

# ARF NOTES

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## President's

### Message:

Alyce

Akers

Greetings to members of the Association of Retired Faculty at CSUN! As the new president, I would like to draw your attention to the wonderful lineup of activities and speakers that your Program Committee has planned for you for the 2015-2016 "academic" year. Please see the schedule on page 2. Unless noted, all programs are held on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm at the Orange Grove Bistro. I would like to spotlight the first three meetings: on September 9th, geographer Jim Allen will regale us with his tales of *Riding the Rails*; on October 14th biologist Tim Karels and students will let us in on the story of the *CSUN Tropical Biology Program in Ecuador*; and on November 4th UCLA political scientist and Russia expert Richard Anderson will disentangle the mystery of *Putin's Russia: What's Next?* Stay tuned for newsletters and other updates on more programs and activities for the coming year.

One of the things I have enjoyed about being active in ARF is that I get to continue my relationships with the fine CSUN faculty. I have always been impressed by the talents, interests and dedication to service of our faculty, and their keenness has continued in retirement. Let me give you a few examples. Terri Lisagor, who just retired, spent her sum-

mer in Nepal providing medical and dental assistance to children and others displaced by the earthquake. An article about this experience can be found on page 4. Robert Chianese, a humanities professor who has been the president of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has published works on science and the arts while maintaining his impressive involvement in environmental issues. Nancy Owens and Karen Robinette, both recent ARF officers, joined an educational group to investigate textile production in Guatemala. Vincent Coppola, who has been an ARF speaker on filmmaking, received an NEH grant to study prehistoric Etruscan religion in Italy for 5 weeks this summer. *And these are just a few of the activities of retired faculty I happen to know!* Please tell us about your own special involvements, or those of others. Email your information to our fantastic newsletter editor Ann Perkins at [ann.perkins@csun.edu](mailto:ann.perkins@csun.edu). Finally, we all owe thanks to the outgoing and incoming ARF board members and the many other ARF activists who make this organization successful. You know who you are - - you are the reason why being in this association is so satisfying. I truly look forward to working with each of you in your old/new role in ARF.

The ARF leadership encourages everyone to join in our activities. Our programs provide a fine opportunity to meet colleagues and even reconnect with old friends.

Hoping to see you there!

Alyce Akers

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## ARF Program and Board Meeting Schedule 2015-2016

(All meetings and events on Wednesday unless otherwise noted.)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/Event</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location/Time</b>
September 9, 2015		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
September 9, 2015	Jim Allen	Traveling by Train	2 pm, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
October 14, 2015		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room , Orange Grove Bistro
October 14, 2015	Tim Karels, CSUN Biology & students	CSUN Tropical Biology Program in Ecuador	2 pm, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
November 4, 2015		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
November 4, 2015	Richard Anderson, UCLA Political Science	Putin's Russia: What's Next?	2 pm, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
December, 2015	No meeting or program		
January 13, 2016		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
January 16, 2016* (Saturday)	Annual Thank God the Holidays are Over Banquet	Entertainment TBD	Orange Grove Bistro No-host bar 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm
February 10, 2016		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
February 10, 2016	Clair White, CSUN Religious Studies	Cognitive Science and Religion	2 pm, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
March 9, 2016		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
March 9, 2016	Brenda Kanno, CSUN Biology	History of CSUN Botanic Garden	2 pm, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
April 6, 2016 (Wednesday)	Field Trip	Norton Simon Museum	Time and bus transportation information to be announced
April 13, 2016		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
May 11, 2016		Board Meeting	11 am, Northridge Room, Orange Grove Bistro
May 14, 2016 (Saturday)	Annual Spring Memorial Luncheon	Presentations by ARF Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients	Orange Grove Bistro 12 – 2 pm
June 4, 2016 (Saturday)	Picnic/General Meeting/ Election of Officers		Location TBD Noon

**\*The January banquet will be on the third Saturday in January.**



**California State University,  
Northridge  
Celebration of Constitution  
Day**

**Where:** University Club, Orange Grove Bistro  
**When:** September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Continental Breakfast 8:30,  
panel discussion 9:00.

