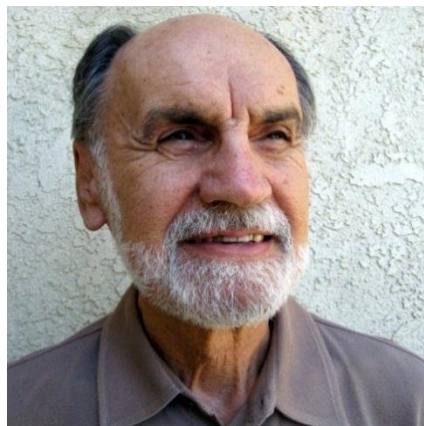




ARF NOTES

PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE



Larry
Caretto:

President's Message

I want to welcome all of you to another year of **ARF Notes** and **ARF** Activities. My two immediate predecessors as authors of this column have assured me that writing my first column will be easy. All I have to do is welcome all the **ARF** members to another year and give you an overview of our plans for this year. I guess that I am ready for the second part of the story.

Starting this year the membership renewal form will give **ARF** members the option of receiving **ARF Notes** online instead of mailed copies. You will receive an email with a link that will allow you to see this current issue online to help you decide if you want to receive only the online version.

We have an exciting program of speakers and events this year, and I encourage those of you who have attended few if any events to do so. I believe that you will find not only that the programs are interesting, but also the company of your fellow retirees is quite enjoyable. As usual we will have the Thank God the Holidays Are Over banquet in January, the scholarship awards luncheon in May and the general membership meeting and picnic in June. Our April field trip this year will be to the recently renovated Getty Villa in Malibu.

Our first speaker this year will be Dr. Ed Maliski, President of Cure Pharmaceutical. He will tell us about his work to reduce the incidence of malaria worldwide, with a focus on

children. This will be at the University Club on September 12th at 2 pm. The October talk by Pat LoPresti of the Oakridge Estate Park Advisory Board will tell us about the current status of converting the historic home built for Barbara Stanwyk in the 1930s into a park. The house is located on Devonshire Blvd., just West of Reseda. On November 14th, our fellow **ARF** Member, Ivan Johnson, will share his knowledge about the ins and outs of genealogical research.

Part of the fun of reading **ARF Notes** is learning about the activities of our fellow retired colleagues. In order for this to work, you have to let us know what you are doing. You can write this on the membership renewal form or send an email at any time to our **ARF Notes** Editor, Ann Perkins, ann.perkins@csun.edu. I like to think of this information exchange as being a kind of Facebook for **ARF** Members.

I want to express my appreciation and thanks for continuing, outgoing, and incoming officers and Board members: Jim Dole has completed his three-year stint as Vice-President/President/Program Chair; Nancy Owens has moved from the President's job to the hard work of being Program Chair; Joyce Linden is the new **ARF** Vice-President/President Elect; Jim Allen and Ken Jones are leaving the Board; Sue Curzon and Pat Murray are the new members. I am running out of space to list all the others who will continue to contribute as officers or Board members; please see their names on the back page of **ARF Notes**. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about **ARF** this year feel free to send me an email, lcaretto@csun.edu, or call me at 818.635.1039.

Don't miss our first speaker of the year on September 12th! Dr. Ed Maliski will tell us about his work to reduce the incidence of malaria worldwide. The program will be at 2 p.m. in the Northridge Room of the University Club.



IN MEMORIAM

Donald Bleich (Finance, Real Estate and Insurance) died in May at the age of 65. His nephew found him passed away in his home. Donald came to CSUN in 1985 and contributed mightily to the College of Business, especially in real estate, serving as Chair of the Department for several years. He was quite a basketball fan and contributed to our understanding of the yearly NCAA Tournament. His funeral was held May 22nd with a grave site service following, and a Shiva later that week.

