

ARF NOTES

Publication of the Association of Retired Faculty
California State University, Northridge



VOLUME 31, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2018

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



PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE:

**CATHY
JEPPSON**

A warm welcome to the thirty-third year of **ARF** events and activities. A huge thank-you to all of you who have made **ARF** one of the largest and most active campus retired faculty organizations in the entire CSU. Good news for us is that, due to the delay of the proposed CSUN hotel project, our regular meetings will continue to be held for 2018-2019 at the CSUN Orange Grove Bistro.

Part of the fun of reading *ARF Notes* is learning about the activities of our fellow retired colleagues. In order for the fun to flourish, you have to let us know what you are doing. You can write to us on the membership renewal form or send an email at any time to our *ARF Notes* Editor, Ann Perkins, ann.perkins@csun.edu.

Last year's Program Committee, chaired by Ron McIntyre, put together a wonderful lineup for the Wednesday Afternoon Speakers' Series for this year. Fall speakers will be Attorney Antonio Gallo, Chicana/o Studies and CFA Board of Directors on "Dreamers, DACA and Immigration" (September 12th); Cynthia Rawitch, Professor Emeritus Journalism, on "Fake News" and other issues in Journalism (October 10th) and Harold Goldwhite, Executive Director CSU-ERFA and Professor Emeritus Chemistry, CSULA, on "Under the Microscope: Forensic Science in mystery fiction" (November 14th). If you haven't attended the Speak-

ers' Series, I assure you that you would find the presentations interesting and rewarding. Many of us arrive early and have lunch in the Bistro dining room with other **ARF** members prior to the 2:00 program.

We will hold our auction for the Memorial Graduate Awards at the November Speakers' series meeting. You may bid on the silent-auction items from noon to 2:00 p.m., but the auction will close promptly at 2:00 p.m. The auction is one of the major ways that we fund our Graduate Student Awards.

The annual "Thank-God-the Holidays Are Over" banquet will be held on Saturday, January 12th, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. in the Orange Grove Bistro. Our field trip is tentatively scheduled for the Getty Villa museum in Pacific Palisades on Wednesday, April 10th, 2019. The **ARF** Memorial Graduate Projects Awards Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 12th, 2019. Ending the year will be our Annual Picnic-General Meeting and Election of Officers. It will be held on campus on Saturday, June 1st, 2019. The complete program schedule, including our regular annual events, is on page two of this *ARF Notes*.

Involvement with **ARF** is rewarding. For instance, you rejoin old friends and even meet faculty you never knew before. We have a dinner series called SCCARF which visits fine eateries around the San Fernando Valley and beyond. If you would like to be on the participants' list for SCCARF, contact Jim Dole (jim.dole@csun.edu) and you will be invited to brilliant meals. Many **ARF** members enjoy the camaraderie of one or more of our other various interest groups. Contact the **ARF** website (www.csun.edu/arf) for information about the groups.

Sincere gratitude to our outgoing **ARF** Board members for their service this past year, and especially to President Pat Nicholson for the outstanding leadership he cheerfully, and most effectively provided. The **ARF** Board does most of its work behind the scenes, not only making sure the organization runs smoothly, but also advocating on behalf of retired CSUN faculty.

ARF Program and Activities Schedule, 2018/2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Speaker</u>	<u>Place</u>
9/12/18	Antonio Gallo, Lecturer, Chicana/o Studies “Dreamers, DACA, and Immigration”	Orange Grove Bistro: 2 pm
10/10/18	Cynthia Rawitch, CSUN Professor Emeritus “ ‘Fake News’ and other Issues in Journalism”	Orange Grove Bistro: 2 pm
11/ 14/18	Harold Goldwhite, Executive Director CSU-ERFA “Under the Microscope: forensic science in mystery fiction”	Orange Grove Bistro 2 pm
December	No meeting or program	
1/12/19 (Saturday)	Annual Thank-God-the Holidays-are-Over Banquet Entertainment to be announced	Orange Grove Bistro 6 pm no host bar, 6:45 dinner
2/13/19	JPL Scientist (To be determined)	Orange Grove Bistro 2 pm
3/15/19 (Friday)	Robert Gohstand, CSUN Professor Emeritus “Back to the USSR: a Nostalgic Look at the Old Soviet Union”	Oviatt Library, Presentation Room. 1 pm
4/10/19	Field Trip, Getty Villa (tentative)	TBD
5/11/19 (Saturday)	ARF Memorial Graduate Projects Awards Brunch Presentations by Award Recipients	Orange Grove Bistro 10—12:30
6/1/19 (Saturday)	Annual Picnic/General Meeting and Election of Officers	TBD

Please note: All programs are at 2pm at the Orange Grove Bistro unless otherwise indicated.



