

What is Bohemian Grove

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:49 PM

Bohemian Grove is a restricted 2,700-acre (1,100 ha) campground at 20601 Bohemian Avenue, in [Monte Rio, California](#), United States, belonging to a private [San Francisco](#)-based [gentlemen's club](#) known as the [Bohemian Club](#). In mid-July each year, Bohemian Grove hosts a more than two-week encampment of some of the most prominent men in the world.¹⁴⁴

The Bohemian Club's all-male membership includes artists and musicians, as well as many prominent business leaders, [government officials](#), former [U.S. presidents](#), senior media executives, and people of power.¹⁴⁵ Members may invite guests to the Grove. Guests may be invited to the Grove for either the "Spring Jinks" in June or the main July encampment. Bohemian Club members can schedule private day-use events at the Grove any time it is not being used for Club-wide purposes, and they are allowed at these times to bring spouses, family, and friends, although female and minor guests must be off the property by 9 or 10 pm.¹⁴⁶

After 40 years of membership, the men earn "Old Guard" status, giving them reserved seating at the Grove's daily talks, as well as other [perquisites](#). Former U.S. president [Herbert Hoover](#) was inducted into the Old Guard on March 19, 1953; he had joined the club exactly 40 years previously.¹⁴⁷ Redwood branches from the Grove were flown to the [Waldorf Astoria Hotel](#) in [New York City](#), where they were used to decorate a banquet room for the celebration. In his acceptance speech, [Hoover](#) compared the honor of the "Old Guard" status to his frequent role as veteran counselor to later presidents.¹⁴⁸

The Club motto is "Weaving Spiders Come Not Here," which implies that outside concerns and business deals (networking) are to be left outside. When gathered in groups, Bohemians usually adhere to the injunction, although discussion of business often occurs between pairs of members.¹⁴⁹ Important political and business deals have been developed at the Grove.¹⁵⁰ The Grove is particularly famous for a [Manhattan Project](#) planning meeting that took place there in [September 1942](#), which subsequently led to the [atomic bomb](#). Those attending this meeting included [Ernest Lawrence](#), [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#), the [S-1 Executive Committee](#) heads, such as the presidents of [Harvard](#), [Yale](#), and [Princeton](#), along with representatives of [Standard Oil](#) and [General Electric](#) as well as various military officials. At the time, Oppenheimer was not an S-1 member, although Lawrence and Oppenheimer hosted the meeting.¹⁵¹ Grove members take particular pride in this event and often relate the story to new attendees.¹⁵² Other behavior at the campground has led to numerous claims and even some parody [in popular culture](#). One example was President [Richard Nixon](#)'s comments from a May 13, 1971, tape recording talking about upper-class San Franciscans: "The Bohemian Grove, which I attend from time to time—it is the most faggy goddamned thing you could ever imagine, with that San Francisco crowd."¹⁵³

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Grove>

Social Cohesion & the Bohemian Grove

The Power Elite at Summer Camp

by G. William Domhoff, U.C. Santa Cruz



In 1974, Harper & Row published a book that I wrote about the Bohemian Grove, entitled ***The Bohemian Grove and Other Retreats: A Study in Ruling-Class Cohesiveness***. Most of what follows on this Web page is a re-working of the most interesting parts of that book, but the complete text is also now [available for download from this Web site \[PDF, 7MB\]](#), with a new introduction written in 2021.

The Bohemian Grove is a 2,700-acre virgin redwood grove in Northern California, 75 miles north of San Francisco ([map](#)), where the rich, the powerful, and their entourage visit with each other during the last two weeks of July while camping out in cabins and ten ts. It's an Elks Club for the rich; a fraternity party in the woods; a boy scout camp for old guys, complete with an initiation ceremony and a totem animal, the owl. It's owned by the Bohemian Club, which was founded in San Francisco in 1872. The Bohemians started going on their little retreat shortly after the club was founded; it became big-time by the 1880s, and it continues today. However, it is not a place of power. It's a place where the powerful relax, enjoy each other's company, and get to know some of the artists, entertainers, and professors who are included to give the occasion a thin veneer of cultural and intellectual pretension. Despite the suspicions of many on the Right, and a few on the Left, it is not a secret meeting place to plot, plan, or conspire. The most important decisions typically happen just where we might expect: in the boardrooms of corporations and foundations, at the White House, and in the backrooms of Congress. Yes, as I show later, some wanna-be and has-been Republican politicians sometimes visit the Bohemian Grove, including future and former presidents of the United States, but they are there to demonstrate what wonderful human beings they are, to cultivate potential financial backers, or to brag about their past exploits.

From <https://www.horrorlesamerica.ucsc.edu/power/bohemian_grove.html>

Bohemian Grove: Where the rich and powerful go to misbehave

By Elizabeth Flock

June 15, 2011



Two future U.S. presidents, Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon, are pictured with Harvey Hancock (standing) and others at Bohemian Grove in the summer of 1967. (Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.) Every July, some of the richest and most powerful men in the world gather at a 2,700 acre campground in Monte Rio, Calif., for two weeks of heavy drinking, super-secret talks, druid worship (the group insists they are simply "revering the Redwoods"), and other rituals.

Their purpose: to escape the "frontier culture," or uncivilized interests, of common men.

The people that gather at Bohemian Grove — who have included prominent business leaders, former U.S. presidents, musicians, and oil barons — are told that "Weaving Spiders Come Not Here," meaning business deals are to be left outside. One exception was in 1942, when a planning for the Manhattan Project took place at the grove, leading to the creation of the atom bomb.

A spokesperson for Bohemian Grove says the people that gather there "share a passion for the outdoors, music, and theater."

The club is so hush-hush that little can be definitively said about it, but much of what we know today is from those who have infiltrated the camp, including Texas-based filmmaker Alex Jones. In 2000, Jones and his cameraman entered the camp with a hidden camera and were able to film a Bohemian Grove ceremony, [Cremation of the Care](#). During the ceremony, members wear costumes and cremate a coffin effigy called "Care" before a 40-foot-owl, in deference to the surrounding Redwood trees.

Bohemian Grove's spokesperson calls the ceremony "a traditional musical drama celebrating nature and summertime." The spokesperson also said that while Jones' comments are inaccurate, the footage is real.

From <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/bohemian-grove-where-the-rich-and-powerful-go-to-misbehave/2011/06/15/AGPV1sVH_blog.html>

Bohemian Grove	
	Summer 1967 at Owls Nest Camp. Around table, left to right: Preston Hotchkiss, Ronald Reagan, Harvey Hancock (standing), Richard Nixon, Glenn T. Seaborg, Jack Sparks, Kevin Zinter, unidentified individual, Edwin W. Pauley.
Location	20601 Bohemian Avenue Monte Rio, California United States
Coordinates	38°28'05"N 123°00'10"W Coordinates: 38°28'05"N 123°00'10"W
Land	2,700 acres (1,100 ha)
Annual attendance	about 2,500
Operated by	Bohemian Club
Established	1878

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Grove>



Cremation of Care

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:58 PM

The *Cremation of Care* is an annual ritual production written, produced, and performed by and for members of the [Bohemian Club](#) and staged at the [Bohemian Grove](#) near [Monte Rio, California](#) at a small artificial lake amid a private [old-growth](#) grove of [Redwood trees](#). The dramatic performance is presented on the first night of the annual encampment¹⁴ as an allegorical banishing of worldly cares for the club members and "to present symbolically the salvation of the trees by the club"¹⁵ but the secretive nature of the Bohemians and the political power of some of its members have been criticized.

