

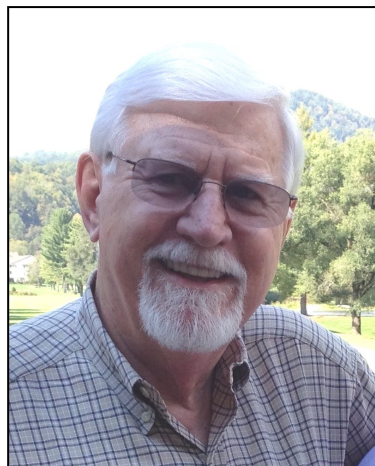
ARF NOTES

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's
Message:
Ron McIntyre**

This is the last *ARF Notes* of the year and is my last “message” as **ARF** President. Thank all of you for giving me the opportunity; it’s been a pleasure and an honor to work with you!

Nancy Owens, Barbara Swerkes, and I represented **ARF** at the spring council meeting of the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA). In his remarks to the group, the Executive Director of ERFA, Harold Goldwhite, graciously singled out **ARF** as a “model” for campus retired faculty associations, citing the range of activities we sponsor, our interest groups, and the enthusiastic involvement of our members. That made me proud of you! (Harold succeeds **ARF**’s Don Cameron as Executive Director, and CSUN continues to provide an office for ERFA in Santa Susana Hall.)

The field trip to the Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar was a great success, due not only to the beautiful collection of restored vintage automobiles but also to the office of Councilman Mitchell Englander, which provided a luxury bus for our transportation. Our two remaining events for this year are biggies. The **ARF** Memorial Graduate Project Awards luncheon is at noon on Saturday, May 13th; Nancy Owens led the committee that read all the applications and selected the recipients. The picnic and general meeting is at noon on Saturday, June 3rd. Details for both events may be found later in

this newsletter.

At the general meeting in June we will, as usual, elect members to next year’s Executive Board, and we will also consider an important amendment to the **ARF** Constitution. The Nominating Committee’s recommendations for positions on the 2017-18 Executive Board are included elsewhere in the newsletter. Many thanks to this committee – Cathy Jeppson, Patrick Nichelson (chair), and Diane Schwartz – for recruiting an outstanding slate of candidates. The proposed Constitutional amendment concerns the Board position of Program Chair. Currently, the **ARF** Constitution specifies that the Immediate Past President is a member of the Board, and the Bylaws specify that the Immediate Past President serves as Program Chair. The Constitutional amendment would separate these positions, with the Immediate Past President continuing to serve on the Board and the Program Chair becoming an elected position in its own right. (This change would also require the Board to make some amendments to the Bylaws.) The full proposal will be sent to all **ARF** members in advance of the meeting and will be posted on the **ARF** website. The proposal is the product of sustained thought by an *ad hoc* committee comprising Bob McAdoo, Patrick Nichelson (chair), and Diane Schwartz.

Thanks to all the Board members and to everyone else who made the year a success, with special nods to Program Chair Alyce Akers and Membership Chair Diane Schwartz, who were outstanding in those time intensive positions; to Meg Holzer, who is “retiring” after many years as Secretary; and to *ARF Notes* editor Ann Perkins. And best of luck to incoming President Patrick Nichelson!

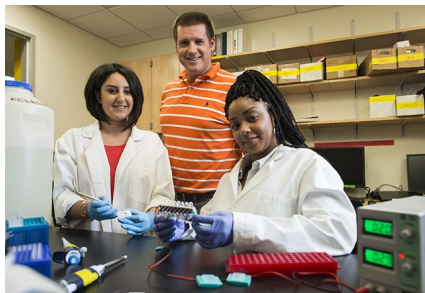
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NEWS FROM CSUN AND THE CSU

Prof. Zhilong He, Dean of the School of History and Civilization at Shaanxi Normal University, will present a lecture entitled “Middle East studies in China and some opinions on important problems and hot issues” at CSUN on Tuesday, May 2nd from 2-4 PM. The location is the Whitsett Room, SH 451 (with roof access). The lecture is **free** and open to the public, and everyone is welcome.



CSUN biology professor **Jonathan Kelber**, shown here with biology graduate student Yvess Adman (left) and biology graduate student Malachaia Hoover (right) was recently awarded a \$1.46 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. Photo by David J. Hawkins.

The NIH award is for \$1.46 million over the next four years to support his research group in their ongoing studies of the cancer “support wall” gene called PEAK1. His research has implications for future treatment diagnosis and treatment practices for breast and pancreatic cancer patients.

