



PHI BETA KAPPA
 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
 THE GAMMA ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
 Association Chartered June 14, 1946



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Φιλοσοφία Βίου Κυβερνήτης

SALUS PATRIAE

Founded December 5, 1776

March 2014

From the President

I am still basking in the lovely glow of this year’s Asilomar conference, held over Presidents’ Day weekend at one of my favorite locations in Monterey County. Deirdre Frontczak again did a superb job of coordinating the event, with presentations to interest every attendee. She has given a full report on page 3; here is a quick review. Friday evening began with a puzzle: the “Perplexus,” and its development history by creator Michael McGinnis. An art whiz since elementary school (he showed us some of his early drawings of labyrinths . . . did YOU keep your grade-school art work?), Michael related the ups and downs of attempting to market his idea. Wow!

Saturday was packed with great speakers: Dr. Margaret McLean led us through the ethics of the Jahi McMath incident, David Seaborg discussed evolution and extinction, and Dr. J. Mira Kopell (a ΦBKNCA Teaching Excellence Awardee) showed us five (count 'em, FIVE) film versions of one scene from *Hamlet*, to illustrate the director's craft. Sunday, we explored Synthetic Biology with NASA Ames researcher Dr. Lynn Rothschild. Is there life on other lunar/planetary bodies? We who were there now know! After a restful afternoon, we heard one of our 2013 Scholarship Awardees, Dr. Alison Weiss, “tell all” about antebellum interracial sexual relationships. Finally, on Monday morning, we explored the Asilomar dunes with Ranger Danny Rizzo. He really knows his subject (and he's easy on the eyes, too). Suffice it to say that, as usual, a good time was had by all at Asilomar. See page 3 of this newsletter.

As frequently happens at this time of year, members of our Board leave to pursue other activities, and new members step up to keep us going forward. We thank our departing Board member, Treasurer Robin Fuller, who has served three years in that position, and we are delighted to announce that Duncan Missimer has agreed to take on the post. Board members for the 2014-15 year will be elected and installed at the Annual Meeting, to be held Sunday May 4, 2014 at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club. Check the ΦBKNCA website or page 5 of this Newsletter for more information.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming activities, and I thank you for your continued support of Phi Beta Kappa – Northern California Association.

Mary T. Gilliland

*Mary Turner
 Gilliland
 President 2011-14*

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Submit your Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination

We are seeking nominations for this prestigious award, which carries an honorarium as well as a certificate. Please nominate a professor you consider to be outstanding: someone who taught an especially memorable course or who impressed you as an unusually skilled educator, who had a special impact on your education, career, or life, or whom you found inspiring and admirable. Making such a nomination is an appropriate and satisfying way of expressing your gratitude to that person. Winners will be honored at the ΦBKNCA Annual May Dinner on May 4 (See page 5).

Faculty members of any rank (including lecturers and *emeriti*) at the following schools are eligible for nomination: Mills College, San Francisco State University, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and The University of the Pacific. Please give as complete information as possible. Your nominees need not be Phi Beta Kappa members. You may make more than one nomination, but please use a separate sheet for each nomination you make.

Nominations for Spring 2015 must be received by November 30, 2014. Please use the webform at www.pbknca.org/teaching/ (preferred), or the hardcopy available by printing the pdf there.

Narcinda Lerner, Teaching Excellence Chair

We Have a LinkedIn Group Just for Our Members

As a member of the Northern California Association, you are eligible to join our private LinkedIn group. Our group, "PBK, Northern California", is restricted to members of the Northern California Association, so you will know with whom you correspond. Go to www.pbknca.org/linkedin to join. I have to verify each member manually, so please email me at melissa@melgetz.com if you requested to access the group and feel that I've taken too long to process the request.

Melissa Getz, Chapter Liaison Chair

New Board and Nominating-Committee Nominees Bios

Board

TREASURER: Duncan Missimer - B.S. Chemistry, UC Santa Barbara 1975, Phi Beta Kappa; B.S Computer Science, UC Santa Barbara 1984; System software developer from 1984 to 2012 at Hewlett-Packard, Rhapsody Networks, Brocade Networks; Memberships - IEEE and Usenix.

