# **ARF NOTES**: publication of the Association of Retired Faculty, California State University Northridge



Website: http://www.csun.edu/arf

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#### **Upcoming Programs**

September 11th, University Club (Orange Grove Bistro) at 2 pm. Cindy Malone (Biology) will be speaking on stem cell research...

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JOYCE LINDEN

Welcome all **ARF** members to a new "academic" year of *ARF Notes* and **ARF** Activities. We have some great programs and activities planned for this year. I hope to see all of you at these events so I can greet you individually! You will find the programs and activities enjoyable as well as interesting and it is a good opportunity to interact with other members and old friends.

This year our first meeting will be on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the University Club (Orange Grove Bistro) with Cindi Malone (Biology) speaking to us about stem cell research. As usual, we will have our Thank God the Holidays are Over Banquet in December, and in the spring we will have our annual luncheon and presentation of scholarships. Our Field Trip this year will be to the LA Public Library. I'm sure you'll want to make an effort to attend all our events.

I want to express my gratitude for the efforts of all the ARF Board Members for the previous year's program planning, especially to Nancy Owens, the Program Chair, and to Past President Larry Caretto. Many of you don't realize the time and effort that the officers and board members put into our organization. Our new Treasurer, Heidemarie Lundblad and new Membership Chair, Ron McIntyre, worked on our

Database with the help of Heidemarie's spouse. We gathered volunteers to help Ron and his wife, Stephanie, stuff over 300 envelopes. I want to publicly acknowledge and thank: Bonnie Faherty, Jeanne Glazer, Dorena Knepper, and Christine C. Smith for devoting two hours to this task so that membership renewals and invitations to join could be mailed.

Sadly, my first task as your new President this year was to inform the membership about illness and death of a few ARF members. I received several email inquiries for more information. One suggestion I received from a member was to alert you to the availability of Caring Bridge, an on-line organization where ill individuals can keep in touch with friends and relatives and all are informed as to the individual's treatment and progress. available Information is www.caringbridge.org.

Please join me in extending a welcome to the new **ARF** Board Members listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Many thanks to those leaving the board for their service this past year. Again, I hope to see you at the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## ARF Program Schedule 2013-2014

<u>Date</u>	Speaker/Event	<b>Topic</b>	Location/Time
Sept. 11, 2013	Cindy Malone, CSUN Biology	Stem Cell Research	Northridge Room, Univ. Club, 2 pm
Oct. 9th, 2013	Paul Lavarack (ARF Scholarship Winner)	Film, "Labor Action"	Northridge Room, Univ. Club, 2 pm
Nov. 13th, 2013	Flavia Fleischer, Deaf Studies	Deaf Culture	Northridge Room, Univ. Club, 2 pm
December	No meeting or program		
Jan. 11th, 2014 (Saturday)	Annual Banquet	Entertainment TBA	Univ. Club. No host bar 6, dinner 6:45
Feb. 12th, 2014	Ellen Mayer, Counseling Center	Burma	Northridge Room, Univ. Club, 2pm
March 12th, 2014	Ellen Jarosz, Li- brary	University and Urban Archives	Northridge Room, Univ. Club, 2pm
Apr. 2nd, 2014 (Wednesday)	Field Trip	Downtown Library	Time and Transportation TBA
May 10th, 2014 (Saturday)	Annual Spring Luncheon	Presentations by Scholarship Win- ners	Univ. Club, 12-3 pm
June 7th, 2014 (Saturday)	Picnic/ General Meeting	Entertainment: Paul Kirk on Accordion	Place TBA

#### **EMERITI NEWS**

Bonnie Faherty (Nursing) and her husband, Ed Feldman, spent June in Africa visiting Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. They enjoyed several safaris and staying in areas where the animals still owned the land. Visits to Pretoria and shantytowns in Soweto and Cape Town were an experience filled with education and history. Sites such as Chobe on the Zambezi River, Kruger National Park, Stellenbosch in the wine country, and downtown Cape Town provided a variety of eye popping images and tastes (wildebeest, wart hog, impala, ostrich, and buffalo as examples). The weather cooperated and despite a few sprinkles in the last few days, cool Fall temperatures meant comfortable outings.

At the Victory Falls Hotel in Zimbabwe, a Downton Abbey themed afternoon High Tea was a highlight. Over a hundred guests of the host came in period costume, while wart hogs invaded the tea tent with Victoria Falls splendid in the background. Bonnie and Ed came back with wonderful memories of the lovely people and the courage and leadership of Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa. This is a trip to put on your bucket list; it will be far more than you imagined.