Spring CSU-ERFA State Council Meeting

ARF’s representatives at the latest CSU-ERFA State Council meeting at Dominguez Hills were Ron McIntyre, Barbara Swerkes, Don Cameron, and Nancy Owens. President Bill Blischke (DH) reported on his efforts to have input at the CSU Board of Trustees meetings and with the campus presidents—a work in progress.

Issues discussed included a proposal to require a fourth year of math for admission to the CSU, the “\$48 fix” that would allow free tuition, the problem of getting H1-B visas for faculty, and strategies to increase the hiring and tenure density of full-time faculty. Of immediate relevance to emeritus and retired faculty are an Assembly long-term care bill, an Assembly pharmacy management bill, a Senate bill that would change collective bargaining rules, a Senate bill that would require advanced notice on drug price increases, and the constant battle over defined benefits vs defined contributions (currently a proposed state constitutional amendment that would allow reduction in retiree benefits but would require a 2/3 vote of the public to increase retiree benefits). If you’ve had difficulties in the switch to OptumRX, be assured that you have plenty of company; the CSU-ERFA office in Santa Susana Hall may be able to help you (818-677-6522).

As of January 2019, the retiree faculty health benefits as well as faculty contributions to health benefits will become a subject of bargaining, as shared by ERFA’s representative to CFA. If the Marin County Superior Court decision is upheld by the CA Supreme Court, retiree health benefits will not be a vested interest if there is no employee contribution to the retiree medical plan—note that we contribute to our retirement but not our health benefits. It is not clear yet how this would affect those presently retired. Some public sector unions have agreed in bargaining to pre-fund retiree medical benefits because of this court case.

Executive Vice-Chancellor Framroze Virjee spoke to the group on “Free Speech and Expression,” a hot topic right now on some of our campuses. By the way, there is no “hate speech” exception to the 1st amendment. His presentation is to be on the CSU-ERFA web site.

The Chancellor’s Office has circulated a draft intellectual property policy, with no faculty input, which is going to the CSU Academic Senate and campuses for input. The CSU-ERFA State Council joined the CSU Academic Senate in supporting the San Jose Senate’s list of concerns with this draft. As I read it, all the course materials that I prepared at home, on my own time and on my own computer, would belong to the CSU were this to be adopted. That’s just for starters! Stay tuned! Check out CSU-ERFA’s website for updates on issues affecting us, read *The Reporter*, and join CSU-ERFA to help your colleagues look after your vital interests. *Nancy Owens*.

Tuition Fix

Bill Blischke, President, and Harold Goldwhite, Executive Director, of ERFA recommend the following link

to be of interest regarding the discussions about funding tuition in the CSU: reclaimCAhighered.org/48dollars This proposal suggests, among other things, an annual income tax surcharge of \$48 for the majority of state taxpayers, more for those in the higher income brackets. It is well worth reading.



IN MEMORIAM

George Biriuk (Mathematics) passed away March 1st, 2017. He was born in 1928 in Zdolbuniv, a small city in the northwest part of the Ukraine. George arrived in the U.S. in 1950. He joined the U.S. Army and soon found himself back Europe working as a translator for the army in Germany. George received his Masters' degree from Indiana University in 1956 and his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1962. Immediately upon graduation from UCLA, he joined CSUN (then called San Fernando Valley State College) and remained here even past his retirement in 1991, FERPing afterward. With his love for books and his broad knowledge of mathematics, George was for many years the Math Department's liaison with the CSUN library.

Louise Grindstaff (Secondary Education), died on April 3rd, 2017 in Oak Harbor, WA, where she had been living in an assisted care center. Services will likely be held in Tennessee.

Gloria Reid (Speech). Gloria was born in New York City in 1934 and grew up in Mt. Penn, a suburb of Reading, Pa. She died on February 21st, 2017. Gloria was a speech pathologist and earned her B.A. and M.A. at California State University, Northridge. She subsequently became a valued faculty member at CSUN for the next 20 years. Gloria was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother and will be missed by her husband Philip of 61 years, her children Laura and Jeffrey, and two grandchildren. She was a sweet, gentle and kind person whose unconditional love was evident every day of our lives.

REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

The Changing Ethnic Quilt of Southern California

On March 8th, 2017, Jim Allen and Gene Turner, emeriti faculty of the CSUN Geography Department, presented an absorbing and detailed update of their critically acclaimed 1997 book "The Ethnic Quilt: Population Diversity in Southern California." Grounded in census updates, and armed with engaging power point graphs, they regaled a

full room of colleagues with scientific and down-home reports and portraits of changing patterns of ethnic and cultural populations in four counties of Southern California. Everyone in the room already knew that "Greater L.A." is immensely diverse, and has been so for decades. But the finite and definite character of Southern California's diversity - - and the surprising changes that have occurred in the last generation - - amazed the participants. Gene and Jim took turns at the podium, answering questions, and displaying their fascinating, colorful maps. Many of the participants felt afterward that much of what they know from the standard media, as well as from their own anecdotal impressions from visiting around the four counties, is superficial. (Who would have thought that Nigerians have the highest household income of any ethnic group in Southern California? How many of us realize just how strong is the Asian - particularly Asian-Indian - contribution to Southern California's diversity.) Any brief written report cannot do justice to the richness of Jim's and Gene's findings. The new version of "The Ethnic Quilt," based on the latest census data and other developments, is now on-line. See it for yourself. You are in for some new learning! Lots of it, too. <http://www.csun.edu/~hfgeo005/eturner/books.html>. Alyce Akers

April 15th: ARF Field trip to the "The Nethercutt Collection"

Most attendees were delivered by a comfortable bus that L.A. Councilmember Mitch Englander supplied, and thirty-three ARF colleagues visited Sylmar's *Nethercutt Collection* on Thursday, April 6th after enjoying lunch and animated conversations at El Presidente Restaurant in Mission Hills.



The expertly guided tour of *The Nethercutt Collection* lasted two hours, but there was still much left to see in that

building alone. Many participants vowed to come back on their own to also enjoy the *Nethercutt Museum* across the street from the *Collection* building; the *Museum* holds an extensive assortment of historic auto-

mobiles, a vintage locomotive with a private car, as well as a unique library. Many of the vehicles in the *Museum* and in the *Collection* are world-class prize winners for restoration.

The *Nethercutt Collection* building (four stories: the Lower Salon, the Grand Salon, the Mezzanine, and the Music Room) is a full plate of visual and aural delights, with a powerful supplement of historic information. Even some of the ARF



visitors who are not particularly fascinated by old cars, antique organs or silent-film history became entranced by the Late-Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries' American craftsmanship on display. The erudition of the

guides - - some of whom are the hands-on restorers of the *Collection's* items - - also held the attention of this group of veteran teachers and learners.

By the nature of things, a retired-faculty group is made up of people in their sixties, seventies and eighties. In 2017, the Nethercutt rings bells from the time of *our* parents and grand-parents. If they were deprived, and most probably were, it must also echo some of their fantasies.

Much gratitude to J.B. and Dorothy Nethercutt of Santa Monica and their descendants who fell in love with old cars, with other old things, and with sharing. And a big salute to **ARF** activists Brenda and Rich Ruggiero who arranged this fine visit. To find more information about the Nethercutt, see its Web Site. By the way, all the autos in the *Collection* are in driving condition and have keys in their ignitions. Think twice about bringing your grandsons. *Alyce Akers, ARF Program Committee.*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ARF Memorial Graduate Project Awards Luncheon, May 13th, Orange Grove Bistro

The first **ARF** Memorial Graduate Project Awards were given in 1999. The awards are given in honor of our deceased colleagues and are funded by donations from **ARF** members and other interested parties. Over the years, **ARF** has been able to increase the number of award recipients from two to four students each year. Please come to the Luncheon and hear the presentations of these talented students. A registra-

tion form for the Luncheon is on **page 7** of the newsletter.

Picnic/Annual meeting, home of Juan

Oliva, June 3rd.

Come and enjoy good food and the company of your colleagues, and vote on the new slate of officers for the **ARF** board, listed below, and on changes to the **ARF** Constitution, which will be mailed to you before the picnic.

2117-2118: Nominations for ARF Executive Board

President :

Patrick Nicholson (*elected*)

Vice President/Pres- Elect **

Catherine Jeppson (*nominate*)

Past President/Program Chair

Ronald McIntyre (*elected*)

Secretary **

John Clendenning (*nominate*)

Treasurer **

Daniel Blake (*nominate*)

ARF Notes (newsletter) **

Ann Perkins (*nominate*)

Membership Chair **

Diane Schwartz (*nominate*)

Historian **

Cindy Ventuleth (*nominate*)

Webmaster **

Eugene Turner (*nominate*)

Members-at-Large

Robert Kiddoo (*elected*) 1 yr

Barbara Swerkes (*elected*) 1 yr

Karen Robinette (*nominate*) 1 yr **

Phyllis Russell (*nominate*) 2yr **

Pamela Bourgeois (*nominate*) 2yr **

Sharon Klein (*nominate*) 2yr **

** to be nominated

"elected" = no need to nominate, previously elected

September—November ARF Programs. Full schedule in September newsletter:

Sept 13th, 2017: Colin Donahue, CSUN VP of Admin. and Finance/CFO will speak on Campus Planning.

