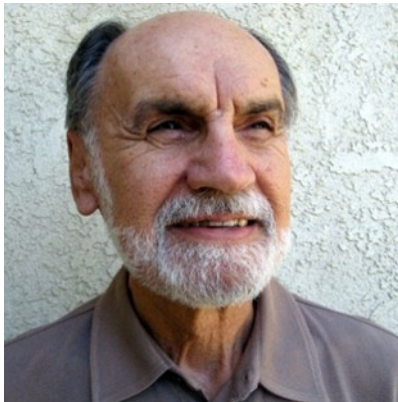


# ARF NOTES: publication of the Association of Retired Faculty, California State University Northridge



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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LARRY CARETTO

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### Upcoming Programs

**May 11th: annual Scholarship Luncheon.** See the signup form on *Page 7* of this newsletter.

**June 1st: Picnic at Fran Ulrich's.** Entertainment by Mary and Paul Kirk on the accordion.

Our year of activities is coming to an end with the May 11th Scholarship Lunch and the June 1st general meeting and picnic. We will also have a special meeting on Wednesday, May 8th in the Northridge Room of the Orange Grove Bistro (University Club). President Diane Harrison will speak from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and there will be a discussion of the changes in the PERS long-term health care insurance from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

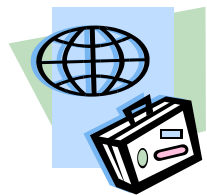
I will be moving into the role of Program Chair next year. If you have any suggestions for speakers, field trips, or any other possible **ARF** activities, please let me know. The schedule for 2013-2014 is already set; next September the Program Committee will start planning the schedule for 2014-2015.

I will be attending a meeting of various Southern California CSU retired faculty associations at Cal Poly Pomona on April 19th. Don Cameron, in his role as the Executive Director of CSU-ERFA, has made arrangements for this meeting and circulated a survey with responses to several questions about the operation of the various campus retiree organizations. The dues charged members range from none at Fresno to \$36 at CSUN; the annual scholarships given range from none at Fresno and Pomona to \$22,000 at CSULA. However, the CSULA re-

sponse states that endowments provide much of their scholarship funds.

At the picnic and general meeting in June the membership will be asked to vote on a change to the **ARF** constitution that removes the distinction between "Members," who are allowed to vote and run for offices, and "Associate Members," who do not have these privileges. This proposal would not change the qualifications for membership in **ARF**, but it would allow current associate members (part-time faculty who are fully retired with PERS, surviving spouses, retired faculty from other universities, and other members approved by the Board as associate members) to vote and be officers. Of course we will also hold elections for new **ARF** officers at this meeting, but as is our usual practice, most of the time will be spent enjoying each other's company during the picnic.

I would like to thank all members for their support during the past year, with special thanks to the **ARF** Board members who volunteer their time to keep the organization running. My hearty welcome to Joyce Linden as the new **ARF** president for 2013-2014.



## EMERITI, HERE AND AROUND THE GLOBE

**Joyce Linden (Deaf Studies)** was sent to Saipan at the end of January for two weeks by the University of Hawaii to work with an intern, who is teaching in her own classroom without the support of a mentor teacher. The class consists of 5 Deaf and hard-of-hearing children ranging in age from 5 to 9 years, and some have behavioral issues. Most come from homes where the parents do not know sign language. The intern, a young woman, is not Deaf herself, but she is fluent in sign language and eager to improve her teaching skills. The island also has 4 DHH students at the Middle School and one at the HS. There are also 12 Deaf adults on the island; half of them are all the same age, 47, having been born during the Rubella epidemic in the mid-60's.

Joyce found the island population very interesting: Chamorro and Carolinian are the two languages spoken in addition to English. There are also large populations of Filipinos, Chinese and Japanese living there, and many restaurants offer foods from the different cultures. The country is largely Catholic and was at one time ruled by Spain, thus many streets (and people) have Spanish names. Saipan is less than an hour's flight from Guam and was an important battleground during WW II; many memorials are erected to both Americans & Japanese. Unemployment is high there - the economy is sagging and the fabric industry, once robust, left the country years ago. Joyce enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the education of the Deaf children on the island by supporting their classroom teacher and learning about the people and the culture.

