



PHI BETA KAPPA

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
THE GAMMA ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Association Chartered June 14, 1946

Visit us on the web at www.pbknca.org

Φιλοσοφία Βίου Κυβερνήτης

SALUS PATRIAE

Founded December 5, 1776

September 2014



www.pbknca.org

From the President



Autumn in Northern California is my favorite season. We usually enjoy our warmest weather (although climate change may modify that) and we resume our normal routines after a summer of visitors or our own travels to other parts of the planet. While the drought is putting some constraints on our usual activities, as scholars, we must study the impact and do what we can to ameliorate it.

During the coming year, we'll have a wide variety of monthly visits to interesting Bay Area sites, thanks again to the efforts of First Vice President– Programs Judy Hardardt. Check every newsletter and our website www.pbknca.org for more about these. In May, we'll confer scholarships on worthy graduate students from some of our associated college chapters. The hard work of Second Vice President–Scholarships Joanne Sandstrom and her committee (and your generous contributions) make this possible.

From the colleges in our Association that have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, we accept nominations for our Teaching Excellence awards. If you were motivated, impressed, or enthralled by a teacher at any of those schools, please nominate him/her for a Teaching Excellence award, preferably using the form available at www.pbknca.org/teaching/ or on page 2 if you prefer to do hardcopy. Teaching Excellence Chair Narcinda Lerner awaits your input.

Consider attending our annual Presidents' Weekend symposium (February 13-16, 2015) at Asilomar (Pacific Grove). We enjoy hearing speakers on a variety of subjects, from literature to science and everything in between, have fascinating conversations, and marvel at nature's magnificence as we wander the retreat-center grounds. Asilomar Chair Deirdre Frontczak will be delighted to receive your reservation. All proceeds from the symposium are used for our award programs. See page 6.

Please contact any Board member if you have an interest in volunteering with our Association. We have positions that take as little as one day's work (audit committee; chapter initiation representatives) or as much time as you are willing to give. We'd be delighted to get a chance to know you better!

Mary T. Gilliland

Mary Turner Gilliland,
President 2014-2015

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Excellence in Teaching Award Application

Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association

Dear Fellow Phi Betes:

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 Phi Beta Kappa NCA's Annual May Banquet.

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.

Full Name of Nominee: _____

Academic Rank (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Other): _____

Home Address: _____

Nominee's Email _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Subject(s) Taught: _____

Date(s) of Course(s) Taken: _____

Department and School: _____

Comments: Please tell us, in as much detail as you can, why and how this person stands out in your mind. Use additional sheets as necessary:

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Your Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

School, Class Year and Date of Election to Φ BK: _____

Send to: Narcinda R. Lerner, Ph.D. (e-mail: nrlernern@netscape.net)
Teaching Excellence Chair
10 Stadler Drive

Woodside, CA 94062-4840 Phone: (650) 851-0137 FAX: (650) 529-9369

Deadline: November 30, 2014 for May 2015 Award

Thank you for your help!
 Φ BKNCA

Nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award for Spring 2015 are being accepted now

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 Dinner in May 2015.

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 form for each nomination you make. Nominations for Spring 2015 must be received by November 30, 2014.

The nomination form is available on the web at www.pbknca.org/teaching. It can be filled out online (preferred) or the form on page 2 can be printed and mailed. You probably have had teachers who influenced your academic career; reward them with a nomination for our Teaching Excellence Award.

Narcinda Lerner, Teaching Excellence Chair

Upcoming Events

Be sure to read this important 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 ΦBKNCA 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 ΦBKNCA 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.

The Presidio from Earthquake Refuge to Part of the National Park System Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 1:00 PM



We will visit the Presidio to learn about its critical role in the 1906 earthquake to its current transition from a military base to a crown jewel in the National Park System. Our docent-led walking tour will commence at the parade ground flag pole near the Officers' Club and will allow us to better understand the Presidio's role while a U.S. Army Post (1846-1994), as a refuge after the earthquake, and to the present day.

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM (be there no later than 12:45 pm for check-in)

Minimum: 10, Maximum: 20

Deadline: September 20, 2014

Fee: \$15.00

Directions: From Presidio Blvd., turn onto Funston Ave. and then right onto Moraga Blvd. and third right onto Arguello Blvd. The flag pole/parade ground will be on the right.

Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California Davis
Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 11:00 AM



Carpooling is strongly recommended for our November event, which is a docent-led visit to the Bodega Marine Laboratory. Our day will begin at the BML's west wing where we will see a 24-foot-long display of many local fishes and invertebrates as well as a kelp forest. Beyond the display is a harbor aquarium with anemones and other sub-tidal shore organisms. Other aquaria include local and some unique marine creatures, a tidepool display, and much more. For more information and to prepare for this important event, see BML's website at <http://bml.ucdavis.edu/>

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014

Time: 11:00 AM (be there no later than 10:45 pm for check-in)
Minimum: 8, Maximum: 20
Deadline: October 28, 2014
Fee: \$10.00

Directions: We **strongly** suggest checking out <http://bml.ucdavis.edu/about/directions/>. From most areas, you will go west on Washington St in Petaluma, which leads to Valley Ford Rd and then CA-1 N. Continue onto CA-1 N, take Westshore Rd to University of California Marine Laboratory. Turn left onto Eastshore Rd, Take the 1st right onto Bay Flat Rd. Continue onto Westshore Rd, Turn right onto University of California Marine Laboratory, Destination will be on the left at 2099 Westside Rd, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.

The Christmas Revels: In Celebration of the Winter Solstice
Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 1:00 PM



Our final event for this year takes us to see the California Revels at the Scottish Rite Theater on Lake Merritt in Oakland. Since 1986, California Revels have brought their unique theatrical, participatory arts form to audiences in the Bay Area. Founded by singer, author and music educator John Langstaff in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1971, The Christmas Revels crosses religious and ethnic boundaries and appeals to young and old alike. The Christmas Revels blends traditional music, dance, and ritual and folk plays

from many different cultures, presented by a large volunteer chorus of children and adults drawn from the community and accompanied by highly talented professional actors, musicians, artists, directors and "bearers of tradition."

Our show opens in 1930s Appalachia and then goes westward through the bayous of Louisiana and on to the Pacific Coast. And what a trip it will be! We have arranged for great seats in the first 3 rows of the center dress circle at the theater, so sign up quickly to secure your places.

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2014
Time: 1:00 PM (be there no later than 12:30 PM for check-in)
Minimum: 15, Maximum: 30
Deadline: November 8, 2014 (firm)
Fee: \$45.00
Directions: The Scottish Rite Theater is located on Lake Merritt at 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland.

Coupons for Events. See [below](#) for Asilomar

Please print legibly and print name of tour on check as well. **No acknowledgments 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.

The Presidio
Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 1:00 PM
Deadline September 20, 2014
Attending _____ x \$15.00 per person = \$ _____
(Check payable to ΦBKNCA- 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

Bodega Marine Laboratory
Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 11:00 AM
Deadline October 28, 2014
Attending _____ x \$10.00 per person = \$ _____
(Check payable to ΦBKNCA- 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 Christmas Revels
Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 1:00 PM
November 8, 2014
Attending _____ x \$45.00 per person = \$ _____
(Check payable to ΦBKNCA- 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

ΦBKNCA Board July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Mary Turner Gilliland, President
Menlo Park, (650) 321-9966, Mltg@aol.com
Judy Hardardt, First Vice President – Programs
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Joanne Sandstrom, Second Vice President – Scholarships
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Narcinda Lerner, Teaching Excellence Chair
Woodside, (650) 851-0137, nrlernern@netscape.net
Ray Hendess, Communications Officer
Petaluma, (707) 763-2072, Ray@pbknca.org
Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair
Santa Rosa, (707) 546-4238, dfrontczak@santarosa.edu

Get the Newsletter Online and Save the Association Money

If you are receiving a hardcopy newsletter, why don't you join the five hundred and forty five current members who have elected to receive the online newsletter? In 2013 we spent nearly \$3,000 mailing hardcopy newsletters – that is three-fifths of a scholarship! We send you an email with a clickable link to the newsletter in PDF format about two weeks before the hardcopy would have appeared in your mailbox. You can download and print it if you like reading hardcopy, you can store it on your computer for future reference, or you can read it online **in color**. Think about it – our potential scholarship recipients will really appreciate it! And you will be saving trees. Just send an email to online@pbknca.org, and we will add you to the list.

Ray Hendess, Communications Officer

Financial Report

The FY 2013-2014 financial report is scheduled to be available for download after November 1 at www.pbknca.org/financials/. Alternatively, you may request it by sending a #10 self-addressed envelope stamped with first-class postage to Duncan Missimer, PO Box 9, Mountain View, CA 94042-0009.

Duncan Missimer, Treasurer

28th Asilomar Conference, February 13-16, 2015
Deadline December 15, 2014
Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association

See <http://www.pbknca.org/asilomar/asilomar.2014.phi.beta.kappa.pbk.php> for information about last year's wonderful event. **Sign up now for the February 2015 event!** Use coupon on page 8 to register; for questions on registration and logistics, please contact Barry Haskell at bghaskell@comcast.net.

All registered participants will receive forms to reserve their Asilomar accommodations during the month of October; please watch your email for details.



