

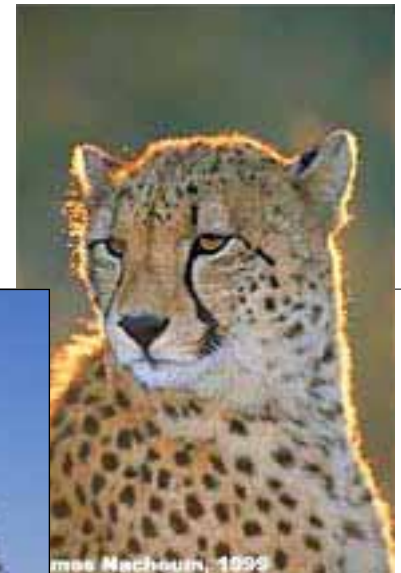
The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

April 2002

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

San Francisco
April 26
Amos Nachoum

Photographing
Large Mammals
on Land and at Sea



The presentation will be on the big animals and our ability to interact with them in peaceful coexistence.

Amos Nachoum has led National Geographic expedition teams, and has co-produced wildlife documentaries. His 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*.

Arising from the belief that private individuals should have access to the same sights as governments and large corporations, Amos has developed a cutting-edge adventure-travel program specifically to provide opportunities to observe, photograph, and interact with the most imposing inhabitants of the sea, such as great white sharks, killer whales, sperm and humpback whales, dolphins, and more. Only through such observation and interaction, Amos Nachoum believes, can people learn to truly understand and respect some of the most impressive citizens of our water planet.

www.biganimals.com



Date Friday, 26 April 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 April 22)
(\$50 if posted afterwards
reach Steve at (925) 934-1051) or
nauticos@oceanearth.org

Reservation Form on page 5
Please reserve promptly!

Coming in May

A Triple Treat on May 31

Dan & Rusty Leibowitz's
Woodside Garden Reception
Eve Nilson's
'A Student on the Amazon'
Richard C. Wiese
'A New President's View'



Last year, Eve Nilson spent her summer vacation as a field biologist—in one of the most threatened rain forests in the world. Eve studied the frogs of Brazil under the starry skies of the

Mata Atlantica rain forest, while living in a small hut on the edge of the forest. Her study was funded by an Explorers Club Youth Activity Grant.

Last month, Richard Wiese was elected the president of The Explorers Club; he will visit our chapter for an open discussion.

The garden party is a delightful Spring outing preceeding these talks. Save Friday the 31st.



San Francisco Noeticist Marilyn Schlitz

Where Mind and Matter Meet,
Efforts Toward the Development of
a New Scientific Endeavor

Our speaker, Dr. Marilyn Schlitz introduced the complications surrounding a “new” science, “noetic” science. This avenue of study surrounds the interface of the human conscious with our physical world. It is ‘new’ in the sense that her efforts and those of her colleagues are bent toward trying to quantify this spiritual arena. They are seeking, and undertaking, experimentation to determine if certain hypotheses about how the thinking mind reacts with the body can be verified.

She began her talk discussing the age-old role that spiritualism has played in all societies. This is evidenced in the theology of major religions and in the mythology passed on by elders and shamans and recorded in ancient symbols. Man has always had a mystical side in his and her effort to explain and define a perception of reality.

This spiritual side has been, and is, credited for having significant impact on one's life—or the life of a community. Clearly major commitments are made because of an allegiance to a conscious belief based upon one's

perception of what is or can be.

Noetic scientists strive to prove if there is a cause and effect. Biochemistry and physics define the physical world as we know it; is there a parapsychological factor we assume but have never defined with similar rigor?

Dr. Schlitz described several aspects of healing as effected by our conscious desire. It was generally accepted that individuals could adversely effect their well-being by pessimism and a defeatist attitude. Many accept that a bright outlook helps the individual heal. How? There seems to be some mechanism which acts upon a diseased cell.

Likewise in group settings a positive outcome can be predicted when an assembly of individuals are pulling for one member in distress. That support seems to help in a very real way. Again how? Can this be quantified? She described some studies that show statistical correlations in support. But, how?

The more difficult hypothesis is that groups can support individuals who are not present or who they do not even know. Does prayer help? The accepted assumption is it does. How? These concepts of telekinesis are an important avenue of study. She described double-blind studies that indi-

cated strong correlations showing that there is a positive measurable benefit from directed prayer. When skeptics first questioned these experiments, efforts to duplicate the tests resulted in the opposite findings. A replication of the studies by believers and non-believers in the hypothesis again resulted in opposing results! Somehow the careful experimenter, using ostensibly double-blind well-accepted experimentation techniques may have an impact on the outcome. How?

Dr. Schlitz's describes her work as the development of a new science. It is encumbered with all of those frustrations experienced by the physical scientists a century before. She is working to define events we may have not been trained to observe. Where will it lead? Intuitively we like to think that our conscious efforts have a causality. “How?”, she asks.