**Larry Caretto (Engineering)** and his wife Barbara, and **Bonnie Faherty (Nursing)** and her husband Ed Feldman went on a person-to-person tour to Cuba in April. Following are excerpts from their report: Our immersion into Cuba began in the Miami terminal where we were engulfed by enormous bales of gifts enclosed in green plastic wrap bound for relatives and friends on the other side of the 45-minute flight.

One's first sights in Havana are like a time warp with vintage American cars from the 1950s, usually in pristine condition. For \$10 to \$20 you too can have your photo taken behind the wheel of a Ford Fairlane convertible in Revolution Square, where iron visages of Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos peer down. There is also a Russian-looking obelisk topped by a statue of Jose Martí, the Cuban national hero who died in 1895 while calling for Cuban independence from Spain. There is no image of Fidel in Revolution Square. Russia's past presence is evidenced by the many Lada cars, usually serving as cabs, which are interspersed among the American cars lovingly preserved.

The food is better than you might expect, and if you enjoy rice and black beans you'll be in fine shape. Chicken, pork and fish are available for meals. If you like gourmet foods, however, you will be disappointed. Conspicuous by their absence were American drink products, but Mojitos were usually provided as a part of the meal if you wished. The tour provided accommodations in luxurious hotels built for the Cuban tourist trade after the Soviet Union withdrew its support of Cuba in the early 1990s. These

hotels provided extravagant breakfasts each day, featuring a very full buffet with multiple stations. Clearly Havana was a jewel of a city, as the architecture still hints of opulence and style. However, 50 years of neglect are evident and when buildings collapse, the site is merely converted into a pocket park. The people are friendly, clever, resourceful, talented and well educated with a literacy rate of 98% (up from the teens in the 1950s). Most people have two jobs in order to make it but no one starves since everyone has a supply of rations of modest amounts such as rice, beans and occasionally meats. Many people have their own gardens

Our next stop, Baracoa, was a sleepy little town a three-hour flight east of Havana on an Antonov turboprop plane manufactured in the Ukraine. Forget about the "upright and locked" position - you were lucky if the seat-back remained at a 45-degree angle. Baracoa is on a cove where Christopher Columbus landed (one of several sites) and the local church holds the remains of a six-foot cross he is said to have planted on shore when he arrived. After 500+ years of giving pieces of the cross to visiting dignitaries, the cross is now about four feet tall. With rare exceptions, transportation in Baracoa is by pedicabs or cabs that are horse or mule drawn. We were met by Alejandro Hartmann, the distinguished local historian who pops up unexpectedly when you are at some local historical spot. When we visited a local indigenous village for music, dancing, and local foods, he appeared suddenly with a representative from the Smithsonian doing local anthropological research. The other memorable character was El Poeta (a restaurant owner). He spoke in poetic rhyme and immediately fell in love with one of our ladies. Such was his devotion to our fellow traveller that he was waiting for her at the bus the next morning with a flower wrapped with a poem and held together with his photo.

After a 4½-hour bus ride through mountains and oceanside, bypassing Guantánamo Bay, we arrived at San Juan Hill in Santiago de Cuba. Locals say Teddy Roosevelt wasn't that impressive but the media made him a hero. This city of half a million was the site of the beginnings of the Cuban revolution of the 1950s. We visited the Moncada Barracks where the failed July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1953 attack gave the "July 26" name to the revolutionary movement by Fidel Castro. One highlight of our visit to this city was a visit to a restaurant in a home about 30 minutes outside the city limits. A member of the Buena Vista Social Club lived here. We watched the full moon rise over a nearby mountain top; later we were bathed in gorgeous moonlight when the power went out. This was an almost magical moment. The other highlight occurred the last night we were in Cuba, when our tour leader arranged for vintage car taxis to take us back to our hotel from the restaurant. Two of the five cars were convertibles and all of us "cruised" through the city streets in cars that spanned 1938 through the mid-1950s.

