

ARF NOTES

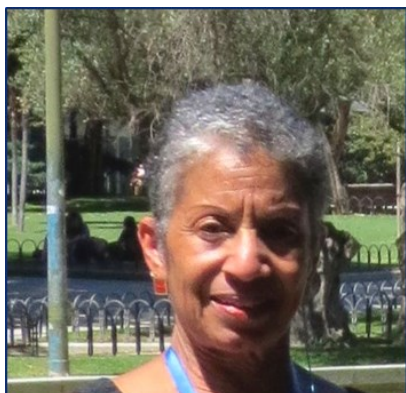
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President's Message: Karen Robinette

It's hard to believe that this year is coming to a close and this is my final message to you as your President. The year has been very interesting and your Board members have diligently worked to improve the administrative process by making editorial changes to our constitution, reviewing the bylaws and creating a new, improved brochure that now includes a happy dog icon. It really looks great. Samples will be available at our Spring Picnic.

Our meetings were held in the remodeled Orange Grove Bistro that provided a few new amenities such as better restroom facilities and updated audio visual equipment.

Our program chairperson had some challenging experiences that I hope not to have next year, the last being our annual field trip. Now we know how important a bus is to ARF members participating in a field trip experience. Socialization and worry free transportation make the world go around on field trips. I take my hat off to Joyce Linden for handling the situation with grace and good humor. As a result all members in attendance enjoyed being welcomed and es-

corted by our very own Henry Abrash (Science Museum volunteer) and the three scheduled activities.

ARF's remaining activities are the **Scholarship Luncheon** and the **Annual Picnic**. We hope you will attend the **Scholarship Luncheon**, Saturday, May 9th, 2015 (12 to 2 p.m.) at the Orange Grove Bistro as we have four fantastic students who will be each presenting their research and receiving a \$2000 ARF Scholarship. Awardees are: Marjan Maria Akopyan, Biology; Samuel Ginther, Biology; Chris Wilson, Journalism; and Jake Reschke, Mathematics. We will also recognize the students who received the Hansen ARF/College of Education Scholarship.

The Nominating committee is recruiting members to serve on the ARF Board. Please consider filling one of the important positions. Your Board works hard to provide leadership for this dynamic organization and we need your time and talent to bring new ideas that will continue to invigorate the Association of Retired Faculty.

ARF's **Annual Picnic** will be at the lovely home of Juan Oliva on June 6th. Please mark your calendars. Come and join us to socialize with your friends and colleagues and to enjoy good food, music and relaxation.

I thank you for the opportunity to have served as your president and I look forward to the upcoming year as your program chair.

Peace and Blessings to All,
Karen Robinette,

ARF President 2014-2015

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NEWS FROM CSUN

Update on Plans for a Multipurpose Event Center

At the November meeting of the Faculty Senate, Colin Donahue (CSUN VP for Administration and Finance) and Ken Rosenthal (CSUN Associate VP for Facilities Development and Operations) provided an update on plans for a Multipurpose Event Center on campus. Donahue summarized the observations and recommendations of an Opportunities and Needs Analysis from Athletics, Student Life, and Academic Affairs. An off-campus consultant, Convention Sports and Leisure, was commissioned to develop a Phase 1 feasibility study. As a result, two options are being considered for venue size: Option 1 is for a 6,000 seat venue (304,000 sq. ft.); Option 2 is for a 10,000 seat venue (372,000 sq. ft.). Option 2 is currently preferred because it could accommodate commencement ceremonies and the annual “Big Show” concert and also meet some academic needs. The projected margin between revenues and expenses is nearly identical for each option, but Donahue noted that such venues usually operate slightly in the red. Phase 2 will include an environmental impact study and a site analysis, with multiple sites on campus to be considered. Also to be assessed is the viability of an on-campus hotel to support the success of the event center.

The campus will explore potential partnerships with other public agencies and private partners. Philanthropy, sponsorships, naming opportunities, seat-selling, etc. are some of the funding possibilities. Donahue emphasized that there must be large donor input before moving forward to insure that the project does not jeopardize the academic operations of the campus.

