



# MAPOM NEWS



MIWOK ARCHEOLOGICAL PRESERVE OF MARI  
VOLUME XXVII NO. 1 JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 1996

Greetings of the New Year! May you be even healthier, wealthier and wiser in the coming 366! We waited for info on spring classes and the MAPOM Annual Meeting before publishing the News. Sorry we're so late.

## MAPOM'S ANNUAL MEETING

Randy Milliken, author of *A Time of Little Choice* (reviewed below), will be the speaker at MAPOM's annual meeting on Thursday March 21 at 7:15 in the "band room" at Miller Creek Middle School, 2255 Las Gallinas, San Rafael. We will have copies of Dr. Milliken's book available for sale, if you would like a copy autographed.

To reach the lecture site, take the Lucas Valley Road turnoff from Highway 101. This is south of Novato and north of San Rafael.

If you are coming from the north, turn left at the stop sign onto Lucas Valley Road. At the first stop light, turn right onto Las Gallinas. Go one block; just past the stop sign, turn left into the Miller Creek School parking lot. There is an old-fashioned white schoolhouse on the front of the property; the school is behind it. Park in the parking lot and look for the band room.

If you are coming from the south (San Rafael), take the Lucas Valley Road turnoff. At the stop light, turn left (west) onto Lucas Valley Road. At the next stop light turn right

onto Las Gallinas and proceed as above.

MAPOM is noted for having the shortest business meetings in northern California. There will a \$2.00 requested donation.

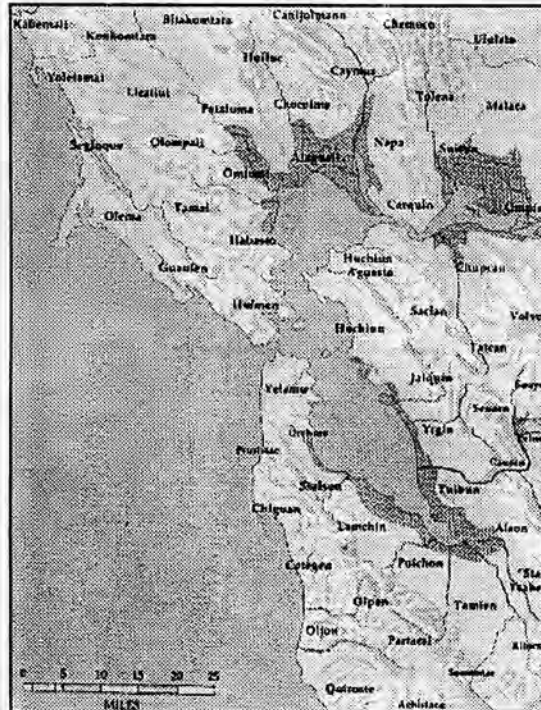
## BOOK REVIEW

### **A TIME OF LITTLE CHOICE: DISINTEGRATION OF TRIBAL CULTURE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA 1769-1810**

Author Randy Milliken has illuminated a fascinating period of history, of very direct interest to anyone intrigued by the history of the Bay Area. I had the privilege of reading his doctoral dissertation, the basis for this book. It covered a time and subject that I am

very interested in; nevertheless, even the best of doctoral dissertations tend to be pretty murky for casual reading. *A Time of Little Choice* is an interesting and very well-written version of his extensive research.

Dr. Milliken constructed a complex data base which included every scrap of information about the Indians baptized at the three missions, Dolores, Santa Clara and San Jose, to which most Bay Area Indians went in the time period he covers. In addition to using baptismal, marriage and death records he drew from many contemporary accounts,



A map from Dr. Milliken's book portrays the dispersion of Bay Area tribal territories prior to the European invasion of the late 18th century.

ports and letters. He reconstructed family relationships and intertribal contacts. He knows enough about local Indian languages, which are nearly unknown today, to identify individuals as to tribe, based on their names.

Using baptismal, marriage and death records from San Jose and Santa Clara missions, as well as Mission Dolores in San Francisco, a variety of communications between priests and military officers as well as eye witness accounts by visiting foreigners, Milliken pieces together the dramatic demise of Bay Area tribes.

