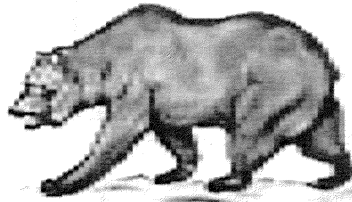


Bear Facts

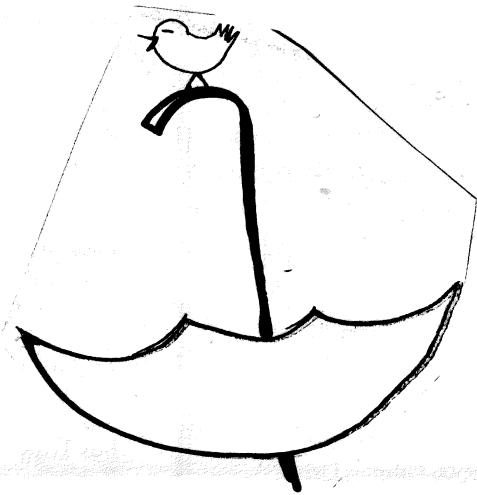


Vol. XLIV No. 7

UCSD OCEANIDS NEWSLETTER

April 2007

*THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO OUR
STAFF ARTIST ELIBET MARSHALL*



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

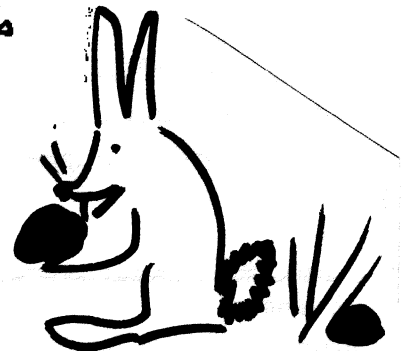
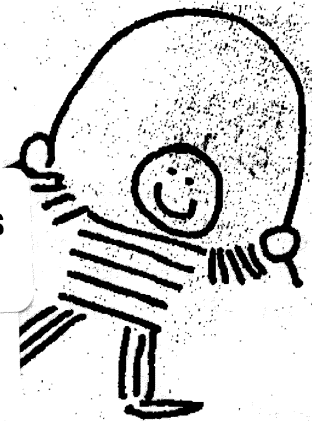
Oceanids Spring Luncheon
May 17, 2007
Bali Hai Restaurant on
Shelter Island
see page 9



*A lot of good arguments
are spoiled by some fool
who knows what he's
talking about.*

Archives
Ref.

LC
1751
B4
v. 2007
no. 4



OCEANIDS CREW



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(note: all phone numbers are area code 858 unless otherwise noted)

Honorary Chair	Chancellor Marye Anne Fox
President	Barbara Bank484-4597
	*Oceanid of the Year/Maxine White Award
Immediate Past President	Jane Takahashi.....622-1993
1st Vice-Presidents	Margaret Acampora.....459-8123
(Fall Brunch, Spring Lunch)	Judy Skelton.....456-0930
	Mary Dashen.....457-4631
2nd Vice-President	Gail Fliesbach.....270-5536
(Membership, directory updates, computer coordinator)	
Recording Secretary	Sylvia Bal Somerville.....760-753-9304
Assistant Recording Secretary	Liz Winant.....481-7447
Treasurer	Estelle Shabetai.....459-3546
Financial Secretary	Mary McIlwain.....454-4857
Assistant Financial Secretary	Kim Signoret-Paar.....456-9039
Nominating Committee	Judy Vacquier, Glenda Rosenblatt, Laurette
	Verbinski, Molli Wagner, Bernie Sisco,
 Diana Vines (alternate)
Corresponding Secretary	Eleanor tum Suden.....587-8865
Parliamentarian	Maxine Bloor.....459-7665
Interest Groups Coordinator	Judy Vacquier.....459-7834
Newcomers	Liz Fong Wills.....454-6858
	Georgina Sham.....459-1336
Undergraduate Service Awards	
& Graduate Scholarships	Carol Schultz.....453-0458
Money Books	Maxine Bloor.....459-7665
Bus Trips	Barbara Starkey.....453-0779
Publicity	Jane Takahashi.....622-1993
	Kim Signoret Paar.....456-9039
Bear Facts Editor	Roswitha Enright.....459-7375
Assistant Editor	Nancy Dimsdale.....619-255-5533
Circulation Chair	Jean Kramer.....453-0379
Drawings	Elibet Marshall.....459-5246
Folding Committee	Maxine Bloor, Laura Galbraith, Ellen Revelle,
	Elibet Marshall, Carol Schultz, Linda Smith,
	Lucie Walther, Ilse Warschawski, Liz Wills
Buildings & Grounds	Candace Kohl.....259-1903
Campus Focus Events	Carole L. Ziegler.....619-297-0798
Emeriti Association Liaison	Ady Rosenblatt.....453-4626
Alumni Association Liaison	(to be decided)
Friends of Int'l. Center	Candace Kohl.....259-1903
Friends of Library	Dyanne Hoffman.....552-0075
Friends of Music	Maxine Bloor.....459-7665
Friends of UCSD Medical Center	Sallye Krause.....755-3245
Retirement Association	Pat Kampmann.....454-1856
Historian	Maxine Bloor.....459-7665
Refreshments	Jean Kramer.....453-0379
Sunshine Committee	Bernie Sisco.....481-1310
	Ady Rosenblatt.....453-4626
Friday Café	Barbara Starkey.....453-0779
Holiday Party	Mary McIlwain.....454-4857
	Maxine Bloor.....459-7665
Theatre Fundraiser	Molli Wagner.....720-1185
Museum Bus Trip	Barbara Starkey.....453-0779

