

ARF NOTES

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California State University, Northridge



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JOHN CLENDENNING

ARF is still ZOOMing, but we all anticipate in-person events in the not-so-distant future. Right now a lot is happening, and that is encouraging.

Thanks to the ever-resourceful Program Chair, Sharon Klein, we had a splendid virtual visit from President Erika Beck on October 13, whose talk was enhanced by a presentation by Vice President Colin Donahue. I can assure you that CSUN is a lively place to be. While many folks are spreading pandemic gloom, President Beck is totally upbeat. In her brief time with us she has raked in millions, and with these riches new buildings and new programs arise. Thanks to a generous grant from Apple, in-coming students will be loaned an I-Pad, I-Pencil, and Keyboard. Diversity and Equity—facilitated by a \$40 million donation from McKenzie Scott—are the dominant themes in her vision of our future. I say “our future” because President Beck and VP Donahue see a link between **ARF** and CSUN. From him, we learned more about the Orchard Conference Center (possibly our new home) and the partnership with Chartwells, the newly

contracted food-service managers. He also described, with visuals, the stunning classroom building that will be constructed on the grassy knoll next to Sierra Hall.

We owe tons of gratitude to our Historian, Ginny Lussier, and our Webmaster, Gene Turner, for the work they have done on Remembrance Policies and Procedures. It's all now on our Website. I encourage you to visit it. You will find the documents under “About Us.” Also see the updated In Memoriam pages that honor our deceased colleagues.

The Philip and Shirley Hansen Scholarship Program provides substantial support to graduate students who have chosen to pursue a career in education. This program is housed in the Eisner College of Education in collaboration with **ARF**. The Hansen Committee, chaired by Beverly Cabello, is up and running. Other members of the committee are Pamela Bourgeois, Deborah Chen, Cynthia Desrochers, Sharon Klein, Mike Rivas, Brennis Wagoner, and Joel Zeitlin.

Finally SCCARF is back. Jim Dole, who looks after our dinner club, proposes to begin with a group of 20 fully vaccinated **ARFers**. Tim Fox and Phyllis Russell are hosting our first outing this year. They are now looking for a suitable restaurant in the Valley. Stay tuned.

And if you have forgotten to renew your **ARF** membership, there is a form on p. 7 of this newsletter!

As we approach the holiday season, I want to wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving. Despite the hardships that Covid has brought and Delta has exacerbated, this community of retirees has abundant reasons to be thankful. So Enjoy!

NEWS FROM CSUN



FROM THE FACULTY SENATE REPORT, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

President Beck discussed the establishment of a Global Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Equity Innovation HUB to be housed at CSUN. This was made possible through a \$25 million allocation from the state budget and a donation from Apple. She also discussed some of the uses of the \$40M gift from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett. Activities being supported by this gift include a study to examine University policing policies; diversifying the faculty and staff; and establishing identity-based resource centers for educational equity.

CFA Report – CFA President Nate Thomas reported on current bargaining between the CSU and the CFA. The CSU and the CFA are still wide apart on many issues, including the length of FERP; faculty salary increases; parking fees; benefit rollbacks and gender and racial bias in student evaluations. They may be headed for an impasse this spring. For up-to-date information, see the website www.cfabargaining.org



GOVERNOR VISITS CSUN

Governor Gavin Newsom visited CSUN on Wednesday Oct. 20 to sign seven bills into law that represent a historic funding increase for

higher education in California. At the University's Student Recreation Center, Newsom joined CSUN President Erika D. Beck, California State University Chancellor Joseph Castro and a host of elected officials in celebrating the \$47.1 billion higher education package that is designed to ease the path to a four-year degree for community college transfer students, support more affordable student housing and expand financial aid, among other programs.

"This is a proud day," Newsom said. "At the end of

the day, there is no economic development strategy without a workforce development strategy. There is no equation to address the issue of income and wealth disparity unless we provide opportunities and great pathways to close those gaps."

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT



Sharon Klein,
Program
Committee
Chair

October has begun to give way to November, but not without a beautiful Hunters' Moon this past week, a generous supply of treats and tricks next Sunday, and this year, reminders to get "flu-shotted," and "COVID boosted."

