

TUKWUT TIMES



Brought to you by the CSUSM Retirees Association

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Newsletter October 2016
Volume 2, Issue 3

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Chinese Historical Museum

Wednesday, October 26 2016 at 10:30 am

404 Third Avenue in San Diego

(619) 338-9888 - website: <https://www.sdchm.org/>

Admission Fee: \$5 (paid at the door)

Suggested Parking: Horton Plaza on F Street

RSVP by Friday, October 21 to retirees@csusm.edu or to (760) 750-4408



Join us for a private tour guided by our own Retirees Association Member, Michael Yee who serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. This 60 minute docent-led tour provides an overview of the history of San Diego's Chinatown, the Chuang Garden, their permanent collection and featured exhibits in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Extension and Chuang Archive and Learning Center. Lunch will be delivered to the garden by Panda Inn. An email will be sent to those staying for lunch with instructions on how to place your order.

If you don't want to drive downtown, consider taking the Coaster or carpooling. Contact Sandra Punch if you're near the 5 South at spunch@csusm.edu or Arlene Cratsa if you're near the 15 South at ralene@csusm.edu.



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What I Learned from Cesar Chavez: An Evening with Marc Grossman of the Chavez Foundation Wednesday, November 30, 2016

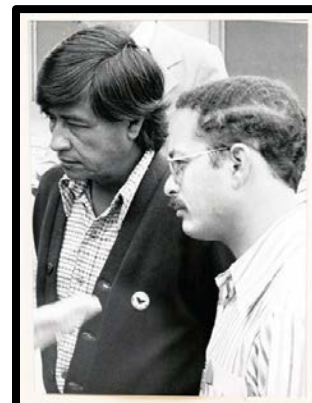
- Pre-reception: 4:30 pm in the Kellogg Library Reading Room
- Lecture: 6:30 pm in the USU Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by the University Library

- FREE to Retirees Association Members (must show membership card at the door)
- \$5 – Community Members

Go to: <https://www.csusm.edu/al/calendar.html> to reserve your seat. If you are a member of the Retirees Association, click on "Faculty/Staff/Alumni" to reserve your free seat.

A separate invitation will be emailed shortly regarding the Pre-Reception in the Library.



Marc Grossman (left), with Cesar Chavez in 1975

Message from the Chair

By Janet McDaniel



Since I'm still teaching during fall semesters at CSUSM (in the Faculty Early Retirement Program), I continue to have the "Happy New Year" mentality when the academic year begins. I hope that all our members enjoyed their summer vacations and are settled into whatever routines take you through the autumn...and that you will put onto your radar screens the activities our Retirees Association Board of Directors have planned for this season.

Our excursion this season is a visit to the Chinese Historical Museum in downtown San Diego. We are very lucky to have RA member Michael Yee as our insider on this excursion. Michael (recently retired from Instructional Technology) is Chair of the Board of Directors at the museum. It didn't take long for Michael to find a niche in retirement! He and wife Criselda (still working in Academic Programs at CSUSM) are longtime members and volunteers in the museum and society. When you see what a gem this museum is (check out the website at <https://www.sdchm.org>) you will want to RSVP right away for our October 26 tour and lunch. I have been to the museum—Michael and Criselda took me on a tour during Chinese New Year celebrations last winter)—and I was impressed by the collection, building, garden, and the history of Chinese immigrants in San Diego. Even though I live in downtown San Diego, I was unaware of the enduring architectural and historical record of this community. Please join us for a guided tour of the museum and catered Chinese lunch in the enclosed garden. You won't believe you are in downtown San Diego!

I also hope to see you on campus for the following:

- Pre-reception and lecture by Marc Grossman on November 30. His presentation on "What I learned from Cesar Chavez" is sponsored by the CSUSM Arts & Lectures series.
- Save the Dates in 2017: January 26 for basketball (SFSU @ CSUSM) in the new Sports Center
- April 28 for our Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting, which will also feature the new Sports Center and the future of CSUSM Athletics
- And the Board plans to reprise our very successful Mid-Month Lunches for the first five months of 2017. If you have a suggestion for a restaurant where we can gather, please pass it along for the Board to consider at retirees@csusm.edu. You might know a terrific place for us to gather, so don't be shy about letting us in on your favorite foodie locale.