BEAR FACTS

is the newsletter of Oceanids, a UCSD campus organization. Published monthly except July, August & September. Letters to the Editor and articles of interest to UCSD are invited.

ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN THE 15th OF THE MONTH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.

Address all submissions to:

Oceanids/Bear Facts
International Center
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0049

or, preferably, email to:
oceanids@ucsd.edu and
renright@ucsd.edu

Circulation: Jean Kramer
(858) 453-0379

PLEASE NOTE

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OCEANIDS ONLINE

<http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/oceanids/>

E-MAIL

oceanids@ucsd.edu
and also email renright@ucsd.edu

BOARD MEETINGS: first Thursday every month

Oceanids Pavilion, International Center

Coffee and refreshments: 9:30am

Meeting: 10:00am (You are welcome to attend!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is spring. I can hear the birds singing in my yard. My ornamental plum tree is covered with pink blossoms. The daffodils have bloomed gloriously. My freesia looks so lovely, and the tulips are promising to open soon. Flowers are everywhere! I love spring. Everything looks so new. Early in March Judy Vacquier hosted a delightful gathering at her home for new members to meet others and learn about our interest groups. Our interest groups are the magnets for attracting new members. The vitality and talents of our members lead to the formation of even more interest groups. Oceanids bloom the year round.

Oceanids also search for blooms. At the end of March, Carole Ziegler, Georgina Sham, and Liz Fong Wills organized the annual Oceanids Newcomers Desert trip to Anza Borrego State Park. Some camped for the weekend. Others drove out on Sunday to join the campers on a hike and search for wildflowers. Carole told us there would be no wildflowers in bloom this year, but I hope they found a few here and there. Even if they didn't we know there were Oceanids in bloom on the desert. Oceanids bloom everywhere.

Our annual Spring Luncheon and Program will be on May 17 this year. Please mark the date on your calendar. You will have an opportunity to vote for the new board for the 2007-2008 calendar year. I will also be asking you to vote to raise the dues from \$25 to \$30. During the year, the board has looked at ways to reduce our expenses. I mentioned last month that beginning in the fall we would be sending out five issues of Bear Facts, and not nine. We also voted to use the proceeds from the wonderful raffle at the Theatre Party for our operating expenses. The proceeds from the sale of tickets for the Theatre Party will continue to be used solely for our Student Service Awards.

Despite cutting costs and raising funds we still need to raise the dues. Our two biggest expenses are Bear Facts and Parking fees. We have been able to reduce the costs of Bear Facts. We have no control of the parking fee. In 2002 the fee was \$2,688. This year it was \$3,822. We can only expect it to go up in the future. I would not be surprised if one day we had a fundraiser just to pay the Parking fee. If any one has an idea for a fun one with a parking or car theme, please let me know. We could sell Toll House cookies, or have a road rally from museum to museum in the area, Balboa Park to La Jolla to Oceanside and Escondido. How about a picnic in the park to pay the parking? As long as we have to pay the fee, we should have fun raising the funds, after all we are Oceanids!

Barbara Bank

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SOUNDING BOARD
is sponsored jointly by Oceanids and
the UCSD Faculty Club

EVERY 1ST THURSDAY AT 12 NOON

Oceanids and friends of the university meet at the Faculty Club, convene in a specially designated room to eat lunch (\$8 for members, \$12 for non-members) and listen to fascinating speakers. You can be sure of a lively discussion!

Dr. David Preskill is speaking at Sounding Board at the UCSD Faculty Club on Thursday, April 5. Dr. Preskill is President of the Board of Directors at Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside counties. Lunch is at 11:45 in the lounge and David will talk on "Planning is Power".

He is a great speaker!

This is the last Sounding Board for the academic year.

UCSD Oceanids Board Slate for 2007-2008

The Nominating Committee is proud to present below the nominations for the UCSD Oceanids Board for next year. The slate will be voted on at the Spring Membership Luncheon on Thursday, May 17th. Please plan to attend!

