

San Francisco State University Retirement Association

Off-Campus Bulletin - Fall 2010

President's Corner - President Tom Spencer

In academic circles it is common knowledge that if you are absent from a meeting, or if you are out of town at the wrong time, you may, upon your return, find yourself elected in absentia to some responsible position such as Chair of the committee. Well, guess where I was when the news broke that Lana Thomson was resigning as President of the Retirement Association? I was enjoying a spectacular motoring trip through Canada with stops in Victoria, Banff and Lake Louise.

Needless to say, I was surprised and saddened to hear the news. In telephone conversations I have had with Lana since returning from my trip, it is clear that her decision is firm and that she feels a personal need to cut back on some of her numerous activities involving the university and her community. We will all miss Lana but understand and accept her decision. We sincerely thank you, Lana, for all of your good work on behalf of the Retirement Association and wish you the very best.

As Vice President of the Association, and according to the by-laws, it is my duty to step into the Presidency and complete Lana's term. I will strive to continue her work particularly in regard to the membership directory and brochure, as well as continuing the travel grant awards program (this spring for staff). I feel comfortable accepting this challenge because I'll be working with a truly dedicated and knowledgeable Association Board of Directors.

While I am new to retirement (this is my first semester in full-time retirement mode), I am by no means new to the Retirement Association. Someone named Ann Paterson twisted my arm to join the Association years ago when I was in my 50s. I have been a member ever since. Those of you who knew Ann know that I had no choice but to continue my membership for life.

So on to the business of the Association. Whether you are a member or not, please come join us at our annual fall luncheon and business meeting on November 16th at the Basque Cultural Center. Our speaker is someone many of you know, Don Gerth, who will be talking about his new book on the history of the CSU. Membership is a mere \$20 per year (\$100 life membership). The Association is a great way of keeping in touch with your retired colleagues. Here's to a great year ahead for our Retirement Association.

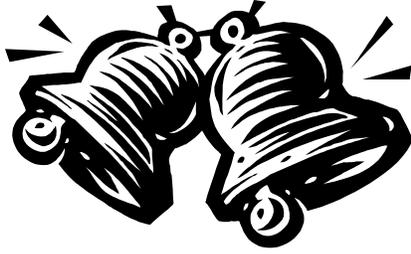
In Memoriam

* Joseph Axelrod * Kim Foreman * Clifford A. Josephson * Mark Linenthal, Jr. *
* Paul Longmore * Stuart C. Miller * Robert "Newby" Schweitzer * Hideo H. Yonenaka *

Upcoming Events:

November 16: Annual Fall Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center

Are you looking forward to catching up with your retired colleagues from SF State? Please join the University Retirement Association on Tuesday, November 16 at the Basque Cultural Center, located at 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Professor Don Gerth will speak about his recently published history of the CSU. Bar opens at 11:30, lunch served at 12 pm. Please return the enclosed flier and a check to Yolanda Thompson, 156 Lunado Court, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 334-1130.



Save the Date:

Spring 2011 Events co-sponsored by SF State's University Women's Association:

January 19, 2011: Professor Emerita Elizabeth C. Wright will conduct a reading and book signing to introduce her 2009 book, Dear Bob, Dear Betty: Love and Marriage During the Great Depression. Wednesday, January 19 at 2 pm, at SF State. Cost and campus location to be determined at a later date.

March 13, 2011: Gilbert & Sullivan Double Feature: Trial by Jury and Engaged, performed by the Lamplighters Music Theatre at University of San Francisco's Presentation Theater. Sunday, March 13 at 2 pm. More information to follow.

Membership: Have you renewed your membership for 2010-2011? If not, please take a moment to renew today. *You are our only source of funding!!* Fill out the enclosed membership form, and send a check for \$20, payable to "SFSU Retirement Association" to Jim Van Ness, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae, CA 94030. You may also sign up for a lifetime membership for only \$100. Contributions to the **URA Travel Fund for SF State Faculty & Staff** are also encouraged; please send a separate check, payable to "SFSU Retirement Association" with "Travel Fund" in the memo line.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD... SUSAN QUINLAN'S ADVENTURES WITH DOLLS

Susan Quinlan, Emeritus Librarian, retired from the J. Paul Leonard Library at the end of 1999, and embarked on a whole new career. Susan and husband Terry moved to Santa Barbara where they established the Susan Quinlan Doll & Teddy Bear Museum & Library in late 2005. The Quinlan Museum, open four days a week - Friday through Monday - is home to over 3,000 dolls and teddy bears, as well as a research library of 10,500 related books amassed over the years. The museum features lovely murals, a tearoom, gift shop, and three galleries of permanent displays. Next March, the museum will sponsor a book signing of *Alice in Wonderland* by well-known doll artist Nancy Wiley.

In January 2010, Susan mounted an exhibit of movie-related dolls and bears at the Santa Barbara Public Library for the 25th anniversary of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. The Quinlan Museum is proud to have co-published a beautiful art book with the National Institute of American Doll Artists (NIADA) entitled *NIADA Art Dolls: Rich Tradition, New Ideas* (2009). The NIADA organization honored Susan with a 2009 Patron of the Year Award for her support of the project. Susan and Terry appeared as characters in an adult mystery book called *The Clockwork Teddy* by John Lamb. There have been numerous articles published about the museum, some of which can be seen online at www.quinlanmuseum.com.

