

CLIR VOICE

www.clirsf.org



September 2011

President's Message

Again I want to start by thanking our members for their extra effort, this time for memorializing CLIR activities. As is clear from the scope of articles in this issue, members are stepping forward, writing up our adventures and submitting photos to share through the *Voice*.

Those of you who don't use Facebook or check our CLIR website might not realize that members regularly post photos and quips to both. In the 21st century, this has the potential to broadcast our existence and the fellowship we have to all the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

Annual Picnic: our gathering this year will be as I announced at August's General Meeting—Robert Crown Memorial Beach State Park (the Crab Cove section) which is on the shores of the Bay in Alameda. We'll start at noon. As is traditional, this will be a potluck so bring something to share. We certainly look forward to sampling the variety of foods our members bring. There is no charge for this picnic but a donation to "The Kitty" will offset CLIR's outlay for supplies.

For those so inclined, at Crown Beach/Crab Cove there's a delightful path winding along the Bay with marvelous views of the San Francisco skyline, also swimming or wading. There's plenty of parking; some is free. If it should happen that we use all those spaces, the park has a large lot at \$5 per day. Directions and various transportation possibilities are on page eight.

Please return the Annual Luncheon questionnaire which was inserted in your August *Voice*. They can be mailed or left in the office. Those who chaired this year's event have said, "We need feedback and input to make the 2012 Annual Luncheon even more enjoyable for all."

Ageing is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and strength. —Betty Friedan

—Robby Kiley

DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 2
General Meeting
Social Hour Follows
- September 5
Labor Day
- September 9
CLIRsights
- September 9
All San Francisco
Concert
- September 13
Annual Picnic
- September 22
Memoir Workshop
- October 12
Tour
- October 25-28
Annual Ashland
Shakespeare Trip



**DID YOU
RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

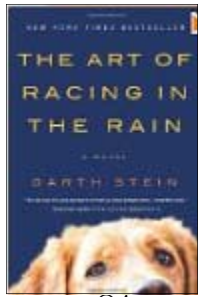
Class Updates

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, Sept 27, 11:00am

Bill Gregory,
Evelyn Forsman,

The Art of Racing in the Rain, by Garth Stein. "A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope—a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life—as only a dog could tell it."—Amazon



©Amazon

History of Ancient Egypt

First & Third Tuesdays, 1:00pm

Tania Yates,

Professor Bob Brier, Egyptologist, delivers these lectures through the auspices of The Teaching Company.

Sept. 6: *What Mummies Tell Us*. The primary source for figuring out how the Egyptians mummified their dead is the mummies themselves. Here we look at the detective work that enabled Egyptologists to reconstruct the ancient art of mummification. By the end of this lecture, you should be able to look at a mummy and tell how old it is.

Sept. 20: *Making a Modern Mummy*. Here we see how experimental Egyptology attempts to answer old questions. Dr. Brier describes his own research in which he mummified a human cadaver in the ancient Egyptian manner to determine just how the Egyptian embalmers did it.

MEMOIR WRITING WORKSHOP—PART ONE

September 22, 10:00am (every other Thursday)

Linda Howe-Steiger,

Another round of CLIR's popular memoir-writing workshop begins this fall. If you've ever flirted with the idea of writing some form of memoir, or if a friend or relative has ever encouraged you to "tell your story," but you feel awkward, embarrassed, overwhelmed, or even afraid to start, take courage--this one's for you. Memoir writing is not only doable but loads of fun. Get to know CLIR friends in a whole new way as we write in class and share the tales we choose to tell. Flexible curriculum. Participant oriented. No writing experience required. Returning and first-time memoirists very welcome. Part I will meet for seven sessions (through December 15); Part II, for ten sessions, will start again after the New Year. Interested? Please sign up.

Class Updates, continued on Page 4

Current Activities

Art on the GO

ACT Costume Shop

1119 Market St. (between 7th and 8th Streets)

Thursday, September 15, 1:30pm

Fran Hasher,

ACT has an enormous collection of costumes, ranging from elegant period garments to outrageous futuristic getups. The shop's stock consists mainly of costumes created for thirty-five years of productions. Highlights include Jean Stapleton's turn-of-the-20th-century costumes from *The Matchmaker*, as well as gowns and men's suits from the 18th century. There is a small collection of ethnic clothing and some military uniforms. Join us for a tour of this fascinating place led by Callie Floor, Costume Rentals Supervisor.

