

ARF NOTES

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California State University, Northridge



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



President's Message: Diane Schwartz

Welcome to the Association of Retired Faculty (**ARF**) for the 2024-2025 year of our activities. I hope you enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to participating in many **ARF** events this year. The events are fun and educational, and you can meet old friends and make new ones. I hope to see you there.

The **ARF** Speaker Series presents interesting and lively speakers on selected Friday afternoons, which began with Dr Jolene Koester (former CSUN President and CSU Interim Chancellor Emeritus) on September 13 in the Orchard Conference Center. Throughout the year, the **ARF** Program Committee (Chair Patricia Miller) has plans for an event at the Soraya, an April field trip, a Graduate Project awards brunch in May, a June picnic, and a Valentine's Day lunch. Check the 2024-2025 Program Calendar on the **ARF** website (www.csun.edu/arf) and in the July issue of this newsletter, and watch for emails from the Program Committee for more details. You may also want to join or even start a Special Interest Group. Currently we have active film groups, book groups and a social cuisine club (SCCARF).

Thank you to the 2023-2024 Executive Board for the excellent work they did last year and I give a special thanks to Cynthia Rawitch, our 2023-2024

ARF President, for her work as President, for the special help she has given me as I am getting started with the President's job, and also for volunteering to be President-elect in 2024-2025. Many of the 2023-2024 **ARF** Executive Board members continue to serve on the 2024-2025 Executive Board, although possibly in different positions. Thanks for their continued service. Thanks also to Ron McIntyre and Karen Robinette who have served many years on the Executive Board and who are taking a break from service on the Board. We hope to see both of you at our events this year. We welcome Steven Stepanek as a new **ARF** Executive Board member. A list of the 2024-2025 Board members with their email addresses can be found on the last page of the *ARF Notes*.

Tim Fox, the **ARF** Membership Chair, will be sending out 2024-2025 membership renewal letters in August and September as well as invitations to join **ARF** for potential new members. I encourage you to join or renew your membership; indicate your interest in the special interest groups on the renewal/application form and consider contributing to the **ARF** Memorial Graduate Project Awards Fund. These awards are given to several CSUN graduate students who will then give a presentation of their graduate project research at the **ARF** Memorial Graduate Project Brunch in May.

Diane Schwartz, **ARF** President 2024-2025

Program Committee Report – September & October 2024 – By Pat Miller

September 2024



**Dr. Jolene
Koester-
CSUN Presi-
dent Emeri-
ta**

The new **ARF** year had an amazing debut with the September 13, 2024, Speaker Series highlighted by Dr. Jolene Koester's presentation.

Seventy attendees were on hand to welcome Dr. Koester back to the CSUN campus. The audience included **ARF** Executive Board and membership, CSUN President Dr. Erica Beck, CSUN Administrators, Donors, Alumni and the Academic community at large.



Dr.
Koester
(3rd from
the right)
and **ARF**
Executive
Board
Mem-
bers.

CSUN President Beck graciously introduced Dr. Koester. She shared personal recollections of her mentor, regaled the attendees with delightful memories, and created an atmosphere of warmth. We could all relate, our Dr. Koester, Jolene, had come home!

Jolene's presentation was formally titled "Serving as a Chancellor in the CSU". In her inimitable, kind but firm tone, she addressed how it felt to be the Interim Chancellor during a challenging time in the California State University System. Jolene emphasized her leadership style, her commitment to her work ethics, her unwavering values,

her willingness to listen to and accept advice from all stakeholders. She highlighted the knowledge, the experience, and the flexibility necessary to be successful in achieving equitable results. As Chancellor she set clear priorities, maintained focus on those priorities, while also taking care of the day-to-day, often unpredictable issues, that presented themselves as part of the CSU Chancellor's Office. Jolene spoke of herself as being the IC (Interim Chancellor) but also the AC (i.e. an Accidental Chancellor), who needed to deal with policy and who was mandated to work closely with the CSU Board of Trustees. Her end goal was to "...create a glide path for the incoming Chancellor". The obstacles were many, sometimes overwhelming, but with fortitude, integrity, and measured kindness Jolene was able to make a substantial difference at the CSU as she had done during her tenure at California State University, Northridge.

