

ARF NOTES

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**President's
Message:
Ron McIntyre**

“School has started!” doesn’t evoke the same emotions as it once did, does it? However, I do find myself waxing a bit nostalgic and more than a bit grateful for **ARF** friends, who share such a vast reservoir of common experiences and memories.

Which I hope reminds you that September is the month to renew your **ARF** membership and encourage your non-member retiree friends to join. (Don’t forget that, with your recommendation to the **ARF** Board, administrative and staff retirees may also join.) Please use the form included with the renewal letter to update your contact information; the **ARF** membership roster will be printed in November based on the information you provide. Due to pandemic and other issues, we were not able to produce a roster last year, but we’re working to fix that.

There’s a bonus this year for those of you who are not yet members of CSU-ERFSA but would like to join – a half-price membership offer for new members. The CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (www.csuerfsa.org) is the system-wide lobbying organization for CSU faculty and staff retirees with CalPERS, the Chancellor, the CSU Trustees and the Legislature. CSUN-ARF is an ERFSA affiliate, and 15% of your ERFSA dues are rebated to **ARF**. Additionally, if you are a member of both associations, you may elect to pay your

dues to both through monthly payroll deduction. The offer applies to members who join by December 31, 2022. Details, and an application form for the discount, are included in an email that I have forwarded to you from ERFSA.

As an affiliate of ERFSA, **ARF** has been invited to participate in a system-wide project, “California Multi-Million Soles4Souls Shoe Collection Campaign.” **ARF** would participate by working with students, faculty, staff, and administrators to collect shoes for the international non-profit Soles4Souls (S4S). Since 2006, S4S has collected and distributed over 23 million pairs of shoes for the almost one billion people globally who don’t have shoes or adequate footwear.

An email from Barry Pasternack, CSU-ERFSA President, that I earlier forwarded includes a PowerPoint describing the project. If you are interested in contributing to **ARF**’s participation, please contact me right away.

I hope to see many of you at our first speaker presentation on Friday, September 23, at 2:00 p.m. The speaker series this year will take place both at the Orchard Conference Center on campus and on Zoom. To facilitate suitable parking, meetings will be on Fridays (rather than our usual Wednesdays). Our first speaker will be CSUN Vice-President Colin Donahue. Colin has been a great friend of and advocate for **ARF**, especially in navigating the changes necessitated by the loss of the Orange Grove Bistro, and we count on him to bring us an honest and informed update on what to expect this year. I encourage you to attend, either in person or on Zoom. The article by our Program Chair, Sharon Klein, provides all the details.

Stay well and be safe.

Ron McIntyre

ARF President, 2022-23

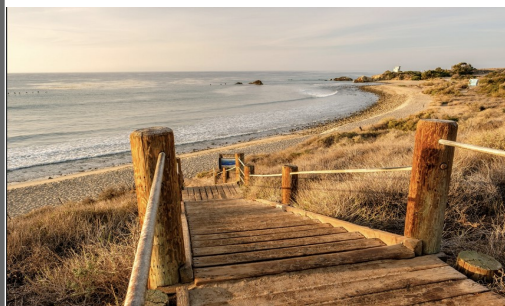


NEWS FROM CSUN

Photo by Lee Choo.

In light of the crucial role ethnic studies plays in education in the state of California, California State University, Northridge's [University Library](#) recently purchased several important databases and digital archives to make the resources available to educators throughout the region. The new purchases join other ethnic studies online resources that the University Library has acquired in recent years, including the digitized historical archive of the Los Angeles Sentinel, the Chicago Defender, the Black Studies Center, the Chicano Database, and the online Hispanic American Periodicals Index.

"I am extremely pleased that CSUN students and faculty will now be able to delve more deeply into primary sources of historical significance for communities of color in the United States," said Mark Stover, dean of CSUN's [University Library](#). "This is a transformational moment for the University in terms of the acquisition of primary source databases..."



PROGRAM COMMITTEE NOTES

We're already finding our way into September! As the sands of summer drift into memory, we both acknowledge the challenges we've been learning to address and live with, and look forward to the moments of wonder and joy we continue to discover.

