Newsletter of CSU, Sacramento Emeritus Association

Fall - 2001

THE SILVER FORUM JERRY TOBEY, PRESIDENT

In last Spring's *Silver Bulletin* I requested responses to a poll replicating polls done in 1913, 1933, and 1996 to test the religious opinions of American scientists. Well, I guess that 14 responses do not a conclusion make, although those responses were interesting.

* Of the respondents 10 said that they did not believe in a personal God, a God who responds to prayers (6 atheists, 4 agnostics); 4 affirmed belief in a personal God.

Disbelievers in a personal God also rejected the possibility of person immortality--although one also checked "Don't Know but Doubtful." The 14 responses were distributed widely over our disciplines.

The Scientists

In 1913 and 1933 James Leuba did polls of biologists, physicists/astronomers and mathematicians concerning their religious beliefs; the 1913 poll questioned randomly selected scientists listed in *American Men of Science*, the 1933 poll questioned the elite -- those marked with an asterisk for outstanding in the list of members. In 1996 Edward J. Larson and Larry Witham redid Leuba's general survey and summarized their findings in *Nature* (April, 1997), and in 1998 they did a modified version of his survey of the scientific elite, polling all members of the fields in the National Academy of Sciences. They summarized these results in *Scientific American* (September, 1999).

The results for the randomly selected scientists and mathematicians changed between 1913 and 1996: Belief in a personal God declined from 41.8% to 38.3%; belief in immortality declined from 50.6% to 38%, while, interestingly, the "intense" desire for immortality declined dramatically from 34 to 9.9%. The comparative figures for elite scientists showed that in 1933 they rejected both a belief in a personal God and in immortality by more than 80%, while the 1999 figures for the elite showed some 90% rejecting both propositions. Ninety-five percent of biologists polled described themselves as atheists or agnostics.

Frankly, I was surprised at the levels of belief and the relative modesty of the declines from 1913; I would have said that the biologists' level of disbelief would have been more typical. Perhaps my surprise is the result of the poll strangely including mathematicians as scientists, for my mathematician friends tell me that mathematics is not a science, is in fact more akin to art.

There are two interesting comparisons to make: scientists with other Americans, and Americans and Europeans.

Scientists and Americans

Scientists tend to be more skeptical than the general American public, for the Princeton Religion Research Center polls show that belief in God has consistently hovered at about 95% for the general public--although believers in a *personal* God comprise only some 85%. In 1952 believers were 99% of those polled! (Cold War? McCarthyism?)

The same polls give confusing figures regarding survival of death. Sixty-five percent expect there to be an afterlife, while 78% believe that there is a heaven and that their prospects of going there are good. I do not understand these figures. The 65% is significantly lower than the percentage who believe in God, while the 78% expecting to go to heaven are compatible with the figures for believers in a personal God. How can that be?

ANNUAL DINNER
FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 2
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 7

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THE SILVER FORUM (continued from page 1)

Americans and Europeans

The Princeton Religious Research Center's *Religion in America* series occasionally included Gallup poll figures on religion in Europe. For instance, the 199293 issue reports on the percentage of people in America and in various European countries who consider themselves "Religious Persons." Italy leads with 83%, followed by the United States with 81%. Then come some dramatic drops: Ireland and Spain are only at 64 and 63%; Great Britain and West Germany are at 58%, France at 51%, and Scandinavia at 46%. A composite (and complex) rating of "Importance of God in One's Life" finds the US first with a rating of 8.2, about half again as high as Great Britain and West Germany at 5.7 and nearly twice Denmark's 4.4.

Why should there be such dramatic differences? Since the arguments for God and religion are standardized and international and the people of the surveyed countries equally intelligent and comparably educated, the differing levels of belief must have other causes. What can they be? Of course, I have some opinions, but I've now had a chance to inaugurate the *Silver Bulletin Forum*, so I will yield to you. What do you think?