Edward Hriber (Electrical Engineering) passed away on Sunday, June 10th at the age of 82. John Motil tells us that Ed had a heart operation, and seemed to be recovering well, but he died in his sleep on Sunday. Ed came to CSUN in 1964 when it was San Fernando Valley State College. He retired in 1992 after almost three decades as a valued colleague in Electrical Engineering. Ed had requested that the burial be a private one.

Jerome M. (Jerry) Jacobs (Journalism) of Pacific Grove died on June 8th after a battle with metastatic melanoma. Jerry was an award-winning broadcast journalist and producer and later taught his professional skills to hundreds of college students. He served in the U.S. Army as a combat correspondent in the Korean War, and later joined NBC Network News, where he became producer, writer and field producer of the network's "instant news specials."

After 13 years at NBC, Jerry moved to California to become a documentary writer/producer/director, and in the 1970's began his teaching career, first at UCLA and finally at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where he established the Broadcast Journalism program. Jerry's students have reported for broadcast stations in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Taipei, and numerous other venues. Jerry retired from CSUN as professor emeritus in 1992 and moved to Pacific Grove with his wife, author Nancy Baker Jacobs. Perhaps the highlight of his retirement life there was spending time enjoying the Monterey Peninsula's gorgeous coastline.

Jerry is survived by his wife Nancy, two daughters, a

son, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. According to Jerry's wishes, his ashes were scattered in the sea he loved during a private family gathering. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, the Food Bank for Monterey County or a charity of the donor's choice.

Mack Johnson (Graduate Studies) Dr. Mack Johnson, associate vice president for Graduate Studies, Research and International Programs and professor of biology, passed away on June 6th. Johnson, appointed to his position in 1988 by then-President James Cleary, was a respected administrator and advocate for students who wished to pursue graduate studies. He also was an internationalist who provided support and encouragement for international students, visiting scholars from other countries and international faculty who taught at Cal State Northridge. He helped establish more than 50 cooperative agreements between the University and overseas institutions and was responsible for overseeing nearly 60 masters' degree programs and one educational doctorate program and a doctorate in physical therapy. He also was responsible for the management of research projects and grants totaling more than \$26 million.

Johnson arrived at CSUN with an extensive background in teaching, research and academic administration. His research interests and publications focused on autoimmune diseases and immunopathologic mechanisms involved in diseases caused by infectious agents. He served as a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow while pursuing his Ph.D. degree, and held faculty positions at Tuskegee University, University of California, Davis and Washington State prior to arriving at Cal State Northridge.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Gail, and two adult children: Traci and Christopher. Donations in his name can be made to the CSUN Foundation to support the Mack I. Johnson Graduate Research Awards.

Roger Moss (Psychology) died in early June. A memorial service at the Northridge Center, Student Union, was held on June 15th. Says Carrie Saetermoe, chair of the Psychology Department, "Roger touched thousands of lives with deep love and compassion and helped us all to assign meaning to our own lives with fresh eyes and a loving heart; he will be greatly missed."

Samuel R. Pinneau (Psychology) died on April 23rd at the age of 90 in his Northridge home. He had taught at

several universities before coming to CSUN, where he was charged with developing a Child Study Center. Openness to new ideas and to outside-the-box approaches for research or teaching were very important to Sam, but openness to human beings was vital. He will be remembered fondly by many as a father, friend and mentor who accepted a person's quirkiest qualities and who saw their greatest potentials when no one else appreciated them. His years of "retirement" were fully engaged with family and with innovations in software that might enrich worldly life. He is survived by his wife, his six children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rosentene Purnell (PAS) died in May as a result of complications from cancer surgery.

David Scott (Music) director of opera at CSUN for many decades, died on Saturday August 4th, of injuries due to an automobile accident a week before. Services were held at the Northridge United Methodist Church on Saturday August 11th.

