

Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."



The monthly publication The Sound of the Baskervilles A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980 Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA



Join Us May 6 for the **Annual Wreath Throw**

"It was on the third of May" that Holmes and Watson arrived in Meiringen and the catastrophe at Reichenbach was played out.



In the early years, our re-enactment Reichenbach Falls occurred at various waterfalls on Mt. Rainier including Myrtle Falls (above).

Our Annual Wreath Throw—to mourn Holmes' "death" and celebrate the fact that he never really diedis Saturday, May 6.

Meet in the park south of Falls Terrace Restaurant along the Deschutes River in Tumwater at 11:30 a.m. and we'll walk from

of the events at there to the Falls for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toast.

> Lunch follows (about 1:00 p.m.) at Falls Terrace Restaurant.

We'll also remember our fellow SOBs who have passed on before us. Here's a partial list of those we've lost over the past 30 years:

- Will Crakes
- Gerrie Kasper
- Samuel Fry
- Michael Doyle
- John Nelson
- Stu Shiffman
- Don Mathews
- Joyce Funk
- Ignacio "Nacho" Ospina

Driving directions to the **Annual Wreath Throw**:

- If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW north (straight) for about one block to Tumwater Falls Park, just south of The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your right.
- If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103; stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (which takes you back over I-5). Turn right onto Boston St SE, then left onto Deschutes Way SW. Tumwater Falls Park is south of and just beyond The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your left.

In Honour of Our Study of

SPEC...A Quiz on

"The Adventure of the Speckled Band" By: SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir)

- 1. What was it that allowed Watson to finally tell this story?
- 2. Name the client, the client's sister and the name of their domicile!
- 3. Who recommended the client to Holmes and why was he recommended?



- 4. Name the villain who bent fireplace pokers, and what crime he had committed in India!
- How did the client's mother die?
- 6. What two wild animals roamed freely over the property of the villain?
- Name the client's aunt!
- When the villain burst into 221B, what three epithets did he accuse Holmes of being?
- 9. What was the make of Watson's revolver?
- 10. Name the Inn where Holmes and Watson stayed after exploring the villain's property!
- 11. Holmes recalled two doctors who were executed for poisoning people. Name them!
- 12. How did Holmes describe the fate of a schemer of violence?

Answers to this Quiz may be found on Page 5.

Volume 36 Issue 5 May, 2017

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The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!

Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

Please Note:
Standard distribution of our monthly newsletter is by email! Those with

NO email and those who "opt out" of receiving Ineffable Twaddle by email will continue to receive it by snail-mail!!!

If you need to make a change, please contact Editor Terri:

<u>Call</u>: (253) 460-2753 <u>Email</u>: terri@soundofthe baskervilles.com

Are Your Dues Paid?

Don't let your membership in The SOBs lapse!!
Payment of dues for the April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 fiscal year are now overdue.
Mail your check today to Treasurer Hank Deck 1806—177th Street Court East, Spanaway, WA 98387 \$20 for individual membership; \$30 for a family!!

And, thank you!!

Cheetahs and Baboons as Pets, Oh My!!

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (driving directions at left).

As we SOBs continue our chronological journey through the Holmes Canon, the third story we'll consider is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band".

We've moved this story forward two months (in front of our 2-meeting review of "STUD")—because, sadly, our speaker, SOB Francis Bond, will leave us in July to return to his home across the Pacific (though he <u>did renew</u> his dues!)!! Did we mention that Francis works in the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore?

Says Francis: "I plan to give both a talk on the annotation work I am doing (marking words with their meanings) and how this shows differences across languages (using examples from SPEC); afterward, I'll go through a talk on SPEC itself."

Set in early April 1883, in this tale, Holmes has yet to reach the age of 30 and his relationship with Watson is still in its infancy!

If you have a favourite snack or non-alcoholic beverage you'd like to share, please feel free to bring it along! As this could be Francis' last meeting with us for quite a while, please join us in May to wish him adieu!!!

A Toast to the Creeping Man

As presented by SOB Club Lending Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve at our Masters' Celebration on March 11, 2017:

This is not my favorite story
But in a way I can relate
The quest for eternal youth

Is one way to alter fate.
Professor Presbury knew
Alice Morphy
The daughter of his friend.
When it came to courting her
He had lots of pounds to spend.
So he contacted the man in
Prague, Lowenstein was his
name

From making elixirs for youth Came his claim to fame. Serum of anthropoid, Oh My! Really—a black-faced langur? Taken every nine days as directed
Filled the man with strength and anger.
Good old Roy the wolfhound
He knew that something was strange.
When Presbury started to provoke him
Very soon he broke his chain

Presbury's throat was nearly torn open.
Watson lessened the mess
A first class surgeon should be called, he said
But then Presbury would have to confess.