October 11th, 2017: John Broesamle, CSUN Emeritus Professor in History, will speak on U.S. Presidential Election Issues.

November 8th, 2017: Robert Gohstand, CSUN Emeritus Professor in Geography, will speak on Issues in Russia.

Please note that the Sept. and Oct. programs will be held in the Orange Grove Bistro, as usual, but the location of the Nov. program is dependent upon when the planned demolition of the Bistro takes place. Watch for announcements.



FILM GROUPS

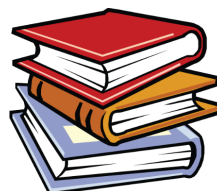
The **Monday Film Group** met on March 20th, at Vicki Feinberg's home. The films *The Salesman* and *Hidden Figures* were chosen for discussion this month.

The Salesman centers on the events surrounding an attack on Rana Estesami played by Taraneh Aidoosti. Rana is traumatized by the attack while her husband Emad Estesami, played by Shahab Hosseini, is deeply conflicted over what actions to take in the aftermath. Prior to the attack the couple had been forced to leave their home due to a building collapse. To further complicate the situation this movie is "a play within a play" in that during these events both characters are actors in a production of "Death of a Salesman". Shahab's attempts to find the attacker combined with Rana's refusal to involve the police create a complex set of events that are extremely well played by both of the leading actors. Though it was both dark and complex, the group thought it was well done. This film managed to reflect both universal human behavior and details that reflect modern life in Iran. The group gave the film an overall rating of 8.3.

Hidden Figures is based on real events and centers on a team of African-American women who played a critical role at the start of the US Space Program. The three main characters Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, who worked as "hand computers" were played by the exceptional actresses Taraji Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monae. These three formed a powerful ensemble and managed to re-create the real life situation for mathematically talented female African Americans held back by the underlying prejudice of the scientific community in 20th century America. The three separate stories of their eventual rise to make major contributions to NASA's work was both heart-warming and extremely well presented. Although some of the scenes seemed unrealistic, these did not change the overall positive feelings the movie generated. Furthermore, the "real-life" photos and notes at the end of the film affirmed the overall believability of the film. The entire group truly enjoyed *Hidden Figures* and gave it a rating of 9.6.

For the month of April the Group plans to view and then discuss the two films *Beauty and the Beast* and *T2 Trainspotting*. David Schwartz.

The **Tuesday Film Group** rated the film *Passengers* an eight out of ten, as one of the better Sci Fi movies we have seen. Several hundred passengers are kept asleep in pods for a many year trip to colonize a distant planet. One man is ejected from his pod prematurely. After a year alone with only a robotic bar tender to talk to he decides to wake a female passenger for company. Much of the movie deals with their relationship and how they handle a possible threat to the spaceship. Although slow paced, there is enough tension and action to keep the audience interested and pleased to have attended the theater. *Helen Geidt*.



BOOK GROUPS

The **Science Book Group** met at on March 15th John Motil's house. In attendance were Virve Leps; Bill Hosek; Adam Gifford; Elzbieta Trybus; Phyllis Russell, John Motil and Heidemarie Lundblad., to discuss *The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives*, by Leonard Mlodinow, 2008.

The group enjoyed the book, although his historical review of probabilities and statistics proved a bit challenging for some members, while others were happy to relive the days when we actually had to professionally worry about the statistical significance of tests we had run. Mlodinow's focus on the extent to which randomness rules our lives provided food for thought and a lively discussion.

At the meeting on **April 19th** *The Social Conquest of Earth* by Edward O. Wilson (2013) was discussed. A report will appear in the next newsletter. *Heidemarie Lundblad*.

The newly merged **Tuesday and Wednesday ARF book groups** met on the first Wednesday of April to discuss *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay: A Novel*, by Michael Chabon. It is the story of Joe Kavalier's escape from Nazi-held Czechoslovakia to join his cousin Sammy Klayman (soon to be Clay) in New York, where they create *The Escapist*, a Nazi-shredding superhero comic in the golden age of comics. This is the era of Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman and Robin, and later the caricatured characters of Marvel comics which account for many of the latest films and TV shows. There is a lot about the drawing styles and competitive business aspects of comics; we were divided on whether we wanted to know quite so much about creating stories and translating them into rock'em sock'em visual form.

