

# ARF NOTES

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## PRESIDENT'S

## MESSAGE:

**CATHY JEPSON**

Our annual “Thank God the Holidays are Over” banquet was a huge success. We all enjoyed conversing with our friends and colleagues over a delicious dinner served by the Orange Grove Bistro. Our fabulous entertainment was provided by a four-piece jazz ensemble whose members are all current or former students of the CSUN Jazz program. They had everyone talking about the talents of the musicians and how much we enjoyed the performance. The Program Committee, led by Sharon Klein, deserves thanks and praise for putting together such a wonderful evening. We held a “second” silent auction prior to the program, featuring artistic creations by NeedleArf members and others. This auction and the auction held after the November meeting raised a record amount (\$1400) for the Memorial Graduate Project Awards fund.

Let me remind you of our upcoming programs: Bob Gohstand’s talk on March 15th, “Back in the USSR: a Nostalgic Look at the old Soviet Union,” and the ARF Field Trip on Wednesday, April 10th to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu. Additional information on is page 5. Also, please save the date for our annual ARF Memorial Awards Brunch, Saturday, May 11th, 2019. The brunch will be held from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Orange Grove Bistro. We will honor recipi-

ents of the awards and hear brief presentations on their research projects.

ARF will be electing officers for 2019-2020 at the Saturday, June 2nd, 2019 general meeting and picnic. The picnic will be held at the same location as last year, on the CSUN Campus at Arbor Court, starting at 11:00 am. Our Nominating Committee consists of Patrick Nichelson, Pamela Bourgeois, and Cathy Jeppson. Please let any of us know if you would like to run for a position.

The date for demolishing the Orange Grove Bistro, where we hold our meetings and most of our programs, is still uncertain. The Bistro will still be available at least through Spring 2019, as plans for the construction of the Hotel and Conference complex are pushed into the future. We will continue to keep you updated.

A brief note: the CSUN Faculty Senate, at its meeting of February 14th, passed a No Confidence vote on CSU Chancellor White (42 yes, 13 no) based in large part on his handling of the General Education proposals. More information will appear in the next issue.

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NEWS  
FROM  
CSUN

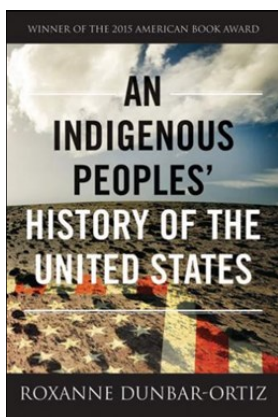
### Culture of Conquest: Richard W. Smith Lecture in Cultural Studies

by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. **Where:** Northridge Room of the University Student Union. **Date:**

March 20<sup>th</sup>. **Time:** 7:00 pm.

**Cost:** Free.

**Please note: Registration is required for this event. There are already 365 people registered for the lecture with a waiting list of 50. If you want to attend, you must call Joy Bartley at 818-677-4035 and provide her with your name, telephone number, and that you are a CSUN Emeritus Faculty member.**



### Guns in the Classroom: a Survey

A survey of educators from across the country by CSUN social work professor Lauren Willner found that teachers overwhelmingly object to arming teachers as a way to deter school shootings. Willner said she was inspired to conduct the survey when she noticed a glaring omission in the arguments people were making about putting guns in the classroom. “No one was asking the teachers what they thought, or what they wanted,” Willner said. “I looked and couldn’t find any scientifically collected data indicating what teachers wanted. I’m a researcher, so I decided to gather it myself.”

She asked educators teaching in academic environments from preschool to college what they thought about arming teachers, and sent her survey via email, social media and to group email lists and newsletters of several educational organizations. She received responses from 2,926 educators from all 50 states and the territory of Guam. “The overwhelming majority [95.3 percent] do not believe teachers should be carrying guns in the classroom,” Willner said. “Only a small percentage [6.2 percent] indicated they were comfortable using a gun to stop an active shooter.” Additionally, 64 percent of the survey’s respondents believed overall school safety would be compromised if teachers were allowed to carry firearms in the classroom.

