

ARF NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JOYCE LINDEN

Greetings to all ARF members:

Time seems to pass very quickly; we've celebrated Valentine's Day and President's Day already; but it seems as if we just celebrated the New Year only days ago.

The **ARF** Program Committee, Chaired by Larry Carreto, continues to plan exciting events for us. In March, we can look forward to a presentation by Ellen Jarosz on the topic of University and Urban Archives. In April we have a field trip planned to the Los Angeles City Library to view and learn about the architecture from docents who are our own retired CSUN faculty. Of course, in May we will present scholarships at our annual luncheon, then in June we will close the year with our annual picnic and installation of officers. We are looking for a site to have the picnic, so if you have a large yard, please volunteer. The picnic committee always does a great job cleaning up afterward.



Meanwhile, Karen Robinette has volunteered (after a bit of arm twisting by other ARF Board members) to represent **ARF** to the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) Committee. Board Meeting minutes are now being posted on the **ARF** website.

Check out the links on the CSUN home page to keep up with new developments on campus. There are also new developments in the community. Speakers at the October 2012 **ARF** meeting spoke about the Oakridge Estate, a historic landmark near the corner of Reseda Blvd. and Devonshire. The November 2012 issue of **ARF** Notes had an article describing this property. The Estate has now been taken over by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and with Prop K funding, it will become a park site that will include an outdoor classroom for community use.

Recently, the author of a new 1,000 page biography of Barbara Stanwyck held a Book Signing at the Oakridge house. Eventually, the house, which is believed to have been designed by Paul Williams, the first African American architect to become a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), will be restored and public tours planned. CSUN's proximity to this site will offer faculty and students new educational opportunities when the project is completed.

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WHAT'S NEW AT CSUN:

OVIATT LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS



STUDENTS ENJOYING TECHNOLOGY WORKSTATIONS

California State University, Northridge opened the doors to a new era at the Delmar T. Oviatt Library when President Dianne F. Harrison and other campus leaders officially unveiled the Learning Commons with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 3rd. The new Learning Commons was designed to cater to the new generation of students looking to study in a technologically advanced area. It has been outfitted with flexible workstations, enhanced study spaces featuring ergonomic furniture and an abundance of charging outlets for all the technology being used. There are also Librarians offering research consultation, an Information Technology help desk, laptop and tablet checkout and a full-service Freudian Sip coffeehouse. President Harrison noted that the changes in the Library help prepare the University for the future. She called the newly remodeled Library "modern, exciting, and transformative," and added that the new area's IT infrastructure will support research into the next decade and beyond. If you are interested in contributing to this program, gifts should be designated to CSUN Foundation with "Oviatt Library Learning Commons" as the designation either on the checks or note of designa-

UPCOMING ARF PROGRAMS

March 12th: Ellen Jarosz speaking on University and Urban Archives, at 2:00 pm, Orange Grove Bistro

April 2nd: ARF Field Trip to Los Angeles Central Library

This year's field trip will view the architecture of the 1926 Central Library in downtown Los Angeles. We will have a bus that leaves CSUN at 10:30 am to take us downtown, where individuals will be able to go to a variety of restaurants for lunch. The actual tour will start at 1:30 pm. Look for a mailer with more information about this trip near the end of February.

This library building is a landmark example of early Art Deco architecture. It was the final collaboration of architect Bertram Goodhue and sculptor Lee Lawrie; Lawrie's sculpture decorates both the exterior and interior of the original library building. Muralist Dean Cornwell painted scenes from the history of California for the spectacular rotunda and there is another series of murals by Albert Herter in the old History reading room. The Tom Bradley Wing (1993) designed by Norman Pfeiffer contains several major public art projects. In addition, there are temporary exhibitions in the Getty and First Floor galleries and a selection of rare prints and film posters in the Annenberg Gallery off the rotunda. The Maguire Gardens wrap around three sides of the library. The garden contains one of downtown LA's most important public art projects, Spine, by Jud Fine. Spine traces the global history of writing in quotations mounted on steps leading from Flower Street to the Library's entrance. There are also fountains designed by Lawrence Halprin and Mineo Mizuno. The tour will be led by two of our retired colleagues who are docents at the Library: Elizabeth Berry and Kenon Breazeale. Kenon provided the description here. *Reported by Larry Caretto.*

JANUARY BANQUET REPORT



GREG KOPPEL AND STEVE LONGACRE ENTERTAIN US.

