

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

October 2011

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

NEW LOCATION
Note venues and dates with care.
In San Francisco, CA,
our next meeting is at 6:00 on
October 28, a **FRIDAY** evening,
at the University Club
on Nob Hill.

Bolivians in a Global World

From the Eyes of a Volunteer

Jay Gregory

San Francisco — October 28, 2011



As reported in *Wikipedia*, Bolivia is one of the least developed countries in South America. Almost two-thirds of its people, many of whom are subsistence farmers, live in poverty. Population density ranges from less than one person per square kilometer in the southeastern plains to perhaps ten per square kilometer in the central highlands. The population of about 11 million is increasing at about 1.5% per year.

Our speaker, Jay Gregory is a Bay Area native who recently spent a year in Bolivia on behalf of *Joining Hands*, a California-and-Oregon based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) sponsored by the Presbyterian Church. His assignment was to serve as an international facilitator between *Joining Hands* and a Latin American NGO called *UMAVIDA*, translated as *Joining Hands for Life*, a network of non-profits focused on poverty, hunger and environmental-justice issues. The approach of *Joining Hands* in the partner country is to encourage relationship-based mission work in which the partner country takes the lead. The ultimate goal is to find and eliminate the root causes of poverty and hunger throughout the developing world.

Jay will report on his experiences with the indigenous peoples of Bolivia, both in learning about them and their culture and in working with them to develop approaches to the issues of poverty and hunger. His talk will include a view of the natural beauty of the Andes, the lively cultural and political life in a country, where President Evo Morales is an indigenous Amayra metizo, and the problems of this impoverished country struggling to fit into a global economy.

A major focus of Gregory's year on site was to set up and facilitate a landmark meeting between many stake holders in an environmental-contamination case involving a US-owned gold mine. Up to the time of the meeting the stakeholders, including government, industry, and environmental officials had never met around the same table—particularly with representatives from the community being affected by the contamination.

Jay and his team also organized, and are now executing, an international youth photography competition and exhibition "*Poverty, Pollution and Solutions*" that encourages young adults to document

cases of eco-inequity through photography. The winning photos from Bolivia will be displayed along with the winning photos from the United States in a traveling exhibition to show the international nature of these situations.

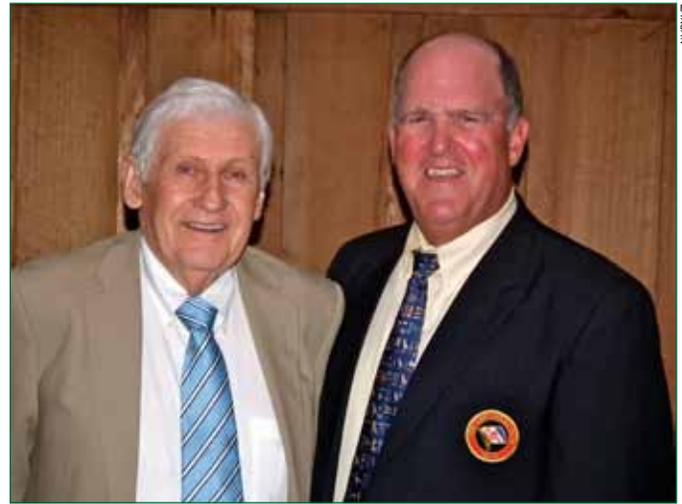
Jay Gregory grew up in Oakland and got the taste for travel and foreign languages early by attending the East Bay French America School in Berkeley. After graduating with a degree in physics from San Francisco State University, in 2005, he taught English for two years in Japan.

Jay will be talking about his year's journey through a new land, new culture and new languages that followed. He noted: "From a crash six-week course in Spanish to the assignment as primary translator at a high-stakes meeting, my year in Bolivia was a whirlwind of experiences that has forever changed the way I will look at globalization, poverty, and pride."

The Member Moment on October 28 will feature our Vice Chair Rick Saber.



Wading in the Osireion Berkeley — September 23



Jim Westerman has whetted his appetite for archaeology in the mysteries of a most ancient structure in plain sight yet hidden for millennia. He thinks this may have been a plan from the beginning! On September 23, at our first meeting of the 2011-2012 season, he outlined several findings from 25 years of exploration at Abydos along the edge of the Nile Valley.