More feasibility studies on different funding schemes are planned. A report with more details is available on the CSUN Facilities Planning website. *Reported by Ron McIntyre, ARF Faculty Senator.*

Honored Faculty Reception

On May 18th, a reception for new Emeritus Faculty will be held in the Grand Salon from 1:30—3:30. ARF members are welcome—this will be an opportunity to meet new retirees and invite them to join our group.

Provost Retires

CSUN Provost Harry Hellebrand will be retiring from administrative duties at the end of this Academic year. He will be teaching in the English Department.



EMERITI NEWS

Bonnie Faherty (Nursing) We have learned with great pleasure that Bonnie Faherty has been selected as UCLA’s 2015 School of Nursing Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient. Our congratulations for this recognition of her dedication to nursing and the patients.

Jose Hernandez (Chicana/o Studies). My book, *The Limits of Social Change: The Case of a Mexican American Community*, was published recently by Kendall Hunt Publishing for classroom instruction. The book contains a cache of true stories put together for the reader to witness a people's movement of self-government. The significance of the study is not theoretical; rather it is a documentary showcasing community organizations and their leaders utilizing social and political principles in their efforts to understand and resolve community problems. This book is a practical tool of instruction for courses in Chicano Studies, politics and government, history, and urban studies.

Aurelio de la Vega (Music). His journey from ostracized musician in Cuba to internationally renowned composer is captured in the recent documentary “Rebel with a Cause,” directed by Camilo Vila and narrated by Andy Garcia. “I knew Aurelio for quite a few years and I always felt that he was bigger than life,” said Vila. “I knew that his work had the gravitas to survive the ages, but no one knew the man I knew. I didn’t set out to do a biography of him, but more like a look at an artist and his relationship to the society he had to live in.” De la Vega, a Latin Grammy nominee and recipient of numerous academic and musical

accolades, said that for him “this documentary is a motive of personal happiness and rejoicing, but most important, it is a historical document of significant relevance. I want people to know that there is a serious classical music tradition in Cuba, beyond moving the hips.” The documentary’s world premiere is being presented by Miami Dade College’s Koubek Center on Sunday, March 8th, in Miami. A smaller viewing will be held later this year at CSUN. More than anything, de la Vega hopes that upon viewing the documentary, “people can perceive how the human spirit remains alive through art, even when facing political upheavals.”



Joyce Linden,
Special Ed/
Deaf Ed
(second from right)

Joyce recently received the Life Time Achievement Award from the California Educators of the Deaf (CalED), celebrating her 55 years of teaching deaf and hard of hearing students and preparing teachers for the field of Deaf Education as well. Toward the end of her articulate acceptance remarks, she asked for a show of hands of who had been her students in the past. About 1/3 or more of the 250+ audience members raised their hands high! Indeed, Joyce has made a tremendous impact on teachers and ultimately, on the deaf students that they teach. Joyce was not only celebrated by her colleagues and former students, but was also honored by family and friends at a special dinner that included 8 ARF members (see picture above). This is a well deserved award and acknowledgement of Joyce’s innumerable contributions to the field of Deaf Education. *Reported by Judy Coryell.*

REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

February Program

ARF Member Larry Caretto gave a talk titled “Energy for Your Future” at the ARF meeting on February 11th. Larry said that the main motivation for alternative energy is climate change from carbon emissions, and showed pro-

jections that the increases in these emissions between 2015 and 2040 will come from less developed countries. He discussed the potential for wind, solar, and geothermal energy, but pointed out that these sources accounted for only 2.2% of the US energy use in 2013; moreover, these sources of electric power have to fit into the demand for electric power, which has both an annual and a daily cycle.

He noted that wind energy has had the fastest growth of alternative energy sources, but solar is starting a significant increase in its growth rate due to the lower costs of solar (photovoltaic) cells. He showed an image of the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm, which started operation in February 2015. This plant uses only solar cells, unlike other desert plants, which operate more like conventional power plants, using mirrors to focus reflected sunlight onto a “power tower” which generates steam.

