

ARF NOTES

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



VOLUME 35 no. 5

May 2023

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



President's Message: Ron McIntyre

This is the last *ARF Notes* before our new Board takes office, and so my last "message" as **ARF** President. It's been a pleasure and an honor to work with you! Thank you for giving me the opportunity. Although the Covid pandemic is still not completely behind us, this past year was vastly more normal than the previous three. (Thankfully, I didn't have to face the many challenges with which Pamela, Tim, and John so heroically fought.) The speaker series was a success, especially for those who attended in person, and we finally got the Zoom technology working for off-campus participants. Our special winter event was a spectacular performance at the Soraya by Yamato, the Drummers of Japan, and the private reception for **ARF** members afterward made it especially memorable. Resuming the annual field trip, we visited the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on Wilshire Blvd, transported there by a large, comfortable coach courtesy of Councilperson John Lee. Two remaining big events lie ahead: the **ARF** Memorial Graduate Project Awards brunch and the June picnic and general meeting.

The awards brunch is at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 6, in the Colleagues Room of Sierra Center; details are on pages 2 and 3. Tim Fox led the committee that read all the applications and selected four outstanding research projects. Following the brunch, we'll hear presentations from each recipient regarding their projects. These have always been interesting and informative, and they've been sorely missed the last few years.

The picnic and general meeting will be at noon on Saturday, June 3 in the Arbor Grill courtyard. At the general meeting we will, as usual, elect members to next year's Executive Board. The Nominating Committee – **ARF** President Ron McIntyre (chair), Vice-President / President-Elect Cynthia Rawitch, and Immediate Past President John Clendenning – succeeded in recruiting an outstanding slate of candidates, including Diane Schwartz for Vice-President / President-Elect and Patricia Miller for Program Chair. The full slate of nominees is on page 4 of the newsletter.

Collegiality, collaboration and effective leadership have been **ARF's** strengths. My thanks to all the Board members, to the the leaders of **ARF's** interest groups, and to everyone else who has helped continue that tradition. Special recognition and thanks are due to Sharon Klein, who is stepping down after five (5!) years as Program Chair. The continuation of consistently high quality programs and events, even through difficult times, is due almost entirely to Sharon, her committee, and Treasurer Dan Blake. The Board will continue to rely on her experience and judgment, even as she is relieved of the heavy lifting.

We are most fortunate that Cynthia Rawitch will be our next **ARF** President. I'm pleased, and relieved, to hand over the job to one I so trust and admire. Best of luck to you, Cynthia!

Ron McIntyre

ARF President, 2022-23

A Challenge: on page 5, you will find two reviews of the same book, which was recently discussed by our Wednesday Book Group. One was written by the group leaders, Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin. The other was written by an AI program. See if you can tell the difference!



NEWS FROM CSUN

Studying End-of-Life Care in LA's Underserved Communities

Claire White, religious studies, has assembled a team of 24 graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines at CSUN to study disparities in end-of-life care for underserved populations in Los Angeles. The researchers are investigating how key psychosocial factors, including religious and spiritual beliefs, impact medical-decision making by family members of terminally ill patients. Among those decisions are whether the dying family member should receive hospital or hospice care and whether care should be curative interventions or palliative focused. “Most of the research that currently exists focuses on end-of-life care for the dying individuals,” White said. “I am really focused on the people who are left behind and how they cope following the death of a loved one.”



Judy Baca Honored

World-renowned muralist and CSUN distinguished alumna Judy Baca '69 (Art), M.A. '80 (Art), was honored March 21 with the 2021 National Medal of Arts, in a ceremony at the White House. President Joe Biden presented the medal — the highest honor given to artists and arts patrons by the U.S. government — to Baca in a ceremony in the East Room. First Lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman and fellow Matador Doug Emhoff '87 (Communication Studies) were present for the ceremony. The ceremony and the medal put Baca in company with some of the nation's most famous artists and faces — including actresses Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Mindy Kaling, designer Vera Wang, author Amy Tan and singers Gladys Knight and Bruce Springsteen.