“Owning a gun and espousing a positive opinion regarding private-citizen gun ownership did positively affect the views participants held regarding this issue,” Willner said. “Still, only 30 percent of those who identified as gun owners were in favor of legislation to arm teachers in all or some circumstances. Moreover, of those strongly in favor of private-citizen gun ownership, almost all indicated being against any legislation to provide teachers with guns as a means to protect students.” Willner is sharing the results of her survey with policy makers, educational organizations and others involved in the discussion about guns in schools. She is planning to expand the project with a mixed-methods follow-up study examining how teachers understand school-based violence and what they believe to be the solutions to the problem, and also is working on an academic journal article based on the findings of her survey.



### IN MEMORIAM

**Keith Evans (Economics)** passed away on January 21st, 2019. He was born 1934 in Spokane, Washington, and graduated from Stanford in 1956. Keith worked in the financial area of Shell Oil Company for two years, which convinced him he should follow his desire to be a college professor, so he and his



wife moved to Seattle and he pursued his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Washington. In 1963 he began his 37-year teaching career at San Fernando Valley State College (before its name change to CSUN). Prior

to his full retirement in 2000 he had been Chair of the Economics Department for 13 years. His passions for his subject and for teaching were a good match with his skills, as many of his students would attest. Keith had been in declining health for about five years, but the most notable change began on December 30, 2017. He moved to a care facility on January 22, 2018, and died one year to the day later. A Memorial Service was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to designate a memorial gift, please consider Doctors Without Borders, 40 Rector Street, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10006, (888) 392-0392, doctorswithoutborders.org.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, two children, 6 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Joyce Chloe Hagen (Special Education)** passed away on February 11th, 2018 in Los Angeles at the age of 87. She received her B.A. in 1952 from Stanford, and her M.A in 1976 and Ph.D. in 1979 from UCLA. Joyce began teaching at CSUN (then San Fernando Valley State College) in 1970 in the Special Education Department, where she served as Chair. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard Young, and is survived by 3 children, 4 stepchildren, 16 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

**Fred Kuretski.(Cinema and Television Arts)** passed



away on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Fred was a founder of the film production program in CSUN's Department of Cinema and Television Arts, a film maker in his own right, a legacy teacher, and an artist-organizer of conscience. Nate Thomas, Fred's departmental colleague and CFA-

CSUN President, writes, "this is very touching for me. Fred hired me to my first University teaching job. I often wonder where I would be had he not hired me. Many students, including international students, fondly remember Fred as their inspiration."

In 1975 he moved to Northridge and joined the faculty at CSUN, where he would help develop the CTV department. Fred won several film awards for a documentary film called *Communique from Argentina* which won First Prize at the West German International Film Festival and a Gold Medal from the Spanish International Film Festival in 1979. He also was an accomplished still photographer and created *Moments in Future History*, photographs from 60's Alabama, as one example. A most interesting example of his work as an artist of conscience was his organizing of a large group of activists and artists to create the film *Chile: With Poems and Guns*. Soon after the 1973 murder of the Chilean Socialist leader Salvador Allende, Fred had the foresight, wisdom and tenacity to shape this important project. Fred's is survived by his wife Cynthia and two children. Our compassion extends to his entire family and Fred's many colleagues, friends, students and apprentices who miss his irreplaceable personality, warmth and wit.

**Arthur Lane (English)** died on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the age of 81. He joined the CSUN English Department in 1968 and retired in 2001. At his retirement celebration we were all delighted when he announced, with characteristic dry humor, the motto for the occasion: LANE ENDS MERGE LEFT.

In 1972 his first book--*An Adequate Response: The War Poetry of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon*--was published by Wayne State UP. This remarkable volume is a retrospective analysis of the English soldier-poets in World War I as seen from the perspective of a critic who had protested the war in Vietnam.

