



# San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



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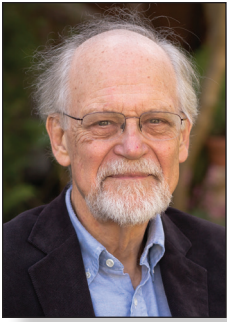


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# President's Corner

As you've noticed by now, we are experimenting with a different layout for the newsletter.

We recently heard from a few members that they had not been given timely information about the spring luncheon—although it was all laid out in the newsletter. That made clear to us that some of you are not reading the newsletter from front to back. So we are experimenting with a different organization for the newsletter, with of goal of making clear everything that's inside.

I was personally never comfortable with the notion that, as president, I had to fill the first page. What's most important for any organization are the activities and interests of the members, not the mental meanderings of the president.

I hope you enjoy the new layout.

Bob Cherny,  
President



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1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
Digital Version: [www.sfsu.edu/~retire](http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire)

## Board of Directors

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Jim Kelley

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Donna Ryan

Jim Van Ness

Don Zingale

### Liaison to CSU-ERFSA

Bob Cherny

### Publications Coordinator

Kay McGough

### Special Events Coordinator

Zelinda Zingaro

### GRG Design & Layout

Nancy Noble

## May Retirement Association Board Meeting

The board will meet via Zoom on Monday, May 20, 10 – Noon. Members are always welcome to sit in. If you have an item for the agenda, contact Bob Cherny at [robt.cherny@gmail.com](mailto:robt.cherny@gmail.com). If you would like to sit in, go to

<https://sfsu.zoom.us/j/81579657706?pwd=NDdXb1VkZkJPMTFUYkpsamlnMnZkZz09>

Meeting ID: 815 7965 7706    Passcode: 402904

## The Retirement Association & CSU ERFSA

The San Francisco State University Retirement Association is the local affiliation of the statewide CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association. ERFSA is the watchdog and advocate for CSU retirees with the Trustees, the legislature, and the CalPERS. ERFSA also issues a quarterly newsletter with information of interest to all CSU retirees, including advice on issues facing us. ERFSA also provides grants to CSU retirees to support their research and creative works.

Although SF State Retirement Association is the local affiliate of ERFSA, the two organizations have different dues. If you just pay dues to the Retirement Association, you are not considered a member of ERFSA and do not receive their newsletter. You are not eligible for ERFSA programs. To learn more about CSU ERFSA, go to <https://www.csuerfsa.org/index.php/about-us>.

To join, go to <https://www.csuerfsa.org/index.php/membership>.

At our board meeting on Monday, February 20, we had a virtual conversation with Anand Ramanathan about his project, GoMiyagi. Board members expressed a good deal of interest in his project, and one even signed up on the spot. The board agreed to ask Mr. Ramanathan to provide information about his project so that you can all take a look for yourselves. Here it is:

## Unlock the Power of Your Experience with GoMiyagi!

Are you interested in making a meaningful impact on the next generation? Meet GoMiyagi, an innovative startup affiliated with UC Berkeley's SkyDeck incubator program.

### Our Mission

GoMiyagi is on a mission to revolutionize K-12 education by connecting retired professionals with classrooms through engaging virtual guest speaker sessions. This addresses the challenge of schools struggling to secure guest speakers and taps into a rich pool of retired knowledge workers.

### Why Join GoMiyagi?

Impactful Connections: Share your experiences and insights with curious minds. Help connect classroom learning with real-life applications.

### Flexibility

Contribute on your terms with 45-minute virtual sessions.

### Diverse Opportunities

We're seeking retirees from various fields — be it academia, public service, healthcare, entrepreneurship, trades or unique roles like Rocket Scientists and Geologists!

### What to Expect

Virtual sessions led by the teacher last 45 minutes. No preparation required – just impactful and engaging conversation.

### Influence the educational journey and career paths of young minds.

Join Us Today! Simply complete our brief Google form Sensei Signup to express your interest. Share a brief biography or link to your professional profile. If there's a match with school interests, we'll reach out to coordinate details and scheduling.

### Key Details

#### Compensation

While we're in the early stages, we value your expertise and plan to compensate retirees, though not at market rates initially.

#### No Cost to Schools

At the trial stage, we're focused on enhancing the service, not seeking fees from schools.

#### Connect With Us

General Inquiries: [info@gomiyagi.com](mailto:info@gomiyagi.com)

Anand Ramanathan, CEO & Co-Founder: [anand@gomiyagi.com](mailto:anand@gomiyagi.com) 510.459.8010

Website: [www.gomiyagi.com/](http://www.gomiyagi.com/)

Sign up form: <https://forms.gle/HjS4nfjBnoZetaeX8>

Let's bridge the gap between retirees and classrooms, shaping a brighter future together!

# SFSU Retirement Association Presents: **Bill Issel**

“Peace with Justice: Bishop Mark Hurley and the Strike at SF State”  
 an updated version of his award-winning journal article on the  
 role of Bishop Hurley in settling the SF State strike in 1969.