President	Barbara Bank
Co-First Vice Presidents	Margaret Acampora
(Programs)	Mary Dashen
	Judy Skelton
Co-Second Vice Presidents	Mary Cutchin
(Membership)	Judy Vacquier
Recording Secretary	Liz Winant
Treasurer	Estelle Shabetai
Co-Financial Secretaries	Mary McIlwain
	Kim Signoret-Paar
Nominating Committee	Diana Vines (continuing)
	Barbara Nemiroff
	Bev Douglas
	Jane Takahashi
	(Alternate)

In Case You Didn't Know.....

Somewhat hidden away in a small space near the International Center's kitchen is a magical place called the *Kitchen and Baby Furniture Rental Service*. It's a magical place because there are zillions of household items here awaiting visiting scholars who can rent these things for a small fee.

(Well, it used to be called the Kitchen-Baby Exchange because there are many baby items available, but since we don't exchange babies, we dropped that part of our name!)

If you are aware of visitors coming to UCSD for a year or less, be sure to get the word out to them about this rental service. Imagine pots, pans, dishes, glasses, silverware, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, coffee pots, even garlic presses and blenders. For a small deposit, visitors affiliated with UCSD can rent these wonderful things, and then get their deposit back minus a few dollars in rent when they leave.

We are open every Wednesday morning from 10:30 until 12:00. We are happy to share our supplies so that the temporary visitor need not buy them.

Spread the word!

Maryruth Cox, Louise Keeling, Estelle Shabetai,
Liz Fong Wills

Three New Interest Groups Proposed at New Members' Coffee

On March 2, thirteen Oceanids who have become members within the last year attended a Coffee at the home of Judy Vacquier, to meet each other and hear from fourteen Board members and Interest Group Chairpersons about our Oceanids Interest Groups and activities. After the very enthusiastic descriptions of the activities of the various Interest Groups, and much animated discussion, three new Interest Groups were proposed: a *Sailing Group*, for large and small sailboats, a *Train Tripping Group*, for field trips by train, and a *Theater Group*, to attend San Diego theater performances and to help with the annual Oceanids theater fundraiser. If you are interested in joining any of these new interest groups, please contact Gail Fliesbach for Sailing (858-270-5536), Jane Takahashi for Theater Group (858-622-1993), or Barbara Bank for Train Tripping (858-484-4597). Other ideas mentioned were a Moveable Feast III (MF I is closed and MF II is getting quite large), and Gourmet Groups in which members bring potluck gourmet dishes to each others' homes. Interest Group Chairs are needed for these groups. Please contact Judy Vacquier, Interest Group Coordinator, if you'd like more information or would like to start a new Interest Group, at 858-459-7834 or jvacq@sbcglobal.net.

OCEANIDS IS OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN UCSD

Print your name as you would like it to appear in the OCEANIDS DIRECTORY. Check here if you don't want to be listed: _____

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Type of Membership: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

FAX #: _____ Email: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$25 (Check payable to OCEANIDS - not tax deductible)

SUSTAINING: \$250 & LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$500 (Check payable to UCSD FOUNDATION - tax deductible)

Send check(s) & completed form to:

OCEANIDS, INTERNATIONAL CENTER, 9500 GILMAN DR., LA JOLLA, CA 92093-0049

Why Boycott Burma? Is Anyone Boycotting China?

Why would two aging hippies who lived through the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley go to a country known mostly for its human rights abuses? Find out on Saturday, April 21 at 6:30 pm when the Friends of the International Center will have a Burmese dinner and picture show. We found Burma (Myanmar) to be a wonderful country full of very friendly people and spectacular scenery. The people were all glad to see us, and told us many tales of how China is pillaging the country while the rest of the world looks the other way because of the boycott and economic sanctions.

Chris Wills will be showing his photos taken during our trip. Photos of a hot-air balloon ride that we took in the early dawn over the thousands of 800-year-old temples and ruins in Bagan are especially striking!

We liked Myanmar best of all the Southeast Asian countries, partly because it seemed to us to be a time capsule of how that part of the world must have been one hundred years ago. This feeling was reinforced one day when we stopped to ask some men on the street how far away the market was. One answered: "Not far, just one or two furlongs." Chris was delighted, as "furlong" is a word that was last used commonly in nineteenth-century England, and nobody in either this century or the last uses the word anymore except to measure the distance of horse races. (I was impressed that Chris knew that there are 8 furlongs in a mile!) That little glimpse of the time when the British ruled Burma, and the sun never set on the British empire, made our day!

If you are interested, please fill out the reservation coupon and mail it with your check. The cost is \$25 per person for members of the Friends of the International Center, \$30 for non-members. Any amount paid above \$7.50 is tax deductible as this is a fund raiser for the Scholarship Fund.

The reservation deadline, i.e. checks must be received by April 16th.

Liz Fong Wills

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RESERVATIONS FOR BURMESE DINNER

Saturday, APRIL 21, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Please complete this form and enclose your check, made payable to Friends of the International Center. Send to: Georgina Sham, Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla CA 92093-0018.