Since retiring, the Quinlans have traveled the world, cruising the Mediterranean, river boating it up the Rhine and down the Danube, and exploring China (where they got to go down into the pit with the terracotta soldiers), Peru, South Africa, India, and Nepal, and including a fly-by of Mount Everest. They spent a quick weekend in Germany for a teddy bear show in Rede-Wiesenbruck, "a really interesting old town filled with life-size sculptures of townspeople." Doll and teddy bear conventions take the couple to many out-of-the-way places, such as Clarion, Iowa; Binghamton, New York (the carousel capital of the world); and Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Next year the Quinlans will venture out in new directions. Terry is organizing a three-day doll and teddy bear artist convention in May 2011 in Philadelphia. Susan is working with members of her local doll club to put together a program on Madeleine Fox, a doll artist. They are planning to use the local public access television studio (with state of the art equipment) to produce the program and distribute it to public access television channels across the United States. They intend to finish it in time to show at United Federation of Doll Clubs' convention next July. Susan is working on a script for the project and is excited that this project will give her experience in a whole new field.

Susan Quinlan... on RETIREMENT "This has been an absolutely fantastic and fun almost 11 years since *retiring*. Terry and I have met so many wonderful people, both artists and collectors. It is such a privilege to mix with these creative and imaginative people, and they are such an inspiration to do more creative things ourselves. Some people may call this retirement, but we call it heaven."

University Retirement Association Email Address: retire@sfsu.edu

Newsletter Editors: Meredith Eliassen & Grace Robinson; eliassen@sfsu.edu; ggr@sfsu.edu

What the San Francisco State University Retirement Association Does

The SFSU Retirement Association aims to help you stay in touch with the friends you made while working at SFSU, to keep you informed about campus changes and retiree activism and concerns, to provide social events and learning opportunities for its members, and to help support the campus and its employees.

The Retirement Association traditionally has about four luncheons a year at restaurants in San Francisco or the northern Peninsula like Val's or the Basque Cultural Center; one will be a November holiday lunch, another is usually a St. Patrick's Day lunch. These are opportunities to get together with friends and colleagues from SFSU to talk about what we're doing now and what's going on at the campus, and to reminisce about "the good old days"; sometimes we'll have entertainment or a presentation/talk.

We also have outings to interesting local places. Recent such events included guided walks through the Mission District and the Filoli estate (in the spring when the gardens were in full bloom), and a guided backstage tour of the San Francisco Opera House. Our Mare Island tour was so popular we had two of them; it featured a guided bus tour of historic sites in the Naval Shipyard including a chapel with Tiffany stained glass windows; a waterfront lunch; and a tour of a World War II "Mighty Midget" gunboat that Bill Mason has spent 6 years helping acquire and refurbish.

We distribute a periodic newsletter, the "Off-Campus Bulletin", to keep members informed about Association activities, member activities (e.g., books published), and campus happenings. We have representatives on the Board of ERFA, the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association for the CSU, who report news about the State budget, CalPERS, long-term care, and other items of interest to retirees from the CSU. And resident campus historian Meredith Eliassen contributes "San Francisco State's History Corner" about some aspect of campus history.

Every other year we distribute a Membership Directory listing current members with their addresses and phone numbers, in case you want to contact a former colleague.

The Retirement Association also provides career-related travel grants to current SF State faculty and staff, which are really helpful in these days of severe State budget cuts. In 2010 we gave \$500 to each of seven faculty; next year awards will go to staff. We are also seeking donations to our Endowment Fund with the goal of funding the travel grants from the interest earnings of the endowment.

Please join us for the next phase of your life by completing the membership application.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Were/are you a faculty member _____ or a staff member _____?

Department _____ Year retired _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home phone (_____) _____

Email address _____

Would you like to receive SFSU' s weekly *CampusMemo* by email? _____

Are you interested in helping organize functions and/or serving on the Board of Directors?

Amount enclosed: \$20 Annual dues _____ \$100 Life membership _____

Contribution to Endowment Fund \$_____ (Please write a separate check.)

Please make your check(s) payable to SFSU Retirement Association and mail with this form to our Treasurer, **Jim Van Ness**, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae, CA 94030. Any questions, please contact Jim at (650) 873-4035, President **Tom Spencer** at (415)388-6687, or Membership Director **Julian F. Randolph** at (510) 525-8357.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON AT THE BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

Please join the San Francisco State University Retirement Association on Tuesday, November 16th for our annual Fall Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. In addition to celebrating the season, and catching up with old colleagues, we will be welcoming Professor Don Gerth, who will be discussing his new book on the history of the CSU. Please join us!

Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 16th at the Basque Cultural Center

Bar Opens at 11:30 AM; Lunch is served at 12:00 PM

Luncheon will be held at **The Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco 94080-3450**

Indicate a meal choice for each guest. Entree, coffee and desert are included in the lunch price.

Chicken Plate _____

Veal Dinner _____

Vegetarian Pasta _____

Name: _____ # of guests: _____

Address: _____

Please send a check for \$30.00 for each guest by November 1st to: **Ms. Yolanda Thompson, 156 Luando Court, San Francisco, CA, 94117, (415) 334-1139**