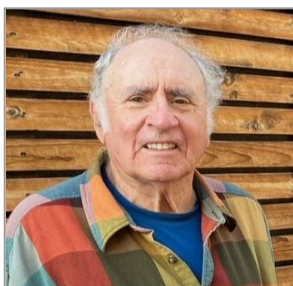
October 2024

On Friday, October 11, 2024, Dr. Pamela Nagami was the invited **ARF** speaker. Dr. Nagami is a Yale University of Medicine Graduate, expert on infectious diseases, and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at UCLA. Her expertise includes Geriatric Medicine. She has written extensively and has also made appearances on CNN and NPR.



The title of Dr. Nagami's talk was "Science is important, but it is not everything." While the title was a bit unconventional, the membership in attendance was soon mesmerized as Dr. Nagami shared the details of one of her most challenging cases and ended the presentation with an incredible surprise which clarified the intent of the title. In Dr. Nagami's effort to alleviate the torturous pain being experienced by a teenage patient in her care who had undergone innumerable tests, operations, and setbacks, and as she was administering medication directly into the child's brain, Dr. Pam invented a fairytale, which she calmly recounted as a distraction. Since the treatment was ongoing, Dr. Nagami's fairytale continued, with fantastic characters and adventures. This adventure was only for her patient and was integral to Rosemary's

treatment and healing. It was a shared moment between a caring, imaginative doctor and a young girl, where for a moment in time science was trumped by imagination. RX of the human, not scientific kind. Dr. Nagami has an unusual approach to dealing with infectious diseases, she is a detective, she analyses motives, means, and opportunities. Her book, *the Woman with a Worm in her Head*, talks about diseases which present a real puzzle for medical staff. In the book, she shares her experiences with the challenges of diagnosis, with finding the hiding culprit, and corralling it. Her patients are real, not fictional, protagonists, and her commitment to healing is relentless indeed, admirable. The event was a resounding success. *Pat Miller*



Upcoming Events:

November 8, 2024, Friday. 1:00, OCC

Speaker, Art Shulman: Topic—"Being 80: TOO OLD TO CHANGE?"

Art will also have his book on hand: *A Kid Grows in Brooklyn: Memories of a Magical Time*.

December 2024. No programming in December, During the December Holiday Season we wish you all a 2025 filled with good health and great joy in the company of family and friends.

In **January 2025**, ARF will be returning to **The Soraya** for yet another 'Pitch Perfect Performance'. The event is set for the matinee show and we will be attending **Stomp, the Musical** which will be **followed by a reception**. More to come on details for discounted tickets etc. For the time being please save the date: **January 18, 2025, 3:00 pm event**. We hope you agree that this will be a delightful way to start the New Year...good company, great performance, and cheer.

The **ARF** Projected Calendar was published in the July issue of the newsletter, please consult it for further information relating to the entire 2024-2025 academic year's programming for our **ARF** Membership. The calendar is also on the **ARF** web site.

EMERITI NEWS

Paul Chow (Physics and Astronomy) A Visit back to an old Memory.



Paul Chow sailed a Chinese junk from Taiwan to San Francisco as a bachelor fisherman in 1955



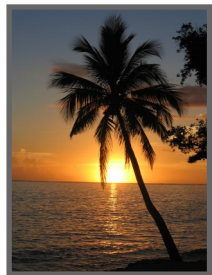
"Did I come on this Piece of junk?"



69 years later he and Vera took their son's family back to Taiwan. "We showed our kids and their kids my roots."

Alexis Krasilovsky (Professor Emerita, Department of Cinema and Television Arts) has won Best Music Video of the Month at the Sundarbans International Film Festival and the Better Earth International Film Festival for *The Cyclone Song (Hold Onto Your Dreams)*. It will go on to compete in both festivals' Annual Galas in India. It also won Best Music Video at the Dreamz Catcher International Film Festival in Kolkata on September 3, 2024 and is an Official Selection in the Swedish

International Film Festival and the Asian Talent International Film Festival 2024. Alexis Krasilovsky wrote the lyrics and produced the music video, with Sayka Shafrin of Dhaka, Bangladesh co-composing the music with Ed Finney of Memphis, Tennessee. The music video is dedicated to the climate warriors fighting for a greener, democratic world for generations to come. Prof. Krasilovsky's lyrics for The Cyclone Song come from *Tuki the Tiger*, a screenplay adaptation of the Middle Grade novel by Alexis Krasilovsky and Shameem Akhtar.



