



# San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



## President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

The Retirement Association has survived the disruptions caused by COVID, and is resuming its usual activities for 2023, even though it seems likely that Covid will remain with us indefinitely, in much the way that influenza is always lurking in wait for the unvaccinated. There's information elsewhere in the newsletter about upcoming activities.

During the pandemic, the Retirement Association cancelled our annual luncheons and other in-person programs. We began conducting our board meetings using Zoom. And, in the absence of our annual fall luncheon, we also conducted our election through email. We also offered some programs through Zoom, and, last November, we offered an in-person, but mostly outdoor, program—a tour of two new buildings at SF State, the Mashouf Wellness Center and Marcus Hall, the new home of Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts program. Those tours were followed by a reception hosted by President Mahoney, also outside, on the 5th floor terrace of the Administration Building.

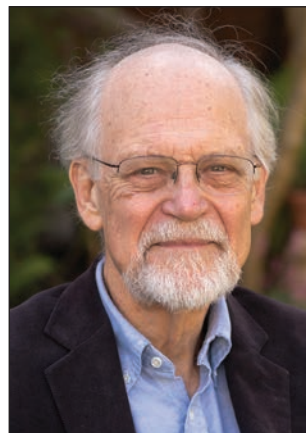
Some of these changes that came about through necessity are likely to continue because they are proving to be more convenient than the way we used to do things. For example, our board now includes members who live well outside the Bay Area and who would find it difficult if not impossible to attend regular board meetings in person.

So, for the foreseeable future, we'll continue to hold board meetings through Zoom. For the same reasons, we shall continue to offer some programs through Zoom. We have a few in the works, as you'll see on the calendar. However, we also remain hopeful that that we can resume in-person meetings, and we have scheduled our annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon for the traditional location at the Basque Cultural Center, where there is ample parking.

I know that some of you—probably many of you—are actively retired. Recent issues of this GRG have included summaries of activities by a few of you. Please consider sending us an account of what way(s) that you have remained actively involved in your discipline or community.

I look forward to reading about your activities and seeing you in person in the near future.

Bob Cherny,  
President



## February 2023

### Board of Directors

#### President

Bob Cherny

#### VP & Membership Chair

Irene Donner

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#### Treasurer

Jim Van Ness

#### Past President

Richard Giardina

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#### Publications Coordinator

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#### Special Events Coordinator

Zelinda Zingaro

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San Francisco, CA 94132  
Digital Version: [www.sfsu.edu/~retire](http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire)

## Upcoming Events in Spring 2023

We have two Zoom programs coming up in the near future:

- On February 27, Bob Cherny will offer a Zoom presentation on San Francisco's rich collection of art created by New Deal agencies in the 1930s and early 1940s. You should have received a GRG Blast with all the relevant information. If not, contact Bob: [robt.cherny@gmail.com](mailto:robt.cherny@gmail.com)
- On April 17, Jim Kohn will offer a Zoom presentation on Ansel Adams, keyed to Ansel Adams in Our Time, an exhibition of Adams's work that will open at the De Young Museum on April 8. Look for an email blast about ten days or a week before. Save the date and time: Monday, April 17, 10-Noon.

We are also planning on two zoom presentations in the Fall, one by Jim Kelley on El Nino/La Nina and their implications for California's water supply, and another by Carlos Cordova on Nuestra Historia, the historic context statement for San Francisco's Latina/Latino community, which Carlos co-authored. We are also planning to resume our traditional November luncheon meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future, either in person or on Zoom.

And we welcome your participation in our planning! If you have suggestions for programs, activities, or local, *Bay Area*, tours that you think members might find interesting, please email your ideas to Zelinda Zingaro, our event coordinator, at [zeezingaro@gmail.com](mailto:zeezingaro@gmail.com)

### New Members

Jan Gregory  
142 Josiah Avenue  
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415.239.8619  
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650.756.2297/415.793.0157  
[annettemarie817@gmail.com](mailto:annettemarie817@gmail.com)



# Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon & Meeting

Friday, March 17th  
11:30AM – 2:00PM

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 Chausseur
- Chef's Special Salad
- Cost: \$40 per person

Due to the short notice, please phone, text or email your RSVP to Zelinda Zingaro by March 7th: Phone/Text: 415.602.8433 Email: zeezingaro@gmail.com

Payment is by check made payable to:

SFSU Retirement Association in the amount of \$40 per person.

Mail 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.



