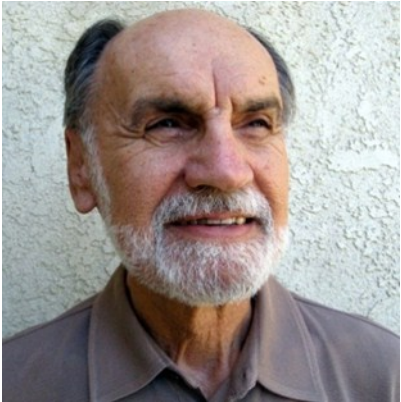


**ARF NOTES: publication of the Association of Retired Faculty, California State University Northridge**



Volume 25, no. 3, March 2013

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



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LARRY CARETTO**

**Inside this issue:**

---

News from CSUN.....	2
Reports from previous programs.....	3
Getty Villa Field Trip	4
Film Groups.....	4,5
Book Groups.....	6
SCAARF.....	7
Birding Group, Golf Group.....	7

<p><b><u>Upcoming Programs</u></b></p> <p>March 13th: Jay Christensen on Boardgaming</p> <p>April 17th: trip to Getty Villa</p> <p>May 11: annual Scholarship luncheon</p>
--

ARF will have a special Wednesday afternoon meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> to hear a talk by CSUN's new president, Dianne Harrison. We are planning an optional no-host lunch at noon, followed by the talk at 1 pm. Mark your calendars now and look for final details in the usual email notice.

Our attendance at the January Banquet was about 70 this year, compared to 98 the year before. Probably much of the decrease was due to the last-minute change of date. The University Club had to be closed for repairs during the date originally scheduled. Although the attendance was down, the enjoyment level was as high as in previous years.

An unpleasant task of the ARF president is notifying members that one of their colleagues has died. Darrick Danta, who was the interim associate dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, died in a mountain-climbing accident on February 15<sup>th</sup>. He was planning to retire next year. In the last issue I noted that Darrick was scheduled to give the Wednesday afternoon talk to ARF in March. Thanks go to our Program Chair, Nancy Owens for her quick work in finding a good replacement speaker for the meeting.

The statewide association of retired faculty, CSU-ERFA, has biannual State Council meetings with representatives

from local retired faculty associations like ARF. At the meeting last fall, David Humphers reported on the CSU long-term care (LTC) insurance program. He warned about the coming increases in premiums, which LTC holders have recently received. He noted that only about 5% of males in the CSU program ever used such insurance, but about 90% of the females did.

He also reported on a recent court settlement that changes a Medicare rule that did not provide benefits to individuals with chronic problems unless they could show a likelihood of improvement. Under the settlement, Medicare will now pay benefits for such individuals. You can find more information on these topics in the online version of the December issue of the CSU-ERFA newsletter at <http://csuerfa.org/reporter.html>.

At the February ARF Board meeting we appointed Sue Curzon, Joyce Linden, and Rich Ruggiero to a committee to nominate candidates for ARF offices for the next year, and three at-large Board members who serve two-year terms. I trust that you will be receptive if they call you to be a new ARF officer or Board member.



## NEWS FROM CSUN

### SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS

Word 365 is available at the CSUN Student Store for students and faculty (including retired faculty) at a deep discount, about \$80 for four years. Inquire at the store for exact pricing.

### LIBRARY EXHIBITS

*Fantastic and Strange: Reflections of Self in Science Fiction Literature*, is the title of an exhibit on display at the C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library, through July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The modern genre of science fiction began when Hugo Gernsback published *Amazing Stories*, the first publication devoted to science fiction literature, in 1926. In his opening essay Gernsback described the genre as encompassing "...the Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, and Edgar Allan Poe type of story—a charming romance intermingled with scientific fact and prophetic vision." Since that time, science fiction has come to encompass a broad swath of fiction, which, in addition to serving as an outlet for expressions of joy, imagination, and creativity, has functioned as a tool we use to explore and more fully understand ourselves. On display are numerous pulp publications, short story collections, novels, and other science fiction works by over 100 authors, most of which were generously donated by Milt Stevens, a long-time member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. For more information call (818) 677-2638.