Directions: The shop is a little hidden away. If coming by public transportation, the shop is on the south side of Market St. across from the UN Plaza. There is no sign but look for the 1119 Market St. address. Let's meet outside and go in as a group. If coming late hit the black button on the telephone keypad and then 117 to ring the shop. Callie can be reached by cell phone at (415) 439-2379. The shop is convenient to the BART/Muni Metro Civic Center station and to many buses.

If driving, there might be legal parking on Stevenson Alley behind the shop. If not, at the end of the alley, there is a reasonably priced parking garage on the left. Again, there is no sign but go to 624 Stevenson where there is a button on the gate which says Costume Rentals.

Art on the STAY—

Dutch & Flemish Masterworks at CLIR

Wednesday Sept. 7, 10:30am

Tom Rothgiesser,

Dutch and Flemish Masterworks are in exhibition at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. This is a visual feast revealing the prosperous society and productive landscape that characterized Holland during its Golden Age. With a novel interest in the natural world, 17th century painters depicted society, animals and plants with marvelous honesty and beauty. The Curriculum Committee has arranged, with the Fine Arts Museums, for one of their highly trained docents to give a comprehensive and illustrated tour of this period of art. This is designed to enhance your enjoyment when you visit. The exhibit will be in San Francisco through October 2th. **Cost:** \$5. Please sign up and pay by check.

Current Activities, continued on Page 4

CLIR Calendar: September 2011

Phone: (415) 543 3965

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6 10:00 AM Kata Class 1:00 PM History of Egypt	7 10:30 AM Art on the Stay 11:00 AM Finance Com. Mtg.	8	9 12:00 PM Vicarious Traveler 1:30 PM CLIRsights 8:00 PM All SF Concert
12 10:30 AM Spanish Conversation 1:00 PM Current Affairs Forum	13 12:00 PM Annual Picnic	14 10:30 AM Car Sharing	15 1:30 PM Art-on-the-Go	16 1:00 pm Council Meeting
19 11:30 AM Play Reading 1:00 PM Current Affairs Forum	20 10:00 AM Kata Class 1:00 PM History of Egypt	21 12:00 PM Opera in an Hour	22 10:00 AM Memoir-Writing Workshop 6:00 PM Dining and Discussion	23
26 10:30 AM Spanish Conversation 1:00 PM Current Affairs Forum	27 10:00 AM Kata Class 11:00 AM Book Club 1:00 PM Movie Club	28	29	30
			1	2 10:30 AM Curriculum Com. Mtg. 12:00 PM CLIRsights, Walks Tours Com.Mtgs. 1:15 PM GENERAL MEETING ...and SOCIAL HOUR

LABOR DAY
CLIR CLOSED

Class Updates, continued from P-2

OPTIONS TO OWNING AN AUTOMOBILE

(and storing and being responsible for)

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 10:30am

Karla Jones,

After a lifetime of living in California, the car capital of the United States, Karla Jones moved to San Francisco and soon discovered the disadvantages of having a car in the City. But what to do, if you really do need one every once in a while? Fortunately there are convenient and successful options.

Karla will outline her adventures in car sharing: the advantages and the disadvantages of giving up your car for the alternatives available. She will cover the costs, rules, and convenience of Zip Car, Car Share, taxis and the newest entry into the field – peer-to-peer car sharing. Use the sign up sheet to ensure enough handouts.



Current Activities, cont'd from P-2

DINING AND DISCUSSION

Crustacean Restaurant anfamily.com

1475 Polk Street near California

September 22, Thursday, 6 pm

Karla Jones,

This restaurant is the fine dining arm of a long established Vietnamese restaurant in the Sunset which has been open since 1971. Later they opened a third one, this time in Beverly Hills. The cuisine is called California/Asian Fusion. Check out their menu at their website, above. The opinions about this restaurant are all over the place, but everyone agrees that the dish to have there is the Roasted Crab with garlic noodles.

