



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

December 2014



www.pbknca.org/join

From the President



As the holiday season again fills our lives with remembrances of the year past and hopes for the year to come, I wish each of you joy in your celebrations and happiness in 2015. ΦBKNCA is fortunate to count you as a member of our organization.

This is the last newsletter you will receive unless you renewed in October or November! Our membership year is January-December, so please remit your membership contribution via PayPal or check online at www.pbknca.org/join, or by scanning the QR code above with your Smartphone, or get a remittance form that you can mail with your check to ΦBKNCA at <http://www.pbknca.org/mail.in.html> Many thanks for supporting the Association!

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Don't Miss the 29th Asilomar Conference, February 13-16, 2015 Deadline December 15, 2014



“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 will present 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 you to join us this year, and to bring along family and friends for an inspiring, relaxing and enriching event.

Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair

Continued on page 4

Your Contributions at Work! Scholarship Awards, May 4, 2014



Megan Ammirati, UC Davis, Comparative Literature



Alex Djalali, Stanford, Linguistics



‡Melissa Eitzel, UC Berkeley, Statistical Ecology



Dorothy Kronick, Stanford, Political Science



Serena Le, UC Berkeley, English



Alison Leaf, UC San Francisco, Cell Biology



Allison Rhines, Stanford, Biology



Hernan Sanchez, Casalongue, Stanford, Chemistry



§Sarah Selvidge, UC Berkeley, Latin America

Not present: *Carissa Chu, UC San Francisco, Medicine; Emily Cibelli, UC Berkeley, Linguistics; Christopher Miller, UC Berkeley, English

* E. B. Reed Scholarship ‡ W. and A. Hendess Scholarship § M. T. and C. Gilliland Scholarship Grant

Learn more about the awardees at www.pbknca.org/scholarship/scholarship.winners.2014.phi.beta.kappa.pbk.php
Scholarship Committee members: Joanne Sandstrom (Chair), Jeff Fenton, Lynne Fovinci, Jean James, Gerry Richards

Teaching Excellence Awards, May 4, 2014



Andrius Galisanka



Julie Anne Kennedy



Patricia Simone



Dari Sylvester

Learn more about the awardees at www.pbknca.org/teaching/teaching.winners.phi.beta.kappa.pbk.php
Teaching Excellence Committee Members: Narcinda Lerner (Chair), Kate Maeder, Douglas Minnis, Kimberly Pennington Aguilar

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 Hardardt at (707) 696-9498.

Blu Homes Factory Tour: These Are Anything But Ticky-Tacky Boxes!

Saturday, January 24, 2015

We return to Mare Island to go behind the scenes and see first-hand the design, engineering and construction of the extraordinary prefab homes being

built by this innovative company. Located on Mare Island, Blu Homes has focused its efforts on designing not just “green” but architecturally appealing and surprisingly priced pre-fabricated homes – really eye-opening, modern and efficient, all in a single package. While the Mare Island facility is Blu Homes’ headquarters and design center, their houses

are already found across the U.S. from the Pacific Northwest to the East Coast.



Due to limitations at this location, we will be touring in groups of 6 with the first group starting at 10 am, the second at 12 noon and the third at 2 pm.

Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015
Times: 10:00 am or 12:00 pm or 2:00 pm
Minimum: 6 people per group—indicate which group time you would like to join & which would be your second choice, Maximum: 6 people per group
Deadline: January 10, 2015
Fee: \$15.00
Directions: From the Mare Island causeway, bear left onto Nimitz Ave. Building 680 is located at 1245 Nimitz Ave., just after Bagley Street.

29th Asilomar Conference, February 13-16, 2015

Deadline December 15, 2014 See [information on page 1](#) and [signup form on page 8](#).

Fertile Ground: Art and Community in California - Saturday, March 21, 2015



Our visit to the Oakland Museum is for a special docent-led tour of works from both the museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Illuminating local histories and social forces that changed the face of art in and beyond the Golden State, the exhibition tells the stories of four creative communities at decisive

moments in the history of California art: the circle of

artists who worked with, influenced, and were influenced by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in San Francisco in the 1930s; the legendary painters and photographers associated with the California School of Fine Arts in the 1940s and 1950s, including Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still, Richard Diebenkorn, David Park, Minor White, and Imogen Cunningham; the free-spirited faculty and students at UC Davis in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Robert Arneson, Wayne Thiebaud, William T. Wiley, and Bruce Nauman; and the streetwise, uncompromisingly idealistic artists at the center of a vibrant new Mission scene that took root in the 1990s through the present, including Barry McGee, Chris Johanson, Margaret Kilgallen, Amy Franceschini, Ruby Neri, Alicia McCarthy, and Rigo 23, along with many others.