And on a Lighter Note: An Arf Member Takes Advantage of Membership Benefits

Ridin' and Rowin' Into the Sunset: My Love Affair with the Student Recreation Center (SRC), *By Bob Gohstand.*

Did you know that, thanks to the good offices of our former President, Nancy Owens, members of **ARF** are entitled to a completely free membership in the SRC? Well, incredible as this may seem, you are. I first heard about this at an **ARF** event in the club (something about a sensational Venezuelan murder, I think – just an ordinary **ARF** presentation). Nancy made the announcement and I lost no time in hie-ing up the hill and presenting myself to the membership desk at the SRC that very day, where, after a certain amount of double-checking and head-scratching, I was duly inducted, having filled out forms absolving the Center of all blame for any mishap or inadequacy and countersigned by registering my palm on a mysterious metal grid.

Since then, I've been there almost every day and find it a lot of fun. First of all, the place is enormous. With my Navy background, its metallic, hard-edged look and cavernous spaces reminds me uncannily of an aircraft carrier. The facilities are comprehensive – rooms filled

with every conceivable infernal exercise machine, an indoor track (great when it's a 110 degrees outside), weights ranging from the trivial to the awe-inspiring, rooms for exercise classes of every description (I even saw a ballroom dancing class – about my measure, I would think). There is a huge, heated outdoor pool, a gigantic and intimidating climbing wall, basketball and badminton courts, a racquet ball court and on and on. Professional trainers are there to explain, guide, and evaluate, and might possibly even manage to do so for the likes of us without giggling.

And the place is used. It is relatively quiet on weekends, but even then there are a fair number of people enjoying games and inflicting physical suffering on themselves. Everyone is very courteous. The fit-looking patrons usually politely ignore this pudgy septuagenarian, while the ebullient young staff members always greet me with the equivalent of a Center hello: "Have a good workout!" they chirp as I near-sightedly enter my secret code and apply my palm to the grid. "Access Granted" pompously pronounces the screen, and I enter the polished and gleaming precincts.

In view of my limited experience of such places and having many a mile to go before I achieve my dreamed-of Apollo-like physique, I have so far concentrated on just a couple of types of machines, to wit, bicycles, of which there are at least three models, and rowing machines, of which there are two. My favorite bicycle provides multiple exercise protocols, readouts in a bewildering assortment of units, including, but not limited to: time to the second, miles to two decimal places, metric measure, speed, rpm, calories, calories per hour, wattage and, for all I know, parsecs per light year. It has its very own fan, which begins to waft a breeze (two velocities) across my gently perspiring face after an appropriate time has elapsed. And the bike always, after I quit, and no matter how lacking my performance, bids farewell with a hearty "Great Workout!" As for the rowing machines, there are two models which use a closed water chamber with paddles to provide the resistance, resulting in a sloshing sound so realistic that, if you close your eyes, you can imagine yourself stroking with the Oxford Eight with the one or, on the other, which concentrates on the arms, laboring at a Roman galley's oar.

The machine rooms do suffer from the piped music disease, which is sometimes actually not too bad and sometimes rather annoying, so, if you are sensitive to such intrusions upon athletic concentration, I

recommend an iPod and noise-cancelling headphones. More or less by accident, I've discovered that the best music to exercise by is Russian folk. It alternates excitingly between languid romantic tempos (Oh, those dark eyes! Oh those passionate eyes! Which will bring me to ruin! etc. etc.") and frantic bouts of fiddling and balalaika-plucking which really get those feet rotating and arms swinging. So, give the SRC a whirl yourself – it can only do you good – joking aside, I feel a lot better.



The **ARF** Film Groups which meet on Monday and Tuesday afternoons are full. A new Film Group will begin in September and meet monthly, meeting in member's homes on the 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. The first one will be held on September 11th at the home of Joyce Linden in Chatsworth. Email for more information: joyce.linden@csun.