News from Joe Heller I do read this rag and enjoy keeping up on the happenings there. I was originally going to write simply that all's well in southeaster AZ; I still love it here. I am troubled by a problem with my left eye (macular pucker) which makes reading and computer work difficult for more than a couple of hours at a stretch, but I'm learning how to cope with that. It's one of these conditions where the cure is more risky than living with the impairment, which resulted from a detached retina back in 01/00. We'll see how crossing over into Mexico (more importantly getting back into the US) goes this weekend. I'm going across with friends for dinner on Friday night.

And now I'm going to add that I was in DC during the attacks. Not much to say except that the town was very different than usual, and that without exception - save for the walking mentally ill whom you encounter in all cities - people were universally cordial; and friendly, albeit still in states of shock, anger, etc. I hope you're doing well.

Best regards, Joe

CONGRATULATIONS to colleague Marina Snow Author of The Walking Wounded, Lost Coast Press – 264 pages, \$19.95, A Book Review of The Walking Wounded by Lynda Horton. This compelling love story features a trio of vastly different men who enter the life of college librarian Juliana Jantzen, newly divorced and independent at forty. Drawing on her own experiences in California during the 1960s and 70s, Marina's narrative of crafted wounded ha^hns satisfying, and the hope for healing amidst culturally tumultuous times.

The Walking Wounded Review by Lynda Horton

I just had the pleasure of reading the first novel written by Sacramento author, Marina Snow. It is a love story taking place in the early seventies, an era which brought back many of my own memories.

I found the telling of this story to be an accurate description of that place in time, with enough fact to allow the reader to learn, while enjoying a good read about endearing characters, whom I got to know and like. The flashbacks of the time period, and women's plight specifically at that time, I believe, make it an important work for all women to read. It is most importantly a book worth reading by all women coming of age during the sixties, professional and non-professional alike for insight into the cultural milieu of the time.

I found this to be a poignant story of a time in history, when great strides were made in bringing about the beginning of the women's movement and equality. It was a time, as the author portrays, when women began to express their own desires, and take responsibility for their own lives, free of much of the old dogma associated with women's place in society. I look forward with anticipation to other works by Marina Snow.

The book is available at The Avid Reader, Beers Bookstore, and Tower Books on Broadway. Marina Snow was born in Boston, grew up in the Midwest, and graduated from the University of Iowa where she attended the Iowa Writer's Workshop. She has master's degrees in speech pathology, librarianship, and theater arts and has work as a teacher in Cali, Colombia and Las Cruces, New Mexico, and as a speech therapist and an academic librarian in northern California. She has a daughter and a son and lives in her own restored Queen Anne cottage in Sacramento. Marina Snow has written two plays and numerous short stories. The Walking Wounded is her first novel.

SILVER BULLETIN PAGE 3

A Tough Year for Our Health Plans

By Wilma Krebs

It has been almost like "The Perfect Storm" - huge increases in prescription drug costs, more HMO pullouts and troubles in the rural areas, near-insolvency in our self-funded plans (in part due to demographic factors and adverse selection), disturbing disruptions as provider groups war with health plans. Add the constant struggle to improve quality - for example, the improved coverage for mental illness achieved this year, working with doctors to use peer pressure for adoption of best-practice models and better disease management programs.

Cost reductions are getting harder to get. This year members reluctantly agreed to an increase in copayments, both for office visits and for prescription drugs. While recognizing the need for this step, we are concerned about those among us who are chronically ill and have high prescription drug needs. Last year we persuaded PERS to institute the stoploss for HMO members, now capping co-pays at \$1,000. a year if you use mail-order. We are pushing to lower that cap to \$600. a year.

Meanwhile, there is intensive study of possible new initiatives, including: a Pharmacy Carveout, where there would be one administrator and presumably greater economies of scale; Direct Contracting by PERS with providers in the rural areas; Regional Rating to recognize higher costs in certain areas; how to get better cost and utilization data. Everyone agrees that members have to participate in costmanagement to make it work. Member and retiree organizations such as ERFA can make an important contribution.

The impact of the energy crisis and the faltering economy on the State budget killed legislation for improvement in vision care benefits and death benefits, and our bill to raise purchasing power of retirement allowances to 80% of their original purchasing power. At this writing, the Governor may still sign a few retiree bills, but the chances are getting slimmer after the terrorist attacks.