Cuban society is undergoing changes. At one time almost all economic activity was regulated by the government, but recently limited private enterprise has been allowed and this has been expanding. We heard many opinions from individuals about what the future holds for Cuba. Although life is hard, almost everyone acknowledges that the Revolution has produced many benefits for Cubans.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Darrick Danta (Geography)** died on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 of natural causes while climbing in the desert mountains near the California/Nevada border. Darrick was a longtime faculty member in the Geography Department at CSUN, where he later became the Associate Dean of the College of Behavioral Sciences. His colleagues remembered him on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at his memorial service as a respected and well-liked professor who always injected humor into his lectures. Darrick earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Geography Department at CSUN, and later earned a Ph.D. in geography from Ohio State before returning to CSUN to begin a long career in teaching and research. He also served as president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, as well as editor for its journal. Students and peers benefitted from Dr. Danta's expansive knowledge of Eastern Europe, as well as his exceptional breadth of training in all aspects of geographic methods, tools and techniques. He was an active member of the Sierra Club where he led many outings and taught outdoor skills and orienteering. He eventually became the Chair of the Sierra Club's Sierra Peaks Section. Darrick is survived by his wife, Sara, and his brother Randall. The family has requested memorial donations be made to the Darrick Danta Fund for Field Research in Geography in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Cal State Northridge. Checks should be made payable to CSUN Foundation, with a notation referencing the fund, and sent in care of Anne Robison, Director of Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8256, or contact Anne directly at [anne.robison@csun.edu](mailto:anne.robison@csun.edu) or (818) 677-7738.

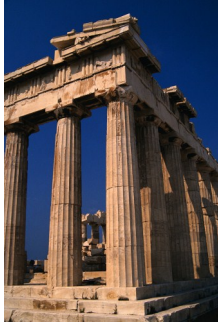
**Lawrence Stewart (English)** died on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the age of 86 in his home in Beverly Hills. He was an inspiration and a guide to those who knew him as a teacher, colleague, writer and friend. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University and taught at CSUN as Professor of English from 1969 until his retirement 30 years later. He specialized in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century British and American Literature and directed the English honors program for many years. His connections with prominent figures in the world of Hollywood and popular music stemmed from his position as archivist to Ira Gershwin for fifteen years, where he organized materials that shaped the music and culture of America, now in the Library of Congress. He produced two books from this: *The Gershwin Years* with Edward Jablonski, and *The Gershwins: Words upon Music*. Dr. Stewart gifted over 15,000 books, including those of his lifelong partner, Donald Adams, Professor of English at Occidental College, to the rare book collections at Northwestern University, where they had met as undergraduates. He, along with Adams, founded and edited *The Mystery and Detection Annual*, a scholarly journal that published critical and creative work pertinent to the genre. He now lies with his parents and partner in Fairhaven Memorial Park, Santa Ana. *From an obituary by Nancy Williams and Robert Chianese.*

**Clarence Wiggins (Music)** died on March 28<sup>th</sup>. A Memorial Service was held at the Northridge United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. A fuller report will appear later.



## MARCH 13TH PROGRAM

We were fortunate to have Jay Christensen present our March program on short notice. His topic was "Are you Bored or a Board (gamer)?" Jay was a professor for 38 years in the CSUN College of Business, and has been board gaming since 1970. He posed the question, "What does boardgaming do for you?" Some of the positive aspects are encouraging social networking, providing a creative outlet, making use of logical thinking, and allowing leisure time to flourish. He talked about the history of games; some of the forerunners were chess, war games with miniatures (H.G. Wells came up with rules for a game with toy soldiers), and card games such as bridge. *Monopoly* and *Risk* are examples of board games that popularized the genre. *Gettysburg* was one of the first modern war board games. It employed tactics, and the use of hexes for movement. Other types of games are tile laying games, where one tries to make patterns with tiles. Often games rely on dice, which introduce a note of randomness. Some current games that he mentioned are Power Grid, which requires real world decisions; Puerto Rico, which deals with finance and geography; Talisman, a fantasy game; and Carcassonne, a tile laying game. Travel, history, politics, geography, logic, and role playing are just some of the topics that today's games focus on. Jay concluded by saying that games enrich our lives, not just by providing play and relaxation, but also by interaction with others. After the presentation, two of the games that he had brought were raffled off. *Reported by Ann Perkins.*



