

# ARF NOTES

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**President's  
Message: Pat  
Nichelson**

**Your ARF Executive board members and I wish you a happy Fall Season and a pleasant Thanksgiving.** Please see the accompanying calendar of upcoming ARF events and various notes on our interest groups, including "SCCARF," our friendly, tasty dinners series. If you are not on the SCCARF dinner announcements list, do send a note to Jim Dole ([jim.dole@csun.edu](mailto:jim.dole@csun.edu)).

The ARF Presentations series has gotten off to a powerful start with our September and October speakers. In September CSUN Vice President-CFO Colin Donahue and Associate Vice President Ken Rosenthal informed us about upcoming campus developments that will include the demolition of the Orange Grove Bistro. They also engaged us in the beginnings of a frank dialogue regarding alternative locales and accessible parking for ARF meetings. The October Presentation by historian John Broesamle on the historic meaning of the Trump Presidency was dynamite! In this ARF Notes you will find brief reports on both sessions. On November 8th we have "Navigating a New World in Challenging Times," a conversation with the renowned journalist Sandy Banks. In the Spring we will hear from our colleagues Teri Lisagor on doing volunteer medical work in impoverished countries and Cynthia Rawitch on "fake news." Watch for the announcements. The ARF presentations program has proved to be a success. It is informative, interesting and enjoyable.

**A recruitment plea.** I wrote in September that ARF

is valuable for you and me, and for all our colleagues. I'm more convinced of this than ever. Participation is fun, educational and helpful. We support students and each other. Please, when you communicate with colleagues tell them about ARF and ask them to join. If you have questions about this, contact our Membership Chair Diane Schwartz. [diane.schwartz@csun.edu](mailto:diane.schwartz@csun.edu).

I also recommend that we all become members of CSU-ERFA, our statewide organization. Through a simple application process, you may be a member of both associations, ARF and ERFA. Your dues for ERFA will pay for your ARF membership as well. **The California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association is the lobbying organization for us faculty retirees at CalPERS, the Chancellor, the CSU Trustees and the Legislature.** There are many membership benefits. One that I especially appreciate is their newsletter about ever-changing retirement rules, CSU policies that affect us retirees, and relevant legislative developments.

The friendly, helpful headquarters for ERFA is on the CSUN campus in the CSU Retiree Center, Santa Susana Hall. Phone: 818 677 6522. ([Csu-erfa@csun.edu](mailto:csu-erfa@csun.edu)) The Executive Director is Harold Goldwhite, emeritus CSU-L.A. (The former Executive Director is our own Don Cameron.) The Office Manager is Melanie Mamos. The office is open Monday through Wednesday 9:00

to 3:00, and Thursday 9:00 to 4:00. Call or email Melanie. She will answer questions, get you signed up as a full-fledged "ERFER-ARFER," or send you important information and contacts about retirement issues.

Thank you for everything you did - - and do -- for our University!

**Pat Nicholson**

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## NEWS FROM CSUN AND THE CSU

### Poet Laureate to Speak

**Dana Gioia**, named the Poet Laureate of California in 2015, will be giving a presentation on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in the Gohstand Leisure Reading Room in the Library. A graduate of Stanford Business School, Gioia claims to be “the only person, in history, who went to business school to be a poet.” He later rose to become a vice president at General Foods, where he marketed products such as Kool-Aid. These experiences in the corporate world, Gioia states, “taught me a lot of things that have helped me as a poet.” In 1992, he committed himself to writing full-time. Most recently, he served as chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 to 2008.

His approach to poetry might be deemed populist. Born in a suburb of Los Angeles in 1950, Gioia remembers his mother, a Mexican-American who he says had no advanced education, reading and reciting poetry to him at an early age. “Consequently,” he declares, “I have never considered poetry an intrinsically difficult art whose mysteries can be appreciated only by a trained intellectual.” As head of the NEA, he increased the budget and launched several successful initiatives, including Operation Homecoming, which provides writing workshops to U.S. soldiers and their spouses. Although Gioia writes in free verse, he is known primarily for his formal work, and has been included in the school of New Formalism, a movement in the 1990s by American poets to bring traditional verse forms back to the fore.

He is the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California and lives in both Los Angeles and Sonoma County. *From the Poetry Foundation, Chicago, Ill. 2017.*

### Sage Society

SAGE is a Learning in Retirement organization affiliated with the Tseng College of Extended Learning at CSUN. Classes meet off-campus in Granada Hills and discuss a variety of topics. To find out more information, call 818 831-5064 or email [elders@csun.edu](mailto:elders@csun.edu).