Reservations must be received by Monday, April 16, and will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Late reservations will be charged an extra \$5.00, or may be refused and seating requests not honored.

Name(s) _____

(If you spell out the names of everyone in your party, all will receive name tags at the door)

Address _____ Telephone Number _____

Names of people with whom you would like to be seated: _____

Number of Friends/Moveable Feast Members (@\$25.00): _____

Number of Guests (@\$30.00) _____ E-mail: _____

Number of UCSD Students (@15.00) _____ Total Enclosed: _____

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OCEANIDS' INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups are the backbone of our Oceanids organization. They are here to meet the many varied needs of UCSD families, especially those new to the UCSD campus and the community. If you don't find an activity you would like to participate in, please contact Judy Vacquier (858) 459-7834, Interest Group Coordinator. If five or more Oceanids wish to start a new group, please let her know so we can inform other members. All we ask is that your members be Oceanids. If you are not yet a member of Oceanids, please consider joining us by calling Gail Fliesbach (858) 270-5536 or by submitting the application form in this issue.

AVI SET BIRDERS

Contacts: Sidney Bagley (858) 455-1477, Lou Bowles (858) 755-7102, or Joany Mosher (858) 454-0017

Our birding group meets promptly at 8am the second Monday of each month **during the academic year**. The La Jolla group will meet at the corner of Dunaway Dr. and Glenwick Dr. in La Jolla. The North County birders will meet at the home of Lou Bowles, 13040 Caminito Mar Villa, Del Mar. We will carpool from these locations to sites around the county. Members will be called.

Next outing: April 9.

BOOK GROUP

Contact : Tobe Rothaus (858) 551-8083 or Janet Goff (760) 753-3472

We are going back to basics and classics this month. We will meet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, April 10 for a discussion of "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville, which will be led by Odette Filloux. Marie Pearce is the host (7858 Esterel Drive, La Jolla; 858/453-4897).

Next meeting: April 10.

CAFÉ ESPAÑOL

Contact: Judy Vacquier (858) 459-7834 or jvacq@sbcglobal.net

La próxima reunión de Café Español será el miércoles, 4 de abril, 1:30-3:30, en la casa de Judy Vacquier, 7050 Via Valverde, La Jolla. Favor de contestar a Judy, 858-459-7834, <<mailto:jvacq@sbcglobal.net>>

Next meeting: April 4.

CAFÉ FRANÇAIS

Contact: Hulya Saygin (858) 350-8081 ou Diana Vines (858) 459-8248

Le prochain Cafe Francais sera chez Martha Morera, 3995, Cypress Del Mar, San Diego, le 11 Avril, de 13h a 15h. Elle vous prie de telephoner a 858-481 7733, si vous avez l'intention de venir au cafe. Nous esperons vous voir nombreuses au cafe de la Avril.

Next meeting: April 11.

CINEMA SOIRÉE

Contact: Laurette Verbinski (858) 453-4699

or Roswitha Enright (858) 459-7375

We meet on the second Sunday of each month at 7:00pm for socializing; movie discussion starts at 7:30pm sharp. For more information call Laurette or Roswitha.

Next meeting: April 8.

DAY BRIDGE

Contact: Barbara Bank (858) 484-4597 or barbara@sdnal.ucsd.edu

We meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at various members' homes. We start at 10am and usually end at 3pm. Everyone brings her/his own lunch. The hostess will provide drinks. Call for information.

Next meetings: April 3+17.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION BOOK GROUP

Contact: Carole Ziegler at ctieglers@sandiego.edu or 619-297-0798

The next meeting will be at the Birch Aquarium on the fourth Thursday in May, beginning at 11:30am. The book has not been decided yet.

Next meeting: May 24.

EVENING BRIDGE

Contact: Barbara Bank at (858) 484-4597 or barbara@sdna1.ucsd.edu

The couples Evening Bridge Interest Group meets at 7:30pm on the fourth Saturday of the month all year long at one of our members' homes. If you wish to play on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please contact Barbara Bank.

Next meeting: April 28.

GERMAN KAFFEEKLATSCH

Contact: Roswitha Enright 858 459-7375 (renright@ucsd.edu)

This new group is for beginners and experienced German speakers alike. Guaranteed no pressure. Just come on the 3rd Tuesday at 3:30 and have a good time. Only German spoken.

Next meeting: April 17.

GRACIOUS AGING

Contact: Elibet Marshall

(858) 459-5246

This group has an age requirement. You must have lived 80 years to participate!

We meet on the first Monday of the month from 11am- 2pm at the home of Ellen Revelle to discuss a variety of subjects.

Bring your own apple (lunch). Pure spring water is provided. Call Elibet for details.

Next meeting: April 2.

Report from the
Gracious Aging Group:

Growing old is mandatory;



Growing up is optional.