In 1878, the [Bohemian Club](#) of [San Francisco](#) first took to the woods in [Taylorville, California](#) (present-day [Samuel P. Taylor State Park](#)) for a summer celebration that they called Midsummer High Jinks.¹⁶ Poems were recited, songs were sung, and dramatic readings were given; the practice was repeated each summer in other areas, primarily near the [Russian River](#) in [Sonoma County](#). In 1881, the ceremony of the *Cremation of Care* was first conducted after the various individual performances, with [James F. Bowman](#) as Sire.¹⁷ The ceremony was further expanded in 1893 by a member named Joseph D. Redding,¹⁸ with a Midsummer High Jinks entitled *The Sacrifice in the Forest*, or simply "Druid Jinks", in which brotherly love and [Christianity](#) battled and won against [paganism](#), converting the [druids](#) away from bloody sacrifice.¹⁹ Redding formed the framework of the ceremony but the main actors, including George Tisdale Bromley as High Priest, were asked to supply their own major speeches.²⁰ In 1904, the prologue to [William Henry Irwin's](#) *Grove Play* *The Hamadryads* included text such as "Touch their world-blind eyes with fairy unguents." The play depicted the intrusion, the battles, and the symbolic death of the malevolent Spirit of Care.²¹

In the earliest productions of the Grove Play, several restrictions were imposed upon the Sire (host, chief planner, and master of ceremonies)²² including that the stage setting be the natural forest backdrop and that the "malign character Care" be introduced in the pot, to wreak havoc with the characters and then be faced down and vanquished by the hero.²³ In these early productions, the *Cremation of Care* immediately followed, and lasted until midnight.²⁴ The end of the ceremony was signaled by a lively jinks Band rendition of [There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight](#),²⁵ and the club members sat down to a late dinner and revelry.²⁶

From 1913, the *Cremation of Care* was dispensed from the Grove Play, and rescheduled for the first night of the summer encampment.²⁷ The Grove Play was set for the final weekend.²⁸ A different Sire was appointed for the Cremation, and some concerns were raised in subsequent years that the *Cremation of Care* was growing into its own secondary Grove Play. Some Sires experimented with a satirical treatment, or topical themes such as a patriotic [World War I](#) treatment in 1918 and an unpopular [Prohibition](#) script in 1919. "Care" was not killed, let alone cremated, in the 1922 version. In response to member complaints about the unpredictable quality of the opening night fare, Charles K. Field was asked in 1923 to standardize the script for what became the basis for every subsequent *Cremation of Care* ceremony.²⁹

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cremation_of_Care

One reason for the Bohemian Club's poor public relations is the name it gave to the yearly opening ceremony: The Cremation of Care. The cremation is intended to put the busy men of the club at ease and banish the stress of the outside world, but it arouses critics of the encampment because they interpret it to mean that Bohemians literally don't care about the outside world. Cremation of Care, they fear, means the death of caring. Demonstrations outside the Grove a few years back often centered around the "Resurrection of Care."

The cremation took place at the man-made lake that is the center of a lot of Grove social activity. At 9:15 p.m. a procession of priests carrying the [crypt of Mr. Dull Care](#) came out of the trees on the east side, along the Grove's chief thoroughfare, River Road. They wore bright red, blue and orange hooded robes that might have been designed for the [Ku Klux Klan](#) by Marimekko. When they reached the water, they extinguished their torches. At this point some hamadryads (tree spirits) and another priest or two appeared at the base of the main owl shrine, a 40-foot-tall, moss-covered statue of stone and steel at the south end of the lake, and sang songs about Care. They told of how a man's heart is divided between "reality" and "fantasy," how it is necessary to escape to another world of fellowship among men. [Vaguely homosexual undertones suffused this spectacle](#), as they do much of ritualized life in the Grove. The main priest wore a pink-and-green satin costume, while a hamadryad appeared before a redwood in a gold spangled bodysuit dripping with rhinestones. They spoke of "fairy unguents" that would free men to pursue warm fellowship, and I was reminded of something Herman Wouk wrote about the Grove: "Men can decently love each other; they always have, but women never quite understand."

Then the crypt of Care was pulled slowly down the lake by a black-robed figure in a black gondola, accompanied by a great deal of special effects smoke. Just as the priests set out to torch the crypt, a red light appeared high in a redwood and large speakers in the forest amplified the crackling voice of Care: "Fools! Will when ye learn that me ye cannot slay? Year after year ye burn me in this Grove... But when again ye turn your feet toward the marketplace, am I not waiting for you, as of old?" With that, Care spat upon the fires, extinguishing them. The priests turned in desperation to the owl. "Oh thou, great symbol of all mortal wisdom, Owl of Bohemia... grant us thy counsel!" Every year there are new wrinkles on the cremation ceremony. The big improvement this year was to project a sort of hologram onto the owl's face so that its beak seemed to move. Also, it was Walter Cronkite talking. (Cronkite camps in Hill Billies along with George H.W. Bush, William F. Buckley Jr. and former astronaut and ex-Eastern Air Lines chairman Frank Borman.) Cronkite, as the owl, said that the only way Care could be cremated was to use fire from the Lamp of Fellowship before him, an "eternal" gas flame that burns day and night while the encampment is on.

That did it. Care went up in flames. Around me the men exploded in huzzahs. Fireworks went off at the lakeside, and a brass band in peppermint-striped jackets and straw boaters came out of the woods playing "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight."

The sudden appearance of men in striped jackets shows what a bouillabaisse of traditions the Grove is. Bohemian Club literature is pious on this score. It boasts that the [Cremation of Care](#) ceremony derives from [Druid](#) rites, medieval Christian liturgy, the [Book of Common Prayer](#), Shakespearean drama and nineteenth-century American lodge rites!

From https://whorulesamerica.ucsc.edu/power/bohemian_grove_spv.html

The Cremation of Care Ceremony

The highlight of a Grove encampment is an opening day initiation ceremony called "The Cremation of Care," in which the campers are given permission to forget their worldly duties and responsibilities, and instead focus on having a good time, just like in the old days, when they were young and supposedly carefree. Although the ceremony is very elaborate and has a long tradition, readers have to understand at the outset that it is a lark, a spoof of ceremonies, that has no deep or serious intent, contrary to what some conspiracy theorists have claimed. It is just what it claims to be: a way to ease everyone into a mood where they can relax and enjoy themselves. The scenario unfolds something like this: The boys begin to arrive at the Bohemian Grove on the Saturday closest to the middle of July for what will be a two-week encampment. In actuality, most of them will just attend during one or two of the three weekends included in the encampment, jetting in to the nearby Santa Rosa airport from all over the country, or driving up from San Francisco.



(click to enlarge)

As they arrive, they first get settled at their camps, then wander around visiting with old friends. That night they have their first dinner in the huge open-air dining circle. They hear flowery welcoming speeches, they give a cheer to the "Old Guard," those who have been in the club for 40 or more years, and they pay their respects to the "Fallen Leaves," those who have died in the past year.

But the highlight of the evening is the Cremation of Care, an initiation into the spirit of the encampment. It is all very fancy. The script varies only slightly each year. It is also a put-on, a mock of rituals — but it is a ritual ceremony nonetheless. Postmodernists might call it a meta-ritual. It is meant to signal that the encampment is a time for relaxation, drinking, and fun. It is a return to the summer camp days of their youth.



(click to enlarge)

To gain a sense of what it's like to take part, imagine yourself comfortably seated in the beautiful open-air dining hall. It's early evening and the clear July air is still pleasantly warm. Dusk has descended, you have finished a sumptuous dinner, and you are sitting quietly with your drink, listening to the nostalgic welcoming speeches and enjoying the gentle light and the eerie shadows that are cast by the two-stemmed gaslights flickering softly at each of the several hundred outdoor banquet tables. You are part of an assemblage that has been meeting in this redwood grove 65 miles north of San Francisco for well over a hundred years. It is not just any assemblage, for you are a captain of industry, a well-known television star, a banker, a famous artist, or maybe a member of the President's cabinet. You are one of 1,500 men — women are not allowed — gathered together from all over the country for this annual encampment of the rich and the famous. And you are about to take part in a strange ceremony that has marked every Bohemian Grove gathering since 1880.