**DeWayne Johnson (Journalism)** suffered a major stroke on July 28, 2013, and is permanently incapacitated. No one is or will be responding to email sent to any of his email accounts.



#### IN MEMORIAM

William G. Freeman (Speech Communication) passed away in April at his home in Granada Hills after a two-decade struggle with chronic renal disease. Born in Portland, Oregon in 1932, he went on to earn his AA (1952) at Centralia Community College prior to serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. Upon discharge from the Army, he earned his BA (1957) in Theatre from the Pasadena Playhouse College of the Arts and pursued a career in theater acting. He then returned to higher education, earning both a BA (1966) and MA (1967) from what was then San Fernando Valley State College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1970, writing his dissertation on the "Homiletical Theory of Cotton Mather."

During his 27-year tenure at CSUN, Freeman taught, conducted research and published on rhetorical and homiletical studies, and made numerous scholarly conference presentations. He was particularly devoted to advising graduate students, and served as Department Graduate Coordinator for many years. After his retirement from CSUN in 1997, he continued to pursue his personal passions for music, film, decorative aluminum, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. In his 70s, he returned to his acting career booking roles in commercials and independent films, and becoming a very proud member of SAG-AFTRA.

Freeman is survived by his wife of 23 years, Bonita J. Campbell of Granada Hills, CA; his son from his first marriage, Gage K. Freeman of Northridge, CA; and numerous close friends and colleagues. At his specific request, there were no formal services. One of his favorite charities was MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) in Pacoima, Ca.

**Eugene Fritsche (Geology)** passed away on July 7<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. Jerry Stinner, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, writes of him, "Gene was an incredible individual, on many levels. He began at CSUN in 1963 and retired in 2000; during that time he touched the lives of many students and was a key member in making the Department one of the best, if not the best, Geology Departments in the CSU. He was an expert on the geology of the Santa Monica Mountains and a regular contributor to professional societies and journals. Those of us who had the privilege of hiking with him and his wife Sue on one of their GeoTreks know how much he loved the area and sharing his knowledge. He and Sue were also very involved with aid around the world through Habitat for Humanity and their church. Gene loved life and lived it to the fullest; he was a role model for many of us and will be deeply missed."

**Greg Jackson (Ed Psych and Counseling)** died in July, and his funeral was held at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. **Roberta (Bobby) Madison (Health Sciences)** passed away from metastatic lung cancer on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Roberta received her MS and Ph.D. in Public Health from UCLA and joined the faculty at CSUN in 1975, serving for 35 years until her retirement. She was active in many areas in the University as well as in the classroom, serving as the first University Assessment Coordinator, and helping to develop Assessment Guidelines. She also served on the Women's Studies Committee, and helped to change its current status to a Department in the College of Humanities. Her active engagement in Faculty Governance included chairing or serving at various times on all University standing committees. Roberta was also active in research, writing and presenting over 30 papers on environmental epidemiology. Especially notable was her work as an epidemiologist at the City of Hope on lung cancer. Most recently she was one of the recipients of the 2010 Womens' Studies Phenomenal Women Award for outstanding community service. Her survivors include her daughter Susan Vann. son Jerry Solomon and his wife Nancy Kerrigan, and 6 grandchildren.

**Stan Singer (Counseling Center)** died on April 18<sup>th</sup> after a prolonged illness. He grew up in Eagle Rock, Ca., and received his BA at UCLA and MA and Ph.D. from USC after an interruption to his college career during World War II, when he spent the last six months of the war in a prison camp in Germany. He started out as a part time clinical psychologist at Valley State College, and later became director of the Counseling Center. He also served on the 1970's General Education Task Force planning revisions to GE, and is remembered by his colleagues as a friend and mentor, and for his ability to grasp the complexities of problems and issues. He loved reading and debating, and anything active, such as hiking, swimming, or bike riding. He is survived by a son, David, and a daughter, Erin.

