

# ARF NOTES

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**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE:  
Pam  
Bourgeois**

November already! **ARF** is off to a great start this year with two stellar speakers in our Speaker Series. In September we heard Dr. Beverly Gray talk about her book, *Seduced By Mrs. Robinson: A Movie of a Generation*. The movie, of course, is *The Graduate*. She focused on her research into the behind-the-scenes details of the production made by the cast and crew. She talked about the huge influence *The Graduate* had on the future of filmmaking, and why it appealed to a newer generation of filmgoers with its changing views of sex and marriage, leading to the phrase “the generation gap.” That the history of Los Angeles is so entwined with the history of pop culture in the United States and the world is always fascinating to rediscover. Beverly made it all come alive.

Our October speaker, Dr. Loraine Lundquist, an astrophysicist by education and experience, has turned to the world of sustainability. She addressed us on this vital issue, acquainting us with new vocabulary and new ways of looking at our community. How can we provide housing for all? She encourages creative thinking, getting away from what we’ve always done, to imagine more sustainable ways to live together in our communities. Her calm demeanor and scientific outlook helped us to understand the importance, and the urgency of the issues of sustainability in our modern world with climate change already upon us.

Our November speaker is Dr. Harold Goldwhite, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at CSULA and Executive Director of ERFSA. He addressed us last year on the history of detective fiction and its use of forensic methods, from Sherlock Holmes to the present. His topic this year is Alchemy.

The silent auction of donated arts, crafts, and other items takes place the same afternoon. Come help support our Memorial Awards by purchasing some early holiday gifts!

The **ARF** board and its members work continually to keep us vibrant and informed and entertained. Besides our distinguished Speaker Series, **ARF** provides several Interest Groups in film and books, both fiction and non-fiction. Our dining out group, SCCARF, meets monthly at various area restaurants. Please join us at some of these upcoming events.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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## NEWS FOR ARF MEMBERS

### Student Success Event

“A campus-wide conversation on Student Success: *Practical Strategies for Supporting Student Success* will take place on **Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 – 4:30 pm** in the USU Northridge Center, followed by a reception and resource fair. This session provides a workshop format to allow practitioner to practitioner conversation. Participants will learn about several resources on campus and have the opportunity to engage experts and each other on how to incorporate these tools into their work in helping our students succeed. The workshops will allow a deeper dive into specific initiatives, data trends, and capacity building that are currently available on campus.” This announcement may be of interest to most of you as an indication of the University’s continuing focus on student success. Those of you living locally who will receive the newsletter online before October 31st may wish to attend this event and use your experience and expertise to take part in the conversation.

### A Heads Up from one of our Members:

#### **The Real ID**, by Bob Kiddoo

“The Real ID Act of 2005” was enacted by the U.S. Congress as a partial response to the events of what is commonly known as “9/11.” This Act modified federal procedures and standards for issuing state Drivers Licenses and other forms of acceptable federal identification.

If your Driver’s License or state ID is to be accepted for federal purposes, it must meet these new standards. What are federal purposes, you ask? Well, among others, if you plan to board an aircraft for domestic travel or enter a federal facility other than a U.S. Post Office, you must present a compliant federal ID OR carry your valid Passport domestically. The Act granted a signifi-

cant time period for states to comply. Of course, many states did not comply and have had to seek extensions of time. A couple of states have refused. For California, the extended time period ends on October 1, 2020. In spring 2018, our Past President, Patrick Nichelson, brought this subject to your ARF Board of Directors as an information item. Many were not aware of “The Real ID” and, of those who were aware, there were differing opinions on the subject. After proceeding incorrectly over three trips to California DMV, the author of this article had just received approval for his renewal, which at that time was thought to be a compliant California Driver’s License! As the California conversion proceeded, it was discovered, after nearly 1.5 Million “new” licenses were issued, that the California procedure was not in full compliance with federal standards. So what is correct?

