Autumn 2019

President’s Corner

The semester has started and once again many new students are being introduced to the campus and its programs. See the photo below showing their numbers gathering for the first photo shoot of the year. It was a great start for the students, enhanced by sunshine and a beautiful day that was ordered for this special event.

November 14th is our annual luncheon and a flyer will be sent to all members which will include a slate of candidates running to fill available vacancies on our Board. Please watch for a flyer which will remind you to send in your reservation for the luncheon and give you an opportunity to review the slate of candidates that will need to be elected at this meeting.

If your dues are due for renewal, please find an application form in this GRG to complete and send with a check as shown in the document.

We are always looking for members who might be interested in serving on our Board. We meet every other month and have several vacancies that need to be filled. Call me at 415.626.1667 for more information.

Rich

Board of Directors

President
Richard Giardina

VP and Membership Chair
Jim Kohn

Treasurer
Jim Van Ness

Past President
LaVonne Jacobsen

Nominating Committee
LaVonne Jacobsen, Chair

Members at Large
Don Zingale
Joann Aviel
Irene Donner — Ad Hoc

Membership Directory/
Gater Retiree Gazette
Kay McGough

Special Events Coordinator
Zelinda Zingaro

Liaison to UWA
Donna Ryan

CSU ERFSA Rep
Bob Cherny

Travel Grant Committee
Ann Shadwick, Chair
Sheila McClear
Dan McGough

GRG Design & Layout
Nancy Noble
In the spring of 2011, I volunteered to give a lecture on a New-Deal-Era Mural at the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, a mural that I knew a little about but had not seen. I ordered the microfilm of the artist’s papers at the Archives of American Art and soon decided there could be a journal article about the artist, Victor Arnautoff. I found a research assistant in Russia, who supplied more primary sources. By the time I gave the lecture, I decided there was a book to be written about Arnautoff.

At that time, Arnautoff was a rather obscure San Francisco artist. Finding a publisher was not easy. Although Arnautoff had taught at Stanford, the director of the Stanford University Press was apologetic but said no. UC Press was not even apologetic. I was, at the same time, trying to find a publisher for two other unfinished books that I’d begun years before but could not finish until my FERP ended in 2012. Publishers were interested in the others, but not in Arnautoff. Finally, I decided to go from press to press at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. I did so in the spring of 2014. Again, I met refusal after refusal until I came to the University of Illinois Press, which offers a prominent series on the Working Class in American History. The editor, Laurie Matheson, wanted all three books and said, “of course,” when I specified that the Arnautoff biography should have color illustrations. I suspected that she really wanted one of the other books, but I was happy to find an academic publisher for what I was certain would be an interesting book about a San Francisco artist.

Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art was published in 2017. Nonetheless, Victor, and my book, remained quite obscure. The book was not reviewed by any newspaper, not even the San Francisco Chronicle. It got positive reviews in the academic journals that chose to review it—but only three did so.

And then, last spring, the San Francisco school board was asked to paint out thirteen murals by Arnautoff at George Washington High School and voted unanimously to do so, igniting a public controversy in the city and setting off an international media storm. To date, August 10, Arnautoff has appeared in eight separate accounts in the New York Times. Dozens of other newspapers have treated the story, including the San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and The Guardian, and it has appeared in TASS, on CNN and other digital media, and on TV in Russia and Germany. Several journalists interviewed me and at least a few read my book. I won’t know if this has affected book sales until get my annual report. However, today, August 10, Amazon reports that my book ranks #280 among some 20,000 biographies of artists and architects. Given the Amazon rankings of my other books, I find this result worth sharing!

You can see Arnautoff’s New-Deal-Era Murals at Coit Tower, the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, the library of the San Francisco Art Institute, George Washington High School, and the Pacific Grove and South San Francisco post offices.