St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

# Ernest J. Gaines US Postal Stamp

## Ernest J. Gaines, SF State Alumnus, Honored with US Postal Stamp

A San Francisco State University alumnus has been honored with a first-class stamp from the U.S. Postal Service. The late novelist Ernest J. Gaines is on the 46th stamp in the Black Heritage Series.

Gaines, B.A., '57, often wrote about people in small-town Louisiana where he was raised, exploring enslaved people, their descendants, and their enslavers. His novel, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, 1971, chronicled the life of its 110-year-old Black protagonist, whose life spanned from slavery to the civil rights era. After garnering a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize, it was adapted into an Emmy Award-winning television movie starring Cicely Tyson. His novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*, about a Black man on death row for a murder he did not commit, not only won the 1993 National Books Critics Circle Award, but was also an Oprah's Book Club selection. President Barack Obama awarded Gaines the National Medal of the Arts in 2013. Gaines died in 2019 at age 86.

Gaines was born in 1933 on a plantation in Oscar, Louisiana. He lived in the same former slave quarters where his family had been residing for five generations. At age 15, he moved to the Bay Area due to a lack of educational opportunities in the South. After Vallejo Junior College and service in the Army, Gaines enrolled at SF State. "It was there that I really got seriously into the writing," Gaines said in a 2016 interview with the Academy of Achievement of his time at SF State. *I had some wonderful teachers on the campus at that time who were writers as well. And they encouraged me to write.*



## Earthquake Warning Phone App

On Tuesday, October 25, at about 11:42 a.m., many of us in the Bay Area felt the tremors when a 5.1 earthquake struck east of San Jose. For some of us, before we felt the first tremor, our phone suddenly came on with an earthquake alert—a major earthquake was about to hit somewhere in the Bay Area and we should take cover. Within seconds, we felt the tremors.

As it turned out, the shaking was not dangerous in San Francisco, but it confirmed for many the value of having even a 30-second warning about an earthquake.

You can find out more about MyShake at <https://myshake.berkeley.edu>. Here's part of what is on that website: *MyShake collects motion data from your phone's sensors and uses a patented neural network to determine whether that motion fits the model of an earthquake.* The app provides a warning for any earthquake more than 5.0. You can download the app on your phone



from either the Apple Store or Google Play. There's also an android version. There is no charge. There's more information at <https://earthquake.ca.gov/get-alerts/>.

The U.S. Geological Survey has a wealth of information about earthquakes on its website, <https://earthquake.usgs.gov>. That website has detailed information about every earthquake and also has a way for you to report your own experience in an earthquake.





*Jim & Josie Wales, 2002*

In 1963 I was starting my first professional job, with the Navy. They sent me to San Diego for a week's indoctrination. I sat there, the lone civilian in a sea of uniforms, greeted by the salty Captain, who introduced the instructors: Naval, Marine, and Marine Air Officers. One of the latter, a young lieutenant, started off: *Sir, we don't call ourselves Air Officers. We are Unlimited Officers!*

Four decades later, as I neared retirement, I set off with my wife Helen on a two-week trek in the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming. We'd been doing that nearly every summer for 25 years.

This would be our third with llamas. Too aged to carry our own stuff, we became "certified" llama wranglers, and rented a pair in Pinedale, WY. Their owner delivered them in his van, 75 miles up a rocky, muddy road to the trailhead at 9400 ft. They were a sight arriving, peering over his shouldethrough the windshield!

Omar Khayyam had gone with us twice before, but this was Josie Wales's first trip with saddle and packs. He still had much to learn. Omar had shown him how to cross rocky creeks with steep banks, but he hadn't previously encountered puddles on a trail. He'd stop suddenly, reconnoiter, then take a big 3-foot leap and crash into me. He hadn't learned how wide he was with the packs. After an easy day's walk, we hadn't quite reached our intended campsite when both llamas went on strike and sat down. We hadn't experienced that before. We tried to get them up but they just rolled and dislodged the packs. We gave up for the day and improvised a camp and grazing.

The next day they weren't happy but we made it down a very rough trail to the East Fork River, where we knew there was good grass. We were setting up camp when a ranger, Les Scharnberg, showed up. About my age, he was small, vigorous, gregarious, and clad in a neat green uniform. He cautioned us about camping so close to the water, even in an established horse camp. But he wasn't an enforcement officer, just there surveying conditions, especially for signs of grizzly bears, for the entire summer. He was provisioned periodically by mule train.