Out of the shadows on one of the hillsides near the dining circle there emerges the low, sad sounds of a funeral dirge. As you turn your head in its direction you faintly see the outlines of men dressed in pointed red hoods and red flowing robes. Some of the men are playing the funeral music; others are carrying long torches whose flames are a spectacular sight against the darkened forest.

As the procession approaches the dining circle, the dim figures become more distinct, and attention fixes on several men not previously noticed. They are carrying a large wooden box. Upon closer inspection the box turns out to be an open coffin, and in that coffin is a body, a human body that looks real enough to be lifelike at a glance, but only an imitation, naturally, made of black muslin wrapped around a wooden skeleton. This is the body of Care, symbolizing the concerns and woes that important men supposedly must bear in their daily lives. It is this guy, Mr. Dull Care, who is to be cremated this first Saturday night of the two-week encampment of the Bohemian Grove.

The cortege now trails slowly past the dining area, and the men in the dining circle fall into line behind the hooded priests and pallbearers, following the body of Care toward its ultimate destination. The entire parade (mostly white, mostly elderly) makes its way along a road leading to a picturesque little lake that is yet another of the sylvan sights the Bohemian Grove has to offer.

It takes the communicants about five minutes to make their march to this new setting. Once at the lake the several priests and the body of Care go off to the right, in the direction of a very large altar which faces the lake. They are accompanied by a cast of 250 elders, torchbearers, shore patrols, fire tenders, production managers, and woodland voices.

The major parts in this drama are played by "associate" or "performing" members of the club, middle-class men with musical, theatrical, artistic, or literary talents. But sometimes very important men have small walk-on roles that show they are just one of the gang when they are at the Bohemian Grove. They are "carrying a spear for Bohemia," as the saying goes, which means they are chipping in, doing their part, being good sports.

If the year were 1996, there would be three spear-carriers doing a little add-on part. They are former president George H. W. Bush, actor Clint Eastwood, and fabled news anchor Walter Cronkite. They are replaying the parts of "Lakeside Frogs," and they are chanting like the frogs in the famous "Bud-WEI-ser" TV ads of the 1990s, only they keep croaking "cre-MAY-shun, cre-MAY-shun, cre-MAY-shun."



(click to enlarge)

The followers, talking quietly and remarking on the once-again-perfect Grove weather, move to the left so they can observe the ceremony from a green meadow on the other side of the lake. Drinks in hand, they will be about fifty to a hundred yards from the altar, which looms skyward thirty to forty feet and reveals itself to be in the form of a huge Owl, whose cement shell is mottled with primeval green mosses. This Owl is the totem animal of Bohemia, found not only at the lake, but everywhere you go in the Grove, and on shot glasses, coffee cups, and stationery.

While the spectators seat themselves across the lake, the priests and their entourage continue for another two or three hundred yards beyond the altar to a boat landing. There the bier is carefully transferred onto the Ferry of Care, which will carry the body to the altar later in the ceremony. Once the ferry is loaded, the torches are extinguished and the music ends. The attention of the spectators on the other side of the lake slowly drifts back to the Owl shrine; it is illuminated by a gentle flame from the Lamp of Fellowship, which sits at its base.

Cremation? A guy named Dull Care? A former president of the United States playing the part of a frog and chanting "cre-MAY-shun?" A totem animal and a Lamp of Fellowship? Strange, but true. You are starting to get the picture of just how hokey this all is.

People who have seen the ceremony before nudge you to keep your eye on the large redwood next to the Owl. Moments later an offstage chorus of "woodland voices" begins to sing. Then a spotlight illuminates the tree you've been watching, and there emerges from it a hamadryad, a "tree spirit," whose life, according to Greek mythology, is intimately bound up with the tree in which it lives. The hamadryad begins to sing, telling the supplicants that beauty and strength and peace are theirs as long as the trees of the Grove are there. It sings of the "temple-aisles of the wood" that are made for "your delight," and implores the Bohemians to "burn away the sorrow of yesterday" and to "cast your grief to the fires and be strong with the holy trees and the spirit of the Grove."³⁰

With the end of this uplifting song, the hamadryad returns to its tree, the chorus silences, and the light on the tree fades out. Now there's only natural illumination from the moon and stars, and it's time for the high priest and his many assistants to enter the large area in front of the Owl.

"The Owl is in his leafy temple," intones the high priest. "Let all within the Grove be reverent before him." He beseeches the spectators to be inspired and awed by their surroundings, noting that this is Bohemia's shrine. Then he invokes the motto of the club, "Weaving spiders, come not here!" That's a line from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; it is supposed to warn members not to discuss business and worldly concerns, and instead concentrate on the arts, literature, and other pleasures

within the portals of Bohemia.

The priest next walks down three large steps to the edge of the lake. There he makes a flowery speech about the ripple of water, the song of birds, the forest floor, and evening's cool kiss. Again he calls on the members to forsake their usual concerns: "Shake off your sorrows with the City's dust and scatter to the winds the cares of life." A second and third priest then recall to memory deceased friends who loved the Bohemian Grove, and the high priest makes yet another effusive speech, the gist of it being that "Great Nature" is a "refuge for the weary heart" and a "balm for breasts that have been bruised."

The pace is picking up. A brief song is sung by the chorus and suddenly the high priest proclaims: "Our funeral pyre awaits the corpse of Care!" A horn is sounded at the boat landing. Behold, the Ferry of Care, with its beautifully ornamented frontispiece, begins its brief passage to the foot of the shrine. Its trip is accompanied by the music of a barcarole (a barcarole is the song of Venetian gondoliers as they pole through the canals of Venice). Listening to the barcarole, it becomes ever more clear how many little extra bits and pieces of culture have been borrowed from many parts of the world by the Bohemians who lovingly developed this ritual over its long history.



[\(click to enlarge\)](#)

The bier arrives at the steps of the altar. The high priest inveighs against Dull Care, the archenemy of Beauty. He shouts, "Bring fire," and the torchbearers enter (18 strong). Then the acolytes quickly seize the coffin, lift it high above their heads, and carry it triumphantly to the pyre in front of the mighty Owl. It seems that Care is about to be consumed by flames.

Ah, but not yet. Suddenly there is a great clap of thunder and a rush of wind. Peals of loud, ugly laughter come ringing down from a hill above the lake. A dead tree is illuminated in the middle of the hillside, and Care himself bellows forth with a thundering blast:

"Fools! Fools! Fools! When will ye learn that me ye cannot slay? Year after year ye burn me in this Grove, lifting your puny shouts of triumph to the stars. But when again ye turn your feet toward the marketplace, am I not waiting for you, as of old? Fools! Fools! To dream ye conquer Care!"

The high priest is taken aback by this impressive outburst, but not completely humbled. He replies that it is not all a dream that he and his friends know they will have to face Care when their holiday is over. They are happy that the good fellowship created by the Bohemian Grove is able to banish Care even for a short time. So the high priest tells Care, "We shall burn thee once again this night and in the flames that eat thine effigy we'll read the sign: Midsummer sets us free."



[\(click to enlarge\)](#)

Dull Care, however, is having none of this. He tells the high priest in no uncertain terms that priestly fires are not going to do him in. "I spit upon your fire," he roars, and with that there is a great explosion and all the torches are immediately extinguished. The only light remaining comes from the small flame in the Lamp of Fellowship.

Things are clearly at an impasse. Care may win out after all. There is only one thing to do: turn to the great Owl, the greattotem animal of Bohemia, chosen as the group's symbol primarily for its mortal wisdom—and only secondarily for its discreet silence and its mighty prowling. The high priest falls to his knees and lifts his arms toward the shrine. "Oh thou, great symbol of all mortal wisdom," he cries. "Owl of Bohemia, we do beseech thee, grant us thy counsel!"