And we have much to look forward to in November, including a virtual visit from Dr. Harold Goldwhite, Emeritus professor of chemistry from CSULA and our (now retiring) ERFSA Executive Director. So, do hold November 10th, at 2pm for **ARF**; there will be more news about Dr. Goldwhite's chosen topics as that date approaches (...or we approach it....hmm, time...perhaps it's all relative).

The recent past—October 13th, to be precise, saw us talking with President Erika Beck and Vice President for Finance, Colin Donahue. The link to a recording of much of the afternoon—all of the two presentations—is here, and we have access to the recording for 120 days after it was recorded, at which point it will dissolve into the ether.

The link (and passcode, which has some subtle punctuation, so I recommend copying and pasting if there is prompting for it):

https://csun.zoom.us/rec/share/e_pkWScoUI6HgfcZJNshqbyi_ORMZxfcA6II3eR_aigMwkWIHC-6N_KqnN1v-asv2.6hRnZjgYohIaRDZz Passcode: .n?2.S!Q

As we'll see, watching the video, President Beck discussed with us her path through what she acknowledges have been "exceptional challenges" provided by the COVID experience—marking her first year as the campus president, as she took of-

face this past January. But she has been meeting and responding to these challenges, with a clear vision of priorities: campus health and safety, student success and achievement, and strong ties with the surrounding community—focusing on community families and schools, where CSUN’s programs can provide an anchor in multiple ways. These are not new visions, she noted, but renewed ones, grounded in the goal of increased diversity across campus, with this goal itself founded on the values of equity, inclusion, and belonging. CSUN has received substantial funding from multiple sources (the Scott-Jewett funding, and funding from Apple for a range of student-focused technology developments). These and other grants have been instrumental in the selection of CSUN for the development of the CSU Global Hispanic Serving Institution Equity Innovation Hub, whose goal is to encourage Latinx and other traditionally underserved students—not only from CSUN, but also from elementary, middle, and high school, as well as from community colleges and other CSU campuses—to venture into the “STEM” fields (the natural sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics). We also learned of the renewed monies for CSUN students in need of financial support.

On the heels of our conversation with President Beck, Vice President Donahue, who also attended her presentation, began his overview of campus developments, beginning with the opening of the Orchard Conference Center (OCC), a large meeting site with a variety of spaces, and a full range of technology (so that we’d be able to combine in-person and Zoom gatherings to keep us together), across from The Soraya, and in the “back” of the bookstore complex. And he spoke to us about the new catering service, Chartwells, that will be responsible for all food services across the campus, from the OCC to the Arbor Grill and in between.

There are slides throughout VP Donahue’s presentation—all visible on the recording—and all helpful in illustrating not only plans for the OCC, but also other developments he discussed, including the design and plans for the Global HSI Equity Innovation Hub, and for the Sierra Annex (a new building for classroom space to be built, complementing Sierra Hall, and to provide space for classes while Sierra Hall itself undergoes renovation). VP Donahue noted that it might be interesting and informative to have Kenneth Rosenthal, Associate VP for facilities development and operations, talk with us in more detail about the design and plans for these buildings, although VP Donahue, himself, did bring some nifty architectural subtleties to our attention.

ARF members, of course, are concerned about our new home...homes?...as we move forward in a world

without the Orange Grove Bistro. The new catering service, Chartwells, has prices significantly higher than those we knew at the OGB, and the OCC facilities (as well as other campus sites) charge for space, set up, and equipment. Our **ARF** president, John Clendenning, raised a number of questions and concerns that **ARF** has about these changes, as they’ve already begun to challenge planning and possibilities; for example, the January banquet dinner becomes prohibitively expensive for members. It does seem, in any case, that the OCC is not likely to open before February, as it seems that the furniture supply chain is itself “challenged,”...and that the OCC is not “fully appointed” as yet.

