



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter November 2020

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

November Meeting
Friday, 20 November, 2020, 6:30 PM
Gather by Zoom Invitation

KELP FLUKES, WALRUS IMPERSONATIONS, AND GLACIAL GAMELANS

A COMPOSER'S SEARCH FOR POLAR MUSIC

Cheryl E. Leonard MN'20

Composer, performer, and instrument-builder Cheryl E. Leonard has journeyed to both Antarctica and the Arctic to gather musical materials and inspiration. In 2009 she spent five weeks on the Antarctic Peninsula at Palmer Research Station via a grant from the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program.

Two years later she headed north to explore Svalbard with the Arctic Circle Residency Program. Leonard's polar music combines sounds produced on amplified natural objects and materials (rocks, bones, shells, feathers, seaweed, sand, water, ice, etc.) with carefully-edited field recordings of wildlife and natural soundscapes. Her compositions are often inspired by scientific research and



connected to issues surrounding climate change. Several of her Arctic and Antarctic pieces were developed in collaboration with visual artists and, in addition to being performed in musical concerts, have been exhibited in galleries and museums.

Leonard will discuss working with sound at the ends of the earth and share examples of the field recordings, one-of-a-kind musical instruments, and compositions that have grown out of her polar adventures. She'll explain her compositional process and describe field recording successes and defeats, instrument-building eureka moments, how to play music on penguin bones, strategies for notating bowed limpet shells and fizzy icebergs, and what it's like to perform live on stage with scientific glassware and dripping icicles.

Cheryl E. Leonard is a composer whose works investigate sounds, structures, and objects from the natural world. Her projects cultivate natural materials as musical instruments, and often feature one-of-a-kind sculptural instruments and field recordings from remote locales. Leonard's music has been performed worldwide and is available on multiple record labels. She

has received grants from the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, New Music USA, American Composers Forum, American Music Center, ASCAP, Meet the Composer, the Eric Stokes Fund, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Leonard's commissions include works for SFMOMA, Kronos Quartet, Hope Mohr Dance, and the La Jolla Historical Society. She has contributed to several publications about music and sound art, and her works have been exhibited in galleries and museums in the U.S., Norway, Australia, Mexico, and Argentina.

Her website is: www.allwaysnorth.com.



Look for the Zoom invitation emailing early the week of the 20th.

THE VAKA TAUMAKO PROJECT

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

The October Zoom meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club featured a stimulating description by Dr. Mimi George of her 41-years as a cultural anthropologist and sea captain explorer with travels to both arctic and antarctic areas and special emphasis on a tropical island culture in the south seas. In Antarctica, early in her career, she was part of an 11-month study of human relations in a confined space (a sailboat) located in a dangerous place, Antarctica. This, plus her love for sailing, led her to study other areas including the Alaskan islands close to Russia, and several islands in Solomon Islands of Papua New Guinea. Dr. George's career shows how one can parlay one's academic training with a love of the ocean and sailing into a satisfying contribution to the understanding of some of the many cultures that have made up our world. Her work with the people of Solomon islands, Papua New Guinea evolved from an interest in their ability to navigate their sailing vessels without using modern technology. That led to a study of the role of women in that culture, a consideration of the

separation of tasks between men and women in such a community, and the ritual performance of transformation from one side to the other. The lack of inclusion of women in cultural considerations in general, the result of those studies having been carried out by men, led Dr. George to focus on the role that women play in several different isolated societies. Her information was both interesting and revealing in that her examples of these remote island communities showed that women can and do perform the same roles as men in life, rather than playing the subservient role suggested by a male-dominated studies, and do just fine..

Recognizing the challenge of giving adequate coverage to Dr. George's many and varied experiences, the reviewer decided to provide an array of the most interesting of the pictures she showed in the Zoom presentation. Those who are interested in viewing or reviewing her presentation are directed to the video that can be found at the Chapter website: www.explorersnorca.org



ATTENDEES AT ZOOM MEETING, 30 OCTOBER 2020.



Editor's note: At our monthly chapter meetings in pre-Covid days, an array of photos taken during the social time before the presentation was usually included to acknowledge the presence of members and the pleasure of sharing our interests with other like-minded people. These pictures might also have helped us to learn the names of other individuals. The speaker is in the upper right hand corner.

