

ARF NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

TIM FOX

Welcome to the continuation of the most unusual year since 1994. At least following the Earthquake, we were up and running within a month or so and on our way to functional recovery, if not complete normality.

ARF's 35th year starts, following a spring program that ended with a thud! Our scheduled March 11 Speaker, Hillary Kaplowitz, was trapped in emergency virus impact meetings on campus and we canceled her presentation an hour before it was to start. SCCARF's March outing at the new "Gus's BBQ at the Vineyards in Porter Ranch" was the second casualty, postponed (and now, indefinitely). April's Field Trip to the Los Angeles Central Library was canceled (Library closed). Our annual May Memorial Brunch with presentations by our award winners was canceled (Orange Grove Bistro closed). Limiting social gatherings to 10 or less precluded our annual June celebration picnic.

However, all was not lost. In lieu of oral presentations at the Brunch, each awardee provided an enhanced abstract, a short personal Bio, a picture and answers to a couple of commonly asked questions. These were published in the May issue of *ARF Notes*. If you haven't looked at the May issue, please do so; we had an extraordinary group of awardees. Looking for positives, publishing awardees' work enabled us to share their "presentations" with members who normally may not be able to attend the Memorial Brunch. We anticipate continuing the publication practice in the future.

Enough history, ARF is alive and functioning. Thanks to the efforts of our program committee, under the guidance of Sharon Klein, we have a full program lined up for the coming year, with only a few details still being sorted out. One of those questions is, when and where will we be able to meet again, without social distancing concerns? Thanks to

our "ad hoc Relocation Committee" of Dan Blake, Bob Kiddoo and Pat Nichelson, a potential plan for places to gather on campus has been worked out. Why this committee? For those unfamiliar with upcoming changes to the campus, our "home," the OGB, is scheduled for demolition, and will be replaced with a hotel. (The Orange Groves will be retained along with the pond full of many turtles and a few ducks). A new campus "Orchard Conference Center" is under construction in the old South Annex to the bookstore, and expected to become available in March 2021.

By now, many of you may have been introduced to, or have at least heard of, a remote connection option called Zoom, similar to Facetime. Fortunately, CSUN has a full license to Zoom, and anyone with a CSUN email address has full access to setting up a Zoom session. And fortunately, you don't need a CSUN email address to participate in a Zoom session; virtually anyone with a session passcode can join. Meeting ID and passcodes will be sent out by email and text prior to each meeting. Use a PC, iPad, Smartphone, ... For more information, check out the CSUN IT website for tutorials and assistance getting started.

Zoom -- many ARFer's have already experienced it with their book and movie clubs, Board meetings, virtual cocktail hours and safely connecting with family and friends. Starting this fall with our September meeting (which will focus on Zoom with a campus expert), ARF monthly meetings will be available through Zoom. Looking for another positive, with Zoom, ARF members unable to join us on campus, especially remotely located members, will be able to enjoy our monthly presentations. Unfortunately, it won't help with the January banquet, the April field trip, nor the June picnic.

The past few months have been a challenge for all of us. Looking forward to our first official September *ARF Notes* for the 2020-21 year, please consider sharing with us activities that have kept you occupied during this pandemic. Send items to share to Ann Perkins (ann.perkins@csun.edu): new life experiences, hobbies, ideas for new ARF groups or suggestions for speakers.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay safe!

2020 SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE ARF NEWSLETTER

Normally we take the summer off, and there is no summer issue of ARFNotes. The Board decided, however, that due to the circumstances of the Pandemic, and the isolation and changes in day to day life that most of us are experiencing, we would like to connect with the membership and invite members to share their experiences during this time. This issue, then, will include the stories that some of you have sent us, and also reports from the interest groups, with book reports and film reviews that might provide suggestions for your enjoyment. So, on to.....