The final part of his talk discussed ways of powering vehicles beyond conventional engines: hybrids (like the Toyota Prius), plug-in hybrids (like the Chevrolet Volt), battery-electric vehicles (like Teslas), and fuel-cell vehicles. Toyota expects to market the first commercial fuel-cell vehicle, the 2016 Toyota Marai, later this year. *Reported by Larry Caretto.*



March Program

On March 11th, Jim Dole gave an interesting presentation, “From Aardvark to Zebra”, describing in words, slides and videos an African game viewing trip that he and his wife, Betty Rose, took in 2011. With the tour company Overseas Adventure Travel, they visited Kruger National Park and the Okavango Delta, among other places. Jim described the habitats they visited: moist- and dry-woodland, semi-desert, and desert, with most vegetation consisting of spiny bushes and large baobab trees. All camps for the trip were along rivers, which attract wildlife. The group of 16 travelled by bush plane from camp to camp, and once in a camp,

they took twice daily trips in open-sided safari vehicles. The tents (really more like cabins) in which they stayed were on platforms, had solar panels providing electricity, and contained comfortable beds with mosquito netting. Some cabins had showers and toilets, which was convenient because a requirement was for everyone to stay inside at night. The safari trips took place before breakfast and again before dinner when the animals are out and active. Food was excellent, in some cases cooked to order, with dinner elegantly presented.

The walkways between the tents were raised, and often animals could be seen below, particularly monkeys and antelopes. Some of the animals seen on this trip were warthogs, elephants, vervet monkeys, zebras, wildebeest, lions, rhinos, and cape buffalo.. Some of the many antelopes seen were nyala, kudu, impala, and eland. Jim showed a brief video of lions mating, another of lions attempting to take down a buffalo, and parades of elephants through camp and crossing major highways. In addition to the animals, they saw a large variety of colorful and interesting birds such the Jacaranda (females establish territory and mate with many males), the Sand Grouse (flies 30 miles to water, soaks up water with its feathers, and takes it back to the nest), the Lilac-breasted Roller (a colorful bird with a long spectacular tail), and penguins in Capetown, a fascinating city which they visited after the Safari. *Reported by Ann Perkins.*

April Field Trip

On April, fourteen **ARF** members, their families and two guests from Cal State Fullerton enjoyed a field trip, coordinated by Joyce Linden, to the California Science Center at Exposition Park, Los Angeles. The group, which traveled mostly by carpool, met at the Center to view the Space Shuttle Endeavour Exhibition, the IMAX film Hubble 3D, and the Dead Sea Scroll Exhibition.

The Endeavour is housed in the Samuel Oschin Pavilion, with surrounding walls featuring graphic panels highlighting the space shuttle's impressive scientific achievements, its local California construction, the many astronauts who have flown on its 25 missions, and its current educational and inspirational role at the Center. **ARF** members mingled with the many school children and general public who were fascinated by such artifacts as the toilet and galley, tires from STS-134 (Endeavour's final mission), equipment from the

Rocketdyne Operations Support Center, the SPACEHAB Logistics Module (for extra living space aboard the shuttle), and an SSME (space shuttle main engine), which when operating can put out energy equal to the output of more than four Hoover Dams.

The film *Hubble 3D*, shown on the seven story IMAX screen, gave **ARF** members an awe-inspiring view of distant galaxies and the grandeur of the universe through the technology of the Hubble Space Telescope, as well as an up close look at astronauts in action as they perform an important repair to the telescope.

After lunch, **ARF** members meandered through the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, featuring over 600 ancient artifacts, including large ceramic jars and early Roman ossuaries. The science and significance of the Scrolls, manuscripts written and hidden in caves 2000 years ago and discovered in 1947, was revealed through impressive multimedia exhibits. A three-ton stone piece from Jerusalem's Western Wall presented opportunities for the public to place prayers within the stones. All in all, a successful **ARF** field trip. *Reported by Elizabeth Schneider.*

BRIDGE GROUP

About ten years ago Gwen and Verne Bullough invited retired faculty members to create an evening bridge group. In the early years some thirty players met monthly at the Faculty Center. Eventually it was decided to meet in members' home as the group became smaller. Now with continued declining membership due to relocation, illness, deaths and concern over night driving, April 2015 was the final meeting. We have enjoyed years of honing our skills and forming lasting friendships. *Reported by Helen and Hal Giedt.*



