



APRIL 2015

PCAS NEWSLETTER

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.pcas.org

Volume 54 Number 4

ISSN 0270-6776

APRIL PCAS SPEAKER

Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky

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

A handful of key events in our prehistory drive much archaeological research. Among these the origin of our earliest ancestors, the appearance of modern humans, and the transition from hunting and gathering to agriculture, and the rise of socio-political complex societies are among the most significant. And among these, the transformation to agriculture is the most remarkable event in human prehistory. While the Iron Curtain significantly hindered scientific archaeological investigations in former Soviet republics making it difficult to conduct any meaningful comparative research between the Southern Caucasus and its neighboring regions, with

(Continued on p. 3)



Areni-1 Cave site.

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky, for dinner before the April 9 meeting at 6 pm at Mimi's Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Free and Open To the Public

April 9 - 7:30 pm

Speakers: Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky

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

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

April 16 - 7:00 pm

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 March Speaker Notes
- 3 April Field Trip
- 4 Meet Joe Lopez
- 4 A Question Almost Answered
- 5 March Board Meeting Summary
- 5 April Curation Day
- 6 Dig This—Exhibits, Lectures, and more
- 7 Speaker Schedule

PCAS SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are due by April 30.

See www.pcas.org.

MARCH SPEAKER NOTES

Ethics and Adventure: Publishing *Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region*

By Megan Galway

Steve Freers led us through the development and publication of *Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region*. This recent volume, coauthored by Freers, Don Christensen, and Jerry Dickey, documents many years of research in the canyon. Freers spoke of the struggle to balance the ethics of maintaining the confidentiality of the sites against the release of valuable information to both archaeological professionals and the general public. They were successful in relating the sites to their place in the overall landscape while avoiding specific site locations. He noted that the Grand Canyon is a multifaceted landscape with dramatic weather conditions and has long been utilized by Native Americans for both resources and as a spiritual location. The Grand Canyon area encompasses 1,904 square miles and is visited by around 4 million tourists a year. The majority of these tourists stick to the improved trails and public areas and are unaware of the many archaeological sites which have been documented.

Members of the trio had been working in the area since 1987 when Christensen worked under the auspices of the American Rock Art Research Association and the Arizona Strip BLM. Christensen and Dickey began working together in 1995, and Freers joined them in 1997. Early results of their study had been presented at a number of events, and Freers noted they were excited to receive interest from the History Channel until they discovered the show involved was *Ancient Aliens*. The possibility of a book was considered at the prompting of a Grand Canyon archaeologist. Ongoing reports have been provided to federal land managers, generating good relationships, and these managers were enthusiastic about the publication. They were kept in the loop as the work progressed and were assured that sensitive site information would be avoided and site confidentiality would be preserved.

In considering the publication the team asked themselves, "If not us, then who?" They knew the information they could provide would be more valuable than less responsible work. The volume would be based on three agency reports, would be directed to both the general public and experts, and would be visually rich. No site names would be given, and geographic references would be avoided. All agencies would see the final draft. By 2003 a digital copy of the work was being presented, and in 2008 Freers worked on the writing and layout of the eventual book. In 2012 a publisher accepted the manuscript, and the book was published in 2013. Freers noted that the manuscript was virtually publication ready when it went to the publisher.

One of Freers' areas of expertise is rock art photography, and he spoke of the difficulty in maintaining natural tones in the printed form. He showed examples of how he



PCAS Program Co-Chair Brian Steffensen and March speaker Steve Freers.

includes color cards in his images to verify the colors in the illustration and noted there is often a definite orange color shift inside rock shelters where many pictographs are found. He also mentioned the value of *DStretch* software in showing pictographs invisible to the naked eye.

As work on the project continued over the years, chronological and cultural styles were further defined by variations in the rock art. The Western Archaic period (5,000–3,000 BC) was identified by generally nonrepresentational images. During the next 2,000 years the population divided into at least five distinct cultural groups, and more representational images appeared. Freers described the differences in zoomorphic images between the Esplanade and Tusayan cultures. In Esplanade panels 25 percent of the images are zoomorphs, generally sheep; the Tusayan images are more often deer, but those are less than 7 percent of the images. Tusayan images also use a maroon paint not seen elsewhere.

Freers spoke of the difficulties of working on the Esplanade, which is a plateau area running below and parallel to the rim. The hike down from the rim can take 2 1/2 hours, and there is limited standing water. There are some springs, but the water has filtered down through limestone and is rarely potable. One of the sites is the spectacular Shamans' Gallery panel of life-sized figures with great attention to detail. This site is well known to the public and described on many websites.