I'm happy to report that the CSUSM Retirees Association has become a "regular" within the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). I attended the biennial national conference in Seattle in August. [Fun fact: The meetings were held at the University of Washington, my alma mater, so I felt right at home!] The changing face of retirement was the theme. The demographics of the Baby Boomers hitting retirement age provide both opportunities and challenges to colleges and universities. I learned of a number of best practices in preparing employees for retirement; some of these might be applied to good effect at CSUSM. I was inspired by the activities and services that many other RAs shared; our Board is considering what might work for us. Don't hesitate to share your suggestions with our Board—we will grow stronger as we incorporate all our best thinking to the RA.

As ever, I hope to see you soon at an RA event in this "happy new (academic) year."



Do You Remember the Blast from the Past...Literally!

Thank you to Don Barrett, Sandra Punch, and Pat Simpson from PDC for contributing to this article.

Where were you on Monday, July 30, 2001 at 3:15 pm when the blast went awry?

California Drilling and Blasting, a subcontractor of Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest Inc., had been blasting and clearing rock on the University's hillside property since the late 1980's. The University property had the largest single granite deposit left in north San Diego County. The company had been focusing on clearing 16 acres south and southeast of the campus's landmark Dome (Commons) and the Foundation Building. Hanson excavated the land at no charge to the University in exchange for being allowed to haul the rock off to sell it. The rock was crushed for use in concrete. This arrangement saved CSUSM millions of dollars in excavation costs to level the land for the construction of Lot F, which added 1,423 parking spaces and solved the persistent "hunting for parking" challenge in that era.

Blasting occurred on a daily basis between 2-3 pm until July 30, 2001. Officials reported the July accident was the first in 1,169 incidents of blasting, in which 2 million cubic yards of rock had been removed. The blasting accident was the result of several factors, including a larger-than-usual blast area and worker error in drill-hole placement for explosives. The chief blaster involved in the incident had been fired.

One eyewitness stated the blast looked like an asteroid attack with rocks raining down on the campus damaging cars and buildings. Rocks crashed through walls of the Foundation Classroom Building and damaged air conditioning on top of buildings. It was a miracle no one was injured. Linda Leiter was the University Director of Business Services, Safety and Risk Management. She reported an estimated \$20,000 in damage to University buildings as well as 80 vehicles that had damage from broken windows to boulders lodged in vehicles. Some vehicles were so damaged they had to be towed.

Don Barrett, who was a new faculty member in 1996, recalled: "Somehow it wasn't part of orientation to tell new faculty to be prepared for explosions and earth tremors. I seem to remember getting into the 'duck and cover' mode the first time I felt it, expecting the chance of a major earthquake. What was going on? A combined gravel and earth removal operation – that only once went awry."

Robert Stakes, who was hired two weeks prior to the blast that went wrong, was quoted in an article stating, "I knew this job was going to be a challenge but I didn't know I would be ducking rocks the first two weeks I was here. I was standing at the Foundation Classroom Building by the doorway to watch what a guy said usually is a dust cloud when they blast in the hills. Suddenly a whole lot of large rocks came flying through the air moving at a great speed. I watched it until I realized I could be hit by one of those things and ran inside the building. I could hear them hitting the cars: boom, boom, boom."

Sandy Punch, who was the Director in the Career Center, made sure her staff members told visiting on-campus recruiters about the blast schedule since Craven Hall shook with each blast. Sandy remembered, "We forgot to mention it one time and a recruiter came flying out of an interview room after the blast fearing an earthquake! Whoops!" Her own vehicle was damaged but she didn't realize it until she drove home. "At first I thought my car was pretty good, just a few dents. But when I went home that evening and drove into the sun, I could barely see out my pitted windshield and then realized the front of my car had been sandblasted!" She said the campus handled the situation very well and the insurance company sent out checks that next week. It was from that point on blasting only took place on Friday in the late afternoon. The area was cleared; a warning whistle would blow prior to the blast; the blast occurred and then an all-clear whistle would blow. Those were the days!

Blast from the Past! ~ continued



A boulder that flew into one of the Foundation classroom outer wall. A true miracle no one was injured!

Member Profile – Toni Hood

Submitted by Antonette W. Hood, Ed.D.

One of the perks of being a special education teacher is the luxury of changing hats. With a K-12 teaching credential in hand, and a wide variety of teaching opportunities (think: K-12 mild-moderate-severe disabilities), the notion of teacher burnout in the field of special education could be avoided if one were to merely change *hats*.