**Robert (Red) Williams (Administration)** passed away on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Robert was one of the original staff who came over from the Los Angeles campus to start the new campus in the Valley in 1958. He served in many capacities over the years, including Registrar, Dean of Admissions and Records, and Head of Counseling among other roles. He was active in many campus activities and was known to everyone who was at SFVSC in the late 50s and 60s. He is survived by his wife Carolyn and other family members. Memorial services were held on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Church on the Way.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND SELECTION COMMITTEE

#### ARF Memorial Awards Luncheon

Four \$1,500 scholarships were awarded to support the graduate work of CSUN students at the Memorial Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Each recipient gave a brief discussion of his or her research or creative activities. The graduate project of April Bey, an MA candidate in Art, is titled "The Millennial Natural Hair Movement." April spoke about the evolution of hair styles for millennial African-American women and showed some of the depictions of this hair style in the paintings she was creating for her thesis project. Edwin Leung discussed his Biology MS research to determine the effect of environmental factors on the population of white seabass off the Southern California coast. Trista Payte read from her work towards an MA in Creative Writing; her work looks at woman writers who create characters who do not conform to traditional traits of domesticity. Victoria Weaver entertained the audience with her planned Anthropology MA research on the "drunkenmonkey" hypothesis, which suggests that human proclivity to consume alcohol may have roots in the affinity of nonhuman primate ancestors for alcohol in overripe fruit.

Ken Jones chaired the Scholarship Committee, whose other members were Roberta Mauksch, Pat Murray, Karen Robinette and Ruth Schrier. The committee reviewed eighteen applicants to select the four winners. On behalf of the membership, the **ARF** Board thanked the committee members for all their work. Last year 108 **ARF** members donated over \$8,000 to the scholarship fund. The luncheon program contained the names of nineteen retirees who had died since the last memorial luncheon. *Reported by Larry Caretto*.

For a testimonial about the value of ARF scholarships, see the following letter from Andres E. Aguilar, 2012

#### ARF Scholarship Award winner:

"This spring, I will be completing my Master's Degree at CSUN in Linguistics. With your support, I was able to partake in the Summer Nahuatl Institute, ...held this year at Cal State Los Angeles. At this institute, I was immersed in the Nahuatl language and was able to gather the data for my thesis, which was a description of the sounds of this language. Over the course of the last year, I have been working on my thesis "A phonological description of Chicontepec Nahuatl"....This last fall, I applied to and was admitted to both UCSD and USC for a Ph.D. in Linguistics. I was offered funding at both institutions. The fact that I was able to conduct original research for my thesis made me a stronger applicant and helped open these doors. This coming fall I will begin my studies at the UCSD department of Linguistics. I thank you and the Association of Retired Faculty for your support in my academic trajectory. ... I appreciate the all work that you all do to help the graduate students at CSUN reach their dreams!"

#### BOOK GROUPS

The next meeting of the **Wednesday Book Group** will be on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at the home of Audrey Clark, 17508 Marilla

St., Northridge. We will be discussing *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor.

The ARF Science Book Group met on May 15th at the Oviatt Library. The book discussed was The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution by Richard Dawkins. This book may have grown out of a need to formulate a defense against the arguments of creationists. In any case, Dawkins is a master at explaining complex ideas. While it is unlikely that Intelligent Design proponents and other creationists will read this book, it can serve as a tutorial for defenders of evolution as fact. The author goes through the book in careful sequence, making each point and building further concepts from earlier ones. Our discussion was lively, and as usual, tended to diverge. One interesting question raised was whether modern medicine has served to shape the human genome through selection. The consensus of the group was probably only to a minimal extent, because most people in the world do not have access to modern medicine. Reported by Linda Jones.



Ten members of the **Monday Film Group** held a spirited discussion of *The Lone Ranger* at the home of Dorena Knepper on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Probably this movie provoked the widest range of reactions of any other the Club has discussed. 4 members loved it, 3 disliked it, and one member really hated it, describing it as "miserable," and "every bit as bad as the critics said it was!" Opinion on Johnny Depp was also split, with one member indicating he didn't care for Depp's performance and wouldn't likely see any future films starring the actor, while another member loved Depp's portrayal, describing it as "delightful." Members did agree on several negatives: the slow pace in the beginning, needless complications in the plot, and the device used to launch the story, which involved a young boy at a Wild West Exhibit coming upon an elderly Tonto, who is a statue that comes alive to answer the lad's questions. These latter scenes added only length to the overlong 2 1/2 hour movie, and should have been left on the cutting room floor. The cartoon aspect of the movie was mentioned by several members. The Lone Ranger, Tonto and assorted bad guys are catapulted from speeding trains, shot, knifed or otherwise assaulted and should be dead. As one bad guy comments about the Lone Ranger, "Why can't you stay dead?" But like cartoon figures, they kept rebounding back to life. Members thought that the cinematography and location of the movie was its best feature. Monument Valley, which is in Utah and features iconic, red stone monuments, never looked better, although inexplicably the title, "Texas - 1859," is emblazoned on the screen when the Lone Ranger's story begins. Individual ratings on this film ranged from 3 to 8.5, producing an overall average of 6.75.