In the appropriate setting of the UC Faculty Club, Jim described his attempts with Egyptian colleagues to delve into the building compound which was first uncovered by modern archaeologists, in a depression behind the massive Seti Temple, in 1901. They exposed granite columns brought from over 400 miles distant, and sandstone walls from nearly so far. To their amazement-- so much is amazing in the lands of Egypt's past--as they removed the sand cover they found water covering much of an enormous building. A pool of fresh river water, confirmed by isotopic analysis, maintains a level a meter or so above the local Nile elevation. How? It does not come from a local aquifer.

Initially exploration ceased in 1925, after a spurt of post-World War I activity; Westerman came upon the scene in the mid 1980s. He brought a mechanical engineer's acumen and a businessman's practicality to bear,

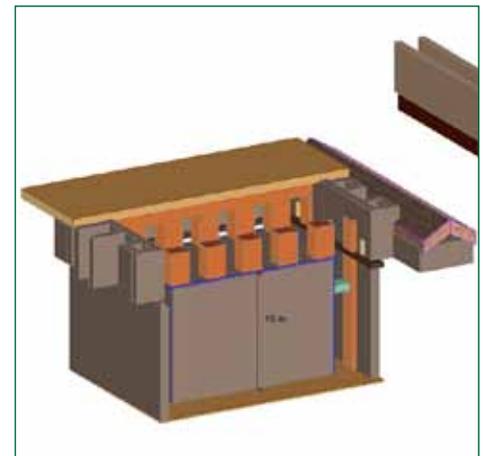
with permission of the authorities, on this unique site. At his expense he has pursued an attempt to resolve the how and why the Osireion was built, possibly more than 6000 years ago. He has brought geophysical noninvasive tools and lightweight drills to penetrate the muck beneath the water. He has probed to some 28 meters below the surface--and still no foundation. He has attempted to barricade the water and to pump it away; the flow defeats him.

Brief seasons each year have increased the mystery rather than expose it, he 'knows' the site, yet the how and why answers remain elusive. It was built before the massive Seti Temple, in honor of Osiris, and, yes, the Nile Valley was lower before silt continued it's buildup (until the high dam at Aswan changed a pattern of nature). Was the water seal by design? Did it come later? What may be hidden by the water for all these years? Jim continues the pursuit, even after the Arab Spring.

Jim Westerman is an active member of The Explorers Club. Besides his exploration in Egypt he has worked in Peru's Machu Picchu. He is currently the chairman of the Great Lakes/Chicago Chapter and has run for the board. He may again. Remember his name!

NorCA Chapter Chair Anders Jepsen (left) and Chicago/Great Lakes Chapter Chair Jim Westerman at the UC Faculty Club on September 23rd (upper right).

Jim Westerman in the field at the Osireion; standing at this ancient ruin he shows its scale. As can be seen, the pillars are covered with water—a flow of fresh water that has existed for millennia. Below is a sketch of the known structures and the anticipated depth of the water. It needs to be determined what lies within.



NorCA Chapter 2011 Contributors

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Robin Ziegler

Add Your
Name to
the
above
list
by
sending
\$25!

From the Chair— Ever since earliest times, exploration has been a two-way process, with explorers going out from their home areas to experience, study and learn about remote areas and, then, to bring back artifacts and information. What has received less attention, and concern, is what the explorers brought to that remote area and how the area under investigation was impacted. The introduction of sexually transmitted disease to Polynesia is one adverse example of that impact that comes to mind. Industrial projects and commercial products are other examples.

There are as many such impacts as there are kinds of explorers—adventurers, scientists, missionaries, business men, prospectors, salesmen, TV producers, NGOs, armies, diplomats, etc.

This month's presentation will be by a representative of an NGO. Future presentations will be of the more conventional kind, with a report on Antarctica in November and another on ocean research in 2012.

In January we will be having exploration stories from six of the National Club Directors. It should be exciting.

This month we will return to the Univeriy Club in the City after our very successful event on UC's Berkeley campus in September. Come and bring your friends—we can build our Sirdar ranks.