TALES FROM THE PANDEMIC

Jay Christensen (Management). Life has not been dull since the Pandemic began. I have learned how to use Zoom for three study/discussion groups: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., (10 Weeks), Great Maps of the World (7 Weeks), and the Development of the Periodic Table (7 Weeks). This tremendous intellectual stimulation certainly makes for enduring the Covid-19.

Don't forget that television series have their own place: Penny Dreadful City of Angels, where you can see L.A. before World War II (Showtime) and Yellowstone, with Kevin Costner (Paramount). I thrilled to watch Billions (Showtime) with Chuck (the U.S. Attorney) and Axe (Axe Capital Hedge Fund) take over the business world.

Reading occupies an important part of staying at home. I recommend *Splendid and Vile* (about Churchill and the Blitz), *Stealing Home* (Chavez Ravine and Dodgers), and *Oliver Wendell Holmes: A Life in War, Love, and Ideas*. As you would expect, I choose Internet board gaming as well, including Puerto Rico, Istanbul, and Talisman.

Higher Education was not neglected; I have listened to Zoom Harvard Publishing discuss how the college and universities will handle the Internet courses in the Fall.

Life during the Covid-19 goes on. Stay strong and tough.

Bonnie Faherty (Nursing) suggests the following book that she has enjoyed. *The Givers: Wealth, Power, and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age*, by David Callahan. 2017. While media attention focuses on famous philanthropists such as Bill Gates and Charles Koch, thousands of donors are at work below the radar promoting a wide range of causes. David Callahan charts the rise of these new power players and the ways they are converting the fortunes of a second Gilded Age into influence. He shows how this elite works behind the scenes on education, the environment, science, LGBT rights, and many other issues--with deep impact on government policy. Above all, he shows that the influence

of the Givers is only just beginning, as new waves of billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg turn to philanthropy. Based on extensive research and interviews with countless donors and policy experts, this is not a brief for or against the Givers, but a fascinating investigation of a power shift in American society that has implications for us all. I was surprised at how the information in this book continues to influence my reactions to news of the generosity of donors. As government continues to decrease the amount of support for research and our day to day public services, the void is filled by these "philanthropists" who advance their own agendas. It brought home for me the importance of knowing who is giving, to whom they give, why they give, and how much they give. The behind the scenes "take over" of our most precious public initiatives should concern us all. Universities have been taken over by "naming rights" where individuals or corporations control how higher education deploys donations, thus influencing the information to which we have access and the bias it represents. This book was a wake up call for me. I hope you find it equally as disturbing.

Francine Hallcom (Chicano/a Studies). On March 13, I left my little ranch in New Mexico and boarded a plane from Albuquerque to LAX as I so often do. I wore no mask. The CDC advised that Covid 19 was not air borne. Yikes! After that, I laid to rest the illusion that the CDC had any lasting credibility.

The following morning, the *LA Times* offered deceptively benign guidance in support of local small businesses. To help out, I called the dog groomer who had been struggling financially in the wake of the pandemic. Instead of the usual \$60, the groomer adroitly garnished the dog (Murphy) with various hair conditioners and crème rinses and charged \$100. Did the newspaper say "support" or "adopt?" But as unflinching proof that there is a God, the next day, March 15, Gavin Newsom shut the beleaguered dog groomer down as "nonessential."

Two months later, on May 15, many "nonessential" businesses were allowed to open up again. By this time Murphy needed a haircut once more. Of course, I took him to a different groomer, "Indiana Bones and the Temple of Groom" (there really is such a place in Thousand Oaks). I paid \$60 --a fair price for the new dog groomer's work. To my husband's consternation, the dog can get a haircut, but he cannot!

Well --in late June, I will travel to the ranch again, by car! The last time I embarked on this 13 hour, 900 mile adventure, I was 25 years younger. I will, of course, sterilize every gas pump I touch the entire 900 miles. I feel supremely confident about the trip, because I will not be guided by the miasma of lunatic advice from either the CDC or the President or his band of dingoes. So that's my summer! Stay healthy, my friends.