Arthur is best remembered for his teaching. Scores of devoted and adoring students followed him from course to course. He specialized in the Romantics, but the whole range of British literature was at his command. As department chair in the '70s, I observed one of his classes. The subject was King Lear and this was an hour I will never forget. The students sat in rapt attention as Arthur authoritatively yet modestly clarified this challenging text. I understood then why Arthur's classes were always the first to fill up and generated long waiting lists. He possessed an astonishing combination of youthful charisma and avuncularity that students found irresistible. A second book, *Dancing in the Dark*, is a collection of his deeply moving and, at the same time, delightfully witty poems. In one of these—my favorite—Keats and Shelley greet Wordsworth, great grinning friends after such a long and troubled silence, in Elysium. I can just see Arthur now, tumbling out of old Charon's boat, climbing the bank, and hugging his friends—Ann Stanford, Ben Saltman, Marvin Klotz, and Rachel Sherwood—who crown him with a laurel wreath. *John Clendenning.*



**Warren Wedin (English)**, passed away on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the age of 82. Warren was a longtime faculty member in the English Department at CSUN, where he specialized in 20<sup>th</sup> century British and Irish literature and creative writing. Warren earned both his bachelor's (1959) and master's degrees (1964) from Brooklyn College and later earned a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona (1971). He began his teaching and research career in 1969. Warren began his FERP in 2000 and fully retired from CSUN in 2004.

He was in excellent health up until the week before Christmas, at which time he and his wife, Patricia, were planning to visit family and enjoy some time together in the Bay Area. After a couple of days of not feeling well, he was subjected to a battery of tests and was subsequently—and shockingly—diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. He spent the following weeks receiving treatment, but succumbed a week before his 83rd birthday.

Warren reveled in his retirement, reading voraciously, walking on the beach, practicing yoga, and immersing himself in art, music, film, theatre, and politics. Warren and Patricia traveled frequently to Europe, including multiple trips to the Costa Brava in Spain, which Warren adored. Just this August, Warren drove through the vertiginous mountain roads of the

fjords in Norway, after which he and Patricia headed for Scotland to explore Edinburgh for the first time and to visit the magnificent ruins of the Border Abbeys.

Warren remained passionate about literature in his retirement and remained close friends with many of his former students, several of whom were there to support him in his last days. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, a son and daughter-in-law, and a granddaughter.

A memorial service is planned, and ARF members will be notified as soon as the details are available.

### Malcolm O. Sillars (Speech Communication)



passed away on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the age of 90, due to complications from a bad fall. Malcolm was a special man with an extraordinary career, loved for his kindness, humility, and dry humor. He is survived by his companion of 75 years, Char Sillars, along with three sons and daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and many dear friends. Malcolm enjoyed life to the end. On the morning of his death, he was still joking with friends while lying immobilized in palliative care.

Malcolm was a first generation college student, who doubted his own abilities but was drawn to teaching and found a path through his talent for speech, drama, and debate. He persevered and exceeded expectations, winning the California state high school championship in two-person, policy debate during his junior year at Mark Keppel High School, and later, the Pi Kappa Delta debate national championship at Redlands College. Malcolm later taught at California State University, Los Angeles (1954-56), and when Valley State College (now CSUN) opened he became one of the founding faculty, helping to establish a strong program in the new Department of Speech and Communication. He was the chairman for most of the early years and later became Dean of his School. The University started a debate team as Mal developed his first text book in the art of debate which is used to this day. Malcolm served as acting President of Valley State (1969-70) during a tumultuous period of anti-war and civil rights protests, following the resignations of three presidents in a single year. Preceding incidents included a demonstration with over 400 arrests and student-led occupation of the administration building, with the former President held captive. Malcolm left a sabbatical to take the acting President position, explaining to the *LA Herald-Examiner* in typical self-deprecating fashion that, "they asked 67 other people first, people who had enough sense to turn it down." Malcolm's remarkable composure when speaking to angry crowds and willingness to establish open, frank lines of communication with

any group helped calm the situation and broker a detailed plan acceptable to all sides. Next was a move to the University of Massachusetts (1971-74) followed by a move to the University of Utah until retirement.