I taught children in Massachusetts for several years, from primary through high school levels and with a range of learning disabilities. My new husband, Bill (another hat change!) and I ventured cross-country to Carlsbad, CA in the winter of 1987 and within a few short weeks, I became a Resource Specialist in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Great job, great district, wonderful new friends. One would be mad to give that up! In the spring of 1993, I was nestled comfortably into my seventh year as an education specialist at Cardiff Elementary School, working with children with mild/moderate/severe disabilities. Dr. Sandy Parsons, a faculty member of CSUSM's College of Education asked if I was interested in joining a collaborative team to assist in the development of an innovative teacher education program to meet the North County's critical need for well-trained general and special educators. Of course, I said "Yes!" Thus began my 20-year journey with CSUSM.

I applied for and became part of the Distinguished Teacher in Residence Program (DTiR) and the rest, they say, is history. My school district loaned me to CSUSM from 1993-95 for this extraordinary experience, and it changed my life. Think: *new hat!*

Working in higher education had never been a particular goal but during my tenure as a DTiR, I found I had an insatiable urge to pursue my doctorate and a tenure-line position in higher ed. I knew it was time to heed the call and use my teaching experiences of nearly 20 years to help usher into the profession new, gifted, eager recruits who would take up the reins to teach children to use their minds well and reach for the stars. As a lecturer for CSUSM, I continued my Cardiff connections by supervising teacher candidates in their clinical practice there. I also went back to school, and just shy of my 53rd birthday, in front of my husband and proud 13-year old son, Logan, I donned that ever-so-stylish doctoral tam and became a tenure-track faculty member at CSUSM.

In 2013, after four years of FERP and 20 years of teaching, writing, mentoring, serving on committees too numerous to mention, and passing on to teacher and masters candidates whatever wisdom, knowledge, attitudes, and skills that defined me as an educator, I retired from CSUSM. Since retiring, those pursuits have included working as a consultant for *Reading Legacies*, a non-profit that empowers and encourages at-risk youth by partnering them as Youth Reading Role Models with Head Start preschoolers. *Reading Legacies* also facilitates family bonds for children and youth in family situations where parents are separated from them due to being incarcerated for a period of time. We videotape incarcerated parents reading stories to their children and then provide the children with the book their parent read and the DVD of the parent reading. This helps to break the cycle of brokenness caused by their separations. [www.readinglegacies.org]

I have also served on the Board of Directors of *Kids for Peace*, a chapter-based non-profit whose mission is to raise caring and compassionate kids and change the world through community service, youth leadership, global friendships, and thoughtful acts of kindness [www.kidsforpeaceglobal.org]. In 2015, I worked in the small village of Mikei, Kenya, where Kids for Peace has provided school uniforms, daily breakfast, partial school tuition for pre-K through second grade children; and supplemented teacher salaries for their dedicated teachers. Through the generosity of many, I was able to bring more than 600 books to these beautiful children who had never had their *own* books. Each of the 150+ bright, enthusiastic children was given a book to keep, and the rest were left with their amazing, grateful teachers.

This year, *Kids for Peace* raised enough money to build a four-classroom school for the children of Mikei – their first "real" school with actual flooring, doors, windows, and electricity. When we officially opened the school in August, we stocked the new library shelves in their multipurpose room with nearly 2,000 more children's books! Oh, how I am loving this hat!

~ continued on next page ~

Toni Hood ~ continued



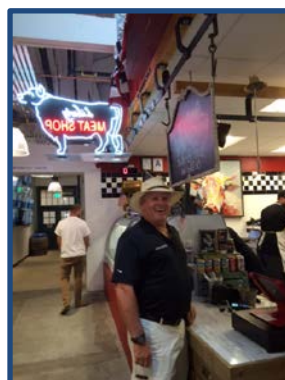
I am also loving this chapter of my life. It has given me the time to write a few children's books and do presentations of them to schoolchildren. Bill and I continue to fill our time with adventurous road-trips (never taking highways is the way to go), reading, vegetable gardening, cooking, exercising, and frequent lunch and dinner dates with friends – and each other!

So my Cal State journey has, I believe, been unique: Committee Member, Distinguished Teacher in Residence, Lecturer, Professor, FERPer, and now, contented CSUSM Retiree. The sun is still shining brightly in my life, and I'm getting a lot of use from that new straw hat!