Virginia Elwood (Library). Some of you may know that I moved downtown in 2004, and have been here very happily ever since. I spoil myself by going out to dinner every night, and by going to Starbucks across the street every morning for coffee. Or, at least, I used to do that. Suddenly there were no restaurants open for dinner, no

Starbucks open for coffee. Disaster! I live with a cat roommate named Chloe, who is talkative, but doesn't speak English. I love to talk. So I talk to Chloe and she sometimes listens, and sometimes even responds, but of course we speak different languages.

I spent the first three weeks on the phone. I called everyone I knew, and sometimes they called me. Then I was introduced to Zoom and have happily attended a writers' group, a book club, and a group meditation. All were wonderful.

I thought I would begin a book I have long contemplated writing. I began and discovered that my creative brain had turned to jello. So I am very slowly tidying my little apartment and then quickly messing it up again. I have ordered so many books to read that I will soon have to move the bed into the hall. I love mindless mysteries, and am ordering them by the shipload.

Good things have happened. I hear the neighbors shouting and honking horns at 8 p.m. to thank the workers in essential services. I can't join them, because my windows are too heavy for me to open more than a crack. But it is nice to hear. I watched an entire play from the Public Theatre in New York for free. It was written since the pandemic began and the entire play was on Zoom screens. I listen to concerts on the Internet given by brilliant musicians I might never have encountered otherwise. I put on mask and gloves and go to the store. I am old, so I get preferential treatment. Who knew there would be a good side to old?

The streets are weird. There are few people on the sidewalks, and almost everyone is masked and bouncing away if you approach closer than 6 feet. The stores are all closed. Some of the subway entrances are closed. The street vendors, masked and gloved, are selling masks, gloves, sanitizer and Oaxacan carvings on the sidewalk. It is interesting, yes. But it is weird.

Things are looking up. This morning I was allowed inside Starbucks, with mask and gloves, of course. I ordered and the baristas were friendly and smiling, at least I think they were smiling. I had to take my coffee home to drink and it is not the same. No one to talk to while I drink it except the non-communicative cat.

Bob Gohstand (Geography). “A Banner with a Strange Device.” As the coronavirus reached our shores, it did not take long for me to come to the conclusion that America was mishandling the crisis, an impression which has been roundly confirmed by subsequent events. I will not dwell on all of the errors in public health and economic policy, the absence of national leadership, nor on the breakdown in social solidarity. Our readers are well aware of what is going on and can reach their own conclusions. Very early in the pandemic, it became clear that some nations and societies were doing a much better job of containment, and I found myself obsessed with statistics pointing this out. So, some months ago, for personal gratification, to help pass the time, and lately as a reflection of my despair, I began to use the tall flagpole in our front yard in a new way. I began to collect the flags of nations which were doing a particularly good job in preserving the lives of their citizens, and displaying them, two at a time, for a

few days. As I write, since it is the July 4th holiday, the Stars and Stripes (which I was sorely tempted to fly upside down—the standard signal of distress), and that of my military service, the US Navy, are hoisted, but they will come down tomorrow.

So far, I have displayed the banners of the following: Taiwan (the old Nationalist Chinese flag, under which I was born in far-off Shanghai), South Korea, New Zealand, Iceland, and Hong Kong (to cheer their pandemic response and in sympathy for the loss of their liberty).

In the queue are Vietnam, Cuba, Australia, Finland, Mongolia, Singapore, Costa Rica, Georgia (not the U.S. state), Japan, Uruguay, Montenegro and a Canadian province, British Columbia. I welcome suggestions for further additions.



BOOK GROUPS

At its May 20th meeting, the Science Book Group discussed *The Ice at the End of the World: An Epic Journey into Greenland's Buried Past and Our Perilous Future* by Jon Gertner. The group agreed that the book is well written and, especially in the first section, contains a lot of exciting and amazing tales of (demented?) explorers conquering the ice sheet. The phrase “when the last dog dies....” has serious relevance during these early explorations.