IN MEMORIAM

Sarah Traister Moskovitz
(Educational Psychology and Counseling), emeritus professor

and ARF member for over 25 years, passed away on September 1, 2024, at home in Pacific Palisades. Sarah was experiencing Alzheimer's and wants her friends to know that she chose assisted death, surrounded by her three children and her rabbi, all holding hands as music played in the background. She was 97.

She earned her PhD in Educational Psychology at Yeshiva University in New York, came to CSUN in 1970 and retired in 1992. After retirement, she wrote *Love Despite Hate*, a book about the post-war lives of child survivors of the Holocaust. As a result of this book and Sarah's efforts, child support groups sprang up around the world, giving a grateful voice to many who had been silent for years.



As a native speaker of Yiddish, a language which has become more endangered each year, Sarah's next project involved an archive buried under the Warsaw Ghetto that contained a large number of poems documenting the lives of Polish Jews facing liquidation. Sarah translated these poems into English, her second language that she learned at the age of 5. The poems can be viewed on the website "[Poetry in Hell](#)." Her last post-retirement project began 15 years ago:

an anthology of poems by authors who were murdered during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Sarah worked on translating these poems into English. They are available online at thesongremains.org.

Sarah was predeceased by her husband, Irving (Itzik), last year. She is survived by her three children, Debrah, Ruth and David, nine grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Sarah's son David fondly remembers a time in the early 1970s, when computers were very new to our landscape, when Sarah arranged for her 11-year-old son to visit our CSUN computers in the basement of Monterey Hall, sparking his lifelong interest and vocation in computer science.
Cynthia Desrochers

Paulette E. Shafranski (Kinesiology)

Dr. Paulette E. Shafranski, CSUN Professor Emerita in the Department of Kinesiology whose focus in both her teaching and research was modern dance, died on August 11, 2024. She was 87.



Dr. Shafranski earned all three of her physical education degrees at USC—her bachelor's in 1958, master's in 1963 and PhD in 1975. She began her teaching career in 1963 at then-San Fernando Valley State College and taught here until her retirement. Her dance students would regularly be seen in performance, often in pieces she choreographed for their dance recitals and as part of student performances in Theatre and other CSUN departments.

In 1984, she published a book, *Modern Dance: Twelve Creative Problem-Solving Experiments*, and wrote often about creativity and physiological effects in Modern and Jazz Dance. A long-time member of ARF, Paulette was loved by students and colleagues alike. She received a CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award in 1982 and an Outstanding Faculty Award in 1993.
Cynthia Rawitch

Note: The Remembrance committee is in need of representatives from the Colleges of HHD, Sci & Math, Eng and Comp Sci, S&BS, and Extended Learning. When we learn of a faculty member's passing, these representatives gather information and/or write a brief remembrance article for ARF Notes. If you are willing to help us with this, please contact Cynthia Rawitch.



SCCARF report

Eleven members of **SCCARF** met at the CF Food Kitchen on August 28 in Granada Hills. Chef Edwin Flores and his wife Silvia are incredibly warm, helpful, and a true pleasure to be around. The chef offered a three course menu. The appetizers included fried brie, burrata salad, pecan and pear salad, mini crab cake, and an empanada. The main dishes were branzino, lamb chops, beef wellington, prime rib eye steak, pork tenderloin, and braised short ribs. These were accompanied by a variety of mashed potatoes, vegetables, wine, butter, and delicious seasonings. The desserts were cheesecake, bread pudding, berry tart, and key lime pie. The conversations were exceptional, entertaining, and educational. They ranged from travel, family, former and current colleagues, children and grandchildren, etc. Six members used the new rating form giving an average score of 4.6 out of 5. The only comment was that the branzino was too salty.

Sandy Jewett



BOOK GROUPS

Attendees for the **August 21st** meeting of the **Science Book Group** were Sandy Jewett; Adam Gifford, Phyllis Russell; Elizabeth Trybus; Martin Saiz and Heidemarie Lundblad. We discussed the book *How Carrots Won the Trojan War – Curious (but true) stories of common vegetables* – by Rebecca Rupp, 2011. We discovered why Roman gladiators were massaged with onion juice before battle, how celery contributed to Casanova's conquests, and how peas almost poisoned General Washing-

ton. Rupp tells the strange and fascinating history of 23 of the world's most popular vegetables. Gardeners, foodies, history buffs, and anyone who wants to know the secret stories concealed in a salad are sure to enjoy this delightful and informative collection.