—Anders Jepsen, PhD FN03

Lowell Thomas Dinner— You may not be able to travel to St. Louis for The Explorers Club annual Lowell Thomas Dinner; you will miss a great affair where invited explorers are fêted. Come if you can to this black-tie affair being held, for the first time, outside of New York. Our President, Lorie Karnath, and the dinner sponsor, Rolex Watch, are anticipating a grand turnout for this innovative fund raiser scheduler away from Manhattan. It recognizes the importance of chapters to the expanding Club.

One way in which you can participate, from the comfort of your home or office is by placing a bid on any of the intriguing items being auctioned on TEC's website. Click upon <http://www.explorers.org/index.php/news/news_detail/ltad_2011_auction_items>. There are some very interesting opportunities, (and the odds are very good for success at a reasonable price.)

A New Documentary— I'm a veteran TV producer, with many awards, for series such as *Cosmos*, *The Ascent of Man*, etc. My company is InCA Productions, based in Sausalito, but with offices in France and Nairobi, Kenya. Visit us at www.incafilms.com.

Our new China project is an animated film which will reconstruct the circumstances behind the creation of the famous Terracotta Army of Xian (commenced roughly 2250 years ago.) The film is called "*The Mold Maker's Daughter*", and it weaves a fictional tale around these factual historical events. It is based upon the children's book written by Chapter member Dan Liebowitz FN66 and his coauthor Barbara Kanowick, see below.

We are looking for "China Buffs", and specially people with expertise in China history or the experience of visiting and studying the Terracotta Army. We are also seeking potential investors for this exciting low-budget film.

There will be a Project Launch Party in late October, to which interested parties will be invited

—David Kennard FN01

The Booklet— Dan Liebowitz and Barbara Kanowick have written a children's tale illustrated by Barbara. It is now published in soft and hard cover and for the Kindle! Here is the publisher's description:

"In this tale of ancient China, Persimmon, daughter of a Jewish mold-maker and a Chinese woman, becomes a famous panda painter. Living in the forest of Chengdu Province, she adopts Bampo an orphaned panda bear, but what she has done is illegal, as only members of the royal family can own panda bears. But she has treated Prince Ting Ling with a secret potion when he was gored by a wild boar in the forest of Chengdu. The prince recovered in his palace. His soldiers are sent far and wide to find the girl who saved his life, but to no avail. The poacher Che Tu Wa knows that she is living in a little cottage in the forest with her amah and alerts the authorities that the girl has a pet panda bear. Persimmon is arrested. Her sentence is to be beheaded. Just then Prince Ting Ling arrives at the court house. He recognizes Persimmon as the young lady who saved his life with the secret potion. He requests a reprieve for the forest girl and offers to marry her. She agrees, providing she can keep Bampo and the story ends happily."

From the Board— During the field-season months of Summer your Board takes time to travel, work afield and visit; there are no scheduled meetings. We resume in mid-October by visiting the St. Louis Chapter. The next Board Meeting is concurrent with the annual Lowell Thomas Dinner.

In January 2012, from the 27th through the 29th the Board will meet in San Francisco, hosted by our Chapter! The hosting includes planning for special events, rather than an outlay of cash. On Saturday the 28th, our Story Night Tradition will continue with Kay Schmieder organizing six tales from members of the Board. It should prove an interesting evening—anticipated to be at the University Club. Every one will have a chance to meet those who guide the Club and to pass on their favorite idea.

Details will be provided in the upcoming issues of the newsletter, but one plan is an urban field trip to introduce our fair City. We also anticipate attendees will come early and/or stay late to visit the surroundings that we enjoy as residents.