The inspirational music of the "Fire Finale" now begins, and an aura of light glows about the Owl's head. The Owl is going to rise to the occasion! And if it's the 1990s, it's none other than the voice of good old Walter Conkrite, although the part usually goes to a deep-voiced drama professor. After a pause, the sagacious bird finally speaks. No fire, he tells the assembled faithful, can drive out Care if that fire comes from the mundane world, where it is fed by the hates of men. There is only one fire that can overcome the great enemy Care, and that, of course, is the flame which burns in the Lamp of Fellowship on the Altar of Bohemia. "Hail, Fellowship," he concludes, "and thou, Dull Care, begone!"

The priest smacks himself on the side of the head, as if to say he wonders why he didn't think of that profound point. The light goes out on the dead tree. The high priest leaps to his feet and bounds up the steps, snatches a burned-out torch from one of the bearers, and relights it from the flame of the Lamp of Fellowship. Just as quickly he ignites the funeral pyre and triumphantly hurls the torch into the blaze.



[\(click to enlarge\)](#)

The orchestral music in the background intensifies as the flames leap higher and higher. The chorus sings loudly about Dull Care, archenemy of Beauty, calling on the winds to make merry with his dust. "Hail, Fellowship," they sing, echoing the Owl. "Begone, Dull Care! Midsummer sets us free!" The wailing voice of Care gives its last gasps, the music gets even louder, and fireworks light the sky and fill the Grove with the reverberations of great explosions. The band, appropriately enough, strikes up "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." Care has been banished.

As this climax approaches, some 50 minutes after the march began, the quiet onlookers on the other side of the lake begin to come alive. After all, it is a night for rejoicing. The men begin to shout, to sing, to hug each other, and dance around. They have been freed by their priests and their Owl for some good old-fashioned hell raising. They couldn't be happier if they were back in college and their fraternity had won an intramural football championship.

Now the ceremony is over. The revelers, initiated into the carefree attitude of the Bohemian Grove, break up into small groups as they return to the camps that crowd next to each other in the central area of the Grove. It will be a night of storytelling and drinking for the men of Bohemia as they sit around their campfires or wander from camp to camp, renewing old friendships and making new ones. They will be far away from their responsibilities as the decision makers and opinion molders of corporate America.

It's straight out of tribal life the world over. No women. Lots of drinking and boasting. Men will be men, and boys will be boys.

From <https://whorulesamerica.ucsc.edu/power/bohemian_grove.html#cremation>

The Bohemian Club

American social club

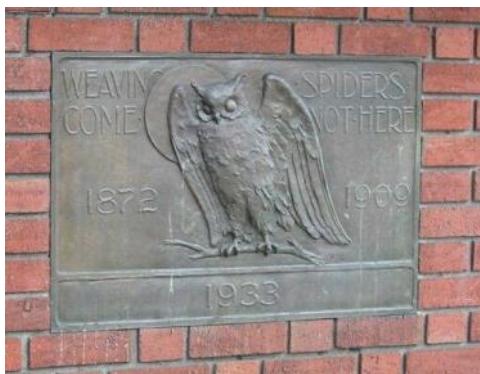
The Bohemian Club, an elite invitation-only social club founded in [San Francisco](#) in 1872 by a group of male artists, writers, actors, lawyers, and journalists, all of means and interested in arts and [culture](#). Since its founding, the club has expanded to include politicians and [affluent](#) businessmen. The club is known especially for its annual summer retreat at what is known as Bohemian Grove in the [redwood](#) forest of [California's Sonoma](#) county, an event that continued into the 21st century. Notable members over the years have included [Clint Eastwood](#), [Henry Kissinger](#), [Walter Cronkite](#), [Richard Nixon](#), [Ronald Reagan](#), [Charles Schwab](#), [Ambrose Bierce](#), [Bret Harte](#), [Mark Twain](#), and [Jack London](#).

From <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Bohemian-Club>>

Bohemian Club

San Francisco, California

Longtime headquarters of controversial boys' club for the world's wealthiest and most powerful.



Bohemian Club

THE BOHEMIAN CLUB WAS FOUNDED as an official regular meeting of journalists, artists, and musicians in 1872. The building's exterior is adorned with plaques bearing owls and the Club's motto, "Weaving spiders come not here," just as it had when early members Ambrose Bierce, Mark Twain, and Jack London roamed its halls. That soon changed, however, when local businessmen and entrepreneurs were granted admission.

Still headquartered today in its original location at Post and Taylor, it has become among the most exclusive men's clubs and/or secret societies in the United States. Club standards remain so high that honorary membership is offered to only *some* United States presidents, usually bestowed prior to their inauguration, and a select coterie of international business leaders and policy-makers.

Every year the Bohemian Club holds a two-week-long gathering at their private forest in Sonoma County, Bohemian Grove. The notorious "camp" reunites members from around the world to participate in male bonding, unabashed bacchanalia, and debauchery such as relieving themselves on the surrounding redwood trees in a "display of man's power over nature." The half-sanctimonious Cremation of Cares opens the festivities, in which members figuratively (and sometimes literally) burn away the responsibilities of their outside lives.

The present corps are understood to include George Bush (the elder), Henry Kissinger, board members from Halliburton, Bank of America, and international members of the so-called "oiligarchy." Put bluntly, the Bohemian Club's roster can read like a complete list of modern day hegemony, replete with powerful, conservative white men. To this day, very few Jews and even fewer black members have been granted admission to the elite circle.

Despite the club provenance suggesting that theirs is an organization for enjoyment rather than networking, historically "lakeside talks" in the Grove have allegedly laid a covert groundwork for successful presidential campaigns (such as the case with Richard Nixon in 1967), the Manhattan Project, and future international policy, to name a few.

Recently the group has attracted public ire for logging Bohemian Grove's virgin redwoods after

Bohemian Tragedy

Members of the ultra-exclusive Bohemian Club—2,500 of America's richest, most conservative men, including Henry Kissinger, George H. W. Bush, and a passel of Bechtels, Basses, and Rockefellers—are known to urinate freely against the ancient redwoods that cover their 2,700-acre property. Have they been chopping down the trees as well? According to one former member turned whistle-blower, the San Francisco-based society may have logged some of its old-growth forest. Drawing on his own Ivy League ties, the author investigates, with a daring sortie into the ceremonial kickoff of the Bohemians' annual encampm

From <<https://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2009/05/bohemian-grove200905>>

attaining a nonindustrial timber management plan, which allows for the production of timber without the usual government oversight associated with industrial forestry.

Given that members inhabit the upper echelons of moneyed society throughout the world, many in the general public have criticized their actions for, in addition to these being among the rarest trees on the planet, it is unlikely that Bohemian Club members are logging their sacred woods to stave off financial hardships.

Regardless of political leanings, visitors will have a difficult time gaining entry to the Club's headquarters or the Grove itself... Unless cozying-up to an old family friend is an option, in which case please report back with details!

From <<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/bohemian-club-skb>>

Membership

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:56 PM

Member	Category	Camp
Robert I. Aitken		
Luis Walter Alvarez		
Martin Anderson	Sempervirens	
Earle C. Anthony		
Peter R. Arnott	Shoestring	
Samuel W. Backus		
Stephen David Bechtel, Sr.		
Ambrose Bierce	Founding	
Hiram Reynolds Bloomer	Founding	
Charles R. Blyth		
John Henry Boalt		
George C. Boardman		
Leon Bocquera		
Henry M. Bosworth	Honorary Life	
Edward Bosqui	Founding	
William B. Bourn II		
Elizabeth Crocker Bowers	Honorary	
Allan St. John Bowie		
James F. Bowman	Founding	
Margaret B. Bowman	Honorary	
Harry J. Brady	Honorary Life	
Frederic H. Brandi		
Edward Lacy Bravton		
Domenico Brescia		
Nathaniel J. Brittan	Life	
George T. Bromley	Honorary	
Samuel Marsden Brookes	Founding	
Emile Bruguière		
Frank H. Buck		
Aurelius E. Buckingham		
Christopher Buckley		
Charles Bundschu		
Frank Gelett Burgess		
Hugh M. Burke	Honorary Life	
George H. W. Bush	Hillbillies	
Norton Bush		
Giuseppe Cadenasso		
George T. Cameron		
Chauncey L. Canfield		
Robert Capelle		
Harris C. Capwell		
Emil Carlsen		
Charles Joseph Carlson		
Harry P. Carlton		
Alexander T. Case		
Joseph A. Chanslor		
Horace B. Chase		
Ernest D. Chipman		
George Chismore		
Andrew Christeson		
Warren Christopher		
Harry Corson Clarke		
Alden W. Clausen	Hillbillies	
John Willard Clawson		
Philip T. Clay		
Sydney A. Cloman		
Charles Coburn	Honorary	
Colbert Coldwell		
Alex K. Coney		
Russell H. Cool		
Ina Coolbrith	Honorary	
Joseph Coors		
Joseph B. Corvell		
Gordon Coutts		
John Cheever Cowden		
Jennings S. Cox	Life	
Ray F. Coyle		
George Creel		

