

ARF NOTES

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California State University, Northridge



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WEBSITE: <http://www.csun.edu/arf>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TIM FOX



Happy New Year !

While we've all faced unprecedented challenges this year that we never imagined, this time has underscored the importance of relationships and connectivity, of humanity and kindness, and of strength and resilience. 2020 is now behind us - well almost. There is a light at the end of the tunnel; we just have to wait for the dust to settle, residual chaotic issues to be resolved, and the vaccines to effectively penetrate. So as an optimist, I look forward to a better, safer and healthier 2021.

Our November virtual meeting featured John Szabo, City Librarian, who provided a fascinating presentation on the history and evolution of Los Angeles Public Library system. Zoom continued to be effective in reaching out to remotely located members, with participation from the states of Hawaii, Washington, New York and Alabama.

Although we won't have a January banquet, we are invited to the (Virtual) 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Soraya (formerly VPAC) on Friday evening, January 29, 2021. Thor Steinberger, executive director of the Soraya, will be joining our ARF executive Board meeting on January 13 to explore and discuss developing a formal relationship with ARF.

Assuming success in getting control of the virus, ARF is exploring options for the on-campus, annual June (outdoor) picnic meeting. By September, we expect to return to in-person meetings, but plan to continue the virtual option for those that find it difficult to join us on campus.

The 2020-21 ARF Membership directory was mailed out in early December. This year we are reaching out to the cam-

pus for a list of the most recent faculty retirees, and expect to send out a supplement to include any late and mid-year additions.

Each year, ARF participates in the awarding of scholarships for students in the College of Education, and Memorial Awards supporting projects of outstanding graduate students from across the campus. Several years ago, Phil and Shirley Hansen created an endowment through ARF to support students enrolled in programs of the COE. After several years of granting 5 or 6 awards of \$2500, this year's committee increased the awards to \$3000, in recognition of increased costs, and gave out 14! In the spring, ARF solicits applications and gives four \$2000 awards to support graduate projects of students selected from all fields of study. We'd like to increase that to \$2500 this year, again in recognition of increased costs to attend CSUN.

On a more somber note, as we closed out the 2020 year, ARF lost a number of members – Helen Lodge (101), Anna Benson (94), Rick Ratcliffe (92), Mary Jane Scheuer (90), Jon Shively (86), Raj Kiani-Aslani (84), David Hornbeck (80), Jeanne Glazer (75), and Joyce Broussard (69). And for those who follow CSUN sports, Bob Hiegert, former Athletic Director, reported that Pete Cassidy, CSUN basketball coach for 25 years, passed away on December 18, 2020.

We salute their many years of service to the University, and most of all their dedication to the students whom they taught, mentored, and inspired.





NEWS FROM CSUN

Campus Library Changes Name

On December 18th, President Dianne Harrison informed the campus community that the name of CSUN's Delmar T. Oviatt Library (pictured above) would be changed to the University Library, and that the Oviatt name would be removed from the neighboring lawn.

Following concerns expressed by the Student of Color Coalition during Spring 2019, Harrison commissioned a working group that included students, faculty, administrators and alumni to study the role of Delmar Oviatt as a past member and leader within the University community. After a thorough year-long review, including documents in the University's archives; transcripts of interviews conducted with CSUN administrators and of Oviatt himself; writings and memoranda from Oviatt; formal minutes of the University's Faculty Senate at the time; primary research, including interviews with a number of people who knew Oviatt; and written commentary from more than 35 members of the CSUN community, including retirees, it became clear that some of Oviatt's decisions and actions did not reflect leadership supportive of advancing campus diversity as related to enrolling students of color and the creation of the Black Studies and Mexican American Studies departments.

The working group issued a report on their findings, which recommended that the Oviatt name be removed from the library and adjoining lawn. That recommendation was unanimously affirmed by the Faculty Senate and the Associated Students Senate.

