San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



President's Letter



Dear Friends:

I trust you have weathered the pandemic and are doing well. I have moved to Santa Rosa after 46 years in the Bay Area and am enjoying life in Sonoma County immensely.

It has been a while since we have had a newsletter and we are pleased to be able to send it out to all of you. I know that we have not had in-person events for quite some time. Perhaps you had the opportunity to participate by Zoom in Bob Cherny's recent lecture on The Controversy at Coit Tower, 1934: Communist Conspiracy or Tempest in a Teapot? or to attend the recent Zoom meeting with President Mahoney. We are now planning an in-person gathering with the SFSU President and a tour of the campus on November 17th-see details on Page 3which we hope will be well attended. In addition, we anticipate a return to our famous St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 17th, 2023.

I want to thank all of our Board members for continuing to meet and support the Association—via Zoom during the pandemic. My special thanks to Lavonne Jacobsen and Ann Shadwick, who will be leaving the Board after many years of service. I also want to thank three appointed Board members for all their hard work: Bob Cherny for his work with our statewide Association. Kay McGough for her work as our newsletter editor; along with Nancy Noble for her work as graphic designer, and Zee Zingaro for her work as our programming director. Let me also note with much appreciation the work done by Irene Donner as our Vice President for Membership.

I have completed two full terms as President of the SFSURA and have been most pleased to serve in this capacity. I am delighted that the Board's Nominating Committee has recommended Bob Cherny as the Association's new president. In this regard, I would like to put before the membership the full slate of Board candidates being recommended for election:

President: Robert Cherny Vice President: Irene Donner Secretary: Sheila McClear Treasurer: Jim Van Ness

Board Members at Large: Gregory Antipa Carlos Cordova Elogeanne Grossman James Kelley James Kohn Dan McGough John O'Shaughnessy Donna Ryan Don Zingale

Brief information on these nominees can be found in the Nominating Committee Report on Page 4. Please note....Your approval of this entire slate of candidates is requested. You are asked to indicate your approval to me either by email giardina@sfsu.edu or by text 1.415.990.7951. I would very

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much appreciate it if you would do so by the 21^{st} of November.

Thank you all for your continued membership in our Retirement Association. Please continue to support the Association and its Board and to recommend new members.

My very best to all of you,



Board of Directors President **Richard Giardina** VP and Membership Chair Irene Donner Treasurer Jim Van Ness **Past President** LaVonne Jacobsen, Chair Members At Large Jim Kohn Sheila McClear Dan McGough Donna Rvan Ann Shadwick Don Zingale Liaison to CSU-ERFSA Bob Cherny **Publications Coordinator** Kay McGough Special Events Coordinator Zelinda Zingaro **GRG** Design & Layout Nancy Noble SFSURA ^c/_o Advancement Office

SFSURA % Advancement Office 1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153 San Francisco, CA 94132 Digital Version: <u>www.sfsu.edu/~retire</u>

Membership

Membership Updates The latest change to the 2019 Directory

New Address: Loretta Belgum 2424 Pine Knoll Drive #6 Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Change of Email:

Bijan Aalami bijan@PThowto.com

Robert Douglas rjdouglas04@gmail.com

Steve Evans steveevans828@gmail.com New Address:

Richard Giardina 4210 Thomas Lake Harris Drive #110 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

New Address:

Arthur Wallace 27 Barker Avenue, Apt. 1509 White Plains, NY 10601

VINCE THE SIGN GUY WITHOUT FREEDOM OF SPEECH WE WOULD NOT KNOW WHO THE IDIOTS ARE Everyone has the right to be stupid, it's just that some people abuse the privilege



Life is short...be the girl on the left...

Humor

What's the Flash?

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



Upcoming Events

November 17, 2022

Tour of Campus & President's Reception

Learn about the new buildings on campus with a tour of these buildings. Have lunch with friends (on your own) and meet with President Lynn Mahoney.

President Mahoney has graciously invited us to a reception on the 5th Floor Patio.

Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022

Meeting Place: The precise meeting place will be provided upon your RSVP.

Parking: Some hosted parking will be provided. Details to follow.

- **Time:** 11:30 AM Gather for Campus Tour
 - 1:00 PM On own for lunch and visiting
 - 2:00 PM Reception hosted by President Lynn Mahoney: Administration 5th Floor Patio

RSVP to:

Zelinda Zingaro <u>zeezingaro@gmail.com</u> or text to 415.602.8433.