Member	Category	Camp
Thomas Hill	Honorary	
Clark Hobart		
Ransom Gillet Holdredge		
Charles D. Hollister		
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.	Honorary	
William Hood		
C. Osgood Hooker		
Herbert Hoover		Cave Man
Richard M. Hotaling		
Preston Hotchkis		Lost Angels
Jack R. Howard		
Josiah Rowland Howell		
Charles Franklin Humphrey		
LeRoy P. Hunt		
Henry Edwards Huntington		
Rothwell Hyde		
Bobby Ray Inman		
Henry Irving	Honorary	
Joseph Irwin	Founding	
Wallace Irwin		
William Henry Irwin		
Paul R. Isenberg		
George I. Ives	Life	
Livingstone Jenks		
Rufus P. Jennings		
Tom Johnson		
Philip Mills Jones		
David Starr Jordan	Honorary	
Christian Jorgensen		
Virgil W. Jorgenson		
Charles Josselyn		
Amedee Jourlin		
Charles Chapel Judson		
Edgar F. Kaiser, Sr.		
David Kawananakoa		
Charles Keeler		
William Keith	Honorary	
Charles Kendrick		
Edgar Stillman Kelley	Honorary	
Frank G. Kenny	Founding	
Clark Kerr		Wayside Log
Henry Kissinger		Mandalay
Joe Knowland		
Joseph R. Knowland		
Victor H. Krulak		Owl's Nest
Lucien Labaudt		
James B. Lankershim		
Roger Lapham		
Barbour Lathrop		
Lorenzo Latimer		
William P. Lawlor		
Ernest O. Lawrence		Sons of Toil
Stephen Leach		
John Lehman		
George Lenczowski		
William M. Lent		
George Lette		
Jacob B. Levison		
Charles A. Lewis, Jr.		
Philip N. Lilienthal		
Frederick L. Lipman		
Sara Jane Lippincott	Honorary	
Louis Lissner		
Reuben H. Lloyd	Life	
Maurice Logan		
Jack London	Honorary	
Louis Lundborg		
James K. Lynch		
M. Hall McAllister		
Atholl McBean		

Member	Category	Camp
Raphael Weill		
Caspar Weinberger		Isle of Aves
Carl Irving Wheat		
Benjamin Ide Wheeler	Honorary	
Charles Stetson Wheeler		
Frederick Whymper	Founding	
Ray Lyman Wilbur		Cave Man
Virgil Williams	Founding	
J. C. Williamson	Founding	
Russell J. Wilson	Life	
William Winter	Honorary Life	
Jean C. Witter		
Theodore Wores		
Herman Wouk		
Charles G. Yale	Honorary Life	
Rodney A. Yoell		

A shadowy and controversial secret club meets in the California woods every year — and at least 5 US presidents were members

Áine Cain

Mar 11, 2018, 11:00 AM



Presidents Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon were both members. [Wikimedia Commons](#)

- Bohemian Grove is the Sonoma County, California campground where the Bohemian Club meets annually.
- The Bohemian Club, a San Francisco-based private club that has counted a number of US presidents among its members, is a controversial group.
- The club's reported rituals and secretive status have spawned sinister internet rumors.
- But experts and insiders conclude Bohemian Grove goings-on are no more or less troubling than a group of extremely wealthy men letting loose in the forest.

Bohemian Grove is a place where strange things happen. In June and July, some of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the country flock to the redwood grove in Sonoma County, California. They're all members of the Bohemian Club, a private, all-male club that's counted US presidents, military officials, artists, and business leaders as members.

The Bohemian Grove grounds are dotted with camps bearing strange names — "Mandalay," "Lost Angels," "Isle of Aves," and "Silverado Squatters." Guests are welcome, but women and minors must vacate the premises at night. A hollow concrete owl tower over the Grove's artificial lake, where prominent individuals often visit to give lakeside talks on pressing public policy matters. And, during the first weekend of the summer encampment, robed figures sacrifice an effigy as part of a ritual meant to banish all worries from the gathered members. Over the years, a number of those gathered club members have happened to be US presidents.

From <<https://www.businessinsider.com/bohemian-grove-club-us-presidents-2018-3>>

John C. Cremony	Founding	
Charles H. Crocker		
Charles Templeton Crocker		
William H. Crocker		
Joseph B. Crockett		
Harlan Crow		
Bartley Crum		
Melvin Earl Cummings		
William Curlett		
Charles S. Cushing		
Sidney B. Cushing		
Andrew McFarland Davis	Life	
Richmond P. Davis		
Willis E. Davis		
Paul W. de Fremery		
George Bowen De Long		
Eugene de Joly De Sabla, Jr.		
Paolo De Vecchi		
Walter E. Dean	Life	
Henry C. Dibble		
Benjamin Dibblee		
Charles John Dickman		
Marshall Dill, Sr.		
Edwin R. Dimond		
Maynard Dixon		
George D. Dornin		
T. W. Morgan Draper		
William Henry Draper III	Hillbillies	
Frank G. Drum		
William B. Dunning		
Guy C. Earl		
Robert M. Eberle		
Henry "Harry" Edwards	Founding	
J. Paulding Edwards		
Zoeth S. Eldredge		
Felton B. Elkins		
Bobby Enriquez		
George H. Evans		
Richard Bunger Evans		
Wallace W. Everett, Sr.		
James J. Fagan		
Charles W. Fay		
Philip R. Faymonville		
Charles N. Felton		
Watson D. Fennimore		
Chester Bailey Fernald		
Reginald Goodwin Fernald		
Manuel Y. Ferrer		
Charles K. Field		
George Russell Field		
Walter G. Filer		
Bush Finnell		
Leonard Firestone	Mandalay	
Robert N. Fitch		
Robert Howe Fletcher	Honorary	
James L. Flood		
Ernest R. Folger		
Harry Stuart Fonda		
Lucius Harwood Foote	Honorary Life	
Joseph C. Ford		
Tennessee Ernie Ford		
Trey L. Ford		
Sands W. Forman	Founding	
Arthur W. Foster		
J. Eugene Freeman		
Paul Frenzeny	Founding	
Emanuel Fritz		
Jacob L. Fuller		
William Palmer Fuller, Jr.		
Porter Garnett		
Albert Geberding		
Larry Gelbart		
Arnold Genthe		
Henry George	Founding	
James M. McDonald	Life, President 1890-1891	
M. Jasper McDonald	Life	
Mark L. McDonald	Life	
Duncan McDuffie		
N. Loyall "Blackie" McLaren		Stowaway
Pietro Mascagni	Honorary	
Arthur Frank Mathews		
Nino Marcelli		
Ulderico Marcelli		
Henry Marshall	Honorary Life	
Otis R. "Dock" Marston		Aviary
Xavier Martínez		
Bernard Maybeck		
Clarence W. W. Mayhew		
Stewart Menzies		
J. Henry Meyer		
Joaquin Miller	Honorary	
Arthur W. Moore		
Henry S. Morgan		
William W. Morrow		
Carlton E. Morse		
Andrew J. Moulder		
Gabriel Moulin		
Thornwell Mullally		
Ovide Musin	Honorary	
Benjamin F. Naphthal	Founding	
Paul Neumann		
Thomas Newcomb	Founding, Honorary	
John Francis Nevlan		Mandalay
Badea M. Nicholas		
George S. Nixon		
Richard Nixon		
Frank Norris		
Daniel O'Connell	Founding	
Sean O'Keefe		Wayside Log
Roland Oliver		
William Letts Oliver		
Samuel Osbourne		
David Packard		
Ignacy Jan Paderewski	Honorary	
Haig Patigian		
William A. Patterson, Sr.		
Edwin W. Pauley		
Theodore F. Payne		
Warren R. Payne	Life	
Edgar D. Peixotto		
Rudolph A. Peterson		
Timothy L. Pflueger		
James D. Phelan		
Herman Phleger		
Gottardo Piazzoni		
Irving Pichel		
Horace Garvin Platt		
Richard E. Queen		
William Wilson Quinn		
Michael Raffetto		
Ronald Reagan		Owl's Nest
Joseph D. Redding		
Granville Redman		
William Henry Rhodes		
Eddie Rickenbacker		Cave Man
William Ritschel		
Julian Rix		
Peter Robertson	Honorary Life	
Robert C. Rogers	Founding	
Albert F. Roller		
James Ralph, Jr.		
Theodore Roosevelt	Honorary	
William M. Roth		
Wallace Arthur Sabin		
Tommaso Salvini	Honorary	
J. H. Sayre	Founding	
Herman George Scheffauer		
Caspar Schenck		