So, a lesson for us older folks Who might like from age to escape

We'd run the risk of the creeping man
And turn into an ape!



SOB AI Nelson Catches Us Up on His Sunday Times Reading!

• A Review of Michael Sims' Arthur & Sherlock: Conan Doyle and the Creation of Holmes, excerpted from "Meet Sherrington Hope", London Times, 2/18/2017

Every devotee of Sherlock Holmes knows that it wasn't Arthur Conan Doyle who gave him his signature deerstalker. It was Sidney Paget, in his unforgettable illustrations of the great detective for The Strand Magazine...Holmes sported a top hat, or perhaps a bowler, when wearing his Inverness cape against the London fog and drizzle. He was always a gentleman, albeit a bohemian one...He was always a patriotic Briton, as was his bluff, tweedy, no-nonsense creator, Conan Doyle; not an intellectual, and certainly not a sensitive arty type, but surely a genius.

Continued on Page 5



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Posits SOB Cameron Brandon: In the TV series on FX called "Fargo", Martin Freeman played one of the main characters during

season 1. It's an excellent series that chronicles true-life "deception, intrigue and murder in and around frozen Minnesota", replete with Martin doing his Midwest accent. While Freeman doesn't appear in season 2, episode 9 is presented in a slightly different manner, showing an old book on a shelf



entitled "The History of True Crime in the Midwest". As the book opens, we hear an awfully familiar narrator's voice with a British accent reading from the book, where "Readers will note that I have chosen to file this case as a Minnesota crime, even though most of the murders took place in North and then South Dakota." ■ During a climactic scene in the episode, a gunfight ensues at a hotel, with room #221 conveniently behind one of the antagonists. I wonder how many viewers caught these Sherlock Holmes Easter eggs, tion for the episode?

- ⇒ From SOB Larry Raisch: My daughter has invited me to attend this not-quite-a-locked-room adventure. I thought you and the other tell you that the people who took over Undershaw to transform SOBs might be interested. Try this link: https://epicteamad ventures.com/experience-real-life-mystery-adventure-scotland-yardbaker-street-affair. It takes you to info on an event that's coming up at the Hyatt Hotel in Seattle on Saturday, May 20, 2017. There will be six (6) 2-hour time slots to choose from, in which teams of 4 can participate in the "Scotland Yard Baker Street Affair" puzzle. It took some digging, but the cost is \$200 per team and only one team member needs to buy that ticket (not \$200 per person!!).
- ⇒ Seen by SOB Cara Cross: Was perusing the current "Bas Bleu" catalogue (Vol. 358, Spring 2017) and reading the review of The Other Daughter by Lauren Willig (2016, pb, \$15.99). Was surprised and pleased to see the review was written by none other than our own SOB Lauren Stevens!!
 - ⇒ Seen in AAA of Washington's Journey magazine: June 9 through 11 are the dates for 2017's "The Brass Screw Confederacy" Steampunk event in Port Townsend, WA. For the uninitiated, Steampunk works—performance, music, art, fashion,

cosplay—are often set in an alternative history of the 19th century's British Victorian era or American "Wild West", but it's always fun! For more go to: brass-screw.org or call (360) 896-2695.

⇒ From our friends at MX Publishing: Now in its 3rd year, The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories—Part VI: 2017 will debut on May 22 with the first of two volumes for this year. The 35 stories in this volume bring the total number of stories and participating authors to more than 100. All royalties from this collection are being donated for the benefit of maintaining Undershaw. Hardback \$48.95; paperback \$34.95.

Calling all Writers, Puzzlers, Poets, Illustrators, Scribblers, Cooks and Jokesters! Serious or silly, it's all good!

Do you want to see your essay, story, review, pastiche, cartoon or research work published?



- To appear in our monthly newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, you're encouraged to limit essays, stories, reviews to 300 words or less. Submissions are taken throughout the year.
 - For mention in the "Things to See, Buy, Do & Know" column, send your news and the Editor will adapt as needed.
- Watch this space in July for details on appearing in our 2018 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual.