**NEWS
FROM
CSUN**

CONSTITUTION DAY

Please join us at the CSUN Orange Grove Bistro on Constitution Day, Saturday, September 15th for a continental breakfast (8:30) and panel discussion (9:00). There is no cost for the program, but RSVPs are required by Wednesday, September 12th, 2018. Please email melaine.pemberton@csun.edu or call the Tseng College at (818) 677-7131. Free parking is available in the G1 parking lot adjacent to the Bistro.

Panelists Professor James Sefton (History Dept., CSUN) and Professor John Evans (Political Science Dept., Augsburg University) will discuss the tensions inherent in the constitution between the branches of government over war powers. In this annual forum, Professors Sefton and Evans will discuss how this Constitutional tension has played through the years and continues to do so in modern times.

SUNDIAL AWARDS

California State University, Northridge’s student newspaper *The Sundial* won three prestigious journalism awards in June at the Los Angeles Press Club’s 2018 Southern California Journalism Awards: Best College Newspaper, Best News Website and a third-place win for student photographer Max Sullivan for Best Feature Photo. The awards are given annually to student-run publications that have distinguished themselves from the competition. The *Sundial* won the Best College Newspaper award for its Nov. 1st, 2017 issue, which included various stories on political polarization, cultural studies and student protests on campus.

Gretchen Macchiarella, publisher of the *Sundial* and professor in the Department of Journalism, lauded the CSUN student journalists for their accomplishments. “Whether it is talk radio, video or writing, the students work extremely hard to produce quality material. It is an understatement to say these students just work hard. They are full-time students who are juggling many different things in their life.”

The awards have helped bolster *The Sundial’s* reputation as one of the best student-run newspapers in Southern California.

**REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS ARF
PROGRAMS**

Memorial Awards Brunch

The 2018 ARF Memorial Graduate Project Awards Brunch was held at the Orange Grove Bistro on May 12th,

2018. Four CSUN graduate students were given awards of \$2000 each in recognition of the outstanding scholarship, as exemplified by their Master’s project or thesis. Each graduate student gave an informative and very well-received 20-minute presentation of their graduate project work/thesis. Over 50 ARF members, award recipients and their guests attended the Brunch.

The recipients of the 2018 with the titles of their project/thesis are:

- Sophia Apodaca (English): *Fragmental Freedom*
- Anthony Barnes (Social Work): *An Unwitting Result of the Indian Child Welfare Act: Indian Trust in Child Welfare*
- Samantha Haines (Biology): *The Roles of CXCR4/7 in Melanocyte and Melanoma Motility*
- Marcella Rose (Geography): *Fine-Scale Temporal Delineation of Vegetation Mounds on the Black Rock Playa, Nevada*

The ARF Memorial Graduate Project Awards are given in memory of our CSUN colleagues who have passed away, and are supported by contributions from ARF members. *Diane Schwartz*.

ARF Picnic and Membership Meeting

The ARF annual picnic and general meeting on Saturday, June 2nd, was attended by about 55 members.

Featuring a new time and place, it was a resounding success! Mindful of the heat endured at previous picnics, the time was moved up to 11:00 am and the venue changed to Arbor Court on campus. Arbor Court features vine-covered arbors, umbrellas, and misters, and we were also blessed by lower temperatures than usual. The move to Arbor Court also enabled ARF to utilize catering by CSUN food services rather than relying on individual ARF members to obtain and serve food. CSUN’s Orange Grove Bistro did a wonderful job of serving delicious salads, sliders, mini-sandwiches, and desserts, while we provided wine and beer.

