



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

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

February Meeting
Friday, February 28, 2020
The Dolan Law Firm, 1438 Market Street. SF

FOLLOWING THE RHINOCEROS - FROM AFRICA TO ASIA

A field report from Africa and Asia

Comparing and Contrasting the current state of rhino conservation and its effectiveness regarding the dominant species of each continent - Africa's white rhinoceros & India's one horned rhinoceros.

Dr. Robert R. Griffith MN'16

Dr. Griffith, a strong advocate for animal conservation, was curious about the concept of rhino dehorning adjunct to preservation of the species and traveled to South Africa to listen to people struggling with the horror of poaching on a daily basis. After multiple interviews and seeing the dehorning approach in action, he became a believer, and now works to educate others about this addition to the overall effort to save these magnificent animals. Upon returning home, he has continued his relationship with the reserve he visited by sending much needed medical supplies.

The findings were fascinating to him and formed a basis for a comparison with Africa and the future hope for their conservation. His presentation will include:

- * Rhino species and statistics;
- * Explosion of poaching in Africa;
- * Africa's anti-poaching methods with a review of dehorning;
- * Asia's rhinos, status and anti-poaching methods; and
- * A comparison/contrast of Africa & Asia with respect to poaching.



The process of dehorning a rhinoceros in order to preserve it is in practice in both Africa and Asia. To learn why Africa was the main focus of the Western world regarding this most recent rhino crisis, he set out on an expedition to India and Nepal for interviews and field study to learn more about Asia's dominant rhino species, the Indian one-horned rhino.

The presentation will be both informative and entertaining, interspersed with Dr. Griffith's photos of the beauty of South Africa and its wildlife. Dr. Griffith is a retired Diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He served in the United States Army Reserve with a discharge rank of Lt. Col. and is



a life member of the American Legion. Dr. Griffith has also been active in his community for decades, serving in multiple elected and appointed positions ranging from School Board Director to Chairman of the Montgomery County (PA) Board of Health.

RAPA NUI, THE EXPLORERS CLUB, AND HISTORY Jo Anne Van Tilburg PhD FN'09

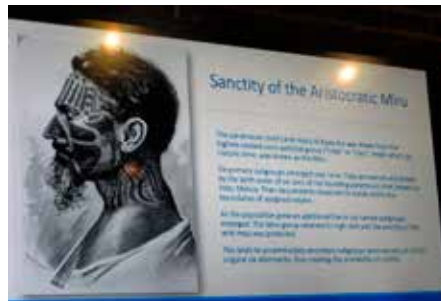
At the January 24, 2020 Northern Cal. Explorers Club Dinner Meeting we enjoyed a good dinner and an interesting talk by Jo Anne Van Tilburg Ph.D. from the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology on the subject of Rapa Nui (Easter Island), its history, and its relationship with the Explorers Club. Thor Heyerdahl's expedition was the first Explorer's Club flag expedition to Rapa Nui (Easter Island).



Dr. Van Tilburg's recent flag expedition with a UCLA team to excavate in the Rano Raraku statue quarry caldera interior shed new light on some old theories. The team paid close attention to the legends recorded by Routledge and other early visitors. According to legend, when they arrived in two boat groups, the leaders of the two groups divided and shared the land, with further divisions as the sons of the leaders and the population grew, until there were 13 tribes. The east side of the island where the Hotu Iti resided was more suited to agriculture, and the west, the land of the Miru, more suited to fishing. The two groups had distinctly different worldviews. They were very competitive and these further divisions would sometimes result in conflict

between groups. They established a great megalithic society on the island, cut its trees, and lost the ability to voyage.

While the island is small, it is larger and has more resources than many Polynesian Islands and may once have supported as many as 20,000 people. The carving of moai (statues) and the establishment of rituals helped legitimize heredity privilege and form a cohesive society. But by 1722, the time first Western contact, the moai rituals had changed to a new culture centered around Orongo and the Birdman rituals.



Over the years Van Tilburg's work has involved close attention to measuring features of the Moai which bear out the aural history idea that the statues represented different groups or lineages, even in the quarry after the resources to move the moai were depleted.

