

ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the
SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at
The Marie Irwin Community Center
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

JANUARY - 2021

Monday,
February 1 Officers' Meeting ~ 6:30 PM
Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
Host: Barbara McDonough

Wednesday,
February 17 Dr. Marisa Fontana ~ 7:30 PM
"Identifying Warfare in the
Archaeological Record"

Deadline for material to be included in the next
ArkyFacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.
Contact Susan Saric

For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need because of a disability, contact SSAS President Will Kelley.

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January 2021

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2021 Programming

Our first program of 2021 is now scheduled for Wednesday, February 17. If it's safe to gather, we hope to welcome Dr. Marisa Fontana of North Central College, who will present *Identifying Warfare in the Archaeological Record*. We also hope to hold 2021 officer elections at that time. Please continue to look for programming updates in our monthly newsletters and on our website, *South Suburban Archaeological Society*.

Rock Art Discovery in the Colombian Amazon

A groundbreaking discovery of ancient rock art in the Amazon rain forest of Colombia has led to observers calling this site the "Sistine Chapel of the Ancients." Tens of thousands of paintings of animals and humans created at 10,500 BCE stretch eight miles on cliff faces. Depictions of now extinct animals like the mastodon, camelids, giant sloths, and Ice Age horses tell us the date of these paintings. The rock art will take generations to study.

The discovery was made by a British-Colombian team, funded by the European Research Council. Its leader is José Iriarte, professor of archaeology at Exeter University and a leading expert on the Amazon and pre-Columbian history.

The paintings include fish, turtles, lizards and birds, as well as people dancing and holding hands, among other scenes. One figure wears a mask resembling a bird with a beak. Many of the images are very high up, some so high they could only be reached by drones. Among the images are also depictions of wooden towers. Many of the large animals appear surrounded by small men with their arms raised, almost worshipping the animals. Hallucinogenic plants are portrayed and remains of the Ice Age meals of the inhabitants were found at the site. Some of the animals depicted could not have lived in the jungle, so the area must have been savanna-like at that date.

Many more paintings are waiting to be discovered at the site. They'll be explored when Covid is gone. The discovery was featured in the series "*Jungle Mystery: Lost Kingdoms of the Amazon*," which recently premiered on Channel 4 in the U.K.

The Guardian has the story here with many photos:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/nov/29/sistine-chapel-of-the-ancients-rock-art-discovered-in-remote-amazon-forest>

And here is a short You Tube video of the discovery:

<https://youtu.be/Aaezu7rQwfk>

Mike Ruggeri's Ancient Americas News on Tumblr

<http://michaelruggerianciantamericas.tumblr.com>

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SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at  nitel

Discovery of Ancient Amazonian Villages that are Cosmically Aligned

The ancient villages in question were built between 1300-1700 CE in Brazil. Remote LiDAR sensing by helicopters found the patterns under a thick canopy.

The LiDAR images reveal a pattern of sunken roads with high banks that extend from most of the villages. In most cases, two major roads extend to the north, while two travel south. The roads often connect one village to another in networks stretching for many miles.

More than 35 villages have so far been confirmed, mainly consisting of 3 to 32 mounds arranged in circles. 11 other villages were laid out in rectangular fashion.

José Iriarte, leader of the Colombian Rock Art Discovery team, is also one of the leaders of this research team.

[Express.com](https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1370294/archaeology-discovery-ancient-amazon-villages-native-american-cosmos-evg) has a report here with a video and photos
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1370294/archaeology-discovery-ancient-amazon-villages-native-american-cosmos-evg>

And the Smithsonian has more here;
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-find-clock-face-layout-amazon-villages-180976553/>

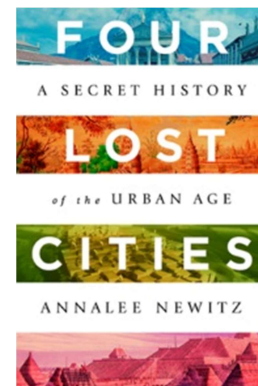
Membership

For those who have not yet renewed, enclosed/attached is your 2021 Membership Application. All 2020 SSAS members will be entitled to the same level of SSAS membership in 2021 with no payment required; however, in order to keep our records up to date, we still need your application form. The IAAA will follow its regular dues structure in 2021. For any questions regarding 2021 membership, please contact SSAS Membership Chairman Milan Saric.

New Publications: 'Four Lost Cities : A Secret History of the Urban Age'

Acclaimed science journalist Annalee Newitz takes us on a quest to explore some of the most spectacular ancient cities in human history- and figure out why people abandoned them: the Neolithic site of Catalhoyuk in Central Turkey, the Roman vacation town of Pompeii on Italy's southern coast, the medieval megacity of Angkor in Cambodia, and the metropolis of Cahokia, which stood beside the Mississippi River where East St. Louis is today. Newitz travels to all four sites and investigates cutting-edge research in archaeology, revealing the mix of environmental changes and political turmoil that doomed these ancient settlements. Tracing the early development of urban planning, she also introduces us to the often anonymous workers (slaves, women, immigrants, and manual laborers) who built these cities and created monuments that lasted millennia.

Four Lost Cities (available February 2021) is a journey into the forgotten past, but, foreseeing a future in which most of us may be living in cities, it could also reveal something of our own fate!



Goodreads

Business Meeting.....Our next business meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1 - 6:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood. Our host will be Barbara McDonough.