It's good to be in touch with everyone—and we—the Program Committee—hope that features of this year's talks and other events will provide some of those moments of wonder (even joy?), along with moments of discovery. What is very exciting about this year's anticipated program is that we'll have the opportunity to gather—not just on screen, but in person! We did have a taste of that—in April with our [Soraya event](#), and in June with [the annual picnic](#).

We thank the many photographers who captured and organized the photos of these events, including Ginny Lussier, Tim Fox, Justine Su, and others. Thank you, too, to ARF's Ruggiero Tech Team who provided us with the Picnic's sound system!



At left, the lovely site of our spring picnic.



Brenda and Rich Ruggiero,
The "Tech Team"

This year—as perhaps you've already read—we inaugurate our new "home" and a new day! Beginning at 2pm, we will gather in the Orchard Conference Center (OCC)—right across from the Soraya--on FRIDAYS, as the schedule notes. More information on parking will come, but we can make sure that our emeritus parking passes are up-to-date on the CSUN Portal (which, as we know, has a new design).

Vice President Colin Donahue is scheduled to join us on September 23rd, and we're certain that he'll have much to share; we should all come with questions, as Vice President Donahue enjoys engaging in conversation with us. The other months' scheduled guests offer a range of fascinating topics, and I'm hoping for many to be able to join us in person, and for those who cannot, we are aiming for full "Zoom-y" connectivity. We'll also try to make sure we can record and link to these recordings of the talks, using the Panopto technology CSUN IT provides us with (Jeremy Bentham would approve, I'm sure).

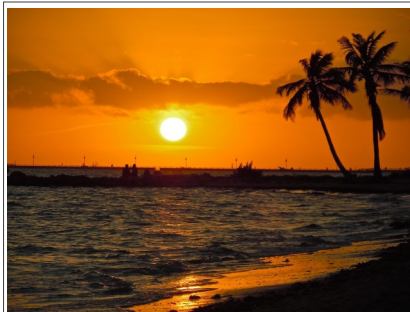
We're still working on the field trip, what the traditional January event might develop into, and the topic for the March talk. There are irons in all of these (very carefully managed) fires, and we will keep everyone posted. Joining the Program Committee and ARF Board is Patricia Miller who, in 2023-2024, is positioned to take over the reins as the reigning chair of the Program Committee. Pat developed CSUN/MCLL's little audio language lab in JR 316 into the technologically sophisticated and wonderfully accessible Barbara Ann Ward Language Center ([BAWLC](#)), now a wide-ranging multipurpose resource.

The schedule for 2022-2023 appears on the following page, and please email me with your program ideas and suggestions. I value (i.e., depend on) the good ideas that folks have and are willing to share. And thanks again for all ARF does and is; it's the magic of our membership—2022-2023, here we come! *Sharon Klein*

CSUN Association of Retired Faculty
ARF Projected Partial Program Schedule 2022-2023

Date	Event/Speaker	Time and Location*
FRIDAY 9/23	CSUN Vice-President Colin Donahue	2 PM OCC
FRIDAY 10/14	William (Bill) Griffeth Geneology investigations!	2 PM OCC
FRIDAY 11/04	Dr. Amir Hussain Anti-Racism in teaching about American Muslims	2 PM OCC
	The VERY BEST to everyone during the December holiday season; we hope that the pandemic will have subsided sufficiently to permit the gatherings of family and friends that make the holidays celebratory, and we wish everyone a 2023 with good health, no rogue viruses, and novel experiences that we can greet enthusiastically!	No programming in December
JANU- ARY 2023	“Things” are in the works...Please stay tuned!	TBD
FRIDAY 02/17	Dr. Michelle Nickerson Women (especially in Southern California) and the growth of post-WWII American Conservatism	2 PM OCC
A FRI- DAY In MARCH	We are working on this. Both what it is to be, and the Friday when it is to be scheduled will be announced! Please stay tuned!	2 PM OCC
APRIL	Field Trip We will be talking about this more, about whether it will be virtual, or an actual outing (planning for the latter, but staying flexible). Although we have some thoughts in mind, suggestions for either are, as always, more than welcome	TBD
MAY	ARF Memorial Graduate Student Project Awards Celebration will be different this year...	TBD
JUNE 6/3 (Saturday)	Annual Picnic/ General Meeting and Election of Officers... Again...we'll be planning and watching...with flexibility. Something to look forward to, though!	With high hopes, to be at the Arbor Grill

*OCC (Orchard Conference Center) locations are scheduled to include Zoom access for members who cannot attend in person, but do want to participate.



