GCCCD Grapevine

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Chicago Administrator Picked AsNew Chancellor



Dr.Omero Suarez

Dr. Omero Suarez, Deputy Chancellor with the City of Chicago Community College System, is the new District Chancellor succeeding Jeanne Atherton who retired in June.

Dr. Suarez was chosen by the District Board on a 4-0 vote August 18, winning the post over Cuyamaca College President Sherrill Amador, finalist in the search to fill the District top post. Dr. Suarez signed a three-year contract paying \$138,000 yearly, effective October 1. He'll have about 800 employees from Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges and a combined student body of about 22,000 to supervise.

It's hoped by some College and District leaders that campus calm, not always evident in the past several years, may be something Dr. Suarez can achieve. Trustee Ron Kraft said everybody the trustees had talked with mentioned the new Chancellor's ability to stay calm. Mel Amov, president of the United Faculty union said, "Since we need to get a fresh perspective, we can't think of anyone more qualified."

Prior to going to Chicago, Dr. Suarez was president of East Los Angeles College, a unit of the L.A. Community College District. His doctorate in higher education is from the University of Oklahoma.

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Neveu Finds Nirvana in Grapevines

by Tom Scanlan



He made the sign himself, I'll bet



Ernie and wife, Mary Ann, outside their home

Just a few miles outside of the small village of Montague, California, Rosemarie and I turned off the winding, two-lane country road and pulled into a driveway crowded with farm implements, a pick-up and two large but friendly dogs. We'd stopped to visit one of our fellow retirees who is toiling to make a dream come true.

Ernie Neveu, retired professor of biology from Grossmont College is growing apples, peaches, cherries and pears--and on a much larger scale--several varieties of wine grapes. That first afternoon he gave us the 'grand tour'. His orchards and vineyards are planted on gently sloping land on the west side of Shasta Valley, facing a spectacular panoramic view of three snow-capped peaks, the largest being Mt. Shasta. On these 27 acres, Ernie has planted 400 apple trees (Fuji and Gala) as well as a smaller number of cherry, peach and pear trees. Most of the land, however, is covered by nearly 5000 grapevines, the majority in their first year of growth. These include 2000 pinot noirs and 2000 pinot gris, and he's experimenting with 80 vines of each of merlot and zinfandel. But he also has 700 vines of pinot noir which are now three years old and from which he'll produce his first batch of wine this fall.

We enjoyed that evening exchanging pictures and touring the nearby historically charming town of Yreka. The sight we awoke to the next morning was spectacular. Mount Shasta seemed to fill half the morning sky.

Ernie and his wife Mary Ann live in a two-story farm house built in 1915. Along with his many farm chores, Ernie also spends what time he can spare modernizing and repairing their home. Seven days a week. This may not sound like a 'retirement' but Ernie seems to thrive on the activity and he has truly undertaken a second life. In fact, he is a pioneer of sorts. His is the first vineyard of consequence in this region and his wine will be one of the region's first. Furthermore, his example has inspired some of his neighbors to try their hand at growing wine grapes, and Ernie had functioned as the local consultant-expert. He has incorporated some of the latest techniques of iticulture and his vineyards show it.



Ernie preparing the ground



Mt Shasta looms over vines



Young grapes already

His hard work and knowledge has paid off. A good quantity of Gala apples have already been harvested and placed in cold storage, with more to follow. In the vineyards, more good news. The sugar levels in both the Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir were higher than expected so they could be harvested several weeks ahead of the time when Oregon growers harvest. It was harvest time for the grapes! The big day was Saturday, September 26. I'll let Ernie tell you about it in his own words.

"Wow, what a harvest!!! We started at 6:00 am it was still too dark to see well enough so we drank coffee to warm up to the 38 F chilly wind. 15 brave souls turned up to cut, crush and stomp. The Pinot noir came out at 23.8 Brix and the Pinot gris was 21.4. The flavor of the must was great. We harvested 89 pounds of Pinot gris (which will turn out to be about 5 gal of finished wine) and 658 lbs of Pinot noir (about 55 + gals of finished wine) We actually stomped the Pinot gris with bare feet and believe me it took brave ones to jump in that tub with 35 F clusters. I will be sending you photos Monday by express mail. Really wish you could have been here it was such a good time, regardless of how the wine

turns out."

I wish we could have been there, too. Ernie really does seem to have found his Nirvana among those grapevines. Ernie can be contacted by e-mail at: ernvine@inreach.com, by telephone at (530) 459-3906, by fax at (530) 459-0258, or by letter at Neveu Vineyards and Orchards, 4839 Ager Road, Montague, CA 96064-9524.

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Editor's Notes

by Pat Higgins

So far as I know, this is the a last time I'll write this column. He hasn't definitely said yes, but I'm confident that Tom Scanlan will again become editor, as he was during the Grapevine's early days. As before, he'll keep the Grapevine interesting and informative; that will be good for this newsletter and its readers. But Tom feels, as I do, that being editor in perpetuity isn't an objective to seek. So if you think you'd like to try your hand, let Tom know; perhaps you can start as associate editor, and after a year or two become editor. Who knows? You may be a born editor.