We held Our annual ARF “Thank God the Holidays are Over” Banquet on January 11th, with about 90 people in attendance. After the banquet meal, guests adjourned to another room to enjoy magicians (and 1978 CSUN alumni) Greg and Steve. As a jazz score played in the background, the talented duo managed to guide several very enthusiastic audience volunteers through a series of delightful and often complex tricks—silently, using only gestures. Following their performance, Joyce Linden revealed that (1) Greg and Steve are both deaf; and (2) they’ve been honored multiple times for their magic and performance skills. Steve is principal of a large elementary school in Orange County, and Greg is a graphic artist at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. NeedleARF provided lovely handmade items for the Silent Auction, earning \$542 for the scholarship fund. *Reported by Barbara Caretto.*

FEBRUARY PROGRAM REPORT

On February 12th, Ellen Mayer, retired Faculty Emeritus from the CSUN Counseling Center, presented a program in story and slides on the history, culture, and art of Burma, now known as Myanmar. Since first visiting the country, and being struck by its magical beauty and sense of timelessness, she has been on 15 trips there, many of them as the organizer and leader of tours.

Burma is composed of about 152 tribal groups, each with its own culture and dialect, and the richness of these cultures is reflected in

their architecture and art. There are many beautiful pagodas in Burma, but the one in Yangon (formerly Rangoon) is the most beautiful. This Buddhist shrine is 2500 years old, and covered with 2500 plates of gold. Religion plays a large part in Burmese life, and all their art is infused with Buddhism. The country is also rich in natural resources.

In rural Burma, one can see oxcarts, old infrastructure, and unpaved street. Here a water buffalo is a prized possession. In the inland province of Bagan there are many temples, and the arts focus on handicrafts such as woodwork and paper. Dance is also important. The large Inle Lake is located in this province, and everything here is done by boat. Markets move every 5th day to a new part of the lake, and even the little children row boats. The Berman are the chief ethnic group, and it is from a mispronunciation of this word that the country came to be called Burma.

Ellen gave us a picture of the people of the country by describing three of the people she has become friends with on her travels there. All three have found it difficult to realize their potential in this country, but all have stayed, and are dedicated to their country and to its improvement.

The country has had a tumultuous history, from its time as a crown colony of Great Britain to years of government and military oppression, including the jailing of Aung San Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Prize for her commitment to peaceful change. Since 2011, however, there are hopeful signs of political and economic progress. Some of these changes may be coming too fast, however – there is a sudden proliferation of billboards and advertising, and there is a question of whether the infrastructure can support so much new development. At this point, the country is more untouched and traditional than most other southeast Asian countries, and we can hope that many of these traditions will survive. *Reported by Ann Perkins.*

ELLEN MAYER, PRESENTER OF FEBRUARY PROGRAM



ARF INTEREST GROUPS:

Birding Group: Usually meets monthly. Contact Linda Jones (ljonesbird@aol.com)

Book Groups (Three):

Meets Tuesdays monthly. Contact Ron Schaffer (ronschaffer9@gmail.com)

Meets Wednesdays monthly. Contact Linda Jones (ljonesbird@aol.com)

Science Book Group Meets Wednesdays monthly. Contact Heidemarie Lundblad (heidemarie.lundblad@csun.edu)

Bridge Group: Meets in members' homes in the Northridge area. Usually there are 3 to 4 tables. No prizes, no dues, party bridge with changing partners and socialization. If you play bridge with or without a partner and are free on the third Thursday of the month contact Helen Giedt (818 363 6272) for information.

Film Groups (Three):

Meets Mondays at 1:30 pm monthly at different members' homes. Contact Dorena Knepper (dorena.knepper@csun.edu), or 818 366-5005.

Meets Tuesday afternoons monthly. Contact Joyce Linden. (joyce.linden@csun.edu)

Meets Tuesday afternoons monthly. Contact Lee Gassert. (jlgassert@sbcglobal.net) if interested, but the group is at maximum capacity at the moment.

Golf Group: Contact Don Cameron (dcameron@csun.edu)

Needle Arf: Meets first Monday of each month. Contact Sandra Jewett (Sandra.jewett@csun.edu)

SCCARF (Social Cuisine Club of ARF): Monthly dinners at restaurants chosen by members. Contact Jim Dole (jim.dole@csun.edu). The Social Cuisine Club of ARF (SCCARF) has had quite a successful run, growing from its initial seven members at its inception 3.5 years ago to more than 60 today, its monthly culinary outings typically attracting between 20 and 30 members. For some the crowd has grown too large, the after-dark drive has proven too onerous, and the occasional freeway trips are simply daunting.

