

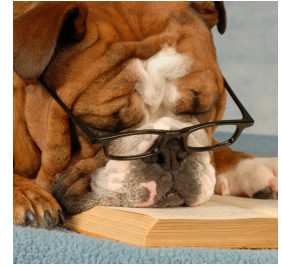
ARF NOTES

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

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WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.CSUN.EDU/ARF](http://www.csun.edu/arf)



PRESIDENT: KAREN ROBINETTE



From the Editor:

Karen is travelling this month, and is unable to send in her message. In lieu of this, I am expanding a Suggested Reading column which I sometimes include in the newsletter, hopefully for the new year's reading pleasure.

The Emperor of All Maladies: a biography of Cancer, by Siddhartha Mukherjee, presents a long (571 pages) and extraordinary history of the understanding, treatments, and various cures that have been tried for cancer. The stories of the scientists who have studied the disease, from centuries ago to the present, and the fundraisers and entrepreneurs who have fought the “war on cancer” enliven and make human the narrative, as do the stories of the patients. In the last few decades, many scientists have finally worked out the genetics of cancer, but as a clinician, Mukherjee is only guardedly optimistic—he says that one of the constants in oncology is “the queasy pivoting between defeatism and hope.” I found the book to be fascinating—my background is not in the sciences, but although a chal-

lenging read, it held my interest up to the end.

The Last Season, by Eric Blehm, is another kind of gripping tale—this time of a park ranger who goes missing in the high Sierra. The story of the search for Randy Morgenson, a complicated and fascinating man, is interwoven with his biography. It also becomes a meditation on the nature of wilderness, the demands it makes on us, and the personal reasons that propel us into it alone.

The daughter of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, Mary Catherine Bateson, has written two books about life stages. The latest, ***Composing a Further Life: the Age of Active Wisdom***, explores a new life stage that she calls Adulthood II, a result of our longer life spans and greater resources. She redefines old age as an opportunity to reinvent ourselves and challenges us to pursue new sources of meaning and ways to contribute to society. The book is presented through a series of interviews with people from a boatyard worker to Jane Fonda. The author is not laying out a specific course of action for us, but challenging us to explore options and consider opportunities.

And now to fiction. ***Burmese Days***, by George Orwell, is set in Burma in the 1920's, the waning days of British colonialism. John Flory, a teak merchant, has become disillusioned with living in an expatriate racist community centered around the European Club. He has become good friends with an Indian doctor who has been slandered and Flory cannot make up his mind to stand up for him.

His relationship with his Burmese mistress is also called into question by the appearance of Elizabeth, the niece of the local timber firm manager. The resolution of Flory's dilemmas is a commentary on the mores of the place and time. As one reviewer said “Flory would have been luckier to have been born into an E.M. Forster novel.” *Reported by Ann Perkins.*

Happy New Year and happy reading!

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CSU-ERFA Fall Council Meeting, *reported by Nancy Owens*

I spent Saturday (Oct. 18th) in Dominguez Hills with George—and other CSU-ERFA delegates from around the state at the State Council meeting as your representative. George Diehr, by the way, is our San Marcos colleague who will be leaving the PERS Board soon and has brought his expertise and energy to CSU-ERFA.

Don Cameron was widely praised for his work as Executive Director. Don will be stepping down next spring. Since the CSU-ERFA office is at CSUN, it would be ideal to have Don's replacement come from our campus. It's a 15-hour per week job, on the average, and part of the work could be done from home. Review of applications will begin on January 19th, 2015. Appointment will be for a two-year term beginning July 1st. The current budget provides for an annual salary of \$19,000 plus a \$2,000 annual travel allowance. Check out the CSU-ERFA website (www.csuerfa.org) for more information or I can send you an email version of the announcement (nancyjowens@aol.com). By the way, the CSU-ERFA website has lots of useful information for CSU retirees.

As usual, there was much discussion on statewide political issues, as these affect our pensions and health care plans. Since CSU-ERFA is a relatively small entity (although the largest emeritus faculty organization on the planet, or so I was told!), it belongs to like-minded coalitions, to which we pay dues. Our Sac State colleagues carry much of the responsibility for ERFA's political action activities.