IN MEMORIAM

Gwen Brewer (English)

Gwendolyn Whitehead Brewer was born in Provo, Utah, in 1928 and died April 12, 2022, at age 93. Her life was long and full. The first in her family to attend college, she graduated from Brigham Young University in English, and earned her PhD in Restoration Drama and Dryden from Claremont Graduate School in 1967. After beginning her career at Citrus College in Azusa, she came to CSUN in 1964 where she remained until retirement. Gwen taught courses in eighteenth century British literature and was a founding member of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.



Importantly, she taught many courses designed to prepare secondary English teachers: Adolescent Literature, Modern Grammar, and Writing for Teachers. Working with the School of Secondary Education, Gwen supervised student teachers for the LAUSD, and served many times as the Chair of the English Department's Teacher Preparation Committee, preparing CSUN TAs to teach in the Freshman Writing Program. She presented papers on English education at national and regional conferences, helped design the English Placement test as a member of the CSU English Council, and was a consultant to school districts.

When I was a new faculty member at CSUN she advised me in preparing my own writing classes and counseled me about committee work and general department politics. She was a strong supporter of the lecturers and junior faculty members. Gwen and I often carpooled from Thousand Oaks, and I remember many intellectual conversations with her about the need to expand the Literature canon to include more women authors.

Gwen was impressively strong and independent. Having worked to fund her own education, she raised two daughters while earning her PhD. She and her husband Everett, an aeronautical engineer, designed and built with their own hands their wood and glass house in the Conejo Valley. I attended weddings and her retirement celebration there as well as many bridge parties.

After her second husband, Vern Bullough, died, Gwen relocated to Maryland to live with her daughter. Always active, she attended plays and concerts until the pandemic cancelled them. I will always be grateful to Gwen, a strong advocate for teachers and women. I once asked her what she replied to those who inquired about what she did for a living. "I tell them I am a Professor of English," she said proudly. And now so do I. *Pamela Bourgeois*

James Kellenberger (Philosophy).

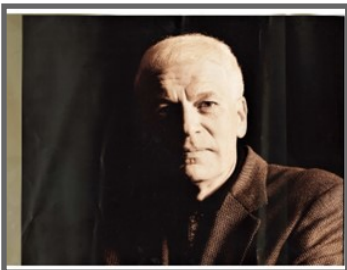
Bertrand James Kellenberger—known as "James" professionally and "Jim" to his friends—died on March 27, 2033. He was 83. He received his B.A. in 1960 from CSU San Jose, his M.A. in 1962 from UC Berkeley, and his Ph.D. in 1967 from the University of Oregon. In the years between his master's and doctoral degrees, he served in the Peace Corps in Africa. He joined the CSUN Department of Philosophy in 1967.



As a philosopher he specialized in religion and ethics—and he lived it. Everyone who knew Jim knew him to be a deeply religious and ethical person. This fact helps to explain many of his life choices and much of his character. It explains why he volunteered for the Peace Corps and why he devoted himself to that kind of philosophy that copes with the knotty and perennial problems of religion: the tension between faith and knowledge, the problem of evil, moral relativism, wisdom, our relationships to God, to Nature, and to Human Beings. A strict vegetarian, he questioned the morality of owning, slaughtering, and eating animals. A radical pacifist, he argued that all wars are immoral and he put his theories into action by marching with his colleagues to protest the war in Vietnam and US actions against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Students admired Jim for his brilliance, clarity, and sympathy. They recognized that him as an "honest dude." As a colleague he was an ideal committee member—generous, thorough, and thoughtful. Pat Nicholson warmly remembers conversations with Jim. "He was sharp but kind-hearted, funny but modest."