Consequently, it has been suggested that it may be time for an additional dining group with a somewhat different focus. A "lunch bunch," a group that would share lunch together each month at a local eatery, appears to be a favorite possibility. By lunching together at mid-Valley eateries, the group would have the benefits of SCCARF—good conversation with friends while dining—minus the drawbacks of nighttime and freeway driving.

But, even the best of ideas fail without at least one strong champion and organizer, someone who'll take up the reins and drive the wagon. If you are interested in such a group, and especially if you are willing to start the wagon rolling, please let Joyce Linden know.

Theater Group: this group has not been active for several years; if anyone is interested in reviving it, possibly focusing on matinee performances at venues in the Valley, contact Ann Perkins (ann.perkins@csun.edu).

IN MEMORIAM



James Bracey (Pan African Studies) was on medical leave from CSUN at the time of his unexpected death in February. He leaves behind his wife of 20 years, Dr. Jean E. Daniels (Sociology Department, and family, friends, and colleagues to mourn his passing. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Diabetes Association in his memory.

Joanna McKenzie (Secondary Education) passed away on January 3rd. She was living near her son, Michael McKenzie, in Laguna Nigel, California. Her birthday was on January 1st and it is thought that she was 92 years old.

Robert Franklin Reed, III (English) died on January 13th in his home in Northridge, Ca. Born in 1934 in Pittsburgh, Pa., Dr. Reid was a professor of English Literature at CSUN for 32 years (1970 - 2002). He loved and played music, including trombone, cello, flute, piano and sang like Pavarotti. In addition to teaching, he was a certified Hypnotherapist, helping people break addictions in the 80s and 90s. His two children, Elaine and David, survive him. His memorial was held on Thursday, January 23rd at Forest Lawn.

Mary Lou Reilly Knoblauch (Music) died on November 25th, 2013. She was a professor of music at CSUN 1957 – 1994 and an emeritus professor after her retirement. During her tenure at CSUN she authored music education textbooks and received a number of awards. After her retirement she and her second husband, Charles Knoblauch, lived in La Quinta. He died in 2010.

Christine H. Smith (Family and Consumer Sciences) passed away on December 20th, 2013 at Northridge Hospital as a result of injuries from an accident. She was bringing in her trash can on December 9th when a gust of wind blew the gate, striking her and causing her to fall back and hit her head on the cement walkway. An examination at Northridge Hospital showed that she had hemorrhaging in the brain and emergency brain surgery was performed. A coma was induced following the surgery, and attempts to bring her out of it were unsuccessful.

Dr. Smith's exemplary career as a professor in the Family & Consumer Sciences Dept. (FCS) at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) spanned approximately 30 years, during which she generated an impressive and varied *Curriculum Vitae*: developing and teaching undergraduate courses in food science; a wide variety of nutrition courses at the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels; and graduate courses in vitamin and mineral analyses; as well as courses in nutrient and drug interactions. Because of her dedication to teaching, high standards for herself and her students, and an innate ability to work with students, she was the recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award at CSUN (1973), an honor that brought her unceasing satisfaction; her career was truly about students. A memorial celebration of her life was held on Feb. 9th. Chris' husband Owen died early this fall and his memorial service was held a few weeks earlier.

Ginter Trybus (Computer Science) in his second year of retirement, passed away suddenly on Feb. 6th, 2014 from a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, **Elizabeth Trybus (Systems and Operations Mgmt)**, three children, and four grandchildren.

Lewis Yablonsky (Sociology) died Jan. 29th of natural causes at his home in Santa Monica, said his son, Mitch. He was 89. A longtime professor of sociology at CSUN, Yablonsky, who gained national prominence as a sociologist, criminologist and author, was a leading figure in sociology in the 1960s and '70s. His work treating drug addicts in Santa Monica with reformed alcoholic Charles Dederich resulted in *The Tunnel Back: Synanon* (1965), a provocative early study of the rehabilitation program before it took on cult overtones and became associated with violence. He also worked extensively in prisons to rehabilitate inmates and in later decades testified in court cases as an expert witness. In 1993 his testimony rebutting a theory about the behavior of individuals in a mob helped put Damian Williams in prison for the brutal beating of truck driver Reginald Denny after the L.A. riots of 1992.

