



SDCAS Newsletter

November/December 2011 ISSN 0897-2478 Volume 39, Number 6

The mission of the San Diego County Archaeological Society is to promote public understanding and appreciation of archaeology in general and to encourage the preservation of the cultural resources of San Diego County.

Calendar

Support your Society! Items in boxes are SDCAS-organized or sponsored events

November 18 (Noon) SDAC

Lunch Time Lecture: Aztec Human Sacrifice and Ritual Cannibalism

See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 19 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Balboa Park

Mingei International Museum's Treasures Art Sale

See announcement inside (Pg. 6)

November 22 (7:30 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos

SDCAS 4th Tuesday Lecture

Speaker: Erin Blankenship-Sefczek

"Status and the 'lower' class: A bio-cultural examination of the non-elite Maya of Guerra, Belize"

See announcement inside (Pg. 6)

December 4 (10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) San Pasqual Battlefield State Park

Battle Day

See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

December 10 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) SDAC

Family Day 5th Family Holiday Workshop

Open House Style

See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

There is no December SDCAS meeting. Hope your Holidays are Happy!

See under Members' News Corner inside for additional events

New SDCAS Website: www.sdcas.org

President's Message

By Jim Royle

I was going to start this, my last column as SDCAS president, with a look back over the past year's activities. But the year's not over yet and, other than saying thanks to all who contributed to a successful Arch in the Park last month, I'll save that for some later time. Instead, I want to tell a story that starts more than 35 years ago, when SDCAS was only a few years old.

Jay Hatley was an archaeologist at the local firm RECON in the 1970s and 80s, and was very active in SDCAS, including serving two terms as president. In 1976, in the process of working on a project in North County, Jay met Ida Dawson, whose family went back well into the 1800s in the area. He wanted to preserve some of her family's history and so recorded a 90 minute interview with her. Jay's wife, Nancy, prepared a transcript of the interview, and a copy made its way to the Carlsbad Historical Society.

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DISCLAIMER: Articles printed in this newsletter are for the information of the members of the Society and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the board members or the Society in general.

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MEETING INFO: The SDCAS Office is located at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. During the Fall, Winter, and Spring, General Meetings are held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month except December. During the Summer months (June, July, August) General Meetings are held on Saturday evenings, in the courtyard at the Ranch House (see pg. 6 for details of upcoming meetings).

Directions to Ranch House: From I-15 take Mercy Rd. west, turn right (north) onto Black Mountain Rd. and then take the first left into Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Follow the road all the way to the back (past Canyonside Community Park ball fields), and park either in the small parking area by the barn or along the edge of the dirt road.



Board Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the offices of California State Parks, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Dr. #201, San Diego, CA 92108.

Editor's Message

I recently received an inquiry from a Native American friend in regards to my comments in the Editor's Message of the May-June 2011 issue of this newsletter. In that commentary I was discussing the reasons why archaeologists collect artifacts. I said that archaeologists collect to "preserve data for the future; for the next archaeologist who is curious about what happened in a place that no longer exists, and for future technologies that have yet to be discovered." My friend told me that she was disappointed that I did not mention that we were also trying to save these pieces of the past for the descendants of those who made them; to help future generations of Native Americans understand their history and their connections to their ancestors' lifeways.

I agree that was an oversight on my part. I was trying to be inclusive with the "preserve data for the future" statement, but I admit I was focused on archaeologists and scientific studies because that was what seemed to be under attack in the online article on which I was commenting (<http://www.hcn.org/issues/369/17663m>).

But my friend's comments made me think about what it must be like for Native Americans to see the "artifacts" that their ancestors created on display in a museum, or packed away in boxes in a storage facility.

I thought of the "artifacts" of my own family. Family heirlooms that I and other relatives possess, some of which were made by my ancestors. Those heirlooms gave me a sense of connection to people I had never known or had met only briefly as a young child. But these were recent "artifacts" going back only a couple generations.

(Continued on page 6)

SUBMISSIONS: Please send any articles, stories, poems, photos, cartoons, etc. to me at the address below. Digital documents are preferred, but others will be considered for inclusion. Any hard-copy item you wish returned (such as photos, slides, drawings, etc.) should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The submission deadline for the next issue is **December 30**. Please send all items to: mmealey@parks.ca.gov

or to Marla Mealey c/o California State Parks
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92108

New SDCAS Website: www.sdcas.org

Members' News Corner

San Pasqual Battle Day 2011

California State Parks in cooperation with the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association presents Battle Day 2011 on Sunday, December 4 to honor the 1846 Battle of San Pasqual.