The annual business meeting began at 11:00 am, prior to the picnic. Members approved the minutes of June 3rd, 2017 (Patrick Nichelson, for Margaret Holzer) and accepted the Treasurer’s report (Dan Blake) and the Membership report (Diane Schwartz). The 2018-19 Executive Board was elected; board members are listed on page 8 of this newsletter. Rita Streimer and Bob Gohstand described the activities of *Friends of the Library* and encouraged ARFers’ participation.

ARF is immensely grateful to Professor Juan Oliva, who for the last two years has graciously provided his home for our annual picnic. We hope this move will return his lovely home and backyard to him. *Ron McIntyre*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 12th, 2:00 pm, Orange Grove Bistro
“Dreamers, DACA and Immigration”

ANTONIO GALLO lectures in our Chicano/a Studies Department (CHS), where he teaches two core GE classes, *Race, Racism, and Critical Thinking* (CHS 202) and *Constitutional Issues and the Chicano* (CHS 260). He also serves as CFA’s statewide Chair of Contract Development and Bargaining Strategy, is a member of the AAUP/CBC-at-Large Executive Committee, and at CSUN is Chapter VP for Lecturers, as well as co-chair of the Faculty Rights committee. A practicing lawyer, Antonio has served as a member of the Board of Directors for Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission and Homeboy Industries, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Navidad en el Barrio. The issues included in Antonio’s talk are beyond timely, and are critical to us all; his insight and range of experience should bring them into needed focus. *Sharon Klein*

October 10th, 2:00 pm, Orange Grove Bistro
“Fake News, and other issues in Journalism,” by Cynthia Rawitch, Journalism Professor Emeritus, CSUN.

November 14th, 2:00 pm, Orange Grove Bistro
“Under the Microscope: forensic science in mystery fiction,” by Harold Goldwhite, Executive Director, CSU-ERFA.

Please Note: ARF resumes its Silent Auction on Nov. 14th this season; this is a crucial fund-raising opportunity for the Memorial Scholarship and Graduate Projects Awards program, a major contribution of ARF to CSUN students. But the Silent Auction doesn't only provide a service, it's also fun, and this year, a wonderful opportunity both to support the fund and to secure some gifts for the holiday season. **Bidding will be open between 12 and 2pm in the Orange Grove Bistro, and** will close just before Dr. Harold Goldwhite's scheduled talk. The successful bids will be announced following his presentation.

If you have contributed craft and artwork in the past: wood-working, metal working, or pot throwing (the ceramic kind), or the popular products from Needle ARF, for example, please contribute this year, as well. If you are not craftily inclined, gift cards (Amazon, Target, CostCo, Trader Joe's, or The Freudian Sip, for example) will also be welcome as contributions. The Silent Auction committee will also be soliciting businesses in the CSUN community for contributions (e.g. gift baskets, gift cards or discounts to restaurants).

We are asking contributing members to bring their work (with any descriptions they'd like to accompany them, as well as a suggested price) to the October 10th ARF talk, so that we can prepare them for display in November. More details about this will follow. Feel free to email Sharon Klein:

sharon.klein@csun.edu and/or Cathy Jeppson :

catherine.jeppson@csun.edu with questions and suggestions!



IN MEMORIAM

John Bullaro (Leisure Studies and Recreation) passed away on July 25th, 2018 at the age of 86 at his home in Atascadero with his wife, Cynthia, at his side. He graduated from Los Angeles State College in 1955 with a psychology degree and obtained his master’s degree from New York University in 1956. After several career changes, he joined the Leisure Studies Department at California State University, Northridge in 1973. Later at the age of 46 he went back to earn his Ph.D from Claremont Graduate School in 1979. Combining his business experiences and personal recreational interests, he taught a variety of courses and developed one of the first commercial recreation courses taught at the university level. Later he would write the first textbook on the subject. His favorite classes to teach were backpacking and bicycle touring where he was able to share his outdoor passions with his students. He completed his teaching career at Cal Poly from 1993 until 2009 for the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Department.

At the age of 62 when most people start to think about slowing down, John joined the San Luis Obispo Search and Rescue Team (SLOSAR). He was an active search member until the age of 80 when he decided it was time for the next generation of searchers to take over. For ten years he was also a patrol volunteer for the Atascadero Police Department. John always had a youthful spirit. Although he developed Parkinson’s disease, to the end he talked about the day when he could get on his bike or head to the mountains again. John is survived by his wife, daughter, and two grandsons.

