



San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



President's Letter

July 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all received the same letter that I did from CalPERS notifying all pensioners of a data breach that included our names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers. The letter you should have received has information about enrolling in a free, two-year membership in Experian's Identity Works. I encourage you all to do this. It's an excellent way to track any event affecting your credit rating. Any sort of identity theft will quickly show up there. If you did not receive the form letter from CalPERS, you can call a dedicated call center to request information, Mondays through Fridays, 6 am to 8 pm, or Saturday and Sunday, 8 am to 5 pm; the number is 833.919.4735.

I've been doing what some of you may also have been doing: getting rid of books that I no longer need. The Friends of the Library will accept donations of books. The Friends have a book-sale room in the main entry hall of the Library, and all funds from their sales benefit the Library. They also need volunteers for the book-sale room. For more information, either visit the Friends' Office, LIB 120A, Monday through Thursday, 11 am – 5 pm, or Friday, 11 am – 3 pm, or call 415.338.6262 during those hours.

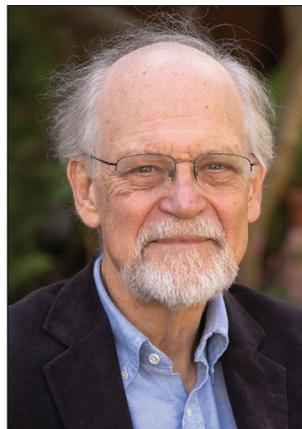
As I've been putting books into boxes, I've been pulling out some that I first read decades ago and re-reading them. I especially

recommend Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*, and Mark Twain, *Letters from the Earth*.

I've been keeping very busy the past several weeks with events related to (shameless plug) my new book, *Harry Bridges: Labor Radical, Labor Legend*, which was published by the University of Illinois Press in January. We are all old enough so that the name "Harry Bridges" means something to most of us. Unfortunately, for most people under about 40, I just get a blank stare when mentioning his name.

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information about upcoming events. I hope to see you at some of them.

Bob Cherny,
President



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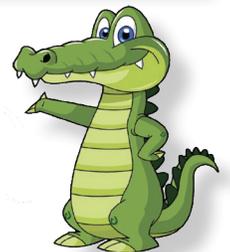
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Digital Version: www.sfsu.edu/~retire

Upcoming Events for Autumn 2023

Retirement Association Membership Events:

- July 12 Zoom Program, Jim Kelley on CA water
- September/October In-person event to be scheduled—Share your Ideas
- October Zoom Program, Carlos Cordova on Nuestra Historia
- October Next *GRG Bulletin*
- November Third Week—Annual Luncheon & Election of Officers

Retirement Association Board of Directors Meetings:

- 11 AM, Monday, September 18
- 11 AM, Monday, December 18

What Has Marilyn J Boxer Been Up To?

It's now a remarkable twenty years since I retired from SFSU. Last fall I celebrated the 50th anniversary of friendship with an Idaho-born historian friend with a two-week road trip through four mountain states—Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho—far from the flatlands of Kansas, where I spent memorable summer nights escaping *electrical storms* in a vegetable cellar entered like Dorothy's in *The Wizard of Oz*. Now we dined beneath the Grand Tetons, took a boat ride across an alpine lake in the Sawtooth Mountains, walked in the Craters of the Moon—extraordinary landscapes for a native of the American Midwest like myself. Good places to enjoy retirement travels.



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. 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.

Travel Grants

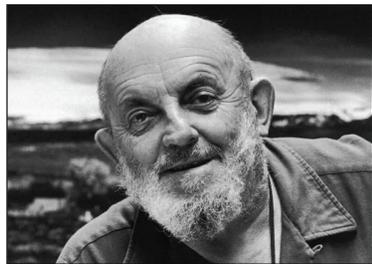
Through the support of the Travel Grant, Bridget Gelms, English Department, was able to present at the annual Computers and Writing Convention in Davis, CA—a conference on the intersections of digital technologies and communication. Gelms’ talk covered environmental justice through the lens of climate change influencers on social media. Social media influencing often operates within a capitalistic framework, leveraged to sell users a product or lifestyle. However, as Gelms described, emerging forms of influencing are leading the way for mission-driven organizing that resist capitalistic norms and seek to inspire direct action, subverting “slacktivist” trends that have come to define many social platforms.

Bridget Gelms, PhD
Assistant Professor, English Department

At the LOEX 2023 Conference—previously called the Library Orientation Exchange, now just called LOEX—I co-facilitated the workshop, *Creating a Values-Based Future: Reflection & Planning to Support the Creation of Sustainable Library Practices*. We guided participants through an exercise to identify personal and professional values, a SWOT: Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis, and a reflection activity to identify future applications to support sustainable practice in their own work contexts. The participants engaged thoughtfully in the exercises and shared insightful observations and questions. Conducting this workshop gave me new ideas for how to continue improving our team’s practices and hopefully expand them to other teams in the library. I am very grateful for the Retirement Association’s financial assistance!

