



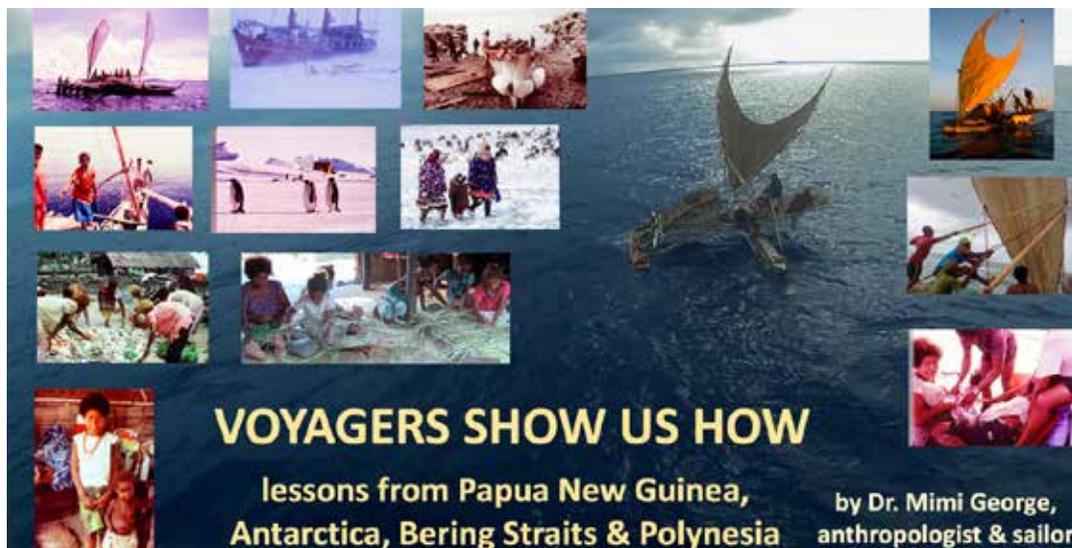
The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter October 2020

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

October Meeting
Friday, 30 October, 2020, 6:30 PM
Gather by Zoom Invitation

THE VAKA TAUMAKO PROJECT

by Dr. Mimi George; Cultural Anthropologist, Writer, Sailor



The Vaka Taumako Project of the Pacific Traditions Society is an educational and research effort to train a new generation to build and navigate using completely authentic methods, materials, and designs of the Polynesians of Taumako in the southeast Solomon Islands, and to train student videographers and guide documentation and production of video recordings for archiving and for popular and scholarly publication.

Supporting Vaka Valo Association programs that:

- * Train youth to build vaka and navigate using ancient designs, methods & materials
- * Honor & protect Taumakoan cultural heritage & intellectual property rights
- * Accommodate local and international students at Lata Voyaging School of Taumako
- * Revive and create more sustainability, resilience, bio-diversity and food security
- * Reopen ancient seaways & re-establish peaceful voyaging partnerships and networks
- * Write, video, archive, and make films about ancient cultural knowledge of voyagers
- * Create and participate in cultural exchanges, presentations, and demonstrations

Mimi George Ph.D. is a sailor and cultural anthropologist who studies how ancient voyaging knowledge provides answers to global needs today. She has documented: rituals of Austronesian people in Papua New Guinea; a small, mixed-gender crew wintering on a sailboat in Antarctic sea-ice doing science; connections between hunters and herders around the Bering Straits; the only Polynesian community still building vessels and navigating using only ancient materials, designs and methods; and ancestral lights that signal land. George describes the sustainability and happiness that voyaging arts bring to practitioners, and how women and children drive the cultures. In 1996 Dr. George helped to establish the Vaka Taumako Project, which preserves and perpetuates authentic Polynesian seafaring culture on Taumako. Her presentation will be drawn from her varied and exciting career; she is based in Hawaii.

Look for the Zoom invitation emailing early the week of the 30th.

MISSION BLUE: HOPE SPOTS AROUND THE WORLD

Liz Taylor MN'95 and Sylvia Earle MED'81

September 25, 2020

Friday, 25 September, the NorCA Chapter of the Explorers Club a special treat: Dr. Sylvia Earle MN'81 and her daughter Liz Taylor MN'95 spoke about their past experiences in deep ocean exploration and their current effort to save the oceans. **Mission Blue** is working to inspire an upwelling of public awareness, access and support for a worldwide network of marine protected areas to rejuvenate those selected areas of the ocean: **Hope Spots**.