There are several themes in the book: the Jewish experience in Europe and New York City and particularly the guilt that survivors weave into their choices in life. The characters draw you in. Joe Kavalier is an escapist in many ways beyond his imitation of Houdini. Sammy becomes aware of his own homosexuality and struggles with his ambivalence about this. There is a strange romantic triangle involving the young Bohemian, Rosa Saks, as genuinely loving hypotenuse.

The language ranges from New York wise-guy to more philosophical consideration of human virtues and follies. Several of us felt the book should have been edited to a shorter more focused form. The story is unpredictable, opening the door to both adventures and frustrations. The book is long and took a while to get into, but we all liked the characters and the imaginative departure from more traditional fiction. Perhaps these aspects explain why it won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2001. *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*



SOCIAL CUISINE CLUB OF ARF (SCCARF)

In a change from long-standing practice, February found SCCARFers dining for the first time at a buffet restaurant: *Sumo Asian Buffet and Grill*, in Woodland Hills. Seated apart from the crowd in one of the restaurant's extra rooms made conversation easy. Meal choices were extensive, with several varieties of fish and shellfish prominently featured. Chicken and beef, either pre-prepared in several traditional styles or stir-fried to order with a wide choice of vegetables, proved popular. For a few attendees, the more than two-dozen iterations of sushi were a draw, as for others were the numerous salads, often topped with mussels, squid or octopus. Only one of the four soups offered—clam chowder—got a thumbs-down, its flavor clearly NOT the expected 'New England style.' For the not-so-adventurous among us an array of vegetables, rice in two or three forms, or even plain spaghetti easily sated their appetites. For those who still had room, dessert selections included four flavors of ice cream (green tea the most popular), various cookies and an assortment of small pastries. For libations, we chose from a small wine list, a selection of beers and soft drinks. Virtually unanimously, those in attendance proclaimed the evening a success, in part because of the abundance and unexpectedly high quality of the food, but also because the 20% senior discount off the already low price of \$18.99 made the evening so affordable. One attendee summed the evening up thusly: "So many flavors, so little time to try them all. I'll be back!" *Carolyn Arthur*

On March 28, twenty-five SCCARF members had dinner at *Il Fornaio* in the new Topanga Village mall. The group was seated at four tables on the outdoor patio and enjoyed the warmth of the setting sun as the meal started. We were glad that the restaurant staff was able to draw curtains later in the evening as the weather cooled after sunset. We were allowed to order directly from the dinner menu so SCCARFers were able to enjoy a variety of menu choices to satisfy their individual eating pleasures. Remarks from members about the evening were uniformly positive, with appreciation expressed for both the food and the service. Jim Dole capped the evening by providing tiramisu cake for everyone in celebration of his wife Betty Rose's birthday. Betty was caught off guard, hence was appropriately surprised by the celebration of the occasion. *Larry Caretto*

ARF MEMORIAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 13, 2017 – 12 noon, Orange Grove Bistro

Honoring Recipients of ARF Memorial Graduate Project Awards and Hansen/ARF/COE Scholarships

This year the ARF Memorial Award provides \$2,000 to each of four graduate students who will give a presentation of their research at the luncheon. This year's awardees are:

Charlie Seibert, Biology

Madelynn Esquivias and Leila Salarpour, Family Environmental Sciences

Thomas Look, Physics and Astronomy

Chelsea Carter, Psychology

The Phil and Shirley Hansen Scholarship provides \$2,500 to outstanding students in any program in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education. The 2016-2017 winners are:

Jessica Bandarizadeh, Educational Psychology and Counseling

Natalie Gibson, Secondary Education

Liliana Alvarez Hernandez, Educational Psychology and Counseling

Tabatha Tobin, Elementary Education

We hope you will attend the luncheon to meet and honor these outstanding CSUN student scholars!

If you are planning to attend, please detach and return the form below with your check payable to ARF by **FRI-DAY MAY 5th. The cost for the Lunch is \$30.**

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

I/We will attend the ARF Memorial Awards Luncheon. **(Please circle meal choices)**

Name _____ Southwest BBQ salad w/chicken
Southwest BBQ salad w/salmon
Southwest BBQ salad w/tofu

Name _____ Southwest BBQ salad w/chicken
Southwest BBQ salad w/salmon
Southwest BBQ salad w/tofu

If you prefer a fruit cup instead of the Flourless Chocolate Cake, please check here: _____

My/our check for \$_____ is enclosed.

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2016—2017

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Barbara Swerkes (818) 886-2769

2015-2017:

Nancy Owens (310) 392-3507

Phyllis Russell (818) 831-1012

Elizabeth Schneider (818) 885-7193

ARF NOTES

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

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