Bob Kiddoo’s article, “**ARF**’s Home for Tomorrow,” in last month’s *ARF Notes*, is fully relevant to this all, covering much of the same territory and raising the relevant questions we all need to discuss. For the moment, we are also talking with the folks at the Soraya to see what alternatives to our traditional banquet there might be, that would involve a Soraya event and a luncheon, and whether an April tour (face-to-face) might be a possibility. Please stay tuned..., please chime in, and please save November 10th at 2pm for **ARF**. *Sharon Klein*



BOOK GROUPS

The **Science Book Group** met on September 19th. Attendees were: Sandy Jewett; Ann Perkins; Adam Gifford; Elizabeth Trybus; Bill Hossek; Heidemarie Lundblad and a special welcome to Peter Gabrovsky.

We discussed *The Awakened Brain: The New Science of Spirituality and Our Quest for an Inspired Life*, by Lisa Miller. 2021. The author attempts to explain and convince the reader that spirituality is a defense and/or preventative against depression. Some of us were more open to be persuaded by Miller’s arguments. Segments of the book are easy to read, consisting of stories of people who were able to experience the heightened awareness which the author discusses. However, some sections seem to be difficult to understand if one is not conversant with the use of our regular English terms in the professional psychological context.

For the next meeting on October 20th, we discussed *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: A New History of a Lost World*, by Steve Brusatte. 2018. In this captivating narrative (enlivened with many original illustrations and photographs), Steve Brusatte, a young American paleontologist who has emerged as one of the foremost stars of the field, masterfully tells the complete, surprising, and *new* history of the dinosaurs, drawing on cutting-edge science to dramatically bring to life their lost world and illuminate their enigmatic origins, spectacular flourishing, astonishing diversity, cataclysmic extinction, and startling living legacy. There was general agreement that Brusatte's book is interesting and well written. We enjoyed reading it and found that even though we all have known about dinosaurs for many years, the book is filled with many interesting findings that only recently have come to be known; for example, the fact that dinosaurs apparently had the precursor of feathers. Brusatte not only provides an exhaustive discussion of the millions of years that dinosaurs existed but showcases the many varieties of dinosaurs that once roamed the earth culminating in the monster we all are familiar with: T-Rex! He discusses the events leading to the extinction of classic dinosaurs, except for their distant relative – birds.

For the 11/17 meeting we will discuss *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, by Scott Weidensaul. 2021. Available: hardcover; paperback; e-book; audiobook. "In the past two decades, our understanding of the navigational and physiological feats that enable birds to cross immense oceans, fly above the highest mountains, or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch has exploded. What we've learned of these key migrations—how billions of birds circumnavigate the globe, flying tens of thousands of miles between hemispheres on an annual basis—is nothing short of extraordinary."



All meetings will be on Zoom for the immediate future. Zoom meeting dates for the academic year

2021-2:	11/17;
	12/15;
	1/19;
	2/16;
	3/16;
	4/20;
	5/18;

6/15; 7/20; 8/17.

All meetings take place on Wednesday 1:30 pm to 3pm. *Heidmarie Lundblad*

In June the other **Wednesday Book Group** discussed *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. This is a story of wealthy New York society in the 1870's, which was Wharton's world as a girl. She wrote this novel much later, and for it she received the Pulitzer Prize for Literature in 1921. In addition to its interesting story, the book has a rich commentary on the ways of that elite world.

Newland Archer is a wealthy dilettantish young man who is about to marry May Welland, a beautiful, nice, and unimaginative young woman raised in this world to be a rich man's wife. At the same time May's cousin Ellen, raised in the same high society, has returned from Europe but is now the Countess Olenska and separated from her husband, who remains in Poland. The older ladies of the leading families disapprove of the Countess, frequently making disparaging remarks about her foreign ways and her independence of thought, despite her being a granddaughter of one of them. However, Ellen is a beautiful, sophisticated woman, who comes to care greatly for Archer and with whom Archer falls in love – though both recognizing the great difficulties of achieving a future together. Is May or anyone suspicious? The reader is left to wonder.