Part 2 discusses the less scary but equally fascinating explorations after WWII, when the ability to use planes and the US military for assistance enabled scientists not to have to repeat all the efforts of earlier explorers. This section describes scientific research, using ice cores (in conjunction with similar efforts in Antarctica) to document the extent of ice loss due to global warming.

Our understanding of these efforts was enhanced by a series of well presented PPT graphs dealing with this subject. Thank you very much, Sandy, for sharing this information with us and (as I already stated but is worth repeating) for doing a great job with the PPT.

At the June 17th meeting we discussed *The Construction of Social Reality* by John R. Searle. We all agreed that Searle raises interesting, thought provoking arguments distinguishing between “brute facts” (mountains exist independent of human thought) and socially constructed reality (money, e.g.) Parts of the book are clearly addressed to other philosophers and some of it seems to be a continuation of arguments which did not seem to us to enlighten the lay reader significantly. However, this aside we did enjoy discussing some of the “facts” we take for granted because we are just used to them. For example, is marriage designed by God between one man and one (or more) women for the procreation of humanity or is it really a social construct primarily concerned with the acquisi-

tion and orderly transmission of property?

Aside from initial problems with zoom, we agreed that using this platform works well for the book group, especially because it makes participation possible for people who could not meet with us because they live too far to meet on campus, or have physical limitations that make driving to CSUN difficult. Upcoming Meetings will be on Zoom at least until the covid-19 virus goes away.

I would like to extend a cordial welcome to all colleagues who are interested in the science (related) books. As you can see from the list of titles below, we use a rather eclectic definition of *science books* and trust that you will find some of the selected titles to be of interest to you.

If interested, email me (heidemarie.lundblad@csun.edu) and I will send you the link to join the next zoom meeting.

We have selected for the upcoming year (what we think) are a variety of books to read and discuss: On 7/15, *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil deGrasse Tyson; on 8/19, *To Explain the World: The Discovery of Modern Science* by Steven Weinberg; followed on 9/16 by *Handprints on Hubble An Astronauts Story of Invention* by Kathryn Sullivan. Recommended for October and November are *Epidemics and Society – From the Black Death to the Present* by Frank Snowden) and *The Idea of the Brain: The Past and Future of Neuroscience* by Mathew Cobb. Future meeting dates for the academic year 2020/21 are 12/16; 1/20; 2/17; 3/17; 4/21; 5/19; 6/16; 7/21; 8/18. All meetings take place on Wednesday 1:30 pm to 3pm. *Heidemarie Lundblad*.

Wednesday Book Group We met on the first Wednesday in February to discuss *The Dutch House*, the latest novel by Ann Patchett. *The Dutch House* is set in the well-to-do suburbs of New Jersey and New York City during the post-World War II decades. Cyril Conroy bought the large, imposing Dutch House to surprise his wife Elna, who immediately disliked it. Yet it was where they raised their two children, Maeve and Danny, who narrates the story. While the children are still young, Elna leaves without saying goodbye. In her place their father marries a grasping, house-proud woman, Andrea. Maeve and Danny's rooms are soon reassigned to Andrea's daughters and Maeve is estranged from the house. When Cyril dies unexpectedly, Andrea ends up owning not just the house but everything. These events take place near the beginning of the book, leaving plenty of room in this three-generational story for the plot and characters to develop in unforeseen directions. One theme is the search by individuals for the life they really want rather than acceding to the expectations set by members of their family.

This book was a pleasure to read. Most of us found it easy to get involved in its characters and story. On the other hand, a few in our group thought the characters made disturbing choices that left us feeling unsympathet-

ic to them. This led to a lively discussion about the characters, the author, and our own lives.

Richard Powers' new novel *The Overstory* was our reading for March. Because Powers received a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *The Overstory* in 2019, our group had high expectations.