We are left to wait and wonder and think for ourselves. Meanwhile, the Institute for Noetic Sciences is trying to make logical sense out of the impact of consciousness on healing, at least, to help fill in the “vast spaces in our knowledge.” If she and her fellow noetic scientists succeed, their findings should complement the great strides in the physical world we know.

Ideas for the Club's Future

Your editor asked for permission to publish a couple of several ideas communicated by Joan Bekins to the Club Board. What do you think?

"1. It is important to instill in young children a sense of adventure, a belief in what is possible, and admiration of real life heroes on planet Earth. Not a fantasy world of the popular toy "power rangers."

"Through the Explorers Club member-contacts, I suggest that National Geographic, Golden Books, and/or other publishers that have broad marketing and distribution of children's books be contacted. Request that they publish a series of books for release at the beginning of our Centennial year. This would be a series of 5 or 6 small, inexpensive books, written and designed for ages 4 – 8, featuring individual heroes who carried the Explorers Club flag on expeditions: to the moon, the top of Everest, the ocean's depths, etc. (Sylvia Earle, Dan Reid, Jay Cassell, for example.) The books would bear the Explorers Club Seal on the cover and brief information about the Club on the back cover. Pop-up children's books are nice, but much more costly. To gain cooperation on this project, I think publishers would be more receptive to the less-expensive version.

"The Club would not provide any funding or be responsible for distribution, but it would identify the featured personalities and develop the interesting adventure stories with the Publisher's writers and artists. It is important that the Club work with a publisher who already has an existing marketing and sales force in place for national distribution of books. This visibility will enhance the Explorers Club image at many levels, children, parents, the general public, besides fulfilling the mission underlined above.

"During the Centennial year, an Explorer could appear on children's television shows (Sesame Street, Mister Rogers, etc.) and in book stores across the country to promote the heroes series. Living book subjects could appear on morning and late night television and NPR programs. Great public relations for the Club!

"2. An idea to increase revenue

and public awareness: The *Journal* is an excellent publication that is wonderful to share outside the Club. The more copies printed at one time the less expensive it is per copy. I suggest you put an Gift Order Form in the stapled binding of the Journal to remind members that they may give 'gift subscriptions' to non-members. Additionally, there would be a place on the subscription card for members to state his/her Chapter affiliation. The card would be returned to New York for processing. The N.Y. office would then send a portion of the subscription price to the designated Chapter. This provides an incentive for Chapters to support the Journal subscription program. Chapters would actively encourage its membership to give gift subscriptions year round. For instance, if a subscription is \$25, \$5 could be returned to the Chapter. Perhaps this would help Chapters reduce the cost of monthly meetings/dinners, which would, in turn, encourage greater participation."

—Joan Linn Bekins, FN'86

(Joan currently has a macro-photography exhibition at The Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto. It is open weekdays from 9 to 6, closed weekends, until May 2.)

Amelia Earhart Symposium Western Aerospace Museum, May 17-19, 2002

The Amelia Earhart Society, the Western Aerospace Museum, The Port of Oakland, and The International Organization of Women Pilots, are sponsoring what is expected to be one of the largest gatherings of Amelia Earhart researchers and interested parties from all over the world. The symposium is to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the departure of Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan, for their final flight around the world close to the equator and the 75th anniversary of the airport.

Historians and aviation enthusiasts will remember that Earhart and Noonan disappeared on July 2, 1937, somewhere in the mid-Pacific Ocean. Many theories have evolved about the fliers' last few hours airborne enroute to Howland Island. Hundreds of serious researchers have failed conclusively to

uncover the final disposition of Earhart and Noonan. Many have written books summarizing their conclusions, realistic or fanciful.

The official position of the U.S. Government is that the pair perished in the ocean when they ran out of fuel and failed to find Howland Island. However, the Freedom of Information Act has forced the release of many, but not all, classified documents. Some disclose previously unknown events and circumstances. While much information has been gleaned from the released files, there are many files that have not yet been seen. The symposium May 17-19th will feature new interpretations not previously published or released.

Plans include: a viewing (Friday morning, May 17) of the 1943 RKO film, *Flight for Freedom*, starring Rosalind Russell and Fred MacMurray, in which Earhart's husband, George Putnam, had more than a passing interest; two days of panel presentations by research scholars with audience participation encouraged; a reception Friday night; a formal dinner Saturday night, featuring special guests; a guided bus tour on Sunday of the Oakland-Alameda sites where Earhart and Noonan conducted their activities.

The mission of the Amelia Earhart Society and the symposium is to encourage the release of any conclusive determination of additional facts surrounding the last flight of Earhart and Noonan and their disappearance.