RECAP

Liberty Station ~ Tuesday, June 14 Guided tour by Laurie and Jeff Lindeneau

A group of 11 retirees enjoyed an incredible day touring Liberty Station that was full of history, redevelopment, scenery, wonderful food and most of all, great company with fellow retirees. Laurie and Jeff were wonderful guides!



RECAP ~ continued

CSUSM Annual Gala – Masquerade in Monte Carlo ~ June 18

"Hundreds of individuals from the North San Diego and Southwest Riverside philanthropic, government and business communities gathered to celebrate another successful academic year at the California State University San Marcos annual gala on Saturday, June 18." Among those hundreds of individuals were a few of our Retirees Association members. A record-breaking \$208,000 was raised to support scholarships, student programming and the professional development of faculty.



Cougar Night at Petco Park ~ July 30



An enjoyable time was had by all who attended CSUSM Cougar Night at Petco Park! The tailgate party prior to the game gives RA members, alumni, faculty, staff, family and friends a time to visit and relax before the game.

Moonlight Beach ~ August 22

There's nothing like watching the sunset over the Pacific while roasting marshmallows and listening to Gunnar Biggs play guitar. That was the scene for those of us fortunate enough to attend our first retirees beach party at Moonlight Beach in August. It was fun to catch-up with former colleagues and friends and while trying our marshmallow roasting skills and munching on s'mores. To quote one of our attendees, "this is why we love living in Southern California, a perfect beach day and evening!"

~ see photos on next page ~

Recap ~ continued

Moonlight Beach continued ~ Fun Times!



Victor Rocha Lecture Series – An Evening with Camarada ~ October 11

The Retirees Association was graciously invited by CHABSS to a complimentary Victor Rocha Lecture Series musical evening with Camarada on Tuesday, October 11. A reception was enjoyed by guests in the Arts Lobby prior to the concert in ARTS 111. Dr. Ching Ming-Chang introduced the musical trio as Camarada shared the joy of their music by playing a piece by Vavaldi and then sharing musical selections by American composers.



CSUSM Retirees Association

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Phone:
760-750-4408

E-Mail:
retirees@csusm.edu

Website:
www.csusm.edu/fsra

Membership Information:
[Go to our website](#)

Save-the-date!

Next Board of Directors Meeting – Join us!
Monday, November 21, 2016 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
University Commons 207 – Conference Room

CSUSM Men's Basketball Game
Thursday, January 26, 2017 – 7:30 pm
SFSU @ CSUSM
In the new Sports Center!
TBD: Gathering for dinner before the game

Retirees Association Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting
Friday, April 28, 2017 – 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
University Student Union – 2310 A & B
Featured Speaker: Jennifer Milo, Director of Athletics
Optional tour of the new Sports Center after the luncheon

Mid-month Lunches

Where would you like to go to lunch? This was very successful last spring as we travel through the San Diego area.

Send us your suggestions on where you would like to have lunch in the San Diego area. One suggestion was the new Decoy Dockside Dining Restaurant located in Lake San Marcos. See photo below. Send your suggestions to retirees@csusm.edu by December 15.



We're on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation

Explorations – continued

RA members have volunteered to organize & guide a number of excursions to get to know our region. Which ones are of most interest to you?

- Hiking: Santa Rosa Plateau
- Walkabout: La Jolla Village and Cove
- Excursion: Borrego Springs
- Other ideas: Where would you like us to go; are you able to guide or should we find one?

Reply to retirees@csusm.edu by November 30. Once you indicate an interest, you will be on the contact list to set the date; then all RA members will be invited to participate.

Retirement Tip by Don Barrett

Did you know AARP has Volunteer Tax Preparers?

AARP has multiple volunteer opportunities, but I'm most familiar with the Tax Aide program for assisting seniors with their income taxes. For me, Tax Aide has provided valuable insight into the lives of other seniors and I've very much enjoyed getting to know the other volunteers. If you've been doing your own taxes, you probably have the basic skills. Details of volunteering vary by location; in my area we train/refresh in November and do taxes one day a week from the end of January to early April. For AARP volunteering in general, go to <http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/get-involved/>

Feel free to contact me about Tax Aide at d Barrett@csusm.edu.