HIKING IN AND AROUND SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Contact: Roswitha Enright (858) 459-7375

We meet at 8:30am on the second Saturday of each month (October to May or June) at the La Jolla Village Shopping Center parking lot and carpool to the starting point of the hike. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, sturdy shoes and sun protection! Friends and family are invited. Call the week before the hike if you would like to come.

Next hike: April 14.

LA JOLLA RENAISSANCE SINGERS

Contact: Bill Propp at (858) 459-2019 or wpropp@ucsd.edu

The group meets **every Wednesday** at a home in La Jolla. Call Dr. Propp for the address. The LJRS (formerly the UCSD Madrigal Singers) has existed for more than 40 years as an Oceanids activity group. Directed by History and Judaic Studies Prof. William Propp, the choir of about 25 performs throughout the San Diego area in period costume. Experienced choral singers (especially men!) are encouraged to contact Dr. Propp to arrange a visit and/or audition.

MOVEABLE FEAST I

Contact: Liz Fong Wills (858) 454-6858; lizfongwills@yahoo.com

This dining-out group is currently at capacity but we are taking a wait list.

Next meeting: contact Liz Fong Wills

MOVEABLE FEAST II

Contact: Shirley Babior (619) 542-0536 or Babior@earthlink.net or

Mary Cutchin (858) 459-8074 or marycutchin@hotmail.com

This group meets on the third Sunday of each month for drinks at a member's house. From there we carpool to the restaurant. Contact Shirley Babior or Mary Cutchin for information.

Next meeting: contact chairpersons.

MUSEUM GROUP

Contact: Carol Schultz (858) 453-0458 or Sally Kroll (858) 459-1322

Museum outings are on an occasional basis. All Oceanids are invited to join.

Next meeting: check Bear Facts Newsletter each month

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE

Contact: Carole Ziegler, (619) 297-0798 or cziegler@sandiego.edu

There will be no meeting in April. The May meeting will be the participating in the Spring Luncheon.

Next independent meeting will be most likely in October, since chairperson is away in June.

Next meeting: October.

PHOTO DIGERATI

Contact: Jane Takahashi (858) 622-1993

We will meet on the first and third Monday of each month. This is for all who are interested in learning more about digital photography. For more information call Jane.

Next meeting: April 2+16.

PIANO AND CHAMBER SOIRÉE

Contact: Judy Vacquier (858) 459-7834 or jvacq@sbcglobal.net

This new interest group is for amateur musicians who need a motivation to practice and want to perform in a relaxed, fun setting among friends. We perform piano solos and duets as well as chamber music and voice. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm. The next meeting will be Sunday, April 22 at the home of Maxine Bloor, 1859 Caminito Marzella, La Jolla. Please RSVP to Maxine at 858-459-7665, cbloor@san.rr.com or to Judy at 858-459-7834, jvacq@sbcglobal.net.

Next meeting: April 22.

SOUNDING BOARD

Contact: Mollie Wagner (858) 720-1185

Hear a talk by Dr. Preskill, President of the Board of Directors at Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside counties (see page 3)

Next meeting: April 5.

STAMP GROUP

Contact: Betty Shor (858) 453-0334 orbshor@sio.ucsd.edu

We do not meet on a regular basis, but welcome other collectors to join our informal exchange.

Next meeting: contact Betty Shor

WALKING GROUP

Contact: Judy Vacquier (858) 459-7834 or jvacq@sbcglobal.net

This interest group encourages fitness and friendship by walking with other Oceanids in your neighborhood. You decide the time and route. Contact Judy Vacquier at jvacq@sbcglobal.net or 858 459 7834 for a list of walkers in your neighborhood. Areas: North La Jolla/UCSD, Mt Soledad/South La Jolla, Del Mar, University City, Pacific Beach, North County, Poway, Mission Hills, and El Cajon.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE

Contact: Emily Stowell (858)481-7938 or Mary Bailey (858) 755-6813

Come join our social group of Oceanids, newcomers, postdocs, students, and their children for refreshments at the International Center every Wednesday, 10am-12 noon. You'll make friends and learn strange and wonderful American customs. **Visit the Kitchen Exchange where newcomers can rent kitchen, household, and baby equipment for a small fee.** For more information, contact Emily Stowell or Mary Bailey.

Next meetings: Wednesdays in April.

WINE TASTING I

Contact: Pat Kampmann (858) 454-1856

Exploring the taste sensations of a new wine or an old vintage, this group meets the third Friday monthly. Members rotate as hosts. However, this group is currently at capacity. For questions, contact Pat Kampmann.

Next meeting: April 20.

WINE TASTING II

Contact: Barbara Scholz (858) 350-6014 or bscholz@hotmail.com

We meet monthly. Members rotate as hosts. The cost for wine and food is shared among the people attending (approximately \$8.00 per person).

Next meeting: Call contact.