Reservation and registration information is available from the Western Aerospace Museum at P.O. BOX 14264, Oakland, CA 94614, 510-638-7100, or from Ron Reuther at 415-435-3951.

Developing Travel with Developing Leaders in Developing Places

Wilford Welch of Sausalito, who recently joined the Explorers Club, now runs the international travel company, Cross Cultural Journeys, with his wife Carole Angermeir. Their approach to travel is unique in that Carole creates trips that "explore the wisdoms of indigenous cultures", while Wilford creates trips to countries wrestling with some of the more challenging

issues of our time, such as ethnic and/or religious conflict. The most recent of these trips have been to Northern Ireland and to South Africa.

Welch, a former US diplomat, is committed to using these trips to help provide future leaders with the knowledge and experience to deal with a rapidly globalizing world. Each trip is comprised of twenty people, eight of whom are 'emerging leaders' from around the world between the ages of 25 and 35. He selects them primarily from Columbia University's international conflict resolution department, where Welch is on the board. Four are emerging leaders from the country being visited and eight are retired men and women from the US who want to share these intense travel experiences with tomorrow's leaders. Anyone interested in exploring these trips should call Wilford at (415) 332-0682 or go to

www.crossculturaljourneys.com .

The Chair's ECAD Report

continued from page 5, Ewing

There is consideration being given to creating an academic Fellow category with reduced dues. This category would be used for those explorers who are both teaching and doing work in the field to advance the Club's mission. If you have any comments on this, send them to the Membership committee, care of the New York address.

'Value Exchange' partnerships:

The Harvard Business School Community Partners works regularly with not-for-profit organizations and has donated 300 hours to review and assess the Club. One effort that has been developed from this program is a plan for Corporate Partner Targeting. Examples of this could be to ask an airline to donate dollars in tickets that the Club could use to support flag trips or sanctioned expeditions, and the airline could identify itself as the "Airline used by the Explorers Club." Or a publishing company could support an effort to scan and put the entire Club library on the web site, and, in exchange, be able to host several book signings at the club. It clearly has the possibility of bringing benefits to the Club but also has the danger of making

the Club a commercial venture. If this progresses, there would be criteria developed for corporate partners and the types of partners that would be appropriate. For example, many of you have probably read that Viagra can improve climbing stamina when at higher elevations. Would you want the Club to take funds or medical support and allow Pfizer to be the "Drug Company used by the Explorers Club?" Again, if you have comments on this, send them to the Executive Director of the Club at the New York address. The B-School is also doing some interviews of club members to discuss this idea. They cannot interview everyone, but if you would like to be interviewed, let me know. I'll pass your name on to Robert Whitby who has volunteered to coordinate the B-School work.

The Lowell Thomas Building:

The Lowell Thomas Building is probably the Club's most valuable *tangible* asset (our members and our indomitable spirit will always be our most important and priceless asset). The building had fallen into general disrepair and, without some serious work, would have become a danger to those who work there and a liability to the Club. Under President Rose's term, the clubhouse has been brought back to good working order. The roof has been fixed, the building has been cleaned and there is now a fairly decent sum left in the Lowell Thomas Building Fund to cover annual upkeep. Our treasurer would like to see a bit more in the fund to be truly comfortable, but the fund and the building are in far better shape now that they were a few years ago. Plans for the coming year are to air condition the entire building so it can be used throughout the summer for functions. Also, a lot of the windows need to be fixed; they will be tended to on a multi-year program.

Newsletter and Journal: The Club publications are one of our key forms of communication. The Newsletter is going onto a regular schedule and the editor, Hardy LeBel, will need material by the first of January, April, July, or October to get it into the coming newsletter. We will send Hardy excerpts from our Newsletters, but if you want to send him material directly, do so at either newsletter@explorers.org or by

mail, to the New York address, marked to the attention of Hardy LeBel.

Angela Schuster will continue to be the Journal Editor. She has been getting a number of great articles about recent expeditions and, for the foreseeable future, will focus most of the Journal articles on current exploration and include at least one flag report in each issue. There will be some opportunity for retrospectives, but most of the Journal space will be for new efforts. If you want to submit an article, remember to hold the flag so the E is to the left of the C (as viewed) and, for digital photographs, use at least 600 dpi, preferably 1,200 dpi. (If you do not know a dpi from a byte, send in good clear, in-focus prints.)

Web Site: Our second key mode of communication is through the web site. Our webmistress, Karen Brush, our Executive Director, Steve Nagiewicz, and some of the New York staff have dedicated a lot of time to the web site and it really shows. Even an Internet Luddite like me, can find stuff now. There are book reviews, flag reports, announcements of upcoming expeditions, Chapter links, contact information for the Board, application forms and a members-only section that provides an electronic version of the newsletter and the member programs.