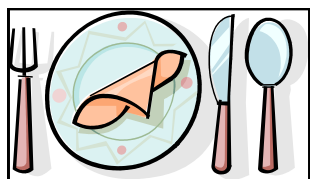
"He was very committed to the idea that sociology had a practical side to it and could make a contribution to society," said Vince Jeffries, a Cal State Northridge emeritus professor of sociology. "He was a

very caring person, particularly toward those who made mistakes or were disadvantaged and could be helped toward a better life.

In 1963 he began a 30-year career on the sociology faculty at what is now Cal State Northridge. In 1967 he was one of two state college instructors honored for outstanding teaching by the system's board of trustees, and in 2000 he received a career achievement award from the American Sociological Assn. Yablonsky was married for 17 years to Donna King, a former addict he met during a psychodrama session at Synanon. Besides son Mitch, of Santa Monica, Yablonsky is survived by a brother, Joseph, of Lady Lake, Fla. *From an Obituary by Elaine Woo, Los Angeles Times.*

SOCIAL CUISINE CLUB OF ARF (SCCARF) REPORT

“*Mole! mole! mole!* What a feast we had! We came, we sampled, we chose a *mole*.” All 23 SCCARFers who attended the January culinary outing had a grand time sampling ten distinctive moles—“some were sweet and chocolaty, some definitely cleared our sinuses”—using nopaltillas (tortillas of nopal, or cactus) as dippers. After select-



ed our favorite each then “enjoyed our filet or shrimp or pork or chicken wrapped in the mole of our choice.” One SCCARFer admitted to “...a preconception that [all moles] were alike. How wrong I was. The pumpkin one and the nopal one were sooo good. I’d highly recommend them.” For another, “The pistachio mole on chicken [was her] favorite with its lively green color and crunchy nuts on top! ...So taken by the rich flavors and freshness of the food...[she declared] that I will take family and friends!”

Some brought a favorite wine but others enjoyed bar drinks. “The margaritas were H U G E and of several different flavors, but you needn’t worry about driving intoxicated: we couldn’t tell there was any tequila in them. Not to worry, they were a good ‘virgin’ drink.” A few ended their meal with a flan or plantains with a “slightly vanilla pudding-like sauce on it.” And everyone enjoyed a chat with the evening’s host, Alonso Arellano, one of the eatery’s owners.” Alonso, we learned, holds a doctorate in medical physics and spends his days targeting cancers at Kaiser Permanente, Sunset, while his “wife is the chef [and] the staff is family.” The setting is “warm Mexican hospitality.” So, once again, as it does every month, “the SCCARF group got together for another pleasant evening of dining and companionship.” The place? *Rocio’s Mole de los Dioses* (moles of the gods) in Sun Valley. (*Jim Dole, using carefully filched words of others*)

On February 13, twenty-one (21) SCCARF members and guests had their monthly gathering at the *Lotería Grill* in Studio City. The restaurant, which has four other locations between Farmers Market and Westlake Village, offers “authentic specialties from the many culinary regions of Mexico.” The group noted the usual impact of slow service as the staff coped with a large group at one time, but this gave more opportunity for conversation. Attendees made the following comments: “I thought the tortilla soup was exceptionally good.” “The beet and watercress salad was excellent. The chiles rellenos came in two styles; the battered one was very tasty, the blacked, batter-less one, not so much.” “Classic margarita on the rocks, and the tamarind margarita were both good.” “Menu is varied and not run of the mill.” “I loved the Poblano Mole sauce on the chicken. It was very flavorful.” Only one commenter noted that she “didn’t care for” her entrée. (*Larry Caretto, with quotes from participants*)

BOOK GROUPS



The next meeting of the **Science Book Group** will be on March 19th at 1:30 pm in the Oviatt Library Conference Room (West Wing, 3rd floor). The club members come from a variety of disciplines, and accordingly, the books discussed come from many different science related areas. The group discussed David McCullough’s *The Great Bridge* (an epic disquisition on the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge) at its February meeting. In March we will discuss *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made us Human*, by Richard Wrangham,— a book that explores the effects the development of cooked food had on getting us out of the trees, letting us grow big brains and walking upright. The April selection is “[Napoleon’s Buttons, how 17 Molecules Changed History](#), by [Pen-ny Le Couteur](#) and Jay Burreson, a book we hope will help us remember what we have forgotten about chemistry. We are always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to challenge your mind, or enter into a spirited discussion with colleagues whose frame of reference may be quite different from yours, come and join us! Contact

Heidemarie Lundblad at either: Heidemarie.lundblad@csun.edu or call 805-484-8941.