Cost: Please call Karla to make a reservation and remember to bring cash.



Illustration source: Crustacean

OPERA IN AN HOUR — TWICE Wednesday, September 21, Noon

George Lucas,



George Frideric Handel
Photos: Wikipedia

Our primo opera expert will again present one-hour edited versions of two operas: Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* and

Handel's *Xerxes*.



Gaetano Donizetti.

VICARIOUS TRAVELER—Martin Gumbel

Turkey

Friday, September 9, Noon

Nick Maffei,

After several unavoidable postponements, Martin Gumbel will show his slides from Turkey this month, emphasizing the influence of various cultures including the Christian, Roman, Greek and Arab. Martin says there is much beauty in the mosques and palaces, the latter having a delightful combination of European and Islamic art. He will also show us photos of the simple churches carved into the rocks by the early Christians.

Coming Attractions

TOUR: A DAY OF WINE AND GARDENS

With some Thai in Between

Wednesday, October 12, Bus leaves at 9:00am

Marianne McCall,

Barbara Farrenkopf, Our charter bus leaves 50 First Street promptly at 9am and heads to Byington Winery in scenic Los Gatos for a winery tour and tasting. Then there will be a Thai Lunch at the Mint Leaf Restaurant, followed by a docent-led tour of the famous Hakone Gardens. Unfortunately this tour is limited to 25, so sign up and pay ASAP. **Cost:** \$60.



Hakone Gardens. Photo: Alice Steele

Byington Winery—Photo: The Winery



Special Event

**San Francisco Symphony's
Centennial All San Francisco Concert
Davies Symphony Hall
September 9, 8:00pm**

Annette Berger, *The All San Francisco Concert* celebrates community and diversity through the gift of music.

Program

Copland—*Billy the Kid* Ballet Suite
Liszt—*Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major*
Mendelssohn—*Violin Concerto in E minor*
Britten—*The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

This very special concert's 32 tickets are all spoken for. Tickets will be distributed at the September General Meeting.

CLIR NEWS

CLIR DISCOVERS SAN FRANCISCO GEM

On a typical cold San Francisco July morning, I joined four more intrepid CLIR members to be introduced to the Moraga Steps, a functional outdoor art experience. Completely initiated and funded by the community around it, the neighborhood converted a long set of ordinary bland stairs into a truly magnificent public walkway. We continued up the hill to the top of windswept Grandview mountain where views of the ocean are said to be spectacular but which was veiled with clouds on our visit.



Karla Jones

To miss a CLIR's monthly walk is to miss an introduction to hidden and mostly unknown special places.

—Karla Jones



Karla Jones, Bill Zinn, Dick Hewetson, Patricia O'Connor, and behind the camera: Nancy Zinn

INSIDE VIEW OF SKYWALKER RANCH— A REPORT

Members jumped at the unique opportunity offered by Tania Yates at July's General Meeting. She has a connection to that wonderful local center of movie-making 21st century technology, SkyWalker Ranch. She announced that members merely need ask her to get the dates and proper entry instructions to participate in SkyWalker Ranch's special showings at the Ranch of all the Harry Potter films to date, as well as the *Lord of the Rings* saga.

Upon accepting Tania's invitation, the initial treat is the drive to secluded SkyWalker Ranch in Marin county. It offers California countryside in all its glory; little vehicle traffic, gentle rolling hills, curving woodlands and fields almost devoid of "civilization."



SkyWalker Ranch image

The movie theater is within a lovely, inviting structure which also houses some of SkyWalker Ranch's production facilities which in no way interferes in attending a show. The theater is itself a show: with a full-size screen similar to those of the classic movie palaces of the '30s which the decor of the space tastefully replicates. And the seats - wide, comfortable and loads of 'leg room.' Then there's the amazing sound system ...!

CLIR members who accepted Tania's invitation regretted that these series of film-retrospectives were completed by August 2.

—Robby Kiley

DARE WE CALL THIS NEXT ITEM 'FEEDBACK?'