Over the duration of his career, Malcolm served as President of the Western States Communication Association and National Communication Association, was Editor-in-Chief of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, authored or co-authored books on public speaking, argumentation, and rhetorical criticism, and produced an influential program of scholarship on the rhetoric of political and social movements. Mal was a beloved mentor for numerous students and left a deep footprint.

The Department of Communication and University of Utah will host a memorial reception on campus this spring, at a date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, Char requests that donations be made to the U of Utah's Malcolm O. Sillars Scholarship for students in the John R. Park Debate Society (to donate, go to [debate.utah.edu](http://debate.utah.edu)).

## REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

### January Banquet and Program.

Our January "Thank Goodness the Holidays Are Over" (TGTHAO) banquet was a great success. More than 60 ARF colleagues and guests gathered at the Orange Grove Bistro for wine, beer, dinner, and conversation along with some entertainment. President Cathy Jeppson welcomed us as we dined on salmon, prime rib, or a tasty veggie stack on polenta with portabella mushroom, and then savored desserts of either cheesecake or the famous chocolate volcano cake. Bottles of wine were shared and toasts were made to the New Year, and to those who made the event possible, as well as to those who couldn't be with us. Thanks to the ARF Program Committee, Alyce Akers, Pam Bourgeois, Cathy Jeppson, Ron McIntyre, Pat Nichelson, Rick Ruggiero (who thought ahead to bring an additional mike), and chair, Sharon Klein. Also we recognize Silent Auction organizers extraordinaire, Heidi Wolfbauer and Roberta Mauksch, Treasurer and all around good guy, Dan Blake, and to Ikiya Cade, Catering Supervisor of the Orange Grove Bistro, along with her dedicated and intrepid staff.

Huge thanks also to our members who contributed items to the Silent Auction, the proceeds of which augment the funds we use to support our Memorial Graduate Student Project Awards. A shout-out to Pat Kiddoo for donating an exceptional number of her lovely needlework items for the Auction. After dinner, three of the founding members of the Kairos Quintet: Keelan Walters (CSUN junior, guitarist), Luke Reeder (recent CSUN alum, tenor saxophonist), Myles Martin (CSUN junior, drummer) along with Robert Felix (CSUN junior, bassist) entertained us with their exceptional music. This CSUN Jazz Quintet took second place last March in the College

Combo Division at the Next Generation Monterey Jazz Festival in Monterey, California. And both Keelan Walters and Luke Reeder received outstanding soloist awards as well. See the May 2018 edition of *CSUN Today* for a great photo of the group after their performance at LACMA this summer (and a great quote by Professor Matt Harris, their Jazz Studies mentor). The members of the combo interacted with the audience, fielding questions and comments from the audience with the give and take—and aplomb—of well-experienced jazz artists. One ARF member said, “They are the real deal!” They ended with the jazz ballad “Someday My Prince Will Come” with their amazing variations, handoffs, and riffs. Once again, we were practically dancing out the door. *Pamela Bourgeois*

**February 13th: Robert Landau: Rock and Roll Billboards of Sunset Strip**



**DORIS HELFER AND ROBERT LANDAU**

On February 13th, we journeyed back to Sunset Strip, with a cruising experience that I’m willing to bet was unmatched by any of the

sort those of us in the room might’ve had as teenagers ourselves. Robert Landau shared his photography and history of the Rock-and-Roll Billboards on Sunset Strip—photography that he began as a teen, and has crafted into a geographic, cultural, and historical panorama. Yes. On Kodachrome. The billboards were themselves hand-crafted by teams of artists—unlike those we see today, that are digitized images, often just projected onto the sides of buildings along Sunset Boulevard.