An overstory is the top canopy of branches and leaves, providing shade to what's below. Powers tells us about many amazing features of trees. For example, trees of many species, when under attack, send out signals to others of the same species to help all resist. Nevertheless, the book is essentially about people, not trees.

The first section follows a Norwegian immigrant, Jorgen Hoel, landing in Brooklyn about 1860 and moving west, ultimately to Iowa. There he plants a chestnut tree, which he and his descendants photograph each month. Although all chestnut trees in the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. were killed by a fungus in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this tall and majestic tree was far enough west to escape the disease. Nicholas Hoel, five generations later, is at heart an artist and not a farmer. As Nicholas sells the farm, one of the book's other characters stops by to see his art inspired by the old now-gone tree. The two connect and journey westward, to the redwoods.

Each of the book's nine main characters is distinctive. There is a biologist showing the world that trees act like a living community, a video game maker who creates an ever more complex and layered game about humans striving to master the world, and a writer who considers giving legal status for living things (as some have done for corporations), as well as a damaged war vet and a ceramics engineer. The author is knowledgeable about biology, programming, psychology, and the ways of young and odd people dangerously finding their way. It was not surprising for us to learn that in college Powers originally majored in physics but switched to English because he didn't like the narrow specializations of science research.

Powers provides history and specifics to flesh out the characters. His language is lyrical and clever. We discussed what we mean by "good writing" with examples from the book. Some of us had trouble keeping the characters straight and most thought the book could have been shortened, but we all liked this engaging dramatization of people in the environmental movement.

We canceled our April meeting but met via Zoom in May to discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. The author won a Pulitzer Prize for feature writing on the 1993 floods in the Midwest, and she has been a professor of journalism at Emory, Princeton, and Boston University. *The Warmth of Other Suns* focuses on the large migration of American blacks from the South to northern and western cities from about 1915 to 1970. Its coverage is based mostly on interviews with over a thousand people, but ultimately Wilkerson chose to follow three individuals. First was Ida Mae and her husband George

Gladney, who left rural northeastern Mississippi in 1937 for Milwaukee, where her sister lived. A year later, when her husband couldn't find a job, they made Chicago their home.

Then there was George Starling, who in 1945 said a hurried good-by to picking in the orange groves of central Florida after trying to negotiate for better pay and impulsively marrying a totally impractical woman. He took a train to New York City, riding in the baggage car, designated the Jim Crow car. While the train was still in the South, George was afraid of being stopped and sent back because Southern whites went to great lengths to prevent their captive labor force from leaving. He and Inez settled in Harlem, but George was away for weeks at a time, working as a passenger car attendant, a job he would keep all his working life without ever being promoted

Last was Robert Foster, a surgeon who had honed his skills in the U.S. Army. He married the daughter of the elitist president of a black college in Georgia, who never thought Foster was good enough for his daughter. In 1953 Dr. Foster drove west alone, finding no commercial place to stay on the road. There, by means of his skills, devotion to patients, and a few connections with previous black migrants from the South, he slowly built a reputation and successful medical practice. At that point he sent for his wife, who was allowed by her family to join him in Los Angeles.

The author's vision for this book was monumental, presenting the vivid recollections of the three migrants, their relatives, and others in their communities over the course of several decades. She carried out this fifteen-year project with insight, persistence, and thoroughness.

Wilkerson presents skillfully the parts of lives that make us understand what was most important via their disappointments and successes and mundane living. Everyone in our group liked *The Warmth of Other Suns* and thought it a superb book that illuminates powerfully and with renewed poignancy the lives and difficulties of American blacks during the twentieth century.