### CSU Chancellor’s Office Proposes GE Changes

At the CSUN Faculty Senate meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup>, much of the discussion centered on Executive Order 1100 (revised) from the chancellor’s office which establishes a “common understanding” of the minimum requirements for CSU GE Breadth. The revised executive order includes a revised definition for mathematics/ quantitative reasoning (CSU GE Breadth Subarea B4).

Major concerns were expressed about:

The proposed elimination of GE Section F: Comparative Cultural Studies.

Restriction of the upper division GE units to sections B, C & D.

Over the past several weeks, faculty, staff and administrators have convened to discuss EO 1100, and in response to questions and comments raised at multiple informational/review meetings, Academic Affairs has created an EO 1100 resource page.

Below is the web link to find helpful information about the executive order, a New CSUN FAQ and other resources: <https://www.csun.edu/eo1100/>

### English Professor wins PEN Center Award

CSUN English professor Martin Pousson has won the 2017 PEN Center USA Fiction Award for his novel *Black Sheep Boy*, a “fabulist” coming-of-age novel about a queer mixed-race boy in the bayous of Louisiana. “The book is very much about defending a queer identity that is both personally and socially queer,” he said. “It’s about a teenager who pushes against assimilation and conformity to remain an individual, and it’s about defending Cajun culture and all people who are outsiders.” Pousson called “Black Sheep Boy” a novel-in-stories: stories that tap into the Cajun bayou land of his youth and that incorporate the mythologies and legends that permeate the region.



### IN MEMORIAM

#### **William Emboden (Biology)**

passed away in 2016 after a long battle with prostate cancer. After earning a B.A. at Purdue University, an M.A from Indiana University and a Ph.D. at UCLA, Bill joined the SFVSC Biology faculty in 1965. Until his retirement in 2000 Bill taught botany at CSUN and played a major role in the development of the Department’s Botanic Garden and plant collections. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society, was honored with a five

year Presidential Appointment at Harvard University, and held lectureships at UCLA and Oxford University.

Bill was a one-of-a-kind biologist with interests ranging from botany and the natural sciences in general to anthropology and the arts. A quality teacher, he demanded much from his students, but was loved in return for his dedication to their learning. Bill was also a consummate scientist who published widely and regularly on his favorite subject—introgression (genetic exchange) among plants of the Genus *Salvia* (sages)—but also on the taxonomy and biology of many psychoactive plants. His publication record is impressive: he is sole author of seven books and more than 250 articles on various aspects of botany, the arts and anthropology, and has co-authored two additional books. For his works, in 1987 the University honored Bill for his “Preeminent Scholarly Publication.”

But probably little known to his science colleagues was Bill’s standing as an artist and an art aficionado. Says Tony Clark, Bill’s life partner of 46 years and with whom he founded the Arts of the Theatre Gallery in Los Angeles, Bill was “...an artist/poet in his own right,” a fact made apparent with the publication by Clark in 2016 of a book honoring the Art of William Emboden. It’s a part of Bill’s world that many of us never fully appreciated but that clearly infused all that he did! *Jim Dole*.

**Philip Handler (English)** died in October 2017 after a long illness. Prior to his retirement, Philip served in various capacities here on campus. He joined CSUN’s English faculty from the University of Texas Austin in 1968, and served as Department Chair before becoming the Associate Dean of the College of Humanities from 1983 to 1988. In 1988, he was appointed Dean of the School of the Arts, and in 1996 became the founding Dean of CSUN’s new College of Arts, Media and Communication. Under Philip’s leadership, the college grew to be one of the region’s leading arts education institutions. In 1999, Philip was appointed Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and in 2000, he became the university’s first Vice Provost, retiring in 2005. Among Philip’s numerous accomplishments was the founding of the University’s Entertainment Industry Institute, appointment as the Principal Investigator of The California Arts Project and the director of The Teachers for a New Era Initiative. He was also recognized as an authority on K-16 education and arts in education.