Another hot issue at CSU-ERFA meetings is always health care, with considerable discussion this time about dealing with the CVS Pharmacy and the availability and cost of needed drugs. Should you be experiencing difficulties with CVS, email a specific description of the problem to David Wagner (wagnerdl3294@gmail.com).

My favorite part of the day, aside from visiting with other delegates, was our tour of the CSU (and CSU-ERFA) Archives and the rare book collection in the CSU Dominguez Hills library, a gorgeous building. I was particularly touched by seeing the books of oral history of the pioneers of the CSU, the Academic Senate, and CSU-ERFA. One of these was from Len Mathy (CSULA), who, at 93, was in attendance. His wife Jean worked in our Art Department.

Need some funding for your scholarly activities? CAL-ERFA will offer \$5000 in grants this year with the application form available on the website. Our Daniel Kessner is a current recipient of one of these grants. Should you find a bit of spare cash in your pocket and wish to make a contribution to the CSU-ERFA Charitable Foundation (could be in honor or memory of someone), send it to The CSU-ERFA Charitable Foundation at our favorite address: 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8339. There is a \$500 matching fund challenge for contributions received by Dec. 30th.

Not yet a member of CSU-ERFA? The more of us there are, the more effective we can be in dealing with Sacramento and Long Beach so please join and do your share (www.csuerfa.org).



NEWS FROM CSUN: GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship Support

By investing in the potential of deserving students, alumni and supporters of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education are advocates for future teachers and professionals who will have a direct impact on

the infrastructure of our local schools and institutions of higher education. Scholarship support guarantees that pre-service teachers, future administrators and counselors are invested in as they receive training to become the next generation of future leaders in the education community. Michael D. Eisner of College Education Fact: The Eisner College offers 28 credential opportunities to students. At California State University, Northridge:

- A one-time \$1000 gift establishes a named scholarship
- Scholarships can be designated for students studying in any of the Eisner College's six departments
- Annual scholarships offer consistent support to students in need
- Endowed scholarships offer a lasting legacy as gifts support matriculating students in perpetuity

Scholarship gifts are 100% tax-deductible.

For more information regarding scholarship support, contact: Dounia Sadeghi, Director of Development, (818)677-6057 or dounia.sadeghi@csun.edu



Restoration of Chicano Murals

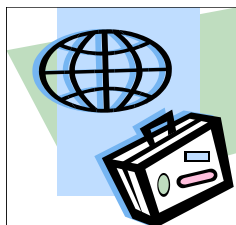
Over the years, faculty and student artists in the Chicana/o Studies department have come together to create incredible murals that bring life, color and imagination to several of the department's classrooms. Figuratively and literally, these pieces represent and portray various aspects of Chicano history and the Chicano experience in the U.S. The murals were designed and painted entirely by students with faculty advisement.

They include images of pre-Columbian history, the farm workers struggle, the fight for civil rights and the beginning of the movement on this campus that demanded a place and a space for Chicano studies in higher education. As these murals are housed in classrooms that have been in continuous use over the past several decades, the murals have suffered damages from the constant traffic. The good news is that with funds and resources dedicated to the cause, the murals can be restored to their original quality and protected against any future damages for many generations of CSUN students to come. The Chicana/o Studies Department is in need of funds to make this restoration a reality.

DID YOU KNOW?: CSUN AND ARF FACTS

Fall enrollment at CSUN was **40,097** students. That's the largest ever for CSUN, and reports suggest it may be the largest ever in the CSU.

Through the efforts of **ARF**: CSUN Emeritus Faculty have been granted **free** memberships in the CSUN Recreation Center. This is a state-of-the-art fitness center, and the complimentary membership is far better than the regular faculty discount. Just present your Emeritus Faculty ID **and** CSUN Emeritus Faculty continue to receive a **20% discount** on performances at the Valley Performing Arts Center. When you purchase tickets (2 per performance maximum), present your Emeritus Faculty ID at the on-campus box office. (The discount is not available on-line.)



