



San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year, everyone! 2024 seems likely to be critical in nearly all the meanings of that word—significant, unfavorable, and dangerous—nationally, in California, and on campus. I don't like to think what this coming presidential election may portend for our nation and the world. This year, California faces a likely budget deficit of significant dimensions. How that may affect the CSU budget is yet to be seen, but at the very least there seems no prospect for additional cash. San Francisco State is faced with declining enrollments and a declining budget, necessitating difficult decisions about where to make cuts, as President Mahoney explained to us via Zoom in December.

What can we, as retirees, do? In this year's elections—I know that I don't need to tell you—we should all be engaged citizens, tracking reliable sources of news, making contributions to candidates, and, of course, voting.

Locally, we can contribute to the campus in ways we are probably all familiar with, and by contribute I definitely include financially. When I make my modest contribution, I send it to my department's current chair, for use where she sees the need. Each of us may only contribute a small amount, but, if we all do, that may make some difference for a hard-pressed department. Don't forget the

library. Budget cuts there can have long-term consequences, creating permanent lacunae in the stacks where some important new books are never added. And, of course, all such contributions are tax deductions, something we are all likely thinking about at this time of year.

You can also contribute to the Retirement Association's travel grant program, which may be of particular value to faculty members in a year when the campus is engaged in serious belt-tightening. Inflation has driven up travel costs, and our board will be considering an increase in those awards at its February meeting. A look at the reports by recent recipients in this and recent issues should assure you that these grants are important to the current faculty and staff. Contributions for our travel grant program are also tax deductions.

This issue of the GRG is going not only to all dues-paying members of the SF State Retirement Association, but also to SF State retirees who are members of ERFSA but not members of the Retirement Association. If you are in that group, please take this as your invitation to join the Retirement Association and get information about our activities. Our dues are modest, but the benefits are large.

I hope to see many of you at our annual St. Pat's Day luncheon.

February 2024

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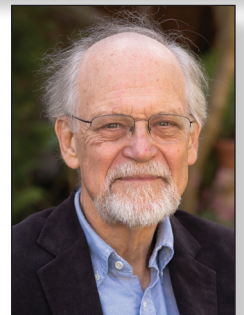
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Bob Cherny,
President

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San Francisco, CA 94132

Digital Version: www.sfsu.edu/~retire



Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon & Meeting

Friday, March 15, 2024

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

Chicken Chasseur

Vegetarian Eggplant Parmesan

Cost: \$45 per person

Includes entree, water, iced tea, coffee, ice cream, tip and tax
Any amount over our bill will be added to our Travel Grant Fund

Please RSVP by March 6th

Payment is by check made payable to: SFSU RA

Mail this completed form and your check to:

Judah Rosenwald at 37 Parkwood Drive, Daly City, CA 94015

Questions? Call Judah at 650.296.8820

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon



Retirement Association Travel Grants Recipients' Reports

Each year, the Retirement Association awards five travel grants of \$1,000 each to faculty and staff members as a way to assist them with their professional development and research. During 2021–2022, because of Covid, all travel was limited and we made no awards. This past year, we made up for that omission by awarding ten such grants. The following are reports from two of the recipients. Other reports appeared in the July and October issues.

Jennifer Arin

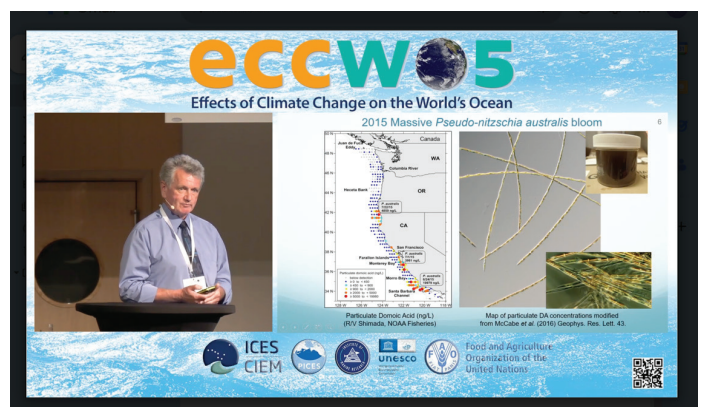
My book project examines the positive influence of Spain's Roma, North African, and Sephardic populations on Spanish cultural and artistic expression, particularly music and dance. Heartfelt thanks to the Retirement Association, for its travel-grant award in support of this project. This grant greatly facilitated my research, allowing me to travel to England to participate in the Bath Literary Festival, where I presented an excerpt from this project; and to discuss my findings with faculty and research librarians during a doctoral-program residency. Those activities, along with a visit to key archives in England, helped illuminate the path forward for my work.