New Technology Engagement Center at CSUN

Autodesk, a leader in design and make software, has committed \$5 million to California State University, Northridge to support the construction of the Autodesk Technology Engagement Center. The facility will accommodate academic programs in the University's College of Engineering and Computer Science, equity-focused STEAM programming and Global Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Equity Innovation Hub programming at CSUN. This brings the company's total support of the project to over \$7 million. Autodesk President and CEO Andrew Anagnost graduated from CSUN in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

ARF MARCH/APRIL Program Notes



Yamato Drummers

On **March 4th** at The Soraya Performing Art Center on the CSUN campus, **ARF** members thoroughly enjoyed the **Yamato Drummers Performance**, as well as the community outreach event developed by CSUN's own student drumming group in the courtyard preceding the concert itself—showing those gathered some drumming and providing for participation—a nice CSUN “extra.”

More than a few members struggled with the online ticket purchasing system, and it is, in fact, getting some attention, so we'll stay tuned. But the seats for us all—including those who'd purchased tickets earlier in the year—were quite terrific. “Parterre” seating provided an excellent view, and we know how good the acoustics are in the Hall itself.

The reception venue was as close to perfect as anything can be—an irresistible and robust array of wonderful hors d'oeuvres, excellent company, seamless service, and a *literally* perfect window on the courtyard. The Yamato Drummers themselves even looked up and waved goodbye to us all as they trekked off to their next concert: no rest for the

talented. So, shouts out to the entire staff at The Soraya, notably Cameron O’Hanlon and Crystal Diaz who have unfailingly and generously guided us through **ARF** events with The Soraya. Members and the Board are appreciative. Thanks, too, go to Nathan Baker, the recently exited OCC Director of Catering, who’s worked with **ARF** this past year. We’ll miss him, and wish him the best, even as we look forward to working with his successor, Rybya Raheem—a CSUN grad!—and the steadfast Matt Ducey who’s been unfailingly supportive on many levels, notably with technology.



On **April 12th**, **ARF** Members able to participate had a ferociously good time at the **Academy Museum of Motion Pictures** (inhabiting the old May Company landmark building). Here members encountered Bruce,

the shark from the movie *Jaws*. He was certainly “arresting,” and proceeding along, members had access to a range of even more compelling exhibits.

Both our imaginations and stores of knowledge were nourished by exhibits ranging from the history of cinema itself (wonderful accounts of animation...consistent with that we have learned from the recent film *Nope*) to an extraordinary exhibit paying tribute to some great films, including *Casablanca*, *Boyz in the Hood*, and...of course, *The Godfather*. But there too, now gone (we were lucky), was an exhibit addressing the work of Agnès Varda, of whom I personally knew shamefully little. That’s been remedied.

Other nourishing experiences included **Fanny’s** (named for Fanny Brice, one of whose funny girls, Baby Snooks, was a part of my own childhood...anyone else’s?). This Museum restaurant was hugely accommodating; members distributed themselves at various tables (photos on the **ARF** website). One group of eight was able to secure and reserve a table with just a “is this possible?” question. Both the food and its presentation were also quite gratifying. As a test, our ordering was done over a glass case holding a distracting array of baked delicacies, including chocolate walnut cookies each with a puddle of caramel residing in its capacious center. There is (at least) one fewer of those now. Offering full bar service, the prices are reasonable, and the restaurant is open to everyone.

No less grand than the exhibits it houses is the museum itself, architect Renzo Piano not only preserved the historic Miracle Mile May Co. column, wholly reconfiguring it inside, but also designed its companion, the “Sphere,” with the Dolby Family Terrace, a literal and a figurative pinnacle, an LA feature not to be missed.

Thanks go to the office of District 12’s Council Member John Lee for the coach (never for even a nanosecond reminiscent of any pumpkin, ever) that, mixing metaphors, ferried the majority of Museum folks from CSUN to the Museum. And of course, thanks go again to Cathy Jeppson and Pat (and Hank) Miller for working with Lee’s office to arrange things.



ARF attendees with their “coach.”

We will take more care in the future to make certain that the times for departure and pickup for members are as clear as possible in emails, but resilient and determined, the one member who arrived the moment after the coach began its trek drove herself to the Miracle Mile and had a great Museum experience.

It was a good day—and wait until next year; there’ll be more, and Pat Miller and I both hope that more members will be able to attend.