EMERITI NEWS

New addition to the ARF roster:

Barbara Polland

Child and Adolescent Development
1619 Comstock Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-5320
(310) 552-9898
bkp PhD@mac.com

John Crowther (Sociology). Betty and I still love to explore the SW deserts in our 4 x 4. We see flowers and take pictures of historical sites.



IN MEMORIAM

Richard Lyle Potter (Biology) passed away peacefully November 12th, 2014. Dr. Potter taught Biology at the State University in Geneseo, New York and was a research Fellow at California Institute of Technology for three years before coming to CSUN. He was a Professor of Biology and Pre-Med Advisor at California State University, Northridge for 32 years. A Memorial Service will be celebrated in Durango, Colorado in the Summer of 2015.

Charlotte Anne Oyer (Library) was born in Boynton Beach, FL on June 19th, 1930 and died Tuesday May 20th, 2014 in Tucson, AZ. She was a beloved sister, aunt and friend.

Charlotte graduated from Boynton Beach High School and earned an Associate of Arts from Palm Beach Junior College. She attended the University of Florida where she graduated with highest honors from the College of Education, and then went on to earn a Masters' in Library Science from the University of

Texas, Austin. She retired from California State University, Northridge after 31 years of service as a reference librarian, where she was known for her ability to dig out obscure facts and information which aided both students and faculty in their research. In retirement she enjoyed traveling and was active in her church, serving on many boards. To express condolences and/or make donations: Visit Palm-BeachPost.com/obituaries. From the *Palm Beach Post*, May 24-27, 2014.

Marvin Klotz (English) died on November 2nd 2014. He was born in 1930 in Queens, and blossomed in Los Angeles, where he taught at California State University, Northridge for 33 years. In addition to teaching, he was coeditor of *Literature: the Human Experience*, a poet, a tax preparer, and the bard of the Venice Beach paddle tennis courts where his perch became "The Wisdom Bench." Marvin's poetry and the rich thunder of his voice live on at marvinklotz.com. The website's dedication, written by Marvin's sons three years ago, pays tribute at length. He is survived by his wife Joan, two sons and a stepson, and by many friends and former students who mourn his passing. From the obituary in the *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 8th, 2014.



SCIENCE BOOK GROUP

On January 21st, the group will meet in the Oviatt Library Conference Room to discuss *Alan Turing: The Enigma: The Book That Inspired the Film The Imitation Game*, by Andrew Hodges (Author, Preface) and Douglas Hofstadter (Foreword).
READING AHEAD: For February 18th we will discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande.



GOLF GROUP

Twenty ARF members and friends competed in a golf tournament on December 8th at Porter Valley Country Club in Northridge. Among the ARF members, Don Brownlee (Communication Studies) had the low total score, followed in second place by Joel Athey (English). Tom Shannon (Business

Law) had the low net score, followed in second place by Lee Gassert (Career Center). Golfers interested in future tournaments should contact Don Cameron at dcameron@csun.edu



SOCIAL CUISINE

CLUB OF ARF

(SCCARF)

October found 27 SCCARFers dining at the Great Greek Café, a popular fixture in Sherman Oaks since 1984. Having earned many dining awards, the café has been touted as the “premiere Greek restaurant in Los Angeles.” We began our meal with a sampling of an array of starters, hummus, tzatzike and tabouli among them. Many in the group elected one of the eatery’s several classic salads, but I, a lemon lover, opted for a traditional Greek soup, avgolemono. It did not disappoint! Most popular by far of the array of entrees on the menu was the combination Greek platter that, among other things, included such house specialties as moussaka, pastitsio spanakopita and lamb. After we had engorged ourselves and were staggering out the door I sensed that there was a general agreement that the restaurant’s “premiere” status was rightly earned. (*Jim Dole*)