Spring Semester to Remain Mostly Virtual

President Harrison also announced that, in an effort to preserve the safety of the campus and the broader community, CSUN's period of fully virtual learning and remote working has been extended until February 15, 2021. We will start the spring semester as scheduled with classes beginning on January 25 in our current fully virtual environment with only limited, approved, critical activities and work on campus. On February 15, we expect that the small number of classes with an in-person component will be able to return to campus. The majority of spring classes are scheduled to be fully virtual and will remain in this mode all semester.

CSUN Ranks High on Social Mobility Index

CSUN is now the nation's fourth-ranked school on CollegeNET's 2020 Social Mobility Index, which analyzes and ranks which U.S. colleges and universities most effectively enroll students from low-income backgrounds and graduate them into good-paying jobs. This is CSUN's highest rank ever on the Social Mobility Index, which was created in 2014.

VITA Tax Assistance marks 50th year



The 2021 tax season is a few months away, but for CSUN's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic, the season marks the program's 50th anniversary of serving the public and low-income taxpayers, and providing an opportunity for CSUN students to gain experience with handling taxation.

Rafi Efrat, Bookstein Chair in Taxation and director of the clinic, said "The CSUN Vita Clinic is proud of the role it has assumed as the first academic institution nationwide to offer free tax preparation services, starting in the spring of 1971. Today, there are over 500 such academic institutions nationwide."

As the 2021 tax season approaches, Efrat and his team are already making plans for offering free tax preparation assistance virtually. The CSUN Vita Clinic plans to open its services to the public starting on Jan. 25, 2021 through April 15, 2021.



CSUN Prof to Collect DNA from Joshua Trees

In an effort to stave off the potentially devastating effects of an increasingly warmer climate on the Mojave Desert's distinctive Joshua Trees, California State University, Northridge evolutionary biologist Jeremy Yoder will be spending part of the spring semester collecting tissue samples from 300 trees across the desert. The goal is to produce a genetic map of the Joshua trees that will allow scientists to identify genetic variances in the species. That information will provide insight into which of the trees are more adaptable to climate change. The genetic dataset would be the first of its kind for the keystone desert species, and could serve as a model for genetically informed desert conservation.



Greetings from the Program Committee

We hope that everyone's holidays followed suggested recipes, and were safely seasoned with joy, sweetness, and the best of spice, and we hope they've ushered us into a year bringing with it the best of possible fortunes for all.

Zoom continues to gather in folks who ordinarily might be unable to attend; we enjoy the gatherings. Our November 18th interlude brought us together with John Szabo, the LAPL City Librarian. Members who could attend found his description of the extraordinary programs and support that the LAPL offers to the community inspiring. Of course he touched on the history associated with the LAPL fire as recounted in Susan Orlean's *Library Book*, and a mystery that her book contributed to solving...at least parts of it. His conversation with Lynell George about her biography of Octavia Butler, a black science fiction writer, underscores the strong bond between Octavia Butler and the LAPL. The very name of a Central Library resource, Octavia Lab, honors at once both Butler's connection to the library and the science her fiction draws us into.

Please stay tuned for **February**, with Jerry Rische (of SAGE fame), whose presentation might be "puzzling," and for **March**, when we continue to count on some terrestrial as well as extra-terrestrial conversations, including Dr. Katie Stack Morgan, JPL's Martian geologist (hmm... an interesting phrase) and our own Dr. Tim Fox whose Martian connections have some history! We're working on having one other panelist, too, from JPL whose projects keep him on this planet...and are likely to contribute to its health. And the two Wednesdays in February and March (at 2pm) are both the 10th. Easier than remembering Blursday, right?

January! The annual TGTHAO Banquet! Dinner, a performance! A gathering at the Orange Grove Bistro! Nope. It's been COVIDed. And even with the magic of Zoom, hosting a dinner online is tricky (right SCCARFers?)...So is producing a musical (or any) performance where the performers are distanced and protected, yet synchronized. That changed our thinking about a January 13th event. We canceled it. ...sigh...

BUT! Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of the Soraya (the newly named CSUN Performing Arts Center) has invited **ARF** to attend the anticipated Friday, January 29th Soraya program, celebrating the 10th anniversary of CSUN's performance center. More details regarding the event and our role will come in emails, so please stay tuned! And at once, we can celebrate both a CSUN

institution and "TG2020IO!"