On June 3 our "Stay at Home and Discuss a Book" group discussed *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan. A previous book of hers won the Pulitzer prize and she has the distinction of turning down a marriage proposal from Steve Jobs. This is the story of Anna, a young woman growing up in Brooklyn and working in the Brooklyn Naval Yard during WWII. Her father has been a bagman for Dexter Styles, a local gangster, and disappears early in the story to the dismay of their family. As the story progresses, Anna becomes romantically involved with the same gangster boss. With the spirit of women doing new things while men are off fighting, she becomes fascinated with becoming a diver. We all liked the elaborate description of Anna managing a 200-pound diving suit in spite of almost overwhelming male discouragement and ridicule. To get the setting and life of the workers right, Egan explored the Navy's records and interviewed many former workers at the Yard. As a result, the book has a

historical richness as well as being a good story.

We disagreed in our appreciation of the author's writing, some feeling she was flip and others thought she was creative. A few members did not like any of the characters, but others thought Anna was an attractive, determined woman overcoming many of the sexual restrictions of the day. We reviewers enjoyed *Manhattan Beach* and didn't think that it was necessary to like the characters in order to like a book. In light of these disagreements we are not giving a recommendation. (Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen)



The **Monday Film Group** met on 6/22/20 remotely using Zoom. The Club discussed the films *Parasite* and *Emma*. *Parasite* is an academy award winning film which depicts the contrast

between the very poor and the very rich in today's South Korea. Most of the club members thought the film had great merit and that it depicted this contrast vividly with both sensitivity and humor. The basis of the script was the infiltration of the poor basement-dwelling Kim family into the home and lives of the very rich Park family who live in a comparative mansion. The one major objection some members had to the film related to the extreme violence between individuals near the end of the film. The rating by the club members of *Parasite* was **7.4/10** with scores ranging from a low of 4 to a high of 9.

Emma is a re-make of Jane Austen's book, which describes the process of self-realization of Emma, a wealthy 19th century young woman. Even though Austen's novel has been produced as 4 films, one drama and a musical, it still offers continuing creative opportunities for production. This version was considered by the club to be generally enjoyable but not particularly memorable. On a positive note, the cinematography of the English countryside was vivid, and the costuming was excellent. Although Emma was well portrayed by Anya Taylor-Joy it was generally felt that her performance did not leave the audience with strong empathy for the character. The overall rating by the club members for *Emma* was **7.7/10** with scores ranging from a low of 6 to a high of 9.

For the month of July, the club plans to discuss the two films: *Honeyboy* (available on Amazon Prime) and *Centerstage* (available on Netflix). (David Schwartz)



SCCARF REPORT

On Wednesday evening, February 19th, 26 of us gathered for dinner at the *Buenos Aires Grill* restaurant in Northridge. This Argentinian restaurant specializes in grilled meats and we were able to choose from the

entire menu. Those in attendance gave a warm welcome to new **ARF** members, Joel and Gail Weiner from the University of Hawaii. At the end of the dinner, we celebrated Jeanne Glazer's birthday with a carrot cake. As usual, dinner was accompanied by lots of friendly conversation. The servers were attentive and friendly, and judging by the comments received at the conclusion, the food was delicious and the dinner was a great success! Oh, and the wine was really good too. (*Cathy Jeppson*)

On March 3, Alyce Akers and Pat Nichelson announced SCCARF's March gastronomic extravaganza, to be hosted at the newly opened and highly touted *Gus's BBQ* restaurant at the new Porter Ranch mall, "The Vineyards." Within just 24 hours, the ranks of prospective attendees had reached capacity, 26, and a wait list begun. Clearly, a lot of SCCARFers were hankering to give Gus's "Truly fine Southern and Midwestern BBQ" a taste test! Unfortunately, the anticipated culinary soiree was not to be. With the COVID-19 pandemic spreading and social distancing becoming *de rigueur* in Los Angeles, on March 15 the hosts postponed the get-together, opting instead to be rescheduled it at a later time. With restaurants either closed or barely operating under strict social distancing rules, and mature folks like us confined to our homes, when that will occur is as yet unknown. But, once restaurants have again fully opened and the state has deemed it safe for senior citizens to again meet in groups, SCCARF will be back! And, if all goes well, *Gus's BBQ* will be our first post-pandemic destination. (*Jim Dole*)

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

POSTER BY JOEL RIVAS



The 2020-2021 **ARF** lecture program for the coming year, with some talks planned, and others still in planning, will be held via Zoom. We'll keep our "second Wednesday at 2pm" time, meeting in, well, the ether...