The later Ancestral Puebloans were divided into three cultural groups, the Virgin Anasazi to the north, Kayenta in the east, and the Coconino to the south. Coconino panels, in particular, are at risk of damage from sandstone quarrying activities in the area. These later images tend to be more simple stick figures rather than the detailed full-bodied anthropomorphs of earlier times. Rock art creation continued into the protohistoric period (AD 1250–1776), and pigment sticks and charcoal may be identified in these images.

Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region is an impressive volume, and the story behind its creation was entertaining and enlightening.

April Speaker *(continued from p. 1)*

the fall of the Soviet Union archaeological studies carried out on the territory of the Republic of Armenia in the last 15 years have greatly advanced our understanding of the prehistoric and early historic periods. We are slowly beginning to understand the emergence of agriculture and early sedentism in the Southern Caucasus, particularly Armenia and Georgia. Another important aspect of current research is, undoubtedly, the incorporation of the unprecedented number of findings from paleobotanical and archaeometric analysis into archaeological practices in Armenia, which avails a fundamental revision of previously dominant paradigms about the cultural and natural landscape of the region. Recent investigations also allow for a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between ancient societies and natural environments. All the above-mentioned provide opportunities to describe and interpret the dynamics and mechanisms of the socio-cultural transformations of ancient societies of the Armenian highlands.

Discoveries from the Paleolithic to the Bronze Age provide us with many “missing links” and paint a much more complex and rich picture of prehistoric human habitation in Armenia. The excavations of Neolithic-Chalcolithic sites dated to the first half of the 6th through the 4th millennia BC have provided important information about the socio-economic lifeways of early sedentary agricultural societies in the territory of modern Armenia. Previously unknown “archaeological cultures” and local variants of these cultures have been located in the territories covering the basin of the Araxes River. Although they have many common features with sites located in the Kura basin, the northern slopes of the Taurus range, and western areas of Iran, there are considerable differences in terms of both architectural remains and material assemblages. Archaeological excavations in the past two decades have significantly contributed to our knowledge of prehistoric Armenia, and a new wave of research is now beginning to lay a robust theoretical, chronological, and paleo-environmental foundation for understanding the country’s Stone Age occupation.

Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky is currently a doctoral candidate at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA. Her research interests focus on the prehistoric societies of the Armenian Highlands and Southern Caucasus, namely the early sedentary agricultural societies and their lithic technologies. She uses scientific methods, such as x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, to trace the origin of obsidian artifacts found at the Neo-

lithic site of Masis Blur on the Ararat Plain to elucidate questions of prehistoric mobility and resource utilization and maximization, as well as contact and trade with the inhabitants of nearby regions. She has presented her results both in publications and at international conferences. In addition to her immediate research interests, Ms. Martirosyan-Olshansky is also interested in cave archaeology—human use of caves and artificial cavities, modification of the physical landscape, such as rock-cut tombs, shrines, waterways, and loci of communal gathering and religious activities. To this end, she has conducted several seasons of field research at the Chalcolithic period cave site Areni-1 (Vayoc Dzor Province, Armenia). Her background in Classical languages and literature and Russian language and literature has allowed her to serve as a teaching assistant at UCLA for various courses, including Russian Language for Beginners, Women in Ancient History, Greek Mythology, Ancient Greek Civilization, and Introduction to Archaeology. Since 2008, she has participated in numerous archaeological excavations in Armenia, Israel, and Peru, and she has supervised two field schools in Armenia and one in Peru.

Ms. Martirosyan-Olshansky has been serving as the Field Director of the Masis Blur Archaeological Project in Armenia, where she has been in charge of excavations, laboratory analysis, and day-to-day operations at a Neolithic settlement site. She has also recently accepted the position of the Assistant Director of the Chitjian Archive at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology.

PCAS APRIL FIELD TRIP

April 24–26, 2015

Mojave National Preserve

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 Steve Dwyer (fieldtrips@pcas.org or 714-969-1911) for additional information and to sign up for this field trip.

MEET JOE LOPEZ

Henry C. Koerper

About three quarters of a century ago, in San Mateo Canyon, San Diego County, near the border with Orange County, the operator of a digging machine uncovered between 11 and 13 Universe effigies stacked together at a spot about 650 m away from an Indian village site, CA-SDI-4283. The area was being farmed by Frank Wada, who had hired a young man of Juaneño descent, Joe Lopez, to do some trenching.

Lopez' mechanical equipment damaged most of the effigies. The compromised, chlorite schist artifact to the front and below Lopez' left hand in the photograph of Figure 1 resides today with the LaLonde Collection at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art; the specimen is well illustrated in Koerper and Chace (2009:Figure 5d). The complete chlorite schist disc set against the trunk and forward of the right hand of Wada's



Figure 1. Joe Lopez with Universe effigies.