The Heat, the second film discussed, was enjoyed by all with several members commenting on the chemistry between Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock in this female buddy movie of a Boston cop (McCarthy) and a New York FBI agent (Bullock) teaming together to bring down an elusive drug lord. McCarthy is a coarse, foul-mouthed detective, while Bullock is a fastidious, bythe-book FBI agent, each hating each other on sight, but they slowly develop a friendship and grow to appreciate each other's strengths as the movie progresses. McCarthy generated a wide range of reactions, with one member refusing to see the movie because she was in it, while another member thought that the actress owned the screen the moment she appeared on it. Opinion was also split on the humor in the movie, with some members thinking it was funny throughout, while others thought it was spotty with too much of a Laurel and Hardy overtone. However, there was near unanimity about the plot being disjointed, with one member commenting that the scriptwriter couldn't decide whether to write a funny crime story, or a serious one with light-hearted moments. There was also agreement that since the movie ends with Sandra Bullock's character moving from New York to Boston's FBI office, sequels can be expected. Members rated this film at 8.3.

Nine members of the **Monday Film Group** gathered at the home of Jeanne Glazer on June 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss *The Great Gatsby* and *Mud*. The consensus on the first film was, "Loved the glitz and glamor, but the people--who appear shallow and lack any moral core--not so much." Several members thought the story line was weak and not sufficiently developed, noting that it was difficult to personally connect with any of the characters. Some expressed disappointment in the pace of the film, feeling it moved much too slowly and was boring. The technical aspects--costumes, vintage automobiles, and period settings--received very high praise. One member who had read the book commented on how precisely the film followed the plot and author Fitzgerald's theme of the death of the American dream. The actors were well cast, particularly Leonardo diCaprio as Gatsby, and Joel Edgerton as Daisy's callous husband, Tom Buchanan. However, one member thought Carey Mulligan was miscast as Daisy, portraying her as too serious and even soulful in some scenes. Daisy as depicted in the novel was beautiful, vivacious--the star in the room--but also exceedingly shallow and very self-centered. Mulligan's Daisy did not have the stunning beauty Fitzgerald describes, nor her flippancy. Members ranked this film at a so-so 7.3.

*Mud,* a complex movie about the coming of age of two young pre-teen boys, Ellis and Neckbone, was appreciated for its thought-ful study of 7 different relationships: between the two boys; between the boys and Mud, the mysterious man they discover living on an island in the middle of the Mississippi River; between Mud and his mercurial love, Juniper; between one of the boys and his uncle, and the other boy with his parents; between Mud and his one-time guardian/mentor; and finally between Ellis and his first crush, an older girl who rejects him in a painful moment that everyone in the Film Club could relate to. Kudos were given to the acting in this film, particularly of the young actors who played Ellis and Neckbone (the latter in his first film role), and of Matthew McConaughey as Mud, in an atypical role for him. The cinematography also received high marks, with one member commenting that there was such grace to the scenes of the island and life on the Mississippi River. Several members thought the film was too long and dragged in parts. The only other negative observation was over the portrayal of women in the film, who were depicted as powerless and without gumption. Members rated this film at 8.1.

Ten members of the **Monday Film Group** met at the home of Joyce Linden on April 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Scottish film, *The Angel's Share*, about a young thug who finds redemption in a newly discovered talent for discerning the quality of Scotch whiskey, and the Jackie Robinson biopic, 42, two films which garnered quite different responses. *The Angel's Share* begins as a dark commentary on the grim prospects of unemployed and unemployable youth, but mid-way turns into a picaresque farce, as the youth and his 3 friends enter the world of scotch whiskey tasting, ultimately siphoning 3 bottles worth from a rare, recently discovered cask. Members characterized the theme variously as "creative theft," "crude ingenuity," and "discovering your talent." Others saw the film as a wildly improbable tale of upward mobility against impossible odds. All agreed that the pace of the movie during the first half to two-thirds was agonizingly slow. There was also criticism of the foul language used in the film which became increasingly cacophonous and offensive. Members ranked this film at 6.8.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed 42. One member expected to see more biographic detail of the great baseball player, feeling that breaking the color barrier was only one aspect of his life. Others disagreed believing that the racism depicted was shocking and that Robinson's courage and strength in surviving it was central to his life, baseball career, and legacy. Members felt the acting was exceptional, citing specifically Chadwick Boseman (as Robinson), Chris Meloni (as Leo Durocher), and especially Harrison Ford as the Dodgers' General Manager, Branch Rickey. The cinematography also received high marks, particularly the digital re-creation of Ebbets Field, and the close-up scenes of Robinson at bat, running and stealing bases. One member noted two factual errors in the movie: Durocher's suspension was for gambling, not womanizing as depicted, and the most powerful scene in the movie of Robinson in the tunnel breaking his bat in a rage never happened. There was also criticism of the music as being too syrupy and bombastic, although a compelling scene of a Black man singing the National Anthem all the way through in his powerful baritone voice was praised both for its beauty and the irony of his performance, delivered while Robinson is enduring an onslaught of vile epithets from the White racist coach of the opposing team. Members gave this film a very high 9 ranking.