He is survived by his wife Kyoko and their sons Jason and Eric. A celebration of life was held at the Rose Pavilion of the Descanso Gardens on October 27<sup>th</sup>. *Stella Theodoulou*

**Lillian C. Palmer (Instructional Media and Communications)** passed away peacefully on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 97 in Santa Monica, CA. Lillian lived a full and long life, active and was lucid until the end. She graduated

from UCLA and Mills College, Oakland where she studied psychology and the arts. Her passion for art and photography led to a position as Professor of Instructional Media and Communications at California State University at Northridge (CSUN) where she taught for more than 30 years, helping to create one of the first multi-media centers in the U.S. on the Northridge campus. In 2006 her beloved husband of 61 years, Herbert, who owned the Herbert Palmer Gallery, passed away. She is survived by a son and daughter and two grandchildren. A private ceremony was held in memoriam for Lillian at the Gallery at the Getty Research Institute. Donations in Lillian’s memory may be made to: UCLA Division of Geriatrics’ Home Care Program Cedars Sinai, A. Giuliano Research & Education Fund. *From an article in the Los Angeles Times, Oct. 7 to Oct. 9, 2017.*

**Sidney Schwartz (Mechanical Engineering)** passed away on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Sid retired from the Mechanical Engineering department six years ago but continued working on his projects and occasionally taught courses in the heat transfer area. He was always ready to step in if there was a need, and cared deeply about his students. Services for Prof. Schwartz were held on Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Mount Sinai Simi Valley - Kamenir Chapel.

**Ronald Schaffer (History)** passed away on September 1<sup>st</sup> at age eighty-five after a long illness. Ron was one of the university’s most prominent scholars and a renowned teacher. In 2003-2004 he served as president of **ARF**.

Raised in New York, Ron completed his B.A. at Columbia University in 1953 and a Ph.D. at Princeton six years later. He joined the faculty of Cal State Northridge in 1965, and in 1978 he received the University’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Ron became a nationally recognized scholar with the publication of a succession of major books on American military history. The most prominent of these were *Wings of Judgment: American Bombing in World War II* (Oxford University Press, 1985), a groundbreaking examination of the moral and strategic complexities behind its subject; and *America in the Great War: The Rise of the War Welfare State* (Oxford, 1991), a searching study of the myriad ways in which World War I led to the long-term rise of federal power. Each of these works received a Scholarly Publication Award from the University. Ron’s articles appeared in leading professional journals, and he consulted for KCET. Following his retirement in 1999, he worked on a book about American aviators in World War I, asking: What motivated so many young men to

volunteer to fly machines that, from structural failure or enemy fire, were essentially death traps? Ron's declining health in recent years deprived us of this promising volume.

As a scholar and teacher, Ron asked big questions with a searching, skeptical eye. As a colleague, he had a dry wit that punctured pretentiousness. Ron never hesitated to hold the University to higher standards of academic governance and scholarly inquiry. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Robbie, and their two children. *John Broesamle*.



## EMERITI NEWS

**Van Dyk Buchanan (Elementary Education)** reports that he is still alive

at 96 and doing some stained glass projects for his family.

**Deborah Chen (Special Education).** My 26 years as a faculty member at CSUN were a most memorable professional experience. I enjoyed coordinating the early childhood special education program, teaching courses, and supervising interns and student teachers in this specialization. In my first year of retirement from CSUN, I continue to present at national and international conferences, to consult with early intervention programs, and provide professional development. Currently, my most interesting learning experience is with an early intervention program for families and their infants with congenital Zika virus in Recife, Brazil. I enjoy attending theatre performances, reading, traveling, and cooking. I look forward to other learning opportunities with retired CSUN colleagues.

**Aurelio de la Vega (Music)** had his "Recordatio" (2011), for soprano, woodwind quintet, and string quintet released by RACY Productions as a CD, and it has received rave reviews. The recording features soprano Anne Marie Ketchum and a select group of Los Angeles performers under the direction of Daniel Kessner. De la Vega recently returned from Miami, where he was honored by the Circle of Pan-American Culture. Their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Congress devoted its entire closing session to an analysis of de la Vega's works and their impact on the classical music scene of the twentieth and twenty first centuries. Important papers were read and a panel discussed various aspects of the composer's output. Florida International University pianist and musicologist Jose Raul Lopez played de la Vega's Preludes 1 and 2, and his "Epigram."

**Cynthia Desrochers (Elementary Education)** reports that she and her husband became first-time grandparents on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Grandson Rhys Michael Carney lives in Battery Park City, NYC.

**George Holland (Kinesiology)** has published a book entitled

*Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Quality Aging*. Page Publishing, Inc., 2017. This book is a practical guide to retaining optimum health, balanced fitness, and the best possible quality of life during the aging process, by examining the effects of diet, exercise, tobacco, and alcohol on changes in the body.