Bills Making Progress Those signed include: AB 824 (Cohn) Siblings of active and retired public employees are eligible to enroll in the PERS LongTerm Care Insurance program.SB 37 (Speier) Requires health plans to provide coverage related to clinical trials for cancer. SCR 39 (Soto) Establishes a panel to study the pharmacy benefits of PERS Health plans, including co-payments, benefit structure and cost. Bills to address the problems of medical group terminations when providers fight with health plans will likely go to interim study (e.g. AB 1522 (Thomson.) AB 25 (Migden) Expanding the rights of domestic partners, such as health plan rights, has been sent to the Governor. AB 1081 (Nation) Could make part-time CSU faculty eligible for health benefits with 2 consecutive semester of 40% of full time, if it is in the MOU. Soto's SCR 15 would establish a minimum standard of adequacy for retiree pensions. It has gone to enrollment. Some will become 2-year bills, as we go into the second year at the State Capitol, providing another chance to get much-needed retiree benefit improvements, and to help us hang in there in these trying times.

Textile Arts Program by Jo Lonam

The Sacramento Center or the Textile Arts has invited anthropologist and author Liza Dalby to present a slide lecture on "Kimono: Fashioning Culture" on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park at 7:00 p.m. She will discuss the evolution of the kimono and its place in modern Japan. Combining fashion history and social anthropology, she will demonstrate how clothing can illuminate our understanding of culture.

Ms. Dalby is the author of "Geisha," "Kimono: Fashioning Culture," and most recently "The Tale of Murasaki." The lecture is open to the public. A \$3.00 admission charge for non-members of SCTA is payable at the door. For additional information, call Jo Lonam at 927-1956 or e-mail her at lonamja@saclink.csus.edu

Quiz Kids

Actual answers given by contestants on the game show "The Family Feud:"

- -Name something that floats in the bath Water -Name something a blind person might use -A sword -Name a song with "moon" in the title Blue Suede Moon -Something associated with the police Pigs -Something you do before going to bed Sleep
- -Name a famous bridge The bridge over troubled waters. -A sign of the Zodiac April
- -Something slippery A con man-A part of the body beginning with the letter 'N' Knee -Something you do in the bathroom Decorate

PAGE 4 SILVER BULLETIN

Visiting Cancun

While many of you may already have visited Cancun on the Yucatan Peninsula, for those who may yet go we can recommend it as a relatively easy and safe place for the older tourist. The hotels are good, the drinking water is safe, the food varied and of good quality - if often expensive -- the local bus transportation frequent and cheap, and the local population, dependent on tourists, is friendly and usually speak adequate English. The beaches and water temperature are marvelous, and the side trips to Mayan sites are a highlight.

Here are some things we experienced on our trip this year that might be helpful. If possible, fly direct to Cancun to avoid flight delays in L.A. and/or Mexico City. Don't rent a car at all or not until you get there, and only then on a daily basis unless you plan overnight excursions. Don't rent a car at the Cancun airport, it costs more, but be prepared for a 40 dollar taxi fare to your hotel (it's only 15 dollars back to the airport). When car renting be careful about signing for insurance costs and "damage deposits." If you are over 70 years of age you must be the person signing for the rental in order to be an acceptable driver. There were frequent warnings about thefts from cars, but hotel and larger parking areas seemed wellsupervised.

Along the hotel strip the buses are clean, run every few minutes 24 hours a day, and cost 50 cents per person. The "zona hoteleria" is about 25 kms long. We stayed at km 12 and found that to be an acceptable half hour to downtown Cancun and even closer to other shopping and restaurants.

The Mayan ruins at Tulum are an easy 60 miles drive south of Cancun and well worth the trip. We were disappointed with the over-hyped "eco-parks" at Xel-ha and Xercet on the same road to Tulum. Unless you want to snorkle, the costs are too high for too little. A visit to Chichen-Itza is a must, but we strongly recommend the day-long bus tour with a guide.