“Nature Was Here: a series of wonders, a fund of delight” – Daniel Boone

Asilomar once again beckons! This year's conference takes us on a walk through nature – in the world around us, and within ourselves. We are graced with a roster of exceptional speakers representing fields from environmental history to cognitive science, from evolutionary biology to mathematics in art. As always, Asilomar promises both a lively mental workout and an occasion to share fellowship, explore fresh ideas, renew old friendships and begin new ones – all in a location of exceptional peace and beauty. We encourage Phi Betes young and old to join us this year, and to bring along family and friends for an inspiring, relaxing and enriching event.

Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair

Preview of our Speaker Schedule, 2015

Dr. Beth Shapiro, genetics, UC Santa Cruz: *How to Clone a Woolly Mammoth: The Science of Science Fiction.*

The discovery of a well-preserved 10,000 year old mammoth in the islands off Siberia has revived speculation about prospects of reviving long-extinct species from tiny fragments of genetic code. Here Dr. Shapiro – a MacArthur fellow and specialist in ancient DNA – explores not just the frenzied stories of popular media, but the wealth of useful biological information that the “new” mammoth might offer to paleontologists, molecular biologists, physiologists and other researchers.

Dr. Robert Chester, environmental history, U.C. Berkeley: *Creations: The Nature of America' Largest Silver Strike*

The discovery of the Comstock Lode in the 1850's made the Sierra Nevada region a site for economic and technical innovation, the building of new homes and communities for emigrants and immigrants, and rapid and profound environmental changes that remain visible through the surrounding region. This story combines the massive influence of large corporations and structural economic changes transforming the country and the perspectives of ordinary people who shaped and were shaped by these forces above and below ground.

Dr. Catherine Spaulding, Resident, Georgetown University Medical Center (*Topic TBD*)

A 2009 ΦBK graduate of Vanderbilt University, Catherine recently received her M.D. from Georgetown where she is now completing her residency. She is a published author: first editing a book of interviews with homeless people in Nashville, and more recently authoring the cover story of Alpha Omega Alpha's Journal, the *Pharos* – an honor that accompanies the prestigious Helen Glaser scholarship award. She is passionate about global health and working with underserved populations, and has spent time working in Ghana, India, Guatemala, and Chile. In her rare spare time, Catherine enjoys running marathons and last winter summited Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Dr. Frank Farris, mathematics, Santa Clara University: *Seeing Symmetry – a talk about a mathematical art show*

The word symmetry may evoke bilateral symmetry, as in an idealized human face or the two wings of a butterfly. For mathematicians and scientists, the concept is richer, ranging from the patterns of wallpaper to the symmetries of a molecule or crystal. This talk will explain the mathematical classification of plane symmetries, and describe an artistic and mathematical process that anyone, regardless of prior knowledge, can use to create images like these.

Dr. Patti Simone, psychology, Santa Clara University: *A Walk Down Memory Lane: How Memory Works and How to Make it Work Better at Any Age*

Memory champions (people with great memories) are made, not born. In this talk – by a 2014 ΦBK Teaching Excellence awardee -- we'll explore what cognitive neuroscientists understand about how memory works, including why we remember some things easily (like a TV show or book or birthday) and forget other things (like a presentation or lecture or birthday). After the introduction to the role of the brain and context in memory formation, we'll cover some evidence-based tips on how to improve memory.

Dr. Michael Meloy, California State Parks Historian: *Asilomar: In Search of a Better World*

How does a place conceived for the moral, spiritual, and physical uplift of girls and young women become globally recognized for the exchange of ideas on issues, ranging from housing discrimination to early childhood education to the benefits and risks of recombinant DNA research? Together, we will consider the history of Asilomar as part of a larger quest to build a better society. In the process, we hope to deepen our understanding of California's 20th century, and perhaps find new perspectives to help us build more sustainable public institutions in the future.

Dr. Leilani Miller, biology, Santa Clara University: *The Science and Ethics of DNA Forensics*

DNA profiling (previously called DNA fingerprinting) is a technique used by forensic scientists to distinguish between individuals by analyzing specific regions of their DNA. DNA databases are collections of these profiles that detectives can be searched for “hits” during criminal investigations. A new type of biotechnology (PCR) developed in the 1980's made it possible to process very small amounts of DNA left at crime scenes. Using this new technology, many “cold cases” have been solved, and in current cases, DNA profiling has helped to acquit or convict suspects in many of the most violent crimes, including rape and murder. What exactly is a DNA profile? How do you determine someone's profile? Whose DNA profiles are currently in the FBI databases? Whose DNA profiles should be in a searchable database? What has the Supreme Court said about this? What is the “CSI effect”? Should we worry if our relatives are criminals? These are just some of the questions we will discuss.

Dr. Karen Frindell-Teuscher, Chemistry, Santa Rosa Junior College – *Topic TBD*



PHI BETA KAPPA
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
 Ms. Patricia Kenber
 VP Membership, PBKNCA
 1073 River Rock Lane
 Danville CA 94526-4001

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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 ΦBK (For your nametag) _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #(s): _____

Email (essential!) _____