Nominating Committee

Martin Apple - MSC, Ph.D. University of Minnesota, 1959; ΦBKNCA, President 1975-1976

Calvin D. (Cal) Wood – ΦBKNCA: Asilomar Chair, 2010 – 2012. UC Berkeley, BA Physics (honors and ΦBK honors), 1957; Ph.D. Physics, 1961. Assistant Professor of Physics, University of Utah, 1962-1964. Senior Design Physicist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (UC), 1964-1993 (retired). UN Inspector in Iraq, 1991; with others, found and eliminated Iraq's nuclear weapon program. Board of Directors (member and vice president) for several organizations concerned with the elderly and needy (adult day care, low cost housing, interfaith sharing, substance abuse ministry at Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore).

Bios of returning Board and Nominating Committee members are located at <http://www.pbknca.org/bios/2014-2015.phi.beta.kappa.html>

Jean James, Nominating Committee Chair

Chapter Liaison Call for Volunteer at the University of the Pacific

We still have a position available for someone who wants to welcome new initiates to the Northern California Association. Each year, in the spring, someone from ΦBKNCA goes to local universities to welcome new initiates to Phi Beta Kappa and to let them know that they have a one-year membership in the Northern California Association for free. We also inform them about scholarships for graduate students attending our local universities, and we invite them to nominate a professor for a Teaching Excellence award.

We need one more volunteer to welcome students at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. If you are interested in being a ΦBKNCA ambassador to UOP, please contact Melissa Getz, melissa@melgetz.com, and let her know you are interested.

Melissa Getz, Chapter Liaison Chair

Online Newsletter Saves the Association \$\$\$

We would like to thank those of you who receive online newsletter. In 2013 we spent nearly \$3,000 mailing hardcopy newsletters – that is three-fifths of a scholarship! The 835 members who have now signed up for the online newsletter are helping to save scholarship money! Send us an email at online@pbknca.org to change to the online version.

Ray Hendess, Communications Officer

ΦBKNCA 28th Annual Asilomar Conference – A great success! Presidents' Day Weekend, February 14-17, 2014.

\$73 of the \$100 deposit you paid in 2013 for this Asilomar conference is tax deductible on your 2013 taxes.

Sign up now for the 29th Asilomar (Feb 13-16, 2015, Coupon on back page)



The good weather on Presidents' Day weekend once again added to the high spirits and lively discussions that make the Asilomar conference a highlight of early spring. Based on the feedback, attendees enjoyed an inspiring weekend, with speaker presentations variously described as “stellar,” “spectacular,” and “superb.”

Pictures of the speakers are at <http://www.pbknca.org/asilomar/2014/2014Asilomar.html>

Michael McGinnis, creator of the award-winning Perplexus games – often called “the world’s smartest toys” – aptly launched the conference with an account of his remarkable 35-year journey from an artistic idea of his teens, to international Game of The Year. Michael’s work is a delightful tribute to curiosity, tenacity, and an

unswerving refusal to be swayed from his creative path. A sculptor in complex geometric forms, Michael teaches art and design at Santa Rosa Junior College, and curates museum exhibits across North America and Europe. His interactive sculptural works, known collectively as Superplexus, can be found in museums and private

collections around the world, and their cousins – the Perplexus games – continue to captivate (and frustrate!) would-be problem solvers of all ages.

On Saturday morning our focus turned to more sobering thoughts when **Dr. Margaret McLean**, Director of Bioethics at the Markkula Center of Santa Clara University, considered the question presented by contemporary medicine in “Crossing the Bar – When is Dead, Dead?” The talk presented the complex issues surrounding the case of Jahi McMath, a 13-year-old girl who remains today in a state alternately described as life support, or mechanically-delayed demise. McLean provided a broad overview of the scope and methods of ethical inquiry, and raised far-reaching, provocative questions about the opportunities and limits of medical technologies today. Along the way, she educated us on the cultural, social and scientific background of this case, helping us see the difficulty of imposing a single set of answers on a family in crisis.

