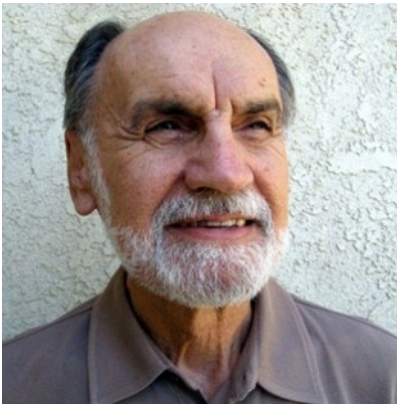


ARF NOTES: publication of the Association of Retired Faculty, California State University Northridge



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LARRY CARETTO

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The January Banquet Registration form can be found on Page 7. Be sure to send in your form by January 10th.	

I recently read about a survey of retired faculty that asked them about their favorite benefits of emeritus status. Free parking on campus topped the list. Library access was second. I thought of this as I fielded emails from a very small number of **ARF** members who did not get their new emeritus parking permits in November. Thanks to Don Cameron who identified the key individuals in Faculty Affairs (who prepares the list of emeriti and surviving spouses who get parking permits) and the Parking Office (who mails them out). If any members have not yet received their new parking permits, please let me know.

In the middle of our last Board Meeting Keren Aks, the Orange Grove Bistro manager, came in to tell us that their planned construction for the winter break would not be completed in time for our planned January 12th "Thank God the Holidays Are Over" Banquet. The Board decided to re-schedule the banquet a week later, on January 19th. This event has been increasingly popular in the past and I encourage you to respond quickly. There is a copy of the response form in this issue of *ARF Notes*.

In addition to the banquet, the scholarship luncheon and the picnic, this spring we will have two speakers. On

Wednesday, February 13th, Vince Coppola will give a talk titled "Behind the Scenes," giving an insider's view of the films that he has worked on. On March 13th, Darrick Danta will give a talk entitled "Ambiguous Landscapes of the San Pornando Valley," which will discuss his geographical research into one of the Valley's main industries. Our program committee has just about completed its plans for speakers for next year, but we always welcome your suggestions for speakers. (I am especially interested since I will be program chair next year).

At its last meeting the Board approved an amendment to the **ARF** constitution that would remove the current distinction between full members and associate members of **ARF**. The only effect of this change will be to give current associate members the right to vote and to hold office in **ARF**, which they presently do not have. The full membership will vote on this at our General Meeting at the picnic in June.

I hope that all of you will have a happy holiday season and find lots of fun-filled and rewarding activities next year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one of our **ARF** events in the spring.



IN MEMORIAM

Leon King (Financial Aid) passed away on October 30th unexpectedly. His wife Ida reports that there will not be a service here in Southern California. The Celebration of Life for him will be Saturday, January 12th at the Walnut Grove Community Presbyterian Church in Walnut Grove, CA., next to the Sacramento River in the Delta area. This is near where he was born, where his father farmed and he worked many summers. Ida will be in Seattle with her sons for the holidays, and the birth of a new granddaughter at the end of November.

John Kontogiannis (Biology) passed away on November 2nd, 2012. John was a tenured Professor in the Biology Department for 30 years. In his retirement, he helped in the Biology Advising office for an additional 10 years. His daughter Eleni was a CSUN alumna with a Biology degree.



NEWS FROM CSUN

SHINE INITIATIVE

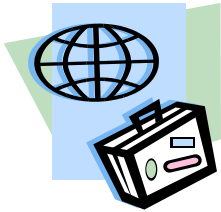
Following is an excerpt from University President Dianne Harrison’s message presenting the Shine initiative: “Shortly after I arrived at this remarkable institution, I identified several key initiatives, one of which was to advance the visibility and reputation of the university. As I embarked on a ‘listening tour,’ meeting with as many of you as I could, I heard countless stories of problem-solving, innovation, personal commitment, and academic success—stories that I feel are important to share with the world. In keeping with that effort, I am happy to announce the new CSUN Shine initiative, a unifying positioning platform for our university. The goal of CSUN Shine is to communicate with pride the university’s unique identity and distinctive qualities—in essence, to relay in an ongoing, consistent manner all the ways CSUN shines. Starting this week and continuing into 2013, you will begin to see CSUN Shine graphics and messaging throughout the uni-

wide audience. The CSUN home page, for instance, has more than 50,000 unique visitors daily. . . Together, we will continue to make CSUN shine throughout the campus community, in the Los Angeles area, the state, and well beyond.”