I’ll be speaking about all twenty-five Coit Tower murals on October 3, at 6 PM, at the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, no charge. You can view Arnautoff’s mural there and space may be limited—RSVP to admin@pha-sf.org, and on the GWHS murals on October 13, at 3 PM, to the Art Deco Society of California, at the Bellevue Club, Oakland, where there will be an admission charge.
I just returned from Bangkok where I served as a delegate for the National Education Association to the 8th Education International World Congress. I was also privileged to serve on NEA’s Resolutions Committee which allows one to be really engaged in the work of the Congress. EI represents 401 unions in 172 countries representing over 30 million members pre-K through higher education faculty and researchers. The Congress convenes every four years and this year 1446 delegates from 283 unions participated. In the photo below I am on the floor with my colleagues.

This is a fascinating gathering which includes pre-conferences on issues related to indigenous peoples, further and higher education, LGBTQ, and women. The conference itself covers six long days with fabulous speakers and actions on numerous resolutions along with regular EI business. Resolutions covered endless topics on education, child labour, academic freedom, indigenous peoples and protecting the rights of immigrant and refugee children among others. A resolution condemning Trump’s telling four elected Congresswomen of color, all US citizens, to go back where they came from passed unanimously.

Two of our many speakers included Kailash Satyarthi and Maria Ressa. Kaillash received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 along with Malala Yousafzai. Founder of the 100 Million Campaign among others, he has dedicated his life to rescuing children from slave labor in factories in India and advocating against child slavery worldwide. This has included wearing flak jackets while rescuing children in many dangerous environments. There is a film on his life and work titled, *The Price of Free*.

Maria Ressa is a Filipino American journalist who co-founded Rappier, a website in the Philippines dedicated to fighting fake news. The focus has been on the corruption and human rights violations of the government of Philippine President Duterte. Her teams are tracing how the web is used to create fake news and how if you repeat something enough it is believed. The graphs for this one small area were frightening and makes me wonder if I could ever again believe anything we are told. BTW I understand the New York Times has run a series of articles on this issue. Maria has been jailed and she and her journalist colleagues and their families have all been threatened in frightening ways.

Unfortunately, between reaction to the heat and limited time I did minimal touring. I did get to a temple I had not seen before, Wat Traimit, famous for its 5.5 ton golden Buddha.

Continued on Page 5
What We Have Been Up To

By: Zee Zingaro

My partner, Jim Gomes, and I recently traveled to Wisconsin and Chicago for the Annual Air Show and to visit friends. These two locations have a lot to offer visitors and we enjoyed a wonderful Wisconsin sunset, a tour of a cheese factory with REAL cheese curds and 25 cent ice cream cones—great for the travel budget.

In Chicago we enjoyed the staples of Chicago pizza, hot dogs and the great air show from the 41st floor of a condo building on the lakefront. We also took time to ride the Ferris Wheel at the Navy Pier and visit the Butterfly House at Lincoln Park. Thunder and lightning, humidity and heat—perfect summer Chicago days! We stayed at the Hotel Lincoln in Lincoln Park. Great location! A new favorite restaurant in Chicago Topo Gigio had great food and seeing The Music Man at the Goodman Theatre was a special treat.

What Am I Up To

By: Mike Lunine

My name is Myron Julius Lunine, aka Mike Lunine. The woman with whom I’m married, 57 years, is Kay. Below is my contribution for the What Am I Up To section of the GRG.

I retired from the Humanities Department in 1998. I am currently Professor Demetrius and a born-again lecturer. My adventure started with finally finishing the book to save the world and my marriage—in reverse order. It is called The Conscience of Nonviolence: A Conversation with Socrates, Thoreau, Gandhi, and King. It is more dialogical than diabolical. The course, which I teach (sic) each semester, reflects and projects the book. It is more diabolical than dialogical.

Please Join Us

A small group of UWA and SFSURA members have been meeting for lunch at 11:30, the first Tuesday of each month. Now that Nordstrom’s in Stonestown has closed, we will be meeting at Gunter’s Restaurant, 1057 El Camino Real, South San Francisco.