Much of this material has been available only in libraries, or was difficult to access because it was in church archives. Understandably, the Catholic Church was not eager to share records which reflected very badly on them. Death rates, particularly of children at the missions, were appalling. Letters from mission administrators confirm that all was not sweetness and light at the missions; rebellion was not unknown and runaway neophytes were punished severely.

The most interesting details for me were the names and specific locations of what the Spanish called "naciones," and anthropologists later called "tribelets." The Indians in Marin, for example, didn't recognize the designation Coast Miwok, which was provided much later by linguists. Neither did they see other groups, speaking Southern Miwok dialects, as closely allied with them. Milliken maps out "tribal regions," drawn from early records. At baptism, neophytes (newly baptized Indians) were recorded as to Indian name, approximate age, Christian name, village of origin and parents' names, among other data. Using the individual's village and deducing the language he/she spoke from the given Indian name, Milliken

lays out approximate boundaries of tribal regions. In Marin for example, the Omiomi lived in what is now the Novato area, the Olompali to the north of them, the Petalumas near the present town so named, the Licatiut to the west of them, the Huimen on the southern Marin peninsula near Richardson Bay, and the Gualen near present day Bolinas. Some tribal names have been carried down in place names; most have not.

At the beginning of each chapter, Milliken provides a chronology of Spanish actions matched with tribal actions at the same date. For example, "in June of 1776, the

Mission of Our Seraphic Father San Francisco was founded in Yelamu lands. The Yelamu people visited the work site until August 12, when they were attacked by the Ssalsons.

"In December of 1776 soldiers killed Yelamu men who threatened them. In the autumn,

Yelamu men return to the mission site and clash with the Spaniards.

"In January 1777, Mission Santa Clara was founded in the Santa Clara Valley. In the spring, three Tamien men were killed by the Spanish soldiers for butchering mules.

"In June, the first Santa Clara baptisms took place during an epidemic. In November, Pueblo of San Jose was founded on the Guadalupe River.

"On June 23, the first baptisms at Mission San Francisco, three young Yelamu men, took place."

The nagging question of why Native American people went to the missions at all has disturbed present day Indians and those who are concerned about the entire picture of Spanish-Mexican-Indian relationships in the 18th and 19th centuries. Dr. Milliken

*The nagging question of why Native American people went to the missions at all has disturbed present day Indians and those who are concerned about the entire picture of Spanish-Mexican-Indian relationships in the 18th and 19th centuries.*



throws some light on this question.

"As the tribal village population declined due to new diseases and migrations to the missions, the people remaining in those villages became vulnerable to attack from stronger groups situated further away from the missions. The more the members of a village group felt vulnerable to attack, the more likely they were to join relatives already at a mission. The anti-mission factions who did not want to emigrate could not protect themselves once the population fell below a certain critical level. That level was probably reached when a tribal population dropped below 50 per cent of its original size. At that point, the option to remain in the homeland ceased to exist. People either moved inland to join relatives in villages of more cohesive neighboring tribes, or they joined their fellow tribespeople at a mission." This extremely important assessment of Mission-Indian relationships should be part of every local historian's library. I cannot recommend it too highly.

Reviewed by Sylvia B. Thalman.

*Milliken, Randall. A Time of Little Choice: The Disintegration of Tribal Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area 1769-1810. Ballena Press, Menlo Park, California, 1995. \$24.95, paper. ISBN 0-87919-131-7. You can purchase this book from Ballena Press Publishers' Services, PO Box 2510, Novato 94948.*

MAPOM will have copies available at Dr. Milliken's lecture on March 21. You may also purchase them by mail from MAPOM. See book list on back page.

## CLASSES

MAPOM's Spring Classes in California Indian Skills will begin Saturday April 13. You should receive your class flyer and application in early March.

We're offering 16 classes, a longer list than ever before. Among them are some old favorites and some brand new classes. Here is the list with a little detail on the new classes.