Albert Geerington		
Larry Gelbart		
Arnold Genthe		
Henry George	Founding	
David Gergen		
Mario Giannini		
Daniel Coit Gilman	Honorary	
Newt Gingrich		
Louis Glass		
George E. Goodfellow		
Charles A. Gove		
P. George Gow		
Donald de V. Graham	Honorary Life	
Joseph D. Grant		
Enrique Grau		
Clarence R. Greathouse		
Clay M. Greene	Honorary Life	
Percy Grey		
Willard M. Griffin		
Joseph R. Grismer		
Archibald Clavering Gunter		
James F. Gurley		
Isidore Gutte		
Ray Hackett		
Henry Kimball Hadley		
William Hahn		
Reuben B. Hale		
George Eli Patrick Hall		
Andrew B. Hammond		
Theodore Michael Hampe		
Lewis E. Hanchett		
Arpad Haraszthy	Founding	
William Greer Harrison		
Jerome A. Hart		
Bret Harte	Honorary	
Fred L. Hartley		
J. Downey Harvey		
Charles D. Haven		
Alexander G. Hawes		
William Randolph Hearst		
Marcus H. Hecht		
Francis J. Heney		
Rudolph Herold, Jr.		
Lester Herrick		
William F. Herrin		
Henry Heyman		
Barton Hill		
Charles Barton Hill		
Horace L. Hill	Life	
		J. J. Johnson
		J. H. Sayre
		Herman George Scheffauer
		Caspar Schenck
		Frederick Seitz
		Glenn T. Seaborg
		William T. Sesnon
		Frederick Sherman
		J. Wilson Shieh
		Paul Shoup
		Shulgin T. Alexander
		George P. Shultz
		Robert Sibley
		John L. Simpson
		H. E. Smith
		William French Smith
		Tony Snow
		Will Sparks
		Adolph B. Spreckels
		Claus Spreckels
		Robert Gordon Sproul
		Kevin Starr
		John Aloysius Stanton
		Paul Steinendorff
		George Sterling
		Wallace Sterling
		Humphrey John Stewart
		Charles Warren Stoddard
		Michael P. W. Stone
		C. H. Stoutenborough
		Vanderlyn Stow
		Benjamin R. Swan
		Jules Tavernier
		His Royal Highness Teak
		H. F. Teschemacher
		Newton J. Tharp
		John Charles Thomas
		Lowell Thomas, Jr.
		Lowell Thomas, Sr.
		Lawrence Tibbett
		Douglas Tilden
		Joseph Tilden
		F. L. Unger
		Frank van Sloun
		Harry Volk
		Uda Waldrup
		William T. Wallace
		Bob Weir
		William V. Wells
		F. Marion Wells

Conspiracies

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:56 PM

In an Infowars video that helped to make him famous, Jones shared his footage, labelling the ceremony "Luciferian garbage", and suggesting that the [Bohemians offered real human sacrifices to their "owl god"](#). "It's amazing how one thing can provoke two such radically different perspectives," says Latham. "So the question is: are these secret societies dangerous because we don't know what they're saying and doing, or because the secrecy is fodder for people like Jones?"

<https://www.ft.com/content/91544df2-a2a1-11e9-974c-ad1c6ab5ef0>

Were you drawn to the subject originally through the conspiracy around it or was it just the idea of it being private and impenetrable?

It was an amalgamation of different things I think. I ended up hanging out with a bunch of conspiracy theorists when I was doing my last work (in Iceland) so it became quite familiar with Bohemian Grove and of mainstream conspiracies, and I became quite familiar with that way of thinking. It was just a mix of everything at the time, [also the rise of Donald Trump](#), one of the most offensive men in the world who is also a big fan of Alex Jones. A lot of the miss-information and fake news Donald Trump presents as fact he got from Alex Jones' Info Wars. Trump's campaign manager Roger Stone was also Alex Jones' manager.

So there's a real lineage here because Alex Jones was a nobody until he broke into Bohemian Grove and filmed these elites and then now here he is influencing one of the most 'elite' men in the world who is also an incredible misogynist.

From <<https://intrepidcamera.co.uk/blog/jack-latham-explores-the-conspiracies-of-bohemian-grove-in-parliament-of-owls>>

The Grove is strictly limited to members and few people have successfully infiltrated the mysterious gatherings. In 1989, writer Philip Weiss posed as a guest for seven days, which led to his famous exposé "Inside Bohemian Grove" in Spy Magazine. In 2000, radio host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones managed to sneak onto the premises with a video camera, capturing some of the only evidence of the club's strange practices. His hour-long video shows men in long, black cloaks burning an effigy in a ritual called "The Cremation of Care," a traditional ceremony where Jones said they symbolically shed their conscience and empathy. Spooky. I was first introduced to the mystery of Bohemian Grove after watching an especially strange episode of House of Cards. In this episode, Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) travels deep into the woods to a place called Elysian Fields where he witnesses some of his fellow politicians take part in Satanic-esque rituals, even a human sacrifice. Knowing House of Cards usually uses real political events as inspiration, I couldn't help but investigate. To my surprise, Frank's experience at Elysian Fields was not too far from reality. This discovery has caused me a great deal of anxiety; I've been wondering what really goes on in the world of American politics. While nobody has ever admitted to human sacrifices at The Grove, I wouldn't put it past this band of hooligans we call politicians. The state of American politics is scary enough without the image of Donald Trump gallivanting through the woods in a black cloak creeping into my imagination.

I don't know about you, but I'm ready to grab my camera and figure this out Alex Jones style. Who's with me?

From <<https://www.spectatornews.com/opinion/2017/09/conspiracy-theories-uncovering-americas-secrets-2/>>

After lengthy investigation, however, Latham found that the reality of the club is just not that exciting. "The more you learn about Bohemian Grove, the less interesting it actually is," he says. "It's where the rich wear shorts and sandals and walk around talking about money. That's might be a troubling idea unto itself, but it's not as interesting as sacrificing babies."

From <<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/jack-latham-parliament-owls-1610254>>

Owl play: Macron's T-shirt logo inspires conspiracy theories

This article is more than 2 months old

French president's TikTok session about Covid vaccine overshadowed by speculation over bird design



Emmanuel Macron speaks on TikTok wearing the T-shirt with an owl logo. Photograph: TWITTER [Kim Willsher in Paris](#)

Tue 3 Aug 2021 16.19 BST

Was it a bird, a subliminal message or a secret sign? Or was it just a logo of an owl on a T-shirt?