Over a dozen members of the **Tuesday Film Group** met in the home of Wayne Plasek on April 24th to discuss the sombre and powerful movie, *The Deep Blue Sea*. Based on the 1952 play by Terrence Rattigan, it portrays the bleakness and painfully restrained emotions of post-World War II Britain, well before these were exploded by the "angry" playwrights of the mid-50s, Carnaby Street, and the Beatles. The restraint is teetering from these later forces, in the interplay of the upper middle class characters and in the skillfully crafted ambience of the film. If you enjoy the darker plays of PBS's Masterpiece Theater, this is your (veddy British) cup of tea. Others may find it a beautiful yawner. *Reported by Wayne Plasek.*

Ten members of the Group met on May 22nd at the home of Iris and Arif Shah to discuss *Monsieur Lazhar*, a French language Canadian film about an Algerian, whose wife and children have been killed, seeking political asylum. Although uncredentialed, he is hired to teach a class whose teacher committed suicide. How he deals with his and the children's loss and blame in a time of political correctness is told simply and subtly. The members enjoyed the film and rated it from 8 to 8.5 out of 10. *Reported by Margaret Vernallis.*

There were 10 attendees at the meeting at the home of Margaret Vernallis on June 26th. A remastered *Grand Illusion* had been chosen but only a few saw it before it disappeared from local theaters. They said it was the greatest film ever and urged all to see it now that it was back in theaters. A substitute *Oslo, August 31st* did not last long either. Those who saw it rated it an 8 out of 10 and found it a depressing film about a depressed drug addict in rehab who begins the

film with a suicide attempt and ends with a suicide. It would be an excellent film for mental health workers and also film buffs interested in the young Norwegian director Joachim Trier and appreciative of exceptional cinematic qualities. *Reported by Margaret Vernallis*

Bernie also received uniform ratings of 8 out of a possible 10 among the 7 attendees who viewed the movie. The movie is a biography of sorts and is considered a dark comedy with the script inspired by a "corrosively comic article" in the *Texas Monthly*. Most of the discussion by the Film Group centered on the character of Bernie, brilliantly played by Jack Black. Was he the good Samaritan helping widows overcome their grief, providing his talented singing to funerals, and directing and acting in the community theater or was he a clever manipulator of the richest woman in town, enjoying her gifts of luxury travel, his own airplane and the life of the idle rich? His killing this rich benefactor only complicates the story, and adds to a thoroughly enjoyable movie experience. *Reported by Lee Gassert*

At the July meeting, the group discussed *To Rome With Love*, four unrelated Roman tales held together somewhat haphazardly, which elicited comments ranging from "funny" and "sharp" to "silly" and "forgettable." The film is clearly not one of Woody Allen's best, but contains his usual witty dialogue. The actors, for the most part, rose above the preposterous material and it all made for a diverting summer entertainment. All agreed that the star of the film was the cinematographer, who took us on an affectionate tour of the major sites of the Eternal City. The group gave this film an average rating of 7 ½. *Reported by Lee Gassert.*

Eleven members of the **Monday Film Group** met at the home of Ruth Wold on April 23rd to discuss *Hunger Games* and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. The first film elicited a wide range of responses, from 1 to 8.5. Most agreed that the acting was excellent, particularly Jennifer Lawrence in the title role of Katniss Everdeen, the "nurturer-warrior" of the deadly Games, which are televised to the populace who live in the totalitarian Panem, a dystopia comprised of 12 Districts that are ruled by a government that keeps its people hungry in order to control them. Each district is required to send out 2 children, ranging in age from 12 to 18, to literally fight each other to the death until just one is left as the sole victor. The "winner" in this strange tale never has to worry about having enough food again. Equally praised for their acting were Donald Sutherland as the President of Panem, Woody Harrelson as Katniss' mentor/advisor in the Games, and Stanley Tucci, as the giddy talk show host who creates drama and tension in order to heighten the TV audience's interest. The theme of the film was seen as a good vs. evil conflict and as a metaphor for the sense of oppression many people feel towards government today. Members who liked this film found it visually interesting, giving high marks to the

cinematography. Several members also commented on the surprising lack of actual violence in the film, despite its themes. Overall ranking: 7.2.