A prolific writer, Jim chalked up an impressive number of publications. In addition to many scholarly articles, he published fifteen books addressing a wide range of topics in the philosophy of religion and ethics. A reviewer of one of these—*Wisdom: Folk, Arcane, Practical, Religious, Mystical*—wrote "In a world full of books purporting to tell us what wisdom is, this clear, precise, thorough and thought-provoking book should be read by anyone who has a serious interest in the nature of wisdom." *John Clendenning*



John Schultheiss (Cinema and Television Arts).

CSUN cinema professor Dr. John E. Schultheiss, known both on- and off-campus for his passion for film, his

intellect and love of language, and his (sometime dark) wit, died July 16, 2022 of a leukemia-related illness. He was 80 years old.

John began teaching at CSUN in 1974 as a member of the then-named Department of Radio-Television-Film, specializing in film history and criticism. While chair of the (renamed) Department of Cinema and Television Arts from 2000-2008, he founded the Cinemateque series in the Alan Armer Theatre and the Film Poster Gallery in Manzanita Hall. His scholarship often focused on the life and career of blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter Abraham Polonsky.

Born in Canton, Ohio, John's love of film was nurtured by his grandmother, who would meet him for movie matinees during his high school and college years. He earned his bachelor's from John Carroll University in 1964, and his master's in English at UCLA. John served in Vietnam for the Army Intelligence Agency. Urged by his wife, Flory, he earned his doctorate in communications at USC in 1973 and joined the CSUN faculty one year later. He retired as professor emeritus in 2019 after 45 years.

CTVA professor and colleague Nate Thomas describes John as a "great mentor to many faculty and staff," adding, "Whereas his intellect and scholarly mark on our department is notable. . .it is secondary to the many alumni in all aspects of the industry who approbate his indelible mark on their lives. . ."

Friends, colleagues, and family attended a celebration of his life at the Armer Theatre in mid-August. John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Flory, his two children, Sarah (Sally) and Roderic, and four grandchildren. *Cynthia Rawitch.*



BOOK GROUPS

The **Science Book Group** met on June 15th to discuss *What it's like to be a dog*, by Gregory Berns.

The group agreed that the book covered interesting topics and that it is well written, an easy and quick read. However, we were disappointed that the author seemed to lose interest in the "dog" topic, or perhaps should have given the book a different title. While the beginning describes the training of dogs to willingly endure an fMRI to make it possible to determine which parts of the brain respond to certain words or treats, Berns then abandons dogs and their brains to discuss related research/

experiments with other animals. Finally, the author makes a strong case for ethically treating animals as sentient beings, leading him to suggest that in the not so far future our type of hominid may be relegated to a subservient status by the new genetically enhanced homo futuris.

The **Science Book Group** met again on July 20th to discuss *The Rise and Reign of the Mammals: A New History, from the Shadow of the Dinosaurs to Us* by [Steve Brusatte](#). 2022. The group agreed that Brusatte writes well and helped us understand better how mammals evolved, despite a number of setbacks due to various catastrophes such as ice ages and super volcanic outbreaks. He also gives a good introduction on the work of paleontologists who manage to piece together the history of our world based on sometimes minute pieces of teeth or bones.

For our next meeting on 8/17 we agreed to read and discuss *The Brain in Search of Itself: Santiago Ramón y Cajal and the Story of the Neuron*, by Benjamin Ehrlich. 2022. All meetings take place on Zoom on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm to 3pm until otherwise announced. *Heide-marie Lundblad*

Wednesday Book Group

In February, the Wednesday Book Group discussed *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson. This 2021 book is mostly about Jennifer Doudna of UC Berkeley, who shared the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work in the development of CRISPR, a radically easier and more powerful gene editing tool. She is a model of what a scientist should be: brilliant, devoted, super well organized, willing and able to collaborate with colleagues around the world in the very competitive world of science, generous to others, and concerned about the ethics and impact of her field on the world.