Deadline: November 10, 2022

We ask that you please RSVP for this event—even though there is no cost involved, so that we can provide the President's Office with an accurate count.



March 17, 2023 - St. Patrick's Day Luncheon



St. Patrick's Day is Back! Hold the date. Friday, March 17, 2023 Basque Cultural Center Details will be forthcoming



Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee, consisting of Bob Cherny, Irene Donner, and Sheila McClear, met several times and is pleased to present the following slate of nominees:

President: Robert Cherny Vice President: Irene Donner Secretary: Sheila McClear Treasurer: James Van Ness

> Board Members at Large: Gregory Antipa Carlos Cordova Elogeanne Grossman James Kelley James Kohn Dan McGough John O'Shaughnessy Donna Ryan Don Zingale



The two appointed board members, Kay McGough, Publications Coordinator, and Zelinda Zingaro, Events Coordinator, are willing to continue in those positions.

Here are brief bios for the nominees:

Bob Cherny, *President,* joined the history faculty in 1971 and served as Department Chair, Senate Chair, Acting Dean of BSS, and Interim Dean for Undergraduate Studies. Since 2012, he has been teaching online through SF State OLLI, writing books and journal articles, and working on historic preservation projects. He serves on the city's Historic Preservation Fund Committee, the board of the Presidio Historical Association, and the SF State OLLI Council and Curriculum Development Committee. He has been an RA board member and represented the RA on the ERFSA State Council since 2013.

Irene Donner, *Vice-President/Membership Chair*, worked in the Internal Audit Office on the SF State campus from March 2001 until April 2016, under the management of Administration and Finance Department. She came to the SF State campus with twelve years of business office experience from the UOP School of Dentistry, San Francisco.

Sheila McClear, *Secretary*, had a 33-year career at SF State, beginning in Public Affairs (now University Communications), eventually serving as director. She then moved to the Office of the President as Director of Special Projects, with presidential speech writing and crisis communications as key responsibilities. Over the years, she reported directly to four presidents.

Jim Van Ness, *Treasurer*, was an administrator in the Accounting, Budget, and Audit units under the VP for Administration and Finance. After retiring, he joined the Board of Directors of three nonprofit organizations, including the Retirement Association where he has served as Treasurer since 2009.

Greg Antipa, *Board Member.* joined the Biology faculty in 1979 and became emeritus in 2008. He came to SF State after two post-docs, one at the University of Chicago and one at Argonne National Lab, and teaching at Wayne State University. His teaching and research have centered on cell biology and all aspects of microscopy. Windsurfing has been his wonderful distraction.

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Carlos Cordova, *Board Member*; joined the faculty of the Latino/Latina Studies Department in 1974 and became emeritus in 2021. He served several terms as Department Chair and also served on search committees for departments in other colleges. He was a founding member of the Mission Cultural Center, served on the board for the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and also served as President of the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies.

Elogeanne Grossman, *Board Member*, was an advisor to a Vice President and four University Presidents over the course of 33 years. She was awarded the President's Medal in June 2014 when she retired. Since "re-FIRE-ment," she has continued as a docent at the Oakland Zoo and also serves on the Conservation Society of California's Board of Trustees. Her artistic pursuits include lessons in Ikebana, salsa, and ballet.

Jim Kelley, *Board Member,* since retiring, has continued to sail around the world with Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic, giving talks and driving boats. The organization has ten expedition ships going to both polar regions and many places in between. He and Susan have moved to the High Sierra where they are active in Rotary, both serve on the County Grand Jury, and he serves on the County Planning Commission and as the local Firewise Coordinator, a program to help people harden their property against wildfire.

Jim Kohn, *Board Member,* taught for 40 years in the English Department, in the Applied Linguistics wing. He served three years as Department Chair and also served on the Academic Senate for about 15 years, chairing some committees and serving one year as chair. In retirement, he is teaching courses on-line through OLLI and the Fromm Institute at USF.

Dan McGough, *Board Member,* spent 37 years at SF State providing Instructional Technical support and support management to all units in the College of Creative Arts. In retirement, he consults with private schools with regard to utilities and site utilization and improvement planning. He has travelled throughout the nation and internationally especially enjoying African wildlife and penguins in Antarctica up close. He also plays bocce on a regular basis.