Earle spoke of the male-only barriers that stood in the way of female participation in exploration in earlier days, mentioning specifically the 1953 sealab project for which she was fully qualified but from which she was excluded because she was a woman. A follow-up image of the 'aqua babes', a 5-female dive project team, suggested that things had since gotten somewhat better.



A historical review of deep submersibles that began in the 40s and 50s showed the development from the first system, Alvin, through the system used by Explorer Club Fellow Don Walsh Ph.D. and Jacques Piccard were aboard the bathyscaphe Trieste when it made a record maximum descent into the Challenger Deep on January 23, 1960, to set a record in the Mariana trench that prevailed until Explorer James Cameron (below) went even deeper about 10 years ago, using Kermat, the green dive machine shown above.



For shallower dives beyond the limits of free and SCUBA divers, simpler systems

that didn't require elaborate surface support needed to be developed. Earle and her then-husband Graham Hawkes worked to development independent systems for single-, 2- and 3-person designs (below)



that opened up to ocean down to 3000 feet.

The top slide above shows a team picture with Earle in an early unit, surrounded by the project team which included her daughter, Liz Taylor, the co-presenter. Using such a system, Earle has been able to obtain many interesting pictures from the deep water; examples included a luminescent spiral coral, an unusual green fish and two pink fish swimming, seemingly buddies, leading her to the observation that such behavior shows that fish, like other animal



life, can develop friendship with other individual fish.



Currently, Earle and Taylor are the driving forces behind **Mission Blue** which has identified key areas of concern in the ocean, 'Hope Spots' that are special places critical to the health of the ocean - the "Earth's blue heart". Some Hope Spots are already formally protected, many others still need defined protection. Under Dr. Earle's lead-



ership, the Mission Blue team has launched a global effort to shed light on these vital ecosystems and ignite support to safeguard them as marine protected areas. More than a dozen expeditions have been led by Mission Blue around the world to explore Hope Spots highlighting research, conservation and educational efforts, influencing policymakers and creating compelling documentaries that educate and inspire the public.

Dr. Sylvia Earle is President and Chairman of Mission Blue. She is a National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence, and has been called "Her Deepness" by the New Yorker and the New York Times, "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress, and "First Hero for the Planet" by Time Magazine. A former chief scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a leading American oceanographer, she was among the first underwater explorers to make use of modern self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) gear, and has identified many new species of marine life.

HONOR ROLL
Paid up 2020 Dues

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Austin, Jennifer
Ballou, Philip
Beebe, Morton
Berg, Barbara
Blake, Richard
Boothie, Joan
Carter, Susan
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, James Thomas
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Dana, Don
Dehmel, Richard
Dietz, Tom
Diggle, Michael
Dolan, Thomas
Dutcher, Susan
Ellis, Scott
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Friedman, Lincoln
Hemming, Peter
Hermalun, Brendan
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Higgins, Robert J.
Holmes, Robert
Horne, William
Hutchison, Alan
Jake, Kristi
Jepsen, Anders
Kellay, James
Klein, Ronald
Kvnevolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Laverty, Laurence
Leonard, Cheryl
Mangus, Rodney
McCown, George
Meniketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nishimine, Kendall
O'Kane, Teresa
Prigoff, Jim
Ross, Sandra Miller
Roush, Col. John
Saber, Rick
Schmidt, Wendy
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Vasquez-Lavado, Silvia
Velivela, Vignan
Wilken, John
Worden, Simon
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Baye, Karin
Blake, Maggi
Blumberg, Marion
Boothie, Barry
Brandt, James
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Dolan, Kathy
Durrighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Fish, Sandra
Friedman, Christen
Gorenberg, Pete
Heyneman, Louise
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassandra
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
Oesterle, Matt
O'Keeffe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldena
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark
Yoder, Karl