NOTED AUTHOR TO VISIT CAMPUS

From Provost Harry Hellenbrand: “I am pleased to announce that the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media and Communication and the Institute for Arts and Media will be hosting the widely acclaimed author, Charles Bowden, for a week in April. Bowden is the author of 40 non-fiction books and numerous articles. He has received the First Amendment Award from the PEN Center as well as the Lannan Literary Award for nonfiction among many others . . . Most recently, Bowden has focused his attention on the Southwest and the border region. He will be discussing his work on Juarez, Mexico . . . and is looking forward to discussing his work with faculty and students in smaller settings.

I am inviting you to participate in the activities by reading one or more of Bowden’s recent works and or using them in your courses where appropriate . . . I would encourage you to read either *Murder City: Ciudad Juarez and the Global Economy’s New Killing Fields* (2010) or *Down by the River: Drugs, Money, Murder, and Family* (2002) between now and early February so that you can participate in one or some of our discussion sessions before Bowden arrives on campus.”



EMERITI NEWS

Robert Dear (Psychology) is now 85, has moved to an assisted living situation, and would welcome visitors. He is at Pacific Senior Living, 8700 Lindley Ave, Northridge, CA 91325 (Lindley and Parthenia) Robert's daughter Kate Dear, asked if **ARF** provided visitation to members who are non-ambulatory. Although we do not have a formal program, I am sure that Bob's friends in **ARF** would like to visit him.

Nancy Owens (Family and Consumer Sciences), is the winner of this year's Dean Ed Peckham Award, given annually to an emeritus or retired member of the faculty or staff who continues to contribute to the CSUN community. She is a wonderful example of commitment to the university. Since retiring from CSUN in 2003 as a professor emeritus, Owens has remained an active volunteer. As the curator of the FCS Historic Costume Collection, she catalogs, photographs and stores donated garments and antique and ethnic textiles, the oldest pieces dating back to the 1880s. Owens is past president of the Association of Retired Faculty and is the association's current program chairperson. She and her husband have set up endowed scholarship programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and have created an endowment to support the textile laboratory and the costume collection.

James Steele Smith (English). **ARF** received the following email from a British researcher, inquiring about James Steel Smith who taught at CSUN. He writes: "I am an independent researcher and part-time teacher of English. I have come across some interesting articles and poems by the late James Steel Smith, who died in 1988 and was formerly a teacher of English at CSUN. . . . I'm wondering if you have any biographical or other information about him that you could perhaps e-mail me. It seems to me he was a highly observant, but perhaps somewhat neglected, literary critic and artist. Thank you in advance for any info you may be able to provide." Richard Wall, Canterbury, England. If you are able to help him, please contact him directly: richard43@gmail.com.

And an interesting sidelight about a former CSUN professor (not an emeritus):

Mohamed Morsi (Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics), the current president of Egypt, was an assistant professor in the department of civil engineering and applied mechanics at CSUN from 1982 to 1985. He taught here after he finished his Ph.D. at USC, and was known as Mohamed El-Aiat when he was on campus. Some people remember him as Ed Dombourian and Nagi I Naga.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

"It's fun!" is the reason Ivan Johnson gave us for climbing one's family tree in the Information Age. The first step is to start with what you know and work back, checking with relatives to see what they know. It's very important to know where your family came from, in order to check country records. Being of English heritage makes research easier as Anglican Church records go back to 1538, the National Registry goes back to 1837, and census results from 1841-1911 are on the web.

In the Internet age, there are many sources of help, some free, others not. Ivan recommended Ancestry.com but mentioned websites for specific countries or heritages. Ancestry.com has immigration records from 1820 with most immigrants coming through New York. www.ellisland.org is a free source but you have to register to see the ship's manifest. Contrary to myth, names

were not changed on Ellis Island.