A new exhibit, *Seamanship and Settlement: the Portuguese Maritime Tradition and Macau's Architectural Duality*, will be at the Oviatt Library's Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room from March 10<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The opening will be on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm, with lectures and video presentations followed by a reception. Join us to celebrate some 500 years of Portuguese maritime skill, daring exploration, and mutual cultural influence with China as exemplified by magnificent photographs of the N.R.P. *Sagres*, which has roamed the world's oceans as the Portuguese Navy's school ship, and of the historic architecture of the port city of Macau, the first enduring point of contact between China and the West. Reservations appreciated: (818) 677-2638.

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

At the last meeting of **ARF**, the Scholarship Selection Committee was appointed. Graduate students in all fields of study will be notified of the availability of the **ARF** scholarships by the Graduate Studies Office. If any of your former colleagues have graduate students who are looking for support, tell them about the **ARF** scholarships. The students can contact the Graduate Studies Office for the application form. The winners will be honored at the annual **ARF** spring luncheon on May 11th. Last year **ARF** awarded four scholarships of \$1500 apiece.

The joint **ARF/College of Education** scholarship committee met to evaluate 79 applications from students enrolled in a program in the College of Education.. These three scholarships of \$2500 each are made possible by the generous contribution of Phil and Shirley Hansen, in collaboration with **ARF**.

The winners this year and their areas of interest are briefly described below:

Zahra Atefi, an immigrant from Iran, is enrolled in the Masters' program in Marriage and Family Therapy. She plans to use her understanding of the needs and challenges of culturally and linguistically diverse communities to relate to and help clients, and to open her own practice in underserved areas.

Donna Randolph is currently enrolled in the Doctoral Studies Program, Community College Cohort. She has been involved in community work at CSUN, and as a non-traditional minority graduate student, it is her life long goal to be a mentor, coach, and educator for youth.

Samantha Mayer is pursuing her Multiple Subjects Credential at CSUN. Her greatest passion and enduring goal has been working with young children. She began working as a camp counselor for three to five year old children over ten years ago, and is now an assistant teacher in kindergarten at Sierra Canyon School. Her career goal is to be a kindergarten teacher.

These students will be honored at a College of Education dinner at the beginning of May.

### CORRECTED ARF DIRECTORY ENTRY

Abcarian, Richard (English)  
28 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Venice, CA 90291  
(310) 822-0887  
rabcarian@mac.com



NeedleArf members display a project



Karen Ellingwood and Patt Davis

## ARF JANUARY BANQUET

Yummy food, scintillating conversation, lively entertainment, shopping opportunities – all this made the banquet fun for me and I hope it was fun for all of you who attended. The food was excellent, as usual. I thought the salad and the lava cake (I'm a chocoholic) were even better than in previous years. The Orange Grove Bistro has new carpets, new paint, and new window treatments.

The Needle **ARF**'ers put on a very successful silent auction. All of the items sold and **ARF** has about \$750 in additional scholarship money. I must confess that I succumbed to Bonnie Campbell's afghan, one of Roberta Mauksch's scarves, and a bowl made by Mary Finley. Thanks to all of you, especially Roberta, for your work and generosity in sharing the results of your talents. Roberta reports that the members are already planning their contributions to the silent auction for next year's banquet.

The performers for the evening were two members of *Sentimental Journey LA*. Karen Ellingwood and Patt Davis selected a variety of familiar songs, mostly from the 40s and 50s, which they sang to recorded instrumentals. I was amazed that I still knew all the words. However, these songs were from a time when one could actually understand the words. We even got to chime in on some of the choruses; **ARF** members have great voices. The presentation was flirty and fun. Thanks to Jim Allen for recommending this group.