Attendees for the **September 18th** meeting of the book group were Sandy Jewett, Adam Gifford, Martin Saiz and Heidemarie Lundblad. We discussed *Scientist in the Crib: Minds, Brains, And How Children Learn*, 1999. by Alison Gopnik, Andrew N. Meltzoff, and Patricia K. Kuhl.

This book combines two worlds—children and science—in a unique way that yields exciting discoveries about both. The authors show that by the time children are three, they've solved problems that stumped Socrates with an agility computers still can't match. Written by three top scientists, themselves parents, who conducted much of the pioneering research in this field, *The Scientist in the Crib* is vivid, lucid, and often funny. Attendees generally liked the book, although the discussion of computer learning compared with human learning makes it obvious that this book was written almost 25 years ago.

The **Book Group** met again on **October 16th**. Attendees were Adam Gifford, Martin Saiz; Elizabeth Trybus and Heidemarie Lundblad. We discussed *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2018 **and** *Stolen Pride: Loss, Shame, and the Rise of the Right Hardcover*, also by Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2024.

Hochschild attempts to explain why people in distressed, highly polluted states (Louisiana and Kentucky) consistently vote Republican. The books are very readable; she focused over a period of years on a number of residents to get to know their belief structure in great detail. According to her, many of the people she had conversations with, in many cases over several years, hold the belief that if one works hard, one should do better than one's father. Unfortunately, in their opinion, this progress is subverted by "line jumpers" who may be of another race or "undeserving immigrants." Hochschild provides a number of statistics to explain the prevalence of

these beliefs and to show that often they are based on misunderstandings. *Heidemarie Lundblad*.

Meeting dates for the remaining academic year 2024/25 are: 11/20; 12/18; 1/15; 2/19; 3/19; 4/16; 5/21; 6/18; 7/16; 8/20.

Wednesday Book Group

The Personal Librarian, a 2021 book by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, tells the story of Belle Greene, a smart, young black woman in the early twentieth century who became a highly regarded force in the world of book collecting. So that her light-skinned daughter could more easily pass as white, Belle's mother changed her daughter's name from Belle Marion Greener to Belle da Costa Greene. Belle accepted this and from then on explained her olive complexion as due to her fictional maternal grandmother's Portuguese heritage.

In 1905, after learning about old books and cataloging them while working in the Princeton University Library, Belle was hired as the personal librarian of J. Pierpont Morgan. Soon she transitioned from cataloging and organizing to recommending acquisitions and being Morgan's stand-in at society functions. Morgan loved a wide range of art, but his favorite collection involved the oldest books printed with movable type. Because the first such books were Gutenberg Bibles from the 1450s, Morgan especially desired to own so-called incunabula, the books printed in the last half of the 1400s. Belle became acquainted with European dealers and collectors and learned in detail about the items that Morgan desired. With that knowledge, boldness, and her articulate speech, she became a charming and respected colleague but also a wily, hard-nosed negotiator in the book world. Over the next decades she acquired many notable items for Morgan's collections. Along with these successes, she had to ward off some people's subtle inquiries into her family's origins. In the midst of all this she met and fell in love with Bernard Berenson, the famous historian of Renaissance art, who had his own ethnic past to deny.

All this seemed an intriguing idea for a novel. For some of us, at least, it was a shock to learn -- after reading the authors' notes at the end -- that

this story is not fiction! Belle was a real person. The authors did extensive historical research on the main characters, their families, and the world of collecting antiquarian books. Interestingly, in real life, Belle's father was the first "colored" graduate of Harvard College and an important civil rights leader of the day. Although the publisher labeled the book as fiction, it is really an amazing, wonderful history, fictionalized slightly in only a few places. Both the authors are experienced novelists, but Benedict, who is white, after learning about Belle during a tour of the Morgan library, sought out a black co-author (Murray) so that together they could more properly portray the dilemmas of honoring your race versus passing as white.

The Personal Librarian was a *New York Times* bestseller; our group enjoyed it very much. In our October 2023 Zoom discussion, everyone found it memorable and provocative. This book gave us a view of the state of race relations in the early 20th century and one remarkable individual's experience. *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*



FILM GROUP

The **ARF Film Group** met remotely on August 8th via Zoom to discuss the films *The Long Game* and *Wicked Little Letters*.