Mr. Landau’s Rock-and-Roll billboard photography reflects some of the complexity of those times, spanning the years beginning in 1967 (with the billboard promoting the Doors “debut album”) and ending in the early 1980s (when MTV videos took over the art of advertising musicians’ oeuvre). Talking with us about the commercial artistry, his experiences taking the photos as a teen and a young adult, and the changes, over time, in how the billboards looked, including commentary regarding what these changes reflected, musically and artistically, as well as culturally, Mr. Landau at once taught some pop culture history and showcased a period during which many of us came of age, and from which we each have some tales of our own...making the talk evocative in many ways. Some of us purchased the published book, *Rock N Roll Billboards of the Sunset Strip* (2013), copies of which (along with two other collections of Mr. Landau’s, *Hollywood Poolside* (1997) and *Tales from the Strip* (2018))

the Angel City Press representative, Jim Schneeweiss, had brought, and Mr. Landau signed.

We were fortunate that Robert Landau had attended middle and high school with CSUN’s Doris Helfer, retiring librarian and ARF’s own archivist. Doris had suggested that we contact Robert Landau, and that was an excellent suggestion. For those whom the rain or other exigencies kept away, as well as for those who’d still like to look and listen, KCRW still features an interview with Robert Landau, which he sat for around the time of his 2015 Skirball Museum exhibit. <https://www.kcrw.com/culture/articles/photos-rock-n-roll-billboards-of-the-sunset-strip>. *Sharon Klein*

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**FRIDAY, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm:** Bob Gohstand: “Back to the USSR: A Nostalgic Look at the Old Soviet Union”

This is a red-letter day for three reasons, first because we have as a guest lecturer one of our own, Dr. Robert (Bob) Gohstand, Professor Emeritus from Geography, where he taught the geography of Russia and the Soviet Union, map interpretation, and the history of geographic thought. Drawing on his large collection of traditional photographic slides, Bob will talk to us about a topic not only from the general focus of his own research and teaching, but also one clearly near to his heart. And perhaps we could all be a bit nostalgic about the USSR (red-letter day significance number two), nostalgia that will be served well also by the large collection of Bob’s Soviet-era posters, which will be on display in the Presentation room a half hour before his talk, during it, and will remain up for a while after the talk for us to browse.

Dr. Gohstand maintains and shares his expertise in other areas as well, having established (and continuing to serve on its board of directors) the Oviatt Library’s **Old China Hands Archive**, where one finds materials documenting the experiences, lives, and heritages of those from other countries and cultures who lived and worked in China during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; being active in maintaining the welfare of the Map Library; and with his wife endowing the **Robert and Maureen Gohstand Leisure Reading Room**, in the West Wing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Still interested in every aspect of books, including book-binding, he was a dedicated reader of books from his own early childhood. But that’s not all. Having served as Captain in the Naval Reserve, Bob maintains that interest and has piloted motor yachts in a range of areas around the globe.

Finally, the third reason for this being a red-letter day. We’ll all note, as we enter the date (March 15<sup>th</sup>), it’s a **FRIDAY**—a change for us, and the talk will be held in the **Oviatt’s Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation**

**Room**, also marking a change in location for that talk. If the walk from the B5 lots (structure or open lot) to the Oviatt library (OV on the campus map) represents a problem (for those using wheel chairs or walkers, for example), please **Contact Marcy Rothman in the Library, (818) 677-5146 or marcy.rothman@csun.edu** to arrange transportation.  
*Sharon Klein*

### **Our Journey to the Past: April 10<sup>th</sup> Field Trip, The Getty Villa**

#### **Transportation: The Bus**

Alyce Akers has, once again, succeeded in securing a goodwill contribution of a bus from the 12<sup>th</sup> District City Council Office. The bus will leave from CSUN at 9:30am, from a gathering spot in Lot F10. There is room for 30 on the bus, and the bus will leave the museum to return to CSUN at 3:30.

#### **Individual and group car travel**

There is an entry and parking charge of \$15.00 for each car (no individual cost for entrance). But individuals must reserve free tickets—more information to come.