## APRIL 17TH FIELD TRIP TO THE GETTY VILLA

It was a beautiful day for our visit to the Getty Villa. The highlight for me was the Sicily exhibit, especially the Archimedes Palimpsest. I had heard about it but never thought I'd be lucky enough to see it in person. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> C. Byzantine copy of Archimedes' manuscripts that was then "erased" (washed and scraped) by a 13<sup>th</sup> C. monk who used it for a liturgical text. With modern technology, the Archimedes text has been discovered and made visible. This is the only known copy of his "The Method of Mechanical Theorems" but is not complete. It also includes several of his other works. After a tumultuous history it resides in the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

We also spent some time admiring and learning about other Greek and Roman artifacts from Sicily, monumental ones such as The Charioteer and Priapus (who was missing his most outstanding attribute) and smaller ones such as coins and pottery. I am always amazed at how sculptors were able to portray the drape of textiles so accurately. There will be a more detailed report on this trip in the fall issue of *ARF Notes*. *Reported by Nancy Owens.*



## FILM GROUPS

Ten members of the **Monday Film Group** gathered at the home of Jim Bennett on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Silver Linings Playbook* and *Side Effects*, two films with ensemble casts that portrayed quite different views on issues of human interaction and mental illness. *Silver Linings Playbook* focuses on two emotionally damaged individuals who learn that the only way they can escape the loop of emotional paralysis is through connecting with each other. The two main characters are unpredictable, and one member observed that since you never knew what they would say or do next, you couldn't help but engage with them and care about them. While the acting was generally praised, four members did not believe Jennifer Lawrence's performance was Oscar-worthy. Two others thought she was a talented actress who was equally as good as in the quite different roles she portrayed in *Hunger Games* and *Winter's Bone*. The writing and acting in this film were thought to be first-rate. Members rated the film at 8.1.

Fewer members liked *Side Effects*, citing too many implausibility's in the plot. Many also thought the movie was too dark and depressing. The movie begins with what the viewer believes will be an exposé on the greed and incestuous relationship between the pharmaceutical companies and the psychiatrists whose psychotropic drugs they market—but then the movie suddenly turns into a murder mystery. Several members complained that the confusion in the plot was distracting and exasperating, while two others thought the movie was intriguing, and they enjoyed the air of mystery. Most thought the acting was good, although several members thought that Catherine Zeta-Jones, ordinarily a good actress, was less than stellar in this film. Two members were particularly critical of her acting in a lesbian scene, where she appeared awkward and uncomfortable. Members gave this film a 6 rating.

Nine members of the **Monday Film Group** gathered again at the home of Abe and Vickie Feinberg on April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss *The Call*, a thriller about a 911 call operator that blends suspense with horror, and *Quartet*, a dramedy about elderly residents in a retirement home for retired musicians—the latest film vehicle showcasing Maggie Smith's extraordinary talent. While the consensus on *The Call* declared the film wildly implausible, the acting and the technical aspects made the movie enjoyable and worth recommending. Halle Berry's performance as the 911 operator was particularly singled out, with the lament that her talents aren't displayed in more films. Abigail Breslin, who played the kidnapped young girl, was less admired, with two members finding her characterization too whiny and annoying. Everyone thought the movie was very suspenseful, with the music greatly adding to the sense of dread and horror. The 911 Call Center looked very realistic, and several members appreciated learning how such dispatch centers operated. The location of the action on Los Angeles freeways and rural in Santa Clarita added much needed realism to offset the coincidences and improbable actions. Members gave the movie an average 7.3 rating.