This Annual CSUN Program will explore the Constitution and foreign policy in Congress.

**PANELISTS:** PROFESSOR JAMES SEFTON, PH.D.  
Department of History CSU Northridge  
PROFESSOR JOHN EVANS, PH.D.  
Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

There is no cost for the program, but RSVPs are required by Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please email [melaine.pemberton@csun.edu](mailto:melaine.pemberton@csun.edu) or call the Tseng College at (818) 677-7131.

### **CSU-ERFA Report**

It's joining-up time, for **ARF** and also CSU-ERFA. You'll have noticed that there is a spot on your **ARF** renewal form which you received in the mail for referral to CSU-ERFA. Most **ARF** members are also members of CSU-ERFA but some of you aren't. I've been appointed the official CSUN "nagger" regarding this issue, so how about helping me out so I don't have to do so much nagging.

CSU-ERFA deals with those issues that are becoming more important to me, and possibly to you, as I age. Even the subject of long-term care is becoming more interesting. Our CSU colleagues from around the state work very hard to maintain and improve our retiree situation but need all of us to support them as they work for us. It takes money to maintain the services that the state office (currently on the CSUN campus, ably run by our own Don Cameron) provides and to participate in like-minded coalitions that allow us to have a louder voice. CSU-ERFA may be the largest retired faculty organization on the planet (or so I've been told) but it is still a very small frog in a very large pond.

Dues can be paid by payroll deduction or by annual payments. CSUN had the most new members joining CSU-ERFA last spring; here's to keeping up that pace with your help. *Nancy Owens.*



### **IN MEMORIAM**

**Lynne Cook**, formerly professor of Special Education at CSUN and later Dean of the College of Education at CSU Dominguez Hills, recently passed away. Lynne was very active in faculty governance while at CSUN. She was widely respected as a member of the Statewide Academic Senate. Among other accomplishments, Lynne led the committee that selected the founding faculty at CSU Channel Islands. Our sympathy goes to her family and friends.

**Charles Macune (History)** died in May 2015 following a stroke. He was a long time professor at CSUN and a former chair of the History Department. "Although Charles had retired in recent years from the University, he remained a generous and committed supporter of the department, his students and the college. For those of you who knew Charles he was one of the most colorful and charming colleagues that one could wish to have. He always demonstrated an unshakeable concern and passion for students and colleagues and was a shining example of the teacher scholar model that the college proudly articulates and is committed to. One of his favorite things was to dress as an historical character and many of us have memories of Charles walking the corridors dressed in some historical costume. As a young assistant professor in the college I was always amused but slightly puzzled by this but it was not until I became Dean of the College and Charles was History chair that I questioned him on why. He explained it to me as being his way of making history alive for his students - it was about teachable moments for them. That was quite simply Charles, a dedicated teacher who understood how important it is to speak to students in a way they can relate to. He will be truly missed." *Stella Theodoulou, Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences.*

**Leonard Pitt (History)**, died July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in West Los Angeles at the age of 85. He had recently been diagnosed with leukemia. He was a highly admired historian and longtime professor at CSUN whose 1966 book, *The Decline of the Californios*, was a detailed study of early Spanish-speaking Californians. It remains an important part of discussions about the history of California in the last half of the Nineteenth Century.

He was planning to write an almanac focused on the Los Angeles area, but his wife Dale dashed that idea as too boring. Instead, they spent six years researching and

writing *Los Angeles A to Z*, published in 1997. This highly readable book is chock-full of 2,000 entries on individuals, communities, landmarks, historic events, ethnicities, industries, arts organizations, sports heroes, architecture, religious movements and more. He had recently finished updating the text for a new edition to be published in the coming months.