#### **Tours**

We have arranged for one guided docent tour (and plan to arrange for an additional one as well) on that day (for which attendees should gather at around 11:00).

#### **Lunch and snacks**

The café offers lunch, and there are other options (a coffee kiosk, for example). Some folks who are driving, may want to have a later Los Angeles lunch at one of the nearby restaurants—looking out over the Pacific, for example.



## **BOOK GROUPS**

### **Wednesday Book Group**

The late Philip Roth's novel *American Pastoral*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1998, is a disturbing look at middle-class life during the Vietnam War era. We follow the main character, Seymour "Swede" Levov, who has everything going for him as an ex-star athlete, a well liked and successful owner of a glove manufacturing business, and a happily married man. Swede has been a responsible and upright man, trying always to do the right thing, and on the surface life in their Newark suburb seems like a model American situation.

The wrenching in their lives begins with Swede's daughter Merry, who is bright and rebellious. She protests against the Vietnam War and becomes increasingly estranged from her family and classmates. Then, a day after telling her classmates that a surprise is coming, the local post office is bombed, killing a bystander, and Merry disappears. Merry is gone for years, during which time Swede feels guilty but

uncertain as to what may have triggered her political extremism. Most of the novel concerns what then happens to Swede. He meets a very changed Merry again; and relationships among Swede, his wife Dawn, and their parents and friends also change, often deteriorating in unexpected ways, as more truths are uncovered. Those of us who lived through the 1960s can imagine easily how opinions about the War have divided families and how a cultural shift emphasizing individual freedom resulted in the loosening of traditional family bonds and disillusionment with some of the choices of previous generations. Roth's writing, especially dialog, enabled him to present his complex characters and their interconnections revealingly.

All eight of us at our November meeting liked *American Pastoral* a lot, but for some of us it was quite painful to absorb Swede's suffering. None of us liked the ending, which didn't wrap up the story in any satisfying way.

In December, 2018, we discussed *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. This young woman, now in her early thirties, tells of growing up in an extremely fundamentalist Mormon family in rural southeastern Idaho. Their unusual views and survivalist practices are driven by Tara's father, who sees doctors, teachers and anyone less religious as an agent of government control and actively awaits the end of days. The family is held hostage to his poor judgment, fears, and condemnations of anybody who might go a different way. Tara's mother treats all health problems with specific herbal concoctions, for which she is quite respected among some locals. Tara has three older brothers, two of whom take steps to leave the family, but the third, who remains, is sadistic. A few times he twists Tara into such a painful position that her wrist feels almost broken as he forces her head into the toilet. He later apologizes and asks forgiveness. Much later, Tara and her father suffer accidents while working heavy and dangerous equipment in the father's junk yard, all treated by the mother's remedies. Most disturbingly, after each horrible episode the family sees the fact that it was not worse as confirmation of God's protection and validation of their beliefs.

The essential theme of the story is how Tara slowly breaks away from her family even though most of them betray her many times over. Although Tara never goes to school and really has no home schooling, she teaches herself to read from the only books allowed — the Bible and the Book of Mormon — and do algebra so that she can take the ACT. She scores high enough to get into Brigham Young University. The degree of her cultural isolation is shown in her sense of modesty compared to the other freshmen at BYU, her shock at learning from her roommate that she must read the art in the textbook rather than just look at the pictures, and

her severely limited knowledge of the world. While Tara studies hard in her classes, she feels the need to return to her family on vacations. She persists through four years of college and impresses several professors, one of whom recommends her for a summer program at Cambridge University. Despite numerous setbacks, she continues in higher education, ultimately receiving a PhD from Cambridge and finding a new life for herself.

Although we were shocked at the degree of estrangement of these characters from the world we know, we liked this fascinating story of one woman's struggle. In that sense it is like another recent book, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance, in which a young man tells of rising above his hillbilly origins in rural West Virginia. Those of our group who had read both felt that Westover's book is more powerful. Interestingly, both books have been criticized as unwittingly providing fodder for those disapproving of hillbillies or Mormons.

Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen

### Science Book Group

At the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, we discussed *Homo Deus* by Yuval Noah Harari, which will lead us into speculation about the future of humanity or what will be the next version of "Homo". We had been looking forward to reading and discussing *Homo Deus* after reading and liking his previous book *Sapiens* very much. Unfortunately, we were less impressed with *Homo Deus*. We expected a thorough discussion of the possible future evolution of *Sapiens* into either a hybrid between current *Sapiens* and technology (i.e., brain/computer interface and/or technologically enhanced limbs) or the possible replacement of *Sapiens* by Data Flow and AI. Harari is a historian, and it is obvious in the first several hundred pages where he discusses how science and religion have shaped human behavior: "Religion is about control, science is about power" meaning control of human behavior versus power to "improve" or cause change. These sections stimulated interesting conversation and led to thinking about well know things in a different way.

Unfortunately, the last section which deals with the "Deus" development is not as strong. It reads more like a compilation of various theories and science fiction literature. I found the following article much more to the point: "*The Pentagon wants to weaponize the brain. What could go wrong?*" by Michael Joseph Gross, *Atlantic Magazine*, November 2018 pp. 82-94.

On January 16<sup>th</sup> we met in the Oviatt library to discuss *Fly Girls* by Keith O'Brien. The book deals with the adventures and tribulations of five women pioneers in aviation. We appreciated how the author described not only each woman's achievements but also the difficulties they experienced simply due to the fact that they were women.

Their accomplishments are truly amazing but it did make us wonder about the sanity of these early fly girls and boys who were willing to go up in the flimsy crates (literally

made out of wood and canvass) that were assumed to be able to fly. The book is very well written, a quick, easy and enjoyable read.

On February 20<sup>th</sup> the group discussed *The Undoing Project: A Friendship That Changed Our Minds*, by Michael Lewis. A report of the group's discussion will appear in the next newsletter.

For the March meeting we selected *Spying on Whales: The Past, Present and Future of Earth's most awesome creatures* by Nick Pyenson. Pyenson is a paleo-biologist and the curator of fossil marine mammals at the Smithsonian. By Heidemarie Lundblad.



### SCCARF REPORT

January found 27 intrepid gastronomes dining in a cozy, fireplace-heated salon at the Valley's newest Russian restaurant: *Traktir*. It's name, "tavern" in Russian, is apt, for it is where locals gather both to enjoy good food and imbibe their favored spirits, principal among them vodka infused with unusual (to non-Russians) flavors and aromas such as horseradish, raspberry, cranberry, pepper-garlic and lemon. The menu was heavy with traditional Slavic dishes such as borscht (beet/beef soup), chicken tabaka (seared Cornish hen), shashlik (marinated chicken, pork or beef), pelmeni (meat-filled tortellini), galubtsy (stuffed cabbage) and many more.

The meal began with cheese vareniki, traditional Ukrainian dumplings, gifts from the host. From there, it was, as is the group's custom, "diners choice." One attendee found his beet salad a "nice surprise" and "really good." The Darnitsky salad was pronounced, "unexpectedly delicious." Though the beef Stroganoff was uniformly labeled a bit salty, the baked branzini was proclaimed "delicious," though "a bit difficult to eat because of the bones." Chicken blintzes, crepes filled with ground chicken in a porcini mushroom sauce were "tasty, comforting, filling and not too rich." The adventurous few who sampled the infused vodkas reported them "quite savory," "amazingly delicious" and "nose-tingly superb." The staff was friendly and attentive, the restaurant was declared "a great find," and, as usual, the company was declared to be both "enjoyable" and "excellent." All in all, just another of a long series of great gastronomic evenings! (Jim Dole)

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2018—2019

<b>President</b>	<b>Catherine Jeppson</b> catherine.jeppson@csun.edu	<b><u>Members at Large</u></b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Pat Nichelson</b> pnichelson@csun.edu	<b>Jim Allen</b> james.allen@csun.edu
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