*Quartet* offered glorious music and superb acting, with Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Billy Connolly (the quartet) especially touted. Dustin Hoffman made his directorial debut with this film and was also executive producer. His decision to mix actors with actual musicians and opera singers was seen as inspired. The theme of the movie, surviving old age, was poignantly transcribed, and members also praised the cinematography. The scenes were beautifully framed, both inside the retirement home and on the grounds outside. The script also earned high marks, especially for such amusing gems, as when Smith and Courtenay's characters are out on an evening stroll and startle a young couple who rise up from the bushes prompting the young boy to declare guiltily, "We weren't doing anything!" To which Smith's character replies, "Neither were we." The looks on the young couple's faces are priceless. The movie ends with the quartet about to sing from Rigoletto at a fundraiser organized to save the retirement home from closure. When the 4 singers step out onto the stage, Maggie Smith's character—a "super-diva" in her day—receives a standing ovation. She doesn't sing a note, but so consummate is her acting that there is no doubt she *is* that super-diva! Members ranked this film at 8.9. *Reported by Dorena Knepper.*

Eleven members of the original **Tuesday ARF Film Group** met at the home of Iris and Arif Shah on February 26<sup>th</sup> where we discussed *Zero Dark Thirty*. The movie was categorized as a “docudrama” by one member while the movie’s press notes term it “a unique kind of motion picture: the reported film.” Whatever its category, we decided it was thematically a tale of the successful ten-year hunt for Osama bin Laden by the obsessive single-minded female leader of the CIA team assigned to this task.

Initial numerical ratings on a 10-point scale resulted in scores from 4 to 8.5 with an average of 7.2 and a median of 7, among the lowest rating this group has ever assigned to a movie. Among the criticisms leveled by individual members were the length of the movie (2 1/2 hours), the difficulty of making sense of the many meetings, tortured interrogations, confusing names and relationships of the possible leads to bin Laden, the one dimensional personality of the lead character (played by Oscar nominee Jessica Chastain), a failure to connect ongoing terrorist acts and the spread of terrorism to bin Laden or to his leadership during the ten-year search, and a lost opportunity to confront the moral issue of torture condoned by the U. S. government. Acting, editing, and especially the dramatic concluding middle-of-the-night attack on bin Laden’s Pakistani compound received general praise by the members. While there was agreement the film failed to reach a high level of artistic accomplishment, it did provide the stimulus for an active and extensive discussion involving all members of the club. *Reported by Leland Gassert.*

The **Group** discussed *Bless Me Ultima* on March 26th. This film, based on the well regarded high school reading list book, follows a young boy as he observes and experiences events that lead him to ask why there is evil in the world. He is guided in part by an elderly woman, beautifully portrayed by Miriam Colon, whom the impoverished, superstitious Catholic community consider a witch with dangerous supernatural powers, while others may see her as a naturalist, a healer, an herbalist who understands the human heart. The eight attendees at the home of Margaret Vernallis enjoyed and found the film interesting but gave it a 7.7, downgrading it for perceived irrelevancies, exaggerations, and some disjointed and confusing aspects of the script. *Reported by Margaret Vernallis.*

The **New Tuesday Film Group** met on March 5th to discuss the film *Side Effects*. We decided that the genre was “psycho noire” or suspense, with a theme of greed and deception. The main character, played by Rooney Mara, led a life of deception. Some members thought there were flaws in the writing, but there were interesting plot twists. Rooney Mara was thought to be a good actress in the part, but Channing Tatum was miscast. Set design and sound were not considered memorable, but cinematography was good. The moral seems to be that greed and deception pay off. The average rating was 7.8.

We also discussed *Silver Linings Playbook*. It was thought to be a romantic comedy, with the theme of a family struggling with mental illness challenges. We saw the plot as presented in three stages: 1) anger; 2) bargaining; 3) acceptance and triumph over adversity. The set decoration was very good, and casting was believable. The director wrote the script about the effects of his own son on the family. The consensus was that the film is definitely worth seeing. The average rating was 9.2.