#####

One ought to have some great thoughts to put into a farewell column but I don't. My stock of great thoughts seems to have dwindled, at least temporarily. As I write this, in September, the Starr report is still in the spotlight, and I have plenty of angry and sad thoughts prompted by Bill Clinton, Ken Starr, Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp, and others who've brought the country to the pain it's now feeling. At the moment I can't think of anything good that will come of this lousy experience in the way of learning for the future. But maybe good will come of which we're unaware—some successor of Clinton using the brains God gave him and steering clear of entangling encounters with willing women, whatever their ages. And perhaps some Independent Counsel—if the breed still exists—will have the sensitivity and judgment to shun temptation to make his official report an X-rated tale, when a G or PG can as adequately inform the citizens who need to know. I say that, despite Starr's protestations that he needed the word-by-word details to prove Clinton lied.

But angry as I get, I know this too will pass and better time will come. We'll have a President, whoever he or she may be. Starr will fade back into obscurity, and the nation will exist. We'll perhaps have time and inclination to think great thoughts. Sorry you won't be able then to read all the great thoughts which occupy my mind.

#####

I'll finish by telling you of three things I've read recently which took thought out of my head but prompted it to shake. First, I had a brochure recently from Northwestern University, my alma mater, describing a trip sponsored by the school's alumni association. One of the trip's best features, according to the brochure would be the "camaraderie" among the travelers. Somehow it's always seemed a greater sin for mistakes to come from educational institutions than from institutions whose product isn't learning.

Then I was in a nurses' clinic waiting to get a shot, and picked up a copy of Redbook magazine. As I looked through the advertisements, I came on an ad with two facing pages. The message was about a product to control a problem plaguing many women. The benefit was control, but on the first page, by itself, was one prominent word—contol. I shudder when I think of what went on in the ad agency's board room when the executives saw that ad and realized it had gone out to thousands or hundreds of thousands of Redbook readers.

Finally, I've always been an admirer of single-person or group achievements in the Women's Movement. Occasionally though, I read about something beyond any woman or group of women, and I wonder about the man, in this case, a women who wrote it. This was in a newspaper review of the film, "Firelight," and the reviewer was describing the goodness of the feminine protagonist. She was so good-hearted, he said, that she agreed to sire a child for a wealthy landowner. Sire?

As Walter Winchell used to say, that's 30 for now.

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Letter, Pictures Wipe Out 50 Years

Lee Engelhorn

What happens if you're suddenly brought face-to-face with a terrifying bit of your life more than 50 years later?

Lee Engelhorn, retired G.C. geography instructor, says he was "traumatized" when he got a letter from Austria in August, with pictures of remains of his B-24 which was shot down over the Southern Alps during a bombing mission in August, 1944 (Grapevine, April, 1995). There also was a picture of a cross, marking the burial site of one of Lee's friends who didn't escape the bomber crash.

The pictures gave Lee his first sight of the plane's remains and the burial cross. He had bailed out and landed on a neighboring mountain, from which he couldn't see the plane go down.

The letter and pictures came from Gerd Leitner, who runs an outdoor recreation store, called Intersport, in the village of Ehrwald. Leitner wrote that he had been 7 at the time of the air battle in which Engelhorn's plane had been shot down, and that he'd never expected to know any of the combatants. He'd been told of Engelhorn by an Englishman named Keith Bullock, who'd moved to Austria and over a period of time had been researching aspects of World War II. With cooperation from the U.S. Department of Defense, he'd contacted Lee, who gave Bullock information about the plane, its crew and their fates.

Bullock, incidentally, said he'd recently met the motorcycle driver who'd taken Lee from the village of Strach to the village of Imst for medical treatment, soon after Lee had been captured, ending his 18-day walk toward Switzerland, after bailing out of the doomed airplane.

In Leitner's letter, he said he'd been to the crash and burial sites a number of times. Parts of the plane had been removed but the pictures showed that chunks of the armament were intact after 54 years, as was part of the left

wing and part of the front steering wheel.

Leitner indicated that the burial and erection of the iron cross had been the work of German soldiers soon after the crash. Engelhorn knows the downed airman was Lawrence Hamilton, one of two crew members who were unable to get out when the plane was shot down.

Lee, no longer traumatized, says he'd like now to visit Ehrwald, the crash site and the grave of this friend, but de doesn't know whether he'll ever make it.

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Lee and Barbara Roper are frequent travelers. Lee passed along some counsel growing out of their trip through Turkey.



Don't Rent a Car

by Lee Roper

Barb and I spent 3 weeks this past April traveling in Turkey. It was a different experience because we traveled by **public transportation**. We used lots of cabs, mini-buses, boats and planes, but mostly we went by first class bus. In third world countries, buses are inexpensive and have very frequent departures to your destination. The coaches are nearly all shiny and comfortable Mercedes Benz equipment.

The difference begins the moment you step inside the bus station. Along one wall will be an endless row of small booths of various bus companies. Of the numerous men working behind the counter, someone always speaks English. Soon you will find the company that is ready to leave for your next destination.