Activities from 10 am-3:30 pm including period music & dancing, dragoons, cannon firing, mountain men, surveyors, California displays, period craft demonstrations, and children's activities. Battle re-enactments at 11:30am & 2:00 pm.

Battle Day is held at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park located 1.5 miles east of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park (Wild Animal Park) on State Highway 78. For more information call 760-737-2201.

Lunch Time Lecture at the SDAC – “Aztec Human Sacrifice and Ritual Cannibalism”

On Friday, November 18- Karleen Ronsairo will present “Aztec Human Sacrifice and Ritual Cannibalism” as part of the San Diego Archaeological Center’s Lunch Time Lecture (LTL) series.

Karleen Ronsairo will earn a B.A., Anthropological Archaeology, Latin American Studies – University of California, San Diego. She is Vice President of Mobilizing Opportunity Through Community Heritage Empowerment and helped create a club at UCSD promoting a volunteer project on the North Coast of Peru with the non-profit organization, MOCHE, Inc.

The LTL presentation begins at noon and lasts approximately one hour. Bring a lunch and notebook. Drinks will be provided. LTL is free with Center admission, no charge for Center members.

Students are invited to submit topics to be included on future schedules. Please contact Programs Coordinator Annemarie Cox at 760-291-0370 or acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org

San Diego Archaeological Center’s Family Day 5th Family Holiday Workshop Open House Style

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027.

Is your family, scout troop or youth organization looking for a fun way to spend a few hours together on a beautiful December day? Discover the San Diego Archaeological Center’s Culture Classroom as it is transformed into a “Family Holiday Workshop”.

Participants both young and young –at- heart will enjoy hands-on experiences with natural resources such as clay and raffia. Fabric, glue and glitter are also provided for constructing Victorian era items. Combining imagination and personal style, each person will have the opportunity to create unique pieces, perfect keepsakes for holiday gifts.

Bracelets, sculptures, vases, pendants, and sachets are waiting to be created for favorite teachers, friends and family members. Recipients will delight in receiving a one of a kind present created by a child’s hand.

Center volunteers will be on hand to guide the participants with their projects. Festive holiday wrapping will also be available for the participants to keep their gifts a surprise.

All visitors to the Center Museum on Saturday, December 10 are invited to enjoy a mug of hot cocoa or cider and cookies provided by Center Board of Trustees.

No reservations are required for this event.

Admission to this activity is free with Center Museum admission, \$2 per person or \$5 per family. As always Center members enjoy this event at no cost. Become a member on the day of the program and enjoy discounts on this and many events to come in 2012.

Email Annemarie Cox at acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org or phone her at 760-291-0370 for more details.

An Evening of Indian Storytelling and Song

Agua Caliente Museum’s *Spirit Keepers* Program Performance: An Evening of Indian Storytelling and Song on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 6:30 pm at the University of California, Riverside, Palm Desert Campus, Building B, Auditorium (B-100), 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211. Free Admission and Parking

This family-friendly event features Jacque Tahuka-Nunez (Acjachemen descent) who is a multi-faceted and engaging talent who enjoys a successful career of sharing stories and songs from her Native culture. She is the recipient of many awards including Outstanding Speaker Award from the University of Southern California and First Place Gold Medal in the National Speech Competition.

Ms. Tahuka-Nunez has sung the National Anthem at Angel Stadium and received the Outstanding Service Award from the Mayor of Los Angeles. Her stories and songs are entertaining, illuminating, and inspiring.

A Taste of Native Cuisine

Agua Caliente Museum’s *Spirit Keepers* Program Discussion & Tasting: A Taste of Native Cuisine on Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 8:30 am – Noon. Adjacent to Camelot Theatres, 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs, CA. Free Admission and Parking.

As part of the Salmon, Seaweed and Manzanita Cider: A California Indian Feast exhibition at Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, we present this special program in partnership with the Certified Farmers Market and others who are interested in traditional nutrition. Chef Paul Woods, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, will discuss and prepare traditional foods on-site, using some of the produce that farmers bring to the market, as well as some of the traditional ingredients used by the Cahuilla people. Come join us for a delicious and nutritious culinary Native experience.