We were there during Spring Break (mid-late March) when some 75,000 U.S. students flooded the area. We experienced no problems with the young hordes, but the local advice was that "it was better" before and after, although June brings the rainy season. Have a good trip. Jerry and Ulla McDaniel

OLDER DRIVER SAFETY Most of us have been concerned with recent efforts to deliberately categorize any California driver over 75 years of age as an "at risk" driver and to seek to screen all such seniors more rigorously as their licenses come due. Although the harshest tests were eliminated in the subsequent legislation, the continued concern for older driver safety has borne fruit in the establishment of a statewide Older Adults and Traffic Safety Task Force which this year began a comprehensive sturdy of the many problems involved. Conducted by the California Center for Childhood Injury Prevention at San Diego State, the Task force, made up of representatives of many state agencies, especially the DMV and Highway Patrol, academic specialists, urban activists, and several senior organizations such as AARP, expects to develop a range of public policy recommendations for improving the safety of senior drivers and pedestrians.

While there is little disagreement that drivers are unsafe just because they reach a certain "senior" age, obviously driver skills and physical ability do decline with advancing years. Hence a wide range of ideas considered by the Task Force cover problems of older driver education and training as well as ways to help family members and others, doctors for example, to encourage the risky senior driver to give up the car keys. The entire concern is complicated by the lack of adequate alternative transportation for non-drivers, especially in suburban and rural areas, so that long-range problem is also being discussed. One interesting, perhaps obvious, research finding is the link between loss of driver "independence," subsequent depression and suicide, not least in California.

Studies are also underway to recommend improvement in automobile design to benefit the senior driver. Better steering wheel design, non-glare window glass, better seatbelt and airbag security and many other suggestions are being put forward. More readable road signs and directions are already being implemented in some states. Pedestrian safety is a significant problem especially in cities, therefore such things as safer intersections pedestrian lanes, and light-timing become factors.

The DMV is already testing more thorough screening exams for drivers of all ages, but the avalanche of older drivers is already upon us, so, increasingly senior drivers and pedestrians must begin their own self-evaluation and their own self-limitation while also putting their increasing numbers behind getting more public and corporate expenditure for enhancing their safety. Meanwhile, at long last the Big Picture is being studied in California. Stay tuned.

Jerry McDaniel - Task Force member representing AARP

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Camacho -- Communication Studies -- 1972-2001
Gerard "Jerry" Clarfeld -- History -- 1964-1968*
John Collins, Jr. -- (CSUS's First Graduate) 1948
Lyman Glenny -- Government -- 1950-1957**
John Gwynn, Jr. -- Computer Science -- 1976-2001
Fred Hector -- Recreation & Leisure Studies --1967-1979
Floyd LeCureux -- Computer Science -- 1979-1983
Hal Mapes -- Director, Building and Grounds -- 1981-1996
Bill O'Dell -- School of Education -- 1955-1980
Robert Scarborough -- Music -- 1960-1985
Edith Schwartz - School of Education Instructor -1968-1996
Marda West -- Biology -- 1966 - 2001
*Gerard "Jerry" Clarfeld

On July 15, 2001 Gerard "Jerry" Clarfeld, who taught history at CSUS between 1964 and 1968 died at his home in Healdsburg, CA. after a brief illness. A graduate of UC Berkeley, he had taught for 32 years at the University of MissouriColumbia, from which he had recently retired. An expert in U.S. diplomatic history and a prolific scholar, his published works spanned the period from the Federalist era to modern times. Clarfeld was 65 years old.

(Louellyn Cohan Lower) "Lyman Glenny

Lyman Glenny died September 6, 2001 after a brief struggle with bone cancer. He joined Sac State in 1950 teaching courses in government and left around 1957. He eventually became a national authority in state governance of higher education and was director of Higher Education Studies at UC Berkeley where he retired. During his brief stay at Sac State he had a lasting effect on shaping the future of the college by serving on key committees. He was a forceful and effective advocate for a faculty voice in academic and administrative affairs. He was also an active participant in the "bird watchers." At the same time he was an excellent teacher.