Please send queries and submissions to Editor Terri Haugen or Associate Editor Lauren Messenger at:

terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com

- with Martin being curiously chosen to do the Watson-esque narra- > Speaking of Undershaw (see last item at left): Joe McDonald, a pal of Al & Margaret Nelson's in Haslemere, England, provides an update on Doyle's former home—"I'm delighted to it into a school for children with learning difficulties have made a brilliant job of it. It seems to me everything that Doyle might have aspired to for it. The owners, who have invested some millions of pounds into it, are now talking about exploiting the facilities to improve its local profile, and are in discussions about having a Doyle weekend in 2018, perhaps in the month of May, not unlike the one which I promoted 5 years ago. Although it's still very early days yet, I'm sure many SOBs will be interested. When I know more, I'll update you."
 - ⇒ From Peter Blau of the Spermaceti Press: Spanish artist Iñaki Aliste Lizarralde has prepared a colorful floor plan for 221B Baker Street as seen in the BBC television series "Sherlock". And, thanks to SOB Margaret Nelson for the visual:

⇒ Says PFL David:

· We all know that Nigel Bruce played Watson to Basil Rathbone's Holmes. I believe that I have determined where his first name came



from. King Robert the Bruce had a brother and his name was Sir Nigel Bruce. Unfortunately, in 1306 he was captured by the British on his wedding day when they stormed the castle he was in. He was later executed. • To hear Cumberbatch read 4 new Sherlock railroad mysteries, go to YouTube and search on: "Audiobook: Benedict Cumberbatch Sherlock Holmes (FULL) by K D"





Travels with Dottie

Here's news from our Massachusetts connection, SOB Dorothy Normandin! She's been with us for 12 years, but other than annual holiday cards, this is her second report for Twaddle! (She is a frequent attendee at the BSI Weekend, however!)



Last spring (2016), a friend and I spent a week at Walt Disney World in Florida. On arrival, our first stop was World Showcase in Epcot—always a favourite of mine; where else can you go "around the world" in a day?! In the United Kingdom Pavillion, I was surprised to see a nice display of "Sherlock" items. First purchase of the trip: A "221B" shirt! (See photo.)

In September—the 9th to the 12th—I attended "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" convention in Chautauqua, NY, hosted by the BSI. It was set on the beautiful grounds of Chautauqua Institution.

Most events were presented at the Athenaeum Hotel,

which opened in 1881 and was among the very earliest buildings to be lighted by electricity. Being quite grand (see photo), it certainly was an appropriate setting for the conference. Included in



the presentations were such diverse topics as: "The Intriguing Vernet Family"; "Sherlock Holmes in the Trenches"; "A Photographic History of the BSI"; "Ships, Boats and the Canon"; and many others. There were also showings of Eille Norwood silent films and the Gillette "Sherlock Holmes".

The weekend also included private cocktail parties with residents of Chautauqua, wine tasting and a lake cruise aboard the Chautauqua Belle paddleboat. Plenty of time was provided for socializing too. (A copy of the Conference Programme is offered by the BSI at: http://www.bakerstreet journal.com/sherlock2016p.html.)



Many attendees also journeyed to Lilly Dale in southwest New York State. Founded in 1880, it's the world's largest center for philosophy, science and religion of Spiritualism, and their library includes books by Sir Arthur. We enjoyed

Mark your Calendar now for these upcoming events!



The SOBs' 21st Dr. John H. Watson Picnic

• Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017

• Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Seahurst Park, on Puget Sound, Burien
 No cost, just a potluck, games and fun!



The Stormy Petrels of BC are turning 30, SOBs are invited to help them celebrate!

- Date: Saturday, September 16, 2017
- Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30.
- Location: The Billy Bishop Pub (Legion), 1407 Laburnum Street, Vancouver; www.billybishoplegion.org; (604) 568-4130; west of Downtown Vancouver, across the Burrard Bridge; west on Cornwall, north on Laburnum
- Cost: \$30 CDN per person—payable at the door—for lunch and swag!
- RSVP: To Fran Martin at: franziskah@shaw.ca for more info and pre-registration by August 1st.
- Accommodation: Staying overnight? Consider the Century Plaza Hotel, 1015 Burrard Street; (604) 683-1399; centuryplazahotel.reservations.com.



The Geologists are Coming...Again!!!

The Geological Society of America's annual meeting is in Seattle October 22 to 25, 2017.

The Sherlockian subgroup "The Practical but Limited Geologists" will hold its semi-annual social as well—joined by The SOBs!