Larry Caretto served as the case study for how to do an Internet search. Items used for Larry himself were the 1940 U.S. census, the California Birth Index, and a birth announcement. Then the process started over with each parent. Sources Ivan used included the 1900 Census, 1930 Census, death certificates, passport applications, naturalization papers, a city directory, and findagrave.com (1861-2011). Google Maps showed the small towns in Italy where Larry's grandparents were raised. Ivan said that you have to see documents, not trust family trees that others have worked out, as errors abound. Local sources include the library at the Mormon Temple in Santa Monica (just say "I'm a visitor") and the downtown Los Angeles public library. In addition, there are many Los Angeles area genealogical societies. *Reported by Nancy Owens.*



FILM GROUPS

The **New Tuesday Afternoon Film Group** met on November 6th at the home of Jeanne Glazer. Three members saw *Argo*, a docudrama based on the historical event of the Iran hostage crisis in 1979. Directed by Ben Affleck, it chronicles the tense, life-or-death covert operation to rescue six Americans who managed to escape the U.S. embassy during the takeover by Iranian revolutionary militants. For a detailed description, see the review of the below. Our group gave the film high marks for cinematography, old-fashioned story-telling, as well as for artistic, instructional and ethical value. The human desire to be humane is juxtaposed with the risk-taking of the participants. The overall rating was 9 out of 10.

The second film, *The Master*, was highly recommended by the one group member who saw it, noting she loved the acting and would see it again. It focuses on the power of a religious movement, headed by the charismatic “Master,” played by the ever-excellent Philip Seymour Hoffman, and his relationship with a spiritual seeker, played by Joaquin Phoenix. She rated the film a 6 out of 10 due to the sometimes confusing nature of the relationships, and the dark setting and storyline.

The third film, *Searching for Sugar Man*, a title taken from the song “Sugar Man,” documents the search for the once-promising singer/songwriter and potential ‘70’s rock icon Rodriguez. Discovered in a Detroit dive in the late 60’s by record producers who produced an album of his soulful music, Rodriguez disappeared when his album bombed. His music found its way to South Africa, where he became wildly popular. Swedish filmmaker, Malik Bendjelloul, armed with a cellphone for cinematography, set out to discover what happened to Rodriguez. Did he really commit suicide? In fact, he was found alive and well in a Detroit bar. The rating was 9 out of 10. The group is recruiting new members; it next meets on Tuesday, December 4th at the home of Sandy Jewett to discuss *Flight* and *Sessions*. *Reported by Elizabeth Schneider.*

Eight of the original **Tuesday ARF Film Group** members met October 23rd at the home of Lee Gassert to discuss *The Master*. In the words of a New York Times film critic, “This is a movie that defies understanding even as it compels reverent, astonished belief.” The discussion was wide-ranging and intense as we attempted to identify “theme,” and evaluate plot, and script. The group agreed the acting by both Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman was outstanding and may lead to nominations for Oscar consideration. Positive evaluations were awarded for cinematography and music components. Several members commented on their interest in viewing the movie again to puzzle through the bizarre and somewhat confusing mixture of scenes depicting reality and fantasy. Despite some consternation among members about the meaning of the film and its connection to Scientology, there was general agreement that *The Master*’s need to dominate and win the devotion of Freddie (played by Phoenix) provides the key dramatic element of the film. We rated the movie as an average of 8. This group, like the other two, also discussed *Argo* (on Nov. 27th) and found it an enjoyable film.

All 12 members of the **Monday Film Group** gathered at the home of Wayne Plasek on November 19th to discuss *Argo* and *The Sessions*--films that garnered both high marks and high rankings. *Argo*, starring Ben Affleck, who also directed the film, was praised for its pacing and for the performances of the lead actors as well as those in minor roles. Ensemble acting at its best, as one member commented. The film follows Affleck as a member of the CIA, who concocts a mad scheme to lead 6 American hostages disguised as a film crew from Iran at the height of the Iranian Revolution. The tension builds slowly and relentlessly as the film crescendos into the final scene at the airport, with cop cars and army jeeps careening wildly on the tarmac, trying to stop the plane holding the 6 Americans and Affleck. It is a measure of Affleck's talent that viewers are not just observers but participants in this drama. When the flight attendant announces that the plane has left Iranian airspace, viewers feel the elation, relief, and profound sense of liberation along with Affleck and the 6 hostages. Members ranked this film at 8.8

The Sessions provided a quite different experience. Viewers saw this quiet, soulful dramedy about a 38-year-old-man paralyzed with polio since the age of 6 as moving, heartwarming, and, importantly, devoid of bathos. The theme of this movie--triumph over adversity and the miracle of human adaptability--is skillfully conveyed by John Hawkes who plays the lead. Although living a constrained life in an iron lung, his sense of humor and a keen interest in life sustain him; he is not a pitiable figure. His desire to experience sex before he dies is the focus of the film, leading him to engage a sex surrogate, superbly played by Helen Hunt, with the blessing of his priest, also well acted by William H. Macy. Members felt the full nudity and simulated sex scenes were tastefully portrayed and with great sensitivity. Members also gave this film an 8.8 ranking. *Reported by Dorena Knepper.*