Lizzy Borges,
Online Learning Librarian, J. Paul Leonard Library

Ansel Adams Exhibition



Just a reminder that the Ansel Adams exhibition closes in late July, so it’s best to see it soon. There are docent tours every day at 11 AM and 1 PM. You’ll enjoy it! Here is FALMSF Director Tom Campbell’s description of the exhibition:

“Looking forward and back, this exhibition of more than 100 works by photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams (1902 – 1984) places him in direct conversation with contemporary artists and the photographers who influenced him. Laid out in seven sections tracing Adams’s artistic development, the exhibition features some of his most-loved photographs, including images of Yosemite, San Francisco, and the American Southwest. Adams’s works are shown alongside prints by 19th-century landscape photographers, such as Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge, as well contemporary artists like Trevor Paglen, Will Wilson, and Catherine Opie. Their work engages anew with the sites and subjects that occupied Adams throughout his life — from national parks to the use and misuse of natural resources. Adams’s legacy continues to inspire and provoke, influencing how we envision the landscape and serving as an urgent call to preserve our environment.”

“Whisky is for Drinking,
Water is for Fightin’ Over”

...a comment attributed to Mark Twain.



GRG Blast



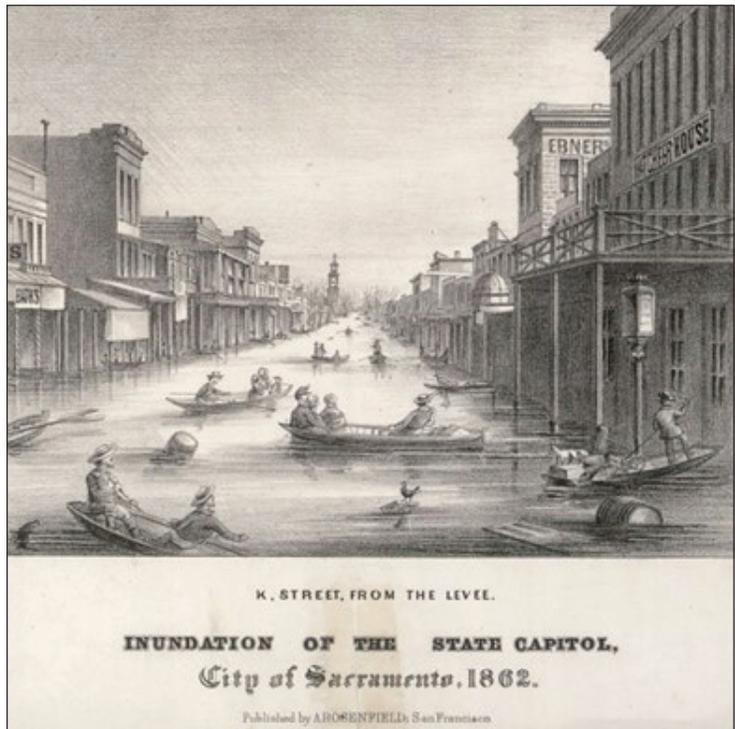
A Zoom Talk
by Jim Kelley

<https://sfsu.zoom.us/j/84639174648?pwd=Rjg1V0ppVWtxaFlmY1lhcTJBRWRPZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 3917 4648
Passcode: 350781

Date:
Wednesday, July 12, 10 AM

Meeting Place:
Zoom



Professor Emeritus of Oceanography

After a long professional research and teaching career in oceanography, Jim has in recent years turned his attention additionally on fresh water systems, especially those in California and how they have been transformed by the complex and often political management decisions applied to them.

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; he'll be glad to share the resources he's used to document the accomplishments of those SF State employees who recently passed away.

Yolanda Thompson

Staff in the President's Office and member of the Retirement Association Board of Directors, died February 20 at age 101.

Joseph E. Illick

Professor Emeritus of History from 1963 to 2002, died February 23 at 88.

Dorothy J. Pettit

Professor Emerita of English from 1957 to 1993, died December 7 at 99 in Greenbrae.

Arthur Lathan

Affirmative Action Coordinator in Personnel to 1991, died November 16 at 93.

Linda Ellis

Professor Emerita and Director of Museum Studies from 1987 to 2016, died March 29 at 66.

Joseph (Joe) W. Hawley

Professor Emeritus of Art from 1967 to 1999, died April 19 in Cloverdale at 85.

Robert C. Smith

Professor Emeritus of Political Science from 1989 to 2020, died April 13 at 76.

G. David Cahoon

Professor Emeritus of Secondary Education from 1963 to 1992.

Diane Resek

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics from 1977 to 2005, died March 19 in Berkeley at 82.

James W. Syfers

Professor Emeritus and chair of Philosophy from 1963 to 2000, died March 15 in Sonoma at 90.



Volunteer Opportunity

I'm an emeritus professor from Cornell University. My background is in Genetics, but this past year I began volunteering for a non-profit organization called Adopt-an-Inmate: <https://adoptaninmate.org>. AI connects inmates in U.S. prisons with volunteers on the outside for communication and interaction through letters. Essentially, a volunteer provides friendship and mentoring to a needy inmate by simply volunteering to write to a prisoner. AI has volunteers of all ages and walks of life. From my experience, the most effective volunteers are older people with useful life experiences and time—especially university retirees. It can be a rewarding and enriching experience for someone who is retired. I can be reached at 646.541.8064 or at sdt4@cornell.edu Hope to hear from you.

Many thanks,

Steve Tanksley

Professor Emeritus, Cornell University

Volunteering

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.

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, 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 Gator 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).

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.