1. You must appear in person at a California DMV Office.
2. You need Proof of Identity.
3. And proof of Full Social Security Number; not an abbreviated last four as is on most documents.
4. Proof of California Residency. Effective April 2019; two (2) residency documents are required. (Please see the California DMV website below for details. On this website you may click on “REAL ID Interactive Checklist,” which gives a specific list of documents which may be used to satisfy the requirements.

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/realid>

Item #4 is where the original California procedure caused problems! For the first million plus of us, DMV required only one (1) item in Proof of Residency. Two are now required by California, in compliance with Federal government requirements. Pat and I each received a letter from the DMV addressed to the address on our new “compliant” License. Our signatures at the bottom of each letter when returned within 30 days would act as a second residency verification. Those of you who received the new License before April of 2019 might want to check on that. Those who renewed Licenses after April 2019 should have a License in compliance, which has the California Bear in the upper right-hand corner, with a star in the center of the Bear’s body.

We congratulate those who solved the renewal process better than I. We feel the pain for those who must wait in the ever-growing lines at a California DMV Office that issues and renews a Drivers License. Not all DMV Offices do everything!

## ARF PROGRAMS

Autumn in California is not what anyone would call traditional, with the sustained temperatures one associates with the dog days of August, and the Santa Ana winds, chilling in their own heated ways. But ARF's September and October Wednesday lectures offered two quintessential California experiences that contributed mightily to the quality of our collective autumn experience.

In **September**, Dr. Beverly Gray, a Hollywood maven,



came to discuss her most recent book, *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson*, taking us all back to 1967 and *The Graduate*, a film that has been a touchstone of a generation in many ways. Because of her own expertise and experience, Beverly's perspective on movie-making offered breadth, depth, and some irresistible humor.

**Dr. Grey with Sharon Klein, ARF Program Chair**

Beverly's "take" on the history and making of *The Graduate*, along with how its memes still reign, held our attention and engaged a lively exchange after the talk.

**Dr. Lundquist with ARF members Ron McIntyre and John Clendenning**



Also igniting a lively and informative exchange was our **October** program, with Dr. Loraine Lundquist, a physicist and CSUN professor whose foundational and sustained (!) work with both the Sustainability minor in the College of Humanities and the Institute for Sustainability on campus is celebrated. Dr. Lundquist spoke to us about her research interests in sustainability and how her early astrophysics research moved into this area in the context of the urgency of climate change. Students and faculty alike collaborate with

Dr. Lundquist in community sustainability initiatives, and she has expanded her domain of concern to include her campaign to represent the 12<sup>th</sup> District--including CSUN and surrounding neighborhoods on LA's City Council. The afternoon was filled with illuminating--and hopeful--information as well as engaging and important conversation. members raised questions on topics from climate change to transportation and homelessness and education. Discussing these, Dr. Lundquist also reminded us that our voices--informed by our respective areas of expertise--can make important contributions. A golden autumn afternoon.

November, too, holds the promise of gold, as Dr. Goldwhite, Professor Emeritus of chemistry and our ERF-SA Executive Director, will talk about the contributions of alchemy to the development of contemporary chemistry--about which he co-authored a book, whose subtitle promises discussion of donkey dung and dragon's blood. On that day, as well, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we will hold the annual Silent Auction from 12:30-2:00pm. As we know, the proceeds from the sale of the items--many crafted by ARF members--provides significant support for the Memorial Graduate Project Awards (MGPA) program.

The ARF Program Committee continues to plan for both January's TGTHAO Banquet (January 11<sup>th</sup>) and our April 8<sup>th</sup> Field Trip. Please stay tuned, and...should you know an outstanding performer whom you think we would all enjoy in January, please email the Program Committee,

c/o [sharon.klein@csun.edu](mailto:sharon.klein@csun.edu) Sharon Klein



**EMERITI NEWS**

**Helen Bennett (Library)** reports her new address as of Sept 1, 2019:

Sunrise at Flatirons, Unit 522  
400 Summit Blvd  
Broomfield CO 80021

**Susan Curzon (Library).** In October 2018, we moved to Honolulu to be with our two grandchildren. After forty years in L.A., it was quite a transition! So let's do lunch when you are in Honolulu.