SCCARF’s November event at Mandarin King Restaurant in Northridge was advertised as a Chinese Feast. And a feast it was! At the end of the appetizers—there were seven—some one asked what was for dessert. No dessert came. Instead, three entrées followed—two-styles of shrimps, pot-roast pork butt and Polynesian crispy fish. And with them came house fried rice and a house Yi noodles. No steam white rice? How can you call it a Chinese meal without steamed rice? When the two desserts were served, no one could stand up. At the end of the dinner, Jim asked, “Guess what you have just eaten that was from the sea?” Fish was named, but, no, there was something else. When no one could guess, Jim hinted, “It was an appetizer.” When he still didn’t hear an answer, he gave it away: “Jellyfish.” Which one? There were four cold appetizers and three hot appetizers! Was it green? Brown? Mushy? Crispy? ...? Never mind.

Whichever it was, it tasted good. The food was plentiful and everyone had a great time. (*Vera and Paul Chow*)

YUM-YUM LUNCH GROUP

Five members of the ARF Lunch Group met Monday, 11/17 at Shik Do Rak in Northridge. We were supposed to meet at a Korean Restaurant in Van Nuys, but after googling Duk Su Jang, I became nervous because reviews were so mixed. Pat Murray was the only member to experiment with monkfish in a broth with other sea creatures and veggies. The other four were not so adventuresome and ordered a chicken teriyaki rice bowl. All of us tried some of the condiments which included spicy daikon, kimchi, bean sprouts, adzuki beans, a zucchini or cucumber dish and other tasty additions which we couldn’t quite identify.

We discussed an appropriate name for the group to distinguish us from the SCCARF Dinner Group. For now, we are calling ourselves the “Yum-Yum Lunch Group”. Next month’s epicurean experience was at La Frite in Sherman Oaks on Tuesday, December 16th. Look for a report in the next issue. *Reported by Joyce Linden.*



FILM GROUPS

Ten members of the **Monday Film Group** gathered at the home of Bob Hanna on November 17th to discuss *Gone Girl* and *Fury*. Although both movies are violent, the way in which that violence is expressed is quite different. *Gone Girl*, which tracks the downward spiral of a mentally disturbed young wife, shows the end result of that descent: The brutal death of Neil Patrick Harris whose throat she slashes in a particularly gruesome scene. *Fury* on the other hand shows violence during one day in WW II involving a 5-man tank crew, who make a futile last stand against 300 German soldiers at a crossroads in Germany. Violence in the first film is depicted as wanton madness, while in the second it is portrayed as courageous if not noble.

Very few members enjoyed *Gone Girl* because of the depravity it showed. There was no redeeming side either to the young wife, played with gusto by Rosamund Pike, or her husband, a sociopath, effectively performed by Ben Affleck. Pike's character fakes her disappearance and schemes to have her husband arrested for the crime, and Affleck's character cheats on her with one of his students and displays a total lack of affect toward her and anyone else he encounters--with the possible exception of his sister, although he consistently puts her in harm's way. Members described the theme of the film as "evil triumphs," as neither Pike nor Affleck are punished for their behavior--although one member pointed out that these two remain married to each other, which may be the worst possible punishment imaginable. The consensus praised the acting in the film, but little else. Pike's performance in particular was cited as Oscar-worthy. Members gave this film an overall rating of 7.5.

The war drama, *Fury*, was enjoyed by everyone. The consensus was that the movie was perfectly cast. Brad Pitt, the leader of the troupe, and Logan Lerman as the green recruit were singled out as especially compelling. When Lerman's character—the only survivor—is rescued by the Americans at the end of the film, he's put into an ambulance despite there being no visible external wounds. His ordeal is over insofar as the battle is concerned, but the look on his face and the numbness he exhibits signify that this war will remain with him forever, with lost comrades frozen in his mind. In addition to the acting, high praise was given to the cinematography, with the scenes inside the tank viewed as particularly effective. The script and editing also received kudos, with several members noting the taut and spare plotting, with no wasted words or melodrama that often accompany war movies. Another member commented on how well the film came together: The performances as well as the technical aspects of the film--the directing, editing, production design, and costuming—all combined to make a really excellent, memorable film. Members ranked *Fury* at 8.6. *Reported by Dorena Knepper.*