He asked how we were doing, and we described the llama conspiracy. He hadn't noticed them yet, was surprised, and told us that he was also traveling with llamas. He checked their halters. Then he said to Josie— FOOT! Josie had learned that: he let the ranger look at his front feet. His toenails were too long! His owner had been ill and had evidently neglected to trim them after months of Spring pasturing. The ranger told us to meet him a mile upriver after dinner, and he'd trim them. He'd brought the right snips.

The llamas were glad to walk there without packs. The ranger's son held Josie's halter tight, I draped myself around Josie's shoulders holding on to his neck, and the ranger laboriously clipped the nails. Josie wasn't cooperative, kicked once, and sent the ranger flying. But he was successful. Omar, more experienced, was mellower. Our trip was saved! We chatted for a while afterward.

We had much in common. I specialize in foundations of mathematics and logic. During the school year, Les Scharnberg served as professor of philosophy at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, CA. And he was the only Rabbi with a congregation on California's North Coast. I call Rabbi Les a truly Unlimited Scholar!



*Helen & Omar Khayyam*

# Campus Tour & Visit

## Retirement Association Campus Visit, November 17, 2022

On November 17, Retirement Association members were given a tour of two new campus facilities, the Mashouf Wellness Center and Marcus Hall, the new home of the Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts Department. Our guide was a student who



regularly offers campus tours.

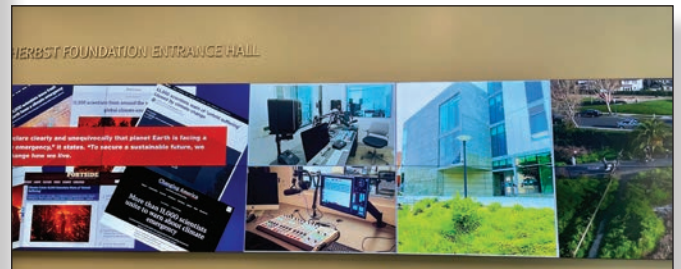
The group was quite impressed by the Mashouf Wellness Center's 41-foot-high climbing wall.

We also saw the two heated swimming pools, full-size gym, weight room, a room full of stationary bicycles, and areas for yoga and other fitness classes.

After the tour of the Wellness Center, we had a tour of Marcus Hall, the new location for the Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts Department.



Our tour concluded with a reception hosted by President Lynn Mahoney on the terrace on the 5th floor of the Administration Building. Academic Senate Chair Mike Goldman also joined us. President Mahoney provided a SF State water bottle to everyone.





## The SF State Retirement Association & the CSU Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association

The SF State Retirement Association (RA) dates to 1979. The CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA) dates to 1985. The two are complementary but different. The RA operates locally; ERFSA operates at the state level. It is possible to belong to one and not the other.

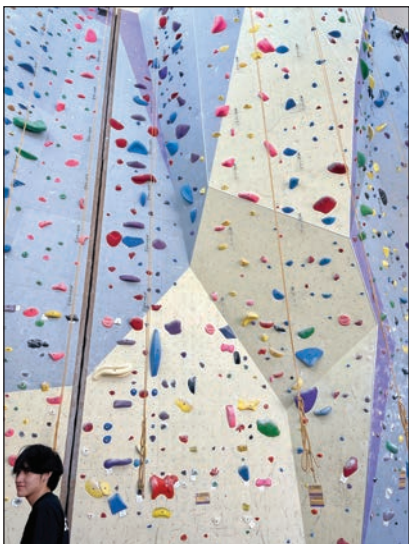
ERFSA defines its purposes as advocacy for CSU retirees, service to the CSU, support for professional activities by CSU retirees, and fostering communication among CSU retirees. ERFSA's advocacy functions include representation to the state legislature, CAL-PERS, the CSU Academic Senate, and the Chancellor's Office. Support for professional activities includes offering an annual program of financial support for CSU retirees' professional activities. Communication includes a quarterly newsletter with information on ERFSA activities and news of interest to CSU retirees. ERFSA is governed by a council consisting of delegates from each affiliated campus, which elects officers annually and which selects a salaried executive director. Since Covid, all council meetings have been on Zoom. Any member of ERFSA is welcome at council meetings. If you'd like to take part in the next council meeting, let Bob Cherny know ([cherny@sfsu.edu](mailto:cherny@sfsu.edu)).

The RA defines its purpose similarly, but focused locally and including social activities as well as educational activities for our members. We advocate for retirees with the campus administration, and are very pleased that our persistence recently resulted in a new policy regarding emeritus status for staff members, something that has long existed on some other CSU campuses. And we offer an annual travel grant program in support of the professional activities of current SF State faculty and staff. All RA offices are volunteers; there is no paid staff.