DINING GROUPS

On February 17th about twenty **SCCARF** friends gathered for a lovely dinner at the Peasant Wine Bistro in Tarzana. The seating was close and the atmosphere quiet. So conversation was easy! The Peasant specializes in fine wines and a variety of small plates and cheeses, as well as daily-fresh meats and fish for the main courses. There also are truly tasty vegetarian plates. The restaurant, founded in 2013, receives fine reviews in Los Angeles and Valley journals. Some attendees have brought other friends to The Peasant since our February

dinner. The Executive Chef is Marcel Vinson, who learned his art in Normandy, France. The Peasant Wine Bistro is at 19100 Ventura Boulevard, Tarzana, located behind the IHOP that faces Ventura Boulevard. Ph. 818 708-7081. We discovered this little treasure through Professor John Schultheiss (Cinema and Television Arts) and his wife Flory who work with the Tarzana Community Cultural Center that is in the same block as The Peasant Wine Bistro. (Advice: The Peasant Wine Bistro is NOT the Local Peasant bar that has two locations along Ventura Boulevard.) *Reported by Alyce Akers and Patrick Nicholson.*

On March 16th, SCCARF met at the Taj Mahal on 17815 Ventura Boulevard. As our dinner club members were leaving after the meal, I heard so many delightful comments that I was glad I had recommended this restaurant to our dinner club. Enjoyed were the luscious tikka chicken masala (I always order some to take home), saag paneer (savory spinach with homemade cheese), chicken coconut curry (delicious), and garlic naan (heavenly). Basmati rice and riata (yogurt/cucumber) are served with these dishes. The server brings papadums (thin crispy chickpea "tortilla" with caraway seeds) and little jars of spicy carrots, mint "pesto" and plum sauce to go with them. Also enjoyed were the lamb vindaloo, vegetable biryani, channa masala (chickpeas), yellow daal (lentils) and vegetable curry. When you go, tell the owners you are from CSUN and you will be welcomed warmly! *Reported by Sandy Jewett.*



BOOK GROUPS

At the February 18th meeting of the **Science Book Group**, we discussed *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande. Gawande discusses the difficulties modern physicians have with discussing end of life issues. Medical schools spend hardly any time on the subject and for most doctors death means defeat. As a result, patients far too often are not told the truth that it is time to think about the end and how to make it most humane and comfortable. The book also addresses issues related to assisted living and nursing home care and hospice care. Gawande writes well and makes a difficult and emotional subject accessible to the reader. He enlivened the book with a number of vignettes of people who experienced a humane and relatively comfortable death because they had been given the opportunity to make critical final decisions with realistic infor-

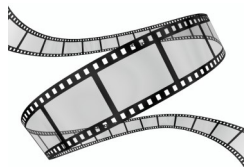
mation. However, he also highlighted the problems and difficult deaths that result from the attempt by the medical profession and (at least sometimes) family members and/or patients who are simply unable or unwilling to face the realities of incipient death and insist on "just one more treatment/chance." We agreed that the book is worthwhile reading for all people, not only those who belong to our demographic or are faced with either their own or a loved one's death in the near future. Discussion of the book led to a fairly far reaching conversation regarding the issues related to dying, extraordinary measure to prolong life which we agreed is actually a way of prolonging dying. We also touched on the subject of "death with dignity" aka assisted suicide.

At the March 18th meeting of the **Science Book Group**, we discussed *Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble*, by Marilyn Johnson. Johnson's well written book about various aspects of archeology is easy to read and provides interesting information about the rigors and excitements of work in this field. Readers were impressed by the determination of archeologists to work under extremely difficult conditions often for little pay. It became obvious that for many archeologists the thrill of learning more about the past must be its own reward.

We found it quite interesting that archeologists are required to investigate evidence of past lives (and deaths) in connection with many construction projects. Perhaps even more fascinating was the discovery that the Department of Defense has its own set of archeologists who assist the military in recognizing and protecting to some extent the treasures of the past in far flung countries. While the book awoke memories and discussions of experiences at some of the archeological sites that had been visited by several members, it also raised the question "why are we so fascinated with the past, shouldn't we explore the future?"