And grand in other—critical—ways will be our **May 6th Brunch**. As Membership chair and, notably, chair of the Memorial Graduate Projects Awards Committee, Tim Fox will be emailing with the announcement of this year’s slate of MGPA awardees; it’s a daunting group and their presentations on May 6th, as we all gather for this celebratory brunch, are sure to be compelling. Please stay tuned, and save May 6th, from 11 to around 2, when we’ll all be gathering in the Colleagues’ Room at the Sierra Center. Below are the names of awardees and their projects:

Katherine S. Lee, Erika Cardenas (Family and Consumer Sciences). **"Healthy Kitchen: Implementation and Evaluation of a University - Based Culinary Medicine Curriculum"**

Georgina Judith Campos (Geology). **"Assessing Trends in Contaminant Transport"**

and Fate Following the 2018 Woolsey Wild-fire"

Hannah Merges (Biology). **"How does submarine groundwater discharge impact coral recruitment and adult coral metabolism?"**

Habeba Mostafa (Journalism). **"The Symbol of Freedom: The Power of Hijab-Wearing Women in America"**

Kicking back at about **11:00am on June 3rd for the annual membership meeting, embedded in our celebratory picnic** now held at the **Arbor Grill on campus**, we will close out this year's program and welcome **ARF's** incoming leadership, as all together, we look forward to the coming year. Below is the **2023/2024 Proposed ARF Executive Board Election Slate**. *Sharon Klein*

Nominating Committee – John Clendenning, Ron McIntyre (Chair), Cynthia Rawitch

President: Cynthia Rawitch (Previously elected)

Vice-Pres/President-Elect: Diane Schwartz (Nominated)

Immediate Past President: Ronald McIntyre (Previously elected)

Secretary: Patrick Nichelson (Nominated)

Treasurer: Daniel Blake (Nominated)

Program Chair: Patricia Miller (Nominated)

ARF Notes Editor: Ann Perkins (Nominated)

Membership Chair: Tim Fox (Nominated)

Historian: Karen Robinette (Nominated)

Webmaster: Eugene Turner (Nominated)

Member-at-Large, 2-Year Term: Michael Barrett (Nominated)

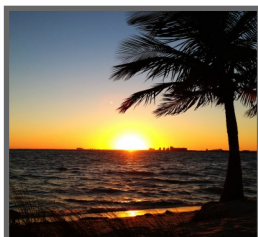
Member-at-Large, 2-Year Term: Sharon Klein (Nominated)

Member-at Large, 2-Year Term: Cynthia Desrochers (Nominated)

Member-at-Large, 1-Year (replacement): David Fox (Nominated)

Member-at-Large, 1-Year (continuing): Catherine Jeppson (Previously elected)

Member-at-Large, 1-Year (continuing): Robert Kiddoo (Previously elected)

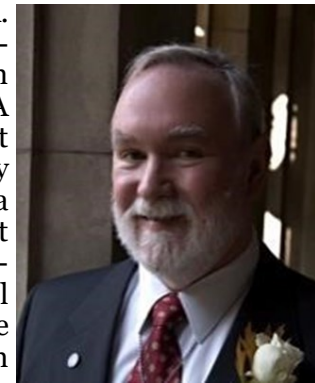


IN MEMORIAM

Michael Reagan Library passed away at home in Pasadena on February 23, 2023. He was a Librarian

an Emeritus at CSU Northridge, ham radio operator, railroad enthusiast, and loving family man. He was known for his generous heart, love of learning, compassionate listening, and ability to fix just about anything. His careers spanned social work, union organizing, computer programming, and librarianship, and his time serving in the Navy on a hospital ship in Vietnam made him a pacifist.

Michael received his B.A. at St. Johns Seminary College, Camarillo, California in 1964, and an M.L.S. at UCLA in 1973. He then worked at the Glendale Public Library for 10 years, and later as a systems programmer at Lundberg Data and at Menasco Systems. In 1990 Michael was hired as the head of the Circulation Department in the CSUN Library. In this position, he oversaw the new, and at the time groundbreaking, Automated Storage and Retrieval System, and helped to organize the cleanup and reshelving of materials after the 1994 earthquake. Michael worked on the first library website back in the early to mid 1990's and for a while he had the title of "Library Webmaster." He later became a Reference and Instruction librarian, presenting sessions on library research to classes in a number of disciplines. At various times he was a liaison with subject areas such as Linguistics, Philosophy, Modern and Classical Languages & Literature, and Library Science. He was also president of the local chapter of CFA, a Statewide Academic Senator in the CSU, and for many years served as Parliamentarian of the CSUN Faculty Senate.