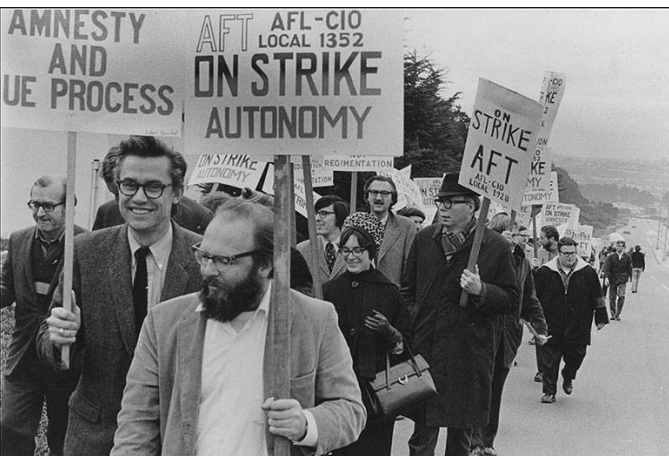
The story of Irish Catholic liberal Bishop Mark J. Hurley and the strike at S.F. State is a chapter in a genuinely inclusive history of the city of San Francisco. It’s also a chapter in the story of how white allies have aided the freedom struggle of nonwhite people in the USA from the eighteenth century to the present.

Wednesday, May 29, 10:00 AM PT

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://sfsu.zoom.us/j/86438216389?pwd=Q2ZDWmg0ck1JamhEQTlmY0lrRmFsdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 3821 6389  
 Passcode: 658527



## My Favorite Place to Visit: Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley



The Regional Parks Botanic Garden (RPBG), located in Berkeley's Tilden Park, is a ten-acre oasis of California native plants that invites the visitor to leisurely strolls or to serious plant studies. A main creek, Wildcat Creek, runs through the center of this garden, and lots of smaller rivulets, dry most of the time, crisscross through the Garden. After a good rainstorm it is dramatic to see the gushing water running in the creek beds. With some patience you may see a rainbow trout flitting about in Wildcat Creek.

This botanical garden, part of the East Bay Regional Parks system, opened in 1940. Small and larger trails, many constructed by the WPA in the late 1930s and early 1940s, lead to plants found in various zones of the California floristic province. One zone, for instance, is devoted to the California desert, with its cacti and agaves, another to plants of the high Sierra. Further Garden sections feature plants of the Coastal Hills, of the temperate rain forest, or of the deep redwood forest. Another zone is the California Islands collection.

Each season features special showy plants: In early spring the vast collection of Manzanitas bursts into masses of tiny white blossoms. Soon the large number of Ceanothus bushes start blooming, as well as dramatic trilliums in white or purple. Later, tall Humboldt lilies feature their showy orange blossoms. The various raised encased plant beds invite to admire various lilies and many bulbous plants, in bloom at different times of the year. The unique, and award-winning, Crevice Garden, constructed of large rock slabs, is the newest section of the Garden. All through summer, you can find plants there in bloom that grow in rocky California environments and that require very small amounts of water. Dogwoods and aspens provide for splendid fall coloration. At any time of year various diverse birds frequent the garden. An occasional coyote may visit.

This botanical garden captured my special interest many years ago, not only because of its beauty and serenity, but also because the garden gave me a most enjoyable way to learn about California native plants of which, as a native of Switzerland, I had very limited knowledge.

Because of my organic chemistry background, I have a special interest in the composition of natural, and mostly plant-synthesized, products. Thus, my visits to the Garden soon extended from learning the mere plant names to exploring the chemical backgrounds of California plants. I keep studying the structures of colorful plant pigments, the composition of flower fragrances, and learning about the chemistry of plant saps. It was / and is like a treasure hunt in which I also keep adding to my knowledge about the vast chemical defense systems that plants have evolved, be it e.g. in the form of bitter saps or of intricate poisons.



I have enjoyed being a volunteer and docent at this botanical garden for more than twenty-five years and have led tours of the plant collections for many different groups of people. Visitors at the Garden come from near and far and have highly diverse backgrounds. I have found that visitors are generally captured by chemical plant stories combined with the botanical descriptions: People are fascinated to hear about the nature of colorful flower pigments that may change with age of the blossoms, as in lupines, or what makes leaves change color, or about “secret” pigments hidden underneath bark or in roots that can be used e.g. as dyes. Stories about plant defenses, like soapy suds from soap roots, or plant poisons as in the sacred Datura, always attract people’s interest. So many of these chemical plant specialties are linked to ancient and present plant uses by people. It is a way to converse with the public about the chemistry of nature, as in plants, in a non-threatening way, pointing out that plants are amazing chemists!

## Robert Cherny’s New Book

History Professor Emeritus and SFSU Retirement Association President Robert Cherny’s latest book is *Harry Bridges: Labor Radical, Labor Legend* (University of Illinois Press). Bridges built the International Longshore and Warehouse Union into a labor powerhouse that now represents some 30,000 workers.

“Cherny was acquainted with his subject and had access to his personal papers, and the result is a highly detailed assessment of Bridges’ legacy,” the San Francisco Examiner wrote on Dec. 18. On Jan. 19, Jacobin published a longform interview with Cherny about Bridges.