Faanya Rose: Finally, on behalf of everyone in the chapter, I thanked Faanya for her unselfish service to the club. She and Robert Rose moved to New York for her tenure as President so she could be on-site and available to any of the members who called or came to visit the club. She made it her commitment that every inquiry would be answered within two days, and I believe she managed to keep to that commitment, unless she was on one of her many visits to the Chapters. She represented the club with grace and dignity and a tireless commitment to fostering the spirit of exploration. She has now returned to London to resume her life there. Oceans remain frontiers of exploration, but are no longer barriers to communication or cooperation. Faanya remains on the Board and undoubtedly will continue her active involvement with the Club.

—Lesley Ewing, FN'93

Greetings from the Chair A Doyenne in our Midst

Dear Northern California Explorers:

Happy Spring! It is a wonderful time of year to take far-away expeditions or simply venture out around the Bay Area. I went to New York for the Chapter Chairs meeting and ECAD so have lots to report.

New Officers: The results of the recent Board election were announced at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 24th. Norm Baker, Karen Brush, Catherine Cooke, Fred McLaren and Richard Wiese were elected or re-elected to the Board for a three-year term, 2002 – 2005. Faanya Rose had announced that she would not run for another term as President. Richard Wiese, who had been on the Board for several years and was most recently the chair of the Membership Committee, was elected by the new Board to be our newest President. Richard has offered to visit the chapters, and we hope he will be in the Bay Area this May to attend the May meeting and discuss his ideas for the Club. His transition to President has thrown the rest of his life into slight turmoil, so he has qualified his acceptance with a “need to check air fares and schedules” caveat.

Possible New Member Category: The Board has been trying to find ways to get more qualified people involved with the club. Time and again, the biggest impediment that people mention is the cost. The Board is trying to keep costs down and is exploring a number of options to provide service to the current members while encouraging others to join.

Continued on page 4

Merle Greene Robertson

Archaeology Magazine has a feature article in the May/June 2002 issue on chapter-member Merle Greene Robertson, FN’90. It tells about her forty-year love affair with the Maya culture and the important contribution she has made to Maya studies with her remarkable rubbings of sculpture and icons. Over 2000 of these detailed copies of lost art, from all over Central America, have been created. They are a priceless documentation of findings; many sculptures have been subsequently lost forever. The ravages of environmental exposure and the exploits of treasure seekers and artifact smugglers have increased the value of this important trove. It is now saved for scholars into the future.

Merle’s documents— some of the rubbings are massive in scale— are stored at Tulane University. Many may be viewed on the web:

www.mesoweb.com/rubbings/

Get of a copy of *Archaeology*; it’s a good story! Better yet, get copies of her four-volume monograph on *The Sculpture of Palenque* (Princeton Press— available from the PreColumbian Art Research Institute, 1100 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, 94108)

* ‘PDF’, Portable Document Format, a standard designed by Adobe, Inc. which can be read using free Adobe Acrobat Reader Software on any personal computer.

There is a subtle quality issue: PDFs can be optimized for transmission speed OR printer resolution. Our ‘original’ PDF is a sizable file suitable for quality printing; the posted web-site file is fine for computer viewing. Anyone who wants the higher print resolution can just ask for it!

Evolution

@ The Explorers Club
Hard Times vs Colorful Times

Some of you may not know what you are missing. Our newsletter is prepared in two forms: the first is a PDF* computer-published copy and the second, derived from this, is a mass-duplicated mailable copy.

1) the PDF file can be downloaded from our web site in a few moments and viewed with full-color photographs and in any comfortable size. Can then be printed on you own printer, if desired. Fast and free.

2) the same output is taken to a copier outlet for black-and-white copies. Page 5 & 6 is ‘self-copied’ (for addressing; another step). Pages 1-4 are left to copy and fold. The two sets are merged, folded again, stapled and stamped. Then mailed, just under the one-ounce first-class limit. Without added cost the photos lack quality.

While approach ‘2’ has been our traditional method of distribution, a very few hearty innovators and new-technology adapters have opted for approach ‘1’. We could use more! On the Internet, this is really easy! Your own printed copy is also better!

There are other issues. The preparation of the mailing is time consuming. While the duplication and postage are affordable, they are an expense. With postage going up in July, think 80¢. (This excludes the time involved.)

We currently mail 326 newsletters. At this writing, four members decline mail! Try looking at earlier newsletters on line; become convinced. Let ME know you want this approach, lee@langan.net. Act now...

—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 April 26, 2002, at Ft. Mason Officers Club. Cost: \$45 each by April 22; \$50 if postmarked thereafter (contact Steve at nauticos@oceanearth.org or (925) 934-1051 to 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

April 26 San Francisco Amos Nachoum
— big animal photography



May 31 Menlo Park Eve Nilson/Richard Wiess — student & president
late June do not know yet! Chapter Picnic

Please note venues with care. They sometimes change, but the most recent is accurate!
The April 26 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.)

April 2002

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

