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# PCAS NEWSLETTER

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## MAY PCAS SPEAKER

**Dr. Aharon Sasson**

*The First Chicken Burrito in California:  
A Zooarchaeological Research of Bird Bones  
from the San Diego Presidio*

Little data currently exists regarding the dietary role of chickens or chicken husbandry practices in colonial California. As far as our knowledge reaches, no comprehensive zooarchaeological study on chicken husbandry has been conducted in North America.

The San Diego Presidio was founded in 1769 in order to establish the Spanish claim over Alta California. California was referred to as "New Spain," and the San Diego Presidio was the first European settlement in California, (Continued on p. 3)



**Dr. Aharon  
Sasson.**

## PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

### GENERAL MEETING

*Free and Open To the Public*

**May 14 - 7:30 pm**

**Speakers:** Dr. Aharon Sasson

**Topic:** *The First Chicken Burrito in California:  
A Zooarchaeological Research of Bird  
Bones from the San Diego Presidio*

**Location:** IRWD Community Room  
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

*The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses  
the causes or activities of organizations that use the District's  
meeting rooms which are made available for public use.*

### BOARD MEETING

*All Members Welcome*

**May 21 - 7:00 pm**

**Location:** Old Orange County Courthouse  
PCAS Library, Ground Floor  
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana

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## DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, Dr. Aharon Sasson, for dinner before the May 14 meeting at 6 pm at Mimi's Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

**See p. 7 in this Newsletter**

## APRIL SPEAKER NOTES

### *The Way We Were: Researching the Prehistoric Period in Armenia*

Ms. Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky, a Ph.D. candidate at the Cotsen Institute, UCLA, presented an overview of Armenian archaeology. Southern Caucasus archaeology has been relatively ignored. Yet, the area has been a corridor for cultural exchange throughout prehistory and history—a place where East meets West and conflicts have dominated. As part of the Soviet Union, archaeology had to fit the Marxist paradigm that all change was caused by internal forces and there was a straight development from the Paleolithic to modern day. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenian archaeology has become more scientific and regional. Research in the last 15 years has greatly increased the understanding of the emergence of agriculture and early sedentism in the Southern Caucasus.

Ms. Martirosyan-Olshansky spoke in detail about the site of Masis Blur on the Arafat Plain, where she has been serving as field director. The Late Neolithic (8/7,500–5,200 BC) settlement once stood 3 m above the modern surface but was bulldozed and leveled for construction fill in the 1970s. A brief excavation in 1986 established that little damage had occurred to deposits below the present surface. Recent excavation has revealed dates as old as 6,200 BC at 2.85 m below the present surface, and cultural layers are thought to extend below the current excavated depth. Masis Blur's lowest cultural levels may reveal the earliest transition to sedentary life and fill the gap before about 6,000 BC when domesticated animals and agricultural crops seem to suddenly appear.

One of the interesting finds at Masis Blur was a dense concentration of hematite and limonite, which could have been used for coloring basketry, clothing, or homes. Pigment concentrations have not been previously found in the Caucasus. The closest source for the mother of pearl found at the site is the Caspian Sea or Black Sea, which indicates trade. The faunal collection represents sheep, goats, and some cattle. Only 2.1 percent of the faunal assemblage is from non-domesticated animals, principally fish and deer. Barley and wheat were grown.

Ms. Martirosyan-Olshansky has focused on the Masis Blur lithic assemblage. Of the over 9,000



**April speaker Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky and PCAS Program Co-Chair Brian Steffensen.**

lithics recovered, 99.9 percent are obsidian. Specifically, only one basalt flake and one flint flake were found. She stated that lithics can be considered a proxy for cultural and economic change. Lithic technology tends to be conservative, and changes are brought about by new subsistence methods or by exposure to new groups.

Obsidian sources are found in the highland zones of Armenia, but not in the south. There are two sources about 60 k north of Masis Blur and several others within Armenia. Ms. Martirosyan-Olshansky obtained samples from the Armenian sources and compared the composition of obsidian artifacts to those samples collected and other known deposits. Obtaining obsidian samples from Armenian sites entailed venturing into rugged territory and the unpredictable weather of the highlands. Although most obsidian found at Masis Blur did come from Armenian sources, particularly the two closest sources, some obsidian was sourced to what is now eastern Turkey, 160–170 k distant.

Ms. Martirosyan-Olshansky presented a quick overview of the periods in Armenia following the Late Neolithic. The Chalcolithic period was characterized by a mobile population, herding, and little grain production. At the beginning of the Bronze Age (3500–1200 BC), there was a return to sedentism with stone settlements, beautiful pottery, and evidence of trade (glass beads). After the Shengavit Cultural complex (2900–2400 BC), the population became mobile again. The Late Bronze Age (1500–1200 BC) was sedentary and concerned with security, characterized by fortified hilltops.