**April 13. TRADITIONAL USES OF NATIVE PLANTS.** Ann Rovetta.

**April 13. FIRE MAKING.** Steve Edholm and Tamara Wilder.

**April 20. ARROW MAKING.** Joe Dabill.

**April 20. CORDAGE AND NETTING FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PLANTS.** Pegg Mathewson.

**April 27 1-4. STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

**May 4. CLAM DISC BEADS AND ORNAMENTS OF ABALONE.** Don Thieler and Sylvia Thalman.

**May 4 and 5. SINEW-BACKED BOW CONSTRUCTION.** Joe Dabill.

**May 11. MAKING A TULE QUIVER.** Sheila Deeg. NEW CLASS. Students will make a unique Klamath-style tule quiver, patterned after an example in the Phoebe Hearst Museum in Berkeley. The Klamath and Modoc people in far northern California were masters of this technology. This quiver is about 2 1/2 feet long and is made from whole shoot tule in the plain twined technique. There may be time to make a tule hat or a small basket also.

**May 11. SMALL GAME HUNTING TECHNOLOGY.** Steve Edholm and Tamara Wilder. NEW CLASS. The procurement of small game from mice to beavers, is an important part of aboriginal economics. In this seminar we will explore various methods used to catch small animals. Projects will include slings, Paiute deadfalls, quail



*Students in a flintknapping class concentrate amidst the quiet beauty of the Kule Loklo reconstructed village.*

snare, bone gorge hooks, and lizard snare sticks. We will also talk about other methods and spend time setting deadfalls and snares, as well as practice throwing a variety of hunting weapons.

**May 18 and 19. CENTRAL CALIFORNIA SPLIT WILLOW BASKETRY.** Pegg Mathewson.

**May 18. FLINTKNAPPING.** Bill Mulloy

**May 25. PAINTS AND DECORATIONS.** Steve Edholm and Tamara Wilder. **NEW CLASS.** The instructors will talk about and explore the preparation and use of natural mineral pigments, other paints and modes of decoration. Participants will make and decorate digging sticks and paint containers of elderberry wood and practice etching bone. They will also take home mineral pigments and a simple buckskin paint pouch.

**May 25-26. TRADITIONAL FOOD OF CALIFORNIA INDIANS.** Julia Parker. **NEW CLASS.** This introduction to native foods will provide an opportunity to make and eat acorn soup. Each student will participate in all phases of preparation. Manzanita cider and native teas, both medicinal and non-medicinal, as well as other foods will be prepared.

**June 1. SIERRA MEWUK COILED BASKETRY.** Lucy Parker.

**June 1. MAKING A MINIATURE TULE BOAT.** Ann Rovetta.

**June 8. MAKING A TWINED REDBUD BERRY BASKET.** Bev Ortiz.

**June 8. KASHIA POMO MUSIC AND DANCE.** Bev Marrufo and family.

### **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

The Annual Strawberry Festival will take place on April 27 from 1 till 4 at Kule Loklo in Point Reyes National Seashore. This is the traditional blessing of the first fruit, wild strawberries, and celebration of the new year. The dances and prayers of the season will be offered. Guests are encouraged to bring strawberries (Safeway is okay) to be blessed and eaten for the first time of the season. Also bring a picnic lunch and a blanket to sit on. Admission is free. For more information call 415-663-1092.

### **MAPOM COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COAST MIWOK PEOPLE**

We have received several requests for applications for Scholarship Grants for the fall of 1996 school year. Recipients must be members of the Federated Coast Miwok tribe which will confirm their descent from Coast Miwok people living before 1852. Grants are for people of any age living in any part of the United States. However, they must be used at academic institutions in California.

Completed scholarship applications must be received by April 1, 1996. Announcement of awards will be made by June 1, 1996.

Your contributions to this fund are invited. **ALL DONATIONS TO THE NONPROFIT FUND WILL GO TO STUDENTS. MAPOM WILL PAY "ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES" FROM OTHER FUNDS.**

To make donations, or to request application forms, write to MAPOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND, 2255 Las Gallinas, San Rafael CA 94903.



Local dancers at 1995 BIG TIME celebration. Sketch by Sylvia Thalman.