William P Cochlan

As the grateful recipient of a 2020 Retirement Association Travel Grant, but reluctant participant in the global COVID-19 pandemic, I was finally able to present my laboratory's research on harmful algae during the Fifth International Symposium on the Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean, ECCWO5, in Bergen, Norway on April 17–21, 2023. On behalf of my three former SFSU graduate student co-authors and a valued colleague from the University of Washington, I presented our most recent results on the potential effects of climate change on toxic phytoplankton that have plagued the U.S. West Coast in a talk entitled, *The Variable Impacts of Ocean Acidification on the Growth and Toxigenicity of Pseudo-nitzschia Diatoms from the California Current Upwelling System*. Our talk stimulated considerable debate on whether more acidic seawater will incite these ubiquitous diatoms to increase their production of the potent neurotoxin: domoic acid and thus increase the toxic risk to coastal ecosystems and human health. Based on this presentation I was invited to speak at the 2023 Ocean Acidification Science Symposium in May in Seattle, WA, and will also present portions of this research at the 20th International Conference on Harmful Algae in Hiroshima, Japan in November. These results are currently being prepared for publication in the peer-reviewed journal, *ICES Journal of Marine Science* volume dedicated to ECCWO5 Symposium. Those of you who have attended such scientific conferences are well aware that sharing one's research at these international events can be very constructive, but the one-on-one conversations with both well established and especially early career scientists are particularly rewarding. I thank the Association for providing me with the opportunity to do so once again, especially given that I am now retired from the University.



The ECCWO5 Cochlan et al. presentation can be viewed at:



<https://meetings.pices.int/meetings/international/2023/eccwo-5/program>

Botticelli Exhibit

Botticelli Exhibit at The Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco

By: Jim Kohn

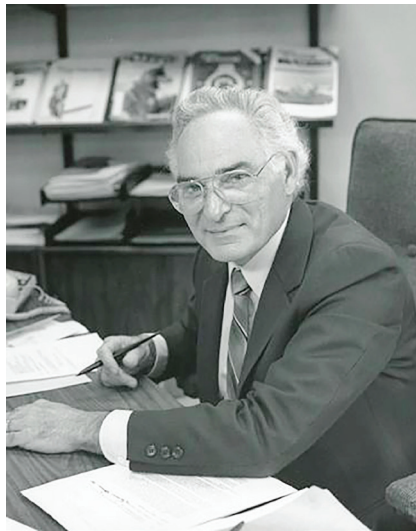


Eight members of the SFSU-RA met at the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco for a 45-minute tour of the current exhibition of works by Alessandro Botticelli. The tour was led by Elaine Fischer-Kohn, a long-time docent at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco—and, incidentally the wife of Jim Kohn, one of our members! Elaine gave us a detailed introduction to the world of Botticelli, his training, his interests, as well as his techniques in both drawing and painting. Because the drawings in the exhibition are somewhat small in size, Elaine complemented her presentation with the use of an iPad, so that we could see the details of the drawings, and also the connections between the drawings and the paintings. This exhibition was developed by Furio Rinaldi, the curator for works on paper at the Legion. Since the exhibition was developed solely for the Legion, and will not go on tour, this was our best opportunity to view this remarkable collection of the work of Botticelli. Since the works are over 500 years old, it is unlikely that we will see such a collection of prints and paintings in one place again. Many of the paintings were on loan from galleries all over Europe, especially from Florence, Italy, Botticelli's home town. The exhibition closes on February 11, so we were fortunate in being able to participate in this tour.