Pitt was born Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1929, in Paterson, N.J., and he graduated from the High School of Music and Art (now Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School) intending to be a musician. In 1947, he moved with his parents to Los Angeles and enrolled at UCLA to pursue another interest: history, ultimately receiving his doctorate in 1961. Pitt began teaching at CSUN in 1962 and remained there until he retired as a professor emeritus in 1992. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren. His wife Dale died in 2008. *From the obituary in the L.A. Times by David Colker.*

**Paul Tomasek (Biology)** passed away on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2013, according to a colleague who worked with Paul.



### EMERITI REPORTS

**Terry Lisagor (FCS)** has recently retired and writes of the experiences that she and her husband Mark had in Nepal after the earthquake. "This experience was phenomenal. Among the horrible conditions, even before the earthquake, the children are beyond resilient, beyond belief with their smiles, sparkling eyes, and warm hearts....Mark has been going to Nepal for about 9 years, usually with a team of volunteers who help to provide much-needed dental care for the children. Through an organization called Global Dental Relief, for the month that the teams are there, they see about 1,000 children....Mark and I went back there now to help out, knowing that the clinic was still non-functioning. Instead, we went out to the distant schools - to do exams, fluoride varnishes, and (for me) to provide oral hygiene and nutrition lessons. Throughout our time there, we saw about 1,000 children. What a blessing that we were gifted with the help of 5 amazing students, all 14-17 years old, amazingly brilliant, forward-thinking problem-solvers. All of these kids came from villages that were the poorest of the poor, most of their family members are illiterate. And yet, they prevailed.

I also got to guide a 2-hour nutrition/health lesson with 25 of the students who are interested in community health, all of whom came from villages where the life

expectancy is about 36 years old – and whose main thought was about how to improve sanitation in their villages. We also met a young Nepali couple, Sonam and Karma, who started the Small World Foundation and run an orphanage for girls called the Himalayan Hope Home, which houses a group of 24 girls ranging in age from 5 to maybe 17 years old. The girls were rescued so that they wouldn't be married off at 13 or sold into sex trafficking. You might want to check out a video that they just posted:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeqpNKPW6CQ>.



### SCCARF REPORTS

*Editor's note: the December and January reports below were inadvertently omitted from the last two issues of the newsletter.*

More than 30 SCCARFers gathered in December 2014 at *Niroj Levant Cuisine* in Agoura for an introduction to Kurdish food. Proprietor, Luqman Barwari, was an Amgen scientist before opening his dream restaurant. Although appetizers can be ordered a la carte, many started their meal with a cold meze combination, which gave them a chance to sample a variety of piquant dips: hummus, baba ghanoush, and heandin (a spicy red pepper and walnut mixture). Others opted for the hot meze combination with a sampling of falafel, Kurdish sausage, borek and kutilk (cracked wheat stuffed with ground meat). Whether one's main course was the Amed combination of chicken, lamb, and beef, a spicy and juicy kebab, mussaka (unlike Greek moussaka), tawe (lamb and eggplant stew), or some other dish on the menu, all agreed that Kurdish food is a delight for the senses. For those who still had room for it, the evening ended with kunefe, a delicious Kurdish dessert. Reports from those who shared in this repast indicate that none would wait until next December to return to this delightful little restaurant in a strip mall's nook. *Bren Lucero-Wagoner*

Eighteen SCCARFers returned in January to *Kinnara Thai* restaurant in Van Nuys for our start-of-the-year repast. We've met at Kinnara a few times in the past, and as usual the service and food were excellent. Those unfamiliar with the dishes needed a little help, but all found something to delight their senses. Common choices included pineapple shrimp curry, filet mignon skewer, rack of NZ lamb in panang curry, chicken larb, and, my favorite, angry flying duck. Perhaps attesting to the quality of the Kinnara experience, Kevin now has three restaurants in the Los Angeles area and plans to open a fourth soon. I wouldn't be surprised if one of them becomes a SCCARF target in the future. *Ken Jones*