A few of the plants are: redbud, red twig dogwood, incense cedar, hazelnut, manzanita, mountain mahogany, mock orange, cream bush, wild rose, buckeye, yerba santa, douglas iris, Indian hemp, soap root, horsetail, yerba buena, deer grass, sedge (provided by Pegg Mathewson), rush (*Juncus patens*), stipes, purple needle grass, blue lymegrass, oat grass, June grass, bear grass and wild grape. Ya-Ka-Ama is also donating several varieties of oaks and California wildflower seeds.

If you want more information call Mary Bates Abbott (Native California Network) at 707-887-7553

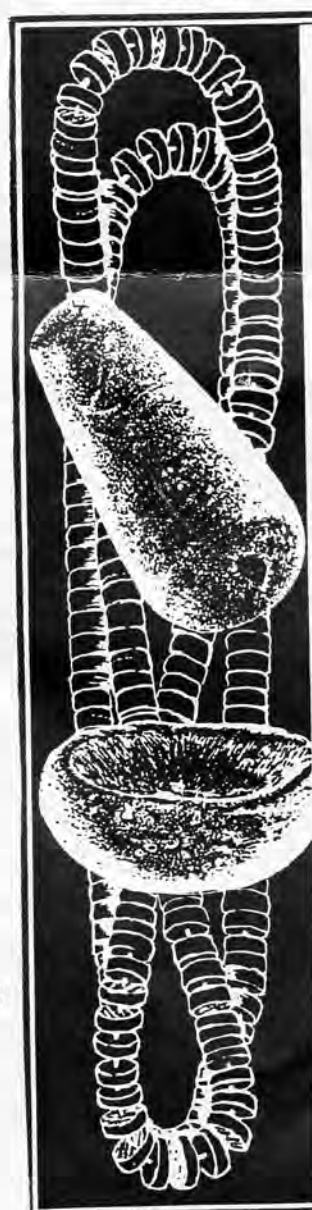
### ANI GRANT FOR FEDERATED COAST MIWOK

The Federated Coast Miwok tribe has recently received an Administration for Native Americans grant of \$98,000 to assist with achieving Federal Acknowledgement as a tribe. The grant will go to pay a director, an historian, a genealogist, an anthropologist with a PhD degree, as well as for other expenses.

### PLANTING BASKETRY PLANTS

The Native California Network recently organized a large scale planting of basketry and food plants on their property in Sebastopol. With the cooperation of Ya-Ka-Ama Indian Cultural Center in Forestville and many individuals, preparation and planting were accomplished. Another planting day is planned.

Basketry plants and food have become less available as weavers were denied old gathering grounds on private property and as government agencies cut or sprayed plants along highways. These new plantings will increase availability of these rare materials.



Point Reyes National Seashore invites you to the

## Kule Loklo Strawberry Festival

Saturday, April 27  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

*Traditional blessing of the first fruit  
and celebration of the new year  
Native American dancing*

- Bring:
- > strawberries
  - > picnic lunch
  - > blanket to sit on

Call (415) 663-1092 for more information.  
Free admission.

## ***SURFING THE NATIVE AMERICAN NET***

MAPOM President Gene Buvelot has a shiny new Macintosh computer which does everything but tie your shoes. On a recent surfing expedition, he found a file from the California Indian Library Project on Coast Miwok Indians. Nothing brand new, but it was organized in a new way. Here's an interesting extract on epidemics.

"During the same year of 1837, Lauff [an early Marin county pioneer from France] witnessed the beginnings of a smallpox epidemic which would, by 1838, achieve devastating proportions.

'In the early part of 1837 a party of Russian soldiers located at Fort Ross became ill with the small pox. The disease broke out among the Indians and before the end of the year over 900 Indians were buried in the rancherees of Marin and Sonoma Counties. The Indians who recovered from the disease were horribly pockmarked and the sufferings of the tribe were terrible. The Indians died so fast that they covered the ground for miles around and the Mexican officers were compelled to have the bodies buried in deep holes and covered over.

'Many of the tribe deserted to San Rafael, going into Sonoma and Napa Counties.