15th Annual Coachella Valley Archaeological Society Symposium

The 15th Annual Coachella Valley Archaeological Society Symposium will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at College of the Desert’s Pollock Theatre. This year’s theme is: *Difficult Times: Adaptive Strategies*.

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society General Meetings

Monthly lecture meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue (between the I-5 and I-405, next to the Post Office) in Irvine, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. For directions, please call Scott Findlay, 714-342-2534 or visit the website at <http://www.pcas.org/meetings.html>.

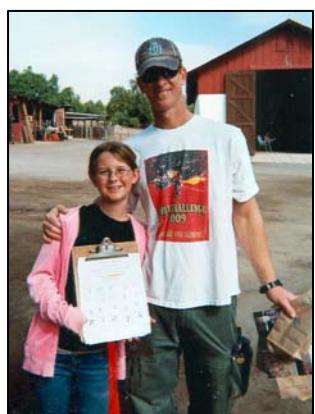
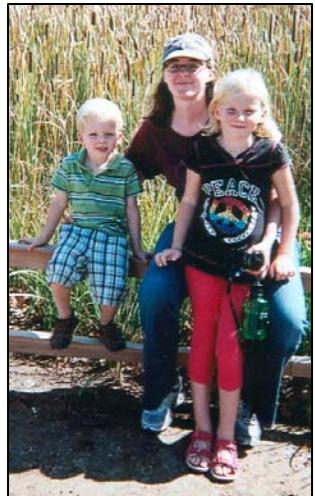
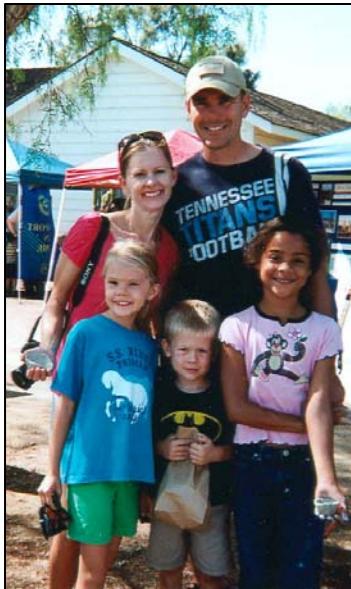
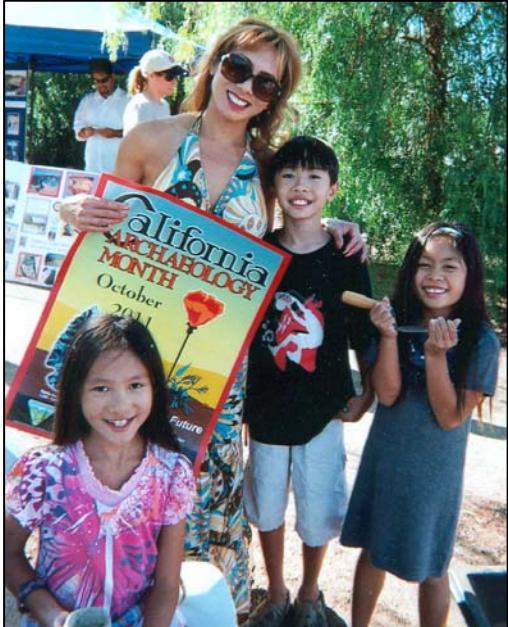
- November 10, 2011 - Dr. Donn Grenda *Twenty Years of Research along the West Los Angeles Coast*
- December 8, 2011 - Holiday Dinner Meeting (See <http://www.pcas.org/documents/HolidayDinnerFlyer.pdf> and <http://www.pcas.org/documents/DuckClubdirections.pdf>) Dr. Robert M. Yohe II *Back on the PaleoIndian Map: A Reassessment of the Owl Cave Site in Southern Idaho*

(Continued on page 6)

Arch in the Park a Huge Success

Photos by Marla Mealey and Susan Walter

Saturday, October 15 started off a little overcast, but the clouds cleared and we ended up with a beautiful day for SDCAS's annual "Arch in the Park" Archaeology Month event. We had many attendees including over 50 children who participated in Susan's stamping game. See the photos below for some of the participants, activities, etc.



