



San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



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February 2025

Upcoming Events

Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
Friday, March 14, 2025,
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
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Board Meetings:

On Zoom, 10 AM – Noon, Mondays:

February 17

May 19

September 25:

Discussion of Fall Luncheon &
Appointment of Nominating
Committee

December 15:

First Meeting after elections,
approve appointments to
committees & other positions;
plan calendar for 2026

Other Events in 2025

Darlene Yee, Faculty Trustee
April 25, 10 AM to Noon
on Zoom

Others to be Announced:

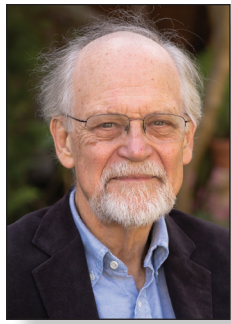
Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon
Details to be announced

<i>New Members</i>	<i>Updates</i>
Michael Goldman E: goldman@sfsu.edu C: 415.595.7671	Ron Beall New email: ron.beall@gmail.com
Ayan Jiggetts 316 No. El Camino Real #101 San Mateo, CA 94401 H: 650.579.2595 E: anejiggetts@gmail.com	Edith C. Yang All correspondence to her son: Samuel Chen E: samuelchen345@yahoo.com

Changes or updates: Please contact Irene Donner at: iredonner@gmail.com

What Have YOU Been Up To?

Now it's your opportunity to share some news of your travels and activities with our members. Please send your account to Irene Donner at: iredonner@gmail.com. If you have photos, please send them as separate jpg files. We eagerly look forward to your participation. It will appear in the next GRG.



President's Corner

President's Corner

I should begin by sending you my best wishes for the new year, and I do, even as I think about all those who aren't likely to be having a happy 2025.

I especially want to draw your attention to our annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon, about which you'll find full information elsewhere in this issue of GRG. I've invited President Mahoney, and she has replied that she's put it on her calendar and hopes to attend. I expect that most of you have been reading or hearing about the serious financial situation of the University and that you'll want to hear about what's being done in response.

I've also invited Jeff Jackanicz, the head of the Development Office; that office has provided important assistance to the Retirement Association. That office is also responsible for raising funds outside of what comes from the state and from tuition, so he too has an important role in the University's response to its current difficulties.

PLEASE ATTEND to hear our University's leaders and to offer them our support in the difficult times ahead. And reach out to some of your colleagues who may not regularly attend our luncheons and encourage them to attend. Offer a ride if you are able to do so.

I also want to draw your attention to the upcoming zoom session with Darlene Yee-Melichar, on April 25; we'll send around the information as we get closer to that date. Many of you know Darlene as a faculty member in Gerontology, a member of the Academic Senate, and a colleague. You may not know that Darlene has been the Faculty Trustee for almost two years now—she sits as a full member of the Board of Trustees and has a full vote in all their proceedings. She'll talk with us about her experiences as a member of the BOT and about the current situation of the CSU more generally.

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SFSURA % Advancement Office
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153
San Francisco, CA 94132

Digital Version: www.sfsu.edu/~retire

Bob Cherny,
President



Documentary Film Premiere: Singing for Justice

Singing for Justice is a documentary that should appeal to retirees. It tells the life story of Faith Petric, who became interested in folk music while in college in the 1930s, but who worked as a civil servant until she reached retirement age. She then became what she called a *Geritol Gypsy*, a traveling folk singer and advocate for progressive causes.

The film was produced by Estelle Freedman, herself a retiree, professor emeritus of history at Stanford, together with Christie Herring, an experienced filmmaker.

The local premiere will be at the Roxie, 3117 16th St, San Francisco. The screening will include discussions about the film, singing (of course), and more. For tickets, go to: <https://roxie.com/film/singing-for-justice/>.



Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon & Meeting

Friday, March 14th
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Avenue
South San Francisco CA 94080

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Your Contact Telephone Number: _____

Your Contact Email: _____

Select your Entrée:

Corned Beef & Cabbage ▸ Breast of Chicken Chasseur ▸ Eggplant Parmesan
Cost: \$35 per person

Please RSVP by March 4th

To make your payment online payment, use this link:

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/ucorp?itemcode=UCORP-47284C>

If paying by check, make your check payable to the SFSU Retirement Association
and on the memo line indicate it is for the St. Patrick's Luncheon.

Send your check to: Zelinda Zingaro ▸ 3056 Compass Lane ▸ Roseville, CA 95747

You can arrange to pay on the date of the event but MUST RSVP to do so.

Questions?? Contact Zelinda Zingaro at: zeezingaro@gmail.com or 415.602.8433



St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

San Francisco State's Second Campus

By: Bob Cherny

San Francisco State celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2024. SF State began in 1899 as a two-year institution, San Francisco State Normal School. The term normal school was in general use in the late 19th and early 20th century to designate a school that prepared teachers. The term itself derived from the French term, *école normale*, meaning a school that prepared teachers to teach the standards or norms. It's first home was a building on Powell Street.

After the 1906 earthquake destroyed that building, the school was relocated to a former orphanage at Haight and Buchanan Streets.

The school became San Francisco State Teachers College in 1921. It began offering four-year baccalaureate degrees in 1923, and became San Francisco State College in 1935.

In the early 1920s, the state architect developed a plan to expand the school to two full city blocks, bounded by Haight, Buchanan, Laguna, and Hermann. One block of Waller Street, between Buchanan and Hermann, was closed off and incorporated into the site. New buildings were constructed between 1924 and 1935, and they acquired extensive artwork through the WPA Federal Art Project in the late 1930s.

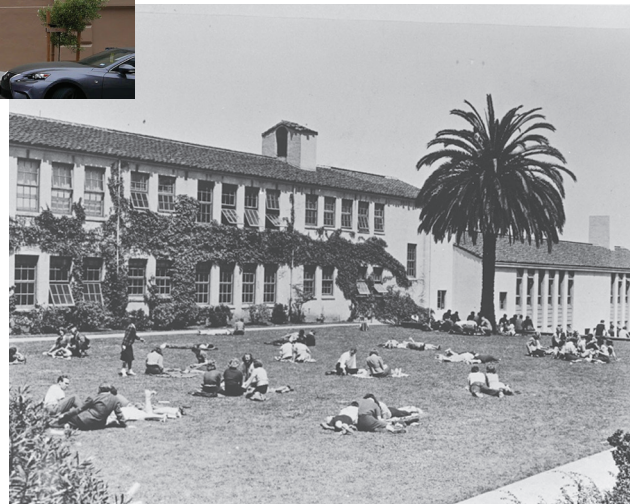


Above:
1. Corner of Hermann
and Laguna today.



2. Laguna Street entrance today.

3. Students relaxing on the lawn between Woods Hall and the Gymnasium, 1930s or 1940s. The palm tree was famous as the "Sacred Palm" and was designated to be retained in redevelopment of the site. It was not.

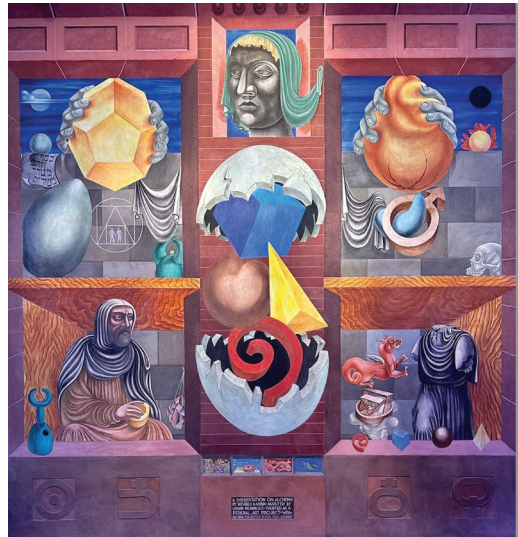


SF State's Second Campus



4. This mosaic mural was created over the Haight Street entrance by Maxina Albro, with funding from the WPA Federal Art Project. As part of the redevelopment of the site, an effort was made to determine if the mural still existed under stucco, but apparently UC destroyed the mural during their stewardship.