Please stay well, and stay safe. We wish one another imminent, but only briefly, sore arms, sustained good health, and both better opportunities and brighter times in 2021. We have the resilience to address a lot...don't we! TG2020IO, indeed! *Sharon Klein*

ARF Historian Seeks Records

We are gathering **ARF**'s historical records, materials, programs, newsletters, and photos for Oviatt Library's University Archives, with the additional goal to digitize the **ARF** collection for on-line access. The **ARF** collection covers the years 1988 to the present.

We are seeking a range of materials including:

Any items from **ARF**'s formative years (1985 – 1988), beginning with the memo to President James Cleary, dated December 19, 1984, seeking to establish the Association of Retired Faculty (**ARF**) at CSUN;

Specific issues of *ARF Notes* for 2013 and 2014. For 2013 (Vol. 26), we need a originals of issues numbered 2 and 5, and for 2014 (Vol. 27) number 1.

An original copy of issues of *ARF Notes* for 2016 – 2018. These are Vols. 29 (all issues) and 30, issues 1 - 2.

A copy of the **ARF** Board Agendas for all seven monthly meetings from September 2017 – May 2018.

A *Membership Roster for 2019 – 2020* that is in good condition.

Photos of field trips and monthly presentations over the years.

If you have materials to contribute, please send them to Ginny Lussier, **ARF** Historian, at 19016 Tribune Street, Porter Ranch, CA 91326. She can be reached at 818-631-3475.

IN MEMORIAM



Joyce Linda Broussard (History). A scholar of the history of U.S. women and Southern history, Joyce Broussard took an indirect route into academia after working as a film editor in television and cinema. She came to CSUN and earned two degrees in history, a B.A. (summa cum laude) and an M.A., in 1991 and 1993, respectively. In 1993, she won CSUN's outstanding Graduate Student Award and then a full academic fellowship in history to the University of Southern California, where she received her Ph.D. in 1998.

In 1999, she returned to CSUN as a faculty member where she taught 24 diverse courses in American history, the American South, and historical methods, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, over a two decade period. Known by her students and colleagues for her clear analysis, attention to detail, and sense of humor, she

earned high marks for her teaching, receiving the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2008.

A major component of her work at CSUN was her involvement as co-director and director of the Natchez Courthouse Records Project, which included coordinating and facilitating the Biennial Historic Natchez Conferences (1994 – 2013). Begun by her mentor Dr. Ronald Davis in 1991, this endeavor supported student research trips to the lower South and internship experiences in archival and historic records management. On many occasions, Joyce led groups of CSUN students to Natchez to conduct research and learn about the complex history of the American South.

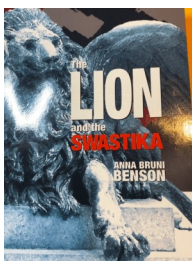
Dr. Broussard published widely on both U.S. Southern and gender history. Her most important book, published in 2016 and titled *Stepping Lively in Place: The Not-Married, Free Women of Civil-War-Era Natchez, Mississippi*, concerned the history of widowed, divorced, and single women in the nineteenth-century South. She also worked as a consultant to numerous PBS historical documentaries dealing with slavery, the Supreme Court, and the history of "Jim Crow" and racism in America.

Dr. Broussard died on June 13, 2020 at age 69, from complications after suffering a stroke. She is survived by four children, and two grandchildren. *Ginny Lussier*

Anna Bruni Benson (Modern and Classical Languages) The steady decline of the study of languages in American colleges and universities over the past half-century has been academically a challenge. Vulnerable programs have relied on energetic faculty to keep them robust. Anna Benson devoted the major part of her career to the survival and flourishing of the Italian program at CSUN.