There will be a "Celebration of Life" for him on September 22nd, 2018. If you are interested in attending, please contact his wife, Cynthia Moyer at cdmsierra@gmail.com.

Raymond Buckwalter Landis (Engineering and Computer Science), passed away in his home on Monday, July 16, 2018. He was 78. Ray earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. degree in Engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles. For five years, he worked at Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell International in Canoga Park, California, and in 1967 he joined the faculty of the School of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University, Northridge where he remained until 1985. He then served as Dean of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology at California State University, Los Angeles from 1985 to 2001. In 1973, he founded the first Minority Engineering Program (MEP) in California at CSU Northridge and served as its director for ten years. Ray was a nationally recognized expert on

engineering student success and on minority engineering education. He is viewed as the "father" of Minority Engineering Programs (MEPs) in the United States. His textbook for engineering freshmen, *Studying Engineering: A Road Map to a Rewarding Career*, has reached tens of thousands of students at over 300 institutions. Ray received many honors and awards for his work, including the United States Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math, and Engineering Mentoring, and the first Wang Family Excellence Award as the outstanding administrator in the California State University System. He was cited as one of the top 100 educational leaders of the 20th century by Black Issues in Higher Education. Ray loved spending time with his wife, Kathy, and their dog, Ember, taking his family to concerts, sporting and Broadway events; working on his book; and playing table tennis. He will be greatly missed. Ray is survived by his wife, Kathy, three children, and six grandchildren. A Celebration of Life for Dr. Landis is planned for Saturday, October 6th at 2 pm on the Cal State LA campus, Golden Eagle Ballroom (3rd Floor Golden Eagle Building). *From the Los Angeles Times, July 27 – 29, 2018.*



Rita Basta, BVM (Mathematics) died Wednesday, April 18, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, April 28th, 2018, at 10 a.m. at Holy Redeemer Church in Montrose. Burial was in Mount Carmel cemetery, Dubuque, Iowa.

She was born in St. Paul, Minn., on March 2, 1942, and entered the BVM congregation in 1960, taking final vows in 1968. Sister Rita taught secondary schools in Burbank and Mission Hills, Calif. She served as college/university math professor in Sylmar and Northridge, where she also served in spiritual ministry to adults.

In addition to her contributions to mathematics education and teacher training, she served on the Faculty Senate and various Senate committees. Her contributions to CSUN were important, and she will be sorely missed.

Sister Rita was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by brothers James; Joseph; and John and the Sisters of Charity, BVM, with whom she shared life for 57 years.



SCCARF REPORT

In April a SCCARF group of 29 had dinner at *Ali Baba Persian Restaurant* in Granada Hills. Everyone seemed to have a good time and many loved the herb-flavored cuisine. Phyllis Russell thought, "the eggplant appetizer was scrumptious," and Tim Fox said, "the zerehka polo was the best rice I ever had." Jim Dole found the service excellent and the chicken koobideh

very tasty. Dan Blake, who had the lamb shank with a couple of varieties of rice, commented that the "dinner was excellent and at a great (real deal) price." Ginny Lusier and Jim Allen commented how tender, succulent, and flavorful the rack of lamb was; and Nancy Allen said she "didn't know of any restaurant in the Valley that has such delicious food." So, we expect that some people who hadn't previously tried *Ali Baba* will return there on their own. *(James Allen)*

On a lovely June evening, twenty-two of our SCCARF group dined al fresco on the patio of *Rosti Tuscan Kitchen* in Calabasas. Dan Blake and Bonnie Ericson were hosts for the evening, and for this occasion we had all pre-ordered our meals. Reviews submitted by SCCARF folks noted the convenient parking and the gracious and efficient service. The salads and pizzas, as well as chicken piccata and grilled salmon were singled out for praise. Pat Nicholson added, "The face-to-face arrangement across narrow tables promoted lively and fun conversations" and as is typical of our gatherings, topics of our discussions ranged widely, from travels and families to timely issues. *(Bonnie Ericson)*