Based on the noise level, it seemed that everybody enjoyed visiting with one another, one of the main purposes of all **ARF** events. Special thanks go to Jim Macklin for handling the money and making the nametags, Mary Lee Sparling and Chris Smith for handing out nametags and directing traffic, Max Lupul and Meg Holzer for photographing the event, and Keren Aks, manager of the Orange Grove Bistro. *Reported by Nancy Owens.*

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM**

For our February 13<sup>th</sup> program, we enjoyed a talk by Vince Coppola, a member of the well-known film family that also includes Francis and Sophia. In addition to his career in screenwriting, he also teaches courses in Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Language and Literature at CSUN. Early in his studies, he read Greek and did not know much about film, but when he became interested, he earned an MFA in film at UCLA, and played a large part in the making of the film *The Conversation*, which went on to earn about \$2 million. He told us some interesting anecdotes about the making of *The Godfather*: Frank Sinatra wanted to play the part of the godfather, but Francis wanted Brando. Al Pacino was Francis' choice for Michael, but Robert Evans (the producer) wanted James Caan to play him (he also wanted Lawrence Olivier to play the godfather!) Eventually it was all straightened out with Caan taking the role of Sonny. Vince said that the movie was successful because Francis had the last say in most matters. In *Godfather II* no one even tried to bother him because of his previous success. Vince likened the end of this movie to a Greek tragedy. **God**

*father III* was another matter – according to him it should never have been made. Joe Mancuso pushed for doing this movie – he was after money and blockbusters. The casting was rushed and not successful.

Vince said that he didn't last long in TV because you had to "write for a 6<sup>th</sup> grade mentality." He had some ideas for the series *Golden Girls*, and the producers were interested until they met him – it was his first experience of "ageism." The entire film business has changed over the past few decades, with agents more interested in money than in good writing, and it is truly more reflective now of business than art.

In the question and answer session which followed, he was asked about good films that he would recommend, and mentioned *The Lives of Others*, *The Mission*, *Motorcycle Diaries*, *Home at the Edge of the World*, *Fight Club*, *La Dolce Vita*, and *Arbitrage*. He pointed out that distribution is everything is in film, and maybe the internet will help. In Europe, the writer owns his script, and in American you sell the script. He pointed out that film is a marvelous tool for teaching. *Reported by Ann Perkins.*





## FIELD TRIP TO THE GETTY MUSEUM, APRIL 17TH

Mark your calendars and join **ARF** colleagues on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, for a visit to the local reincarnation of Herculaneum's Villa of the Papyri, AKA The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Highway. The Getty Villa is dedicated to study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. The collection is said to have 44,000 antiquities dating from 6,500 BC to 400 AD. Entering, you are made to feel that you are entering an archaeological site (elevators available). The gardens feature plants used in the Mediterranean climate 2000 years ago.

The Getty Villa was first opened in 1974 and was closed for renovation in 1997, reopening in all its current glory in 2006. A few feet from PCH, I always feel I have entered a different time and place; in fact I get the sensation that time stands still.

Visitors can take tours of the architecture and gardens and/or see the antiquities displayed in the museum. The Architecture Tour (40 min.) and the Garden Tour (30 min.) are both offered at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30. Each tour participant is given a personal hearing device so we will all be able to hear the docent and adjust the volume to our own sound level – no more having to crowd up to the front to hear and missing the most important parts. According to the calendar for April, there is an exhibition on glassmaking in antiquity with four videos demonstrating ancient glassmaking techniques. Also scheduled is an exhibit titled Sicily: Art and Invention between Greece and Rome with over 150 masterpieces of ancient art. Of course, there are shopping opportunities at the gift shop.

**Cost and arrangements:** Tour participants should meet in the parking lot at the corner of Lassen and Lindley (Student Lot F10) by 10:45 a.m. so that we can leave promptly at 11:00 a.m. as we have a time assigned to arrive at the Villa. We will leave the Getty Villa at 4:00 p.m. to return to campus. We will be traveling in a bus provided courtesy of L.A. Councilman Mitchell Englander but, as is our custom, we ask a \$2 donation from each passenger for the bus driver's tip. There is no charge for entry to the Getty Villa. If you live on the Westside and are planning to drive, you will need to make your own parking arrangements online and the cost will be \$15.00 per vehicle. You could also take Metro Bus 534 (see Getty Villa website). Plan to arrive at 11:30 a.m. We will have lunch at the Getty Villa. You may choose to eat at the Coffee Kiosk or the Café. You can download a copy of the Café menu at [www.getty.edu/visit/see\\_do\\_eat\\_shop.html](http://www.getty.edu/visit/see_do_eat_shop.html). *Reported by Nancy Owens.*

**Reservations are a must!** Call or email Nancy Owens (310-392-3507 or [nancyjowens@aol.com](mailto:nancyjowens@aol.com)) no later than April 10 to reserve your space on the bus.