Hours after Emmanuel Macron's attempt to persuade French youngsters to get vaccinated on Monday, the buzz across the country was less of Covid shots and more of mysterious clothing symbols.

The president had swapped his trademark grey suit, white shirt and tie, for the more trendy look of a black, short-sleeved T-shirt for his question-and-answer TikTok appearance.

Unfortunately, the subsequent [flurry of speculation](#) and conspiracy theories suggested some

gave more of a hoot about the white owl logo on the T-shirt than about Macron's message.

Advertisement

What did the owl logo made up of geometric shapes mean? Was there a subliminal message to the choice of apparel? Was the Elysée public relations team conveying a secret message to the sharp-eyed? Was the president part of a secret cabal?

An initial theory suggested it was the logo of the [Bohemian Club](#), a political group created in California in 1872 and named after what Americans saw as the belle époque European bohemian movement, a counterculture to the bourgeoisie. Today it is an exclusively male club made up of businessmen and politicians from the US, Europe and Asia. But while the Bohemian Club has an owl logo, it is not the same as that on the president's T-shirt and is accompanied by the red letters BC.

From <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/03/owl-play-macrons-t-shirt-logo-inspires-conspiracy-theories>>



Satanists are taking over America



Photo : Tom Pennington/Getty

To Jones, the coming New World Order is a [demonic high-tech tyranny](#) formed by satanist elites who manufacture economic and health crises, and are using selective breeding to create a supreme race. In November, he claimed that Hillary Clinton was connected to [top occultist Marina Abramovic](#) because the Yugoslavian performance artist once invited John Podesta, former chairman of Clinton's presidential campaign, to a [spirit cooking](#) dinner. (Citing every teenage goth's favorite Nineteenth-century occultist, Aleister Crowley, Infowars reported that dinner would include "eating semen, blood and breast milk." In fact, the menu was made up of [traditional soups](#).) Infowars has also linked the [death of late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia](#) to meeting with an Austrian secret society group named the Bohemian Grove, which the site traces back to the [Illuminati](#).

From <<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-lists/alex-jones-mis-infowars-7-bat-sht-conspiracy-theories-195468/satanists-are-taking-over-america-116484/>>

ALEX JONES

Alex Jones is almost certainly the most prolific conspiracy theorist in contemporary America.



EXTREMIST INFO

Born
1974
Location
Austin, Texas
Ideology
Antigovernment Movement

About Alex Jones

In terms of the audience he reaches, he also may be the one with the most far-reaching influence in the nation's history. Time after time, he warns without any evidence that terrorist attacks — from 9/11 to the Boston Marathon bombings to the 2013 Washington Navy Yard mass murder — are actually "false flag" operations by our government or evil "globalist" forces planning to take over the world. To many, Jones is a bad joke. But the sad reality is that he has millions of followers who listen to his radio show, watch his "documentaries" and read his websites, and some of them, like Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev, resort to deadly violence.

In his own words

"I'm here to tell you, 1776 will commence again if you try to take our firearms! It doesn't matter how many lemmings you get out there on the street, begging to have their guns taken. We will not relinquish them! Do you understand?"

— CNN's "Piers Morgan Live," Jan. 7, 2013

"Same-sex marriage is sold as a civil right. And I believe that people as individuals — I'm a libertarian — have the right to do what they want as long as it doesn't hurt others. And I'm not obsessed with the subject like people on different sides of the debate are. But clearly, from the eugenicist/globalist view, and they've written textbooks on it, you can look them up, they [the globalists] want to encourage the breakdown of the family, because the family is where people owe their allegiance. That's why they want to get rid of God. Not because they're atheists, but because they want the state to be God. And so they are taking the rights of an ancient, unified program of marriage and they are breaking it."

— YouTube interview, June 2013

"Then they'll release the big one, and they'll kill probably half the population of the United States. Folks, I'm telling you right now, I'm sure of it. They're going to stage terror attacks. I will be very surprised if they don't stage something by the end of this year."

— "Alex Jones Show," Feb. 13, 2009

From <<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/alex-jones>>

Alex Jones: Five Things to Know



1. Alex Jones is a right-wing American radio host and prolific anti-government conspiracy theorist.

Jones rose from public-access television obscurity to national prominence by promoting paranoid allegations against the U.S. government and an alleged shadowy, power-hungry New World Order. Because of a range of legal and political issues, many consider Jones to be one of the most influential right-wing conspiracy theorists in the United States today. Online and on the air, Jones breathlessly and stridently champions a litany of absurdities. To wit: the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook elementary school was a hoax perpetrated to curtail Americans' gun rights; 9/11 was an inside job perpetrated by the U.S. government; the high school student survivors of the Parkland, FL, school shooting were "crisis actors" paid by the Democratic Party and George Soros; and juice boxes "make kids gay." Many of his conspiracy theories emanate from the anti-government militia movement, whose ideology Jones adopted in the 1990s.

Based in Austin, Texas, Jones boasts a national audience, thanks to his radio show, which is broadcast on 100 stations nationwide, and his websites Infowars and Prison Planet, where many specious claims are presented, in multimedia format, as "news." Though platforms, pages, and channels associated with Jones were banned from prominent social media platforms in 2018, Infowars continues to maintain a significant reach. According to the web analytics firm Quantcast, Infowars reached approximately 3.34 million unique readers in February 2020 alone.

Jones blames the federal government, overseen by a shadowy New World Order, for everything from autism (which he claims is caused by vaccines) to numerous "false flag" operations (Sandy Hook, the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing). [He is also a well-known "9/11 truther,"](#) promoting the idea that the attacks were staged by the U.S. government for nefarious purposes. Jones's theories, particularly those concerning the September 11 attacks, brought him a whole new audience and influenced a number of white supremacists, including [Andrew Anglin](#) (of The Daily Stormer) and Lee Rogers (of InfoStormer). Jones alleges the U.S. federal government is part of a global conspiracy to disarm and enslave Americans, and points to routine National Guard training exercises as evidence.

In 2015, [Jones helped spark a hysterical reaction to Jade Helm](#), a U.S. military exercise designed to help soldiers train for various combat environments. Jones insisted it was a cover for the beginning stages of martial law, and enough people believed him that the Army had to send surrogates to calm anxious citizens.

In January 2020, Jones and Infowars [fueled concerns](#) that a gun rally in Richmond, Virginia, would result in violence by spreading the conspiracy theory that the Virginia government intended to confiscate weapons and asserting that the event would be targeted by a "false flag" operation, similar to what Jones said prior to the 2017 ["Unite the Right"](#) rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Jones [attended](#) the rally with other Infowars correspondents, driving around in a black "battle tank" emblazoned with the Infowars logo and labeling Democrats as "anti-American globalists" while warning that the "globalist tyranny" was trying to start a civil war.

In the months since the coronavirus emerged as a public health threat, Jones has been hawking several products and dietary supplements as preventative and treatment measures for the virus — despite a lack of supporting scientific evidence. On March 12, New York Attorney General Letitia James also sent Jones a [cease-and-desist letter](#) regarding the sale of these dubious products, and a month later, the Food and Drug Administration sent Jones a letter instructing him to stop selling these products or risk legal action.

On April 18, 2020, Jones attended a protest in Austin, Texas, against coronavirus-related restrictions, and told the crowd, "Texas is leading the way against the tyrants."

2. Jones has earned the vocal admiration of President Donald Trump and has claimed to be in contact with President Trump and administration officials.

President Trump has promoted a number of repeatedly disproven conspiracy theories advanced by Jones, including claims about President Barack Obama's birthplace and allegations that millions of illegal immigrants voted in the 2016 presidential election.