- Date: Wednesday, October 25th, 2017
- Time: 7 p.m. no-host cocktails 8 p.m. no-host dinner
- Location: Elephant & Castle Pub & Restaurant, 1415 Fifth Avenue, Seattle

All are welcome, no RSVP required



The SOBs Host the 3rd International Sherlockian Summit in Mt. Vernon!

- Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017
- Time: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Location: Skagit River Brewery, 404 S. 3rd St, [360] 336-2884), Mt Vernon, WA. (http://www.skagit brew.com)

All are welcome, no RSVP required

southwest New York State. a tour of the grounds and lecture by Joseph Nickell—the Founded in 1880, it's the world's only full-time professional paranormal investigator.

world's largest center for The Sherlock Holmes Birthday Weekend in New York City is philosophy, science and always great! This year at the Gaslight Gala, I ran into fellow religion of Spiritualism, and SOB Stu Nelan! It's good to see another SOB on this coast! their library includes books (Actually we have many SOBs "over there", Dottie!!)

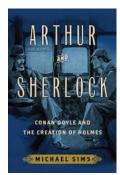
Happy Spring to all! —Dottie



... Nelson Catches Us Up on His Sunday **Times Reading!**

Continued from Page 2

Michael Sims' Arthur & Sherlock seeks to follow the clues and trace the evolution of Holmes in Doyle's imagination...The book is brimful of these kind of Holmesian arcana and minutiae. It also works as a sketchy biography of the young Doyle and how he found his way in the world, from his beginnings as a poor but hard-working Scottish doctor to a highly acclaimed writer of irresistible tales of crime, travel and adventure.



We learn much about Doyle's favourite reading...Sir Walter Scott...Edgar Allan Poe...Wilkie Collins...and Charles Dickports and ghoulish accounts of grisly murders.

wanted to do it differently, scientifically—and he wasn't going to give his creation a giveaway name as Dickens liked to. planning to launch a range of Doyle merchandise. No Inspector Sharp or Ferret, he joked. He found the name Sherlock in the stories of Sheridan Le Fanu, among other have neglected their marketing opportunities. If you are places. The detective's original name for a while was Sherrington Hope, which as a certain ring to it. John Watson for a time was Ormond Sacker, which would have been disastrous. Sounds like a con man from Kansas City.

But the greatest inspiration for Holmes, as we all know, was his teacher at Edinburgh medical school, Dr. Joseph Bell, whose method of diagnosis by startlingly close observation cial Dulux range. Or perhaps that wasn't your first thought? of his patients meant, for instance, that he could deduce that one of them worked in a linoleum factory across the Firth from her posture, the calluses on her hands and the traces of mud on her shoes and clothing.

Sims' brief book doesn't cover everything. There is no mention of Mycroft Holmes, Moriarty or Mrs. Hudson. However, Arthur & Sherlock does offer intriguing insights into Holmes' evolution, and still portrays what a decent, admirable figure a "man of the Victorian age" often was.

This short study is a stimulating contribution to our neverending fascination with Sherlock Holmes himself and, even more perhaps, his genial creator.

• Editorial, "Sherlock's creator in grab at limelight", London Times, 3/5/2017

Sherlock Holmes is often pictured in his famous deerstalker but fans of his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, may soon be wearing their own tribute homburgs.

The adventures of the great detective live on and now the writer's heirs have launched their own battle to boost recognition of Doyle. They claim that the author has largely been forgotten in favour of his greatest creation.

Descendants of the Edinburgh-born writer have applied to the Intellectual Property Office to register the author's likeness and name for a range of goods, from bow ties to whisky

and even fountain pens.

Richard Pooley of Conan Doyle's estate, said, "Our strategy is to make the world take more notice of Sir Arthur himself and all those other characters he created. As wonderful as Holmes and Watson are, he wrote some extremely interesting other stories and led an extraordinary life. So we are trying in a sense to 'rebrand'



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself." An application has been published in the Trade Mark Journal for nine categories, from fob watches to walking sticks to cigars. Pooley said, "The deerstalker was never in his books, but Sir Arthur wore a homburg."