As the plot inches along, Wharton masterfully describes the minutia of this society from features of decorative interior design, acceptable architecture, conventions of dress in high society, and most of all how people talk about other people. There are wonderful characters, such as the powerful and much loved grandmother, Mrs. Mingott, who scandalizes society by receiving visitors on the first floor when she is too fat to get up the stairs to the second floor. Many of Wharton's sentences are jewels to be reread and savored, and the descriptions of the role of women in marriage are both strangely modern and dated at the same time. People contrasted this literary milestone with *Lonesome Dove*, our previous well-loved book, which also had a wonderful story, detail and characters, but without the intricacy of Wharton's language. We really liked *The Age of Innocence* and recommend it enthusiastically.

Our July book, *Girl, Woman, Other*, by Bernadine Evaristo, was co-winner of the Booker Prize in 2019 for the best English-language novel published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. In some ways *Girl, Woman, Other* is the opposite of the novel we had read for June. Whereas Edith Wharton's *Age of Innocence* focused on upper-class New Yorkers and their cultural restraints and subtleties, Evaristo writes persuasively about West Indian and African migrants in contemporary Britain, their families, and the variety of their experiences, including connections with White Brits. The author, who identifies as Anglo-Nigerian, vividly develops twelve characters.

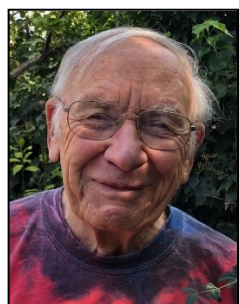
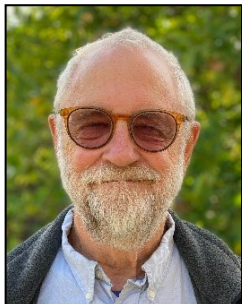
There are three characters in each of four chapters so that despite the many characters, there is local coherence and it is easy to get to know the characters.

Some characters enjoy wild night life, drugs, alcohol, and casual sex, whereas others are focused on pursuing their academic or economic goals. There is a range of leftist, lesbian and feminist opinions, and characters grapple with identity, race, and goals. To illustrate, the first character we meet is middle-aged Amma, who as a youth used to protest and disrupt theater performances and now has a rebellious daughter Yazz. In between one-night stands with other women, Amma writes and directs plays. The latest play is "The Last Amazon of Dahomey", now opening at the Bush Women Theater Company, which she and her friend Dominique started. When Dominique falls under the sway of a totally controlling lover, Amma tries to rescue Dominique from an isolated lesbian commune.

As the title suggests, several characters reflect on how and who they regard as "other". For example, Yazz at first resents the entry of a White dorm mate into the group of Black "Sistahs" but soon finds more common values with this White girl than with the Black girl who grew up rich and simply pays for tutors to take tests and write essays for her. Other characters navigate differences and togetherness in gender identity and age as well as, of course, race.

Evaristo's lack of the usual paragraphing, punctuation, and capitalization and occasional poetry put off some of us, but most of us found ourselves easily adjusting to it and finding the writing direct, satisfying, and comprehensible. There is also some sweetness in the end of the story. One character finds her mother, whose father had forced her as a young girl to give up her baby. Near the end, the author beautifully interweaves the lives of many characters, who came to better understand each other.

The book is certainly a roller coaster of a ride for readers like us retired faculty. But we expect that it is also a powerful introduction to Blacks and people of mixed-race in Britain. We think it is fully deserving of the Booker Prize.



Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen



FILM GROUP

The **Monday Film Group** met remotely on September 13 via Zoom to discuss the films *Val* and *Queen Bees*.

Val is a documentary created from home video footage by Val Kilmer telling his life story. The film was a surprise to several of the club members in that it exceeded their expectations. Due to Kilmer's loss of voice from throat cancer he is assisted in narration by his son Jack. This is a happy/sad story which some of members felt was a bit one-sided, and a sort of fantasy built on reality. The film did not depict the difficulty that many co-workers may have found in working with this "perfectionist artist." Nevertheless, the film was surprisingly enjoyable for most of us. Of particular interest was the behind the scenes view of people like Marlon Brando. The average rating by the club members for *Val* was 8.4/10 where the scores ranged from 6 to 10.