San Diego Zooarchaeology Laboratory Tour

By Jim Royle

Sunday, September 11th, was a beautiful late summer day in Balboa Park, and a dozen SDCAS members awaited the start of our visit to the Zooarchaeology Lab at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Co-director Susie Arter led us inside and into the Lab, where we were joined by Dr. Aharon Sasson. Those who were there at our July meeting at the Adobe will remember Aharon's interesting and informative talk on zooarchaeology.



The Zooarchaeology Lab, which is about two years old, draws upon the extensive collection of biological specimens at the Museum as reference samples. The Lab's rows of cabinets, similar to those at the San Diego Archaeological Center but with doors and drawers, house skins and skeletons of vertebrate animals of all kinds: birds, mammals, marsupials, reptiles and fish. Most, but by no means all, are from southern California and Baja California, and some are over 100 years old. The Museum has a working relationship with the Zoo, so some of the specimens come from that source.



With multiple samples of most of the animals, and with its highly qualified staff, the Lab is ideally prepared to do analysis of faunal remains originating from archaeological sites. Susie and Aharon discussed some of the projects the Lab has worked on, including material from the San Diego Presidio site. They also gave us a quick lesson in faunal analysis, showing us skeletal samples of several kinds of animals and pointing out distinguishing characteristics.

Those of us who participated in the tour and spend any time working on archaeological collections came away with a bit more knowledge of what we're looking at--and a much greater appreciation of how much we *don't* know.

Membership News

By Carol Serr, Membership Chair

Hello SDCAS members,

October 1st was the beginning of our 2011-2012 membership year. So far, less than one-fifth of our 63 annual memberships have renewed for the year. We hope you will please continue your support for SDCAS by **renewing** your dues soon. And we strongly encourage you to invite co-workers, friends, and relatives to **join** SDCAS so they can participate on outings along with you, and enjoy our informative monthly meetings. Membership dues (and occasional donations) are our only means of raising funds for putting on our annual **Arch in the Park** educational event. Thank you for your continued support.

Please let us know your e-mail address (e-dress) if you have not been getting notices via e-mail. And we appreciate those who allow us to send our electronic newsletter via e-mail, saving SDCAS a lot on postage, printing, and label costs. You receive the issue much sooner than if it is mailed. Remember, your e-dress is not shared with the membership or other groups. If you included your e-mail on your application, but are not getting e-mail notices - that most likely means the e-dress was illegible (or your In Box is full).

Carol Serr
Membership Chair

e-mail: Membership@sdcas.org (note NEW e-mail address)

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Ida Dawson's two daughters learned of the transcript there and, in 2007, wanted to obtain a copy of the original tape, so that they could edit the transcript and try to better understand some of their mother's comments. Their request eventually found its way to me. I was able to contact Jay and Nancy, who found the tape and loaned it to me to make copies. I sent one on to the sisters. End of story.

Not quite.

As some of you know, I volunteer at the San Diego Archaeological Center. A couple of months ago, I randomly chose to process a collection from a 1976 RECON project in North County. Reading the report for the collection, I recognized that this was the project that introduced Jay Hatley to Ida Dawson, and some of the information related in the report came from that recording. I was able to add a copy of the tape to the documents box for the collection, and will shortly add a CD of the recording and the email from the sisters as well. And I hope to get a copy of their transcript for the Center's library, too.

And so, through a series of coincidences, the Society was able to get two sisters a recording of their mother relating family and local history, and to help ensure that the oral history will be preserved by being archived at several different locations. End of story.

For now. You just never know.

Upcoming Speakers

November 22 (4th Tuesday Lecture), 7:30 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos (see page 2 for directions)

Presenter: Erin Blankenship-Sefczek

Title: Status and the “lower” class: A bio-cultural examination of the non-elite Maya of Guerra, Belize