May saw our group of 24 enjoying an evening at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant. Located on the east side of Van Nuys Airport, the restaurant offers good views of the runways of perhaps the busiest general aviation airport in the country. As you approach, the restaurant building appears to be a French farmhouse from the World War I era. In fact, the 94th

Aero Squadron was an actual U.S. fighter squadron that saw much action on World War I's Western Front. We sat at three long tables in view of the airport and watched the setting sun through large windows. The food, focusing on traditional American favorites such as prime rib and shrimp scampi, was very good and the service excellent. My wife, Nancy, and others I talked to, found the food even better than we had remembered it from years ago. Altogether, this was a fine SCCARF experience. *Jim Allen*

In June, a cadre of 19 SCCARFers descended on Cascabel Bistro, a hidden culinary gem in Toluca Lake. Invisible from the street, obscured by a rank of dental offices, the eatery was, in the words of one attendee, "Hard to find, but what a find!" Others shared his sentiment of the restaurant's quality, as evidenced by their comments about the "superbly creative" chef's "unique and delicious" creations constructed of an "unusual and imaginative combination of ingredients." The "Veggie enchilada," said one, was "truly a surprise...the most unusual and delightful enchilada I've ever had." Also singled out for special praise were: the "Brussel sprout tacos, short rib flautas and duck confit tacos!"; the "wonderful smoked bacon guacamole"; "the sirloin beef tacos, classic guacamole, chips and salsa"; and "the lobster tacos with a tiny dollop of crème fraiche and a hint of dill." The asparagus, declared one, was "to die for!" The attentiveness of the "Central Casting servers," and the bistro's "delightful outdoor patio" also were lauded. One announced that she "will come back with other friends," thus enabling them to also enjoy the eatery's "delightful, different, spicy, nicely presented food." (*Jim Dole, sampling amply from comments by those who attended*).



## BOOK GROUPS

**Science Book Group:** *Heidemarie Lundblad.*

In May our book was Michael Tomasello's *The Natural History of Human Thinking*. He discusses the evolution of thinking and how human thinking differs from and is much more complex than that of our recent ancestors, e.g., homo Heidelbergensis and our closest cousins – the great apes. His primary "shared intentionality" hypothesis is that as the result of ecological changes early humans or humanoids needed to collaborate to survive. The need for collaboration in turn led to communication systems that are suitable for collaboration. Required is that the person who wishes to collaborate needs to imagine what the other person perceives, reflect on how to show the partner what he needs to see to achieve the mutual goal and evaluate the effectiveness of communication. Tomasello does not spend much time on the physiological changes (i.e. increased brain size, changes in the hyoid bone, etc.) that were necessary to make speech and complex thinking possible. The first half of the book reads like a compendium of his earlier articles and books and is written in a very difficult language for a non-linguist. The audience is clearly the "inner circle" of special-

ists in the field. The second half almost seems to have been written by a different author in fairly readable English. We all found the book challenging to read, especially the first half. However, it does contain information that made it worthwhile to slog through the sometimes convoluted, pretentious language.

In July we discussed James Fallon's book *Psychopath: A Neuropath's Personal Journey into the Dark Side of the Brain*, and all agreed that the book is well written and was easy to read. However, opinions varied regarding the content. Most of us expected a scholarly discussion of psychopathy and the usefulness of brain imaging scans to determine this mental aberration. However, we discovered that most of the book is an autobiography in which the author explores his behavior after he discovers that his brain scan is identical with that of diagnosed psychopaths. While some of the members felt that they would like to meet and interact with Fallon, most of us considered him less than attractive. The book does explain some of the scientific exploration of the brain and DNA analysis used to identify persons that fit the profile. Virve Leps pointed out that the author's brain scan had not been replicated and thus he might not actually have the characteristic brain configuration of a psychopath. However, most of us, based on the author's description of his attitudes and behaviors, were satisfied with his diagnosis; he also stresses that he is a well socialized psychopath – i.e., he has not killed anyone. Of course, since, as he is proud to tell us repeatedly, he is a proficient liar, how do we know there are no bodies buried?