The **Tuesday Film Group** met Nov. 11th at the home of Elizabeth Schneider to discuss *Gone Girl* and *Alexan-*

der and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. *Gone Girl*, a David Fincher film based on the best-selling novel by Gillian Flynn, is a clever plot-driven psychological thriller peopled with seemingly ordinary people involved in a bloody domestic drama. Rosamund Pike plays the psychopathic Amy to blocked writer/cheating husband Nick, who is believed to have killed his wife after her sudden disappearance. Deception on a grand scale, plus murder, a media circus, dysfunctional relationships and unpredictable events kept ARF audience members engaged and intrigued. They considered the script good, with influences from Alfred Hitchcock and the 1940's film, *Leave Her to Heaven*. The music, while a little eerie, was not intrusive, and the photography, while dark, fit the film's noir, melodramatic nature. For educational value, *Gone Girl* shows the influence of television and the Internet operating in the court of public opinion. The ethical value would be the message: Know who you are marrying. The group rated the film at 7.6.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day is a Disney family comedy based on Judith Viorst's 1972 book of the same title. It is told from the viewpoint of the 11-year-old Alex (Ed Oxenbould), whose very bad day infects the rest of the family into a one-bad-thing-after another scenario. The film was enlivened with the screwball mood and hurtling pace, along with excellent acting by the cast, including Steve Carrell as the currently unemployed father and Jennifer Garner as the stressed power-career mother. All family members are engrossed in their own concerns, while Alexander is lost in the family shuffle and wishes his family could understand, just for one day, what it's like to have a really bad day. The next 24 hours involve one catastrophe after another, providing exaggerated yet predictable manic moments. The photography is bright and Disneyesque; the music forgettable; the camera work tricky, especially in filming the teenage brother's failed driving test. Educational value: consider yourself lucky, but even with bad days a family hangs together and we can all learn to laugh at a bad day. This charming film, with both humorous and poignant moments, had ARF members coming away in good spirits. Rating: 7.5

The next meeting took place at the home of Joyce Linden at 1:30 pm on Dec. 2nd. Films discussed were *Elsa and Fred* and *The Theory of Everything*. The group is open to new members. *Reported by Elizabeth Schneider.*

Thank God the Holidays Are Over Banquet, 2015

All ARF members are invited to our annual banquet on Saturday, January 17th, 2015 at the Orange Grove Bistro (University Club/Faculty Club). Reservations are a must.



We plan to begin at 6:00 p.m. with a no-host bar, appropriate nibbles, stimulating conversation, and a silent auction featuring creations by NeedleARF members and other artists (bring your checkbook or cash). Proceeds will support ARF scholarships. Dinner will be at 7 p.m.

Darynn Dean, a senior at Mira Costa High School, comes with rave reviews from ARF member, Rita Streimer, who saw and heard her perform recently. A member of her school's multi-cultural and Advanced Women's choirs, she has won many awards and scholarships in Jazz competitions, both local and national. The female vocalist for the Mira Costa Jazz Band and the Jazz America Big Band, she also performs at local Jazz Festivals and Jazz Clubs.

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
- Vegetables on polenta with portobello mushrooms, roasted red pepper and eggplant

Each entrée comes with a mixed greens salad with candied pecans, goat cheese and balsamic vinaigrette; bread, a beverage (coffee, tea, or soft drinks) and a dessert course of cheesecake with berries.

We need to know how many people to expect no later than January 8, 2015.

Please complete the form below and mail it to arrive by January 8, 2015, to the ARF address

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

I/We will attend the Jan. 17, 2015 dinner at the University Club and would like the following:

- Prime rib (\$41) Name for name tag: _____
- Salmon (\$37)
- Vegetable stack (\$29)

- Prime rib (\$41) Name for name tag: _____
- Salmon (\$37)
- Vegetable stack (\$29)

I am enclosing a check **payable to A.R.F.** for

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

Phone # in case we have a question about your selection(s): _____

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