'I was located at Sausalito at the time when I heard that the Indians had contracted smallpox. The Catholic priests worked for days among the poor creatures endeavoring to stamp out the disease. They died in great numbers and Friar Juan Amoroso and Father Juan were compelled to dig trenches and buried the dead. In the camp at the foot of B Street over 500 Indians died from the smallpox and were buried in the block surrounded by Taylor, South C and Bay View Streets.

'When the Indians were at the Mission, they were taught to bathe and keep themselves clean. In the two years they had been away from the Mission they had drifted back

to the old dirty habits, with the result that they died like sheep. ["Blame the victim." sbt]

'I was told by the fathers in charge of the Mission that over 1200 Indians died in San Rafael alone. That they sent Indians to Nicasio where 400 were buried in the rancheree. In Mill Valley over 200 Indians died. In fact it is estimated that nearly 70,000 Indians perished in Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt Counties during the Epidemic.'" (Lauff, "Sketches of Early Days in California," *The Independent*, March 38:2 San Rafael 1916:2.)

"Cook (1949) refers to the particular outbreak of smallpox as the 'Miramontes Epidemic.' He states:

'In late 1837 General Mariano S. [sic] Vallejo sent to Fort Ross a corporal of cavalry named Ignacio Miramontes to bring back a cargo of cloth and leather goods for the troops stationed at Sonoma. When Miramontes and his men returned they also brought with them the smallpox.'" (ibid: 184).

This material is excerpted from Stephen Alan Dietz. *Echa-tamal: a Study of Coast Miwok Acculturation*. San Francisco, CA, San Francisco State University M. A. Thesis 1976, pp. 21-22.

## ***JOB ANNOUNCEMENT***

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is seeking a Naturalist/Park Ranger Assistant. Pay is \$7.73 per hour. He/she will, under supervision, perform park operations, interpretive programs in parks and schools, public contact, information services, work with volunteers, and assist in resource protection. Full time and part time seasonal positions are available. Ability to speak effectively, present a neat personal appearance, work with volunteers, meet and work with public in a pleasant and effective manner required. An A. A. or A. S. degree in natural resource



management, natural science, history, anthropology or other educational experience.

Applicant needs a valid drivers license (Class C or higher) and first aid and CPR credentials within six months of appointment. Ability to perform physical labor such as lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling heavy objects such as trash cans, gates, etc., is necessary.

If you are interested send a resume, cover letter and college transcripts no later than 5:00 p.m. March 15. This must be hand carried to the Effie Yeau Nature Center at 6700 Tarshes Drive, Carmichael, or mailed to Effie Yeau Nature Center, Attn: Nature Center Director, PO Box 579, Carmichael, CA 95609

### **GREG SARRIS AND OTHERS: PROGRAMS ON GRAND AVENUE**

The Santa Rosa Junior College English Department is presenting a series of programs related to the novel *Grand Avenue* by Greg Sarris PhD, past chairman of the Federated Coast Miwok tribe. *Grand Avenue* has been made into a movie for television. Several local Coast Miwok and Pomo people had acting and speaking parts in the film.

March 18. Gaye LeBaron, journalist. *Grand Avenue*, Santa Rosa.

March 25. Greg Sarris, author. *Hearing Stories, Writing Stories: How Grand Avenue Came to Be.*

March 27. A panel discussion: Local Kashiya History and Tradition.

March 29. Paul Arren, film producer: *Author's Experience Into Film.*

April 1. 12 noon and 7 p.m. *Word for Word* Theater Company. *Slaughterhouse*, from the novel.

All programs are in the Newman Auditorium Emeritus Hall at 12 noon unless otherwise stated, and are free. Call 707-527-4351 for more information.

### **A GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

The Associated Student Body of Napa Valley Community College, the Native American Student Council and the Suscol Council (Napa Community Inter-tribal Group) are sponsoring a Gathering of the People on Saturday April 6 from 11 till 6. For more information call Ann Grant or Leoda Brisbon at 707-253-3060.

### **YUBA COLLEGE POW WOW**

Yuba College announces its 15th Annual American Indian Education Pow Wow May 18 from Noon to Midnight. Three drums, crafts and supplies, food booths, exhibits and displays, raffle, youth dance contest. Call 916-749-6195 for more information.