## BOOK GROUPS



On March 6<sup>th</sup> eight members of the **Wednesday Book Group** met at Eve Finestone’s home to discuss *The Years of Lyndon Johnson, the Passage of Power* by Robert A. Caro. A lively discussion took place immediately. Although the book was 605 pages long, everyone had read the book in its entirety. Caro used oral histories and other books written about the most frustrating and triumphant period of Lyndon Johnson’s career – 1958 to 1964. The story of this period in Johnson’s life reveals the savage animosity between Johnson and Robert Kennedy, the humiliation and isolation he bore as Vice President, and his assumption of power as he took the reins of the presidency with knowing mastery. Lyndon Johnson was a master politician, and Robert Caro is a master storyteller. From chapter to chapter, I was eager to read quickly to find out what was going to happen next. The next meeting of the group will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 pm at Chris Smith’s house. We will be discussing *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk*, by Ben Fountain. *Submitted by Christine C. Smith.*

The **Science Book Group** met on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Oviatt Library. Present were, Virve Leps, Mary Corcoran, John Motil, Charles Macune, Heidmarie Lundblad, Mary Lee Sparling, Joel Zeitlin, Sandy Jewett, Bill Hosek and myself. The book discussed was *Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain* by David Eagleman. In this provocative book, renowned neuroscientist David Eagleman navigates the depths of the subconscious brain to illuminate its surprising mysteries. How is your brain like a conflicted democracy engaged in civil war? What do Odysseus and the subprime mortgage meltdown have in common? Why is it so difficult to keep a secret? Taking in brain damage, plane spotting, dating, drugs, beauty, infidelity, synesthesia, criminal law, artificial intelligence, and visual illusions, *Incognito* is a fascinating subsurface exploration of the mind and all its contradictions. Some group members felt the author was evangelizing.

The **Science Book Group** met again on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Oviatt Library. Those present were Jim Dole, John Motil, Heidmarie Lundblad, Sandy Jewett, Charles Macune, Helen Saltman, Mary Corcoran, Phyllis Russell and myself. The book discussed was *The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements*, by Sam Kean. Though solid at room temperature, gallium is a moldable metal that melts at 84 degrees Fahrenheit. A classic science prank is to mold gallium spoons, serve them with tea, and watch guests recoil as their utensils disappear. The book is full of fascinating stories about the individual elements and the scientists who discovered them. Was Robert Lowell’s poetry ruined by lithium which cured his madness? All members present greatly enjoyed the book. The only reservation was a wish for more graphics. *Reported by Linda Jones.*



## SCCARF REPORT

Thirty-two members, the largest group yet at our monthly dining experiences, on March 12th enjoyed excellent food and drinks at the recently opened Brendan's Irish pub and restaurant in Thousand Oaks. We had a private room in a very authentic Irish setting, including scenes from the famous Temple Bar in Dublin. One specialty of the house was the lamb shank, which received rave reviews from a dozen diners; others enjoyed corned beef and cabbage, fish and chips and beef and Guinness stew. A full selection of Irish beers and whiskeys received appropriate attention. Many diners wore green in honor of St. Patrick's week. Prices were reasonable and some members brought their own wine; there was no corkage fee. Service was excellent; all in all, a good experience even though a few miles away from the San Fernando Valley. *Reported by Don Cameron.*

Thirty-eight SCCARFers gathered around four tables in the patio garden room of the L' Affair restaurant in Mission Hills. The room was softly lit, the music subdued. Friends greeted each other and chatted over a glass of wine or other refreshments while waiting for delicious dinners served at a leisurely pace by friendly attendants. The French onion soup au gratin was definitely a favorite appetizer. L'Affair's chef/owner, Michel, offered a nicely balanced menu with a selection of chicken, pork, beef and fish entrees, all with delicate, smooth French sauces. A Linguini Ratatouille was offered as a vegetarian choice. The two desserts, Profiteroles au Caramel and Flan a la Vanille et au Caramel were very much appreciated by those with a sweet tooth.