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen was enjoyed by all. The only negative comment offered on this film was the title, which several members described as absurd and giving the public a false impression of its subject matter. The movie follows the efforts of a sheik, who uses his vast wealth to build a dam to create a lake in the middle of the desert that he can stock with salmon for fishing enthusiasts. His larger motive is to bring water to the area to create more farmland on which to grow food for the people. Involved in this project are Emily Blunt, the sheikh's London representative, Ewan McGregor as the British scientist with expertise in establishing fisheries, and Kristin Scott Thomas as the British Prime Minister's pushy press secretary. The plot involves romance and suspense, which builds as the dam nears completion, the resulting lake is stocked with salmon and the salmon run is created, culminating in the question of whether the salmon will spawn. They do, but only for moments, since the dam is blown up by the Sheikh's enemies. All ends well, though, as the remaining salmon begin jumping, proving that the project can be salvaged. All of the main characters in this film are idealized, requiring a good amount of "willing suspension of disbelief." Members agreed that Kristin Scott Thomas' superb acting provided just the right amount of vinegar to the sugary plot. The film received an 8.5 rating.

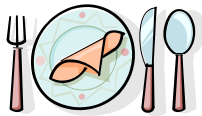
Eleven members of the Group met on May 21st at the home of Jim Bennett to discuss two films which couldn't be more dissimilar in theme and ambiance, which was sharply reflected in members' reactions to them. *The Kid with a Bike* is a dark film, focusing on a young boy who is sullen, disobedient, and gratingly stubborn, with a single-minded quest for an adult role model, an individual who will love and protect him unconditionally. His picaresque search is severely hampered because he is not an easy child to love. He repeatedly defies the one adult he does reach out to, a caring woman who tries to both guide him and give him the space he needs. A focal point of the group's discussion was on this woman and what motivated her to put up with this disagreeable child. The theme centers on the hope the boy holds out for achieving his objective, despite overwhelming odds against it, with endless scenes of the boy pedaling his bike as fast as he can, a dynamic image of his unrelenting pursuit. The movie is in French with English subtitles, most of which were cast in white letters on a gray background, making them difficult to read as is often the case with subtitled films. Members did not enjoy this film, which is reflected in the low 5.3 ranking it received.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, on the other hand, was well liked by all members. The theme of the film – coping with the challenges of growing older and the importance of risk-taking regardless of one's age – is hopeful and optimistic,

contributing to the movie's "feel good" ambiance. This movie features an extraordinary cast of esteemed character actors, all of whom turn in stellar performances, with Judi Dench being the stand-out. The cinematography was hailed as breathtaking, with several members suggesting that "India" was itself a strong cast member. The sights, sounds, and smells are all vivid and reflect a strong sense of place, from the rancid water used for multiple purposes, to the scent of curries cooking. This movie was thoroughly enjoyed by all and received one of the highest rankings awarded by members this year, a well-deserved 8.7.

Nine members of the Group met at the home of Dorena Knepper on July 2nd to discuss *Men in Black 3* and the new Woody Allen film, *To Rome With Love*. Generally, members found flaws in both movies which led to a consensus that both films were "ok," but could have been much better. That assessment was especially true of *To Rome With Love*, a film with a complicated plot involving 5 different stories with no common thread linking them together. In comparison with Woody's earlier *Midnight in Paris*, it was felt that this film was not as well-crafted. Everyone agreed that the most arresting "star" in this movie was Rome, which is stunningly and lovingly photographed. Rome was given a ranking of 10; the film received an average 7.7. (See the Tuesday group's review of this film, previously, which essentially arrives at the same conclusions as the Monday group).

