



Dear BCARF members

This has been an unusual year for BCARF as it has been for most of the people and associations in the world. The global pandemic that suddenly struck us has led to lifestyle changes that almost none of us envisioned.

If someone is reading this in our archives 100 years from now you should know that our experience has been eerily similar to that of citizens during the 1918-19 pandemic. Public gatherings such as our twice-monthly seminars and program meetings and our monthly book club meetings could no longer be held face-to-face and had to be suddenly switched to online meetings. In 2020 we had something called the "internet" which allowed us to view and even participate in events via devices called computers or smaller hand-held devices called tablets and phones. Our annual banquet where we normally celebrate the end of another academic year and see old colleagues and friends had to be canceled. Few members would want to attend such an event wearing a mask and standing six feet apart which is now de rigueur. Hopefully pandemics are not events which will be visited on populations every hundred years.

Nevertheless, our organization is generally healthy and growing and fulfilling its mission "to serve the retired faculty, the university, the community and society and [to promote collegiality among us for personal enrichment and active service." In the pages of this newsletter one can read about many examples of scholarship and service by members and even when we had to resort to online meetings late this past year we continued to have social conversation prior to the formal meetings.

Elected officers for 2020-21 are: Alec Peck, President; Judith Wilt, Vice President; Michael Malec, Secretary; Harold Peterson, Treasurer; Clare O'Connor, Member-at-large; and Matilda Bruckner, Member-at-large. In addition, Paul Spagnoli will serve as Past-

President and Fr. Joe Duffy will continue as the Jesuit Liaison. Peter Olivieri is our long-time Webmaster. In addition, our book club will continue to meet to discuss eight very different books and with a little luck, Judith Wilt will likely organize a docent tour of a Spring exhibit at the McMullen Museum.

Because of the pandemic we will not be meeting face-to-face in the Fall but will be holding all of our seminars and program meetings online via Zoom. Please check our [website](#) for topics, dates and times. We sincerely hope to return to face-to-face luncheons and meetings sometime in the Spring and to host another end-of-year banquet next May. The open bar, good food, and chance to catch up with old colleagues always make it an enjoyable evening and we will really be needing that by next May.

Our new office at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway is ready for use whenever the university reopens, and the newly renovated meeting room with all new A/V equipment is awaiting our use in the Spring, fingers crossed! There have also been renovations to other parts of the building such as restrooms and accessible entrances.

We are awaiting confirmation and details concerning our annual budget and hope to have a number of Retired Faculty Grants available. We have switched the application due date to October in order to allow applicants time to determine if conferences will be held and if travel will be allowed. Details on the grants and application procedure are available on our website.

Please feel free to contact me peck@bc.edu if you have any questions or suggestions for new programs or activities. I look forward to a rewarding 2020-21 year of Association activities.

Sincerely,

Alec Peck
Alec Peck
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I L I T F 2019-2020

A T A

The monthly lunch social business and program meetings were once again coordinated by Judith Wilt. The Coronavirus pandemic forced cancellation of the meetings scheduled for March April and May. Check the calendar in this Newsletter for next year's dates times and locations. An email invitation designating speaker and topic precedes each monthly meeting.

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Martha Bayles F

Kalpna Seshadri Can Erbil

A A Y John Mahoney Jr. T

F A Y Kerry Cronin

I A F I E I TI

The Book Club chaired by Jean Mooney meets monthly in



Philip Altbach ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶

Phil is working on two small projects for UNESCO both with Hans de Wit retiring director of the BC Center for International Higher Education. One is an essay on private higher education worldwide and the other is a review of higher education internationalization as a background paper for the 2020 Summit in Saudi Arabia. Phil and Hans will be involved with CIHE for the coming few years assisting the Center's new leadership. In the meantime Phil is "teaching" a weekly Zoom history lesson for middle-schooler granddaughter Catherine Altbach of Silver Spring MD. They recently covered Empress Catherine the Great and also the Russian Revolution.

James Bernauer S.J. ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶

Jim published a new book in March: *Jehovah's Witnesses: A History of a Controversial Religion*, U of Notre Dame Press 2020

Stephen F. Brown ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶

I have published an article "Praeloquens of Cremona and William of Auxerre on *Scythia*" in *The Speculum* ed Lydia Schumacher Berlin Boston: De Gruyter 2020 235-250. I wrote the Introduction to the English translation by James Colbert of Fr Ernest A Fortin's *Chrysostomus ad Phocaenenses epistolae*, *St. Augustine's Press* South Bend IN: St. Augustine's Press 2019.