ALBORZ, a restaurant review, by Robby Kiley

In July CLIR members gathered at Alborz, an authentic Persian venue, for a delightful dinner. As usual, the event was organized by Chair, Karla Jones. We sampled a wide variety of Persian dishes from typical appetizers, to soup, fish, beef and lamb, continuing through rose-water based deserts.

The food and conversation flowed and we soon realized that once again we'd been together for more than two hours enjoying companionship in a pleasurable setting. Karla's ability to discover such great opportunities for sharing with our membership once again deserves a hearty thank you.

CLIR GOES TO MARIN COUNTY

(A CLIR Tour presented by **Barbara Farrenkopf & Marianne McCall**)

Wow, we learned what a skillful bus driver we had as she managed to get our 40-passenger bus around the bend into the driveway of the Zen Center Green Gulch Farm and then were amazed as she safely maneuvered the long, windy, narrow road down to the destination's center. While in Sanctuary, we received a short introduction to the Center's history and practices and then walked through their many gardens and fields.

Although there was real reluctance to leave, we next were off to nearby Marin Beach and the delightful Pelican Inn for a typical British lunch. While the Ploughman's Lunch had its champions with our members it did seem to be a tie between the Shepherd's Pie and Fish & Chips in popularity. Cookies thoughtfully brought by our tour-leaders were the crowning touch to an enjoyable meal. Then back on the bus, destination Marine Mammal Rescue Center.

We enjoyed tours of the facility led by two knowledgeable members of the Center's staff. They made certain that we learned the difference between sea lions and seals -along with giving us hands-on opportunities with their pelts and personalities. We found that although the marine animals served at the rescue facilities tend to be neutral in colors, the center itself is glowing in a wide variety of bright hues, because the Center is hosting an exhibit of sculptured beach trash. The trip went so smoothly, we didn't even have much of a wait at either end of the one-way tunnel through the Marin Headlands where the center resides. As usual, we found it a delightful and educational adventure!

—Story by **Robby Kiley**, photos by **Sonnie Willis**.

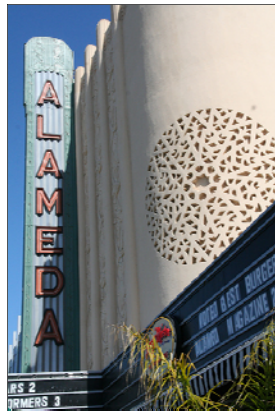


TOUR OF THE ALHAMBRA THEATRE (an Art-on-the-GO adventure)

Eleven of us ventured over to Alameda via an AC Transit bus in July to meet with the others who either lived in the East Bay or drove over. There were twenty-one of us in all. Our guide was Robb Ratto, head of the Park St. Business District, who gave an entertaining and informative tour of the Alameda Theatre.

After the tour we headed for Angela's Bistro for lunch. Then, some of the group headed for the Alameda Historical Museum. Another group was given a tour of Alameda by long-time resident, and our member, Vicki Bell. On the way to the BART station four of us spontaneously visited the nearby Institute of Mosaic Art, where we had an impromptu tour of the art on display and the classroom where mosaic techniques are taught.

—Story by **Fran Hasher**,
Photos by **Sonnie Willis**



The Alhambra



Annette Berger, Loretta Gibbs, Gail Schluock

ROSTER CHANGES

Change of Address

Ena Macrae,
405 Davis Court, #508
San Francisco, CA 94111

Welcome New Members

Barbara Patinkin
1651 Larkin St. Apt. 11
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-441-4930

imtink@sbcglobal.net

Mason Wood
3400 Laguna St.
San Francisco, CA
415-929-8219

Member OUR mystery MYSTERY member CLIR MEMBER

Who was the naïf traveler in the August *Voice* who arrived in Leeds only to find that his prepaid reservation for a week in a B & B was worthless?

It was none other than yours truly, Dick Hewetson. However, all's well that ends well. The matronly Brit who answered the door called a good friend "down the road" who put us up for the promised week. Each day we traveled by rail to such places as York, Haworth and Durham.



Now for this month's mystery member.