John O'Shaughnessy, *Board Member,* taught in the Accounting Department for 38 years. In addition to serving on various SF State committees he was also the University Club's treasurer for ten years. In retirement, John, along with his wife, Maria, volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul and also look forward to traveling. Recently they completed the Camino Ingles and have the Via Francigena in their sights for 2023.

Donna Ryan, *Board Member,* worked in HR and retired in 2005. She serves as the RA liaison to the University Women's Club, where she has been a long-time board member. Started at SFSU in 1964, transferred to Personnel in 1966, moved to Administrator II as Manager of Employment in Human Resources, Classification and other programs at the time of retirement in 2005. Since 2005, just "living the life".

Don Zingale, *Board Member,* is widely recognized for his efficacy in guiding transformational academic change. The bulk of his 40+ years in higher education was focused on professorial and executive responsibilities on multiple campuses of the CSU. At SF State, he served as the founding dean of the College of Health & Human Services. Post CSU retirement, he also served as President at the State University of New York, Cobleskill.

My Travels to Ireland, Trinity College, & The Book of Kells

By: Nancy Noble Faculty Emerita, School of Design

After two years of pandemic lockdowns, it was time to venture out and travel again. My daughter Bryce had a window between teaching summer school and the new school year, so we decided to take the bold step of traveling to Ireland and Iceland in July and August. Taking all the necessary precautions of wearing masks in the over-crowded airports and on planes, we felt comfortable traveling. And we stayed Covid-free the entire trip.

Upon arrival in Dublin we dropped off the luggage at our hotel and headed out to explore. I had been to Dublin a few times before, so I knew my way around and my daughter was happy exploring the sites, this being her first visit. I've discovered that the best way to get over jetlag is to go

for longs walks out in the fresh air and sunshine—staying on the new time zone and no naps. Works every time. Of course, stopping in a pub for a Guinness always helps. There were plenty of outdoor spots and great weather.

Day Two, we headed over to Trinity College to see *The Book of Kells*. I was surprised at the long lines so early in the morning, however, a docent spotted the paper in my hand and asked if I had a reservation. I said yes, and she ushered us forward. Thank goodness, as I quickly saw the *sold-out* sign. Whew, glad I always print out my reservations even though they are on my phone.



I visited *The Book of Kells* back in 2003 when I was doing a faculty exchange at Brunel University, Runnymede, England for six months. Dublin is a quick flight from London or a long train ride to



Holyhead, Wales followed by an exciting ferry ride to Dublin. I did both, visiting twice. Back then, there were no crowds at Trinity College and the exhibit was mesmerizing and wonderful. This new exhibit is completely different however. I still think the earlier exhibit was better, perhaps because there were no crowds and I could spend all the time I wanted—not as easy in crowds. It was great seeing the new and beautiful info graphics showcasing the wonderful aspects of this great national treasure of Ireland. *The Book of Kells*, an illuminated manuscript in Latin, contains the Four Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, together with introductory tables and texts. The exhibit showcases *the extraordinary*

variety of decorated letters and words on each page—they can be playful, geometric, fluid, intensely expressive but never repetitive. Even if you can read Latin, it still takes time for your eye to adjust to the beautiful but unfamilar script where a letter can be formed by the contorted bodies of humans or animals.

Although the identities of the three scribes and four artists who labored over the 680 pages, or 340 folios, of *The Book of Kells* are unknown, their work contains different designs, vibrant colors and unique Western lettering, all in Latin. Whether it was started in the monastery on the island of Iona, Scotland and brought over to Kells because of a Viking raid in 806 or completely penned in Kells, County Meath is not completely clear. Scholars are still studying this. The monastery of Kells *Continued on Page 7*



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was destroyed in 1641 and *The Book of Kells* was brought to Dublin 12 years later for safekeeping. It has been in the possession of Trinity College since at least 1661.

Day Three we took the bus from Dublin City Center to the airport to pick up our rental car. Dublin is a wonderful walkable city and too busy for a car.

I had contacted Denis Brown, a famous Irish calligrapher, to set up a visit. He stayed with me in 2015 before teaching at



Passionate Pen, the Annual International Calligraphy Conference held at Sonoma State that year.