After the tour, several of us had lunch at the museum, which gave us a great opportunity to share experiences and trade ideas. Let's hope that there will be similar opportunities for members of the SFSU-RA in the future!



Remembrances of Larry Ianni



Larry Ianni

Larry Ianni passed away on September 13, at the age of 93. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania and his MA and PhD in English from Case-Western Reserve University. As a member of the English faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Larry became department head, then Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and finally collective bargaining agent for the administration. Larry came to San Francisco State in 1975 as Dean of Faculty Affairs, became Acting Provost in 1978, and served as Provost from 1979 to 1987, when he became President of the University of Minnesota, Duluth. After retiring from that position, he and

Mary Ellen returned to their home in San Bruno and became active in the Retirement Association. Larry served as RA President from 2001 – 2003 and represented SF State on the ERFSA council until 2012. In retirement, he wrote several novels.

We have asked a few RA members who worked with Larry to share their memories.

Nancy McDermid was Dean of Humanities: Larry, a fair and effective administrator, was one of my five provosts. Larry was the best.

His life of the mind saw beyond the crisis of the moment. Defender of academic freedom, protector of our Foreign Languages and Women Studies departments, fighter for the rights of our student journalists, mentor for me as I struggled with leadership responsibilities in academia.

Three special memories:

- Finding Larry sitting in our Poetry Center, listening to tapes of Beatnik poets;
- Watching him, at the sound of a fire alarm, rush from a meeting on the 5th floor to his 4th floor office, to get his secretary, Joyce, with her walker, safely out of the building;
- Enjoying post-retirement pasta lunches with Larry and Mary Ellen as we shared over four decades of memories and news of their two daughters and my Karla.
- Bei Dao, the Chinese poet, reminds us “all deaths have a lingering echo.” I shall hear Larry’s lingering echo for years to come.



Jim Kelley was Dean of Science and Engineering: Larry was a wonderful, albeit demanding, boss. I first met Larry when he came to San Francisco as Dean of the Faculty, hired by Don Garrity. Larry was a great defender of Don, who he felt, at the time, was under some pressure from our relatively new President, Paul Romberg. Don had been a highly respected Provost with a long history at the University. It was interesting to watch Larry always ready to fend off any perceived threats to Don’s administrative decisions. Larry reminded me of Thomas Huxley, “Darwin’s Bulldog,” in the way he was always ready to loyally support Don Garrity.

Larry was the primary contact point for us Deans, and I always found him to be a frank and honest communicator. One was never in doubt about Larry’s position on issues. He supported high scholarly standards and academic integrity. He had a wonderful but very

Continued on Page 6

Remembrances of Larry Ianni Continued

Continued from Page 5

wry sense of humor which endeared us to him. He had the heart of a tough union organizer from Pennsylvania, the environment from which he came. We were lucky to have had Larry as a colleague and friend.