WITS I

Contact: Pat Kampmann (858) 454-1856

This long-time investment group allows one to learn and earn on one's own. Procedures are followed to analyze stocks before they are bought. A regular monthly investment is required along with a "buy-in." At present, there are a few places open. We meet at the Oceanids Pavilion on the 4th Tuesday of the month all year long from 1:30pm-3:30pm.

Next meeting: April 24.

WITS II

Contact: Joanne Meredith (858) 270-5795

WITS II meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at various members' homes all year long. We study companies using the NAIC stock investment guides in order to increase our financial understanding and competence. Come visit us!

Next meeting: April 25.

Half WITS

Contact: Liz Fong Wills (858) 454-6858

Unlike Wits I and II, the Half Wits don't buy stocks. We discuss financial and investment topics informally covering subjects ranging from longterm care insurance to pension options, as well as stocks and bonds. Our philosophy is, "There are no dumb questions." We usually meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Oceanids Pavilion. Pat Kampmann and Eleanor tum Suden are our guides through the financial jungles.

Next meeting: April 19. Call for confirmation.

To Google or not to Google: that is not the question!

It's such a great feeling to go to Google and type a few inquiring words and instantly be invaded by a download of innumerable facts regarding them. It can easily go to your head, even more so if you let yourself click away to other "links" that soon branch out into more and more of them, almost with no end in sight. No doubt that the resulting initial reaction is to make you feel, to use a p.c. word, "empowered".

But soon the question to be answered becomes, "But, 'empowered' to do what?"

Print the facts on endless sheets of paper; repeat those facts verbatim as they come out "uncooked" so to speak, from the "machine"? And in so doing add to the pollution, with more and more paper and more and more undigested information automatically spewed out?

When it comes to facts taken out of context, let us now consider something else before progressing any further.

In the U.S., kids participate in Spelling Bees for which they memorize the spelling of individual words, some very unusual, others more mundane yet totally isolated, and they win big, for the right answer.

Other kids participate in "marathons" of knowledge, or so called "Olympics", on any chosen subject, like "the Arts" or "History", or "Math" or you name it. And they also win glamorously for their successful responses.

But in the end, what do these successes prove? And why should they matter so much, or even at all?

After those heady victories, are these children more or better educated for that? Could you ever conclude that this is the right way to gauge a kid's intellectual ability, or his/her understanding of a certain subject?

In the two paragraphs above, we have considered the matter of "facts", their accessibility, their memorization in one case and their usage and value in both, and we can already conclude that if indeed facts are essential or basic if you prefer, it is evidently not sufficient to recite them verbatim without analyzing them, sorting them, synthesizing them. For example, it should go without saying that to learn and secure to memory that Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel from 1508 to 1511, or that Zurbaran's painting of "St Luke before Christ on the Cross" can be seen in Madrid at the Prado's, or that Klimt's Adele Bauer's Portrait was sold for so many millions of dollars, 135 to be precise, and to further remember that you happen to spell "catachresis" for instance with one "t", one "h" and the rest well positioned as it should, is all fine and good. All these facts might be interesting or useful or necessary or any number of other things depending on why you would want to know and retain them but they would not necessarily add one bit to your appreciation, or enjoyment, or understanding of the Arts in general and of those artists and their work in particular; neither would the correct spelling of the noun "catachresis" help you to not misuse the word in the context of a sentence.

So, as Montaigne said long ago, it comes down to the choice between "une tête bien faite" versus "une tête bien pleine"; that is a "well-made head" versus a "well-filled one".

The encyclopedic knowledge we've alluded to, and which is so prized here in the United States, is indeed unexpectedly well served by the use of the computer. It seems that it has been reinforced and multiplied a hundred fold by this new tool with capabilities so immense that they could barely have been imagined or foreseen.

This characteristically American propensity for the "always more" (bigger, larger, higher), in all domains and specifically in that of food could easily be used as a metaphor for all that has already been said.

Montaigne had himself used it in his chapter on "The education of children". He said speaking of the child, "Let him be asked for an account not merely of the words of his lesson, but of its sense and substance", concluding, "It is a sign of rawness and indigestion to disgorge food just as we swallowed it. The stomach has not done its work if it has not changed the condition and form of what has been given it to cook".

No need to further insist that similarly the "head" has not done its work if it has not changed the condition and form of what has been given it to "ponder and think".

Odette Filloux

My husband, Donald Wesling, is a "Distinguished Fulbright Lecturer" this spring (February to June 9th) and we are headquartered at University of Debrecen in Hungary. He comes to Budapest every week to lecture there as well. We have rented apartments in Budapest and Debrecen to make it more convenient. Donald is the Laszlo Orszagh Fulbright Professor, Orszagh being a former professor at Debrecen and famous in Hungary for writing THE dictionary of Magyar-English (but it is American English, he was very definite about that). It is still the benchmark dictionary and he is looked upon as Hungary's Dr. Johnson. But worked in the 20th century.