My daughter turned out to be the navigator extraordanaire while I enjoyed driving with my left-handed stick shift and we arrived at Denis's home in no time at all. He lives in the "burbs" below Dublin City with great views of the Dublin Mountains. It was breathtaking to see his large etched glass pieces throughout his home. To be able to see in-person, the gorgeous, textured lettering and the multiple layers of glass all etched and expertly stacked and secured was fascinating—and large pieces they were. I regret not asking to take photos. We then talked about his latest project: *Text into Texture: Layering Calligraphy for Artistic Textures* that he was working on upstairs in his large home studio. To learn more about this exciting new venture, check out:

https://www.calligraphy.tv/courses/text-texture

We then bid farewell as we were now heading to County Monaghan and County Armagh for a visit with a cousin I was looking forward to meeting. I am in the process of researching and putting together the *Renaghan Family Legacy Book*. From Armagh, we drove to Belfast, visited the impressive Queen's University and then spent an entire day hiking the Giant's Causeway. We spent the next two weeks driving the Wild Atlantic Way and



did lots more hiking: Connemara National Park, Glencar Waterfall, and Dingle Peninsula. I am proud to say that we delivered our rental car back to Dublin intact, both wing mirrors still attached, not an easy feat on those narrow, windy roads.



We boarded Icelandic Air for a short, two-hour flight to Reykjavik, to meet up with my oldest son and his wife who would be finishing up a week of glacier hiking and camping around the perimeter of Iceland while Bryce and I had three-days to explore Reykjavik.

We used public transit as Iceland is expensive and renting a car is cost prohibitive. We spent our first day walking around Reykavik and taking in the sites of this fascinating city. We took the ten-hour Golden Circle

bus tour the next day that took us to the Gullfoss Waterfall, Strokkur waterspout at Geysir and the incredible tectonic rift at Thingvellir National Park where we were lucky to hike for an hour. We also spent two-hours soaking in the healing waters at the Secret Lagoon before visiting the very special horses of Iceland. These unique animals were brought to Iceland by Norse settlers in the 9th and 10th centuries and no other horses are allowed in. They have been bred for the elements and 200 are 'exported' each year keeping the population to 2000!



Our final day was spent at the new Sky Lagoon, finally catching up with my son and his wife. We celebrated her birthday with the most delicious dinner, sharing stories of their amazing adventures—the perfect end to our fabulous travels.



and

The (not so) Little Book of Astronomical Curiosities

By: Robert J. Douglas, Ph.D. Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science

About the Author Since childhood Robert Douglas has been interested in astronomy and science fiction. He is an active night-sky observer using several telescopes he has acquired over the years.

He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1968 from the University of Washington, Seattle. After spending an International Combinatorial Year in the Department of Statistics at UNC Chapel Hill, he joined the Mathematics faculty at San Francisco State University. Additionally, he has been a member of the Computer Science faculty since the department's inception in 1983. He remained at SFSU, with brief time off for sabbaticals at Harvard and the University of Washington and to study computer science at MIT on an NSF grant, until his retirement as Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science in 2000.

He is a member of the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers, the Rose City Astronomers, Portland, Oregon, the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, the Planetary Society, and the American Mathematical Society.

He has traveled to Australia nine times for its night skies, a journey he hopes all amateur observational astronomers and Astro photographers can make at least once in a lifetime.



Preface This book is intended for amateur astronomers and more generally for anyone with an interest in astronomy. I hope it will further pique the reader's interest in the solar system and beyond.

From the Author I believe the book is unlike other astronomy books available. The book consists of 59 eclectic topics falling into two general types, with some overlap. Many of the topics selected are ones that might contain a surprise and should intrigue you-"Wow" topics for short. Other topics provide explanations for various often-asked questions about celestial phenomena. Some of these latter topics involve mathematical arguments. A few of these arguments are included within the topics themselves, but most are in appendices at the end of the book and are intended for those of a more mathematical bent. Those who prefer to avoid mathematical intricacies can concentrate on the main text which they should find quite interesting. There are 249 diagrams and images The book is available on Amazon. plus five tables accompanying the text.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/057837708X?ref_=pe_3052080_397514860

Lexophilia

Although not in the dictionary, it is reported that Lexophile describes a person who loves sentences such as, *You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish;* and, *To write with a broken pencil is pointless*.

An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile. This year's submissions:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Wonderful Definitions

School: A place where parents pay, and children play.

Life Insurance: A contract that keeps you poor all your life, so that you can die rich.

Nurse: A person who wakes you. A place where everybody talks, nobody listens, and everybody disagrees later on.

Father: A banker provided by nature

Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence after

Hospital: An institution which helps your ills by pills and kills you by bills.

Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things straight.