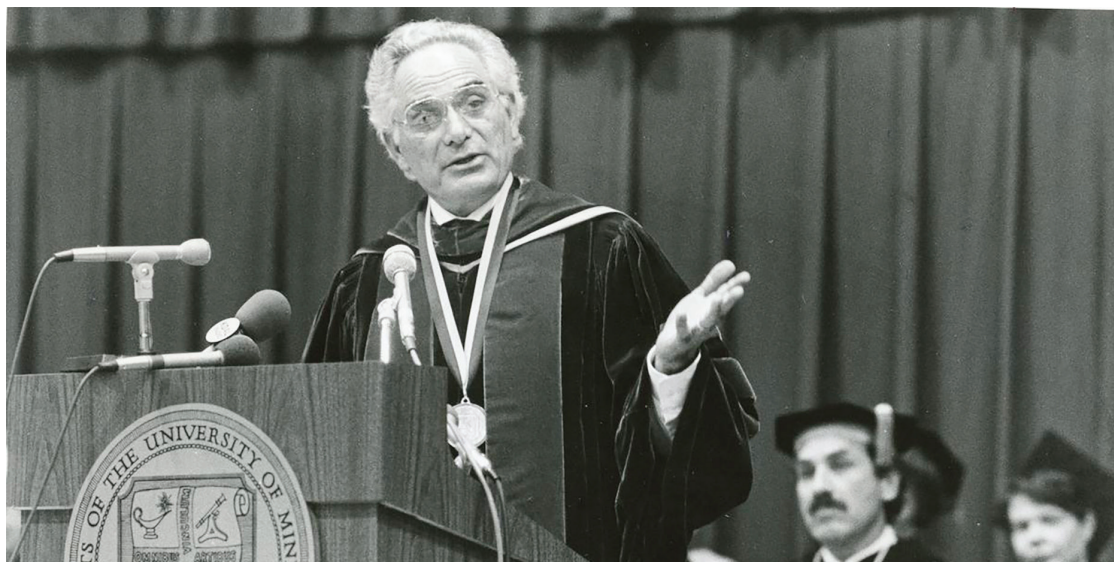
Bob Cherny was an academic senate officer and Acting Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences: Larry was always outgoing and friendly, always willing to take time to listen or advise. He remained involved with his own intellectual pursuits, and even taught a class, either once or occasionally; he once assured me that it was very difficult to find the time to teach, but that he enjoyed it. When I approached him to give a paper at a conference, he agreed—perhaps because the conference was in Hawaii.

I was once the senate representative on a committee (before dollar-based budgeting) to advise on allocation of faculty positions to the colleges. I came away impressed with Larry's commitment to fairness. In my long experience, Larry was the only Provost who included a faculty representative on that sort of resource allocation committee.

In 1984-85, I found myself as acting dean for BSS, a job thrust upon me by the illness and death of the dean. At the end of that year, I was anticipating a sabbatical. Larry told me that the president had suggested cancelling my sabbatical to keep me as acting dean for another year, but Larry had told him flatly that he could not do that. Thank you, Larry!



Richard Giardina was Associate Provost: Larry, then dean of faculty affairs, chaired the search committee that ultimately recommended me to then Provost Don Garrity for the position of associate provost. Throughout his years as dean and provost, Larry and I formed a close bond. Perhaps my fondest memories were the times every week when he would stick his head into my office and tell me that it was time to stop whatever I was doing and go to the Student Center for coffee. It was during those times that we solved all pending university problems and became closer and closer in our professional and personal relationships. They are times I shall never forget. Larry was a true mentor and a true friend.





Marian Bernstein, Lecturer emerita in Classics and Museum Studies, BA (1943), University of California, Berkeley; MA (1976) SF State. Appointed 1977, emerita since 2006. Died in October.

Kenneth Briney, Professor emeritus of Health Education. BS, MS, PhD., University of California, Berkeley. Appointed 1968, emeritus since 1990. Died September 2, age 93.

Roger Cummings, Professor emeritus of Counseling. BA (1955), University of Redlands; MA (1957), Berkeley Baptist Divinity School; MA (1959), PhD (1962), University of California, Berkeley. Appointed 1965, emeritus since 2002.

Timothy Dresher, Lecturer in Humanities and English. BA (1963), Dartmouth College; MA (1966), PhD (1971), University of Wisconsin. Appointed 1977; retired since 2003.

Sandra Lee McKay, Professor emerita of English. BS (1967), MA (1969), PhD (1971), University of Minnesota; post-doctoral study, Georgetown University and Stanford University. Appointed 1978, emerita since 2009. Died on September 11, age 78.

Lawrence Ianni, Professor emeritus of English and former Provost. BA Clarion University of Pennsylvania, MA, PhD (1962), Case-Western Reserve University. Appointed 1975; emeritus since 1988. Died September 13, age 93.

Herbert Zettl, Professor emeritus of Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts. Appointed 1959, emeritus since 2000. BA (1953), MA (1956), Stanford University; PhD (1966), University of California, Berkeley. Died October 30, age 94.