Debrecen is Hungary's second largest city at 200,000 and is on the edge of the Great Plain. It is leafy (or will be soon) and more laid back than Budapest. Debrecen University was founded in medieval times. Debrecen was almost destroyed in WW II and has taken the symbol of the phoenix to show pride in its rebuilding.

Life is certainly different here. I'm making progress on the language especially in shopping - now when I look at the supermarket tape I can identify (by name) all the items I bought. For instance rye bread (not easy to find) is rozkenyer and milk is tej, butter is teavaj. But I still make language mistakes. For instance I went to the university student store looking for a birthday card for my father. I rejected one as too juvenile, telling the student clerk that no, my father was 997 (instead of 97). She smiled. It goes both ways: Donald and I attended a student concert in the Liszt School of Music here. The flyer showed no admission fee. So when we saw the money box on the table, we asked how much. The man standing at the table (and he turned out to be the students' professor, and musician in one of the ensembles) said, in English, 6000 forints. Whoa, Donald said (we hadn't been expecting that cost and maybe didn't even have that much money with us...6000 forints being about \$31) and then the man hastily corrected himself to 600 forints or \$3.10). Different words for hundreds and thousands sometimes get mixed up. I've done some price comparisons. I did all my calculations on the basis of one dollar equals 194 forints (years ago it was 220) but today I see that the dollar has dropped again and it is only worth 192 forints. The average Hungarian (gross) salary in 2006 was only \$892. The figures for net salaries are: blue collar workers \$426 and white collar workers \$751. So you can see why most Hungarian women work, and many times both husband and wife work two jobs each. I find clothing here expensive, and each city seems to have only one "Kinai Bolt" which is a Chinese shop where shoes and clothing imported from China are cheaper. I have now seen in several cities a second-hand shop selling clothing etc. These are always called Angol and have the Union Jack flag prominent in front. I guess second-hand shops are a novelty coming from England/America. If I have used winter clothing to give away at the end of our stay I wouldn't know where to send it (no charity shops appear anywhere).

It appears that bread is subsidized by the government and of course it is an important and traditional part of the Hungarian diet. Bread is sold by the kilo (enormous loaves, crusty and fresh every day including Sunday at little delis - big stores are closed on Sundays) and of course I buy only a half kilo (1.1 pounds) usually about 100 forints worth so about 50 cents. I haven't priced meat because aside from sliced ham and sausage (packaged) I haven't really bought any. We eat out about every other day. Pork is the most common meat, and you hardly ever see beef in the store or on the menu unless it is an upscale store or restaurant. Fish too is rare around here since there is no river in Debrecen. River fish is about all you see even in Budapest, on the menu. Butter comes in little 100 gm and 200 gm packets. The cost for 100 grams of butter (just a little bit bigger than a cake of yeast) is 230 forints, so that would make it \$5.93 a pound. Expensive for Hungarians. By contrast there are many different forms of sour cream. So it's not exactly that Hungary has given up butter for health reasons.

We ride the train to Budapest every week, a journey of about 2 hours and 40 minutes by fast train. Including a mandatory seat reservation charge of \$2.78 per seat for first class, the ticket costs \$18.92 roundtrip. We always go first class, it's not crowded and we can get seat reservations which include the little table to set books, drinks, laptop etc on. We do however get a slight discount for persons over 65. There are LOTS of different discounts, for example, groups, children, veterans, handicapped, women with babies; animals and a fare for monkeys too. I kid you not!

Hungarians have many elegant and courtesy greetings and phrases. There is even one for children to greet their grandmothers or elderly women. Hungarians are still courteous in public transport: young women and men will give up their seat to old men, to women with children, to people like me who are carrying shopping. Sometimes even when I don't have shopping, so I guess my age is showing! Even when they are busy talking on their cell phones, which are everywhere...

One last economic note: a world-wide study of 2007 wages and inflation predicts that Hungarian salaries will increase 4.8 percent, but inflation will be 5.5%. Inflation has changed much in Hungary. It used to be (10 years ago) you could get a ticket to the National Symphony concert for 750 forints. No longer. Two weeks ago we paid 5600 forints per ticket for a concert. Hungarians love their classical music, and it is now much more difficult for an average worker to attend a concert in Budapest. Democratization has its bad side too; on an important Budapest intersection (Oktagon) there are American chain restaurants on all four sides - Burger King, Subway, Fridays and KFC.

All for now,
Judith Wesling

....to be continued in the next Bear Facts

OCEANIDS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Oceanids would like to extend a warm welcome to those who have joined our organization over the past few months:

- Lynn Anderson,
 - Hazel Beck,
 - Lucie David,
 - Mary Hanson,
 - Marilyn Klein,
 - Marilyn Refsin Johns,
 - Jan Ouren,
 - Erika Streuer and Daphne Triphon.
- New e-mail address:**
Madeleine Rast gmrast@sbcglobal.net

Gail Fliesbach

SUMMER RENTAL WANTED IN LA JOLLA

Older couple returning to La Jolla for annual summer seminar wishes to rent furnished home or apartment from June 9 – August 7. Prefer 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Please call 914-723-5972 or e-mail RLG2@us.ibm.com.