Isaacson is well known for his biographies of Ben Franklin, Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, and Leonardo da Vinci. Because he has been editor of *Time*, president of CNN, and leader of the Aspen Institute, he has credentials in journalism and public policy. For *The Code Breaker* he immersed himself in the currently exploding field of gene editing and has done a fine job of presenting the technical biology and chemistry to a general audience. Although not a scientist, with the help of some professionals he actually used CRISPR in the lab. This technology is also being used for developing tests and treatments for the Covid-19 virus. While we all let some of the details go by, we felt we knew what was going on in this story and found fascinating the personalities of key scientists and how science is done.

Isaacson includes a major section on the ethics of various possibilities of genetic change. Examples of these involve either changing one or more of an individual's genes to correct horrible conditions, or creating designer babies or even engineering better soldiers for the battle field. There is also the issue of whether changes that are heritable should be done before we know more. Isaacson does not argue for particular views but rather presents the issues. All of us loved the book and recommend it enthusiastically.

Hervé Le Tellier, an established French writer, won the French literature prize, le Prix Goncourt, in 2020 for his novel *l'anomalie*. According to Wikipedia, the prize is given for "the best and most imaginative prose work of the year." The translation into English, *The Anomaly*, appeared in November 2021, and our group decided to give it a try.

In the first part of the book, we are introduced to a series of characters, most of whom live in greater New York City or in Paris. Each one is distinctive, and nearly all are successful in their varied professions -- a good but not well-known writer, a top-level attorney who takes up the defense of a Big Pharma company, a hit man moonlighting as an ordinary family man, an ex-Iraq veteran and his family, theoretical mathematicians and philosophers, military officers, a Parisian book editor, a journalist, and an architect.

But soon we join Air France flight 006 from Paris, as it gets ready to begin its approach to JFK. The captain and copilot notice huge, black cumulonimbus clouds ahead, a phenomenon not reported on their weather channel, and they ask for guidance from air traffic control. Entering these clouds leads to huge turbulence, including one rapid and frightening drop of the plane, and the loss of altimeter and other instruments. What happens to this plane is the central event of the novel.

We think we should write no more about this for fear of giving the plot away. Suffice it to say that tension is continued through the book, with only short stretches of lightness or humor and philosophical fascination with issues of existence and language. Most of the characters continue their lives, but most experience a terrible change, one they can't understand or adjust to. Some of us found the resolution of this change to be unsatisfying. The writing is fast-paced and crisp, for which we compliment both Le Tellier and Adriana Hunter, the translator.

Most of us found the book engrossing and even unforgettable. For its suspense and great story telling, we recommend *The Anomaly* as a good read. *Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen*



The Monday Film Group met on May 16 via Zoom to discuss the films *Julia* and *Seobok: Project Clone*.

Julia traces the life story of Julia Child, the famous American cookbook author and television star. The film is built around archival footage of Julia and is very well put together. The energy and great sense of humor of this amazing person was very well presented. The mix of actual photographs and footage from her life with interviews of people who knew her combined to leave all the club members delighted with this film. We particularly enjoyed the depiction of her long-lasting great relationship with her husband Paul, and also noticed the great contrast between her conservative California upbringing and her evolution into an amazing free-thinking creative adult. The average rating by the club members for *Julia* was 9.4 /10.0 with the scores ranging from 9.0 to 10.0.

Seobok is a Korean Sci Fi film that tells the story of a retired ailing secret agent, Ki Heon, who is assigned to protect and transport Seobok, a virtually immortal human clone who has amazing telekinesis powers. The film

has good cinematography and some excellent CGI that graphically depicted Seobok's powers. However, the large number of scenes that were full of violence and destruction were difficult for some club members to watch. Although Park Bo-gum as Seobok and Gong Yoo as Ki Heon both performed well, the plot itself was difficult for most club members to follow. It seemed to many of us that the weighty topic of immortality was never well addressed in this film. The average rating by the club members for *Seobok* was 6.5 /10.0 with the scores ranging from 5.0 to 9.5.