On Saturday afternoon, evolutionary biologist **David Seaborg** gave an account of the astonishing rate of worldwide species extinction, occurring today at a rate that far outstrips any natural extinction cycles in past human history. Seaborg presented compelling evidence that it is not natural cycles but in fact human intervention that disrupts habitats and climate with often disastrous consequences. Seaborg’s talk was enhanced by artifacts of life long since extinct – fossils of plant and animal forms – as well as living representatives of species potentially threatened by human actions. His tortoise and snake were enthusiastically received, and perhaps the first of their kind to grace a ΦBK Asilomar event!

On Saturday night **Dr. Mira Kopell**, lecturer in film studies at U.C. Berkeley and a recipient of a ΦBK Teaching Excellence Award, provided not only outstanding entertainment but insights into the artistic possibilities and choices faced by directors in giving their own stamp to a time-honored work. In “Dead for a Ducat, Dead!” she presented five separate versions of Hamlet Act 3, Scene 4, told from remarkably different perspectives and with widely varying aesthetic directions. We learned about visual composition, lighting, camera angles, “power” positions, diagonal lines and so much

Altogether, the 89 participants reported a highly rewarding and delightful experience, with rave reviews for each of our speakers. Plans are already under way for the 2015 event.

Reservations are now being accepted for the next Asilomar on Presidents’ Day Weekend, February 13 – 16, 2015.

One final note: Through March 15 registrations for 2015 will continue to be accepted at the \$100 rate. All registrations received after that date will be \$125 per person. Registration fees for Asilomar have defied economic trends, remaining at the same levels for nearly 20 years. However, to preserve the value of ΦBKNCA scholarship awards, the Board has decided

more! Dr. Kopell’s talk stimulated a lively discussion, and no doubt inspired many to dust off our Hamlet texts and /or view the entire films when we are able.

Sunday morning, **Dr. Lynn Rothschild** of NASA Ames Research Center gave our brains a serious workout as she presented recent discoveries in astrobiology and explored future trends. Dr. Rothschild brought the study of extraterrestrial life from a “star wars” fantasy to the tough, real-world questions that inspire scientists and graduate students each day. Along the way, we were introduced to the extraordinary development of synthetic biology, with its potential to revolutionize our view of the evolutionary narrative that has played out on planet earth – and possibly elsewhere. Beyond earth, we looked at the challenges of biologically-provided life support, as we continue to explore the limits of our world.

Sunday afternoon provided a respite from activities, as participants hiked, visited, explored or simply relaxed.

That evening we returned to the Forum to hear **Dr. Alison Weiss**, recipient of a ΦBKNCA scholarship award, present the results of her history dissertation. Dr. Weiss spoke eloquently of “A Plumb Craving for the Other Color: Race and sexuality in antebellum America.” She explored long-lasting, official, institutionalized mixed-race unions throughout America and among all social classes, and highlighted the romanticization of interracial sex –especially with non-white women – in the antebellum American imagination. Her research suggests a sexual crisis between the contradictory Victorian ideals of virile white men and “passionless” white women – a crisis apparently resolved in the oft-fulfilled longing for relations with women unlike the wives and mothers who graced white American homes.

The conference ended with a Monday morning walk along the Pacific Coast dunes, led by **Ranger Danny Rizzo** who shed light on the plant and marine life, as well as the natural climate trends that had shaped the landscape we enjoy today. Spectacular weather encouraged us to extend our walk, leading many to explore the tidepools and beaches before heading back to the final meal of the weekend.

that a modest increase is now in order. Questions regarding registration, lodging and so forth may be directed to Barry Haskell, at bghaskell@comcast.net.

Thanks go out to all our speakers, to Mike Sitzer who provided the audio equipment free of charge, and to ΦBK volunteer Barry Haskell, whose constant vigilance and patience allowed both registrations and the weekend to proceed smoothly.

For more details about the next Asilomar, watch our website www.pbknca.org.

Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair

Upcoming Events

ΦBKNCA Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 4:00 pm



It is time to put this coming year's ΦBKNCA Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on your calendars!