Matilda Bruckner ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶ ✶

This spring I was able to finish preparing for publication my former thesis director's last unpublished book thanks in part to a BCARF grant 2019 to help with the bibliography and index: Peter Haidu's *The Phoenix and the Jew: The Self in Jewish History* edited with an introduction by Matilda Tomaryn Bruckner will be published by Legenda Research Monographs in French Studies in 2020. A BCARF grant in 2020 helped finance my trip to San Francisco last March to give a lecture at UC Berkeley "Hosting Quarrels: Bodies, Books, and Judges 19 in the *Bible* and Vienna ÖNB 2554" based on the last chapter in my current book project. By then the effects of the pandemic were already apparent and students had been sent home from the campus. My lecture on the 12th may have been the last live event of the spring semester! Happily the small group of faculty members and grad students who braved the risks formed a lively audience and a good discussion followed my presentation. Since my return from CA my husband and I have been sheltering in place with lots of walks in the neighborhood and I've been working on a plenary lecture focused on troubadour lyric for a conference in honor of a colleague's retirement to be held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges Geneva New York 11-13 October 2020 assuming it's not postponed to avoid the second wave. In the months ahead I plan to get back to my ongoing book project "Biblical Encounters: Inscribing Jewish and Christian Dialogue in Medieval French Literature" to revise the five chapters and send out a prospectus. In the meantime I am grateful that my two sons and their families are safe and healthy my three grandchildren continue

to thrive and my sons and their wives continue to work in their jobs. I only hope that our country can overcome the terrible pains of pandemic economic distress the widening gaps of inequality we have to endure in this public health crisis. Love, Stephen F. Brown



Edward Kane

Opportunities to travel to speaking engagements have crashed I spoke at the IMF on the fragility of European megabanks last October but my portfolio of four Spring conferences was either canceled or more recently began to turn into ZOOM exercises I only published one paper this year It discusses similarities in the corporate cultures of central banks in the US and China Although I thought I was making a lot of progress on my manuscript I feel like the pandemic has made me lose ground The Covid-19 crisis has created the need for a lot of additional thinking and writing

Richard Keeley

I just returned from four months in Oceanside CA where we were visiting – unfortunately virtually for most of the time – with our new granddaughter I had just finished a second revision of my writing project a guide to all of Jane Jacobs's work when the virus descended That means I will have to revisit her work since she prized density in cities as one of the crucial factors for urban success There has already been some comment on that aspect of her work but I think I will have to make significant recastings

Michael Keith

Michael's latest book a collection of "microfictions" entitled *I and a II* was recently published by Mad Hat Press

Alan Lawson

Since last September Mary Beth and I have been living in Providence which is where I came from in the first place Just before we left Boston I managed to bring my Longwood Cricket Club career to a fitting end by winning the 80 and up tournament thus giving me a shiny new silver cup to put on the new bookshelf Once in Providence I set out to establish a good working balance between my interests in music and history As luck would have it the director of the vocal ensemble I toured with in Sicily last summer has also recently moved to Providence and I was able to reconnect as one of his students At Paulo's suggestion I auditioned for the Providence Singers and with that vibrant group set to work preparing three concerts In addition I signed up for another tour of Sicily this summer and later in July a performance in Amsterdam On the history front I became a member of the well-endowed Rhode Island Historical Society and renewed acquaintance with members of the Brown history department all with an eye to completing my institutional history of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium and my ever-burgeoning family memoir much of it relating to Providence and Newport Then Covid-19 shut down all the musical ventures and Brown and the Historical Society closed their doors Nevertheless in lockdown the choral consortium and memoir projects creep along at their petty pace I expect they'll be finished about the time we are liberated from the virus and ready to welcome a new President Warm regards to all the old friends whom I hope to see at some BCARF event soon

Kevin Mahoney

Kevin published an op-ed in *The Boston Globe* on May 26: "After Covid-19 a better way to support the elderly and people with disabilities" He argued that "there is a successful alternative to institutional care that allows people of all ages with disabilities to live at home with support: self-directed care"

Paul Mariani

Paul recently published: *The Measure of a Poet: The View from Paraclete Press* essays on poetry and the influence especially of that great Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins and *Old Time Poetry* Slant Books

David Northrup

David continues to take pleasure from writing and lecturing as well as from travel and physical exercise despite the limitations currently imposed by Covid-19 He gave two presentations to the BCARF Research Institute on 5/26/20

you want CPR to be placed on a ventilator etc. If your choice is NO, complete the necessary papers and be sure you know where they are. This was my confrontation with Covid-19 as well as I can remember. I know that too many people have not survived and feel profound joy that I am still here to tell this story.

Dennis Taylor ▶

Dennis continues work on *Shakespeare's Ref*, which now carries the dedication "to scholars, several of whom I know or knew, who take on ambitious late-life projects that sometimes they are not able to finish." He also is embarking on editing Thomas Hardy's novel *A La d'cea*. Last October, he gave a talk "Catholicism: the Indigestible Nugget in English and American Literary Scholarship" at the conference of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers at Holy Cross. With his wife Mary, he continues to help his son raise four-year old George.