Born in Venice in 1926, Anna Bruni attended Ca Foscari (University of Venice) where she received a doctorate in foreign languages and literatures in 1950. After moving to California she earned a master's degree at UCLA in 1958 and a Ph.D. in 1967. A year later she joined the CSUN faculty. Anna's excellence in teaching kept her classes full, year after year. But more than that, her personal warmth and many talents drew students to participate in extracurricular activities. She sponsored the Italian Club, and once a year for seven years she produced and directed a play, *in Italian*, with actors selected from her classes. A master of Italian cuisine, Anna published two books on Italian desserts—*La Dolce Cucina* and *Solo Dolci*. Students and colleagues delighted in the food she prepared when she invited them to her home. She also published a book of poems in both English and Italian: *I Cieli Per Noi Sono Tetto*, and with her colleague Robert apRoberts she translated and edited Giovanni Boccaccio's *Filostrato*. After retiring from CSUN

Anna wrote a fascinating novel, *The Lion and the Swastika*, based on her life in Venice during the Nazi occupation, 1943-1945. It tells the story of a teenage girl, Marina Lorenzi, who joins the resistance and at great risk defends her ideals and homeland. The novel is carefully researched and documented, and



will delight readers who appreciate historical fiction and who will enjoy a virtual trip to Venice. Anna passed away on Nov. 7, 2020 at the age of 92. *John Clendenning*



David Hornbeck (Geography) earned his B.A. and M.A. in geography at Fresno State University, and his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska in 1974. In 1972, he joined the geography faculty at CSUN as an Assistant Professor, where

he taught until 2009, when the University granted him status as emeritus professor.

Dr. Hornbeck was an expert in the historical geography of the American West, economic geography, and the geography of California. His specialty was California during the mission and rancho periods. He had a particular interest in the impacts of Spanish colonial expansion on native Californians and their fate in the mission system. Dr. Hornbeck enjoyed the intense archival work historical geography required. He built up a sizeable collection of original materials that now comprises the Hornbeck Collection at the Monterey County Historical Society.

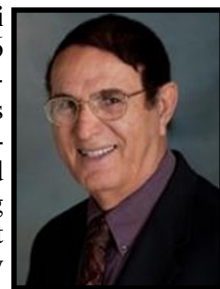
Over the years, Dr. Hornbeck taught classes at all levels of the curriculum including both undergraduate and graduate courses in the geography major, in general education, and for teacher certification. He was well-known for his excellent classroom teaching as evidenced by his outstanding teacher evaluations. After only four years at CSUN, he received CSUN's Distinguished Teaching Award (1976 – 1977).

At CSUN, his students remembered him fondly as a vivid and caring individual and remained in contact with him long after their graduations. He mentored students and served as a career advisor. He organized 16 annual job symposiums to help geography students locate high paying jobs after graduation. Professor Hornbeck obtained almost \$700,000 in research grants, many of which provided funds for student support and training.

During his career, he was active in editing and publishing, gave over 200 invited presentations, and served as president of two national academic societies.

Dr. Hornbeck succumbed to COVID-19 on April 20, 2020, at age 80. He is survived by his wife, Ginny, and his sons David, Christopher, and Bryan. *Ginny Lussier*

Rajabali (Raj) Kiani-Aslani (Accounting) was born May 22, 1936 in Aghajari, Iran and passed away August 12, 2020 in Northridge, CA. He is survived by his wife, Farokh, two children, Tina and John, and beloved grandchildren. He began his teaching and research career in Accounting at CSUN in 1978 and retired in 2019 by ending his FERP early due to leukemia.



Rajabali (Raj) received his Ph.D. in 1979 in accounting from the University of Oklahoma, his M.S. degree in

1969 from UCLA's Anderson Graduate School of Management and a B.S. in 1965 and M.S. degree in 1966 in accounting from the College of Accountancy, University of Tehran, Iran.

Dr. Kiani also received an Enrolled Agents (EA) license from the Internal Revenue Service to practice taxes since 1995, and a California Real Estate license to practice real estate since 1979. He taught management/cost accounting, financial accounting and taxation at CSUN, and also had five years of accounting experience with an oil company and a CPA firm.