### FILM GROUPS

Ten members of the **Monday Film Group** met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Joyce Linden to discuss two quite different films, *Skyfall* and *Lincoln*. Reaction to *Skyfall* divided the Club into two factions: those who thought it was the best Bond film ever, and those who thought it was just ok. Members were also divided on the pacing, with some finding that it dragged in the middle, while others were enthralled from start to finish. All agreed that the acting was uniformly good, with Daniel Craig singled out as a superb scrappy Bond, Javier Bardem as an effective crazed adversary, and Judi Dench as M, who unlike in her previous Bond films, has a central role in this movie, including a shocking, very affecting scene that ends with her dying in Bond's arms. The consensus was that there was much more "heart" in this film, with more attention paid to Bond's beginnings, to his love of country, and his devotion to M. There were some humorous updates: Moneypenny, formerly M's secretary, is now an agent – a Black woman who has a first name! The new Q is now a young nerdy computer whiz who, when he gives Bond a box with just two unremarkable items in it, says, "We don't do exploding pens anymore." But there is no shortage of incredible feats in this movie. Members ranked the film at 8.1.

Members observed that while *Skyfall* was pure entertainment, *Lincoln* was a serious, thoughtful piece focusing on the last 4 months of Lincoln's presidency as he worked to win passage of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. Everyone praised the script and the acting, particularly Daniel Day Lewis, who delivers a tour de force performance as Lincoln, and Tommy Lee Jones, very effective as the fiery abolitionist, Thaddeus Stevens. Reviews of Sally Field as Mary Todd Lincoln were mixed, with some members praising her work in the film, and another remarking that she essentially gave the same whining performance that she always gives. The group gave the film a robust rating of 9.3. (See the review by the Tuesday group for more details).

The members of the **Monday Film Group** shared their thoughts on *Les Miserables* and *The Life of Pi* at the home of Peggy Steiner on February 4th. Of the two films, the first garnered a wide range of reactions. Most complaints centered on the quality of the singing, which was recorded live. Russell Crowe was the weakest of the lot, although we agreed that, thanks to his acting skills, he made a compellingly evil Javert. Members praised Anne Hathaway as Fantine, a powerful albeit short screen appearance. Her rendition of the signature song “I Dreamed a Dream” was dramatic and affecting. Cinematography received mixed reviews, and there was a comment that 21st century American slang had no place in a film set in 19th century France. Members also thought the film, at 2 hours and 38 minutes, was too long. Ratings ranged from 2 to 9.8—the widest ever given to a film discussed by the group—with the average being a middling 6.6. (The Tuesday Group’s also discussed this film).

*The Life of Pi* was well-liked by all but one member, with high marks given for the acting of the young boy who plays Pi, and for the dazzling cinematography. Members commented on the complexity of the allegorical story, and found dual themes: a reality-based quest for survival, and a spiritual journey. A discussion ensued on the two versions told by the boy of what had transpired during his 227 days on the ocean. One member expressed frustration the film didn’t resolve this question. Some said they stopped trying to make connections between the boy and the tiger and their experiences, choosing instead just to sit back and be immersed in the beauty of the film. In that regard, those who saw the movie in 3-D highly recommended it over the 2-D version. Members gave this film a high 8.6 rating. *Monday Group Reports by Dorena Knepper.*