## May Speaker *(continued from p. 1)*



**Skeletal elements of two breeds of chicken from the San Diego Presidio.**

in fact, in the entire west coast of North America. The Presidio was built on a hill overlooking the San Diego River and San Diego Bay.

The site was excavated several times starting in the 1920s by George Marston, who purchased the land around the presidio and later granted the land to the City of San Diego. The chapel area of the presidio was excavated in the 1970s by San Diego State University and Dr. Paul Ezell, the west wing was excavated in the 1980s by Dr. Diane Barbolla and San Diego Mesa College, and the north wing was excavated in the 1990s by Dr. Jack Williams.

Over 800 faunal specimens from the San Diego Presidio have been studied. Nearly 500 were bird bones, over 60 percent of which were chicken. The 300 non-avian remains yielded 16 species including mammals, amphibians, and fish. Close to 500 avian specimens representing 21 species were studied. The avian diversity, 21 species, is strikingly high compared with other presidios. Taphonomic analysis of the bone assemblage points to a good preservation of the faunal remains and a good integrity of the bone assemblage.

The zooarchaeological study has begun to shed light on late eighteenth and early nineteenth century chicken husbandry. Biometric analyses indicate more than one breed of chicken. Systematic husbandry practices are evidenced by the female-male ratio and the high proportion of egg-laying hens.

This study received the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board (HRB) award for excellence in history.

Dr. Aharon Sasson is the co-director of the San Diego Zooarchaeology Laboratory at the San Diego Natural History Museum. He received an MA in archaeology and a Ph.D. in zooarchaeology from Tel-Aviv University. He has been engaged in Old

World and New World archaeological and zooarchaeological research for the last 30 years. He has studied numerous faunal assemblages from prehistoric and historic sites in southern California. Dr. Sasson is the author of *Animal Husbandry in Ancient Israel, a Zooarchaeological Perspective on Livestock Exploitation, Herd Management and Economic Strategies*. He is a former president of the San Diego Archaeological Society.

## WILLA CLAUSEN

With sadness we announce the passing of PCAS member Willa Clausen. Willa had assisted Lynn Miller at our meetings with donation-award tickets. We extend our sympathy to all Willa's friends and family.

## PCAS MAY FIELD TRIP

**May 24–26, 2015**

**Newberry Springs Area**

We plan to visit several rock art sites. The group will dry camp. Some sites will require cross-country hiking. For those with time constraints, this may be a two-day trip, but it is not recommended as a one-day trip. Please be aware you will be required to sign a code of ethics and waiver of liability.

Contact Field Trips Co-Chair Scott Findlay ([fieldtrips@pcas.org](mailto:fieldtrips@pcas.org) or 714-342-2534) for additional information and to sign up for this field trip.

# MALKI MUSEUM AGAVE ROAST

*Ellen LaMotte*

The Malki Museum’s annual Agave Roast was held on the Morongo Reservation near Banning on April 11. The Agave Roast was preceded by the Agave Harvest on April 4. The harvest was led by Daniel McCarthy, who is a Malki Museum board member. This year the agave started producing inflorescences (flower spikes) early. Agave hearts need to be harvested



**Daniel McCarthy.**

ed before the stem grows more than a few inches so the nutrients remain in the heart and are not expended shooting up the inflorescence. McCarthy said six agave hearts were dug for the festival.

Prior to roasting the agave hearts, a roasting pit was constructed with a hearth stone at the bottom,



**Agave roasting pit.**

and the sides were lined with smaller stones. A fire was built and kept burning until the pit was glowing with a thick layer of coals. The agave hearts were placed in the pit and covered with wet burlap, and the pit was filled with sand. The hearts were put in the pit at 10 pm on Thursday, April 9, and removed at 10 am on April 11.

Prior to the dinner being served, several types of foods were prepared and were available for tasting,

including mesquite pancakes (made from the mesquite beans), date bread, fry bread, grasshoppers, fried cactus wrapped in a small tortilla, and date and mesquite cookies.

The Sherman Indian High School White Rose Hand Drummers provided some outstanding entertainment. The group consists of 11 girls from different tribes throughout the U.S. They are led by Mrs. Josephine Montes, an instructor at Sherman Indian High School, and they routinely play together. Their drums are made from tanned deer skin tightened over a wood frame. One song they performed was called the “Basket Song.” This song was from another tribe, and Mrs. Montes said that as a sign of respect they obtained prior permission to perform the song. They are a very talented group.