Office: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life.

Etc.: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together.

Lexophilia

The Remembrances column of the Gater Retiree Gazette has benefited greatly in recent years from the research and write-ups by Bob Cherny. Bob is now retiring from this role as he has graciously volunteered to lead the Retirement Association as our next President. If any of our readers would like to take over the writing of Remembrances and see your authorship in print, please contact Bob at robt.cherny@gmail.com; he'll be glad to share the resources he's used to document the accomplishments of those SF State employees who recently passed away.

Raymond Pestrong

Emeritus Professor of Geology from 1966 to 2010, died November 16, 2021, in Menlo Park.

Jeffrey P. Chan

Emeritus Professor, and Chair of Asian American Studies from 1968 to 2006, died January 11, 2022, in San Rafael.

Arthur S. Hough, Jr.

Professor Emeritus of Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts, died on January 1, 2022, in San Francisco at 93.

Donald Doub, Jr.

Emeritus Professor of English from 1966 to 2005, died 12/5/19 in San Francisco.

Ramona First

Emerita Professor of Economics from 1956 to 1993.

Audrey A. Warren,

Emerita Professor of Accounting from 1972 to 1992, died January 1, 2020 in Vancouver, WA

Nina Roberts

Professor of Recreation, Parks & Tourism from 2005 to 2022, died on March 28, 2022 at 61.

Ralph Anspach

Emeritus Professor of Economics from 1963 to 1994, died on March 25, 2022 at 96.

Dorothy Seiden

Emerita Professor of Consumer and Family Studies/Dietetics from 1960 to 2007, died May 28, 2022, at 92.

Arthur K. Bierman

Professor of Philosophy from 1952 to 1996, died June 3, 2022, at 98.

Philip M. Klasky

Lecturer in American Indian Studies and Race and Resistance Studies, and Coordinator of Ethnic Studies Student Resource Center, died April 12, 2022 at 68.

Donald R. Gerth

Professor of Government and Associate Dean at SFSU from 1958 to 1963; and then Associate Dean at the Chancellor's Office, Professor and Dean of Students at Chico State, President at Dominguez Hills, and longest serving president at Sacramento State; author of *The People's University: A History of the California State University*, died December 6, 2021, at 93.



Ruth B. Love

Continued from Page 10

Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District and Chicago Public Schools, and Emerita Professor of Educational Administration from 1995 to 2013, died June 6, 2022, at 90.

Michael Ritter

Emeritus Counselor in Counseling and Psychological Services from 1984 to 2017, died September 16, 2022, at 67.

Andrea Schmid-Shapiro

Emerita Professor of Kinesiology and Women's Gymnastics Coach from 1962 to 1999. Olympic Gold Medalist and member of the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame, died September 21, 2022 in Novato at 88.

Alma McGilley

Staff in Graduate Studies until 1992.

Anne M. Marnix

Emerita Professor of Business Analysis and Computing Systems from 1972 to 1992, died December 15, 2020, in San Francisco at 91.

Gerald I. West

Emeritus Professor of Psychology from 1967 to 2005, and Dean of Faculty Affairs, died September 30, 2022 at 85.



Sliding Down the Bannister of Life

As You Slide Down The Banister of Life, Remember:

- 1. Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggert have written an impressive new book. It's called *Ministers Do More Than Lay People.*
- 2. Transvestite: A guy who likes to eat, drink and be Mary.
- 3. The difference between the Pope & your boss: the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.
- 4. My mind works like lightning, one brilliant flash, and it is gone.
- 5. The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.
- 6. I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well, it really chilled the Mood.
- 7. It used to be only death and taxes. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.
- 8. A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.
- 9. My next house will have no kitchen-just vending machines and a large trash can.
- 10. Definition of a teenager? God's punishment...for enjoying sex.
- And as you slide down that Banister of Life you should pray that all the splinters are pointed the other way...



Remember to Vote by November 21st to Richard Giardina

SFSU Retirement Association c/o Development Office 3an Francisco, CA 94132 www.sfsu.edu/~retire email: retire@sfsu.edu



What Are We Up To?

Now it's your opportunity to share some news of your travels and plans with our members. Please complete the form and send to Kay McGough, 3742 Brunswick Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080 or email her at krmcgoo@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 article in this gazette for example. Name:

Department retired from and when:	
	Photo

A photo as a jpeg. Please send images as separatae jpegs, not imbedded in your article. Thank you!