Figure 2. Universe effigy "handle."

Koerper, Henry C., and Paul G. Chace
2009 The Southern California Universe Effigy. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 41(4):1-26.

employee ended up with the Forster Collection, presently under the care of the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society; it is illustrated in great detail in Koerper and Chace (2009:Figure 3b). Its ornate "handle" is shown in Figure 2.

The photograph of Joe Lopez crouched behind a trunk into which all the effigies were placed for transport is the first published image of the discoverer of what many students of coastal southern California prehistory consider the most remarkable regional cache of Late Holocene magico-religious artifacts ever reported.

A QUESTION ALMOST RESOLVED

Henry C. Koerper

The April 2014 *PCAS Newsletter* invited readers to help identify the relic collector who owned the large outdoor display of coastal southern California artifacts pictured in Figure 1. Penciled on the cardboard backing of the old photograph was this somewhat cryptic clue—"San Diego Indian Collection." Was the geographic referent supplying provenance for the collection of Indian artifacts seen in the photo, or rather was it indicating that a collection from the city or county of San Diego had contained the photographic image?

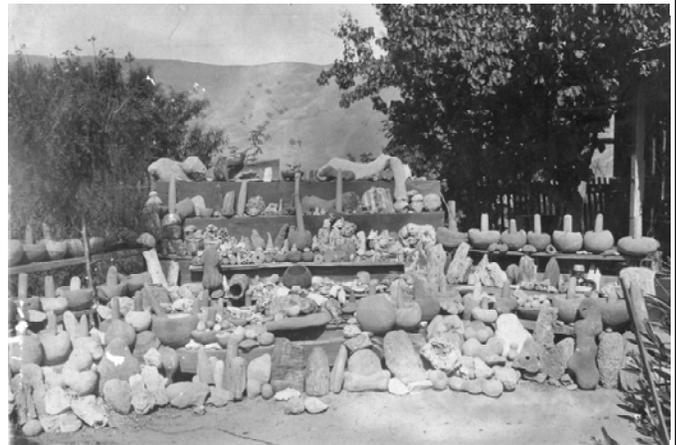


Figure 1. Relic collector's display. Larger photo appeared in the April 2014 *PCAS Newsletter*.

Some amount of sleuthing casts doubt on the idea that the collection shown was of objects accumulated by the Forster family of San Juan Capistrano. None of the artifacts or other items observed in the picture can be matched to materials of known Forster ownership. Also, the larger setting for the display, as it turns out, was most probably not located in the area around Casa Grande, the beautiful home built by Marcos Forster, now gone, but once close to Camino Capistrano, the main road through the town.

The only other large well-known Indian artifact collection in the south Orange County/northern San Diego County region was that of Bill Magee, long time manager of the Santa Margarita Ranch for Jerome O'Neill (see Koerper and Cramer 2011). This celebrated personage was intimately associated with both the San Juan Capistrano and Pala areas.

In the several mid-1930s *Los Angeles Times* articles that Magee's grandson, Bob Stauss, recently furnished me, there is one in which Jane Magee, Bob's mother (Figure 2), is posed with artifacts belonging to her father. Independently, Bob and I recognized that the shelving on which the items sat was similar in construction to what is seen in Figure 1, but more telling, we thought, was that the pestle to Jane's left was seated straight up in its mortar in a manner that appears in many pestle-mortar pairings in the Figure 1 photograph. In other words, these circumstances seem to call out signatures of a particular collector's display

A Question Almost Resolved *(Continued)*

style. Perhaps sand or other material sat at the bottom of the mortar's cavity, thus allowing the pestle to stand vertically rather than sit against the inside wall of the receptacle.

As a point of interest, look at the curved object, once curiously identified as a "crescent grinder," just forward of Jane Magee. It is actually an atulku (see Koerper and Cramer 2011:76–78).

In the mid-1930s Magee was contemplating final disposition of his 40-plus-year accumulation of artifacts. He remarked circa 1935 to a *Los Angeles Times* interviewer, "between myself, Frank Forster, and others I believe we could make a very credible [Mission San Juan Capistrano] display." It is generally supposed that the mission did receive the Bill Magee collection, but its present whereabouts is unknown.

To conclude, the best hypothesis at the moment is that the Figure 1 image relates to the Magee Collection. If objects held by the mission are located that can be documented having Magee provenance, it might then be a simple exercise to match some pieces to items in the photo.

I wish to thank both Pat Forster and Bob Stauss for sharing much useful information.

Koerper, Henry C., and Joe Cramer
2011 A Luiseño Atulku Discovered by Bill Magee.
Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly
44(4):75–84.