Nine members of the **Tuesday Film Group** met in January at the home of Lee Gassert to discuss the movie *Lincoln*. The film received uniformly high 8.5 to 9 ratings from the members. Despite these ratings, several members expressed a hard to define feeling of disappointment about the film. There was criticism expressed by some members about Spielberg’s use of standard “Hollywood” dramatic emotional scenes, some inappropriate background music, and the scripted role and performance of Sally Field as Lincoln’s wife. Nevertheless, the film was considered outstanding in many respects. Much of the discussion centered on the historical time frame (Civil War), and the key dramatic theme (the 13th amendment). The expert knowledge of Helen Lodge and Ron Schaffer provided a helpful framework to this discussion. The next meeting of the Group will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 26th at the home of Iris and Arif Shah for a discussion of *Zero Dark Thirty*. A review will appear in the the next newsletter. *Reported by Lee Gassert.*

Seven members of the new **Tuesday Film Group** met on Jan. 8th at Sandy Jewett’s home to discuss two films *Hitchcock* and *Anna Karenina*. Only three members of the group had seen *Hitchcock*, but other members of the group contributed to the discussion by recalling Hitchcock movies they had seen in the past. This was a bio-pic, exposing the quirks of a genius who had a curiosity about murder/morbidity/mortality as a means of evoking the sensation of suspense. “The film does not really had a plot, rather it depicts the making of a film and Hitchcock’s relationship with actors and with his wife. Throughout the film the “figure in the corner” - a mass murderer—represented to some the ever present sense of murder and mayhem in Hitchcock’s films, and to others it was confusing and seemed to disrupt the flow of the story. The film showed Hitchcock’s fascination with blond women—all of his leading ladies were blonds. Most liked the casting of Anthony Hopkins as Hitchcock, and all like Helen Mirren as his wife. For those who saw the movie, the overall rating was 6.33.

Only two group members saw *Anna Karenina*, so this synopsis will be brief. Both said the movie was beautiful, including the cinematography and the star, Keira Knightly. But the story was confusing because the set is within a theater, and swings back and forth from being on stage and in the audience. Some scenes were shot outside the theatre as if going through a window or door. Those who had not seen the film joined the discussion based upon their recollection of Tolstoy’s novel, and the previous film versions. Those who saw the film gave it an overall rating of 6.75. *Reported by Roberta Mauksch.*

The group met again on Feb. 5th at the home of Elizabeth Schneider to discuss *Django Unchained* and *Les Miserables*. *Django Unchained*, a Quentin Tarantino film determined to be of the epic historical/action/noir genre, focused on the evolution of the main character, Django, played by Jamie Foxx, from submissive downtrodden slave, to confident, bad-arse bounty hunter. A number of sub-themes permeated the story: the triumph of true love, when Django rescues his wife from plantation owner Calvin Candy (Leonardo DiCaprio); murder and mayhem as Django, with his partner and mentor Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz), pursue their bounty business; the wages of sin, as the plantation Candyland and its owner end in a massive shoot-out; and vindication, as Django and his wife survive and move on to freedom. The plot moved along fluidly in spite of the almost three hour length, and the violence and blood served to illustrate the brutality of slavery. There was a huge body count, and no one to really identify with, but acting, costumes, location, and other technical aspects were excellent, and the overall group rating was 8. *Reported by Elizabeth Schneider.*

A review of *Les Miserables* has already been given by the Monday group. The Tuesday Group had many of the same comments, but was much more positive about the film, with an average rating of 9.16. The Group will meet again at the home of Sandy Jewett at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, March 5th.



## BOOK GROUPS

### Science Book Group, Reported by Linda Jones

The **Science Book Group** met on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Oviatt Library. The book discussed was: *Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds* by Bernd Heinrich. Generally, the group was impressed by the amount of physical work required to do the research, and by the Ravens' problem solving abilities. Although some readers found things in the book to disagree with, on the whole, they found it readable and informative. The group met again on February 20th to discuss *Incognito: the Secret Lives of the Brain*, by David Eagleman. On March 20th we will discuss *The Disappearing Spoon*, by Sam Kean.