SCCARF REPORT

In October, 24 SCCARFers met at the lovely Angel City Cafe in Woodland Hills, a new restaurant rapidly gaining a reputation as a "neighborhood gem." We started with homemade bread and a fantastic dipping sauce, followed by eclectic and creative California cuisine. Everyone enjoyed the menu choices, and service was attentive. Free corkage was a definite plus, as were the delicious, and free, biscotti served for dessert. Lively conversation and camaraderie, assisted by good food and wine, contributed to an excellent evening. (*Rita Streimer*)

Dos Arbolitos (<http://www.yelp.com/biz/dos-arbolitos-north-hills>) was the site for SCCARF's November dining excursion. Twenty-six strong, the group enjoyed a diverse choice of dishes: the expected chile rellenos and enchiladas, but also many Yucatan specialties such as goat burritos, chicken mole poblano, fajitas del mar (seafood fajita) and specialty dishes of camarones (shrimp), chicken, pork or beef. The restaurant's owner, Jose Abugayda, warmly greeted us, service was prompt and polite, and the facility was immaculate. Check out a review in CSUN's own Daily Sundial at <http://sundial.csun.edu/2011/03/dos-arbolitos-review/>. Next time you crave good Mexican style food, think Dos Arbolitos. You won't be disappointed. (*Bonnie Faherty*)

In December, 33 SCCARFers—a new attendance record—descended on Lenny's Smokehouse near the old Chatsworth Reservoir (23360 Lake Manor Drive, Chatsworth) where they enjoyed a variety of barbeque dishes, the specialty of the house. A zero corkage fee pleased the wine lovers. Some attendee's comments follow: "My spare ribs were outstanding—a large serving at a very reasonable price." "The Whiskey Ribs were tender and very tasty and the sauce delicious—not as sweet as the usual barbecue sauce but with much flavor and tang." "Prices were reasonable and portions so huge that we had a second meal at home." "The bread pudding was to die for but a diet buster unless you had two friends at the table to share with." "I expected traditional BarBQ closer to Texas style [but] Lenny's...specialty items [were] prepared in a fashion NOT normally seen in the BBQ restaurants we have experienced. Pat is particularly fond of catfish and thoroughly enjoyed it and the Waffle Fries." "I felt like I was going back to a country place in Texas." "The food was excellent. I'd take out-of-town visitors to this place." Praise for the ribs, the baked beans with jalapeños and the chili bean soup was virtually unanimous, with one person noting that the chili bean soup alone was reason enough to prompt another visit. Two SCCARFers thought the tri-tip a bit tough, and for one the smoky atmosphere proved a downer, as it might for others with allergies. The simultaneous arrival of our large group appeared to overwhelm the small wait staff, but the staff's courtesy and helpfulness was uniformly appreciated. And on the plus side, the modest delay as we awaited our food was well used by all for friendly chatter. (*Larry Caretto*)

Want to be apprised of upcoming epicurean adventures? An email or phone call to Jim (jim.dole@csun.edu, 818 894 3640) will do the job.



NEEDLEARF SILENT AUCTION AT JANUARY BANQUET

NeedleARF members are busy finishing the items they will be submitting to the Silent Auction at the January banquet. It's still not too late for fellow ARF members to have their handiwork included in the event. Rumor has it that there are woodwork and glass artists in our midst. The silent auction will be displayed in the room where banquet attendees will be meeting and greeting one another on arrival at the University Club prior to the banquet. Plan on arriving in plenty of time to view all the items displayed and choose which one (or more) you want to take home with you. Be sure to bring your checkbook.

All the artists are donating their handiwork for auction; therefore ALL proceeds will go to the **ARF** Scholarship Fund. This provides the opportunity for you to make a contribution to the scholarship fund—100% tax deductible—and go home with a one-of-a-kind work of art crafted by a fellow ARF member.