The new directory is coming soon. If you want a second copy the cost will be \$2.00.

The Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 17 will start at 11:15 at the Bali Hai Restaurant on Shelter Island Drive. The cost is \$22 per person. See reservation form below. Reservations must be received by May 11. Directions and more information in May's Bear Facts

Reservations for the Spring Luncheon must be received by May 11, 2007

NAME:.....GUEST:.....

TELEPHONE #.....BUFFET.....VEGETARIAN.....

Enclosed is my check for \$22 per person made payable to OCEANIDS.

Please send form and check to Judy Skelton, 445 Sea Lane, La Jolla, CA 92037

One year later

Last April the Oceanids board gave me a wonderful surprise party for my 80th birthday. It was a great event for me, as I had avoided birthday parties for me for more years than I can remember. This is a belated “thank you” letter to all you great people, and to share some of my adventures of this past year.

I was able to join an amazing group of women of Oceanids, where I was the baby- the youngest member. Gracious Aging meets monthly on the first Monday of the month at the home of Ellen Revelle. Elibet Marshall attempts to direct and control the meeting of the 7 to 10 women who regularly attend, with moderate success. The age range is 80 to 101. We attempt to solve many of the mental, physical, and social problems of the world and ourselves, and we do a pretty good job. We touch on politics, but have not yet solved those problems.

The Brighter Side shop in Solana Beach in the Cedros shopping center invited me to be a calendar “girl” for a fund-raiser calendar for cancer survivors called “Don’t Just Survive-THRIVE”, As you might guess, this also was a first-time event for me. A professional photographer, Sue Ellison, took many (30?) photos of me at La Jolla Shores, my favorite walking place. Eleven other women were models, including another Oceanid member. No- I did not pose nude, or even semi-nude (see below).

The Association for Advancement of Social Work with Groups (AASWG), an international organization was having its annual meeting in San Diego, and I was on the board and planning committee. The new thing for me in this organization was to submit a paper (late), having it accepted, and presenting a workshop with two other people (on the last day of the four-day meeting). It turned out to be great fun, with the co-authors filling in when my mind went blank (not that I was nervous!).

I learned that when bees invade your house on a weekend, they navigate to the screens on the open windows, and you can capture them by vacuuming them, until the bee man comes (on Monday) to capture the many live ones hiding elsewhere and bring them to his hives. He also sells honey.

When we first came to UCSD in 1963 Carol Schultz encouraged me to lead the book club of Oceanids. It was an exhausting event for me, and I never did it again until this year, again under the push of Carol. The book, “Bury Me Standing” was about Gypsies or Roma people. It turned into a mini-research project, and the members engaged in a lively discussion about the lives of these people.

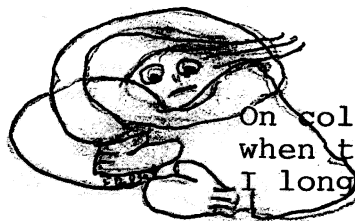
These are some of the firsts for me in my 80th year. I continue my practice of Reiki (healing energy touch)



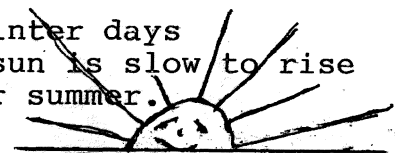
on myself and anyone who wants it. Murray and I continue to walk at the Cabrillo Monument. Murray goes to the bottom of the trail, and I get to the beginning of the trail. I rejoined the Y, and have gone about 5 times this year. I must confess that my piles of collected papers and magazines have not diminished. However they have not increased.

When something new comes your way, try it- it might be fun (or not), and give you a good laugh (at least a new experience)- which we all need.

Ady Rosenblatt



On cold winter days
when the sun is slow to rise
I long for summer.



Kerstin Waschewski



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APRIL 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Gracious Aging Photo-Digerati 2	Day Bridge 3	KitX Wed. Coffee LJRS Café Español 4	BOARD MEETING Sounding Board 5	6	7
Piano and Chamber Soireé Cinema Soireé 8	Avi Set Birders 9	Book Group 10	KitX Wed. Coffee LJRS Café Francais 11	12	Friday Café 13	Hiking 14
Moveable Feast II 15	Photo Digerati 16	Day Bridge Kaffeeklatsch 17	KitX Wed. Coffee LJRS 18	Half WITS 19	Wine Tasting I 20	21
Piano and Chamber Soireé 22	23	WITS I 24	KitX Wed. Coffee LJRS WITS II 25	26	27	Evening Bridge 28
29	30					

Bear Facts

Month: April

Year: 2007



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