The non-elite segment of the ancient Maya civilization has long been considered a homogenous social stratum. However, recent studies have begun to reveal the truly complicated, hierarchical nature of this social group. This study takes a bio-cultural approach to the skeletal and archaeological material of the 23 Classic period (AD 200-900) non-elite individuals recovered from rural Guerra, located outside the urban center of Buenavista del Cayo in the western Belize Valley. Previous skeletal analyses have been done on the royal elite individuals (Mitchell, 2006) and the sub-elite individuals (Black, 2007) of Buenavista, concluding that the two groups were not biologically related. In order to better understand the social construction and relationships present during the Classic period at this site, the major question of this study centers on whether the low-status individuals of Guerra share biological affinity with the high status sub-elite individuals. An analysis of mortuary practice, skeletal indicators of health, and genetic markers reveals the complicated, hierarchical organization of this non-elite community and its relationship to the residents of the adjacent urban center. Overall health, dental pathology and indicators of childhood stressors conveys that within the western Belize Valley there were social inequalities when it came to access to certain resources. Statistical analyses of hereditary dental traits and dental metrics show Guerra shares more biological affinity within itself than to the high status sub-elites of Archangel-Angel residing in Buenavista. However, results indicate these two communities do share distant affinity. A fictive kinship tie between Guerra and the ruling elites of Buenavista-Cahal Pech is highly probable based on associated cultural materials. The evidence suggests the structure, organization, and membership of this Maya community was based primarily on biological affinity.

This study was partially funded by the Al Sonek Memorial Scholarship and the Norton Allen Scholarship.

***There is no December SDCAS Meeting
 Hope you all have Happy Holidays!***

Members' News Corner

(Continued from page 3)

Treasures Art Sale

Saturday, November 19, 2011
 at the Mingei International Museum from 10 am-4 pm -
Museum admission only \$1!

Just in time for the holidays,
 the Mingei International Museum's popular art sale
 returns to Balboa Park!

If you're looking for a unique gift for a loved one, a special object for your home, or want to start your own art collection, join us for this one-of-a-kind



One of the hundred or so mid-century, German-made stuffed bears to be featured

event.

More than four thousand art objects from all over the world will be featured. These objects, which will range in price from \$1 to \$3,000, have been donated to Mingei International over the years but never accessioned into the collection. Furniture, textiles, sculptures, pottery, toys, and much more will be available from every corner of the globe. Discover your treasure at Mingei International!

Cash or Credit Cards only (no checks accepted). Information: 619-704-7493. Email: jmiller@mingei.org

Editor's Message

(Continued from page 2)

Looking farther back, when I visited England and Ireland to try to find ties to my English and Irish ancestors, I remember seeing artifacts on display in the museums there, and wondering if any had been owned or made by my ancestors. But, like with so many of the artifacts we collect during our archaeological studies, we seldom have a way to tie them to a specific person. I had to accept the artifacts as those of my heritage and culture, and I did feel some link, but somehow I don't think it was quite the same.

So, I thank my friend for reminding me that archaeology here in southern California can also be important to the Native American communities; as a way to rediscover their ancestors' past accomplishments, and to preserve their history for future generations.



San Diego County Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 81106
San Diego, CA 92138

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Have you Renewed your Membership? San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

Code of Ethics

1. The collecting in any manner of archaeological material or data shall be done using contemporary scientific techniques, and shall have as its express purpose the finding and dissemination of information relative to the history and prehistory of California.

2. Provisions shall be made for the housing of archaeological materials and data in accordance with accepted professional practices, and such materials and data shall be made available to qualified individuals through accumulated field notes and records or to the general profession through the publication of findings.

3. The gathering of archaeological specimens or the destruction of archaeological sites for purposes of selling artifacts or personal acquisition shall in all cases be forbidden and shall subject member to expulsion proceedings.

All members will adhere to this Society's Code of Ethics, and to State, Federal, and International Antiquities Laws.

I have read and agree to abide by the above Code of Ethics.

Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor* _____ Date _____

* Persons under 18 years of age must be sponsored by an adult SDCAS member

Please send completed form and payment to San Diego County Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 81106, San Diego, CA 92138.

SDCAS Website: www.sdcas.org

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to receive a Hard Copy of the Newsletter
(Newsletter is delivered by email unless a hard copy is requested)

Occupation / School _____

Special Skills / Interests _____

How did you hear about us? _____

The SDCAS membership year begins **October 1**. Please check the membership desired and enclose payment for the amount shown in the table below. Membership is subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

1-Year*

Individual	\$30.00
Family	\$40.00
Student	\$15.00
Institutional (Company, University, College, Etc.) (non voting)	\$25.00
Life \$300.00	

* **New Members Only:** half-year rates (at $\frac{1}{2}$ the full-year price) are available after April 1.

Check here for $\frac{1}{2}$ -year rates. Check here for Renewal