We all know that Congressman Barney Frank has never been afraid to express his views. At nap time in kindergarten, he noted that a budding CLIR member could not fall asleep at nap time. Barney yelled at him, "You're supposed to nap during nap time! What's the matter with you?" He has since told off many others!

What CLIR member attended kindergarten with Barney Frank?

If you would like to be a Mystery Member, send an anecdote from your earlier or present life and/or a picture to dhewetson@mac.com.

MEROLA OPERA'S PRODUCTION OF *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*

Merola's performers hit all the right notes in this delightfully mad-cap opera. The production even brought in current facets such as the "end of days" prediction broadcast by a local "bible interpreter." Thanks to Phyllis Spandorf for arranging this free event enjoyed by so many!

N NAME BADGES
A THEY MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR ALL OF US.
M NAME BADGES
E THEY ARE IMPORTANT!
WE ASK THAT MEMBERS WEAR THEM
B AT OUR GENERAL MEETINGS.
A NEW ONES WILL BE AVAILABLE
D SEPTEMBER 1 FOR ALL RENEWING MEMBERS.
G PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE
E WEAR YOUR
S NAME BADGE.

CLIRsights Peter G Joseph, MD Sept. 9, 1:30pm THE CLIMATE CRISIS: REALITY vs DENIAL



How can the public and decision-makers cut through the spin and denial in order to do what is necessary?

Our speaker this month is Peter G. Joseph, M.D., an emergency physician, one of many trained by Al Gore to help educate the public about the devastating impacts of global warming. He will review the latest scientific data and discuss both the technical and political aspects of global warming, humanity's greatest challenge.

In 1979, just after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, Dr. Joseph co-founded the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, an organization of doctors dedicated to educating the public and world leaders about the horrendous medical consequences of nuclear war.

His interest in climate change naturally followed from that.

THANK YOU, ENA MAC RAE

The *Voice* staff is losing a valued member after this month, as Ena has decided to step down from her post as chief fact-checker, grammarian and all-around editorial aide. Ena, formerly a staffer at the San Francisco Chronicle, gave us the benefit of her experience for years, and we will miss her expert hand in our newsletter. Thank you Ena, for all you have done for the *Voice* and for CLIR.

We welcome John Lavelle to the *Voice*. He will start with the October issue. John has many years of computer experience and has edited a few newsletters of his own, so he, too, brings valuable experience to these pages.

Transition

Bill Carpmill, a Past President and long-time member of CLIR, died in August. Bill was a native of San Francisco who spent most of his life, as he described it, "in one classroom or another." While he joined CLIR in 1995 to continue his learning quest, he also enriched our lives with his French Conversation sessions and, for many years, leadership in our weekly Current Affairs Forum. In addition to his service as President, Bill served on our Council numerous times and was a recipient of CLIR's Distinguished Service Award.

Our condolences to his family. There will be no services.

ANNUAL CLIR PICNIC SEPTEMBER 13 —NOON

**ROBERT CROWN MEMORIAL BEACH STATE PARK
THE CRAB COVE SECTION—1252 McKay Ave, Alameda**

POT LUCK— BRING A DISH TO SHARE

**COST—NO CHARGE, BUT A DONATION TO THE
KITTY IS WELCOME TO COVER SUPPLIES.**

DRIVING: From Cities to the North, take I-80 West to I-880 South and take the Broadway exit. Turn right at the light onto 5th Street. Stay on 5th Street following the signs to Alameda. Go through the Webster Street Tunnel (Tube) to Alameda. **In Alameda**, continue on Webster Street across town. Turn right on Central Ave., go one block, and turn left onto McKay Ave. (at Foster's Freeze). **Crab Cove is at the end of McKay on the left.**

BUSES: Get off the O bus at the Webster & Santa Clara Avenues (where the bus makes its first turn in Alameda) then walk down Webster, it deadends at Central Avenue. About two blocks. Turn right on Central then turn left on McKay Ave (about one block) to reach the Crab Cove entrance (about two blocks down McKay Ave).

**CENTER FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
50 FIRST STREET, SUITE 300
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105**

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10:00am to 2:30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Friday**

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**DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE
September 9, 2011**

September 2011 Issue