



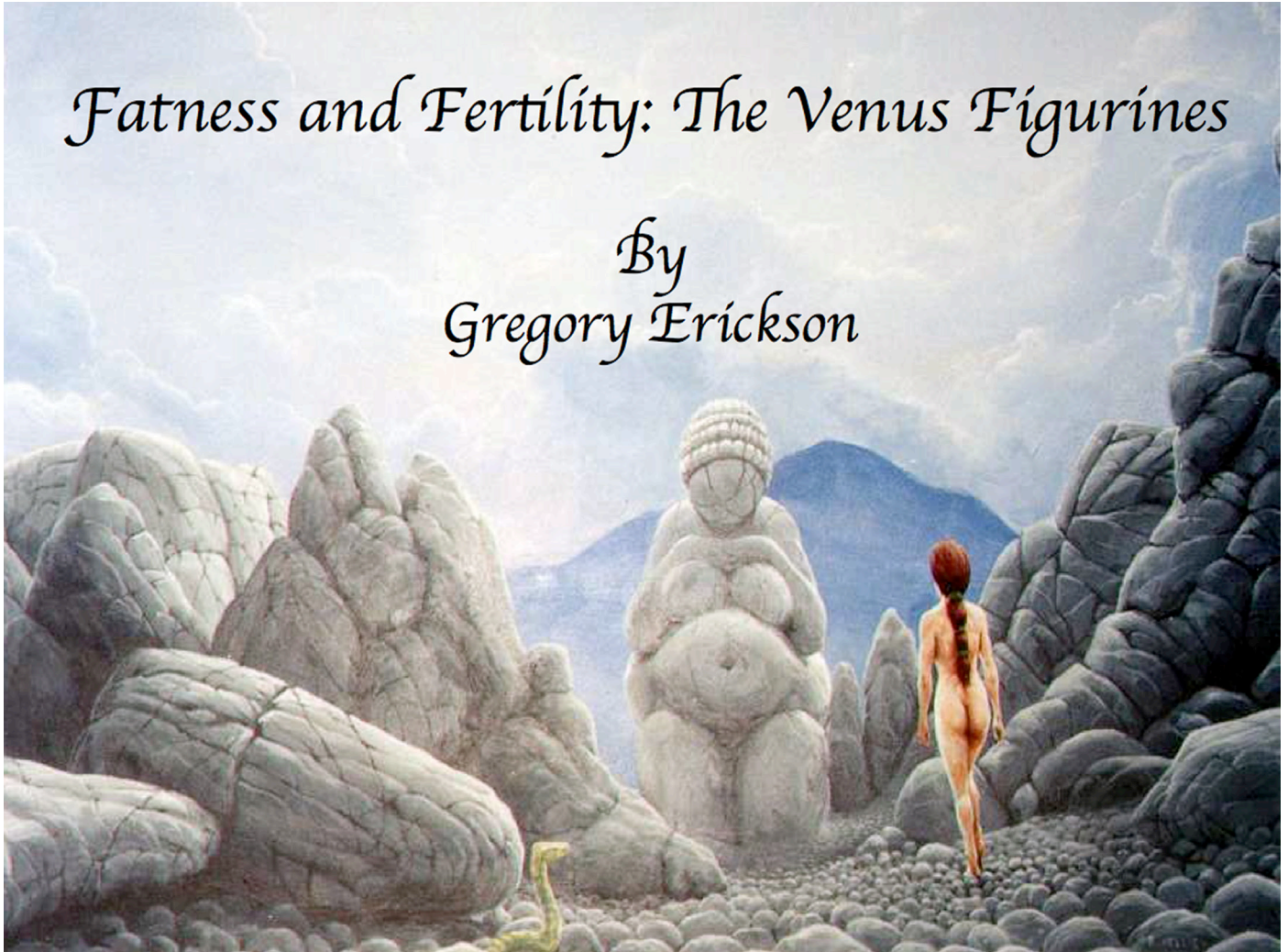
San Diego Rock Art Association Meeting

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center
13104 Ipai Waaypuk Trail (formerly Silver Lake Drive)
Poway, CA 92064

Fatness and Fertility: The Venus Figurines

By
Gregory Erickson



One of the hallmarks of the evolution of hominins is the creation of portable artwork. Hominins have engaged in the production of portable artwork for at least 100,000 years. This talk will look at some of the most intriguing discoveries of portable artwork coming from Europe and Eurasia, particularly from along the Danube River corridor. The primary focus will be on the female statuettes termed Venus Figurines. These fat, sometimes very fat, figurines have been claimed to be symbols of female fertility. The talk will end with a discussion of a physiological theory of why ancient humans might have recognized a connection between body fat and fertility and fecundity in women.

Greg Erickson received his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of California, San Diego. After completing postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School, he joined the faculty in the Department of Reproductive Medicine at UCSD, where he performed teaching, research, and administration. After 30 years at UCSD, he retired and is currently Professor Emeritus. He is a member of the American Rock Art Research Association, a docent at the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center in Poway, and President of the San Diego Rock Art Association.

- **4:00 Potluck: Bring food of your choice to share**
- **5:00 Meeting • 6:00 Presentation**

Meetings are included in your SDRAA Membership. Suggested Donation for Guests is \$5.00.

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