—Lee Langan, FN99

Member Moment, 23 Sept: Anders Jepsen—

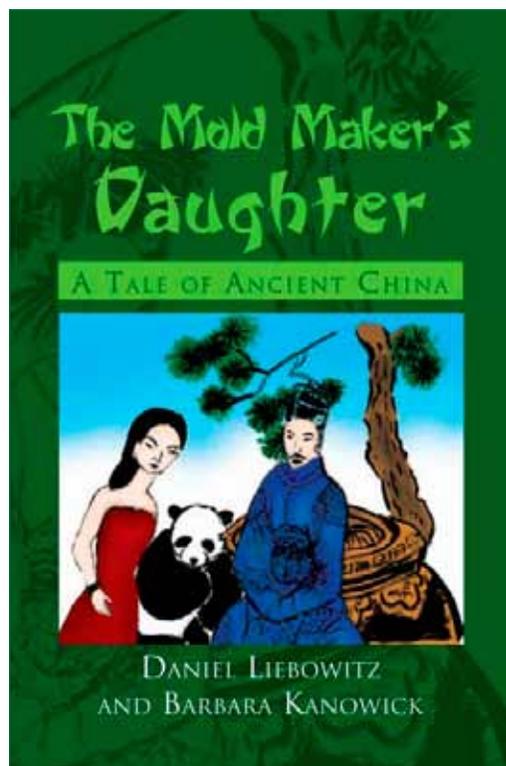
Anders initiated his Member Minute program by talking about his own career as a geologist, geophysicist and environmentalist. He began by setting a timer at 3 minutes, but claims that he never heard the bell go off. He showed a Google image of North America marked with the sites at which he, or his employees, had performed geological, geophysical and air pollution surveys: 7 years of geological mapping and prospecting, 11 years of geophysical prospecting and 8 years of air quality mapping.

His geology slides from his geology work in Canada included Eskimos with a dog sled, plus several shots of wild life and camp life. His geophysical exploration work extended as far off shore as the Philippines and as far north as Prudhoe Bay and the Bering



Sea. His air quality mapping work ranged from many sites in the US to Guatemala and Thailand; he showed a map of plumes of air-borne pollutant blowing across Washington DC from power plants and a picture of the measurement of a similar plume from an erupting volcano in Guatemala.

He described himself as a journeyman explorer and has concluded that three minutes is not very much time to talk about what you love.



October 2011



Chair: Anders Jepsen
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Vice Chair: Rick Saber
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Treasurer: Joan Boothe
415 346-5934
hoodoskr@aol.com
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

October 28 — Bolivia

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

October 28. Jay Gregory
Discovering Bolivia University Club

Upcoming Events

November 18. Joan Boothe/University Club
Otto Nordenskjöld's 1901-03 Saga of Survival
December 11. Rick & Aldeana Saber
Member Reception Tiburon
January 28, 2012 (Saturday) Story Night
Board Member tales University Club
Scheduled meetings being worked upon:
February 24, 2012
March 30, 2012
April 27, 2012
June 1, 2012
June 23, 2012 Angel Island Picnic

Earlier Chapter Events (2011)

February 25 Don Dana
Ethiopian Research Expedition University Club
March 25 Tom Cromwell, MD
Medical Disasters University Club
April 22 Robin Ziegler
Google Earth University Club
May 20 Alan Nichols
Dead Men Tell Tales. California Academy
June 11 Angel Island Picnic
September 23 Jim Westerman
The Osireion, Egypt UC Faculty Club

USE PAYPAL!

October 28, San Francisco

Date Friday October 28, 2011

Reserve ___ spaces for September 23, 2011

Place: University Club
San Francisco

Time: 6:00 - reception
7:15 - dinner
8:00 - talk

Cost: \$55 (for members and sirdars)
\$35 for card-carrying students

Cost: \$55 in advance; \$60 on the 28th
Students: \$35. (2011 dues \$25!)

Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____

Please mail information to Joan Boothe,
2435 Divisadero St, San Francisco, CA
94115 or email hoodoskr@aol.com
or call (415) 346-5934

Please reserve by Oct 25!

We have an established PayPal account.

For those of you who have an account, you can sign up and remit dinner costs to the NorCA Chapter by transferring money to: explorersnorca@gmail.com

There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org); easy to use!



The University Club
Atop Nob Hill
where the cable cars cross

The University Club has Valet Parking for \$20; the Brocklebank Garage on Sacramento is only \$10! Other nearby garages are expensive. Some street parking. Muni (cable cars OR California #1) is very near; BART & CalTrans connections are easy. Car pool! The University Club is wheel-chair accessible.

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos1@oceanearth.org