



California State  
University

## RETIREE ASSOCIATION

C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S

## March 2024 Tidbits

### What's Happening

ERFSA Membership Half-Price Offer! First year membership fees for the statewide CSU retiree organization, which includes your CI Retiree Association membership, are currently half price. This special offer ends July 1. If you know anyone who is eligible to join, please encourage them to sign up. More info is at <https://www.csuerfso.org/index.php/membership>



Gary Berg recently authored a new book titled *Transformative Arts: Biological, Digital and Everyday Aesthetics*. For more information see <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781475872521/Transformative-Arts-Biological-Digital-and-Everyday-Aesthetics>

Michael Berman continues to compose and perform folk music. To see what and where he is singing visit <https://mikebermanmusic.com/>

Many of you remember our colleague, Beth Hartung Mendiguren. After retiring, Beth and her husband Ignacio Mendiguren moved to Malaga, Spain. Last December, Beth's husband Ignacio died following an injury. If you would like contact information for Beth, please contact Dan Wakelee

### Where Are They Now?

If you arrived at CSUCI after 2005, you may not have known Ira Schoenwald, our Retiree Association VP. In 1998 on a Sunday afternoon drive up the coast, he and his wife stopped to see the closed Camarillo State Mental Hospital. Wandering around, he encountered Handel Evans in the hospital's main building, where the Broome Library now stands. Handel graciously asked about Ira's background at CSU Dominguez Hills, where he was Assistant to the President, and hired him shortly thereafter. Ira was the third academic employee following Barbara Thorpe also from CSUDH and Ted Lucas from San Jose State.



Forming a new university from scratch was great fun for a “public administration programs” developer. There was no bureaucracy but plenty of work. How do you hire faculty with no school? From the start, they were wedded to new technologies and became the first university to put hiring online. Over 3000 applied! With major thrusts in interdisciplinarity and proven academics, the interview process examined three groups of 30 in team-building and problem-solving exercises. No “turf” to protect.

Jump to 2005 when Ira wanted to try something new – snow. He became the Chief HR Officer at Illinois State Univ. with 22K students and 6,500 faculty and staff in the corn fields of Normal (?!), IL. It felt like going back to 1981! The CA boy had to learn to drive on ice. He learned about football game tailgate parties and became a basketball fan. He also befriended Chicago and its culture!

He moved back to the southwest in 2011 to care for his 98-year-old mother for her last 4 amazingly active years in Arizona. Then he returned to his original Camarillo home, which had tripled in value, and served on the Civil Grand Jury for Ventura County, which investigated some 30 special districts with over \$3B in annual budgets. He is active in Rotary and a Kaiser Hospital advisory board, and he reads scholarship applications for the Ventura County Community Foundation. Ira also has returned to his love of chess and is competing in online international chess tournaments. We are lucky Ira has time for the Retiree Association.

## Coming Soon

Art Exhibit - Beverly Decker will have an art exhibit titled “Awakening Frozen Moments” at the Broome Library Gallery from March 28 through May 4. Everyone is invited to the opening reception April 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. Check out her website: [http://www.beverlydecker.com/Beverly\\_Decker\\_Art/Artist.html](http://www.beverlydecker.com/Beverly_Decker_Art/Artist.html)



Research on Tap – Our association will again be co-sponsoring the next Research on Tap, along with the MVS School of Business and Economics. The event will be at the Broome Library on April 18 from 4-6 pm. Stay tuned for more information on speakers and other details to follow.

Save the Date - Party Time! – Jerry Clifford is inviting CI Retiree Association members to an “end of school year” social at his house in Camarillo on Thursday, May 23, from 4 -6 PM. Please save the date and plan to join in the fun. Stay tuned for an invitation with more details.



Commencement Volunteers – Volunteers are needed to help at CSUCI’s commencement on Saturday, May 18. Volunteers are needed for either the morning (approximately 7:30 to noon depending on role with breakfast provided) or afternoon ceremony (approximately 1 to 6 pm depending on role with lunch provided). Volunteer roles include shuttle attendant, student processional, ADA seating, programs and wayfinding, information and shade tents, and catering. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jessica Parker at [jessica.parker@csuci.edu](mailto:jessica.parker@csuci.edu) by April 12. If you are able, you can help make this event a memorable day for students and their families.

ERFSA Volunteers – the statewide retiree organization is seeking a chair for its Pre and Post Retirement Committee. This important committee focuses on issues of concern to CSU faculty and staff both before and after retirement. The committee’s most immediate task is the revision of the Survival Guide which is sent to our new members. If you are interested, please contact ERFSA director Merry Pawlowski at [mpawlowski@sub.edu](mailto:mpawlowski@sub.edu).

Save the Date – Please plan to join President Yao for the annual CSUCI Retiree Association Celebration to celebrate those entering retirement and recognize all those who retired after service to the campus. This year’s event will be on June 10 from 3-5 pm. More details to follow.

Santa Rosa Island Research Station – we are working to confirm a date for another visit to the Santa Rosa Island Research Station in August. Please email Dan at [dan.wakelee@csuci.edu](mailto:dan.wakelee@csuci.edu) if you are interested or have questions. More details to follow.

If you have information or news of interest to the group, please let us know!