He often said that his Sac State students were the best he ever had during his entire career. On retirement he settled in a community near Walnut Creek devoted to horses even though he never rode a horse. He developed a passion for running which was in line with his Type A personality. He won several medals and honors and he could hardly wait till he turned 80 so that he could become a national champ in that age category. His last Christmas card shows him in running togs wearing a laurel wreath in Olympia, Greece. He regularly attended the informal quarterly luncheons of emeritus faculty, driving all the way from Walnut Creek to Sacramento just to be with his long time friends. He will be sorely missed. (H. Stewart Moredock)

Nuremberg Revisited by Peter Shattuck

Historian Bob Long, my long-time office partner and authority on recent American history, is about to enter the ranks of the retired. I want to welcome him and offer him thanks. Before we left for Germany last June, Bob urged us to visit the sports stadium in Nuremberg, where Hitler held the rallies so famously documented by Leni Riefenstahl. It was good advice. Here, the postwar Germans have got it right. They have not allowed any neo-Nazi group to make the place a shrine; that would have been unspeakably obscene. Nor have they razed the structure and replaced it with a shopping center; that would have been absurdly banal. Instead, they have simply left the place alone to wither from neglect, as a metaphor for the evanescence of power. Graffiti covers the walls.

Kids The mind of a six year old is wonderful. First Grade true story. One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to accumulate the building materials for his home. She read, "...And so the pig on the podium where Hitler stood to harangue the masses, someone (an American?) has written in very clear English, "Fuck off, Hitler." Discarded beer cans, wine bottles, and condoms clutter the staircases. Fistsized chunks of marble have fallen from the facades.

An inline skater was getting his workout at the top of the stadium. Dirt, soot and urine stain what had been the brilliant white of the surfaces. What was to have been the showpiece of the Thousand Year Reich is a decaying mess. We didn't say much as we drove back into downtown Nuremberg. But then we followed Bob Long's other suggestion and shared a dozen bratwurst from a cafe in the city square. They left a much better taste than the stadium.

I went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said, "Pardon me, sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?" The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think that man said?" One little boy raised his hand and said, "I think he said 'Holy S*#!! A talking pig!" The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

PAGE 6 SILVER BULLETI

Drivers and Passengers Wanted As our retired faculty ages, there is an increased incidence of Alzheimer's and physical disabilities. Also, there is an increased need for medical care and visits to doctors. Because of the limitations on driving, some of our cadre of retired faculty are in need of someone to drive them to the store, to have glasses fixed, or to do the one hundred and one things about which most of us do not give a second thought but just jump into the car and take care of our requirements.

Our dependence on our personal vehicle is such second nature to us that it is hard to consider not having the capability of driving. One of our group recently had an accident and because of the observations of him by the CHP officer his license was revoked and eventually the car was sold.

Friends and family are available most of the time to help out as needed, but there are times when such help is not available and the individual must turn to other means of transportation.

In Sacramento there are the following ways to obtain transportation:

Compassionate Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	366-8676
Elder Escorts	429-2703
Paratransit Inc.	429-2009
Sacramento Regional Transit	321-2877
The cab companies, e.g. the Checker Cab Company	443-3333

The Compassionate Non-Emergency Medical Transportation organization specializes in long distance transportation to any place in the country for persons in wheel chairs and on gurneys. They transport one or two persons a day locally and tailor the transportation to the individual's needs and circumstances. There is a waiting list. They charge \$44.00 each way which also includes waiting time as they will stay with the client.

Regarding Elder Escorts, they currently are unable to accept new riders because of a lack of volunteer drivers. One can place oneself on the waiting list by leaving one's name. They will return the call as soon as possible. They will call between the hours of noon and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. They do not return calls on weekends or on holidays. If already registered and need to be picked up they require 3-5 days notice in advance. One must leave one's name, telephone number, address, and date and time to be picked up.

To request an application for Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit service eligibility one needs to call 557-5685 and leave one's name, address, and telephone number. One may apply for Regional Transit's ADA Complementary Paratransit Service if you have a disability, and because of your disability, you are prevented from using Regional Transit's busses or Light Rail trains some or all of the time, and you need ADA Complementary Paratransit Service to travel within the city and county area served by Regional Transit.