**Cynthia Desrochers (Education).** Loving retirement with my three Yorkies, multi-level garden and two grandchildren, Rhys (2 years) and Sienna (9 months) - even though they still live in lower Manhattan. Michael's still



teaching four history courses at CSU DH.

**Bonnie Faherty (Health Sciences).** My husband Ed and I spent a wonderful 3 weeks in Norway attending a Brygge Fest in Liland where a cod head precision throwing contest was the highlight. Our grandson is beginning his last year of college in Lillehammer where we were agog at all the wonderful Olympics related venues. Our time in Oslo included touring the castle, the palace and the Nobel Peace Museum.

**James Hasenauer (Communication Studies).** I serve on the Governing Board of the MRCA (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority).

**James Macklin (Accounting and Information Systems).** I have moved to a retirement community called Royal Oaks in Bradbury.

**Mary Schaffer (Cinema and Television Arts).** In Summer 2019, I was an advisor/instructor at The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International Youth Media Summit in Nepal, where 70 students from 32 countries created 7 films. The summit is sponsored in part by the United Nations.

**Ernest Velardi (Art).** I lost my spouse Lee Velardi on Dec 9, 2016 at the age of 93. She also taught Italian and Spanish for many years at Valley State College/ CSUN and was very involved with the faculty wives and University. (I am submitting this information on behalf of my father Ernest Velardi. Fondly, Gina Velardi. We are so very pleased that you are enjoying my father's art work he donated to CSUN's library).



#### IN MEMORIAM



Robert Provin, retired Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, passed away On September 14th. Robert received his BA (1969) and MA (1975) in Geography at CSUN. He was hired in the Department of Geography in July 1969 as the Head Cartographer and retired in July 2005 as the Senior Technician. Robert

helped carry the department from the days of hand-drawn maps to the digital age—ultimately opening the door to more sophisticated mapping projects. One of these collaborative efforts included

working with Dr. I-Shou Wang (Geography) and Dr. Ronald L.F. Davis (History) on an extensive historical mapping project in Natchez, Mississippi.

Always looking to new technology, Robert presented a workshop called “Internet and You” at the 1994 annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Coastal Geographers. In addition to his staff position, he was also a lecturer in the department from Fall 1987 to Fall 2013, teaching courses that ranged from Maps and Graphics, Cartography, and Geographical Information System (GIS) Tools and Techniques to Physical Geography, Weather, Foundations of Earth Science, The Internet, Science Capstone Paper for Liberal Studies Majors, and Astronomical Photography. He was one of the first lecturers on campus to teach online classes, and he helped design the department hybrid courses and two semesters of PACE classes. Beyond his love of Geography, Robert's other passion was astronomy. He published his first professional article in *Sky and Telescope* magazine at the age of 16 and launched into a life-long commitment to the field. He published innumerable articles, culminating in his highly regarded *A Manual for Advanced Celestial Mechanics* (co-authored with Brad Wallis) published by Cambridge University Press (1988).

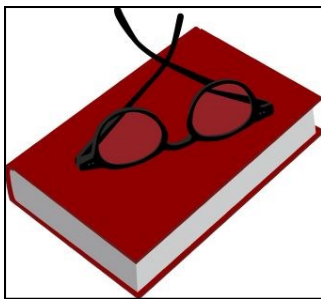
Bringing astronomy to the public was always something he loved. He invited CSUN students, staff-, and faculty to join him for an annual star party at Mt. Pinos. His skills as an astrophotographer brought much acclaim, and he was awarded a grant to travel to Australia for three weeks (with all his massive telescope equipment) to photograph the southern sky and a total solar eclipse. Please send cards to Geography and Environmental Studies, Attn: Robert Provin, CSUN, Northridge, CA 91330-8249 or emails to [geography@csun.edu](mailto:geography@csun.edu) and the staff will be sure to forward accordingly. The department is planning an outdoor “Celebration of Life” event — more information to follow.