Our meeting in May will be held from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm at The Faculty Club on the campus of UC Berkeley. The annual meeting is the occasion when we celebrate ΦBKNCA's primary mission and award scholarships and teaching excellence awards to deserving scholars and professors, with the objectives of enhancing the scholars' educational and research activities and honoring those in their teaching of our next generation.

If you have not come to the Annual Dinner before, we encourage you to do so. In meeting some of these outstanding honorees and learning about their academic interests (as well as renewing old friendships and perhaps getting more involved in our vibrant organization, ΦBKNCA), you will be able to more fully appreciate the value of the programs we offer throughout the year, the funds generated

through the Asilomar conference, the many monthly events and the direct contributions you make!

Enjoy the food, wine and, best of all, wonderful fellowship of kindred spirits. Social hour begins at 4:00 pm with a cash bar; dinner, including your choice of entrées (seafood, chicken, vegetarian), white or red house wine, will be served at 5:00 p.m. Coffee and tea will be served with dessert.

Date: Sunday, May 4, 2014
Deadline: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 4-8 pm
Fee: \$65.00 per person incl. tax, gratuities, parking

Visit to the Computer History Museum Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 11:30 am



Here's our chance to find out why computers go back an estimated 2000 years. Our Docent-Led visit to Mountain View's Computer History Museum will include the exhibit "The First 2000 Years of Computing," and the IBM Watson exhibit. We will see and hear the pioneers in computing telling their personal stories and so much more. Our docent will be waiting for us at the museum to introduce us to the fantastic exhibits the museum has organized for

Computer History Museum, continued

us. We will be encouraged to do some “hands-on” games, take pictures (no flashes) and really get involved in the computing experience.

<http://www.computerhistory.org/>

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2014
Time: 11:30 am (please plan to arrive no later than 11:15 am for check-in)
Minimum: 10. **Maximum:** 20
Deadline: May 26, 2014
Fee: \$25 per person
Location: Mountain View

Directions:

From San Jose *via* US-101 North: 20 Minutes - 15 Miles

Take US-101 North toward San Francisco, take Shoreline Blvd exit, turn right onto Shoreline Blvd. Cross through intersection. Museum is on your right

From San Francisco *via* US-101 South: 40 Minutes - 35 Miles

Take US-101 South toward San Jose, take Shoreline Blvd exit, turn left onto Shoreline Blvd. Cross through intersection. Museum is on your right

From East Bay *via* I-880 South: 25 Minutes - 20 Miles

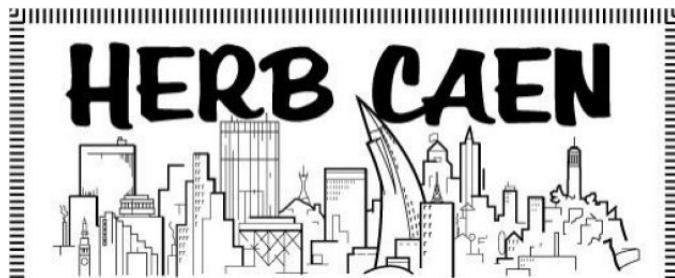
Take I-880 South toward San Jose, merge onto CA-237 West toward Mountain View.

Merge onto US-101 North toward San Francisco, take Shoreline Blvd exit. Turn right onto Shoreline Blvd. Cross through intersection. Museum is on your right

From Saratoga *via* CA-85 North: 15 Minutes - 12 Miles

Take CA-85 North towards San Francisco, take Shoreline Blvd exit, turn right onto Shoreline Blvd. Cross through intersection. Museum is on your right.

By Public Transportation: The Computer History Museum is approximately 2 miles from the Mountain View Caltrain/VTA Light Rail Station located at Castro and Evelyn Streets in downtown Mountain View. For more information on routes including fares and schedules, please visit Caltrain and VTA websites.