Dr. Kiani's primary field of research was in domestic and international taxation, and he has been published in many professional journals, including *Journal of Accounting Review*; *Journal of International Taxation*; and *International Business and Economics Research Journal*; and *Journal of Business Economics Research*. He was the recipient of the 2011-2012 CSUN Accounting Professor of the Year Award, was well respected, and will be missed by his colleagues and former students. *Catherine Jeppson*



Alfonso "Rick" Ratcliffe (Engineering and Computer Science). Dr. Ratcliffe was born in St. Louis, Missouri on October 21, 1928, and passed away peacefully in his Belmont Village home on Friday evening, November 27, 2020. Throughout his life he distinguished himself as an Engineer, Scientist, Consultant and Educator.

At the age of 15, he was accepted into the Physics Program at UCLA. Following a short stint in the US Army at the end of WWII, he returned to UCLA and earned a B.A. in Physics in 1951, followed by a masters (1963) and doctorate (1970) in engineering (emphasis in control systems, dynamics, and applied math).

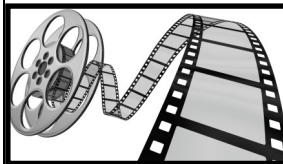
Dr. Ratcliffe successfully combined an academic and industrial career. Much of his 20+ year industrial career was spent at Mattel Inc. where he held a number of technical positions dealing with engineering R&D and production problems. His academic career began in 1975, when he became Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at CSUN. He moved quickly through the administrative and academic ranks, serving as acting chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 1978 - 79, and promoted to full professor in 1979. He became Associate Dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science in 1980 before being appointed Dean in 1981. Dr. Ratcliffe was the first Black engineering dean in the California State University system, and believed to be the first Black dean of any non-historically Black engineering school.

Under his leadership, the College grew and matured. One focus of his attention was the Minority Engineering Program (MEP) under the guidance of Mechanical Engineering Professor, Raymond Landis. Rick encouraged the MEP students with his philosophy: "I made it and

you can too!" He was instrumental in the continuing success of MEP, and other under-represented student programs long after he retired as Dean in 1992.

Rick Radcliffe received numerous awards during his career. In 1983, he was elected fellow of the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering. He also received the Educator of the Year Award from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Education Achievement Award of the San Fernando Valley Engineering Council.

He was an active participant in the early years of CSUN's China Institute, and traveled to China visiting each of the initial 13 Chinese universities having formal relations with CSUN. In the early 1980's, several Chinese graduate students came to CSUN. One of them, Zhao Ji, a mechanical engineering student, became close friends with Rick. Rick and his wife Dolores (who passed in 2016) adopted Zhao Ji (George) and helped him bring his fiancée Jenny to the US. Rick and Dolores became grandparents to George and Jenny's two children, Sarah and Roger. In addition to the pleasures of family, another favorite pastime of Rick's was playing his saxophone. A talented musician, he enjoyed playing American jazz. *Timothy Fox and Ginny Lussier*



The **Monday Film Group** met on 11/17/20, using Zoom, to discuss the films *Peanut Butter Falcon* and *The Trial of the Chicago 7*.

Peanut Butter Falcon is a "Tom Sawyer" like adventure, telling the story of Zack, a man with Down Syndrome, played by Zackary Gottsagen. The actor, who has Down Syndrome, has created a realistic and heart-warming portrayal of Zack. Zack escapes from a care facility to pursue his dream of joining a wrestling school to become a professional wrestler. Zack's travels involve many ups and downs and include travel by raft! He is guided by his new friend Tyler, well played by Shia LaBeouf, who portrays an individual trying to deal with his own demons. Tyler and Zack are joined on their journey by Eleanor, played by Dakota Johnson. Some members of the club felt that Johnson's acting did not come up to her own standards in fitting into this role. Most of the club liked this film but there was some hesitance about its occasional unrealistic events. The overall rating by the club members was **9.0/10** where all scores ranged from 7 to 10.

The Trial of the Chicago 7 depicts the trial of the 7 individuals charged with "conspiracy to incite a riot" and other charges during the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. Although the film was viewed as quite personal for most of the members, some of us found the film a bit long. It focused on the incompetence of the judge and the courtroom antics of the accused individuals. Some of the club members noted that it failed to depict any alternative viewpoints. As an example, no effort was made to show how fear and personal safety could have motivated the police to act so aggressively. Nevertheless, the group felt that the film was both well cast and well-acted. Frank Langella did an excellent job as the incompetent Judge

Julius Hoffman. Eddie Redmayne as Tom Hayden, Sacha Baron Cohen as Abbie Hoffman and Jeremy Strong as Jerry Ruben did great jobs depicting 3 of the accused. The overall rating by the club members for *The Trial of the Chicago 7* was **8.1/10**, with scores ranging from a low of 6 to a high of 10.