New Members

Charles Postel
565 Bellevue Avenue, #1802
Oakland, CA 94610
email: postel@sfsu.edu

Jerry Shapiro
1881 Meadow Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
Cell: 925.683.0201
Email: jerry.shapiro@gmail.com

Darlene Tong
2430 5th Street, Suite M
Berkeley, CA 94710
dtong@sfsu.edu

Update:

Edith Yang
94-501 Kealakaa Street
Mililani, HI 96789

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.

Walking Tour of the Presidio

Retirement Association Walking Tour of the Presidio of San Francisco

By: Jim Van Ness

Most of you missed the informative guided walking tour of the Presidio organized and hosted by our president, Bob Cherny, on Thursday, October 12. The weather was perfect – sunny and no wind. We began at the Presidio Chapel viewing a 34 by 14 foot 1935 mural by Victor Arnautoff showing early California history on the left, more recent Army activities on the right, and St. Francis in the center. Bob Cherny, who wrote a biography of Arnautoff, *Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art, 2017*, explained it all to us.

Next was a tour of the Presidio Officers' Club guided by two officials from the National Park Service/Presidio Trust. We visited the Heritage Gallery where exhibits trace Presidio history from the Ohlone Indians through Spanish, Mexican, and American army use, to current park use overseen by the Presidio Trust. We watched a short film about the Presidio's role in the World War II Japanese American incarceration.

We then had a guided walk past numerous officer homes and buildings that served as barracks—all are now being leased out as housing and offices. We saw two of the 19 surviving Earthquake Cottages; 5,610 were built in 1906 to house the homeless. We ended up at the NPS Visitor Center, which features a large 3-D model of the Presidio. Our knowledgeable historian Bob Cherny supplemented what we learned from the guides all along the way.



CalPERS Long-Term Care Settlement

The following has been adapted from an article by David Wagner, CSU ERFSA Health Benefits Director, in the *CSU ERFSA Reporter* for last November

Checks Have Been Issued in the CalPERS Long-Term Care Lawsuit!

The CalPERS class action long-term care settlement (Wedding v. CalPERS) became final on September 28, 2023. If you are participating in the settlement, you should have recently received a mailing from the settlement administrator that notified you of the category of claimants you are in, the amount of your award, a dispute form, and—most importantly—a check in the amount of your final award.

If your address has changed during this lengthy process please notify the settlement administrator at 1.866.217.8056 or by email at updates@CalPERSLTCClassAction.com. If you have questions or concerns, do not contact CalPERS, the court, or the litigation attorneys. This matter is now in the hands of the settlement administrator. If you have questions, use the toll-free number above, or email to info@CalPERSLTCClassAction.com, or write to Wedding v. CalPERS, P.O. Box 6790, Portland, OR 97228-6790.

Be alert for scammers! Don't post your settlement details online or click on links from unknown email addresses. If you have doubts as to the authenticity of those communicating with you, call the number above to discuss with the settlement administrator.

The question as to whether your settlement is taxable in whole or in part can be answered definitively by your tax planner or accountant. In most instances it will not be taxable but check to be sure. CSU ERFSA and the SF State Retirement Association cannot give tax advice.

Other Health Benefits Information:

2024 Health Plans:

If you changed health plans during open enrollment, the effective date of the change is January 1, 2024. Determine if you need to reschedule appointments with your current provider. It is also recommended that you have sufficient medication to last until your scheduled appointment with your new physician.

Announced health plan premiums and benefit adjustments vary among health plans and are also effective January 1. Some of these changes will be welcome, including reduced co-pays, lower drug prices, new covered services. Other changes, may not be so happily received.

Special Power of Attorney:

It is important to consider designating a representative to conduct your health and retirement benefits if you are not able to do so. CalPERS cautions that an existing power of attorney document may not sufficiently address CalPERS requirements. You are encouraged to visit Special Power of Attorney on the CalPERS website for additional information.