The Wednesday Book Group will meet on Wednesday, March 5th, 1:30 pm at Helen Giedt's house to discuss *Truth and Beauty* by Ann Patchett. On April 2nd we will discuss *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton.

FILM GROUPS

Eleven members of the **Monday Film Group** gathered at the home of Jeannie Glazer on December 23rd to discuss *Last Vegas*, also discussed by the Tuesday group. The Monday group's comments are included in that group's review. They also discussed *Dallas Buyers Club*, described as a powerful film, cinema verité at its finest with compelling performances by Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto,. McConaughey plays a reckless homophobic rodeo bull rider with little content to his life, other than drugs and alcohol--and junk food when he remembers to eat. When he is diagnosed with AIDS and given 30 days to live, his evolution begins to a new lifestyle, one of commitment towards changing the outcome of his own life if not of other AIDS sufferers. McConaughey lost 44 pounds for this role, looking gaunt and emaciated, which enabled him to bring an unimaginable level of realism to his character and to the film. The Dallas Buyers Club refers to McConaughey's plan of bringing in vitamins and other non-prescription drugs from Mexico and dispensing them to other AIDS sufferers by selling monthly memberships to his "Club" in return for the medicine. The plan effectively cloaks him from being arrested for dispensing drugs. Members had differing opinions of the medical establishment in the early years of this ravaging disease and of the FDA's foot-dragging in approving drugs to treat it. However, everyone agreed that the movie deserved very high marks for its instructional and ethical value. Members rated this film at 9.1. The Tuesday Film Group, who discussed the film on Dec. 3rd, noted many of the same strong points in the film, but rated it as only a 7.6.

All twelve members of the Monday Film Group met on January 27th at the home of Joyce Linden to discuss *Philomena* and *American Hustle*. *Philomena* is based on a true story of a working-class Irish mother who enlists a jaded journalist (well-played by Steve Coogan, who also co-wrote the script) to help her find the son whom nuns forced her to give up decades earlier. Members praised this film for its well-written script, tight editing, and beautiful cinematography. Especially lauded was Judi Dench's performance, which is very nuanced and credible. The theme of the film, forgiveness, is encapsulated near the end, when Philomena confronts the cruel, still unforgiving nun who forced her to give up her baby, telling her, "I forgive you." Members gave this film a 9 ranking, commenting that its many awards and nominations were richly deserved.

American Hustle is a comedy based loosely on the 1970s' Abscam scandal, which involved an FBI investigation into political corruption and resulted in the arrests of several members of Congress and local government officials. Everyone had high expectations for this film, given the stellar cast, but several members found it disappointing. Among the negatives: the length and slow pace of the movie and a convoluted, overly complicated plot that made it difficult to follow during the first hour. It was also thought that the script contained too many digressions, prompting some members to question its Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay. The theme of the movie was described variously as "never con a con man" and "having a good time with corruption." This film received a wide range of ratings from members, from a high of 10 to a low of 5, resulting in an overall 7.2. *Reported by Dorena Knepper.*

The **Tuesday Film Group** met December 3rd at the home of Elizabeth Schneider. The films discussed were *Last Vegas* and *Dallas Buyer's Club* (see comments under the **Monday Film Group** reviews). *Last Vegas* is a very entertaining fantasy comedy for grown-ups. It features four top actors enjoying fun, frolic, laughter and high-jinks in Las Vegas. The characters played by Kevin Kline, Robert DeNiro, Morgan Freeman and Michael Douglas show that just because you're older, you don't have to stop enjoying life. Even though the setting is a gambling mecca, the film's major themes are the value of friendship, forgiveness of past transgressions, the joy of relationships of one's own age group, the opportunity for second acts in life, and the loyalty and love in a long term marriage. The characters come together to celebrate an important life event (the upcoming marriage of Michael Douglas to a much younger woman, which is derailed when he meets someone his own age, a chanteuse played by Mary Steenbergen). The fast-pace, excellent script, high-end outfits, Las Vegas settings and colorful activities make up a very enjoyable movie experience. Rating: 8.3, with a "must see" recommendation, especially for viewers "of a certain age." *Reported by Elizabeth Schneider.* The **Monday Film Group** had a very different view of the film. "Despite the stellar cast, members felt the film fell far short of expectations. Most felt the plot was thin, lacked credibility, and was clichéd, advancing the worst imaginable stereotypes about aging. Members ranked this film at 6.3."

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2013—2014

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ARF NOTES

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

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