The above is a photo of the Zoom screen showing part of the audience for Mimi George's talk. Not everybody in attendance is represented in this picture. In future meetings, it is hoped that the names of participants can be included.



HONOR ROLL
Paid up 2020 Dues

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Austin, Jenifer
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
Diggles, 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, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Kelley, James
Klein, Ronald
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Lavery, 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
Durighello, 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'Keefe, 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 – November 2020



This is the time when the slow pace of summer and early autumn gives way to the rapid swirl of time leading up to the New Year. I think most of us would say that 2021 cannot come soon enough. But we do have a few events to highlight before jumping into 2021.

In October, our Halloween treat was an intriguing talk by Mimi George, sailor, anthropologist and explorer. Mimi provided us with links to two of her recent documentaries about the voyaging canoes (vakas) used traditionally by the Taumako, in Papua, New Guinea (go to www.vaka.org if you did not view them prior to her talk). Her work in PNG would be a life-time accomplishment for many; but it is only one of several voyaging cultures that she has explored, traveling from the poles to the tropics to learn various navigation techniques, tools and local building materials. I'm delighted to note that Mimi wants to be more involved with our chapter and recently became one of our newest Sirdars. This month we return to the poles with Cheryl Leonard. Be sure to check your audio quality before the meeting so you can fully enjoy her presentation and experience some of her original musical creations using penguin bones, glacial ice and various objects from high latitudes.

Our holiday party will be Sunday December 13, as an afternoon zoom celebration. Jimmy Friedman has learned to put together breakout rooms so we can meet in multiple smaller groups. The flier will be out soon with all the room options. You'll spend 10 to 15 minutes in one room, then come back together in the larger group before heading to another breakout room. We'll have a bunch of options for breakout rooms -- watching the slide show of exploration past, sharing stories and recipes of holiday food and drink traditions, talking about your favorite exploration locales or other topics. It wouldn't be like any of our previous holiday gatherings and hopefully next year we'll be meeting again in person. But do join this year to talk about the Chapter's Covid Explorers' Event. I've been told that HQ will not host a holiday event this year, so ours might be one of the few options; please join and come with stories to share.

We had our second 'open' Board meeting on November 15th and several members joined us, two of whom had recently joined. Great to know that there is interest in what the Board does and that some members might want to get more engaged in coming years (HINT: 2021 is a coming year). Future BOD meetings will be February 7, 2021 and April 13, 2021 -- mark your calendars now. Some meeting highlights are that the 2021 roster should be available soon. We'll try to find ways to distribute it to all dues paying members directly; but will mail them if other options are not available. We're working on chapter items like pins, shirts and hats so you can proudly display our chapter logo and make a fashion statement at the same time. Plus, these items will come in handy once we can again meet in person and go on field trips.

One of the good things to come from Covid is that all the programs coming from New York are being held through zoom and are being recorded. If you go to the Club's website, you can see a calendar of events to see past and upcoming discussions. In general, there will almost always be a Monday lecture program and Chapter Connects on Thursday events. Topics change week to week, so check the calendar regularly.

HQ is continuing with its program on diversity, equity and inclusion and some reports or initiatives should be coming soon. The second round of Discovery grants were just announced this week and later this year and HQ will soon announce the Explorers50 to highlight members and non-members who have made significant contributions to exploration but are not widely recognized. We'll soon be getting a new Code of Conduct for all members and in 2021, the club will be celebrating the 30-year anniversary of opening club membership to women.

As I learn what's happening at the larger club, I'll try to pass on information. If you have questions about what is happening at HQ, let me know; I'll channel them to the right person in HQ and try to get back with an answer.

Our 2021 program is still in development; but the dates are in the event calendar in this newsletter so you can mark down those dates. The meetings will probably all be zoom, but only time and effective vaccines will tell.

Take care and explore safely.

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

November 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

2020

November 20 Cheryl Leonard
 Found Objects and Music. Zoom
 December 13. Holiday Party
 Zoom

2019

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

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
 October 30 Mimi George
 Vaka Taumako Project 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

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 vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org
 secretary@explorersnorca.org

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MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter tries to record all of our dinner meetings. Videos of recent speakers' presentations are available on the Chapter Website.

DO YOU 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 2021 DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2021. 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.