Queen Bees tells the story of an aging widow Helen, played by Ellen Burstyn, who is forced to move into an upscale senior living home while her own home is being repaired. The film started a bit slowly, but we generally felt that it picked up with the story of a developing relationship between Helen and Dan, played by James Caan. The interaction between Helen and the "mean girls," led by Jane Curtin, was a bit over the top but was still fun to watch. The rest of the supporting cast included several famous "seniors" including Loretta Devine and Christopher Lloyd. All of them did a good job and showed that they still have what it takes to do so. The overall rating by the club members for *Queen Bees* was 7.4/10, with scores ranging from 6 to 10. *David Schwartz*

The **Monday Film Group** met again on October 11 via Zoom to discuss the films *The Chair* and *Pig*.

The Chair is a series of 6 episodes in which the excellent actress Sandra Oh portrays a university faculty member, Ji-Yoon, who becomes the first female chair of the university's English department. The department is suffering from low enrollments and is burdened with several faculty who are viewed by the students as being "behind the times." The actor Jay Duplass plays the role of Bill, who is a popular but foolish professor. Some club members felt that the campus politics as depicted by the reaction of the community to an ill-considered lecture by Bill was somewhat over the top but overall, the club members enjoyed the series. One aspect of the script that did ring true was the fact that many faculty members that find themselves as a department chair are ill prepared for a role in management! The average

rating by the club members for *The Chair* was 7.9/10 where the scores ranged from 7 to 8.5.

Pig tells the story of Rob, played by Nicolas Cage, who hunts truffles with his trained pig while living as a virtual hermit in the Oregon wilderness. The pig is stolen from Rob and he forces himself to travel back to Portland to search for the animal while facing the realities of his previous life. Nicolas Cage did a good job portraying Rob. After some discussion our group felt that the real point of the movie was the underlying theme that it is very important to live your life as your real self and not as an imagined character. The overall rating by the club members for *Pig* was 8.1/10, with scores ranging from 7 to 9.

For the month of November, the club plans to discuss the short series *Bosch* on Netflix and the film *Lapsis* on Prime (Rental \$1.99) *David Schwartz*



SCCARFers to Scarf Again!

SCCARF, the Retired Faculty Association's dining club, had a long and mostly jostle-free run: one-hundred-eleven gastronomic soirees at local eateries over nine years, the chain of monthly get-togethers broken only three times—most notably by a plane crash on a local freeway that blocked access to our dining goal.

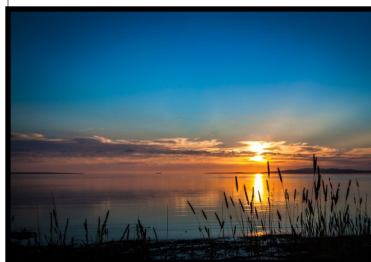
And then COVID came ashore! Restaurants closed. Folks locked themselves in their homes. With nowhere to go, and a deathly fear of being in public, SCCARFers ceased scarfing, at least socially.

But that's about to change! With COVID in retreat, if not yet in the rear-view mirror, eateries are again opening. Their immune systems revved up by vaccines, folks are once more venturing out. The stage now reset, SCCARF is ready to reenter the culinary world. If you are not already a member of the group but would like to participate in its rebirth, we invite you to join. An email (jim.dole@csun.edu) will get you a detailed explanation of how the group works, your name added to its roster, and an invitation to all future events.

In its new iteration, the group will operate largely as it has before: Members take turns setting up events and participants order and pay for only what they want. But to this, an ad hoc advisory committee has appended two health-related rules: 1) Participants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and must verify that fact. Having survived COVID will not suffice; the CDC won't accept this in lieu of vaccination, and neither will we. 2) Face-masks must be worn when entering, leaving, moving about the restaurant and while waiting for your food; masks may be removed only when eating and drinking.

The committee has also recommended that for the near term SCCARF events be limited to outdoor settings and attendance limited to twenty or fewer participants; these rules may be relaxed as COVID's threat is diminished.