The **Group** met again on 12/14/20, using Zoom, to discuss the films *The Life Ahead* and *Dolly Parton: Here I Am*. *The Life Ahead* tells the story of the interactions between Madam Rosa, played by Sophia Loren, and Momo, a somewhat difficult African immigrant child, played by Ibrahima Gueye. Madam Rosa is a Holocaust Survivor who is near the end of her life when she agrees to care for Momo, who is a rough 12-year-old street kid. Gueye gives exceptional performance as Momo, and given her age of 84, Loren's performance was truly amazing. The relationship depicted between Madam Rosa and Momo was uplifting and the range of feeling demonstrated by both actors was impressive. Even though one might expect that the ending would leave the viewer with a sense of sadness, the group felt that somehow the film truly ended on a positive note. The overall rating by the club members was **9.2/10** where all scores ranged from 9.0 to 9.8.

Dolly Parton: Here I Am succeeds in capturing the essence of the public personality and career of the amazing Dolly Parton. Clips from a sequence of interviews and performances are woven together to depict this larger than life character. The film shows that at all times she appears in character. In her very positive comments on Parton, Jane Fonda explains that, even during pajama parties while preparing for the film "9 to 5", Parton never came out of her room without being dressed "in character". Parton is shown to be a tough businessperson who is still respectful of everyone she interacts with. The only question the group was left with was: "What is the real Dolly Parton like, and might her life have been much more difficult than she shows to the public?" Even though the film contained many disjointed segments we all felt that somehow, it worked quite well. The overall rating by the club members for *Dolly Parton: Here I Am* was **9.1/10**, with scores ranging from 9.0 to 9.5. For the month of January, the club plans to discuss the two films *Mank* (available on Netflix) and *Uncle Frank* (available on Netflix). David Schwartz



BOOK GROUPS

The **Science Book Group** met on November 11th on Zoom to discuss *The Idea of the Brain: The Past and Future of Neuroscience*, by Matthew Cobb, 2020.

Cobb divides the book essentially into two parts: several chapters discuss where philosophers and early scientists thought the mind was located – favorite for many centuries was the heart – and theories of what makes the brain function – based on technological developments such as electricity and computers. The second part deals with brain re-

search in our times. Some of the issues discussed in that section led to a very stimulating discussion about some of the experiments (many poor animals were sacrificed!) and brain studies such as the fascinating "split brain" studies. Particularly fascinating was the discussion of the advances that have made it possible for paralyzed people to control robotic arms or computers with their thoughts. While these insights and advances are very interesting, unfortunately, Cobb acknowledges that an immense amount of research still remains to be done before the secrets of how the brain and mind function is revealed.

The **Science Book Group** met again on Zoom on December 16th. We discussed *The Swerve - how the world became modern* by Stephen Greenblatt (2011). We also discussed the work on which Greenblatt bases his ideas: *On the Nature of Things* (about 50 BCE), by Lucretius, translated by Martin Ferguson Smith. Several members had taken my suggestion and read Lucretius, or parts of it. Our discussion "swerved" back and forth between Lucretius' poem in which he explains Epicurus' theories to his friend, and Greenblatt's own book, describing how Poggio, a Vatican scribe out of work because his boss, the pope, had just lost his job, hunted for ancient manuscripts and luckily found Lucretius' work in a monastery. We enjoyed both books, although Greenblatt is easier to read for us moderns. We were also amazed at how "modern" Lucretius' theories were, e.g. the idea that everything is constructed from tiny "atoms" which every once in a while swerve and thus interact and create life on earth.