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



## Remembrances

# Remembrances

**Diane Resek**, Professor Emerita of Mathematics, passed away peacefully on March 19, 2023, at her home in Berkeley, where she had lived for many years. She served on the faculty at SFSU from 1975 to 2005. Her work at San Francisco State in teacher preparation, professional development, and curriculum development at the elementary, middle school, high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels of mathematics education spanned more than three decades. Teachers who have participated in one or more of the programs she created or supported continue to provide leadership for improving the teaching and learning of mathematics throughout the State of California and beyond.... Carol Langbort Please go to this *Berkeleyside* website to read about Diane’s many accomplishments over the years. <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/06/13/diane-resek-obituary>

**Eugene R. Michaels**, Professor Emeritus of Instructional Technologies. Appointed 1973, emeritus since 2008. Died May 19, 2023, age 84.

**Marilyn P. Verhey**, Professor Emerita of Nursing and Dean of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development. Appointed 1991, emerita since 2008. M.S. in Library Science, University of Illinois, Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction and Administration, Boston College. Died February 2, age 78.

**John Holman**, Custodial Staff and Logistics Manager in Facilities and Service Enterprises from 1968 to 2012. Died January 10, age 86.

**Anatole Ben Anton**, Emeritus Professor and Chair of Philosophy. Appointed 1967–1971 and 1984–2006, emeritus since 2009. Died December 25 in San Francisco, age 84.

**Leonard (Len) Sellers**, Professor Emeritus of Journalism from 1975 to 2001, died March 9, age 79.

**Marshall Windmiller**, Professor Emeritus of International Relations from 1959 to 1994, died March 29 in Menlo Park, age 99.

# Dues for 2024

<h2>New Members</h2>	Changes or updates: Please contact Kay Mc Gough at: <a href="mailto:kay.mcgough0342@gmail.com">kay.mcgough0342@gmail.com</a> .
Candace Crockett 1305 Montgomery St. San Francisco, CA 94133 415.919.9374 <a href="mailto:crockett@sfsu.edu">crockett@sfsu.edu</a>	Betty Medsger 600 West 111th St., #11E New York, NY 10025 646.812.7414 <a href="mailto:vivajournalism@gmail.com">vivajournalism@gmail.com</a>
Carol Langbort 645 3rd Avenue San Francisco, CA 415.652.8958 <a href="mailto:clangbo@sfsu.edu">clangbo@sfsu.edu</a>	John Williston — Added email address:  <a href="mailto:hjwilliston@comcast.net">hjwilliston@comcast.net</a>

## 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 [kay.mcgough0342@gmail.com](mailto:kay.mcgough0342@gmail.com). 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.

## 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: [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

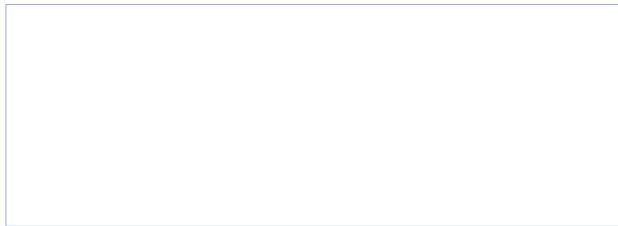
Would you be willing to help organize Retirement Association functions and/or serve on the Board of Directors?  Yes  No

Amount enclosed:  \$30 for Annual dues for 2024

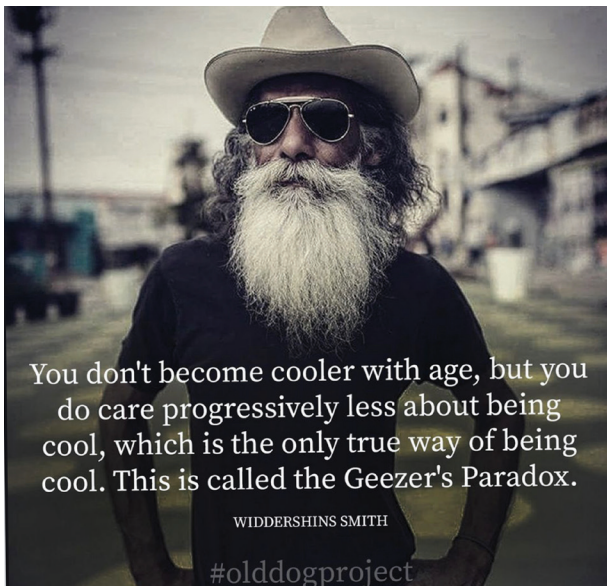
\$200 Life Membership

Please make check payable to SFSU Retirement Association and mail to:  
Irene Donner, 814 N. Delaware Street #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. Donations are tax-deductible charitable contributions since the SFSU Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under IRC section 501 (c)(3).



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 Board Meetings

All on Zoom from 10 AM – Noon

Monday, May 20, 2024

Monday, September 16, 2024

Monday, December 16, 2024



## Upcoming Events

Late May:

Bill Issel will discuss “Peace with Justice”:  
 Bishop Mark Hurley and the Strike at SF State

September:

Tour of Coit Tower Murals

November: Annual Luncheon & Election of Officers

## 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.