SFSU Retirement Association: The James Webb Space Telescope: Our Giant Eye on the Invisible Sky

An Illustrated Talk by Andrew Fraknoi

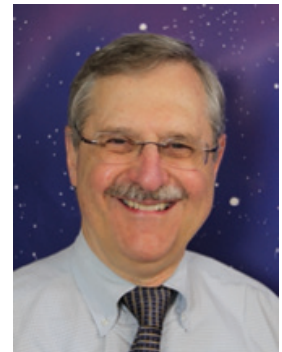
Date: Friday, February 16, 10:30 AM

Meeting: To join Zoom meeting, go to:

<https://sfsu.zoom.us/j/89353271050?pwd=UjRha3F1Z2RJUnhZRzFPYWVubzdOdzo9>

Meeting ID: 893 5327 1050

Passcode: 872237



The early images from the James Webb Space Telescope have been applauded by scientists, the media, and the public. But there is far more to our expectations from this remarkable space instrument than just pretty pictures. In this introductory talk, astronomer and educator Andrew Fraknoi explains what makes the Webb a truly pioneering instrument, what the early images actually show, and what scientists expect the telescope to accomplish in years to come. In the process, he discusses how the Webb observes an “invisible universe” of infrared rays, and what astronomers are hoping to learn from it about “cosmic evolution”—the birth and death of stars, planets, and galaxies. No background in science is required to understand this program.

After the talk, Fraknoi will briefly describe the beautiful eclipse of the Sun coming to North America April 8, 2024 and where and how to observe it most effectively. He will also be glad to answer general astronomy questions from the group.



Andrew Fraknoi teaches non-credit astronomy and physics classes at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SF State University. He retired as the Chair of the Astronomy Program at Foothill College in 2017, but also taught the evening introductory astronomy class at SF State for a decade in the 1980's and 90's. He is the lead author of the most frequently used introductory astronomy textbook in the country, *Astronomy*, published free online by the nonprofit OpenStax project. He has written two children's books, *Disney's Wonderful World of Space* and *When the Sun Goes Dark* (on eclipses.) Fraknoi appears regularly on regional and national radio programs, explaining astronomy in everyday language. The International Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 4859 Asteroid Fraknoi to recognize his contributions to the public appreciation of science. See: <http://fraknoi.com> for more information.

Dues Now Due for 2024

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 \$30.00 annual dues or \$200.00 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: irenedonner@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 irenedonner@gmail.com, so we can keep our membership records current.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____

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 2024
 \$200 Life Membership

Please make check payable to SFSU Retirement Association and mail to:
John O'Shaughnessy, 11 Hillside Place, San Mateo, CA 94403.

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. Donations are tax-deductible charitable contributions since the SFSU Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under IRC section 501 (c)(3).

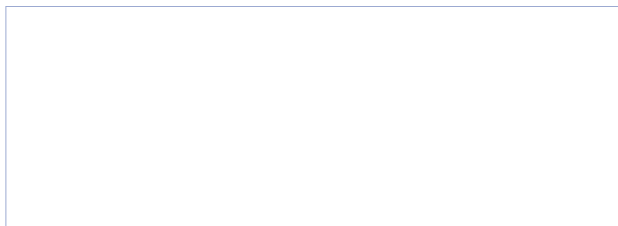
What's the Blast?

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.



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.



SFSU Retirement Association
c/o Development Office
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM 153
San Francisco, CA 94132
www.sfsu.edu/~retire
email: retire@sfsu.edu



Upcoming Events

Friday, February 16, 10:30 AM:
Andrew Fraknoi on the Webb Telescope
See Information on Page 10

Friday, March 15, Noon
Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon,
Basque Cultural Center
See Reservation Form on Page 2

Late April/May
Watch for the GRG Blast with
information on Zoom program

September:
Tour of Coit Tower Murals

Upcoming Board Meetings

All on Zoom from 10 – Noon

Monday, February 19, 2024

Monday, May 20, 2024

Monday, September 16, 2024

Monday, December 16, 2024



Found on a wine-bottle cork: “Age gets better with wine.” — Richard A. Baxter