Further, regarding Paratransit, reservations are accepted one to two days in advance of the day one needs to ride. Paratransit does not provide same day emergency service. Reservationists are on duty daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (including holidays) to book, schedule, and confirm Ready Times while one waits, provided a bus is available at one's preferred pickup time. When at capacity, if an alternative day or time cannot be negotiated, a non-guaranteed standby reservation may be offered, or the trip may be denied. Requests are taken during Paratransit's office hours two days in advance. For next day service reservations are taken up until 5:00 p.m.

Paratransit's first and last Ready Times are 6:00 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. daily, including holidays. Pickups are made within a halfafter the Ready Time negotiated and passengers must board the bus within five minutes of arrival by the driver. If not ready, the driver will leave and the trip status will be recorded as a "no show."

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Drivers and Passengers Wanted (continued from page 6)

Paratransit requires exact change each time one boards. The cost for each one-way trip is \$2.00, except for airport trips, which is \$8.00 each way because this is outside the normal service area. Paratransit does not go to Roseville, Folsom, or West Sacramento, but does go to most of the urban communities served by the Sacramento Regional Transit District. If one changes one's mind, a Paratransit Cancel Line is open 24 hours a day. The minimum notice required is two hours. Anything less may be cause for denial of future service.

I have called several cab companies and found the Checker Cab Company to be most reasonable. If, for example, one needs to go to a doctor's office which is 10 miles away and meet with the doctor for 30 minutes, the cab will wait and return the patient to his or her home for a charge of \$32.00. The customary charge is \$2.80 for the first mile and \$2.00 for each additional mile. One can negotiate a flat rate with the driver.

From the above, one can see the pros and cons of using these transportation services. Nothing beats being able to drive oneself or have a family member or friend drive one, wait, and return one home.

It is proposed that among the CSUS retired faculty we develop a list of persons who would be willing to drive "one of our own" to a doctor or for other personal reasons and that we notify our constituency of this service. Persons who require transportation need to be identified. Let us see what the response is. I am willing to coordinate this effort and report on the developments. Interested persons can contact me as follows:

Irving Herman

889 Commons Drive, Sacramento, 95825

Telephone: 925-8625 E-mail: jeanneirv@lanset.com. Fax: 925-8625*51

Membership Data

Retired Faculty-- 521 Deceased Faculty -- 110 Letter re: 2001-02 Dues -- 237 2000-01 Dues Paid -- 100 From Where I'm Standing...

As a history buff, I was thrilled to visit my German friend Andreas in his home country. Marveling at a stone bridge near the city of Worms, I asked my host, "Is this where Patton crossed the Rhine?" "I'm not sure, Woody," he replied. "My history is different than yours."

(contributed by Woody Havens - from Reader's Digest)

RECEPTION

ANNUAL FALL DINNER

The dinner speaker (or interviewer) is *George Craft, History,* who is interested in unravelling the CSUS past, because he is preparing a second edition of his "CSUS, the First 40 Years" (1987). He would like to pose some questions for us at the dinner, and he would like people to send him notes and e-mails with further information.

CSUS EMERITUS ASSOCIATION FALL DINNER

DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2001

DINNER

LOCATION: TIME:	Student Board Chambers - 3rd Floor 6:15 to 7:00 Reception (with no host bar)	Foothill Suite - 3rd Flo 7:00 - 9:00 Dinner (wit				
Please choose one entree offering and write in the number of persons for each choice.						
Grilled Chic	cen w/Tomato Concasse\$16.00	Vegetarian Lasagna_	\$16.00			
NAME:			_			
	RESS:		_ Phone:			
	ZIP:					
Please return this sheet with your payment, which may also include your 2001-2002 dues of \$10.00 to:						
	Floyd Mullinix 1529 Connon Driv	s Caramanta CA OF	oor			

Floyd Mullinix - 1539 Gannon Drive - Sacramento, CA 95825

PRINT DEADLINE FOR YOUR RESPONSE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2001

Emeritus Association

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