#### SCCARF REPORT

Lamb korma. Chicken pasanda. Sag pannier. Naan. Those were among the many delightful dishes ordered and shared by the twenty-one SCCARFers who attended the group's May gastronomic excursion to Anarbagh Indian and Pakistani restaurant in Woodland Hills. Our second visit to this popular eatery, this trip proved every bit as enjoyable as our first; almost everyone tried a new dish or two. One attendee declared the lamb korma to be "...exquisite, the best I've ever had," and another extolled the virtue of the Parmesan naan, a specialty of the house. "When first suggested, the idea of Parmesan cheese on naan sounded extremely unappetizing. But I gave it a try and was delighted with the result. I'll definitely order it again." (Jim Dole)

June found eighteen SCCARFers at PhoCT, a cozy Vietnamese restaurant in Canoga Park owned and operated by a brother-sister team, Duc and Kim. By far the most popular of the dishes tried was Pho, a complex broth with a large assortment of herbs; whether served with vegetables, chicken, pork or filet mignon (no one tried the tripe), virtually everyone found this Vietnamese staple a pleasantly savory and warming dish. Among the popular appetizers tried were spring rolls (shrimp and pork, lettuce and vermicelli), autumn rolls (grilled shrimp\_paste, lettuce and cucumber in rice paper) and egg rolls (shrimp, pork/chicken, vermicelli, mushroom and vegetables). An appropriate dipping sauce accompanied each roll: peanut sauce for some, fish sauce or traditional spicy sauce for others. Though a novelty for many attendees, Vietnamese cuisine proved to be surprisingly palate pleasing, spicy but not overly so. Service, however, was a bit chaotic, the limited staff apparently overwhelmed by our numbers. Even so, all who attended declared the evening a gastronomic success. Said one, the restaurant was "...simply delightful," while another declared the food "...surprisingly tasty, not at all what I'd expected." One attendee, new to the cuisine, said "I will be returning soon!" (Carolyn Arthur)

As 22 SCCARFers entered Robin Hood in Sherman Oaks, the group's July venue, all were pleasantly surprised for it was like walking into an English pub with an adjoining restaurant! Twelve attendees sat at a traditional Robin Hood round table, the others at smaller tables nearby. The waiters, their English accents almost convincing us we were in the British Isles, took our orders for drinks and food. Draft beers were popular—Guinness especially so—as was wine; waiters graciously uncorked the favorite wines toted in by a few SCCARFers. Bangers and Mash, a typical mix of sausages and potatoes, was a favorite dish, but Icelandic Cod and Chips, Cornish Pastie, and Chicken Curry Pie in a puff pastry, were definitely a hit with many. The assortment of desserts proved irresistible, and several were requested and shared, among them Rhubarb Pie and Custard, Baileys Cheesecake, Treacle, and Spotted Dick with Raisins. The latter, unfamiliar to all, turned out to be yellow sponge cake with raisins topped with a delicious, creamed custard. The ingredients of the Treacle were indecipherable, a challenge for another time. (Chris Smith)

Anyone interested in joining the group on its future excursions need only let Jim Dole know (jim.dole@csun.edu).

### ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY RENEWAL/APPLICATION FORM, ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014

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PLEASE RETURNTHIS FORM TO A.R.F, P.O. BOX 280578, NORTHRIDGE, CA. 91328-0578

ALSO, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE MONTHLY

MEETING SPEAKERS, TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, AND/OR FIELD TRIPS.

#### ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2012-2013

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