

PSYCHEDELIC SCIENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY
TRIBUTE DINNER HONORING

*Ann &
Sasha Shulgin*

THE MEDITERRANEAN CENTER
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, USA
SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2010

7:30 ~ 8:30 BUFFET DINNER
8:30 ~ 10:00 TRIBUTES

TRIBUTES IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE
8:30 ~ 10:00

After his first mescaline trip in the mid-1950s, Alexander “Sasha” Shulgin became fascinated by the chemistry and pharmacology of psychedelic drugs. While working for the Dow Chemical Company, Sasha created mexacarbate, which was used in Dow’s commercially successful, biodegradable pesticide Zectran. Pleased with this outcome, Dow afforded Sasha the freedom to explore whatever sort of chemistry might interest him. For about a decade, Sasha invented novel psychedelics at Dow, patenting the chemicals and publishing his syntheses. Eventually, as recreational use in the 1960s drew increased attention to psychedelics, Dow asked Sasha to leave their address off of his articles.

Around the time that the government started to pass laws against psychedelics, Sasha quit Dow to set up his home-based lab, where he continued to make new psychoactive compounds and publish his findings in chemistry journals.

Ann met Sasha and they fell in love. But their romance had its share of challenges at the start, due to a mysterious other woman who had Sasha transfixed. The steamy details are covered in *PIHKAL: A Chemical Love Story*. Like Sasha, Ann was enthralled with the value of psychedelic drugs—particularly as psychotherapeutic aids. She became a lay therapist, employing MDMA and 2C-B at a time before they were scheduled.

From a historical perspective, the milestones in the Shulgins’ lives are easy to spot. First, the United States made MDMA illegal, which pushed therapeutic use of the compound

underground. Second, the federal Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986 potentially outlawed any compounds that are “substantially similar” in chemistry and effect to controlled substances. By the late 1980s, it seemed clear which way the wind was blowing. Sasha and Ann became concerned that what they had quietly learned regarding the beneficial uses of the myriad chemicals that Sasha had invented or rediscovered might be lost to history—actively destroyed in an increasingly oppressive environment. Their solution was to write a fictionalized autobiography, which also happened to contain all of Sasha’s chemistry recipes for assorted psychoactive phenethylamines. Such a book had never been produced before. Published in 1991, it turned out to be wildly popular. The Shulgins’ lives have not been the same since.

The fame that comes with writing underground classics in the field of psychoactive drugs is a double-edged sword. On the truly horrible side, there was the DEA raid on the Shulgins’ home and lab. That tale is related in gripping detail in their second book *TIHKAL: The Continuation*. On the undoubtedly more positive side, there have been worldwide speaking and consulting gigs: Amsterdam, Brazil, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Jamaica, Mexico, Switzerland (and Burning Man, of course). Amazing photographers and artists creating portraits, documentary films, fundraisers, parties, conferences, banquets...

Thank you, Sasha and Ann, for everything that you have done and continue to do!

Ann & Sasha: A Chemical Love Story tribute film by Connie Littlefield. Connie is a documentary filmmaker based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. While making her film *‘Hofmann’s Potion: The Early Years of LSD’* she met & became friends with many remarkable individuals, among them Rick Doblin & Myron Stolaroff. The footage seen in this tribute video is part of a film Connie is making with her partner, cinematographer Kyle Cameron.

RICK DOBLIN, Ph.D., is founder and Executive Director of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and he is a certified Holotropic Breathwork practitioner.

DAVID NICHOLS, Ph.D., is a Distinguished Chair in Pharmacology in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He has worked in the field of psychoactive drugs since 1969, and founded the Heffter Research Institute in 1993.

PAUL DALEY, Ph.D., is a Senior Environmental Scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He is also employed as Sasha Shulgin’s lab and research assistant.

NICHOLAS SAND was a psychedelic guide at Millbrook, NY., Chief Alchemist for the League for Spiritual Discovery and The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and has been an intrepid psychonaut for 48 years. Nick is also part of the crew who developed the legendary Orange Sunshine.

CHARLES GROB, M.D., is Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the UCLA School of Medicine and Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He is a founding board member of the Heffter Research Institute, who has researched the effects of MDMA, ayahuasca, and psilocybin.

MARK KLEIMAN, Ph.D., is a professor of public policy at UCLA. He edits the *Journal of Drug Policy Analysis*.

ROLAND GRIFFITHS, Ph.D., is a Professor of Behavioral Biology at Johns Hopkins University who has studied psilocybin and the mystical experience.

ALEX and ALLYSON GREY are artists and co-founders of the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors, a non-profit institution supporting visionary culture in New York.

AMANDA FEILDING is founder and Director of the Beckley Foundation, a charitable trust that promotes investigations in the field of human consciousness.

ETHAN NADELMANN, J.D., Ph.D., is founder of the Drug Policy Alliance, the country’s leading organization promoting alternatives to the war on drugs.

ROBERT JESSE founded the Council on Spiritual Practices and was pivotal in the formation of the Rhythm Society, organizations dedicated to exploring direct, experiential forms of spiritual practice.

TANIA MANNING is a research assistant and archivist at the Alexander Shulgin Research Institute.

Dirty Pictures (Clip), a documentary by Etienne Sauret.



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