Many questions remain unanswered. The exact origin of the Rapa Nui people is still unknown, but they probably arrived around 900 A.D. from Mangareva or the Austral Islands. How the Moai were moved is yet another question, to which the answer may be that there were several methods, and that some were not meant to be moved at all.

Rapa Nui is a challenging archaeological puzzle, a World Heritage site, and an historic destination for at least four Flag Expeditions. New excavations by the UCLA team led by Jo Anne Van Tilburg in Rano Raraku, the statue quarry, cast an innovative new light on age-old questions.

Jo Anne Van Tilburg is an archaeologist and head of an international, interdisciplinary team conducting major excavations in Rano Raraku, Easter Island's Statue Quarry. She is an Associated Researcher of the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club with an extensive list of awards, publications and public outreach, including numerous appearances on PBS, BBC and has appeared twice on CBS 60 Minutes with Anderson Cooper.

Elaine Dvorak FN'10



Chapter Chair Lesley Ewing,
Speaker Jo Anne Van Tilburg

EDITORS NOTE:

The above review was written by Elaine Dvorak, whom I knew had been to Rapa Nui (Easter Island) in the past. If any attendee at a future meeting has a special interest in the topic being presented and would like to review the talk for this newsletter, please contact me before the meeting.

AJ

Some of the Attendees at Friday 24th meeting. All photos by Von



Bob and Kay Schmieder, Jim Prigoff



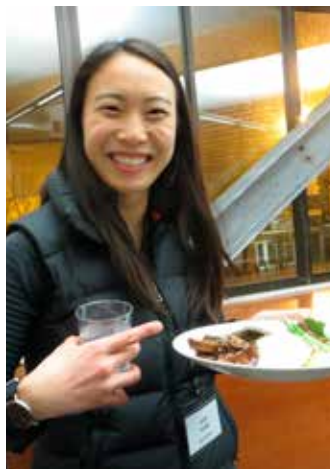
Karin Baye, Deneb Karentz



Cheryl Leonard, Sudha Pennathur



David Hirzel & Alice Cochran



Joyce Chang



Scott & Janine Ellis



Susan Langan, TEC Director Lee Langan



Jim & Linda Alexander, Jan Van Tilberg, Sandy Ross



Guest Barbara Quinn, Karine Langan



Tom Patterson, Sue Estey

HONOR ROLL
Paid Up Dues 2020

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Austin, Jenifer
Ballou, Philip
Beebe, Morton
Berg, Barbara
Blake, Richard
Boothe, Joan
Carter, Susan
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Dana, Don
Dehmel, Richard
Diggles, Michael
Dolan, Thomas
Ellis, Scott
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Higgins, Robert J.
Holmes, Robert
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Kelley, James
Klein, Ronald
Lapham, Ellen
Laverty, Laurence
Mangus, Rodney
McCown, George
Meniketti, Marco
Nishimine, Kendall
Prigoff, Jim
Ross, Sandra
Rousch, Col. J.R.
Schmidt, Wendy
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Worden, Simon
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Blumberg, Marion
Boothe, Barry
Brandt, James
Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Dolan, Kathy
Elkus, Nancy
Fish, Sandra
Heyneman, Louise
Jepsen, Kathleen
Judd, Kathy
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassandra
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara

FROM THE CHAIR

Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring for us this year. But before we don cargo shorts and start hiking to see spring flowers, there are some chapter events to remember and plan for. In January, Jo Anne Van Tilburg gave us an excellent introduction to an amazing culture. The Rapa Nui of Easter Island are known for their sculptures, but within their artwork is the story of a civilization that adapted multiple times to their environmental conditions. First as a voyaging group, then as two separate communities, and then back to a single coordinated group. Jo Anne (duster of statues) covered her 30 years of research in a short 45 minute talk and provided a perspective on Easter Island that some of us had never heard. I encourage you to watch the video if you did not see the actual presentation.