SCCARF's first return shindig will be announced soon in an email invitation to all SCCARF members. Watch for it and respond quickly to the host lest you be left out! *Jim Dole*



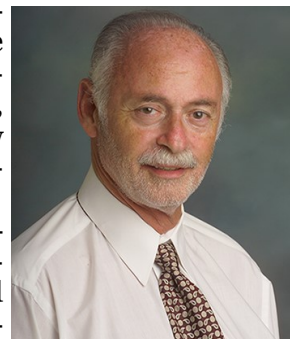
IN MEMORIAM

Jerome Seliger (Health Sciences) passed away on January 3, 2021 at the age of 77. Jerry's BA in Social Science was from the University of Minnesota (1974), his M.S. in Community Development from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (1967), and his Ph.D. in Public Administration from USC (1974). He taught at CSUN from 1976 to 2012 and continued advising and teaching students even after he was granted emeritus status. One of his students, Salvador Esparza, is now chair of the Health Sciences department.

Jerry was a grant-writing wizard at the department, college, and university levels. I remember being told that a good way to get a research program going was to get involved in something Jerry was working on, even if we were in other departments in HDD. An example of his grants is "Health Care Options Symposium," "Emerging Leaders for Chronic Disease Self-Management in Rural and Urban Latino and African American Communities," He testified to the U.S. Congress Select Committee on Aging, Subcommittee of Housing and Consumer Interests on Housing Needs of the Elderly and conducted a number of projects for Los Angeles County and the State of California.

Jerry was a prolific author of books, journal articles, and other works in the field of health education and services. His articles were published in a variety of journals, including *Community Mental Health Journal*, *California Dental Association Journal*, *Children Today*, and *Journal of Self-Help and Self-Care*.

In addition to classroom teaching, Jerry supervised interns, placing and supervising about 130 under-



graduate and 62 graduate students at sites from Inglewood to Valencia during one 5-year reporting period. From 1980-1986 he served as associate director of the Institute for Communication and Professional Studies.

Jerry established the Jerome Seliger Student Scholarship Fund in Health Administration. He founded Bienvenidos Children's Center in Altadena and the Community Campus for Health and Education in San Fernando.

Former student Akia Wilburn described Jerry as "one of the coolest and funniest professors, yet also having a plethora of knowledge regarding the healthcare systems." His parents, Julius and He Gertrude Seliger, escaped from Germany in 1940 and his grandparents and most of their families perished in the Holocaust. He is survived by his son, Shawn, of Naples, FL; his brother Isaac, and nieces and nephews. *Nancy Owens, CHHS*



Barbara Brena Caretto, our colleague in both the College of Engineering and the College of Science and Mathematics, passed away on September 17, 2021.

Barbara lived an extraordinary and unconventional life. From an early age she eschewed the societal limitations put on women of her time.

She once famously challenged the Fairfax high school men's

cross-country team to a foot race in protest of the school's refusal to let her participate in sport. She came in third place. She was a civil rights activist, a world traveler, and a relentless learner who spoke half a dozen languages including Swahili. She earned a master's degree in public administration and a law degree, took classes into her 80's, and pursued a myriad of artistic passions including jewelry making, painting, and glass art.

Barbara spent her professional life trying to make the world a better place. She taught in inner city public schools in the early 1970s before moving to academia to develop and find funding for STEM projects. One of her proudest achievements was taking part at CSUN in the development, funding and scaling of the Math Engineering Science Achievement [MESA] and Multicultural Engineering Program [MEP] – statewide programs that have grown to provide mentorship, funding and professional opportunities to 24,000 high school and college students interested in STEM every year. Today 75% of the participants in these programs come from historically underrepresented groups. She leaves behind a thankful family, countless friends, and a legacy of having helped thousands of people. She is survived by husband Larry Caretto, retired CSUN Engineering Professor, and children Marcus and Janna. *Joel Zeitlin*

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):

New retiree/emeritus my first-year membership is free ! 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 to: “ARF, PO Box 280578, Northridge, CA 91328”

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ARF NOTES

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