Michael is survived by his beloved wife Carolyn Garner-Reagan, daughters Rebecca Reagan-Thieme and Caryn Rothschild, grandsons Logan and Henry Rothschild, and first wife Gerti R. Garner. Donations may be made in his name to All Saints Church, Friends in Deed in Pasadena, CA, or your local public library. *Ann Perkins*

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EMERITI NEWS

Cynthia Desrochers (Elementary Education) is thrilled to announce the publication of her co-authored book: *Faculty Peer Coaching in Higher Education: Partnerships to Support Improved Instructional Practices*. This book is CSUN grown in that it draws heavily on two CSUN Projects, our ten-year long Faculty Peer Coaching Program and our three-year Five Gears for Activating Learning Project. A number of current CSUN faculty and **ARF** members inspired this book. Thank you! Promotional information about this book is available at:

<https://www.infoagepub.com/products/Faculty-Peer-Coaching-in-Higher-Education>.



BOOK GROUPS

Wednesday Book Group

In this issue our report is unusual in that we present two reviews of the same book, *The Uncommon Reader*. One was written as usual by Joel and Jim, the other by the popular AI (artificial intelligence) program ChatGPT. Was review 1 or review 2 written by AI? Joel's email address is included, <joel.zeitlin@gmail.com>, so that you can express your opinion on this question and make any comments you'd like. Could you catch students who use this AI program for their essays? (*Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen*)

Review 1:

In April, 2023, we discussed a lighthearted, short book, *The Uncommon Reader*, by Alan Bennett, a celebrated British playwright, actor, and screenwriter, and this novella, published in 2007, is a delightful work of fiction that explores the transformative power of reading.

At only 128 pages, this short but powerful book tells the story of Queen Elizabeth II, who, after stumbling upon a mobile library parked in the palace grounds, becomes an avid reader. This newfound passion for literature slowly transforms the Queen, as she begins to question her own life choices and develops a deeper understanding of the world around her.

Bennett's writing is crisp, insightful, and full of humor. He weaves together historical and literary references seamlessly, and his portrayal of the Queen is both affectionate and satirical. The novella is a clever commentary on the transformative power of reading, and how it can challenge our assumptions, broaden our perspectives, and inspire us to explore new ideas.

The book is particularly relevant to our audience of retired faculty, as it offers a nuanced reflection on the role of reading in our lives. As academics, we spend our lives immersed in books and ideas, and the book offers a fresh perspective on the joys and challenges of lifelong learning. It encourages us to explore new ideas, to engage with diverse perspectives, and to never stop learning.

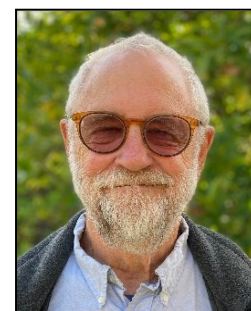
Review 2:

In April, 2023, The **Wednesday Book Group** discussed a lighthearted, short 2007 book, *The Un-*

common Reader, by Alan Bennett, a British writer of television shows and plays. This book is an amusing and friendly satirical portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. The reader is enticed by humor at the book's beginning, where at a state dinner the Queen asks the president of France for his thoughts on the distinguished French novelist, playwright, and political activist Jean Genet, whose homosexuality was an important part of his work. The president, who had heard of Genet but never read him, looks around in a panic for his minister of culture.

The Queen's new reading habit begins when she responds to her dogs' loud barking outside Buckingham Place. She stumbles on a bookmobile on one of its regular stops, as well as a kitchen worker, who loves to read, especially books with gay men. Feeling a bit of obligation, the Queen borrows a book. She also starts conversing with the young man. She becomes an avid reader of all sorts of books and is eager to talk about books with anyone, including major authors. As the Queen's reading binge takes more and more of her attention and enthusiasm away from her usual duties, her staff don't know what to do. Neither do the various ministers, including the Prime Minister, who arrive on visits that traditionally cover only state-related topics. Then, the Queen decides to take a big new step regarding books.

Because the Queen probably got used to being satirized during her reign, we expect even she, like us, found this book playful and charming—if indeed she even read it. All of our group very much enjoyed this book as a nice diversion.