The **Science Book Group** met again on April 15th. *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*, by Oliver Sachs was discussed. The selection for May 20th is *A Natural History of Human Thinking*, by Michael Tomasello. *Reported by Heidemarie Lundblad.*

The **Wednesday Book Group** met at Joan Martin's house on April 1st to discuss *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. A report will appear in the next newsletter. On May 6th they will be discussing *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Ann Tyler. Contact Linda Jones if you have questions (ljonesbird@aol.com).



FILM GROUPS

In February the Tuesday Film Group met at the home of Chris Smith to discuss *Still Alice* and *Black or White*. Both received ratings of 8+. *Still Alice* was carried by the excellent acting of Julianne Moore. Although educational about Early Onset Alzheimers Disease, it might not provide useful guidelines for ordinary people who suffer with the more common Alzheimers that develops in later stages of life. The script, acting, and cinematography all worked together to help the audience experience the illness and the attempts to deal with it. To address some weaknesses we saw, i.e. a lack of family discussion, would have required a much longer film. We had a sense of sadness at the conclusion and thought the ending rather abrupt.

The action in the film *Black or White* resides in the desires of two families, one black and one white, vying for custody of an eight year old biracial girl. Although there was extreme contrast in the life styles and living conditions, the fact that both families had valuable cultural contributions was believable and engrossing and presented in a balanced manner. Engrossing drama occurred in the courtroom scenes. This was an interesting and educational film. *Reported by Helen Giedt.*

Six members of the **Tuesday Film Group** met on March 13th at the home of Jeanne Glazer to review two films: *Focus* and *The Second Most Exotic Marigold Hotel*. *Focus*, with Will Smith and Margot Robbie, was a film "focusing" on the art of conning people. In this crime drama, Smith was a con artist with a group of people trained to work together to steal items of value (cell phones, watches, etc.) from crowds of people. He mentored Robbie who was already skilled at ripping off watches without people noticing. Soon they developed a more intimate relationship, although one member thought the sex was in the movie to titillate the audience.

All agreed that the movie was fast paced and involving as Smith moved from stealing to betting and gambling, and there were clever twists and turns in the plot.

Members agreed that Smith and the rest of the cast acted well. Costumes were realistic, and cinematography was well done, following the action when

stolen items in a moving crowd of people got passed along to accomplices so no one would be caught nearby with the goods. Overall the film worked and kept our interest. We all felt we learned how to steal small items and how to protect ourselves from con artists. One member felt disappointed in humanity after seeing the film because there was no remorse or rehabilitation. The group rated it 7 out of 10.

The Second Most Exotic Marigold Hotel is a sequel, and all the members agreed that to understand the relationships among the people depicted in the film and why they were in India in the first place one should see the first film prior to seeing this one. Members enjoyed the film, especially the dancing and the Bollywood scene. One member commented on what a pleasure it is to see a movie about people our age. Several commented about Judy Dench's age, and though she did not have a strong part in this sequel, it showed that life is not over at age 79! There was a little confusion about Maggie Smith's health at the end of the movie, and about whether or not she owned either hotel. It was a colorful, glossy portrayal of India that did not include the negative aspects and the people in the lower socio-economic strata there. One member labelled the film a Rom Com for the aging saying its theme is growing old with dignity. Though there were subplots throughout, the film was well put together. Members felt the script was weaker than in the first film, but this one was more realistic. All liked the addition of Richard Gere and felt the acting and casting were good. The costumes and make-up were a high point, sumptuous and elegant and helping to develop the story, capturing the wealthy class in India. (See a slightly different take on the film in the **Monday Film Group** report on the next page). We have plenty of room for more members in the **Tuesday Afternoon Group**. *Reported by Joyce Linden.*

Eleven members of the **Monday Film Group** met at the home of David and Diane Schwartz on February 16th to discuss *Boyhood* and *American Sniper*, two powerful, Oscar-nominated films. *Boyhood* was acknowledged for its unconventional concept—a film 12 years in the making, in which writer-director Richard Linklater literally follows a young boy and his family, chronicling their lives over that time span. The result is a very realistic "slice-of-life" coming of age film, which has a strong documentary feel to it. The little boy's pudgy face at age 6 becomes angular as the baby fat is replaced by the lean 18-year-old gangly teen he becomes. The mother (terrifically played by Patricia Arquette) thickens into maturity, her tentative demeanor replaced by steely

resolve and self-confidence. Group members thought one of the highlights of this film was the acting. In addition to Arquette, Ellar Coltrane who plays her son, and Ethan Hawke as the boy's biological father, were praised for their compelling, believable performances. The movie is nearly 3 hours long, and some members felt the pace suffered in places as a result. Others praised the work of the film editor, who was able to produce such a coherent, absorbing movie about the many aspects of growth from 12 years of accumulated film footage. Members gave this film an 8.2 overall rating.