Contact Donna Ryan at: drsiaem@yahoo.com to reserve a space.
The Academic Resource Conference was an amazing experience, being able to meet individuals from the other CSU campus. I have taken a lot of what I learned from the workshop that I have attended. From learning how to talk to colleagues and how you speak to them and the body languages that we all need to be aware of. Working with students and faculty is a big part of my job and how I present myself as a professional is very important to be able to do part my job. Scheduling is one of the most trying parts of my position, but getting ideas, and other methods to make a bit easier to do schedule entry will definitely help.

There were lots of information also that benefit everyone that attended this conference, being able to get information on CalPers, they were brought in a person who was very informative on service credits and retirements. They were able to bring in lots of presenters that have worked although retired to give some of their expertise on trying to improve on some difficulties in any parts of the job we may be experiencing. We were able to get ideas from others who are in the same position to try different methods to understand more of budget tracking and faculty workload.

This conference beneficial to my professional development but also an experience I look forward to attending next year. I want to thank SFSU Retirement Association and the Travel Grant Committee for giving me this great opportunity.

Beverly Colindres,
*Hospitality & Tourism Management*

However, at the Grand Palace stop after that I got to visit the Medical Center for heat exhaustion. But I did get some photos and above is the one of the famous demons and typical roof tops.

Traffic is horrible and I was fascinated by things like the electric wires. Because of the traffic I watched ambulances unable to get through and asked our bus guide about the fire trucks in a station we passed daily. More often they do not get to a fire in time due to the traffic.

King Rama X, is highly revered and Bangkok is about to celebrate his birthday. He was actually born in the United States when his father was a medical student. There are photos and little shrines all over the city.

Our final NEA delegation dinner was across the river at the Mandarin Oriental. Along the way we saw many new high-rise buildings—great architecture, and all luxury condos. At the dinner we were entertained by traditional Thai dancers. Sadly, much as I loved this trip, I think I shall opt for cooler climates in the future.
San Francisco State University
Retirement Association
Membership Renewal Application

Name

Were/Are you a Faculty Member?

Were/Are you a Staff Member?

Department

Year Retired

Mailing Address

Choose ONE to print in the Directory

Home Phone: Area Code

Cell Phone: Area Code

Note: We are working with the University to help staff keep their SFSU email address if they wish. If you are interested, please contact the Association at: retire@sfsu.edu

• Would you like to receive the SFSU’s weekly CampusMemo by email: Y □ N □

• We will send the Association’s Newsletter, The Gater Retiree Gazette, by mail to save costs. If you cannot receive email, please check here: □

• Are you interested in helping organize functions? Y □ N □

• Are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors? Y □ N □

• Areas of Interest:

Please mail this form to our Membership Director:
Jim Kohn, 23 Topaz Way, San Francisco, CA 94131

Include your check for $30.00, payable to SFSU RA
SFSU Retirement Assn
Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Special Guest – New President Lynn Mahoney

Thursday, November 14, 2019
New Start Time
11:00 AM No-host Reception
11:45 AM Business Meeting
12 Noon “Touring The Stans“ with Joann Aviel
12:30 Luncheon

Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Avenue, So. SF 94080

$35 Per Person
Entrees: Roast Turkey Prawns Eggplant Parmigiano

Name: ____________________________ Entree: ______________

Name: ____________________________ Entree: ______________

Reservations Due By: November 1st!
Make your check payable to: SFSU RA $35 per person
MAIL YOUR RESERVATION and check to:
Zelinda Zingaro 19164 Christensen Court, Castro Valley CA 94546

Need a ride? Have a Question?
Email: zeezingaro@gmail.com
Now it’s your opportunity to share some news of your travels and other activities with our members. Please complete the form and send to Kay McGough, 3742 Brunswick Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080 or email her at krmcough@comcast.net. You can also FAX her at 650.878.4728. We eagerly look forward to your participation. It will appear in the next GRG. See the many articles in this gazette for examples.

Name: ________________________________

Department retired from and when: ________________________________

Brief description of your adventures: ________________________________

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

A photo as a jpeg. Please send images as separate jpeg's, not imbedded in your article. Thank you!

Save the Date: November 14, 2019
for the General Meeting & Luncheon.

What Are We Up To?