5. UC painted over most of the murals that were created by WPA/FAP artists. During the redevelopment of the site, this mural by Jack Moxam was partially restored.



6. Reuben Kadish created this mural, entitled *A Dissertation on Alchemy*, with WPA/FAP funding. It has recently been restored and is now part of the Haight Street Art Center, located in the part of the old SF State campus near the corner of Haight and Buchanan.

The college quickly outgrew that site. In the mid-1930s, land became available near Lake Merced and was marked for a new SF State campus. However, Sacramento power broker Artie Samish, working for the Stoneson Company, succeeded in separating most of the level ground from the project for Stonestown, leaving the college with the hills and valleys that we know so well.

Planning for the new site began in 1939, then stopped because of World War II. Construction resumed after the war, and the first buildings—temporary housing for veterans and their families—opened in 1947. Other buildings came on line in the early 1950s. For several years, students commuted between the two campuses.

In 1956, Frederic Burk elementary school opened at the corner of Tapia and Font, as a demonstration school and site for SFSC students to do their student teaching; all such schools were closed by the state in 1971. There ensued long negotiations between SF State and the SF Unified School District over the site, which is now the location of the newest student housing.



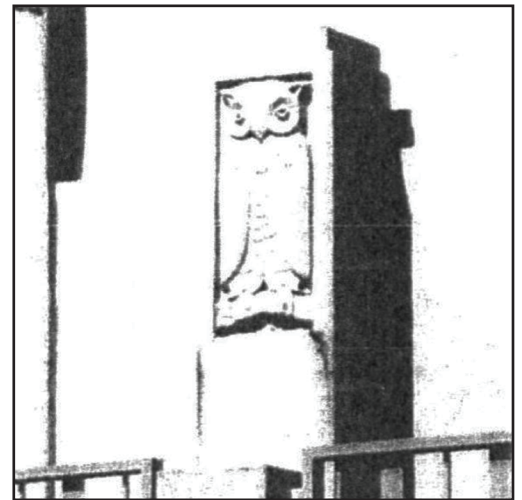
7. SF State President J. Paul Leonard posing at the new campus.

After the last SF State programs left the Haight-Buchanan campus, the University of California took ownership of the site and operated its extension program there until the early 21st century. In 2003, the entire site, except for the UC Dental Clinic at the corner of Hermann and Laguna, was entered onto the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district, including all five buildings constructed in 1924-1935 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style along with the wall along Buchanan Street. In early 2004, UC partnered with AF Evans, a developer, and Mercy Housing, an affordable housing program, and proposed developing the site, now referred to as 55 Laguna, into 490-500 housing units, of which 85 would be affordable and remainder market-rate. I was then vice-president of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (I signed the National Register nomination), and we fought to preserve all the historic buildings. We were only partially successful. I was recently reminiscing about that effort with Bridget Maley, who was then president of the Landmarks Board. She summed it up succinctly: “the developers always win.”



Photo Sources:

1. Noe Hill San Francisco
2. Wikimedia Commons
3. SF State University archives
4. Author's Collection
5. Evergreene Architectural Art, which did the restoration
<https://evergreene.com/projects/55-laguna-street/>
6. Haight Street Art Center
<https://haightstreetart.org/blogs/news/reuben-kadish-mural>
7. SF State University Archives
8. National Register Nomination for SF State College



8. This art deco sculpture of an owl, symbol of Minerva, the Greek goddess of wisdom, was part of the south wall, along Laguna Street. The National Register nomination specified that this was a feature to be retained. It was not. “Wisdom” did not survive the redevelopment of the site.