Please contact Jim Allen (james.allen@csun.edu) if you are interested in participating in this group

The **Science Book Group** met on **March 15th** to discuss *A New Science of Consciousness* by Anil Seth. 2021. Attendees were Sandy Jewett, Heidemarie Lundblad, Adam Gifford, Phyllis Russell, Ann Perkins, and Elizabeth Trybus.

The book provided us with the opportunity for a lively discussion of Mr. Seth's ideas, which some of us were not enthusiastic about. For example, most of us had difficulty understanding what the chapter on "Phi" added to our understanding of conscious-

ness. However, despite some concerns, overall we found the book to be quite stimulating and informative about mammalian consciousness. We appreciated how Seth acknowledges that current science still has a way to go before the brain can be sufficiently investigated to get a better understanding of our consciousness and what it means to be me and you. *Heidemarie Lundblad*

For the **April 19th** meeting, we discussed *We are Electric: Inside the 200-year Hunt for our Body's Bioelectric Code*, and *What the Future Holds*, by Sally Adee, 2023. Attendees were Sandy Jewett, Adam Gifford, Heidemarie Lundblad, Ann Perkins, Phyllis Russell, and Elizabeth Trybus.

As indicated by the subtitle, the book provides a history of theories and discoveries of how electric forces work in the body. The group found this history quite interesting, as it moved from medical charlatans, to research on giant squids, to brain implants. Many discoveries, such as the role of electricity in recognizing evidence of cancer in the body, and in some cases even shrinking tumors, seemed to have great promise. But then due to loss of funding, disagreements among scientists, or a more exciting field of research such as the genetic code, many of these discoveries were not pursued. So the questions "why does it work?" were often not answered, even though there was evidence that a particular electrical procedure did work. But Adee presents enough examples of medical successes to convince us that there is a future in understanding and using the potential of electricity in our bodies. She is an interesting writer, with a sense of humor that keeps the reader engaged. *Ann Perkins*

There will **not be a May meeting**, because of various other commitments by members, but for the meeting of **June 21st**, we agreed to read *How the World Really Works* by Vaclav Smil, 2022.



FILM GROUP

The **Monday ARF Film Group** met on **February 20**, via Zoom. The Group discussed the films *Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio* and *Wildcat*.

Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio is a very unusual version of the children's novel *The Adventures of*

Pinocchio (1883) by Italian writer Carlo Collodi. This current version used complicated puppets for all the characters. From a technical point of view, the life-like puppets were amazing. The story was changed from the original focus on the trials and tribulations of a wooden puppet who wanted to become a "real boy" to include a focus on the rise of fascism in Italy prior to World War II. The result was a film that we all agreed was a technical feat while, at the same time, some of our members felt that film was extremely dark. Not surprisingly some of us either did not finish watching the film or just fast-forwarded to get to the end. All in all, this is a solid technical production which left our group with a wide range of reactions. Our group rated *Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio* an average of **7.7/10.0** with scores ranging from 6.0 to 9.0.

Wildcat is documentary about a young British soldier suffering from PTSD and depression after serving in Afghanistan. The soldier makes his way to the Peruvian rainforest where he volunteers with a wild animal rescue organization. There he works with the American director of the rescue organization, and together they foster an orphaned baby ocelot. After one long-term failure they try a second time with a second ocelot and have success. As much as this film deals with the complex process of the re-introduction of a human-raised carnivore in to the wild, it really focuses more on the healing of the soldier's deep psychological damage. The film was very sensitive but, at times, it seemed certain that some of the scenes were actually re-creations. We all agreed that this film held our attention and that we all had a positive reaction to it. Our rating for *Wildcat* was an average of **8.7/10.0** with the scores ranging from 8.0 to 9.0.

On **March 20** the Group discussed the films *Elvis* and *Tár*.

Elvis is a very well-done biography of Elvis Presley. The film follows this music icon from childhood to his tragic end. The film also focuses on the complicated relationship between Elvis and "Colonel" Tom Parker, his manipulative long-time manager. Parker, a stateless person, with a background as a carnival manager, originally spotted the great natural talent of Elvis and helped to move him into the spotlight. Parker is very well-played by Tom Hanks while Austin Butler does a great job as Elvis. In particular, Butler did an exceptional job at the choreography of the performance moves of Elvis. This was a very well-acted film but not exactly a happy experience for those who still have a love for Elvis Presley's music. Our group rated *Elvis* an average rating of **8.8/10.0** with scores ranging from 6.0 to 9.0.

