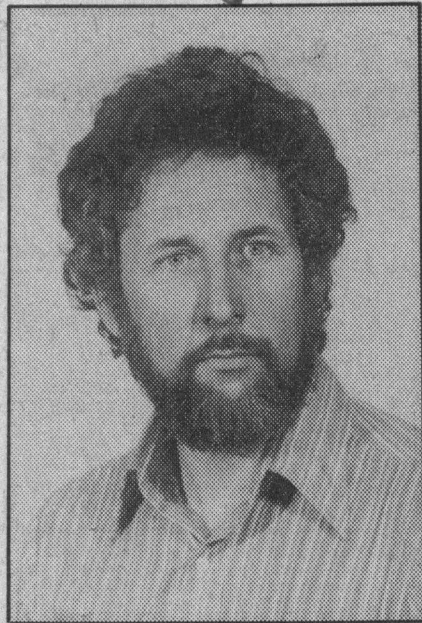


People

Book

Survival in Santa Cruz is Octagon Topic



Sandy Lydon

Friends of the Octagon invite the public to celebrate the "Tradition of Forgetfulness" at their annual dinner on March 25 at Seascape Restaurant.

Sandy Lydon of the Department of History at Cabrillo College, will speak on the fine art of survival in Santa Cruz County. Lydon says the Ohlone Indians probably giggled in the bushes as they watched the Franciscan padres set up Mission Santa Cruz alongside the San Lorenzo River in 1791. That first winter, the river tried to wash the immigrants away by flooding the mission site. Since that time, using storms, floods, droughts and earthquakes, nature has been dring to discouraged people from living in the county.

But, says Lydon, blessed with poor memories and a continuing stream of new immigrants, residents have expressed amazement at each disaster.

Over the years, each community developed a survivalist style, a ritual behavior in the face of disaster. Using slides from his collection of historical photographs, Lydon will give an exposition on the historic tradition of disaster in the county as well as dileaneating the various approaches that each community has adopted to cope with natural calamities.

The evening will be dedicated to the spirit of survival. Each person attending is encouraged to bring stori memorabilia and photos of the Big Ones - Storms of 1862, 1911, 1946, 1955, 1982-83 or earthquakes of 1857, 1868 or 1906. A theory will be examined which will attempt to explain why Santa Cruz County is declared a disaster area more often than Kern County.

The dinner will also honor outstanding contributions to the Octagon Museum. Recipients of

awards will be Rita Bottoms, Betsy Bowen, Jim Franks, Lisa Frogley, Marion Hall, Sharon Maxwell, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz Lumber Company and the Santa Cruz Woman's Club as well as retiring board members Lorraine Boyle, Shirley Gleason and Nancy McNeal.

There will be a no-host cocktail hour from 6 to 7 p.m. Roast beef dinner will be served at 7 p.m. at \$15 a person. Reservations may be made by telephone to the museum, 4757437. Deadline for reservations is Thursday.

Sandy Lydon has been teaching at Cabrillo since 1968. He has been on leave this past year working on a book on the Chinese in the Monterey Bay region. He has written numerous articles on local and regional history and coauthored with Carolyn Swift a history of Capitola.

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