Figure 2. Jane Magee in photo from July 3, 1934, *Los Angeles Times* article. Caption reads: *Miss Jane Magee. San Juan Capistrano student, daughter of William Magee, with stone utensils found by Magee at camp sites of old Indian tribes in Orange and San Diego county back country.*

MARCH 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 Gotthold, Hank Koerper, Steve O'Neil, Kathleen Shada, and Brian Steffensen.** Members presents: **Bob Brace and Gail Cochlin.**

The Board approved the February 2015 minutes with corrections and the March Treasurer's report with expenditures.

Old Business

The Board discussed the location for "Dinner with the Speaker" and concluded that menu variety and cost were important factors. For now, Mimi's Café seems to be the best location. Board members are backing up critical files to MS OneDrive, a cloud backup service. **Scott Findlay** will investigate how to make the site available to all Board members.

New Business

Our April speaker had to cancel, but he was able to recommend a Cotsen Institute researcher as a substitute. Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky will speak on "The Way We Were: Researching the Prehistoric Period in Armenia." PCAS outreach to Garfield Elementary will be June 15, and we will again use the Garfield Community Center.

Megan Galway reported that one scholarship application has been received. **Joe Hodulik's** Donation-Award table brought in \$149 for the Scholarship fund! Field Trips Co-Chair **Steve Dwyer** announced an April field trip to the east Mojave Desert. Inventory of curation collection CA-ORA-291 has been completed, and work began on other collections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

APRIL CURATION WORKDAY

When: April 11, 2015, 1 pm

Where: Red Car Building

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

DIG THIS...



Lectures

Rock Art —Cultural Stories from Around the World, by Robin Connors, 10–11 am; **Rock Art in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Beyond**, by Ken Hedges, 11–noon; **Envisioning Rock Art Through the Lens of Ethnography**, by Richard Carrico, 1–2 pm; **The Counsel Rocks Site: An Alternative Interpretation**, by John P Hale, Ph.D., 2–3 pm; **Rock Art Forum**, a discussion of regional rock art culture by archaeologists and rock art experts, 3–4 pm. All at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center, April 11. Free. Information: www.theabf.org/2015-archaeology-weekend.

Neighborhood Negotiations: Identifying Spatial Conflict and Resolution Strategies in Roman Egypt, by Dr. Bethany Simpson (UCLA)), an ARCE lecture. Bowers Museum, April 11, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3677.

Recent Work on the Peruvian Coast, by Charles Stanish, Ph.D. (Director of the Cotsen Institute, UCLA), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, April 12, 2 pm. Fee: \$5; students and members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org.

Fatness and Fertility: The Venus Figurines, by Gregory Erickson. A San Diego Rock Art Association lecture. Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center, Poway, April 12. Potluck 4 pm; presentations 5 pm. Fee: Donation \$5; members free. Information: www.sandiegorockart.org.

Losing Ground: History of the Land Struggles of the Cahuilla Indians, Their Challenges and Hurdles in Proving Land Rights to Water Resources; and the Displacement of San Geronio Pass Cahuilla People in the 19th Century, by Betty Meltzer. A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society lecture, Portola Community Center, 45-480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, April 16, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Cahuilla Net and Cordage Making Class, by Gerald Clarke, Jr. (Cahuilla). A class of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, April 11, 10:30 am–3:30 pm. Fee: \$50; members \$20. Advance registration required: 760-833-8169 or cvictor@accmuseum.org.

12th Annual Archaeology Weekend at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center will include tours of the archaeology lab; basket and pottery displays and sales; demonstration table on native plants for food, medicine, and construction; and field trips. See listing under Lectures for additional information. April 11–12. Free (fee for field trips). Complete schedule and information: www.theabf.org/2015-archaeology-weekend.

The Society for American Archaeology 80th Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco, April 15–19. Information: www.saa.org.

17th Annual Coachella Valley Archaeological Society Symposium will be held at the Pollock Theatre, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, April 18, 9:30 am–3 pm. Free. Information: Dr. Ellen Hardy (760-776-7449) or Leslie Mouriquand (lmouriquand@collegeofthedesert.edu).

The 43rd Annual ARARA Conference will be held at the Colorado Belle Resort and Casino, Laughlin Nevada, May 22–25. Information: www.arara.org.

Websites

The OC Archives holds an abundance of information on Orange County history: ocarchives.com.

Visit 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.

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.



Neolithic site of Masis Blur on the Ararat Plain, 2012.

Come to the April 9th meeting to hear Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky speak on "The Way We Were: Researching the Prehistoric Period in Armenia."

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

May 14, 2015

Dr. Aharon Sasson

June 11, 2015

George Kline

Archaeology of the Chuckwalla Valley

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