and make our history available to all.

—Mike Diggles, FN'92

Help! Give a Lecture!

Dave Rader's Request for Speakers at DeAnza College

U.S. History Instructor David Rader asks for those interested in speaking on any of the following, or related, topics to contact him. Those who have done so have enjoyed the opportunity. Call him at (650) 210-8370; email at

[<d-rader@pacbell.net>](mailto:d-rader@pacbell.net)

The Lewis & Clark Expedition

John Colter

Zebulon Pike

John C. Fremont

Mountain Men

Wilkes Expedition

Richard Henry Dana

Exploring the West

Landscape Artists

Henry M. Stanley

Dinosaur Hunters

John Wesley Powell

USGS Surveys of the West

Polar Exploration

Early Flight

Global Colonial Expansion

Frontier Thesis

(and so-many more...)

Listening and learning— and questioning and suggesting! Lesley has a full plate to take to ECAD.



Greetings from the Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

March means ECAD, along with the California primaries and March Madness. All in all, it makes for a busy month.

Part of ECAD is a meeting on Friday of the chapter chairs to discuss what the chapters are doing, how we are coordinating with New York and how we are coordinating together. I have asked to have time for a discussion on ways that the chapters can better serve those of us who live outside the NY Metropolitan area and also what the chapters can do to make sure all the chapter members are getting something for their membership. That is a big concern for me. My general sense for our chapter is that about 20 to 25% of the members are very active (attend 3 or more events, call me with ideas, suggest presenters, etc.), another 20 to 25% are somewhat active (attend one or two chapter events) and about 50% read the newsletter but do not or can not get to any events. From talking with several other chapters, they estimate that their members fall into similar breakdowns. That means that about half the chapter members remain as members because of the services they get from New York -- the journal, ECAD, the Lowell Thomas Dinner, the clubhouse and the basic appeal of being part of this fine organization. The other half get that, plus some benefit from the chapter. I have no special say over what goes on in New York -- that is the purview of the Board of Directors and the club officers. I do have some opportunity to influence what this chapter does, and so want to explore what other

chapters are doing and what seems to be most well received. If you have any ideas for chapter activities, please call me or send me an e-mail, and I will try to bring those up for discussion at the Chapter Chairs Meeting.

In the meantime, we are pushing the envelop of traditional exploration a bit with this month's speaker. When Steve Smith suggested that we ask Marilyn Schlitz, FN'98, to be a speaker, I was really excited. At its essence, she is exploring what makes explorers explore and how to explain that "hunch" that there will be something new and different around the next corner so you need to keep going when others are telling you that the quest is worthless.

So, I hope to see you at ECAD or at this month's chapter dinner. If you are going to ECAD, let's meet at 6 PM at the Tarantula tray (haven't you always wanted to say that!!) to check where everyone is seated and trade exotics. —Lesley Ewing, FN'93

A Bonus

The large attendance at our February meeting had an added benefit: Dana Isherwood organized a raffle of photographs and books for the tuition of our chapter-sponsored Tibetan student, Ziangyang Quxi. The \$375 raised will assure another year of study for this thankful student.

Evolution

@ The Explorers Club

Diversity in our members' interests is a recognition of exploration. The speakers gathered this year by our vice chair surely demonstrate this: filmmaker, biochemist, gemologist, archaeologist and, this month, noetic scientist! If one wants to broaden their appreciation for the world about, come to The Explorers Club!

Sit at any table, and you will always get a different story. While it is comfortable to join in with those you know, who frequent our meetings, may I suggest you change this pattern? The Northern California Chapter traditionally has dinner meetings which give us a bit of a chance to talk and meet those at our table. What a nice opportunity to get to know the membership. So make an effort to sit with someone you never met before. Both of you will benefit! Next time you come there will be another friendly face.

Each of you may also want to act upon that impulse to include a colleague. As the club approaches its centenary, there is a renewed interest on expanding its participation in the world, as opposed to waiting for word-of-mouth to bring in folks of like ilk. Think about who you know who would enjoy our chapter's presentations and who might appreciate an involvement in an organization here to appreciate the exploring kind.

It is the members who will say where we go from here! Be one to make a difference. A great start is by mixing with the chapter members at our meetings!

And, did you vote for the new class of directors? They count the votes at ECAD. —Lee Langan, FN'99

Please make your checks out to The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter and mail with this form to:

Please reserve _____ spaces for March 29, 2002, at Ft. Mason Officers Club. Cost: \$45 each by March 25; \$50 if postmarked thereafter (call Steve at (925) 934-1051 to confirm and assure a reservation).

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guests: _____

Stephen E. Smith
The Explorers Club
402 Via Royal
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

meal choice: (please circle)

meat

fish

vegetarian

Chapter Officers

Chair: Lesley Ewing
510 527-7899
lewing@coastal.ca.gov

Vice-Chair: Stephen E. Smith
925 934-1051
nauticos@oceanearth.org

Treasurer: Thomas Hall
415 502-7204 (work)
thall@epi.ucsf.edu

Webmaster: Mike Diggles
650 329-5404
mdiggles@usgs.gov

Newsletter: Lee Langan
415 567-8089
lee@langan.net

Chapter Calendar for 2001-2002 Season

March 23	New York	ECAD, Waldorf-Astoria
March 29	San Francisco	Marilyn Schlitz — noetic sciences
April 26	San Francisco	Amos Nachoum — big animal photography
May 31	Peninsula	not complete
June	not set	Chapter Picnic

Please note venues with care. They sometimes change, but the most recent is accurate!
The March 29 meeting is at the Ft. Mason Officers Club in SAN FRANCISCO!

(When copying the URL addresses be sure to keep them all on one line; most are also available as links on our Chapter web site.)

March 2002

Lesley Ewing
The Explorers Club
Northern California Chapter
1679 Tacoma Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707-1826