FROM THE CHAIR – June 2020

Greetings to autumn. Our 2020-2021 season is off to a wonderful start. We were treated to an amazing presentation by Her Deepness and the Subsea Concierge, otherwise known as Sylvia Earle, MED'81 and her daughter Liz Taylor, MN'95. At times zoom can seem rather mechanized; but, this conversation with Sylvia and Liz, accompanied occasionally by their dark chocolate lab, seemed like we were talking with them in their living rooms. Their ocean protection efforts are a multi-generational undertaking; we saw photos of Sylvia, Liz, Liz's children, and many of the school groups, students, and researchers who have been with them on voyages over the years. They also talked about the Ocean Hope Spots, the latest program from Mission Blue and one of these spots, San Francisco Bay, is in our backyard. We can enjoy it now with social distancing and once things get more stable, we'll have new motivation to learn about and study this special area that is so close to home.



We have plans for the rest of the calendar year and are working on the rest of the program year. Later this month, Mimi George will be talking about the Vaka Taumako Project. Then on November 20th, Cheryl Leonard will give the presentation she was planning originally for our March 2020 meeting-- one of our first 180 degree turns in response to Covid 19. Then in place of our end of year holiday party, we have some special ideas for a zoom event. We'll have more details in the next newsletter and for a holiday announcement. In preparation for this special zoom meeting, we'd like you to help with a few events -- with photos of recent explorations, with recipes for holiday treats or with some special skill you can share with a group in about 10 minutes -- tying knots, identifying feathers, etc.

- Photos -- send your jpgs to Anders with some information about the photo location, date taken and significance (ajviking@aol.com).
- Recipes -- send your recipes to Lesley with some information about why the dish is special for your holiday (lesleycoastal@gmail.com).
- Special talents -- send a note to Lesley or give her a call (lesleycoastal@gmail.com; or 510- 459-0858)

I hope to see many of you on the October zoom meeting and for other events.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

GOT A GOOD EXPLORATION PICTURE?

With the Annual Holiday Party Zoom happening in December, I'm organizing a review of some of the exploration pictures from past Holiday Party photo contests. Chapter members who have a favorite picture from a past adventure are invited to email them to me for consideration. Include date, identities and circumstances with the submission. Email Anders Jepsen FN'03: ajviking@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Chapter newsletter serves its members not only by keeping them up-to-date on events of the Chapter but also by providing a forum in which members can express their thoughts and ideas. Notes submitted by members will be printed as time and space permit.

October 2020 Issue
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

(All zoom meetings will open 30 minutes before
the presentations to give time to log and
and socialize)

2020

October 30 Mimi George
Vaka Taumako Project Zoom
November 20 Cheryl Leonard
Found Objects and Music. Zoom
December End of Year Event???

2019

March 22. Paul Saffo/Richard Weise
Dynamics of Change. Aquarium of the Bay
April 26 David McGuire
Swimming with Sharks. Dolan
May 31 ANNUAL MEETING 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

2020

January 24 Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg
Easter Island Dolan
February 28 Dr. Robert Griffith
Endangered Rhinos Dolan
March 27. Cheryl Leonard
Found Objects and Music RESCHEDULED
April 24 Dr. Paul Auerbach
Enviromedics RESCHEDULED
May 24. Dr. Sandra Cook
Foreign Devils on Silk Rd RESCHEDULED
May 22, 9:30 AM: Roz Savage
The Gift of Solitude ZOOM Presentation
May 29, 7:30 PM ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING
June 5, 8 PM. Eliot Jessup
24 hr Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim TO BE ZOOMED
September 20 Explorers Club Chapter VP
Intro to Northern California Chapter . . . Zoom
September 25 Liz Taylor and Sylvia Earle
Mission Blue- Hope Spots. Zoom

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

Sandra Cook MN'16
Paul Freitas MN'10
Jimmy Friedman MN'19
Kimberly Chambers MN'16

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

chair@explorersnorca.org
vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org
secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter tries to record 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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 2020 DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2020. New members who sign up in the 4th quarter are covered for next year.

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

ECAD 2020

In view of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Northern California Chapter is working to arrange for Zoom presentations to continue the monthly schedule until regular in-person meetings can be resumed.

ECAD 2021 is being planned now, with one option to be an outdoor event somewhat later in the Spring. Check the main website for more details closer to Spring 2021.