In August Chris Stringer's *Lone Survivors: how we came to be the only humans on earth* was discussed, and below is the list for future meetings.

September 16th: *The Upright Thinkers: The Human Journey from Living in Trees to Understanding the Cosmos* by Leonard Mlodinow (2015).

October 21<sup>st</sup>: *The Gluten Lie: and other myths about what you eat*, by Alan Levinovitz, (2015).

**Tuesday Book Group:** As is evident from the listing below, we read a great variety of fiction and nonfiction from the early nineteenth century up to the present day. Our group has been meeting regularly on the third Tuesday of each month, each time at a different member's home. Books discussed recently are listed below.

*Far Tortuga*, by Peter Matthiessen. In remembrance of the life of this fine author and explorer, we read one of his earlier works, when he was a writer for *The New Yorker*. In the 1960s Matthiessen had heard about the imminent demise of the green turtle and traditional turtling operations in the western Caribbean Sea. Wanting to find out about this life, he arranged with much difficulty to get aboard one of the last turtle boats, which would be out to sea for many weeks. The book is rich with details of shipboard life and the characterization of the men on his boat, and especially their dialect. It opened a fascinating window on another world that most of us had never even heard of.

*Darwin, a Portrait of Genius*, by Paul Johnson. Several of us were disappointed by this book, which seemed as if it aimed to discredit and diminish Darwin. Others enjoyed how it filled in details of Darwin's family and the context of his research and life.

*Old Filth*, by Jane Gardem. Sir Edward Feathers had a brilliant career, from his early days as a lawyer in Southeast Asia, where he earned the nickname Old Filth (Failed In London Try Hong Kong) to his final working days as a respected judge at the English bar. He has retired and lost his wife while having had a life with little intimacy or connection to others. He was one of the "raj orphans". An entertaining novel written by Ms. Gardem, a respected and popular English novelist.

*Memory Chalet*, by Tony Judt. This respected historian of Europe composed these many brief chapters of recollections during unattended nights late in his ALS shortened life. He enjoyably remembers youth in Putney, non P C recollections of his favorite teacher, forsaking Zionist youth, studying at France's best school, love of trains, remembrance of both inspired and uninspired Jewish cooking, the missed revolutions of 60's Paris, and on.

*My Promised Land*, by Ari Shavit. A modern history of Israel beginning in 1900, focusing on both its failure to solve its problems with the Arabs and with the growth of the country politically, militarily and culturally. While Mr. Shavit writes for Haaretz, a liberal newspaper, he has been criticized for supporting Israel's more conservative positions. We found this book to be engaging and informative.

*Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, by S. C. Gwynne. This is a history of the Comanches based on a great range of primary documents. It focuses on their leader Quanah, both a formidable warrior and an enlightened leader after the defeat of the Comanches. It is also the story of his mother, who was kidnapped in 1836, when her family was slaughtered by the Comanches. Gwynne gives us both the savage ruthlessness of all parties as well as the inspiring example of some remarkable individuals. This is no simple glorification of Indians nor vilification either, rather a stimulating, nuanced perspective on our history.

*The Volcano Lover*, by Susan Sontag. The title of this historical novel from the late 1700s refers to the British ambassador William Hamilton based in Naples, who had a special passion for climbing and observing Mt. Vesuvius' changes and its eruptions. Based on Sontag's careful research in archives and her skills as a writer, the book brings us the life and times of this man and his talented wife over several decades. Repercussions from the French Revolution hit Naples hard, there is a visit by Goethe, and even Admiral Lord Nelson becomes an important character near the end. Most of us found this a satisfying read despite trying to keep track of the complexities of history.