The **Monday Film Group** met again on June 20, 2022, via Zoom. The Club discussed the films *Parallel Mothers* and *Dog*. *Parallel Mothers* traces the first few years in the lives of two women, Janis and Anna, following the births of their daughters. Janis and Ana shared a room in a hospital maternity ward. The plot is built around the accidental swapping of their two infants prior to hospital discharge and the heartache surrounding the discovery of this error. The film concentrated more heavily on Janis, played by the always excellent Penélope Cruz. Cruz's ability to reflect deep emotions came to the forefront in her portrayal of Janis. In addition to the main theme, a secondary story associated with a mass murder by Franco's army during the Spanish Civil War was built into the film. Some members felt that this secondary story did little to improve the film. The average rating by the club members for *Parallel Mothers* was 9.1 /10.0, with the scores ranging from 7.0 to 9.0.

Dog tells the heart-warming story of a car trip by a brain-damaged combat veteran, Jackson, and a difficult and initially violent combat experienced military dog, Lulu. Jackson is tasked by his old commander to transport Lulu from Fort Lewis in Washington to the funeral of Lulu's military handler in Arizona. Jackson is very well played by Channing Tatum and our group enjoyed watching the evolving relationship between man and dog. The plot left a few unanswered questions such as the degree of Jackson's mental disability and the unlikelihood of allowing a veteran to transport a potentially dangerous animal overland. However, the warmth of the film more than made almost all of us glad to have seen it. The average rating by the club members for *Dog* was 8.3 /10.0 where the scores ranged from 7.0 to 9.0.

The **Group** met again on July 18, via Zoom to discuss the films *The Most Reluctant Convert: The Untold Story of C. S. Lewis* and *RRR*.

Reluctant Convert: The Untold Story of C. S. Lewis traces this famous author's early life and focuses on his transition from atheism to Christianity. Max Mclean, who wrote and performed the original stage play, does a superb job portraying the mature C. S. Lewis. The flashbacks used in the movie depict the younger Lewis while maintaining a clever consistent background commenting presence of Mclean as the mature character. The film showed the damaging effect of the character's combat service in World War I and his eventual intellectual evolution after the war in Oxford. The film generated a lively discussion in which many club members recalled their own early life religious evolution. Some members felt that the detailed arguments that lead to the major change of heart for Lewis were somewhat lacking in potential detail. The photog-

raphy of both the Halls of Oxford and the English Countryside was very well done. The average rating by the club members for *The Most Reluctant Convert* was 8.5/10.0 with the scores ranging from 8.0 to 9.0.

RRR tells a fantastical story set in India during the 1920's. The film depicts events that are imagined as having happened if the two real freedom fighters, A. S. Rama Raju and Komaram Bheem, had ever met in real life. The stars of the movie, Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn and N. T. Rama Rao Jr., did an exceptional job. The dance scenes were wonderful and gave an excellent sense of traditional Indian dance. On the downside, the CGI scenes involving many wild animals were a bit over the top and occasionally the depiction of violence seemed excessive. The movie showed the brutal nature of English Colonialism with a very extreme view. However, in the context of this fantastical story, this did not seem inappropriate. The film was three hours long and quite surprisingly several club members found that after about an hour they were glued to the screen. The average rating by the club members for *RRR* was 8.8/10.0 with the scores ranging from 8.0 to 9.0.

August 15, 2022 was the next meeting of the group. We first discussed *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. This film tells the fantastical story of a Chinese immigrant laundromat owner, Evelyn, and her husband, Waymond, who are caught up in a multi-dimensional adventure through many parallel universes with the goal of saving the world while dealing with an aggressive IRS agent auditor. Evelyn is well played by Michelle Yeoh who masterfully takes on multiple roles ranging from a store owner to a movie star. Her husband is played by Ka Huy Quan. Quan cleverly portrays Waymond's rapid switching between Evelyn's gentle husband and an aggressive representative from another universe! The over-the-top aggressive IRS agent was convincingly played by Jamie Lee Curtis. A few of our members did not watch the entire film and did not find that it held their attention, but those that stuck with it to the end seemed to enjoy it. The average rating by the club members for *Everything Everywhere All at Once* was 7.5 out of 10.0 with the scores ranging from 4.0 to 9.5.