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015
Time: 11:00 am
Minimum: 8, Maximum: 20
Deadline: January 10, 2015
Fee: \$15.00
Directions: The museum is located at 1000 Oak Street at 10th Street in Oakland. The museum garage entrance is on Oak Street between 10th and 12th streets where parking is available at \$1/hour with museum validation. This can be obtained at the ticketing booth on Level 2 (parking without validation is \$2.50/hour). Driving and mass transportation directions are available at the museum's web site: <http://www.museumca.org/directions>

Historic Stroll through Suisun City with Gary Holloway: Early Days, Refuge for Earthquake Victims, Today

Saturday, April 18, 2015 See www.pbknca.org

ΦBKNCA Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner - Sunday, May 3, 2015



It is time for you 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. As you are aware, 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.

For those of you who have not been able to 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 to the Association!

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) and white or red house wine, will be served at 5:00 pm. Coffee and tea will be served with dessert.

Date: Sunday, May 3, 2015
Deadline: Monday, April 14, 2015
Time: 4-8 pm
Cost: (per person including tax, gratuities, parking): TBD

Anything Goes! We Celebrate Summer at The Lesher Theater Saturday, June 20, 2015

See <http://www.pbknca.org> for details.

Asilomar – Continued from page 1

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; please watch your email for details. Cost will be approximately \$499 per person double-occupancy paid directly to Asilomar and includes room, parking, and all meals Friday night to Monday noon.

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's 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 those to be discussed.

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 an 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 search 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*

From the President- Continued from page 1

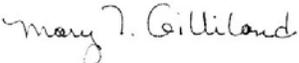
If you are a 2014 ΦBK graduate from one of the eight Northern California colleges which have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter you receive a free membership for a year and won't need to renew until November 2015.

Every membership contribution is totally tax-deductible. We do NOT receive any funds from the Phi Beta Kappa Society in Washington, D.C., and a donation to them does not confer membership in our Association. Your generosity enables us to fund the graduate student scholarships and teaching excellence awards to be presented at our Annual Dinner on May 3, 2015. We hope to see you there – [see page 2](#).

As an active (dues-paying or first-year-free) member, you'll be able to enjoy monthly activities in various sites around the Bay Area. First Vice President (Programs) Judy Hardardt has a wonderful array of excursions, theater performances, and behind-the-scenes visits planned. You'll meet other ΦBKNCA members and discover hidden treasures in our own backyard. Join us over Presidents' Weekend (February 13-16, 2015) at the beautiful Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove for our annual retreat weekend. Deirdre Frontczak is rounding up a fascinating panoply of speakers to educate and entertain us. Information about signing up for activities, and their costs, may be found on [page 1](#).

We also are recruiting volunteers for various Board positions. If you are interested in giving of your time to our Association, please contact me ([see Board list, page 7](#)). Time commitments can be as little as one day (Audit Committee, greet members at an event) to as many hours as you are able to give. All positions are rewarding and all volunteers are appreciated.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our activities, so I may thank you in person for supporting our Association. Our loyal members are what make ΦBKNCA a superb organization. Thank you for your generosity.


Mary Turner Gilliland,
President 2014-2015

Get the Newsletter Online and Save the Association Money

If you are receiving a hardcopy newsletter, why don't you join the six hundred and seventy four current members who have elected to receive the newsletter online? **In 2014 we spent nearly \$2500 mailing hardcopy newsletters** – that is one-half 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*

Directory Corrections

- List of Past Presidents on Page 3 for 1985-1986 should be Mary C. Magill (not McGill)
- Prof. Leo A. Goodman, 38 Oak Ridge Road, Berkeley CA 94705-2426, Syracuse University '48, H 510-843-6013, lgoodman@berkeley.edu
- Nancy Westcott new email: nwestcott@gmail.com; old earthlink.net address is being forwarded
- Two people from San Francisco are listed as from San Francisco, CA: Riley Marangi, Lauren H. Nosaka

Financial Report

The FY 2013-2014 financial report is scheduled to be available for download after November 16 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.

Coupons for Events. See page 8 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.

Blu Homes Factory Tour

Saturday, January 24 at 10:00 am or 12:00 pm or 2:00 pm

Deadline January 10, 2015

10 am # Attending _____ x \$15.00 per person = \$ _____

12 am # Attending _____ x \$15.00 per person = \$ _____

2 pm # 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

Fertile Ground: Art and Community in California

Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 11:00 am

Deadline: January 10, 2015

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

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

Davis, cell (707) 696-9498, hardardtj@gmail.com

Joanne Sandstrom, Second Vice President – Scholarships

Oakland, (510) 339-1352, joannes@berkeley.edu

Patricia Kenber, Third Vice President – Membership

Danville, (925) 838-2296, kenber@sbcglobal.net

Duncan Missimer, Treasurer

Mountain View, (408) 368-0835 duncan.missimer@ieee.org

Brenda Shank, Corresponding Secretary

Berkeley, (510) 528-0081, brendashank@aol.com

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

Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Deadline: April 14, 2015

Attending _____ x \$TBD per person = \$ _____

(Check payable to ΦBKNCA- 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



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

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Go green – get the newsletter by email

Send an email to online@pbknca.org

or

Scan this QR code with your smartphone
 to sign up for the newsletter online now.



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!) _____