For our January 20th meeting we selected *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body* by Neil Shubin, 2009. All meetings take place through Zoom on Wednesday 1:30 pm to 3pm. Heidemarie Lundblad

In October the **Wednesday Book Group** discussed *Brother, I'm Dying*, a memoir by Edwidge Danticat about growing up in Haiti and then in the US. Danticat has written award-winning fiction, but this book is a very personal history of her extended family.

When she was two years old, Danticat's father leaves the family in Haiti to try to find a better life in New York City. Soon after that, her mother joins him, leaving young Edwidge and her brother with their uncle. There is an elaborate extended family in their Haitian neighborhood and the relations are mostly sweet. It is only when illness or civil unrest comes that we see the problems of poverty. When Edwidge is twelve, the children move to the US. As the family is growing in the US, there is terrible civil unrest in Haiti, which drives the uncle to come to the US, forcing him to fight his way through the US immigration monstrosity.

Although the author's native languages are Haitian Creole and French, her writing in English is straightforward and easy to read. Short declarative sentences

relate the sequence of events, how the family members talk to each other and take care of one another, and the author's feelings, especially for her uncle and her father. We felt much sympathy with the family for the many difficulties and sad times they endured. The book was liked by most of us, though no one seemed as entranced or excited by it as we had been with most other books our group has read.

In November the **Wednesday Group** discussed *No Ordinary Time — Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*. This 1995 book, by political commentator and author of presidential biographies Doris Kearns Goodwin, covers exactly what a reader would expect from the subtitle. The book begins in May of 1940 and develops our knowledge of and affection for FDR and Eleanor by means of abundant factual and personal details of their personalities and their relationship in the period up through Franklin's death in April, 1945. A very brief afterward summarizes the later lives of Eleanor, family members, and key friends and advisors.

Whereas we ARF folks are acquainted generally with the build-up for our entry into WW II, the author presents Franklin's political struggles against a strong isolationist sentiment to increase our military preparedness and advance aid to Britain before Pearl Harbor, and later, to persuade businesses to switch to producing military materiel. The reader learns about both FDR's and Eleanor's many advisors and close friends, several of whom came to live in the White House. FDR liked and needed people, both men and women, and he courted and listened to them carefully but avoided arguments. He was so reluctant to hurt people or fire them that throughout the War he suffered because of several political appointments he had made earlier as well as his strong-willed cook's insistence that

White House meals be plain food, plainly prepared.

FDR worked well with people. He and Churchill greatly enjoyed each other and were great political allies and partners with each other in their political lives. He was even able to develop some comradeship with Stalin though this vanished at Yalta. He never wanted to move too far or too fast in advance of the electorate. During the whole period of the War, Eleanor was the gadfly, urging and badgering her husband to pursue a progressive agenda but finding him resistant and cautious of political possibilities. She pressed him unsuccessfully on taking in Jewish refugees before the War, and successfully on hiring women in the defense industry and then the need for child-care centers for those working women. Most important were her arguments that for both moral and practical reasons blacks in the military should not be segregated from whites or restricted to menial jobs, especially janitorial, kitchen, and serving jobs. Many parts of her vision were actually carried out, resulting in satisfying and distinguished combat roles for black servicemen — the beginnings of a revolution in the role of blacks in our society.

We are a perfect audience for this excellent and very readable book. We liked the fact that it focused on both Franklin and Eleanor, and that it provided rich portraits of Franklin's men and women friends and his daughter Anna's importance in taking such great care of her Dad in the last years of his life. It's no surprise to us Goodwin won the Pulitzer Prize in history for this book that was one of our favorites. We heartily recommend it to you. *Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen.*

CSUN Association of Retired Faculty – Membership Application (Please Print)

Title	First Name	Last Name	Spouse/Partner
Street Address	City	State	Zip Preferred Phone
Department	College	Year Retired	Email Address

Please enroll me in CSUN-ARF (Check One):

As a new retiree my first-year membership is free ! My renewal dues check for \$36 (Payable to ARF) is enclosed

* My donation to the ARF Memorial Academic Award Fund is enclosed (Check Payable to ARF) _____

Please mail this form and your check (If appropriate) to: “ARF, PO Box 280578, Northridge, CA 91328”

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ARF NOTES

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