The Long Game is a somewhat formulaic film depicting a Mexican American high school golf team's struggle to achieve success against forces of prejudice that were stacked against them. But even as the film is predictable, this is largely mediated by the fact that it is based on a true story. The film was set in Texas during the 1950's when prejudice against the Mexican American community was rampant. The difficulties that this small highly skilled golf team faced as it worked its heart out to find its way into tournament competition was sensitively portrayed. The two war veterans that coached the team were well played by Jay Hernandez and Dennis Quad. One fun surprise for some of us was the role of the philosophical groundskeeper Pollo, played by Cheech Marin. The group of five young actors who played the student golfers all portrayed their parts well. Although our group all felt somewhat positive about the film, the scores for the film varied widely with an average of

7.0/10.0 with scores ranging from 5.0 to 8.5.

Wicked Little Letters is a dark comedy based on true events from England in the 1920s when a series of insulting profane letters were received by a few people in the English town of Littlehampton. The film stands out due to its strong cast. Olivia Colman delivers a great performance, as the conflicted central character, Edith Swan, outwardly nice but inwardly rather despicable. Just watching Coleman's face when she created the wicked letters is a superb performance. Co-star Jessie Buckley works well alongside Colman, as Rose Gooding, a wildly unconventional Irish woman. The supporting cast also contributed significantly, each bringing their unique touch to the story. Overall, while the film's plot is engaging, it is the solid performances by the cast that make it worth watching. Some of our group members did find that the language in the letters was over the top and could have been toned down a bit. However, some of us found that the ridiculous use of vulgarity was quite funny. Our group gave this film an average rating of 8/10 with scores ranging from 7.0 to 9.0.

The **ARF Film Group** met remotely on **September 9** via Zoom to discuss the films *Immediate Family* and *The Fall Guy*.

Immediate Family is a documentary that follows the work of four legendary 1970s and 1980s session musicians Kootch Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Russ Kunkel and Waddy Wachtel. They were the session band for a great variety of stars ranging from Carole King to the Rolling Stones. The interviews with some of these stars that they had worked with were fun to watch and the interviews with the musician themselves were a treasure. Their collective fondness for each other and their great musical flexibility was impressive. Although our group felt that the story line was a bit scattered this nostalgic work made most of us very happy. Our scores for the film were very positive with an average of 8.9/10.0 with scores ranging from 8.5 to 9.0.

The Fall Guy depicts events surrounding the apparently accidental injury of a stunt man, Colt, well played by Ryan Gosling. In parallel to this main script theme a somewhat fun romance

is re-kindled between Colt and Jody, an upcoming film director. Jody was also well played by Emily Blunt. We found the main plot line a bit hard to follow. In particular, the justification for a physical attack on Colt made little sense until later in the film. The stunt scenes were well executed but seemed a bit long. This film received mixed reactions from our group and we gave this film an average rating of 6.6/10 with scores ranging from 5.0 to 8.0.

The **Film Group** met again remotely on **October 7** via Zoom, to discuss the films *Perfect Days* and *Widow Clicquot*.

Perfect Days is a beautifully crafted Japanese film that transcends language barriers, largely thanks to the captivating performance of the lead actor, Kōji Yakusho. His portrayal of a quiet, introspective man navigating the simplicity of everyday life in Tokyo is so great that it doesn't require translation to understand or feel the emotional depth. The film is a meditation on finding beauty in small moments. Even without subtitles, Yakusho's subtle expressions and body language carry the story, making it a universal experience. One of our members could not get the captions to work for part of the film and still understood the essence of the film quite well. Our film group loved this film, giving it an average rating of 9.9/10.0, with scores ranging from 9.5 to 10.0.

Widow Clicquot provides a detailed portrayal of the challenges faced by a woman running a champagne vineyard in 19th-century France. While the film excels in its historical setting and the depiction of the widow's perseverance, it often delves too deeply into her deceased husband's mental health struggles. The frequent use of flashbacks felt, to some of us, that it disrupted the story line. However, the film still manages to capture the immense difficulty of being a woman in a male-dominated industry during that time. The end of the film left the widow's future unclear, and it was only through the end captions that we realized that her life and champagne business became a great success! Our film group gave it an average rating of 8.1/10, with individual scores ranging from 7.5 to 8.5. *David Schwartz*

For the month of November 2024, the group plans to discuss *Thelma* on Prime Demand (\$4.99) and *Coup* on Prime Demand (\$4.99)

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2024—25

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ARF NOTES

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