American Sniper was described by one Group member as simply the best war movie she had ever seen. That seemed to be the consensus of the Group about this film, based on the life of Chris Kyle, the most famous (and lethal) sniper in American history. The movie has stirred much controversy for allegedly being too patriotic and pro-war. However, several members felt it was anti-war, while others thought it was neither, and still others felt it was open to myriad interpretations! Members did agree on the outstanding technical achievement of producing realistic combat scenes that were tense, fast-paced, spare, and deeply affecting. One member thought that Kyle should have shown more remorse for his 160 kills, while another recalled the scene at the end of the movie when Kyle tells the army psychologist that it wasn't the 160 kills that haunted him, but rather the number of comrades he couldn't save. One aspect of modern war caught one member off guard: the ubiquitous cell phone, and the amount of high-tech gear the soldiers carried. That Kyle, in the midst of combat, can call his wife on the other side of the world, getting enough bars to be able to communicate with her, is nothing short of astonishing. Members agreed that Bradley Cooper delivered a powerful performance as Chris Kyle. This role could have easily been overdramatized, but Cooper's portrayal is understated and nuanced--and thus very credible. Kudos were also given to Clint Eastwood, who did an exceptional job directing. Kyle's funeral in particular, was very moving. Not melodramatic, but minimalist, typical of Eastwood's style. Members rated this film a very high 9.1.

The **Monday Film Group** gathered at the home of Abe and Vickie Feinberg on March 23rd to discuss *McFarland U.S.A.*, a film based on a true story about a down-and-out coach and the 7 Latino - sequel that continues the saga about a group of British retirees on a tight budget who take up resi-

to *The Most Exotic Marigold Hotel*.

We found *McFarland U.S.A.* to be an enjoyable "feel-good" movie that emphasizes the values of persistence, self-discipline, and the importance of community. Nods were given to the casting, as members thought Kevin Costner as the coach and the 7 actors who comprised the cross-country team were outstanding. Members also praised the cinematography for capturing the essence of the poor farm laborer town of McFarland (although two members who had been to the town thought it was even more dilapidated in real life than as portrayed in the movie). Everyone thought the plot was well-developed and that the story moved forward well, maintaining viewer interest and involvement. Kudos were also given to the script, as the dialogue was both spare and realistic. The young boys sound like young boys, and the coach--a man of few words --is very credible. Two members who enjoyed the movie did mention negatives: one felt the movie was preachy and bordered on propaganda with respect to its portrayal of Latinos. The other felt her emotions were being manipulated throughout. The overall consensus, however, was very positive: Members gave this film a high 8.6 overall rating.

The Group also discussed *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, which did not fare as well.. Members thought the sequel lacked substance, was hampered by too many confusing subplots with poor transitions between them, and that it lacked the charm and poignancy of the original. One member commented that Sonny, the hotel's proprietor in both films, had become Americanized, losing his earnest passion and endearing nature. The acting was also disappointing, given the stellar cast. One member described it as "some of our best actors in a failed ensemble." Several members saw Richard Gere's character as superfluous, and his performance as inert. His romance with Sonny's mother was not only implausible, but felt contrived. Another member noted the decreased emphasis on Indian ambiance in the sequel, with fewer street scenes and the absence of settings such as the open marketplace that conveyed the essence of Indian life and customs so vividly. However, there was one positive: The vibrancy of the dance scene at Sonny's wedding at the end was thoroughly enjoyed by all. But it was not enough to avoid the low rating members gave this film: 6.25. *Reported by Dorena Knepper.*

Reminder:

Scholarship Luncheon—May 9th
Annual Picnic—June 6th

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2014—2015

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