The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent follows the adventures of the Hollywood actor Nick Cage, played by Nicolas Cage, who is struggling with a failing career and in desperation accepts a paid gig to appear at Javi Gutierrez's birthday party on the Spanish Coast. Javi Gutierrez, played by Pedro Pascal, is a front man for an organized crime operation. Although the real Nicolas Cage denies that this film is autobiographical, there is no doubt that it is tied, to some degree, to the ups and downs of Cage's own career, including specific references to some of his previous films. The film itself was definitely fun to watch and the acting by both Cage and Pascal, including rapid personality shifts, was quite good. One very entertaining set of scenes depicted dialogue between Cage and a younger version of himself, with both parts played by the real Cage. There is no doubt that the cast had fun making this film and that most of our group enjoyed watching it. The average rating by the club members for *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* was 7.8/10.0, with the scores ranging from 5.0 to 8.5.

For the month of September, the club plans to discuss the movies *Downton Abbey: A New Era* on Amazon Prime (\$5.99) and *The Outfit* on Amazon Prime (\$5.99).
David Schwartz



SCCARF REPORT

SCCARFers gathered joyfully at Marcello Ristorante in Thousand Oaks on March 29. Because we hadn't been together for so long, the reunion of CSUN retired colleagues was a grand occasion. We had a separate area to ourselves in the rear of this charming Italian eatery, facilitating many conversational groupings along the two lively tables. The evening was arranged by SCCARF members Pamela Bourgeois and John Clendenning.

Many of the comments from the diners included "delizioso" "best Italian food," "un pasto squisito", and "warm, friendly environment." One member, Pat Miller, speaking fluent Italian with our maître d' at the Ristorante, was most effusive about our dinner and the selections on the menu. The pastas were of particular interest to many of the diners, although other orders included their delicious potato gnocchi (Strozzapreti al Parmagiano), Ossobucco Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, as well as linguine con vongole, and my favorite, Pici al Pomodoro, Cipolia e Salsiccia. Adding to the joy that evening, Jim Dole surprised us with a birthday cake celebrating Betty Rose.

Everyone agreed that seeing each other in person was the highlight of the evening. Nothing beats sharing a meal in a warm atmosphere with friends. We hope to see many of you at future SCCARF events. To be placed on the SCCARF mailing list, contact Jim Dole. *Pamela Bourgeois*

A somewhat small (12 members) but enthusiastic group of SCCARF diners met on June 13th at Tuscany II Restaurant in Westlake. We were pleased to be seated in a separate, curtained area of the restaurant which emulated the feeling of a private house party. We enjoyed delicious, Italian inspired, dishes with portions large enough that several people took home "doggie bags". As always, we enjoyed delightful conversations with friends. Service was excellent, when one of the members attempted to take a picture of the group a waiter immediately jumped in (or rather jumped on a chair) to take pictures for and of us. *Heidmarie Lundblad*.

The Russian-Ukrainian war constantly in mind, for its May gastronomic get-together fifteen adventurous SCCARFers opted to savor Slavic cuisine at Traktir, a Tarzana eatery offering authentic Ukrainian fare richly suffused with culinary influences of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia and yes, even Russia. On the menu were such traditional dishes as chicken Kiev (breaded/fried chicken breast), beef stroganoff (beef in sour cream), chicken tabaka (seared Cornish hen), shashlik (marinated chicken, pork or beef), borscht (beet/beef soup), vareniki (dumplings), pelmeni (meat-filled tortellini), galubtsy (stuffed cabbage) and many more. Several participants commented positively about the food and service: "food wonderful"; "pork chop absolutely perfect"; "service warm, responsive"; "Belgian salad fantastic"; "I'd come back for the galubtsy any time"; "tasty dinner." But one comment—"small group but lively conversation"—identifies for me the key to SCCARF's longevity (origin: 2010): though food may be an enticement, camaraderie holds the group together. *Jim Dole*

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2022-2023

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ARF NOTES

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