**Ruth Lupul**, widow of **Max Lupul (Marketing)** reports that she is enjoying the SCCARF dinners and meeting Max's fellow members who remember him and make her feel welcome.

**Jane Prather (Sociology).** Why retire in NYC? I'm asked this question often. The best reason is no need to drive. After spending the summer in LA, I appreciate that transportation in Manhattan is so convenient to concerts, theater, museums, library, and of course, health facilities.

**Harvey Rich (Sociology)** lives half the year in Thousand Oaks, Ca. and half in Portland, Or. with his wife **Mag-nhild Lien (Mathematics)**.

## REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

### September 13th, Campus Planning Report, by-Colin Donahue and Ken Rosenthal

This year's Afternoon Speaker Series got off to a great start on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> with an engaging and informative presentation by Colin Donahue (VP of Administration & Finance /CFO) and Ken Rosenthal (Associate VP, Facilities Development & Operations). Colin and Ken discussed in detail plans for replacing the Orange Grove Bistro (formerly the University Club) with a Hyatt Place Hotel and restaurant. Much of the information can be gleaned from the web at <http://www.csun.edu/tuc/csunhotel>, but here are a few salient points:

The project will be a public/private \$54 million project, with no University funds used.

The land (on which the Orange Grove Bistro now stands) will be leased from CSUN through the University Corporation to the developer (Jupiter Realty) for a 65-year term, with the developer fully responsible for financing, construction, and management of the project.

The hotel will be a high-quality business-class hotel with 148 rooms.

The restaurant will be a standalone 6,600 square foot structure adjacent to the hotel and will serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It will include around 3,000 square feet of event/meeting space – much more than the Bistro. (Campus organizations, such as ARF, will have priority, at preferred rates.)

The hotel will have its own dedicated parking; the lot

west of the Bistro will remain available for University use.

The orange grove, the pond, and the London plane trees along Nordhoff will be undisturbed. The restaurant and hotel will overlook the grove and pond toward the VPAC.

ARF events will be held in the Bistro through May 2018. Demolition is expected to begin soon after and construction to be completed by January or February 2021. The University promises to help ARF find suitable meeting quarters during the construction period.

*Ron McIntyre*

### **October 11th, John Broesamle**

On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, John Broesamle gave a presentation entitled “*What does the Trump Administration tell us about ourselves?*” The combination of the stated subject and John’s esteem among veteran colleagues brought out a standing-room-only audience. At least seventy participants were counted.

John aimed a verbal mirror at most of us, our recent and not-so-long-ago histories. Mark Twain said “History doesn’t repeat itself but it does rhyme.” You could hear the rhyme. With luminous illustrations from the past he showed how and why Donald Trump earned and holds solid support among aggrieved White Male (and enough White Female) voters - - working class citizens whose economic opportunities have diminished with changes in commerce and technology. John cited convincing examples of this pattern. President Trump’s numbers have slipped since last Spring, but as of this Fall he firmly retains the critical core that won him the Electoral College. There were many facets, some personal, to John’s argument, but for this listener what stood out is the power of ***grievance***. Trump, who could not be more sociologically alien to his core supporters, preaches ill-defined *change*. His fans are angry and do not like people of his breeding and class, but Trump says what they feel. He says it with a swagger that wins them.

As a good historian, John would probably say that the Mark Twain attribution is apocryphal; it just sounds like Twain. But most of the audience at this event would confidently say that John himself is a poet. One colleague from English even allowed as how he had thought this superb presentation was read from a script until he noticed there was no full script, just a few notes. It is no wonder that John Broesamle was honored with CSUN’s Distinguished Teaching Award. He has authored and co-authored many positively reviewed volumes in American history. More locally, campus plan-

ners still consult his 1993 “Suddenly a Giant: A History of California State University, Northridge.” Much appreciation to John, his wife Kathy and his daughter and son-in-law who drove down from Ojai to be with us at the Orange Grove Bistro. *Patrick Nicholson*

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

On Wednesday, November 8th, 2017, 2:00 pm, at the CSUN Orange Grove Bistro, we have the pleasure of welcoming Sandy Banks, whose topic will be “*Navigating a New World in Challenging Times.*”

Sandy is a Senior Fellow with the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy. She spent 36 years in various roles as an award-winning journalist with the *Los Angeles Times*, but she is best known for twice-weekly columns offering her personal take on issues and forces that both unite and divide us. She has taught journalism courses at USC and CSUN and provided commentary on social, cultural, and political issues for PBS, CNN, and the BBC. She lives in Northridge and is the mother of three adult daughters, including a CSUN graduate who is now a special education teacher in Van Nuys.