On a HOT July evening, 30 of us assembled at *Café Graikos*, a small Greek restaurant on Rinaldi in Porter Ranch. Following Bonnie's innovative planning for the June SCCARF dinner, all the meals were pre-ordered. This made delivery efficient for the small number of waiters, and everyone seemed to receive their meals in a timely way—except for me, which was odd since I was the one who had worked with the staff to arrange things. Nevertheless, the dinner went well and everyone seemed to have a good time. Comments from SCCARF attendees ranged from "the lentil soup is out of this world," to "unfortunately the lamb kabob was a bit tough." *(Ken Jones)*

Pat and Bob Kiddoo masterfully organized this August gathering at a signature Valley venue, Red Lobster; although last-minute health concerns kept them away, their thoughtful planning was greatly appreciated by all. Indoors 21 SCCARFers dined in cool, convivial comfort. We had a private room that lent itself to fine conversation and service was attentive and excellent. The variety of offerings, except perhaps of salads, was wide-ranging. This nostalgic "family restaurant" rang bells for several guests. One wrote, "Very enjoyable. Biscuits are just as luscious as I remember." Another wrote, "The Seafarer's Feast—two kinds of shrimp, scallops, lobster—was superb! Add the caprese salad and you couldn't ask for more." Fish eaters, vegetarians and carnivores all had a scrumptious time. This first meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year proved again that SCCARF is an ongoing stroke of luck. (Thank you again, Betty Rose and Jim Dole!) A final written note: "Excellent as always!" *Alyce S. Akers*

At each SCCARF event the diners use a specially prepared spreadsheet to determine their portion of the check

(including tax and tip), and pass that amount in cash to the host, who then pays the group's entire bill. Many diners add a dollar or two to what they owe, knowing that by common consent any excess will be contributed to the ARF scholarship fund. We're delighted to report that over the past year SCCARF has deposited to that fund a total of \$225.00. The result? To the **Food, Fun and Fellowship** we've added scholarship funding, thus creating a sort of culinary "4-F club." If you'd like to join the club, just send Jim Dole an email (jim.dole@csun.edu).



FILM GROUPS

Reported by David Schwartz

The **Monday Film Group** met on April 23rd, 2018 at the home of Mary Corcoran to discuss the films *Isle of Dogs* and *Ready Player One*.

Isle of Dogs is an animated feature that follows a Japanese boy, Atari, as he searches for his dog on a trash-laden island where the evil mayor of his city has banished all dogs. The director, Wes Anderson, has created a technically excellent stop-action animated film that is an allegory for real-life. As the boy searches the island he encounters a sequence of polluted sites depicting such environmental problems as chemical industrial sites and nuclear radiation. Additionally, since the banishment of the dogs was driven by anti-dog prejudice and a fear of a dog-borne illness, there was clear similarity to the events surrounding the early stages of the HIV epidemic. Most unusual was that the voices of the dogs were in English while the voices of the humans were largely in Japanese. The voices of the dogs were done by a set of famous actors including Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson. The overall rating for this film was 8.4/10.

Ready Player One is a Steven Spielberg directed creation that depicts a future world where harsh reality forces most people to spend their time in a virtual world called the OASIS. The film depicts the events surrounding the hunt for the "keys" to the OASIS which were left behind by its creator upon his death, and cleverly switches between live characters in the "real-world" and their avatars in the very realistic CGI intensive world of the OASIS. The film gave "no-gamers" an opportunity to get a sense of what it is like to be "game immersed". Although the group mostly found that the film was satisfactory, there was some feeling that both the fight and race scenes were a bit long and loud. The overall rating by the group was 7.3/10.

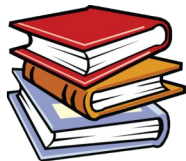
The **Monday Film Group** met on June 25th, 2018 at the home of David and Diane Schwartz to discuss *Ocean's 8* and *First Reformed*. *Ocean's 8* is an implausible but entertaining film that is the latest in the Ocean's "heist" movie series, which in this case consists of female team members, including such luminaries as Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett and Anne Hathaway. One particularly unique aspect of this is that the members of this group of powerful actors could form

a smoothly operating ensemble. The story rests on an elaborate heist plan hatched by Bullock's character during a five-year imprisonment. Although some of the technical details were unrealistic, the film held the attention of the group members and was generally considered to be light but enjoyable. One bright note was the excellent staging of a gala museum fund raising event populated by the "rich and powerful". The overall rating of *Ocean's 8* by group members was 7.6/10.