*All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr. The paths of a blind French girl, displaced to Saint Malo when Paris is

bombed in WWII, where she works for the resistance, and an orphaned German boy, Werner, a technical whiz in service of the Nazis, converge in this novel. Most of our group liked this page-turner, which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction the day before our discussion. *Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen.*



## FILM GROUPS

Eight members of the **Monday Film Group** met on July 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss two quite different films. *Inside Out* was given a 5 average rating by the Monday Group. For a full discussion of the film, see the Tuesday Group report on page 7. In contrast, *Testament of Youth* was highly regarded by members. The film contained no battle scenes, but movingly explored the human costs of war. Members praised the acting, singling out Alicia Vikander. Her Vera is an independent spirit who convinces her father to let her brother enlist in the army. She later evolves away from seeing the "glory" of war after experiencing it first-hand as a nurse, and losing not only her brother, but his two friends, one of whom is Vera's fiancée. At the film's beginning, Vera's father, a stiff-upper-lip Englishman, opposes his daughter's desire to attend Oxford. Vera, by contrast, is firmly planted in the 20th century at the film's end, as she makes plans to return to Oxford with a new imperative to achieve peace in the world. Kudos were also given to the cinematography in this movie, particularly in showing the contrast between the prewar beautiful and idyllic scenes of the English countryside, and the harsh scenes of the front-line first aid encampments. Most members found the film realistic and powerful --a quality film and a tribute to what war is truly like. The film was awarded a high rating of 9.

Eleven members of the **Monday Group** met on May 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss two vastly different films. The first film, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, was the "crowd" pleaser. Based on Thomas Hardy's classic novel, the film tells the story of a spirited woman, Bathsheba Everdene, who attracts the attention of three suitors. The first one, Gabriel Oak, is a shepherd who loses his flock, livelihood and farm when his dog leads all of his sheep over a cliff into the ocean. He ends up working for Bathsheba and helps her survive numerous disasters. Suitor number 2 is a much older man, William Boldwood, who offers her the run of his farm, his steadfast devotion, and a piano. Suitor number 3, Frank Troy, is the only rotter in the trio. Everdene, despite being well-educated with a bold independent spirit, chooses to marry him, never suspecting his true nature. Gabriel, as his name suggests, is the angel in this group and the obvious choice for her--which everyone in the movie audience can clearly see. It's only after she realizes what a solid, dependable force he's been in her life--and only after the killing of Troy by Boldwood, which sends the latter to prison--that Everdene realizes her true love was Oak all along.

Members enjoyed this film because the plot was very clear, easy to follow, and was sprinkled with some interesting twists. The fields of 19th century England were beautifully captured. The acting was also praised, particularly Carey Mulligan as the willful Everdene. Among the few negatives cited was

the disconnect between someone of Everdene's headstrong temperament being taken in by the callow Troy. The consensus, however, was that the movie presented a good story. Members rated this film at 8.6.

*Ex Machina* received a wide range of ratings, reflecting the divergent views of this science fiction suspense drama. This film tells the story of Nathan Bateman, the owner of a highly successful internet search company who develops "Ava," a robot with female-like features, who is so lifelike and autonomous in her thinking that he believes she is the first example of truly Artificial Intelligence ever conceived. He invites a talented young computer programmer from his company, Caleb Smith, to interact with her and determine whether Ava is capable of experiencing emotions as well as independent thought. As the movie progresses, Ava's intelligence expands exponentially, until she evolves far beyond what Nathan envisioned. The movie is set in the present, not the future, which makes all of the ensuing developments all the more spine-tingling. The theme of the film is also a warning: eventually man will create creatures that will surpass him emotionally, physically, and especially in intelligence. Members who loved this film cited the cinematography and special effects. Nathan's house and lab are isolated in a remote, hilly wood. His lab is all steel, hard-edged, and shiny --creating an ambience that is both eerie and frightening. Ava has see-through arms, which reveal wires that are her veins, so that you never lose sight of the fact that she is a robot. The half of the group that didn't like this movie found it disturbing, difficult to understand, technically extreme and barely credible. The average rating was a 7--a rating that masks the wide range of opinions about this intriguing film.