Tár is a depiction of the fall from grace of Lydia Tár, a world-famous female conductor. The character of Tár is

played by the always exceptional Cate Blanchett. Although Lydia Tár is not a real person, the film is so magnetic that she seemed very real. Blanchett completely dominates the film and depicts the conductor as a brilliant but somewhat difficult genius. The film centers on the events around a charge of sexual harassment but it is never made clear if this charge is valid. However, the character is shown to be very difficult with her staff and is shown to be beyond reasonable with students in a master class. Although there were a few apparently irrelevant scenes and many unanswered questions surrounding the film, Blanchett's performance grabbed and held the club members' full attention. Our rating for *Tár* was an average of 8.8 /10.0 with the scores ranging from 8.0 to 9.0.

The **Monday ARF Film Group** met on April 17 via Zoom. The Group discussed the films *Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song* and *Decision to Leave*.

Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song is a documentary that looks at singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen's life using his famous song, Hallelujah, as a central vehicle. The film included excellent quotes and interviews with many eminent people from the music industry including the likes of Judy Collins and Bob Dylan. Cohen is depicted with his full complexity including spending six years of his later life in a Buddhist Monastery. In 2005 Cohen discovered that his manager had embezzled most of his money. Two years later, now in his early 70's, Cohen announced that "he was going to make some money the old fashion way" by going back on the road. Cohen continued to perform on the road until he gave his last concert in New Zealand at age 79. All of us really enjoyed both the film's music and biographical clips. We were impressed with the great energy of his on-stage performance while in his late eighth decade! On the whole we all agreed that this was among the best films we have seen in recent years. Our group gave the film an average rating of 9.4/10.0 with scores ranging from 9.0 to 9.5.

Decision to Leave is a complex Korean language film that depicts the story of a detective investigating the death, due to a fall from a mountain, of a retired government official. Most of our group found the first half of the film hard to follow and some of us were just not able to clearly separate the characters, with confusion between the wife of the deceased and the wife of the detective. At times some of us were even confused between the detective and his assistant! Even with this confusion some of our group found that the second half of the film clarified many of the earlier events, in particular, the very evil nature of the deceased person's wife. One saving grace of the

film was that, although the plot was hard to follow, the photography itself was excellent. We gave this film an average rating of 7.3 /10.0 with the scores ranging from 7.0 to 8.0.

For the month of May, the group plans to discuss the movies *The Quiet Girl* and *Living*. Both of these films are on Prime Demand. *David Schwartz*



SCCARF REPORT

Tuesday evening, April 25, found fourteen intrepid SCCARFers savoring the cuisine of perhaps the finest Indian eatery in the Valley—Anarbagh—dubbed by some “the ultimate Indian restaurant.” After perusing the extensive menu most participants elected to sample and share an assortment of the many tantalizing exotic dishes offered.

As evidenced by the comments that follow, their taste buds appear to have responded favorably: “Food was fantastic!”; “Chicken korma, lamb mango masala, biryani rice—all were delicious and distinctive”; “Chicken tikka masala is unique and delicious; has coconut milk...I’ve never seen this before”; “Parmesan naan was unusual; loved it!”; “Lamb bhuna very nicely done with tomatoes, green peppers and a nice sauce”; “Mango lassi was delicious!”; “Restaurant is under new management, but... the food is (every bit as) good as (that of) the previous owners.”

But food is just the excuse for the group's monthly get-togethers; other comments offered by attendees tell the rest of the tale: “Wonderful conversation!”; “Company and conversation most enjoyable: great evening!”; “Great setting and atmosphere”; “Cheerful service”; “Quiet enough for a large group such as ours.”

Want to become a member of SCCARF? A memo to me (jim.dole@csun.edu) with your email address is all it takes to join the group and be informed of its monthly festivities! *Jim Dole*

In the July issue of ARF Notes, you will find summaries of our ARF Scholarship winners' presentations at the May Brunch, and information about the School of Education/ARF Hansen Scholarship awardees.

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2022-2023

President	Ronald McIntyre ronald.mcintyre@csun.edu	<u>Members-at-Large:</u> Pamela Bourgeois pamela.bourgeois@csun.edu
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ARF NOTES

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