Members thought *Men in Black 3*, though enjoyable, was not as good as the first film in the series. They described the plot of *MiB3* as incredulous and illogical, with most of the criticism centered on problems involved with time travel. Several inconsistencies in time were noted: Although the cars did change to reflect automobiles from 1969, the clothes people wore remained circa 2012. The film also ignores the fact that changing something in the past will always affect the future. When Agent J kills Boris at the end of the movie, there are no consequences for the future, which surely there must be, given all the people and planets Boris has annihilated. Everyone agreed that the best parts of this film were the aliens – inventively created in looks, sounds, and body parts (a giant maw in place of a head, in one confrontation) – and the music, which added significantly to the tension and foreboding. Josh Brolin was rated very good in his role as the young Agent K, while Will Smith was seen as a little long-in-the-tooth for his role as Agent J, whom he portrays in both the past and in the future. Tommy Lee Jones, as the present-day Agent K, is not a major presence in the movie, which some members lamented, remembering how good he was in the earlier films. Jemaine Clement is excellent as the deliciously malevolent Boris. This film received an average 7.6 ranking.



SCCARF

In April, twenty SCCARF diners met at Café Bijou for its annual LobsterFest, featuring a fixed price dinner with choices for appetizer, entree, and dessert. Lobster bisque and crab-stuffed mushrooms were appetizer favorites, as were flourless chocolate cake and homemade tiramisu for dessert. Comments on the main course lobster dishes ranged from “succulent” to “a bit disappointing”; the slipper lobster tails with risotto and the steak, lobster and shrimp received favorable reviews. Some ordered from Café Bijou’s extensive regular menu. The roast pork tenderloin and the whitefish with linguini were judged to be quite good, but the carrot rosemary soup (a house specialty) reportedly contained an overabundance of rosemary. The very best part of our evening was the delightful camaraderie and stimulating conversation, both admirably assisted by attentive service and a two-dollar wine corkage fee. (*Ronald McIntyre*)

In late May twenty-six of us met for an evening of French-California cuisine at Rive Gauche, a long-established Ventura Blvd. restaurant. Some of us arrived early to enjoy a bit of wine and share the latest news; then we all moved to the restaurant’s back patio, which was reserved just for our group. The lamb chops, sea bass, and other specialties were delicious and the service excellent. The temperature was ideal for our relaxed outdoor dining. Everyone seemed to have a fine time, as indicated by the lively, good-spirited conversations all around the patio. It was a pleasure to welcome a few new people and some who hadn’t attended many of our dining adventures. (*Jim Allen*)

Our mid-June dinner at Bistro Orient in Woodland Hills was filled with good food and great conversation. Twenty-one diners lingered long on the restaurant’s charming patio, savoring the wonderful Asian tastes carefully selected and prepared by Chef Dan that were shared by all. Vietnamese spring rolls came first, followed by crispy calamari and pot-stickers, after which we enjoyed Bistro Orient’s signature dishes—filet mignon with green beans, shrimp and chicken stir fry, eggplant with tofu—all delicious, replete with fresh vegetables, and great fun to share. Service was attentive, reflecting a wonderful Asian hospitality. Many diners indicated they’d likely return soon. (*Ellen Mayer*)

Seventeen SCCARFers gathered at Il Tiramisu in Sherman Oaks on July 12th for the restaurant’s Italian specialties. Our father-and-son hosts, Ivo and Peter Kastelan (Peter is a computer-science graduate from CSUN) set tables for us in a lesser-used room so that we had privacy for most of the evening. This setting allowed the attendees to have a leisurely meal with plenty of time for talk before and after the meal. Everyone who went, both individuals who had visited Il Tiramisu before and those for whom it was the first time, enjoyed the variety of dishes. Several of us brought wine to share, taking advantage of the \$5 corkage fee. (*Larry Caretto*)

If you’d like to be apprised of future SCCARF events, contact Jim at jim.dole@csun.edu.



BOOK GROUPS

The **Science Book Group** met on April 11th at Oviatt Library to discuss *The Devil in Dover: An Insider’s Story of Dogma*, by Lauri Lebo. It involved a court case against the Dover, Maryland School Board, which was trying to institute “Intelligent Design” theory into the high school curriculum. The school board was defeated in this attempt. Among many reasons for this outcome was the establishment of the facts that the school board lied and took no interest in the questions raised during the trial.