William Torbert ▶

I'm glad to be able to report that my immediate family – my three BC sons, Michael, Patrick, and Benjamin, and my BC wife Reichi – as well as I myself, have so far survived the pandemic unscathed. I am, however, hoping our hospitals get back to elective surgery soon, so I can get a new right hip and start walking and swimming again. Luckily, just before the shutdown, Reichi and I moved from Newton to a center of Boston condo with no stairs. The one grievous event in my life this past year was the death of my longtime 40+ years colleague, friend, and neighbor, Sev Bruyn, but he lived fully till his last weeks and was surrounded at home by family and friends. Meanwhile, his amazing wife, Louise, whom many of you may know, walked from their home to the steps of the Capitol in 1970 to protest the Vietnam War, has just celebrated her 90th birthday. Newton proclaimed it Louise Bruyn Day. Three collaborative papers got published this year: 1. "The Art and Science of Vertical Development" in *Leadership: An Introduction to the Cybernetics of Collaborative Developmental Action Inquiry (CDAI)* in *Collaborative Developmental Action Inquiry (CDAI) and the Global Leadership Profile* in *The Proceedings of the International Conference on Teaching*.

Rebecca Valette ▶

Last September, my husband and I celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary by inviting our three children, no spouses, no grandchildren, to spend two weeks in France with us. We visited Tours, where Jean-Paul and I first met in 1957. I was studying with Sweet Briar Junior Year Abroad, Paris, where we were both students in 1957-1958, and where we married in August 1959, and Normandy, where we spent a relaxing honeymoon before sailing from Cherbourg to New York and boarding the Greyhound bus for the long trip to Boulder, Colorado, to begin our graduate studies. It was a wonderful "trip down memory lane" with our nuclear family. My article "Yeibichai Weavings Featuring Women Dancers" was published in the April/May 2020 issue of *Native Arts and Culture*. I am currently working on a biography of

Clitso Dedman, the first Navajo to carve Yeibichai figures. The Yeibichai dancers appear on the last evening of the Nightway healing ceremony. And I am still taking flute lessons at the All Newton Music School, although for the last two months I have been meeting with my teacher via Zoom. Keeping up with technology is one way of staying young ... or at least trying not to age too rapidly. Jean-Paul and I are fortunate to still be in reasonably good health. We enjoy our daily walks around the Boston College campus, which has sadly been rather empty these past two months. Let's hope students are able to return in fall!

Judith Wilt ▶

A difficult family winter included a brother's not exactly voluntary retirement, a niece's discovery that she had been named executor of a friend's will, and had to travel out of state to try and sell his dental practice, and my own experience of several upticks in my muscle-weakening disease. By the approach of spring, these had been resolved: the upticks turned down, my brother found a peculiar joy in resetting all the paving stones leading up to his house in Houston, and my niece completed the long-distance sale of the dental practice -- just two weeks before the unfortunate buyer had to close the offices because of the pandemic. Also, I had felt guilty and cowardly in January, backing out of a long-planned tour of Moscow and St. Petersburg because of worries about my health, but in April, I cancelled a substituted trip to Iceland without a qualm. Professionally, I had one essay published in the March issue of *Whetstone*, the journal of the historical novelist Dorothy Dunnett Society, and will be working on more of those this summer. I submitted a proposal for a paper based on Kipling's novel *Kato* to a November conference, since so many fall conferences have been cancelled, I'm uncertain whether that one will take place or, frankly, whether I'll actually feel like boarding a plane to Vancouver, even if it does. With all my colleagues at BC, I had the national March adventure while teaching my spring seminar. Midway through my one credit course in *Spy Stories*, the writing was on the wall, at the end of what turned out to be my last class on March 11, having already alerted the bookstore about re-ordering copies of our last required novel. I gave my 15 nervous seniors a handout listing exactly the steps I would take to continue our work if the university cancelled all classes the following week. The announcement in fact came out a half hour after the class, as I drove out of the parking garage, shortly afterwards, I saw students embracing in tears or capping each other in defiant jokes, and next day read in the *Green* the story of lines of seniors coming out to the hill above the reservoir in the next day's dawn to watch the sunrise and grieve. I was amazed at how quickly and capably my fellow faculty turned to online teaching to finish the semester, and how well my students responded to the weekly discussion questions. I emailed and fielded to help them move through our last text and write their last papers on it. And I was equally amazed at how quickly our own Retired Faculty Association responded to the enforced cancellation of our own seminars and programs, with the assistance of Zoom and Alec Peck's indefatigable leadership. Like everyone, we'll spend the summer wondering what further