Cross This One Off the List: Grand Canyon

By: Russell Kiday-Hicks

For decades my wife has been enticing me with childhood stories of places I've only seen in images or videos: Mesa Verde, the Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, etc. These are locales of myth and legend I've pined to visit for a grand-long time. Our journey began with a reservation through the Sierra Club for a workweek with the National Park Service at the Grand Canyon's North Rim.

At the front end, we gave ourselves five days. Starting through the mid-section of California, skirting around Yosemite (they only let you in or through with a reservation), with a lunch stop at Mono Lake to the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah, Nevada. Our first national park destination, Zion, is located near and integrated with the small town of Springdale, Utah. Then on to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which is a reserve with no infrastructure for visitors like lodges or cabins. After an awesome meal and brief time exploring the Ancestral Pueblo (formerly Anasazi), Arapaho and Ute lands, we headed to the North Rim.

The North is the less-visited side, by a lop-sided 10-90 percent split. More remote, higher in elevation (thus closed in the Winter), the poorer North has less appeal to the "resort" tourists and more to those who favor the unmade pathway. Perfect for us.

After our week of crawling on our knees planting a pollinator garden near the lodge, collecting seeds from local plants for future plantings, dodging raindrops and lightning, and going on search-and-destroy missions pulling out invasive plants, we heard about a Havasupai and Sierra Club-sponsored rally on the south side, and had invited our fellow club volunteers and rangers to go. Just one ranger decided to join us. So, we headed over to the South Rim, a four-hour detour from our planned route.

This ranger loved working in national parks but was concerned about how we were treating the entire environment, land and animals, including the human kind, and wanted to connect with other rangers and local activists, especially natives from the Havasupai, Hopi, Navaho, and Dené peoples. It's a historic problem for the tribes: the nation's need is their sacrifice. The consequences are for someone else to worry about.

One such being the higher levels of cancer from poisonous mine tailings. These peoples, who hold stewardship of the land among their most sacred values, are concerned about the air and especially the water in canyon country; rain is extremely dangerous. Hikers are warned to be aware that a storm 40 miles away could produce a flash flood way downriver. They advise to be ready to scramble to higher ground whenever on a valley floor or in a slot canyon. The main rally speaker was Havasupai; her village in the canyon got hit by a devastating flood. One hiker was killed.

With the sacred Red Bluff as a backdrop, her powerful talk brought tears to my eyes. Her people, she said, knew how to live in the canyon; they will rebuild. Visitors are most at risk, she said.

This land is amazingly beautiful. It's unfortunate that our history puts such a stain on it, not to mention the on-going stupidities and injustices that continue to sacrifice places and communities, that, in the end, can't help but affect us all. Peace.





In Memoriam:

Daniel Howard Buttlair,

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, passed away Nov. 2 at the age of 83. He served SF State for 35 years, from 1975 to 2010. He was appointed chair of the Department of Chemistry in 1983, associate dean of the College of Science & Engineering in 1997 and dean of Undergraduate Studies in 2002. “Dan was a wonderful model as a scientist for all of us, students and faculty alike. He was dedicated to the highest academic standards and exhibited the highest personal standards of integrity and compassion. And he was a genuinely really nice guy,” former College of Science & Engineering Dean Jim Kelley said of his nearly 30 years working with Buttlair. Buttlair is survived by his beloved wife Barbara Buttlair, who also worked at SF State; both were lifetime members of the Retirement Association.

There are a number of other memories/condolences about Dan from SFSU folks at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sfgate/name/daniel-buttlair-obituary?id=56744239>

Rosaleen Anna Nardi Trinca

Secretary in Secondary Education for 38 years, died November 16 at 85.

Note: We encourage members to submit Remembrances, up to 200 words, for their colleagues.

Donate to the SFSU Retirement Association

The San Francisco State University Retirement Association welcomes contributions to support the Travel Grants program. We invite donations to this very worthwhile program. Donations are tax deductible.