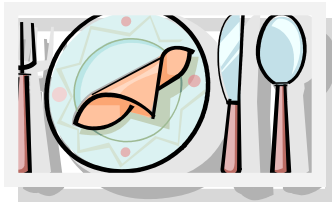
Bonnie Flaherty says, "the filet mignon was melt-in-your-mouth good, but the company of good conversationalists is always the best part of such gatherings," and Margaret Vernallis thought that L'Affair was an ideal location. Dorena Knepper and Earl Weiss had a great evening and appreciated the good food. They liked the group photo, considering it the icing on the cake and a wonderful SCCARF memory. Charles Macune sums up the event and the evening beautifully: "SCCARF complements creatively and quite naturally the entire mission and purpose of ARF.... it provides us an important setting to enlarge our network of collegial friends beyond the department boundaries which have usually dominated our daily professional activities at CSUN." *Reported by Raymonde Motil.*



### ARF BIRDING GROUP

The **ARF Birding Group** met at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Present were John and Raymonde Motil, Jim Dole, Betty Rose, Virve Leps, Jeanne Glazer, Jon and Kathy Sloan, Chris Smith, Mary Corcoran and myself. We found ourselves on the cusp of two migrations: The White Pelicans, who winter here, had not yet left for their breeding grounds in Idaho, Montana and Alberta, and Bullock's Oriole made an appearance back here from its wintering grounds in Mexico. When it comes to "going south for the winter," the White Pelicans find L.A. far enough south, while the Bullock's Oriole prefers the sunnier climes of Mexico. Red-winged Blackbirds were establishing territories by chasing less-brightly red epauletted males away. Other birds of special interest were Northern Shoveler (ducks), Wood Ducks, Osprey, White-crowned Sparrows, and Great-tailed Grackles. Altogether, 30 different species were spotted.

On the weekend of March 23-24<sup>th</sup>, the **ARF Birding Group** met in Morro Bay. The weather was perfect – sunny, high 60s. Present were Jim Dole, Betty Rose, Kathy and Jon Sloan, Virve Leps, Mary Corcoran and myself. On Friday night after our inaugural cocktail hour we checked out a new restaurant, "Off the Hook." Interesting and fun, this sushi-oriented, trendy spot offered a variety of selections. The next morning we started birding at the Rock, getting some views of the two pairs of Peregrines nesting there. Then on to the Municipal Pier where in addition to the huge, fat sea lion, we saw some beautiful, breeding-plumaged Eared Grebes. Later after picnicking near the museum, a bay walk across from the marina and a visit to Sweet Springs Preserve added to the list with several ducks and shorebirds. Sunday morning took us to Montana de Oro where walks in the campground and on the bluffs trail turned up Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers and all three cormorants. The total species count for the weekend was 48. After a picnic lunch, the group broke up to begin the homeward drive. Abundant wildflowers made the drive quite lovely. *Reported by Linda Jones.*



**ARF MEMORIAL AWARDS CHAMPAGNE LUNCHEON**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2013 – 12 Noon, Orange Grove Bistro**

**Featuring:** Memorial Awards of \$1,500 each to be given to April Bey (Art), Edwin Leung (Biology), Trista Payte (English), and Victoria Weaver (Anthropology)

**The award recipients will talk about their research projects**

April Bey: "The Millennial Natural Hair Movement"

Edwin Leung: "Population Structure and Survivorship of White Seabass (*Atractoscion nobilis*) in Southern California from 1995 to 2008"

Trista Payte: "Domesticisms: An Exploration of Sexuality, Maternity, and Domesticity in Contemporary American Fiction"

Victoria Weaver: "Dietary Ethanol Ingestion by Free-Ranging Spider Monkeys (*Atelesgeoffroyi*): An Evaluation of the 'Drunken Monkey' Hypothesis"

**Meal choices are:**

Southwest BBQ salad with a choice of chicken, salmon or tofu; crème brulee for dessert. The cost for lunch is \$25.00.

We hope you will attend and hear from these outstanding CSUN student scholars!

If you are planning to attend, please detach and return the form below with your *check payable to ARF by May 4th to:*

---

Mr. James Macklin, Treasurer  
Association of Retired Faculty  
P.O. Box 280578  
Northridge, CA 91328

I/We will attend the ARF Awards Brunch. (Please select meal choices)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Southwest BBQ salad w/chicken  
 Southwest BBQ salad w/salmon  
 Southwest BBQ salad w/tofu

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Southwest BBQ salad w/chicken  
 Southwest BBQ salad w/salmon  
 Southwest BBQ salad w/tofu

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

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## ARF NOTES

### ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

P.O. BOX 280578

NORTHRIDGE, CA 91328