Eleven members of the Monday Group gathered on April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Woman in Gold* and *Effie Gray*, two movies that received varying degrees of disparagement. The consensus on *Woman in Gold* was that it was an ok film, but not great--with most members wondering how a Helen Mirren film could be so disappointing. Members ranked this film at 7.6. *Effie Gray* was fun to discuss because it was such a bad movie. Several members did not have an opportunity to see it because it was in and out of the theaters so quickly. The film covers the British art critic John Ruskin's six-year marriage to a young woman he had tutored as a child. Emma Thompson appears in the cast as Effie's protector who assists in her emancipation; she also wrote the script. Given her Oscar-winning adapted screenplay for *Sense and Sensibility*, members were baffled that Thompson could pen a script as awful as *Effie Gray*. This movie has the distinction of receiving the lowest rating the Club has ever granted: 5.4. *All Monday Group reports by Dorena Knepper.*

The **Tuesday Film Group** met on August 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Inside Out*. Chris Smith, who wrote this report, had

not read the reviews or had any idea of the theme or the plot. So she was quite surprised to see a very clever use of animation to tell the story of 11 year old Riley and her emotions involved in her move from a Midwest life to San Francisco when her father starts a new job. Each emotion is an animated character in Riley's head. Joy is the center of her emotions. Each emotion has a color: red is Anger, blue is Sad, green is Disgust, purple is Fear. Through Joy at her control center, her emotions are guided throughout her days. Each memory is a memory ball that helps her difficult time adjusting to her new life. The members discussed the instructional value of this film. The following are some of the points observed: the film was very cleverly done as an important message to express the healing process with children; children need to learn to express their emotions; adults need to enjoy the movie together and then to discuss it together. There are many hilarious and touching animated scenes in this imaginative movie. Overall the group gave the film an 8.5 rating. *Chris Smith.*

Five members of the **Tuesday Film Group** met in July to discuss the film *I'll see you in my dreams*, which received a very positive rating of 8.7. As a movie featuring an older woman, it has special significance for our retired faculty. Although there were a few aspects that seemed improbable, (for example a three minute speed dating episode) for the most part the story was well constructed, believable and pleasant. One member's reaction was the main character seemed aimless. Perhaps one thought to carry away after seeing the movie is that many aging people simply react to whatever events occur, whereas it is possible to plan and live life more fully. *Helen Giedt.*

In June, the **Tuesday Group** discussed *Ex Machina*, and gave it an 8.9 rating. For a full review, see the discussion under the Monday Film Group.

The **Tuesday Film Group** met in May to discuss the romantic fantasy film, *The Age of Adaline*, which despite its preposterous premise provides a lovely entertainment with excellent cinematography, acting, costumes, music and sets. The main character, a young widow and single mother, has a freak accident in 1937 and never ages another day. Is she happy about this? We'd think so, living in a youth-obsessed culture awash with no end of products to stave off the aging process. No, she lives her life as much under the radar as possible. She escapes at the age of 45 from curious government agents who try to take her away for testing. Thereafter she takes a new identity every ten years, makes only short-term friends who won't learn her "secret," avoids love affairs, and takes a succession of springer spaniels as her companion.

Born in 1908, we meet her at age 107 looking fabulous. We also see her relationship with her now 82-year old daughter, involved with such concerns as assisted living and hip replacements. These don't concern Adaline, but her overall demeanor is one of sadness and melancholy. I won't spoil the story, except to say that it has a happy ending when she discovers her first gray hair. **ARF** members rated the film at 8.5. *Elizabeth Schneider.*

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2014—2015

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