**\*Note: Robert Gohstand’s Russia presentation has been rescheduled for the fall.**



The **Monday Film Group** met on August 21st, 2017 at the home of Peggy Steiner. The Club had chosen the films *Atomic Blonde* and *The Big Sick* for discussion this month.

*Atomic Blonde* is a well-choreographed “Bruce Lee” like spy thriller. It is set in Berlin during the last stages of the Cold War. The main character role of Lorraine, an undercover British agent, was played by Charlize Theron. As the Berlin Wall is about to be torn down, the twists and turns of the complex plot held everyone’s attention. Although Theron gave one of her magnetic performances, the fight scenes were generally seen as being both too long and excessively graphic. As always, John Goodman in a small role as a CIA agent lit up the screen. Although most of the club members enjoyed the film, the excessive violence pushed the club to only give it an overall rating of only 6.9 out of 10.

*The Big Sick* exceeded expectations. The film is based on a series of actual events in the lives of the two main characters Kumail Nanjiani, played by himself, and his girlfriend Emily, played by Zoe Kazan. Kumail

who is of Pakistani origin, was an aspiring comic who develops a tentative relationship with Emily. When Kumail's family becomes aware of the relationship they threaten to disown him and so he painfully breaks things off with Emily. When Emily becomes seriously ill Kumail becomes involved in her care and the resulting dynamics between him and both families becomes the center of the movie. The film was well acted by both of the two central characters and the cast members playing both extended families. The script has both gentle humor and sensitive pathos and the club members gave it a score of 8.8 out of 10.

The **Monday Film Group** met again on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the home of Mary Corcoran to discuss the films *Logan Lucky* and *Wind River*.

*Logan Lucky* presents the story of two brothers, played by Channing Tatum and Adam Driver, who plot and execute the theft of a great deal of cash during a NASCAR race. Both Tatum and Driver did an excellent job and Daniel Craig, in a supporting role as the "master bomber," was particularly interesting. The group felt that the first third was a bit slow, but overall agreed that the intricate plot was just "fun to watch." The film also portrayed the lives of average people in the rural south in an interesting and sympathetic way. The group gave the film an overall rating of 8.2 out of 10 and there was little variation in the group's opinion of this film.

*Wind River* is set on an Indian Reservation in the Rocky Mountains. This film portrays the story of a Fish and Wildlife Officer, played by Jeremy Renner, as he assists a young FBI agent, played by Elizabeth Olsen, in the investigation of the disappearance of a young woman on the reservation. The investigation becomes the Wildlife Officer's attempt at redemption for his belief that his own irresponsible behavior had led to the death of his daughter in a similar situation. The depiction of the despair present in the lives of many American Indian people was heart grabbing. The acting was excellent, the filming of the cold snowy countryside of the Rocky Mountains along with an excellent music score make for a first-class film experience. The majority of the members really liked this film and gave it high ratings; however, the average score was only 8.4 out of 10.

### SCCARF Report

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, 30 of us SCAARFers dined at *The Gallery*, a rather upscale restaurant in Westlake Village. Although a little far out for some who live closer to campus in the valley, others from the

Thousand Oaks area commented that it was nice to dine at a restaurant closer to their home. *The Gallery's* menu includes a wide variety of seafood choices as well as lamb, beef and chicken dishes. From where I sat all of them looked good, but I can say with a high degree of certainty that my Cajun gumbo was really, REALLY **GOOD!** Shirley and I plan to go back again soon. (Ken Jones)



September found SCCARFers at the *Ali Baba Cafe* in Simi Valley. The Mediterranean cuisine was excellent and quite modestly priced, with highest praise going to the lamb kabobs

(made from lamb tenderloin, perfectly seasoned, tender and juicy) and the stuffed salmon. Some remarked that the lamb kabobs were the best they had ever eaten! There was also high praise for the lentil soup, hummus and the baklava. The wait staff was friendly and helpful, and the seating and acoustics made for easy conversation. The restaurant does not serve alcohol, but several brought their own wine. Stephanie and I provided wine glasses and opened the bottles. And our corkage was free! Ron McIntyre

SCCARF enjoyed October's outing at the *Hot Wok Cafe* in Northridge. Both Americanized and traditional Chinese fare featuring more than 140 distinct preparations were available to choose from. The Imperial Shrimp was probably the best you can find in the Valley, and Hot and Sour soup was a great starter. Seating at round tables of 10 encouraged conversation and made sharing easy; portions were very generous. Refreshing slices of orange along with fortune cookies wrapped up the evening. Tim Fox