While this platform removes one "dimension" of our talks, we hope that the talks, nonetheless, will themselves be multi-

dimensional. On **September 9th**, Dr. Hillary Kaplowitz, who directs Instructional Design for our

faculty development projects and not only teaches both faculty and students in IT and the Tseng College, but herself is a Martial Arts sensei, will talk with us via Zoom about Zoom! This interactive experience will both help us and provide a view of what these new sorts of platforms offer for creating 21st century educational experiences. On **October 14th**, we'll celebrate the centennial of Women's suffrage, with a panel and conversation about "the vote," and all that it means in the context of the 19th amendment

and beyond. Speaking of the vote, we are still working on our **November** talk, which is scheduled for **Wednesday the 18th**, as the actual second Wednesday is Veterans' Day. Please stay tuned for more information. On **February 10th**, we are scheduled to host Jerrold Rishe (whom some of you may know from Sage), recommended by Bonnie Faherty, and he is likely to do an interactive talk about some intriguing objects we may or may not recognize. This is a talk he's presented elsewhere, and it has been met with much enthusiasm. Wonder what he'll show us... And although our **March 10th** speakers' identities are yet to be revealed, the theme will be current explorations beyond the planet we currently inhabit.

As September approaches, we'll communicate—at least by email—to provide more Zoom support, and more information. In the meantime, please, please email me at sharon.klein@csun.edu with concerns, questions and...ideas! We will consider the possibility of a "virtual" field trip for April, as our collective and individual safety from the virus will continue to shape our planning (echoing a concern of our families, as well). As for banquets...specifically our January gathering...the Board, as Tim Fox notes, will be thinking. Please...let's all think with them! So! If you have ideas—including those for the possibility of our holding a remote auction—an effective fundraiser—and ways to hold it (not to mention, articles to offer...all the time in your studios?), please do use that email address.

And, I repeat Tim's observation that one of the nifty features of Zoom is that members at a distance will be able to join colleagues—we'll see one another (in at least two dimensions) and share the experience in ways that we haven't been able to manage before; it's not easy to reach Northridge from Oahu or Wisconsin for a Wednesday afternoon. Worth the bit of learning curve that Zoom presents, yes? And the curve is not so steep (not as flat as we'd like the COVID curve to be, but much more welcome). Here is much more information than any of us needs (but it is accessible and friendly. And there'll be more!).

Times are complicated, our individual lives are themselves at once, complex and seem "on hold," but **ARF** is here—and there—for all of us, and it is we who define it. Please stay healthy, and stay in touch. *Sharon Klein.*



IN MEMORIAM

Jack Crowther (Sociology). John F. Crowther "Jack" passed away on April 21st, 2020 at the age of 96. Jack earned his Ph.D. from the University of Southern

California and had a long career as a Sociology pro-

essor at California State University Northridge. He educated students there from 1961 to 1990 and was instrumental in developing the social statistics computer laboratory for the Sociology Department. In retirement, Jack and his wife Betty spent many hours exploring the desert southwest with their friends, before moving to Bear Valley Springs near Tehachapi in 1990. They had logged many miles by the time they moved to Bakersfield in 2006. He was fortunate to have lived a long and happy life with Betty, his friends, and his children and grandchildren. He was a Renaissance man and will be remembered for his intellect, his expansive knowledge of social issues, politics, science and the southwest. To honor Jack's memory, donations can be made to Shriners Children's Hospital, the USC Foundation or the CSUN Foundation.