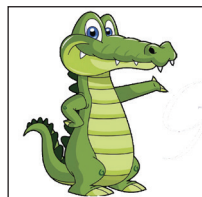
NEW! Donations can now be made online by debit and credit cards or by check.

Online payments here: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/ucorp?itemcode=UCORP-47284A>

If donating by check, make a check payable to the SFSU Retirement Association and on the memo line indicate it is for the Travel Grants Endowment Fund. Send your check to our treasurer at the address below:

John O'Shaughnessy • 11 Hillside Place • San Mateo, CA 94403

Travel Grant Donations



Date	Donor
02/28/2024	Patricia Miller
02/28/2024	Shannon Perry
06/03/2024	Sheila McClear
06/27/2024	Robert Cherny
11/13/2024	John O'Shaughnessy
11/22/2024	James Kohn
11/25/2024	Arline and James Van Ness
11/25/2024	Herb Meiberger
11/25/2024	Yenbo Wu
11/25/2024	Robert and Lin Ivory
11/26/2024	Sheila McClear
12/13/2024	George Woo and Judy Seto

Sally Gearhart Documentary

Documentary Film about Sally Gearhart

Many of us will remember Sally Gearhart.

Sally Gearhart was a charismatic radical activist and academic who spearheaded the 1970s and 80s lesbian feminist movement. She also co-founded the San Francisco State Women

Studies program in the 1970s, wrote cult-classic utopian fantasy novels, complete with flying lesbians!, helped establish a women's land community in Northern California, and more. But although she worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Harvey Milk to defeat the anti-gay Brigg's initiative in 1978, most people don't know her name. The documentary about Sally hopes to change that.

On February 19, Deborah Craig from the Public Health Department will present her documentary about Sally Gearhart's long and rich life. The evening will begin with a prescreening reception, followed by the film screening.

Although the film begins as a relatively straightforward biography of an overlooked heroine, it becomes a meditation on the symbiotic relationship between leaders like Sally and movements for social change. Finally, at the end of Sally's life, despite the challenges of aging, her gift for reaching across the aisle sustain her in the end and should inspire our current urgent struggles for social justice and equality.

Date: February 19, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM – Prescreening Reception

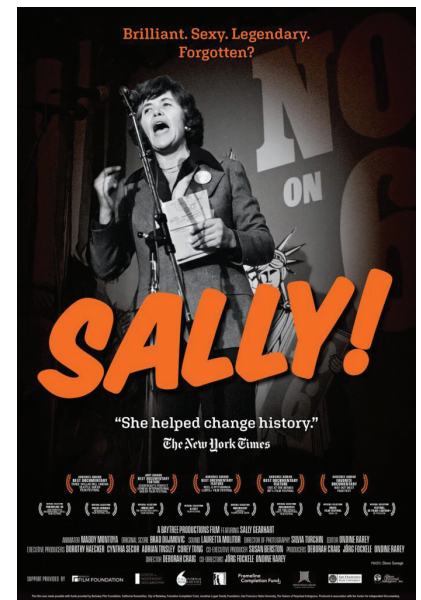
6:00 PM – Screening

Location: Coppola Theatre, School of Cinema,
Fine Arts Building

This event is free and open to the public.

If you plan to attend the pre-screening reception, please RSVP to ensure that we have enough drinks and snacks for everyone.

RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/PzFnVvNKaC>





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email: retire@sfsu.edu



Please Send Us Your Email Address

If you've received this GRG through the US Postal Service, that means we don't know your email address. If you have one, please let us know. We sometimes have information to share that we'd like to get to you quickly. If we don't have your email address, we won't be able to share such information as, for example, an upcoming event with a short timeline to reserve a spot.



What's the Blast?

When the SFSU Retirement Association has timely information between the Gator Retiree Gazette mailings, you will receive a GRG Blast email. Keep an eye out for these from time to time.