First Reformed is a dark and disturbing film that was overloaded with many of the issues of modern times. The central character, Reverend Ernst Toller, was played expertly by Ethan Hawke. Reverend Toller is a tormented soul who, because of the traumatic death of his son in combat, has lost almost all sense of hope and is in a downward spiral. The film tried to address a series of diverse issues including the relevance of religion in the modern age and the insensitivity of industry to pollution. Most of the group members felt that, although important issues were raised, this complex and well-acted film did not seem to try to resolve any of them. Most group members found the film to be too depressing and the final minutes unnecessarily disturbing. The overall rating for the film was 6.6/10.

On July 30th, 2018 The **Monday Film Group** discussed the films *American Animals* and *Three Identical Strangers*. *American Animals* depicts the true story of four naive college students who, bored with life, decide to steal a valuable book from their college library. Their carefully planned heist quickly goes astray when their failure to do complete surveillance of the library causes a failed first attempt and chaos during their second attempt. One actor praised for a her performance by the group was Ann Dowd who played the College Librarian, mistreated by the team of thieves. One of our members accurately described the entire sequence of events as "kooky". Our members felt that this film was satisfactory but not exceptional. The overall rating by the group was 7.8/10.

Three Identical Strangers portrays the true story of the lives of a set of male triplets who were separated at birth and then re-united as young men. It explains that the details of their separation were carefully designed as part of a very sophisticated "nature versus nurture" study. The film rarely uses re-enactment and instead relies on historical videos, still photos and interviews with numerous people who were involved in the true events. These interviews include the two surviving triplets and some of their adopted family members. One key fact was that none of the adopting families had ever been told about either the study or that their adopted child was one of three triplets. The film was viewed by our members as quite well done. The overall rating by the group was 8.9/10.



BOOK GROUPS

In April, the **Wednesday Book Group** read *A Bend in the River*, considered one of V. S. Naipaul's best novels. Written in 1979 and set in postcolonial Africa, it follows a young man,

Salim, from a trading family of Asian Indian origin. He moves to a city at a bend in the river, where he has bought a small retail business.

People over much of Africa are caught between fragile hope and economic/political despair. The Africans are both envious and resentful of European wealth and the heritage of past colonialism. Salim meets a wide range of people: country people who come in from the bush to trade, locals who are trying make their way in this chaotic society, other foreign merchants, visiting Europeans and finally the new ruler of the country, known as the Big Man. The Big Man initially cloaks himself in European sophistication but eventually discards this and rules by appeal to tribalism and then force. Rebels and presumed sympathizers are shot and foreign property is taken over.

Everyone grapples with the vicissitudes and uncertainties of life in independent Africa, but ultimately Asian Indians and whites are outsiders. Salim follows a businessman friend's lead and flies to London in search of a place where he feels at home, but Europe too is not satisfactory and he realizes that he, like other Asian Indians in Africa, no longer has a place to call home.

There has been some criticism of Naipaul as being biased against Africans, but three in our group who had some connections with Africa or African immigrants thought this novel was realistic and not unfair. The others had insufficient knowledge on which to base an opinion. On a separate matter, one of our group mentioned that although Naipaul is her favorite author and this novel was beautifully written, most of Naipaul's real-life acquaintances have found him personally disagreeable and unattractive. None of us attempted to explain this irony.

The **Wednesday Book Group's** May reading was Stephen Ambrose's 1996 history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*.

Even before he became President in 1801 Thomas Jefferson had dreamed of an American exploration up the Missouri River to its source in what is now Montana and then down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean, hopefully via an all-water passage. An exploration could learn the basic features of this unknown territory; it would also enable the U.S. to better fend off claims by European countries and capture trade opportunities, especially in furs, and open up the way for settlers to further the Jeffersonian vision of a nation of farmers. An unexpected bonus just before the start of the expedition in 1803 was that Jefferson was able to buy from Napoleon much of the area they would be exploring (the Louisiana Purchase), roughly doubling the territory of the United States.