We met again on May 15th to discuss *The Seven Daughters of Eve*, by Bryan Sykes. A good deal of the book explained how mitochondrial DNA is passed down the maternal line without change—except for mutations, which occur rarely. The mutation rate is known, however, and this allows good estimates of time. The second half of the book consisted mostly of stories of how the various “daughters” (originators of lines of inheritance) could have lived, given their ages into the past. Reaction to the stories by the club members was mixed. Regardless of opinions of the quality of the book, the discussion of it was very interesting.

On June 20th we discussed *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, by Charles C. Mann. There was criticism by several members on the generalizations drawn by Mann and on his methods. This criticism was somewhat mitigated by the recognition of the tremendous time span covered and by recent discoveries using new methods which tended to

throw certain previous conclusions into question. Whether they are to be believed or not, several arresting ideas created a book of sustaining interest. Among these was the assertion that the population of the pre-Columbian Americas was much greater than previously suspected and that several cities were larger and more sophisticated than those of Europe at the same period. Another important idea was that the Europeans did not find a pristine wilderness in the New World, but a “garden” shaped and fashioned by the hand of man. All of these points were energetically discussed.

On July 18th we discussed *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. M. Conway. Most club members were upset by this book, that a “handful” of scientists prostituted themselves for their political views and for money. It seems unlikely that they really believed what they espoused (that tobacco smoke was not harmful, that global warming is not happening, etc.) but by casting doubt they caused delays in implementing regulation, thus benefitting involved industries. Although the public does not seem to understand much of how science works, they do seem to understand that having an “agenda” is not a part of science. So when this happened, it was possible for doubt to arise. Discussion also touched on how right-wing think tanks and talk radio continue the deliberate obfuscation. The “enemy” of these groups has shifted over time from communism to socialism to environmentalism.

For October 3rd the **Wednesday Book Group** will read *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937–1948* by Madeleine Albright. **NOTE:** We will not meet in September. For information contact Linda Jones: 818 831-6061.



BRIDGE GROUP

The **ARF** Bridge Group took a vacation for July and August but will meet September 16th at the Turners. Bridge playing retirees interested in joining the group need not be experts, but willing to meet on a regular basis on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm and occasionally be responsible for refreshments or hosting

the group. For more information, contact Helen Giedt at 818 363-1272.



Verve Leps, Betty Rose, Mary Corcoran, Linda Jones, Raymonde Motil, Jim Dole on June 3rd outing

The **ARF** Birding Group met on June 3rd at Malibu Creek State Park. The weather was cool and clear, the birds were abundant and varied and the trees and wildflowers were beautiful. Bird of the day was the beautiful (and numerous) Lazuli Bunting. Most interesting behavior viewing: a House Wren nest in a cavity in an ancient Oak directly in front of a picnic table with seated viewing for all. One parent (which? sexes are identical) repeatedly flew into the cavity carrying a bug and flew out carrying a fecal pellet. Other notable sightings: Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-shouldered Kite, Western Bluebird, Lesser Goldfinch, Purple Finch. A lovely morning was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday July 7th the **ARF** Birding Group met at Mount Pinos, elevation 8400'. After setting up headquarters in the camping area, short walks and long sits racked up a number of interesting sightings. Many of the birds seen were mountain species not usually present at lower altitudes: White-headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, Pigmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch and Steller's Jay. The Violet-green Swallows seen nesting in tree cavities last year were still around and a Varied Thrush was of special interest. This bird is not usually seen so far south. One member hiked to the summit, 9200 feet, and reported interesting miniature plants, an adaptation to elevation. This outing was our last of the season. Many birds and birders as well leave the area or estivate for the summer. We will resume our activities in the fall, probably October. Watch for announcements.

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2011-2012

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ARF Meetings – NEED A RIDE?

Having trouble getting to monthly ARF meetings due to inability to drive? We may be able to help. The names of members who are willing to take passengers are being collected and Mary Corcoran will try to match those who want rides with drivers in the same area. If you need a ride, please leave your name, address and email or phone number at mary.corcoran@csun.edu or (818) 360-7332.

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