### **LUCY PARKER AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Lucy Parker who has taught classes for MAPOM is available for children's programs in basketry, cordage, toys and games, cultural enrichment and other California Indian skills. She is Sierra Mewuk



Kashia Pomo and Coast Miwok. She can be reached at 619-647-6669. Her address is PO Box 55, Midpines, CA 93545.

**MIWOK ARCHEOLOGICAL PRESERVE OF MARIN 2255 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael CA 94903**

I wish to ( \_\_\_ join) / ( \_\_\_ renew) a MAPOM membership. **Check mail label for dues expiration date**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIPS = FAMILY \$12.00\_\_\_\_, SINGLE \$8.00\_\_\_\_, SENIOR \$5.00\_\_\_\_, STUDENT \$4.00\_\_\_\_.

I have enclosed a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the NATIVE PLANT GARDEN at Kule Loklo.

I have enclosed a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the MAPOM PUBLICATION FUND.

I have enclosed a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the MAPOM COAST MIWOK SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Please send me the following items. All prices include tax. Please add \$1.25 per item for mailing.

**BOOKS**

Thalman: THE COAST MIWOK INDIANS OF THE POINT REYES AREA .....	\$ 6.45
Hellweg: FLINTKNAPPING, THE ART OF MAKING STONE TOOLS .....	\$ 6.40
Peterson & Heidinger: DAWN OF THE WORLD .....	\$ 4.80
Hamm: BOWS & ARROWS OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS .....	\$16.10
Hamm et al: THE TRADITIONAL BOWYERS BIBLE - Volume One .....	\$21.40
Hamm et al: THE TRADITIONAL BOWYERS BIBLE - Volume Two .....	\$22.75
Hamm et al: THE TRADITIONAL BOWYERS BIBLE - Volume Three .....	\$22.00
Goerke & Cowan: THE PACHECO SITE (MARIN-152) .....	\$12.85
Goerke et al: UNCOVERING THE PAST AT COLLEGE OF MARIN .....	\$12.85
Milliken: A TIME OF LITTLE CHOICE .....	\$24.95

**REGULAR GIFT T-SHIRTS - APRONS**

<b>T-Shirt</b> Adult: (Indian dancer) S__ M__ L__ X-L__	
Colors = Navy__ Aqua__	<b>\$12.87</b>
<b>T-Shirt</b> Adult: (Condor design) S__ M__ L__ XL__	
Color = White only	<b>\$12.87</b>
<b>APRON</b> (Indian Dancer design)	
Colors = Navy blue__ Natural__	<b>\$12.87</b>
<b>SWEATSHIRT</b> (Dancer design) adult - M, L, XL,	
Navy Blue__, White__	<b>\$17.50</b>

WE ARE HAVING A SPECIAL SALE OF OUR "BEAD MAKER" T-SHIRTS WITH THE DELIGHTFUL DRAWING BY ED WILLIE. THEY MARKED OUR 15th ANNUAL BIG TIME AT KULE LOKLO. **- GOING FAST AT \$10 (PLUS \$1.25 FOR MAILING) - BE IN VOGUE -**



**MAPOM'S OFFICERS**

President: *Gene Buvelot*, 1025 Susan Way, Novato 94947  
 Vice President: *Young E. Smith*, 2710 Westberry Drive, Santa Rosa 95403  
 Secretary: *Sandra Teller*, 95 Partridge Drive, Novato 94947, (415) 898-3772  
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 Bulletin Editor: *Sylvia Thalman*, 9 Mt. Tenaya Ct., San Rafael 94903 (415) 479-3281



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 VOLUME XXVII NO. 1 JAN - FEB - MARCH 1996



NON-PROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 SAN RAFAEL, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 72

- A TIME OF LITTLE CHOICE - reviewed
- ANNUAL MEETING - MARCH 21, 7:00 PM
- GRAND AVENUE FILM - FEATURE SERIES
- SURFING THE NATIVE AMERICAN NET
- SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES OPEN

GORDON BAINBRIDGE  
 P.O. BOX 2210  
 SAN ANSELMO, CA  
 94979

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