To donate a piece of your handiwork, call (818) 426-2401. Deadline for submission is now January 15th. *Reported by Roberta K. Mauksch*



BOOK GROUPS

Science Book Group

The **Science Book Group** met on November 14th at Oviatt Library. Present were, Virve Leps, Mary Corcoran, Bill Husek, John Motil, Charles Macune, Phyllis Russell, Heidemarie Lundblad, Sandy Jewett and myself. The book discussed was: ***Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe*** by Laurence Bergreen. Everyone learns in school about Magellan being first to circumnavigate the globe and a few may even remember that Magellan himself did not complete the journey, dying in the Philippines. Just what a remarkable man he was is shown in the book. In those early days, there were few maps and no one knew how to prevent scurvy. Magellan was Portuguese but sailed for Spain, which introduced a heavy dose of politics. The story was fascinating but some readers found parts of the book tedious. Some were critical of the lack of modern maps in the book to indicate Magellan's route. Others found the book eye-opening and worth the effort.

We will meet again on January 16th, 2013 in the Oviatt Library Administration Office Conference Room (West end of third floor) to discuss ***Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds*** by Bernd Heinrich. **READING AHEAD:** For February 20th: ***Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain*** by David Eagleman. *Reported by Linda Jones.*

RESEARCH:

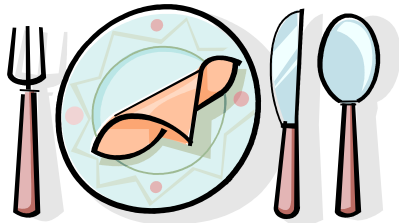
The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True by Richard Dawkins and Dave McKean
The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion by Jonathan Haight
Blood Work: A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution by Holly Tucker
World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse by Lester R. Brown
Existential Pleasures of Engineering by Samuel Florman
The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean
Bone Detective: The Story of Forensic Anthropologist Diane France by Lorraine Jean Hopping
Robo World: The Story of Robot Designer Cynthia Breazeal by Jordan Brown
Strong Force: The Story of Physicist Shirley Ann Jackson by Diane O'Connell



SUGGESTED READING, By Ann Perkins

God's Hotel; a Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage into the Heart of Medicine, by Victoria Sweet chronicles the author's 20 years at Laguna Honda hospital in San Francisco. The hospital is a descendant of the Hotel-Dieu in Paris that cared for the sick poor in the Middle Ages. At this low-tech but human paced hospital, the author had the chance to practice the kind of "slow medicine" that has almost vanished. She introduces a number of interesting patients and doctors, and discusses various theories of patient care, among them the value of caring for both the body and the soul.

The Sense of an Ending, by Julian Barnes. This winner of the Booker Prize for 2011 is a wonderfully concise, thoughtful book; an examination of memory by an older man who recalls his early life, and reevaluates it in the light of a surprising recent event. It's both funny and full of emotional depth, and you will want to read it more than once in order to understand the nuances of the characters and their possible motivations.



THANK GOD THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER BANQUET, JANUARY 2013

Our annual gathering will take place on **January 19th, 2013** (*note change of date*), at the newly remodeled Orange Grove Bistro (AKA University Club). Members are cordially invited to share in the festivities. Reservations are a must! We plan to begin at **6:00 p.m.** with a no-host bar, nibbles, stimulating conversation, and a silent auction featuring creations by NeedleARF members (bring your checkbook or cash), proceeds to support **ARF** scholarships. Dinner will be at **6:45 p.m.**

A lively trio, **Sentimental Journey**, will serenade us following the banquet.

Vocalists Karen Ellingwood, Jocelyn Arens, and Patt Davis, accompanied by recorded background tracks, will regale us with songs from the 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond in an assortment of trios, duets, and solos.

We have three menu items from which you may choose:

- Prime rib with horseradish cream sauce, polenta and green beans
- Seared salmon filet with leek beurre blanc, polenta and green beans
- Vegetable stack on polenta with Portobello mushroom, roasted red pepper and eggplant

Entrees are preceded by a romaine, candied pecan and goat cheese salad with balsamic vinaigrette and bread. A beverage (coffee, tea, soft drinks) is also included. Chocolate lava cake will conclude the meal.

Please complete the form below and mail it, with a check, to arrive by **January 10th, 2013** to:

Association of Retired Faculty, P.O. Box 280578, Northridge, Ca. 91328-0578

Meal choice:

Prime rib (\$41) Name for name tag(s): _____

Salmon (\$37)

Vegetable stack (\$29)

Prime rib (\$41) Name for name tag(s): _____

Salmon (\$37)

Vegetable stack (\$29)

I am enclosing a check payable to **ARF** for:

\$29, \$37, \$41, \$58, \$66, \$70, \$74, \$78, \$82

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ARF NOTES

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