#### Dr. Ali Zakeri (Mathematics)

passed away in the spring of 2019. He received his Ph.D. degree from Kansas State University in 1985. Subsequently, he held a faculty position at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse from 1985 to 1990. He then joined the faculty at CSUN in Fall 1990 and attained the rank of Full Professor in 1997. Dr. Zakeri built an impressive teaching portfolio and established himself



among the most highly praised instructors in our department, as attested by the numerous teaching awards he received throughout his career, particularly the CSUN *Distinguished Teaching Award* in 1993. Dr. Zakeri was an accomplished researcher in the field of applied mathematics. His research activities expanded the field of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and wave propagation phenomena. Over 48 students have been engaged in his research activities as Master's thesis students. These students are all either holding faculty positions in community colleges or are Ph.D. students. He co-authored over 16 peer review papers just in the past decade. This is quite an accomplishment given his additional commitments in serving CSUN in many ways. Indeed, Dr. Zakeri showed a sincere interest in the functions of the department and the University, and played an active and positive role at various levels without compromising the high quality of his teaching and research activities. Most notably, his activities as Graduate Coordinator, for over 20 years, inspired our Master's students and enabled steady growth of our graduate program. Dr. Zakeri is the recipient of the 2019 *College Service Award* in recognition of his generous and invaluable contributions to our college community.



## BOOK GROUPS

In May the **Wednesday Book Group** discussed Hannah Rothschild's *The Improbability of Love*. The novel's central character Annie, just jilted by her longtime boyfriend, buys a painting in a London junk shop which will turn out to be quite valuable. The story, with many intriguing and colorful characters, develops as others learn about the painting, which several people find quite captivating. As word of its existence spreads, international art experts argue over its origin and provenance, which adds to the painting's mystique. Ultimately, it is scheduled to be auctioned. The head auctioneer, anticipating his commission, plans his strategy to get the highest price from the likely bidders including two intensely competitive Russian capitalists with money to park and wealthy Arabs with a museum but little in it to attract international attention. There are also art historians with grudges to carry out, and possible war criminals with pasts to hide.

But wait, there's more. We get the details as Annie

puts on elaborate historically themed feasts for the very wealthy. There's a stirring love interest, and several chapters are narrated by the painting to tell us about its history. You might think that this is all too much, but no. Our group loved this book . . . and learned a bit about art history, the art world, and food. The author is a film maker and writer, but her experience in the London art world made her a natural for writing this charming and a bit over-the-top first novel.

*Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* is a book about improving the last days and years of people dying in America. Atul Gawande, the author, is a surgeon and regular writer on issues of policy in medicine. This book is concerned with end-of-life care, in particular changing the focus from exclusively saving and extending life to consideration of the quality of life.

The first few chapters give us a good summary of how and why the most common living arrangements for the elderly have changed from the early twentieth century. The author discusses the rise of nursing homes (for the less able elderly), which are focused on the safety of residents and maintenance of their physical health. But with their controlled routines and lack of privacy, many residents are not happy in nursing homes. During the 1980s "assisted living" facilities became popular. These usually offered three stages of care, with a resident moving from one stage to a less independent one as needed. Gawande believes that most such places evolve into variants of nursing homes. Care of elderly who are steadily weakening has either too often centered on safety and the convenience for caretakers with less and less time given to letting elders slowly manage their own life somewhat independently. These early chapters are depressing.

Fortunately, that is not the whole story. Beginning with chapter 5, "A Better Life", Gawande shows how the non-medical needs and desires of the elderly who no longer can manage as well can be met better. In conversations with patients, doctors should not just explain medical options but take the time to ask their patients how they see their health and happiness and what they want most for the remainder of their lives. Usually it's more good days (with "good" chosen by the particular patient) rather than more days of life—more chocolate ice cream or time with friends as opposed to ending life on a diet. We and our institutions need to enable this.

The first 20 minutes of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mviU9OeufA0> gives a good introduction to the author's main points and compelling examples. The book was powerful and led to discussions of our own dealings with aging family. Although most of us couldn't say it was an enjoyable read, we were all glad we had read it.