Before dinner the blessing was sung by an elder. The meal was served first to the tribal elders, then to



**Sherman Indian High School drummers.**



**Mesquite beans and grasshoppers on tortillas.**

**Malki Museum Agave Roast (Continued)**

the singers, then to everyone else. Many types of traditional foods made up the dinner. Along with the agave, some of the foods available were: tepary bean salad, nettle with sunflower soup, yucca stalks, venison, beaver tail cactus, cholla bud with corn succotash, rice, squash, turkey, rabbit stew, palm fruit bread, mesquite bread, cactus chia lemonade and prickly pear lemonade. This was an exceptional meal, and it was obvious that a lot of effort and hard work went into the preparation.



**Mortars and pestles.**



**Groundstone on display.**

The museum was open and offered a nice display of baskets and pottery. A number of manos, metates, hammer stones, mortars, and pestles were around the outside of the Museum.

This annual event is made possible by many, many hardworking folks. It is this effort that made this event such a success.

*All photos in this article are by Jim LaMotte.*

**APRIL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

*Submitted by Brian Steffensen*

**President Megan Galway** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Courthouse in Santa Ana, California. Board members present: **Rene Brace, Stephen Dwyer, Scott Findlay, Jane Gothold, Hank Koerper, Steve O’Neil, Kathleen Shada, and Brian Steffensen.** Members presents: **Bob Brace, Paul Chace, and Gail Cochlin.**

The Board approved the March 2015 minutes with corrections and the April Treasurer’s report with expenditures.

**Old Business**

**Scott Findlay** has configured a sign-in method for our OneDrive cloud storage that does not allow deletion or addition of files. This will allow our files to be more accessible

**New Business**

Nametags will be made for new PCAS Board members. **Paul Chace** noted that the 2016 Society for California Archaeology (SCA) Meeting in Ontario will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the SCA. He urged PCAS to take an active role in this meeting emphasizing that PCAS was formed before SCA. Additionally, the late Roger Desautels, a PCAS member, really began contract archaeology with the first CRM firm. The Board was informed that **Willa Clausen** passed away. PCAS outreach to Garfield Elementary will be June 15, and we will again use the Garfield Community Center.

**Joe Hodulik’s** Donation-Award table brought in \$107 for the Scholarship fund at the April meeting! Field Trips Co-Chair **Steve Dwyer** discussed the April field trip to the east Mojave Desert. **Scott Findlay** announced a May field trip to the Newberry Springs area. PCAS Quarterly 51(2) was prepared for mailing before this Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

**MAY CURATION WORKDAY**

**When: May 16, 2015, 1 pm**

**Where: Red Car Building**

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact **Mark Roeder** (714-299-4150, [curator@pcas.org](mailto:curator@pcas.org)) or **Scott Findlay** (714-342-2534, [fieldtrips@pcas.org](mailto:fieldtrips@pcas.org)) for directions, and let us know you will be coming.

## DIG THIS...



### Exhibits

***Spider Woman's Legacy: Navajo Rugs and Textiles.*** San Bernardino County Museum, through August 23. Fee: varies. Information: [www.sbcounty.gov/museum](http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum).

***Adams, Curtis, and Weston: Photographers of the American West.*** Bowers Museum, May 16 through November 29. Fee: varies. Information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org).

### Lectures

***An Archaeology of Everyday life in Ancient Jordan,*** by Dr. Alan Farahani. A part of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Open House. Lenart Auditorium, UCLA, May 2, 2:30 pm. Free (parking \$12). Information: [www.ioa.ucla.edu](http://www.ioa.ucla.edu).

***Medicine Wheel Astronomy of the Rocky Mountain Steppes,*** by Dr. Ivy Merriot. San Diego Archaeological Center, May 9, 11 am–noon. Fee: \$5; members free. Information: [www.sandiegoarchaeology.org](http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org).

***Wadi el-Jarf, Harbor of King Khufu on the Red Sea Coast,*** by Dr. Gregory Marouard (University of Chicago), an ARCE lecture. Bowers Museum, May 9, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org) or 714-567-3677.

***Birthplace of Humanity,*** by Eric Scott (Curator of Paleontology). San Bernardino County Museum, May 9, 2 pm. Information: [www.sbcounty.gov/museum](http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum).

***Adams, Curtis, and Weston: Photographers of the American West,*** by Arthur Ollman (Director Emeritus, School of Art, Design and Art History, San Diego State University, and Chairman, Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography), exhibit Opening Day Lecture. Bowers Museum, May 16, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$8; members and paid admission free. Tickets and information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org).