Willis G. Downing (Engineering and Computer Science) died on May 6th, 2020 at the age of 92 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Willis is remembered as a devoted father, husband and teacher. He had boundless curiosity, with interests in science, music, nature, politics, health and spirituality, and enjoyed discussing these topics with family, friends and colleagues. Willis was a lifelong teacher and learner, earning advanced degrees in Natural Science, Electrical Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering, and taking online classes up to the last year of his life.

After receiving a degree in Natural Science from Cal State Long Beach, Willis served in the Coast Guard during the Korean war, manning and maintaining radar installations in the Aleutian Islands. After the war, he studied Electrical Engineering at Berkeley, and spent summers as a Ranger Naturalist at Crater Lake National Park. As an engineer, he worked on technologies ranging from the first color TVs to aerospace applications at Westinghouse and the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. After receiving his PhD from USC in 1977, Willis became chief of biomedical engineering at the Sepulveda VA hospital. Finally, he became a tenured professor mentoring electrical and biomedical engineering students at Cal State Northridge for many years.

His wife Mary Lou died in 2013; he is survived by four children, and four grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be made to the Union of Concerned Scientists; <http://ucsusa.org/memorial>.

Paul Koistinen (History) died on Jan. 25, 2020. A professor emeritus, Koistinen taught at CSUN for 40 years, from 1963-2003. He was also a prolific author of numerous publications, including a five-volume series on the political economy of American warfare. "Paul was a warrior, an incredible scholar and a wonderful friend," said longtime friend and fellow CSUN professor emeritus of history Ron Davis. "His five-volume study of the history of the political economy of American warfare from Colonial America to the present is more than the standard in the field; it is an incomparable classic of meticulous scholarship." In addition to a bachelor's and master's, Koistinen earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1964.

Sally Spencer (Development, Learning, Instruction and Evaluation), an alumna ('01 Teaching Credential) and celebrated professor of special education for nearly two decades,

passed away July 13, 2019, due to complications from leukemia. Renowned for her work with mixed-reality immersive learning as a teaching tool, Spencer was a pioneer with technology in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education. In 2018, the California State University Chancellor's Office honored Spencer with the CSU Faculty Innovation and Leadership Award, for her work on the SIMPACT Immersive Learning program — a system that is shaping the way students practice skills in university classrooms by combining artificial intelligence and virtual avatars.

At the university and in her field, Spencer was known as an expert in teaching students with learning disabilities and as an advocate and mentor for struggling students. She authored and co-authored several books and articles, and created new and innovative programs for students in special education K-12 settings and at CSUN.

In July 2019, her family established a Sally Spencer Memorial Scholarship Endowment in her honor. The scholarship will provide annual awards to students enrolled in the special education master's or teaching credential program in the Eisner College, or in the Marriage and Family Therapy master's program. To donate or for more information, visit csun.edu/giving.

Arthur Tait (Finance, Financial Planning and Insurance), a professor emeritus and past recipient of CSUN's Dean Ed Peckham Award, died Dec. 23, 2019, in Palm Desert at age 99. Tait earned a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Denver, and then a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from Indiana University. After coming to what was then San Fernando Valley State College in 1965, Tait made an indelible mark on university history — especially by helping build CSUN's original University Club (now the Orange Grove Bistro complex) with his own hands, along with a stalwart crew of colleagues. He also served as the club's founding president. Tait supported the arts and athletics as well, attending Matador home football and basketball games. Through the years, he served numerous terms on the University Club and Matador Athletic Association boards. In 2001, the university honored Tait with its Emeriti Merit Award. He is survived by his wife, Muriel Bower Tait — associate professor emerita in CSUN's Department of Kinesiology, and a centenarian herself.

Editor's Note:

We are trying to obtain information about the following deceased faculty: Verne L. Bryant (Pan African Studies), Gong-Yuh Lin (Geography and Environmental Studies), Donald E. Salter (Philosophy), and Ernest J. Velardi (Art). Please send any information you have to Ann Perkins (ann.perkins@csun.edu)

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P.O. BOX 280578

NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 91328