The mutual regard between President Trump and Jones was on full display during a 2015 radio interview, when then-candidate Trump told Jones, "Your reputation is amazing," and Jones responded, "What you're doing is epic. It's George Washington level." According to Jones, Trump called after the election to thank the Infowars audience for their support, and to promise he will make them proud. In the wake of the election, Infowars opened a bureau in Washington, D.C., which was headed by Jerome Corsi, a right-wing author and conspiracy theorist, until he left the website in 2018.

Since the election, Jones has claimed at [various times](#) that he speaks with both President Trump as well officials in the White House.

In [August 2018](#), Jones claimed that he talks to the president "through different systems," though he did not elaborate further. During an Infowars segment in [February 2020](#), Jones claimed that he spoke to an official within the White House who said that President Trump intends to pardon Roger Stone.

Despite Jones's assertions that he remains in contact with President Trump, he has not always spoke positively about the President. Most notably, following the American airstrikes carried out in Syria in April 2018, Jones [said](#) on his show that he would tell the president, "If you ever call me again, I'm going to tell you I'm ashamed of you." He [added](#): "I'm not in a... cult for Donald Trump," before cursing the President.

3. Jones's conspiracy theories have resulted in real world acts of violence and harassment.

Jones's rhetoric has inspired action in the physical world. Perhaps most famously, Jones was one of the leading propagators of the "Pizzagate" hoax, which consisted of a convoluted collection of lies involving D.C. pizzeria [Comet Ping Pong](#) and owner James Alefantis, whose tenuous personal connection to several powerful Democrats was spun into a nightmarish conspiracy theory in which tunnels beneath the restaurant served as the headquarters for a Hillary Clinton-sanctioned web of child trafficking, pedophilia and murder.

"When I think about all the children Hillary Clinton has personally murdered and chopped up and raped, I have zero right standing up against her," Jones said in a (now deleted) YouTube video posted on November 4, 2016. "Yeah, you heard me right. Hillary Clinton has personally murdered children, I just can't hold back the truth anymore." Jones later said his comments were a reference to U.S. policy in Syria. Much like Jade Helm incident before it, Jones's rhetoric influenced real world events, as on December 4, 2016, Edgar Welch appeared at Comet Ping Pong with an assault rifle, ready to "rescue" the children he was convinced were being held in the basement. Welch fired several shots and spent close to an hour inside the restaurant before apparently determining that there were not, in fact, any signs of any criminal activity anywhere in the building. He surrendered to police, and later pleaded guilty to assault and weapons charges. Welch was sentenced in June 2017 to four years in prison.

After the shooting incident, Jones issued a rare apology for his outrageous allegations against Alefantis, saying, "I made comments...that in hindsight I regret." It has been pointed out that Alefantis, as a private citizen, could easily sue Jones for spreading baseless accusations, and Jones's carefully worded apology may have been an attempt to stave off any future legal action. Even after all this, Jones hasn't dropped his child-trafficking theory — but now he's targeting prominent Democrats, all of whom are public figures, and less protected by libel laws.

Jones also spread conspiracy theories regarding the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, labeling the tragedy as a hoax perpetrated by "crisis actors," and his listeners harassed the victims' families for years. Jones has repeatedly lost his attempts to dismiss the civil suits brought against him by the families of Sandy Hook victims, and now owes [those families nearly \\$150,000 in legal fees](#). Jones [lost his appeal](#) in March 2020.

Wolfgang Halbig, one of the defendants in the suit and a former Infowars contributor who Jones has since distanced himself from, was [arrested](#) on January 27, 2020, for allegedly harassing the families of Sandy Hook victims.

4. Jones's on-air persona is not demonstrably antisemitic, but he has featured antisemitic guests on his show.

White supremacists and other antisemites have expressed frustration at the absence of antisemitism on Jones's programs and websites. However, Jones has been known to rail against the "Jewish mafia" and following the violent and chaotic "Unite the Right" white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, he announced that he suspected that many of the attendees were actually "leftist Jews" there "in disguise," to discredit white supremacists and incite violence. More recently, on November 30, 2019, Jones had [E. Michael Jones](#), a prominent antisemite, on as a guest to talk about Sacha Baron Cohen's call during his speech at ADL's November 2019 ["Never is Now"](#) conference for social media companies to ban Alex Jones's programming. During the conversation, Alex Jones acknowledged that he read E. Michael Jones's book *Monsters from the Id* and spoke positively of the conspiracy theorist.

Though E. Michael Jones limited his overt antisemitism during the interview and tried to frame his primary struggle as against the spread of pornography — which he believes leads to moral degeneracy — he did accuse a Jewish individual of being responsible for the spread of pornography in Germany after World War II and claimed that the Israeli military used pornography as a means to disrupt the local population during a 2002 operation in Ramallah.

On January 13, 2020, Jones hosted [Richard Spencer](#), the well-known white supremacist and [antisemitic alt right](#) figure, giving him a platform to express his white nationalist beliefs. Though Jones disagreed with some of Spencer's positions, the two spoke extensively about the purported globalist plot to destroy western civilization, which some consider to be a dog-whistle term for "Jewish." While Jones did not explicitly mention Jews during the interview (though he did assert that George Soros paid for agitators to attend the Unite the Right rally), Spencer twice referenced the role of "Zionism" as a driver of American empire and he refused to disavow Hitler when Jones asked outright whether he liked the Nazi leader.

5. Although Jones has been banned from several social media platforms for spreading violent, bigoted conspiracy theories, he maintains a significant audience.

In August 2018, Facebook, Apple, YouTube, and Spotify removed podcasts, pages, and channels belonging to Jones and Infowars. In September 2018, Twitter followed suit and banned Jones and Infowars from their platform, as well. As Facebook noted in a [public statement](#), the company acted because Jones's pages "[glorify] violence, which violates our graphic violence policy, and [use] dehumanizing language to describe people who are transgender, Muslims, and immigrants, which violates our hate speech policies." Said Spotify about Infowars: "[the show] expressly and principally promotes, advocates, or incites hatred or violence against a group or individual based on characteristics."

Prior to these removals, Jones enjoyed a large viewership, with Infowars garnering over 10 million visitors a month and his YouTube channel attracting approximately 2.4 million subscribers and 17 million monthly views. Though his platform has [diminished](#) significantly with the bans, Jones's [videos](#) continue to be [shared](#) on social media platforms by fans, spam accounts, and smaller Infowars-owned accounts. In March 2019, one Infowars-linked YouTube channel had more than 64,000 subscribers before it was removed and in February 2020, *Newsweek* [reported](#) that three YouTube channels that shared Infowars content combined for more than 19,000 subscribers and over 2.5 million views since October 2019.

The Camps

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:06 PM

Facilities[edit]



A Bohemian tent in the 1900s, sheltering [Porter Garnett](#), [George Sterling](#) and [Jack London](#)

The main encampment area consists of 160 acres (65 ha) of old-growth [redwood trees](#) over 1,000 years old, some over 300 feet (91 m) tall.^{[12](#)}

The main activity at the Grove is varied entertainment in which all members participate, on a grand main stage and a smaller, more intimate stage. The majority of common facilities are entertainment venues.^{[location needed](#)}

Sleeping quarters, or "camps", are also scattered throughout the grove. There were 118 as of 2007. These camps, which are frequently [patrilineal](#), are the principal means through which high-level business and political contacts and friendships are formed.^{[2](#)}

The preeminent camps are:^{[13](#)}

- Hill Billies
- Mandalay
- Cave Man
- Stowaway
- Uplifters
- Owls Nest
- Hideaway
- Isle of Aves
- Lost Angels
- Silverado Squatters
- Sempervirens
- Hillside
- Idlewild

Each camp has a "captain", and one of his many jobs is its upkeep. Many local [Sonoma County](#) contractors have performed a variety of tasks at these camps, and have called the requested work simple and eco-friendly.^{[location needed](#)}

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Grove#Symbols>