This month, Dr. Robert 'Griff' Griffith will bring us to a conservation concern – the rhinos of Africa and Asia. There is more about his talk in this newsletter. I hope to see you on the 28th as we learn more about his research.

March brings us a double header – ECAD and then Cheryl Leonard's talk about high latitudes, high elevations, found objects and music. Lee Langan and I still have a few seats at the Northern California tables, available at the early-bird rate of \$500 per seat. If you are interested, let me know ASAP – 510-459-0858. If you are staying closer to the Bay area or will be back in the Bay area the week after ECAD, think about coming to Cheryl's talk, learn about her exploration, and remember -- our early-bird dinner tickets are much less than ECAD.

By April, the hiking season will be in full-bloom. This will be a great opportunity to catch up on some wilderness medicine and ecomedics during Dr. Paul Auerbach's talk. Then get inspiration for summer adventures from Sandra Cook's talk, "Foreign Devils on the Silk Road".

Plans are underway for some field trips and a summer picnic. If you have ideas for field trips, contact Jimmy Friedman. If you want to help with the picnic, contact Karion Baye.

Happy travels and keep exploring.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER



ECAD

The 116th Explorers Club Annual Dinner will be a once-in-a lifetime gathering, including a keynote by honoree Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace — and a special appearance by honoree, songwriter and conservationist Paul Simon. Contact Lesley Ewing if interested in sitting at the Chapter tables.

FROM TAGS TO RICHES

A retrospective photography exhibition of graffiti/urban art collected by explorer James Prigoff FN'67 will open on Friday, February 7th at the First Amendment Gallery, 1000 Howard Street. in San Francisco. A reception at 6:30pm will open the showing with a special presentation by Jim. More information is available at info@1amsf.com.

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Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
 chair@explorersnorca.org
 510-459-0858

Vice Chair: Tom Dolan MN'14
 tdolan@outdoorstorms.com

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

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2020

- January 24 Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg
- Easter Island Dolan
- February 28 Dr. Robert Griffith
- Endangered Rhinos Dolan
- March 15 ECAD NYC
- March 27 Cheryl Leonard
- Found Objects and Music TBD
- April 24 Dr. Paul Auerbach
- Enviromedics TBD
- May 24 Dr. Sandra Cook
- Foreign Devils on the Silk Road TBD

2018

- October 26 Sir Richard Feachem
- Shrinking the World Malaria Map Dolan
- November 30 Leon McCarron
- Exploration by Walking Dolan
- December 16 Holiday Party
- Home of Rick and Aldeana Saber

2019

- January 25 Pat Scannon
- Recent Discoveries Dolan
- February 22 James Nestor
- Outdoor adventure Dolan
- March 22 Paul Saffo/Richard Weise
- Dynamics of Change Aquarium of the Bay
- 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

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

Jim Hurson MN'10
 Sandra Cook MN'16
 Paul Freitas MN'10

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

Late arrival phone number for Monthly meeting at the Dolan Law Center
 The door will be locked and unattended after 7:15 p.m.
 Chapter Phone: 415.236.3459 (for message or locked door entry).

MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter now records all of our dinner meetings. Videos of recent speakers' presentations are available on the Chapter Website.

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 2020 DUES

Welcome to the new year of 2020!

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2020.

Sirdars have annual dues of \$50.00. In addition to their national dues, 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.

To honor those who pay their dues, we will include on the monthly newsletter an honor roll of paid sirdars and members.

CHAPTER MEETING
Friday, February 28, 2020

Place: The Dolan Law Firm
 1438 Market Street
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Time: 6:30 - reception
 7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program

Meal Options: Stuffed Pork Tenderloin and tri-tip of beef / Parslied Potatoes.
 Vegetarian choice: Stuffed Peppers (before 25th).

Cost: \$49 before February 25; \$35 for students, \$60 for all after February 25.

Please mail reservations, checks to Anna Freitas
 161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.
 call Anna at 925-457-6424

or email treasurer@explorersnorca.org
 To sign up and remit your meal costs online, go to www.explorersnorca.org,
 and use the convenient payment buttons there.