You would think that creating Sherlock Holmes would be ens—who like Doyle was always fond of reading crime re- legacy enough, but the heirs of Sir Arthur are keen to remind us that he also wrote plays, invented the angry scientist Pro-Much as he respected his predecessors, though, Doyle fessor Challenger, and produced an account of the Boer War after serving in his forties as an army doctor. His family is

With some obvious exceptions, authors and their estates looking for a Bleak House, there is already a Somerset estate agent called Charles Dickens. But where are the Hercule Poirot moustache care kits? The Mr. Darcy range of ridiculously tight trousers? Some ideas suggest themselves. There are obvious business opportunities in the work of EL James, author of Fifty Shades of Grey. Her readers might like a spe-

Ed. Note: The Conan Doyle Estate's website (http:// conandoyleestate.com/about) asks, "Inspired by what you see? Interested in aligning your brand or product with the legendary Conan Doyle? Contact the Family Estate."

Answers to Quiz on "SPEC" on Page 1

12. The schemer falls into the pit which he digs for another.

11. Palmer and Pritchard.

10. The Crown.

An Eley's No. 2.

Yard Jack-in-office.

Holmes, the meddler; the busy-body; and the Scotland

7. Miss Honoria Westphail.

A cheetah and a baboon.

2he was killed in a railway accident.

4. Dr. Grimesby Roylott; he beat his native butler to death.

Mrs. Farintosh; Holmes had recovered her pearl tiara.

Helen Stoner, Julia Stoner; Stoke Moran.

to keep it secret.

The untimely death of the woman to whom he promised





The Sound of the Baskervilles

By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980 Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

President: David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC

Vice President: Kashena Konecki (konecki@gmail.com) Treasurer: Hank Deck (spanawaydeck@yahoo.com)

Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Board Member Emeritus: Al Nelson (ahnelson3@outlook.com)
Lending Librarian: Sheila Holtgrieve (sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)
Program Manager: Margie Deck (thepawkypuzzler@yahoo.com)
Webmaster: Shannon Wallace (shannonraewallace@gmail.com)
Sunshine Chair: Pat McIntosh (magnoliamci@centurylink.net)

Direct correspondence to: The Sound of the Baskervilles 6710 – 51st Street Court West University Place, WA 98467-2287

Phone: (253) 460-2753

Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com Website: http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Member News & Notes



Annual Wreath
Throw!
Saturday, May 6, 11:30
a.m. at Tumwater
Falls Park,
Tumwater, WA
Lunch follows at 1:00
p.m. at Falls Terrace
Restaurant.

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, May 21, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle See details on Page 2.

See Page 1.

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, June 18, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, July 16, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle SOBs attending our April 23, 2017 Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

Sheila Holtgrieve
Lauren Messenger
Cameron Brandon
Airy Maher
Shannon Wallace
Melinda Michaelson
Kashena Konecki

Francis Bond
Terri Haugen
Lauran Stevens
Margaret Nelson
Margie Deck
Margie Deck
Pat McIntosh
Chris "Bear" Berwald
Sonia Fetherston, BSI

• Larry introduced us to more of the Raisch clan, Larry, Jr and his affianced Malka! ★ Sonia brought guest/hubby Ben again! We need to see more of them! ★ Hank gave his annual report on our financial situation. We're on the right path now thanks to his efforts and those of all the many SOBs who've made contributions to our treasury!! During discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that Haugens receive going-forward only direct reimbursement for the \$12.95 monthly fee they pay to our internet host.★ We recently got to have great chats with new Grandma SOB Becky Geis, who's relocated to Vancouver, WA, and Dr. Ed Funk who's in good humour, good health, very active and still driving...at 93, on his next birthday!

The Sound of the Baskervilles

...is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980. \$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados. Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own." —Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

In 2016 a change was made to the SOB Club Lending Library. Instead of trying to have a little bit of everything for everyone, its emphasis is now upon that of a *Research Library*.

If you want to lead a story discussion, you can check out the <u>Annotated Sherlock Holmes</u>. If you want to know what the newspapers were saying about Doyle or Sherlock Holmes back in the day, we have both current volumes of <u>Sherlock Holmes</u> and <u>Conan Doyle in the Newspapers</u>. If you're going to be on our Watson Society Treasure Hunt in 2017, there's lots to choose from in doing your research!

Contact me for our current list of items available or view it on our website at: http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/news/library/

SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve (206) 284-2045 sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com



More New Members!! Joining us in late April:

- ♦ Cliff McIlnay of San Diego, CA, a pal of east coast SOB Charlie Cook's, who's gifting Cliff membership this year!!
- ♦ And rejoining us after a year's absence is Catherine Bancroft of Tacoma, WA!

 Welcome to you both!!