marvels and adaptations the Covid-19 virus will impose upon us hoping all the while to resume by next spring some good hybrid form of online and in-person interaction with and for members of the Association. I wish I could say I've put this enforced time at home to good use by learning more skills: alas not so much. My decades-long reliance on restaurants continues though I have resurrected the skill of frying eggs and cutting fresh vegetables. I can usually join a Zoom meeting but not host one. I got to be able to do that if I'm going to resume teaching next spring. My Brilliant Niece in Houston has gotten me on Facebook but her instructions on how to profit by this have mostly gone out of my head and will need constant rebooting over the phone. When my usual condo-cleaning service received a cease-and-desist notice from the state I did take lessons from a neighbor on a newly bought Swiffer but the service will be back in action soon and I will thankfully abandon the search to purchase my first vacuum cleaner since 1990.

Arch Woodside

With two co-authors Arch published "Service Breakdown Prevention: Delivering Requisite Variety and Training for Achieving the Highly Reliable Service Organization" in the *Journal of Service Research*. He also edited a volume and authored or co-authored all of the papers it contained: *Accommodating the Customer: Managing the Service Process*, *Managing the Service Process*, *Managing the Service Process*. Spring 2019. His co-authored article "Nurturing Tourists' Ethical Food Consumption: Testing the Persuasive Strengths of Alternative Messages in a Natural Hotel Setting" appeared in volume 117 of the *Journal of Business Ethics*.

This booklet prepared by the BCARF is intended to offer assistance and information to faculty members who have retired or self-duo.

BCARF: www.bcary.org

Retirees

Welcome to the following faculty who now join us in retirement as of Spring 2020:

- William Armstrong
- Elizabeth Bagnani
- James Bernauer S.J.
- Maria Brisk
- Mary Cronin
- Paul Davidovits
- Hans DeWit
- Baldassare Di Bartolo
- William Fehder
- Audrey Friedman
- Pamela Grace
- Francis Herrmann S.J.
- Rudolph Hon
- John Houchin
- Daniel Kirschner
- Paul Kline
- James O Toole
- Marcia Pitt-Catsoupes
- Catherine Read
- Robert Reed
- Jeffrey Ringuest
- M. Hossein Safizadeh
- Robert Taggart
- Laurence Tobin
- Christopher Wilson

Condolences

Condolences to the families and colleagues of the following:

- Arthur Berney
- John Donovan
- Mary Griffin
- Jeanne Guillemin
- Stuart Martin
- Nancy McCarthy
- David McKenna
- Robert Scigliano
- Paul Thie

Individual obituaries can be found in the "Remembering Our Colleagues" section of the Association website.

BCARF Faculty : 2019-2020

President: **Alec Peck** ▶ [Faculty](#)

Vice-President: **Judith Wilt** ▶ [Faculty](#)

FALL TALKS 2020-2021

All meetings except for the annual banquet are on Thursdays. In the fall they will be conducted via Zoom at the times indicated below. In the spring we hope we will be able to resume our traditional schedule with the normal times indicated below. In addition to the events listed here, we hope to be able to schedule a docent-led tour of the McMullen Museum exhibition in the spring at a date and time to be announced. Invitations to seminars and program meetings will be sent via email in advance of each meeting.

DECEMBER

- 12/10 10:00am - 11:30am
- 12/17 10:00am - 11:30am
- 12/24 10:00am - 11:30am
- 12/31 10:00am - 11:30am

JANUARY

- 1/7 10:00am - 11:30am
- 1/14 10:00am - 11:30am
- 1/21 10:00am - 11:30am
- 1/28 10:00am - 11:30am

FEBRUARY

- 2/4 10:00am - 11:30am
- 2/11 10:00am - 11:30am
- 2/18 10:00am - 11:30am
- 2/25 10:00am - 11:30am

MARCH

- 3/5 10:00am - 11:30am
- 3/12 10:00am - 11:30am
- 3/19 10:00am - 11:30am

APRIL

- 4/8 10:00am - 11:30am

- 4/15 10:00am - 11:30am
- 4/22 10:00am - 11:30am

MAY

- 5/6 10:00am - 11:30am
- 5/13 10:00am - 11:30am
- 5/20 10:00am - 11:30am
- 5/27 10:00am - 11:30am

JUNE

- 6/3 10:00am - 11:30am
- 6/10 10:00am - 11:30am
- 6/17 10:00am - 11:30am
- 6/24 10:00am - 11:30am

JULY

- 7/1 10:00am - 11:30am
- 7/8 10:00am - 11:30am
- 7/15 10:00am - 11:30am
- 7/22 10:00am - 11:30am

AUGUST

- 8/5 10:00am - 11:30am
- 8/12 10:00am - 11:30am
- 8/19 10:00am - 11:30am
- 8/26 10:00am - 11:30am

ANNUAL BANQUET

- 4/29 7:00pm - 9:00pm