The **Wednesday Book Group** read William Browder's *Red Notice* for July. This book reads like a novel of international high finance with more than the usual risks but is the true story of the author's experiences with investing in Russia. Just after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, Bill Browder noticed that the Russian government was selling previously state-owned companies at astoundingly undervalued prices. Browder bought minority stakes in several of these companies that were being gobbled up by wealthy Russians with connections. The tension begins in the first chapter when Browder flies to Russia while wondering if he is about to be arrested and will suffer the same fate as dissidents throughout the world meet at the hands of repressive states. If you immediately wonder if this is like having a tiger by the tail, you have the right idea.

Browder's troubles began when the majority holder in one of his holdings directed the company to pay dividends only to the majority holder, cutting out Browder's share of ownership. Rather than be flummoxed, Browder sued and petitioned using the bureaucracy that, though corrupt, exists. Ultimately, and unbelievably, he won. He was soon the biggest foreign investor in Russia. But this was just the first step of hardball business in Russia. Rather than spoil the story let us say that there is corruption on every level and in every institution. Later the government arrested his Russian lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, and Browder had to use all of his wits and considerable energy to see if he could get justice for his friend. We all enjoyed this story tremendously and found out more than we expected about Russia and about the sausage-making involved in the functioning of the U.S. Congress *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*

### Science Book Group

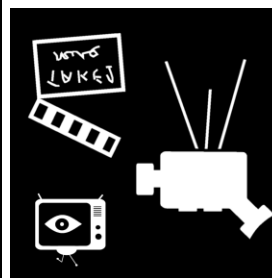
Our attendees for the August 21st meeting of the book group were: Adam Gifford, Phyllis Russell, Bill Hosek; Elzbieta Trybus; and Heidemarie Lundblad. We discussed *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History*, by Kurt Andersen. Fantasyland starts with the Pilgrims and ends (?) with current "Antivaxers" and other assorted conspiracy fantasists. We enjoyed the book and a lively discussion in which we tried, among other things, to determine why people in the US are so inclined to be involved in sects and a large variety of conspiracy theories – think Area 51!

Our attendees for the September 18th meeting of the book group were: Adam Gifford, Diane Schwartz, Bill Hosek; Elzbieta Trybus; and Heidemarie Lundblad. We discussed *The Goodness Paradox: The Strange Relationship Between Virtue and Violence in Human Evolution* by Richard Wrangham. Wrangham writes well, the book was easy to read and did stimulate thoughts and eventually a lively discussion. His primary thesis is that humans "self-domesticated, resulting in significantly less reactive violence while still maintaining a great propensity to proactive violence." Wrangham draws many parallels to the domestication of

Siberian foxes whose natural fear and animosity toward humans was significantly reduced over 25 breeding cycles. According to the author, humans "self-domesticated" by essentially ganging up against the major bullies. Through the "effective" use of capital punishment, over many generations reactive violence was reduced. My main problem with the book is that it is focused on men (since a similar book already exists) I assume the author prefers to speak about "humans" rather than men. Consequently, he also seems to completely ignore the continuing reactive violence of men toward women. For example, he discusses the practices of Australian aborigines and their extremely violent behavior toward their wives and women in general. However, he only discussed in the context of intertribal cooperation or war.

At the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the group discussed *How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog): Visionary Scientists and a Siberian Tale of Jump-Started Evolution*, by Lee Alan Dugatkin and Lyudmila Trut. For the November 20th meeting the Group will discuss *The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator* by Timothy C. Winegard.

Reports on the October and November discussions will appear in the next issue. *Heidemarie Lundblad*.



### FILM GROUP

The **Monday Film Group** met on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jeanne Glazer. We discussed the films *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw* and *After the Wedding*.

*Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw* is the latest release in the long running Fast and Furious series. Rather than the usual focus of this series on race cars this film is basically a "high tech" adventure with scenes running from London to a Pacific Island (supposedly Samoa but really Kauai). The main characters are Hobbs, played by Dwayne Johnson, and Shaw, played by Jason Statham. The rough but playful "love-hate" relationship of these two "super agents" was fun to watch. These two characters were well supported by the character of Hattie, Shaw's sister, well played by Vanessa Kirby. Alt-



though the group generally considered the numerous action scenes enjoyable some of the club members found the depiction of violence a bit excessive. Additionally, much of the group found the audio levels in the theaters to be uncomfortably high. The overall rating by the club members of *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw* was 7.8/10.

*After the Wedding* was a re-make of a 2006 film with some basic gender role changes but identical plot. Most of the group were aware of the original version and only three of us saw the new film itself. The basic story centers on the travel of Isabel, played by Michelle Williams, from her work in an orphanage in India to New York City for an interview with a potential donor. Upon arrival she discovers that the donor Theresa, played by Julianne Moore, is married to her old boyfriend Oscar, played by Billy Crudup. The human dynamics that ensue were “heart wrenching” but possibly a bit over the top. The club members that viewed the film felt that it was satisfactory but not exceptional. The overall rating by these club members for *After the Wedding* was 7.6/10.

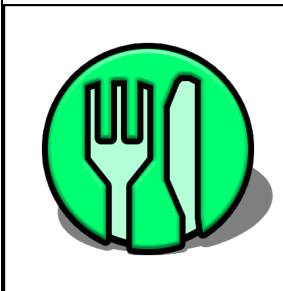
The **Monday Film Group** met on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Elizabeth Schneider to discuss the films *Hustlers* and *Ad Astra*.

*Hustlers* was based on real events and describes what happened when a group of strip club poll dancers got together to turn the tables and fleece their Wall Street clients. They would entice the clients into private sessions with them, drug them, and then take their credit cards and run up very large charges. Although Jennifer Lopez did a good job as the group leader, the performance of Constance Wu as a central figure stole the show. Some aspects of the film seemed overly romanticized. As an example, we found it hard to believe that the characters could afford large New York apartments with panoramic views! This combined with the unrealistic belief by the characters that this type of activity could continue indefinitely led us to feel that this lively film was relatively mediocre. The overall rating by the club members was 6.9/10.

*Ad Astra* tells the story of a quest by an astronaut, Roy McBride, as he makes a dangerous trip across the solar system to uncover the actions of his astronaut father, the lone survivor of an exploration mission. The character of McBride dominates most scenes of the film and is well played by Brad Pitt. Tommy Lee Jones gives his expected good performance as McBride’s mentally deranged father. Our group felt that the overall story line was well crafted and that the human aspects of the father son relationship was quite interesting. Our main hesitance about the film was that some of the technical aspects were unrealistic, while never clearly explained. The overall rating

of the film by the group was 7.5/10.

For the month of November, the Group plans to discuss the two films *Pain and Glory* and *Judy*.  
*David Schwartz*



## SCCARF REPORT

On Sep 25<sup>th</sup>, SCCARF members converged on Emle’s restaurant on Reseda near CSUN. Specializing in Mediterranean fare and an otherwise eclectic menu the SCCARFers noted that all the dishes served were from quite good to delicious. Of note were the Mediterranean plate, pistachio crusted salmon, and the fillet mignon (\$22). Also, prices were very reasonable and service was very good. *Gene Turner*

In October we SCCARFers met at Ali Baba Persian Restaurant in Granada Hills for our monthly dinner out. We had a great time catching up on news with old friends and getting better acquainted with others. The food of Iranian origin was delicious. Some of us especially liked the rack of lamb marinated in a secret collection of herbs and broiled over an open fire. Others thought the special kabobs were especially delicious. Altogether, we enjoyed this evening in the pleasant and simple ambiance of this fine restaurant. *Jim Allen*



BONNIE FAHERTY, ED FELDMAN, AND DAN BLAKE ENJOYING ALI BABA RESTAURANT

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2019—2020

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### ARF NOTES

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY**

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