Research for April selection

*The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True* by Richard Dawkins and Dave McKean

*The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt

*Blood Work: A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution* by Holly Tucker

*World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse* by Lester R. Brown

*Existential Pleasures of Engineering* by Samuel Florman

*Strong Force: The Story of Physicist Shirley Ann Jackson* by Diane O'Connell

*Seeds of Wealth* by Henry Hobhouse

*Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution* by Richard Dawkins

*The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail—But Some Don't* by Nate Silver

*In Defense of Self: How the Immune System Really Works* by William Clark

The **Tuesday Book Group** has been reading a wide range of books, from the historical to the contemporary in both fiction and non-fiction. Most of us enjoy the great diversity of our readings. *The Sense of an Ending*, by Julian Barnes, winner of the Man Booker Prize in 2011, is a lovely, skillfully drawn portrait of two men whom we meet as teenage boys at school. We follow these two as they navigate those days and the rest of their lives, with girlfriends, wives, and a surprise near the end. A collection of Leo Tolstoy's short stories introduced us to the richness of that author's observations about people's motivations, character, and struggles in 19th century Russia. We liked these well-crafted stories, of which "The Death of Ivan Ilych", "The Kreutzer Sonata", and "Master and Man" were perhaps the most powerful. Another satisfying read was *Great Expectations*, the Charles Dickens novel, whose characters we followed as they coped with crises and uncertainties. In contrast to the above studies of individuals, in *The Mezzanine*, the extremely observant author, Nicholson Baker, points out and explores some of the commonplace little things and behaviors around us that we usually take for granted.

Two books illuminated the development of humanism and science in the Renaissance. The *Swerve*, by Stephen Greenblatt, focuses on the monk Poggio Bracciolini, who, like many other monks in the late Middle Ages, saw his mission as preserving old Roman texts by copying them. Poggio's copying of a very un-Christian poem by Lucretius resurrected a strand of humanism that had been hidden for a thousand years and gave added fuel to the loosening of traditional Christianity's control of thought and society. Then we read John Banville's novel, *Kepler*, which was based on the life of the early 17th century astronomer Johannes Kepler. This book was a good introduction to his life, personally and as a scientist. Kepler's strongest drive was to conceptualize the orbits of the planets while taking into account of the best astronomical measurements of the day. However, he lived at a time of great religious conflict and his efforts came under the scrutiny of the various Catholic and Protestant rulers, among whose territories he moved in order to survive.

Another of our readings was *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving, who is not related to our book group member, John Irving. This story is focused on the individuality of a kid named Owen Meany, who grows up with his best friend John in a small New Hampshire town in the late 1950s and 1960s. They and their friends and cousins get into the usual mix-ups as teens and deal with an interesting range of adult characters so that many passages are quite funny. But there is an underlying religious and ethical strain in Owen that expresses itself in imaginative ways. Owen seems to have prophetic powers and a special sense as to what dramatic and often humorous steps he could take in various circumstances, especially expressing his distaste for hypocrisy and pretention in adults. The story was enjoyed by most of the group, but some felt it dragged in places and few would give it raves.

One that I found very rewarding was Erik Larson's *In the Garden of Beasts*. This well written personalized history is about the day-to-day increased repression and overt anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany, beginning in 1933 with Hitler's elevation to chancellor. The story is told through the eyes of the American ambassador to Germany, William Dodd and his family and their friends in Berlin. Ron Schaffer leads our group—contact him if you are interested in joining. Reported by Jim Allen.



## SCCARF REPORT

### King's Fish House

An evening in Calabasas on January 14<sup>th</sup> marked the start of SCCARF's 2013 eating odyssey, a monthly search for the Valley's best eateries. For most who came, the restaurant's fare proved tasty: "My rock sole, the house specialty, was excellent"; "loved the assortment of oysters.."; "the combo plate—scallops, shrimp and white fish—was mouth-watering"; and "the mussels and clams were delicious." But two found the lobster "undercooked, tough and tasteless." For many, however, friendly chatter among friends was the primary consideration, food a mere pretext for an evening with friends: "I very much enjoyed the... experience, probably more for the camaraderie than for the food"; "the evening as a whole—including setting, staff and company—was great!"; and "The food and ambience...lent itself to an evening of camaraderie." For most, the enclosed, heated patio proved toasty enough, but for others a draft was uncomfortable, survival made possible by engulfing ones legs in a coat. Asked if he would return, one responded that King's is "...a bit pricy, [but] I love fish...and there is a paucity of good fish restaurants in the...Valley, so I will likely return." Parking was plentiful, but one attendee complained that he "... had to park at least a quarter of a mile away." Wear your hiking shoes. *Reported by Jim Dole.*