### BOOK GROUPS

Winston Churchill's experience in 1899 as a correspondent in South Africa's Second Boer War was the subject of Candice Millard's 2016 book, *Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, A Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill*, discussed by the **Wednesday Book**

**Group.** Millard likes to focus on some dramatic and under appreciated aspect of a notable man's life, as also shown in her books on James Garfield and Theodore Roosevelt. Most of us found this story of Churchill in his mid-twenties quite captivating. Like each of her other books, this one took Millard five years to research and write. This is a good, fast-paced history as told by a skilled writer as opposed to an academic historian.

Churchill was born into an aristocratic English family, although his mother was a beautiful and wealthy American. Winston looked with special pride to his distant ancestor, John Churchill, who had never been defeated in battle and had become the first Duke of Marlborough. At the same time he sought recognition from his remote father, Lord Randolph. Before the Boer War young Winston had fought briefly as a British officer in colonial campaigns in India and Sudan. He had made a point of public audacity in battle, thinking that he could not die because he believed he was destined to be Britain's Prime Minister. He also understood that he needed to be recognized if he was going to succeed. In early 1899 Churchill was unsure what to do with his life and resigned his army commission. He had always been a good writer and learned in an unsuccessful run for Parliament that he could be a persuasive orator. He would soon have the chance to use these abilities.

The southern tip of Africa had long been known to the Dutch, who found it a good place to grow food to replenish supplies on their long voyages to and from the East Indies. Beginning in 1652 some Dutch settled there permanently. After capturing and making slaves of the local blacks, over the next centuries they and newer arrivals from Europe developed into a conservative rural society and called themselves Boers (farmers). But in the early 1800s Britain came to control much of the coast. And after gold was discovered in the interior in 1886 and many experienced Brits arrived to open up mines and railroads, Britain increasingly saw that all of South Africa would be a desirable addition to their Empire. Churchill spoke publicly urging the country to fight the Boers and avenge an earlier embarrassment at their hands. Soon the Second Boer War began and he decided to join the war effort.

Because he was no longer in the army, he became a war correspondent for an English newspaper. He was extremely well paid and provisioned with an astonishing quantity of booze. Churchill was excited to be involved again in warfare. Continually jumping into the action, unlike the usual correspondent, he, a civilian, played a daring role in trying to bring troops back to safety after their train was ambushed.

Although Churchill and sixty British soldiers were taken prisoner, his bravery and leadership were recognized and he became a sensation in the press—just what his career needed. After planning an escape from prison with two other men, Churchill was the only one who actually managed to evade the sentries and get over the wall. But he had no gun, map, compass, money, water, or even the ability to speak the language of the Boers; and he was over two hundred miles away from safety in neutral Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique). Millard recounts with much suspense Churchill's harrowing ordeal as he sought to reach freedom. Soon after his escape he received a commission in the cavalry, fought in a few battles, and after the Boers were defeated, returned to free his former fellow prisoners. This book describes key events leading to Winston's public recognition as a hero, such that after the War he captured the Parliamentary seat he had once lost. We see his ceaseless self-promotion, his sense of English superiority, and how he rose to become the exceptional man who guided the British into and through World War II. *James Allen and Joel Zeitlin*

The **Science Book Group** met on Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> at Linda Jones's house to discuss Sy Montgomery's book, *The Soul of the Octopus*. We all found the book entertaining and informative. The author tells about the intelligence, inventiveness, and playfulness of the octopus. Investigators have a "touchy feely" relationship with these creatures who gently place a number of suckers on the researcher's arms under water. Evidence suggests octopuses sense the researcher's moods, medications, and even nicotine in their skins (propelling away to hide in this last case!). These ornery creatures squirt water on the researchers, steal fish from tanks in nearby closed rooms in the dead of night, and hide in the smallest places in their tanks if a threat is perceived. Individual octopus "steal our hearts" to quote NPR. Some of us grieved when the death is told of females who guard eggs for years and don't eat. Go to YouTube to see these fascinating creatures! *Sandy Jewett*

In September the group discussed *Grunt* by Mary Roach. (The Curious Science of Humans at War), and in October they discussed *The Telomere Effect* by Elizabeth Blackburn. (A Revolutionary Way to Living Younger, Healthier, Longer). Reports will appear in the next newsletter.

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2016—2017

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### ARF NOTES

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY**

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