Although the two organizations complement each other, and each has its separate mission, not all members of one also belong to the other. The RA current has 243 members. ERFSA includes 122 members who retired from SF State. However, only 57 RA members belong to ERFSA. We hope to bring those two groups of retirees more closely together. If you belong to the Retirement Association and not ERFSA, please consider joining ERFSA.

It's easy to do so—just go to <https://www.csuerfsa.org/index.php/membership>

Additional Photos from Campus Tour. Below: The impressive 41-foot high climbing wall, left. Right: Swimming pools at the Mashouf Wellness Center.



# Remembrances

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 new 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](mailto: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.

Harvey *Skip* Davis

Professor Emeritus of Nursing, appointed 2004, emeritus in 2015, died October 7, 2022.

Andrew E. Dubin

Professor Emeritus of Educational Administration in the Department of Equity, Leadership Studies, and Instructional Technologies, appointed 1986, emeritus in 2012, died October 4, 2022.

Joseph Illick

Professor Emeritus of History, appointed 1963, emeritus in 2002; died February 23, 2023

Margaret Ellen Leahy

Professor Emerita of International Relations, died October 3, 2022.

Jacob Needleman

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Religion, appointed 1962, emeritus in 2009, died November 28, 2022.

Norman Schneider

Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies, appointed 1968, emeritus in 2001, died at home on January 23, 2023.

Andrew Speight

Jazz alto saxophonist and lecturer in Music, died in Burlingame (car hit by Caltrains) on December 1, 2022, at age 58.



## Osher Lifelong Learning at SF State: Two Decades of Service to Older Adults

One of San Francisco State's treasures, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at San Francisco State, is celebrating two decades of service to the city's older adult population with an anniversary party that commemorates twenty years of success and a strong commitment to the future. Ginny Jaquith, a Retirement Association member and emerita faculty member from Recreation and Leisure Studies, is chairing the planning committee for the anniversary party.

Emeritus faculty and staff members can participate in OLLI through taking classes, either short, two-hour classes or six-week classes that meet for two-hours once a week. Some classes are in-person, others are on Zoom, and some are hybrid. OLLI also offers interest groups, outings, and travel. OLLI members may also propose and teach classes or lead outings--and get paid.

The 20th anniversary celebration will take place on Thursday, March 23, at the Seven Hills Conference Center on the SF State campus. All OLLI members are invited to attend—so if you're not a member now, this is a great time to check out OLLI and sign up at <https://oli.sfsu.edu>.

# OLLI



# Dues for 2023

## Dues Now Due for 2023

For the last two years, because of the COVID pandemic and the Association's relative inactivity, we did not attempt to collect annual membership fees. Now that COVID restrictions are ending and we have resumed our activities, we are asking our members who are not lifetime members to resume paying the \$30 annual dues or \$200 lifetime dues to support the GRG newsletter and our other activities.

If you have any questions about your dues status, you may contact Membership Director Irene Donner at 650.348.4856 or by email at: [iredonner@gmail.com](mailto:iredonner@gmail.com).

In addition, if you have recently changed your address, phone number, or email address, please provide the new information on the below form and mail to Membership Director Irene Donner, *address below*, or, preferably, send an email to [iredonner@gmail.com](mailto:iredonner@gmail.com), so we can keep our membership records current.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

City: State: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it OK to share your contact information with other RA members?  Yes  No

Would you prefer to receive the Gater Retiree Gazette by email?  Yes  No

Would you be willing to help organize Retirement Association functions and/or serve on the Board of Directors?  Yes  No

Amount enclosed:  \$30 for Annual dues for 2023

\$200 Life Membership

Please make check payable to SFSU Retirement Association and mail to: Irene Donner, 814 N. Delaware St. #403, San Mateo, CA 94401-1529

If you wish to donate to our travel grant program to help fund travel/professional development grants to faculty and staff, please write a separate check, payable to SFSURA Travel Grant Endowment, and mail it to Jim Van Ness, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae, CA 94030. Donations are tax-deductible charitable contributions since the SFSU Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under IRC section 501 (c)(3).

Manzanita Square, the newest building across from the Administration Building, as seen from the 5th floor.





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San Francisco, CA 94132  
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## What's the Flash?

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



## 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 Kay McGough, 3742 Brunswick Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080, or email her at [krmcgoo@comcast.net](mailto:krmcgoo@comcast.net). You can also FAX her at 650.878.4728. 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. See the preceding article for an example.