President Jefferson chose Captain Meriwether Lewis as its leader and delegated most decisions regarding boats, guns and other equipment, food, gifts for Indians, and manpower to the enthusiastic and competent Lewis. Lewis chose William Clark as co-leader and together they carefully selected thirty-some enlisted men and, later, a few civilians, including the Indian Sacagawea, as translators. Jefferson arranged to have Lewis trained to some extent as biologist, cartographer, doctor (taught by Benjamin Rush), ethnographer, etc.

Lewis and Clark kept journals to tell Jefferson and the nation what was out there. The journals, often quoted directly, describe the vast extent of grasslands east of the Rockies and the abundance of buffalo, elk, antelope, and deer, as well as occasional close calls with

charging grizzly bears and varied experiences with the many Indian tribes they met. There was the fatigue of rowing day after day against the big and fast Missouri for over 2,300 miles, the daily hunt for meat, and a diet based almost completely on meat, each man consuming up to ten pounds per day. They battled extremes of below-zero cold during two winters, and faced the tensions of attempting to deal with different Indian groups without knowing who to trust - this latter a problem also faced, of course, by the Indians. Lewis was a respected and good leader of the expedition, only rarely disciplining with flogging. His direct, occasionally poetic language complete with bizarre spelling, conveyed the can-do spirit of the endeavor.

After spending the initial winter of 1803-04 near St. Louis, the expedition finally returned there in September of 1806. It did reach the mouth of the Columbia and was in most respects a success. Alas, however, there was no complete route by water. This book filled a gap in our understanding of American history and gave us a real adventure story, which we all enjoyed. We heartily recommend *Undaunted Courage*. *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*

At the April 18th meeting the **Science Book Group** discussed *The Ends of the World: Volcanic Apocalypses, Lethal Oceans, and Our Quest to Understand Earth's Past Mass Extinctions*, by Peter Brannen. Brannen's book led to lively discussion among the members. Among many other insights, we appreciated the fact that the book makes it very clear how old the earth is, and what a tiny amount of time sapiens have enjoyed (and trampled on) its riches. Although the author discussed the coming (or perhaps already ongoing) next mass extinction, it is reassuring that while things changed (rather dramatically in many cases), life seemed to reassert itself after seemingly having gone extinct each time. Current overuse of fossil fuels and other human activities is accelerating climate change and the likely extinction of life as we know it. However, I take solace in the insight gained from Brannen that some form of life will probably resurface, even if it may not be sapiens.

At the May 16th meeting we discussed *The Chemistry of Alchemy: From Dragon's Blood to Donkey Dung, How Chemistry Was Forged*, by Cathy Cob. Monty Fetterolf, and Harold Goldwhite. 2014. All members who were able to attend made it clear that they enjoyed the book very much. It is written in clear language and for those who are interested has rather intriguing experiments at the end of each chapter.

At the June 20th meeting we discussed *Subliminal: How Your Unconscious Mind Rules Your Behavior*, by Leonard Mlodinow. Although not all members had been able to read the book, we did have a spirited and wide ranging discussion. Mlodinow addresses a number of interesting subjects, for example the sections on "blind-sight" and auditory data processing. A significant consonant is obliterated - e.g. the letter k or wh cannot be heard; however, based on the context, the listener fills in the blank and "hears" either *wheel* or *keel*. Mlodinow stresses that in many situations (if not most or all) we engage in behavior before the mind actually decides to do so. Does this mean we are not actually responsible for our actions? Interesting concept. *Heidemarie Lundblad*

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2018—2019

President	Catherine Jeppson (818) 885-6026	<u>Members at Large</u>	
Past President	Pat Nichelson (818) 886-7770	Jim Allen	(818) 886-8730
President Elect	Pamela Bourgeois (818) 496-8273	Carolyn Arthur	(818) 703-1286
Program Chair	Sharon Klein (310) 476-2469	Bob Kiddoo	(818) 349-7844
Secretary	John Clendenning (805) 496-8273	Virginia Lussier	(818) 831-5611
Treasurer	Dan Blake (818) 887-7932	Phyllis Russell	(818) 831-8012
Newsletter Editor	Ann Perkins (818) 421-4930	Barbara Swerkes	(818) 886-2769
Membership Chair	Diane Schwartz (818) 360-8888		
Historian	Doris Helfer		
Webmaster	Eugene Turner (818) 407-0778		