### Lectures (continued)

***Hatshepsut: How a Woman Ascended the Throne of Ancient Egypt,*** by Kathlyn (Kara) Cooney, Ph.D. (UCLA), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, May 17, 2 pm. Fee: \$5; students and members free. Information: [www.aia-oc.org](http://www.aia-oc.org).

***Project Archaeology,*** by Anne Marie Cox (archaeologist, educator). A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society lecture, Portola Community Center, 45-480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, May 21, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: [www.cvarch.org](http://www.cvarch.org).

### Classes, Meetings, and Events

***Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Open House*** will be held May 2, 1–4 pm, with open laboratories and archives. Fowler Building, A level, UCLA. Free (parking \$12). Information: [www.ioa.ucla.edu](http://www.ioa.ucla.edu).

***Presidio Tour with Richard L. Carrico.*** The tour sponsored by the San Diego Archaeological Center will meet at the Serra Museum. May 16, 10 am–noon. Fee: \$20 (members \$15). Reservations (limited space): Cara Ratner, [cratner@sandiegoarchaeology.org](mailto:cratner@sandiegoarchaeology.org) or 760-291-0370. Information: [www.sandiegoarchaeology.org](http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org).

***Malki Fiesta,*** a day-long celebration will honor Native American veterans. Food, entertainment (Cahuilla Bird Singers), and demonstrations will be held at the Malki Museum, May 24, 10 am–4 pm. Free. Information: 951-849-7289 or [www.malkimuseum.org](http://www.malkimuseum.org).

Visit [www.pcas.org](http://www.pcas.org) for all the latest news.

***Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to [newsletter@pcas.org](mailto:newsletter@pcas.org).***

## PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for PCAS outreach to Garfield Elementary School on June 15 (8:30 am–1 pm) and for From Dinosaurs to People at the Heritage Museum of Orange County on July 19 (11 am–4 pm). Contact **Scott Findlay** ([vicepresident@pcas.org](mailto:vicepresident@pcas.org) or 714-342-2534) to volunteer or for more information. No experience necessary!



### PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

**June 11, 2015**

**George Kline**

*The Newly Discovered Archaeology of the Chuckwalla Valley in Eastern Riverside County*

**No lecture meetings in July and August**

**September 10, 2015**

**Dr. Jerry D. Moore**

*The Prehistory of Home*

**October 8, 2015**

**Dr. Michael A. Glassow**

*Prehistory of the Northern Channel Islands: Recent Insights*

## 2015 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
*President	Megan Galway	president@pcas.org	714-539-6354
*Vice-President	Scott Findlay	vicepresident@pcas.org	714-342-2534
*Secretary	Brian Steffensen	secretary@pcas.org	714-348-9179
*Treasurer	Rene Brace	treasurer@pcas.org	714-544-6282
*Field Trips Co-Chair	Stephen Dwyer	fieldtrips@pcas.org	714-969-1911
*Historian/Librarian/Archivist	Jane Gothold	librarian-archivist@pcas.org	562-947-6506
*Native American Liaison	Steve O'Neil	nativeamericanliaison@pcas.org	949-677-2391
*Quarterly Editor	Hank Koerper	publications@pcas.org	714-633-9287
*Voting member	Kathleen Shada	kathleenshada@pcas.org	714-381-8182
Curator	Mark Roeder	curator@pcas.org	714-299-4150
Donation-Awards Coordinator	Joe Hodulik	donation-awards@pcas.org	949-300-1864
Field Trips	Scott Findlay	fieldtrips@pcas.org	714-342-2534
Historian/Librarian/Archivist	Jane Gothold	librarian-archivist@pcas.org	562-947-6506
Membership	Megan Galway	membership@pcas.org	714-539-6354
Newsletter Editor	Sherri Gust	newsletter@pcas.org	714-245-0264
Programs Co-Chair	Joe Hodulik	programs@pcas.org	949-300-1864
Programs Co-Chair	Brian Steffensen	programs@pcas.org	714-348-9179
Publicist	Joe Hodulik	publicity@pcas.org	949-300-1864
Refreshments	Gail Cochlin	refreshments@pcas.org	714-745-0815
Scholarship	Megan Galway	scholarship@pcas.org	714-539-6354
Website	Rene Brace	info@pcas.org	714-544-6282

\*PCAS Board Member

## PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2015 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

*I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**Membership** (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member - \$45
- Family Membership - \$50
- Supporting Member\* - \$55
- Donor Member\* - \$75
- Lifetime Member\* - \$1000

\* May be individual or family membership

**Subscription Only**

- Quarterly* - \$40
- Newsletter* - \$20
- Student Associate - \$10 (email Newsletter only)

**Scholarship Fund**

- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form with payment to:**

**PCAS Membership  
PO Box 10926  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926**

[www.pcas.org](http://www.pcas.org)