Herb Caen Dash with Gary Holloway
Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 11 am

For over 50 years, newspaper columnist Herb Caen was the poet and chronicler of San Francisco, working for both the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner. Herb’s daily column was the most read part of these newspapers and his wit and wordsmithing were legendary in the Bay Area. Over the years and especially during wet-weather periods, Caen developed a route from his office south of Market Street to his favorite restaurant, Le Central, on Bush Street near Grant Avenue. He proudly called this route the “Herb Caen Dash.” To honor Caen, we are going to replicate his Dash route on this walk. This is a fun and level walk which starts at the main front door entrance to the Chronicle building at the southwest corner of 5th and Mission Streets.

The tour will end at Le Central, 453 Bush Street, and if you are interested in staying there for lunch, indicate this when you sign up for this event. Certain San Francisco VIPs often lunch there as they did when Herb was still with us.

Because parking is difficult, public transit is recommended. The Chronicle Building is located near the Powell Street BART Station. Additional transportation information can be found online at www.511.org.

Date: July 26, 2014
Time: 11:00 am (plan to arrive no later than 10:45 am for check-in)
Minimum: 12
Maximum: 18
Deadline: July 14, 2014
Fee: \$25.00 per person

Information about our enrollment, refund and cancellation policies

Most events can accommodate you and any friends or family you'd like to bring along. Occasionally an event will have a limited enrollment, in which case we may not be able to accommodate more than one member and one guest per enrollment. As for refunds, if you call in advance they may be available unless Φ BKNCA will lose scholarship money — that is, unless we are financially committed, based on your enrollment, to an organization at which the event will be held. If we can find someone to fill your space we may be able to refund your payment, but that is not always possible. Members who do not come to an event for which they have registered will not receive a refund. The Φ BKNCA Board is most grateful to those who prefer to donate the program fee to the scholarship program in lieu of a refund. You will not receive written confirmation of your reservation for the events. Directions are available from the event websites, Google.com, your GPS, or on the day of the event, by calling Judy at (707) 696-9498.

Coupons

Please print legibly and print name of tour on check as well. **No acknowledgements will be sent.**

If you subsequently can't make an event, others may be waiting. Kindly notify

Judy Hardardt: home (530) 297-7150; cell, day of event (707) 696-9498.

Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner
Sunday, May 4, 2014, 4 – 8 pm
Deadline April 14, 2014
Attending _____ x \$65.00 per person = \$ _____
(Check payable to PBKNCA- Enter name of tour on check)
Dinner selection:
Chicken _____
Seafood _____
Vegetarian _____
Member(s) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail _____
Guest name(s) _____
Mail coupon and payment to:
Judy Hardardt, PO Box 2038, Davis CA 95617

Herb Caen Dash
Saturday, July 26, 2014 11:00 am. Arrive 10:45 am
Deadline July 14, 2014
Attending _____ x \$25.00 per person = \$ _____
Staying for lunch? _____
(Check payable to PBKNCA- Enter name of tour on check)
Member(s) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail _____
Guest name(s) _____
Mail coupon and payment to:
Judy Hardardt, PO Box 2038, Davis CA 95617

Φ BKNCA Board July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Mary Turner Gilliland, President
Menlo Park, (650) 321-9966, Mltg@aol.com
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Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair
Santa Rosa, (707) 546-4238, dfrontczak@santarosa.edu

Computer History Museum
Saturday, June 7, 2014, 11:30 am. Arrive 11:15 am
Deadline May 26, 2014
Attending _____ x \$25.00 per person = \$ _____
(Check payable to PBKNCA- Enter name of tour on check)
Member(s) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail _____
Guest name(s) _____
Mail coupon and payment to:
Judy Hardardt, PO Box 2038, Davis CA 95617

The editor wishes to thank Rory Keller for her proofreading and invaluable formatting suggestions.



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Note – Please do not return this form if you have already paid a deposit.

ΦBK at Asilomar February 13-16, 2015

Deadline for Reservations: December 15, 2014

Registration fee: # Attending _____ x \$125/person= \$_____

Please make checks payable to PBKNCA

Mail to: Barry Haskell, 1190 Fairbrook Dr., Mountain View, CA 94040

Questions? Call Deirdre Frontczak at 707 546-4238

Member Name(s): _____

Where initiated to PBK (For your nametag) _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #(s): _____

Email (essential!) _____