### Alexis' Greek, Portuguese, and Mediterranean Restaurant

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, twenty SCCARfers met at Alexis' Greek, Portuguese, and Mediterranean Restaurant in Northridge to enjoy an evening of exquisite cuisine. Alexis, the executive chef, and his waiters greeted us as we entered the restaurant. Greek music was playing quietly in the background. The ambience and décor took us to Greece, Portugal and the Mediterranean. Humus and Pita bread were already on the table. A variety of Greek and Portuguese wines were available by the bottle or by the glass. First ordered was an appetizer, the flaming souvlaki made with fried cheese, flaming brandy and lemon. Among the entrees ordered were chicken piri-piri, shrimp souvlaki, and bacalhau which is salted cod-fish cakes. Don Cameron ordered pastisio, which is a kind of Greek lasagna. He said it was very tasty. Fatima's sidewalk salad with grilled salmon added a different taste and was enjoyed by Chris Smith. Fatima makes all the desserts on the premises, and some of us ordered tiramisu for dessert. What a tasting pleasure! *Reported by Chris Smith.*

If you'd like to be apprised of the group's next outing and join in the fun, drop an email to Jim at [jim.dole@csun.edu](mailto:jim.dole@csun.edu).



Thirty-nine golfers (the largest group in many years) competed on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Porter Valley Country Club in Northridge. Only nine of the group were ARF members or spouses, the others were active CSUN faculty or staff or friends. The best score of the day among ARF members was posted by Lee Gassert. Second best was Tom Shannon followed by Mike Newlon in third place. All golfers enjoyed a fine day at this very fine private course. *Reported by Don Cameron.*



### ARF BIRDING GROUP

The annual Morro Bay weekend will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> /24<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and make motel reservations. You may want to mark March 22<sup>nd</sup> for driving time. Home base will be at the Blue Sail Inn, but you may choose any motel you prefer. I like Blue Sail because it is a comfortable, medium-priced place in walking distance of restaurants and other points of interest. I recommend you make reservations right away, even if you are not sure you will be able to come. You can cancel if necessary but you can't always get a reservation at the last minute. Blue Sail's number : (888) 337-0707.

If you haven't been with us on this trip before and you're not sure you want to devote a whole weekend to birding, call me on the phone and let me describe options and possibilities. Some options being considered are (1) Winery tour (2) Elephant seal viewing (3) your suggestion.

Let me know when you have a motel reservation so I can see who is coming. We will probably have 1 or 2 local bird walks before Morro Bay weekend, so watch for messages. I will send more details about Morro Bay when the time is closer. *Reported by Linda Jones.*

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2012-2013

President	Larry Caretto (818) 348-1491	<u>Members at Large</u>
Vice President	Joyce Linden (818) 882-2098	Sue Curzon
Secretary	Margaret Holzer (818) 347-9602	Bonita Campbell (818) 368-6508
Treasurer	Jim Macklin (626) 446-6411	Pat Murray (805) 522-4231
Newsletter Editor	Ann Perkins (818) 421-4930	Roberta Mauksch (818) 349-1330
Program Chair	Nancy Owens (310) 392-3507	Karen Robinette
Membership Chair	Richard Ruggiero (818) 366-9896	Clark Wong (818) 773-8032
Historian	Christine Smith (818) 701-3006	
Webmaster	Max Lupul (818) 363-9686	

## ARF NOTES

### ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

P.O. BOX 280578

NORTHRIDGE, CA 91328