If departure from the gate doesn't agree with the time on your Rolex, then your Rolex needs adjusting. Once the bus is underway, the driver's assistant will come around with the bottle of rose water for you to clean your hands. Soon after that he serves tea or coffee and a snack (no peanuts). There is a rest stop every 2 hours. If need be, you might want to consider the June Alison solution since "you have a lot of living to do."

The train system was only recommended on the main route between Istanbul and Ankara. The other routes are known to have long delays. Well dressed business men joined us on our domestic flight on Turkish Airlines. It too was efficient and on time.

Because of the reasonable and efficient public transport, you can avoid the guided package tours. The country is exotic, beautiful, historical, accommodations were charming, clean and reasonable, food is healthy but most of all the Turkish people are most kind and hospitable. We highly recommend this well kept travel secret.

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Fast Way for Long Way

by Bob Steinbach

Lilydale Air Services recently flew 5 Yanks and an Aussie on a delightful 10-day tour to South Australia which included destinations not on the usual tourist track for overseas visitors—Lake Mungo, Arkaroola in the northern Flinders Ranges, a sheep station on the Murray, Kangaroo Island and Adelaide.

After leaving Lilydale an the Yarra Valley, the air was crystal clear and smooth and because we stayed at 1500 ft., we had a terrific view. We crossed the Murray and reached Lake Mungo Lodge strip on a very hot day. Our guide, Tony Fleet from Mildura, took us into Mungo National Park and onto the fascinating and fragile western sand lunette known as "The Walls of China." The afternoon flight to Arkaroola took us to 7500 feet to avoid some of the bumpy air. In spite of being remote, Arkaroola Village has a range of accommodations and tourist facilities. The highlight for me was the spectacular Ridge Top 4WD tour with fabulous vistas but the night sky viewed at the impressive Observatory was a little confusing for travellers from the northern hemisphere.

Two days later our departure was delayed as our pilot decided that the short strip, very hot weather, altitude and unfavorable breeze required that our aircraft had to be flown to nearby "Balcanoona" before loading luggage and passengers. Our next stopover, "Portee" station on the Murray River just south of Blanchetown, turned out to be the highlight of the trip. The station's airstrip is adjacent to the homestead and our host arrived in his ex-Woomera rocket launcher before we had finished unloading. The superbly restored homestead on along billabong adjacent to the Murray is surrounded by lush grounds. Ian, his wife Margaret, and daughter Susan, made us feel very much at home and provided excellent meals and service. here was plenty of time to relax and listen to the hundreds of corellas and parrots. We were also taken for a boat trip along the billabong, went wombat watching (we saw four) and saw the day-to-day activities of a working sheep station.

The weather turned cool on Kangaroo Island, but we endeavored to see and do as much as we could in four days—the seals and sea lions were a great sight. Our operational base was "The Rookery" at Emu Bay, a larger comfortable cottage—even the cooking was fun—but it took us a while to get used to the strange outside night noises—penguin chatter from burrows in the garden!

Warrawond Sanctuary in the Adelaide Hills provided another unique experience as we slept in luxury tents and took evening and dawn guided walks through the extensive grounds. We saw many endangered native Australian animals such as bettongs and totoroos in their own habitat—but the platypuses remained out of sight.

When time is short, an aerial safari is definitely the way to see Australia—this was my third such tour with Lilydale Air Services. My friends and I worked out the itinerary to cover places not visited before and LAS most obligingly provided the flying! All these destinations are within an easy flying distance from Lilydale and I recommend that you visit them.

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College for Seniors Program Focuses on Spring Offerings

With a successful fall session more than half finished, College for Seniors leaders are discussing what programs will be offered during the coming spring semester.

Diana Kelly, Cuyamaca College Associate Dean, with GC retirees Lee Hoffman and Erv Metzgar, want to present—and possibly produce—classes that will interest, and perhaps help older persons who will be the student participants in the sessions. For example, among the classes approved for the fall schedule are a writing workshop at Cuyamaca, a discussion of Personal and Financial Decisions and Survival, also at Cuyamaca, a look at "Hollywood, Then and Now: The Golden Age," and "Shakespeare for Fun" at Grossmont.

Under consideration for spring is a history of the U.S. military, which would include first-hand experiences of veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam or Desert Storm. Politics and government would be the menu for a Town Hall program which might include County Supervisor Diane Jacob and La Mesa Mayor Art Madrid. In such a program, student feedback would be encouraged, with all sides of questions being examined.

Other possibilities for spring include "Acting for Seniors," "The Unusual History of San Diego," "Recording Your Life and Writing Your Autobiography," "Travel Experience Swap Meet," and one with the intriguing title of "Very Short Course," to be taught by District faculty retirees.

If you have ideas for subjects you think would be good to go into the College for Seniors curriculum, or if you'd like to teach some of the material that will be offered, let your wishes be known. Phone Dean Kelly at Cuyamaca College, 660-4355, or Lee Hoffman at 442-6879.

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Biblio-Files





by Tom Scanlan

Most of you have probably read or at least heard of the latest list of '100 best novels' compiled by Random House's Modern Library this July. For whatever reason, many of us find such lists interesting because it gives us a chance to see if we've been reading the novels that someone else thinks are important. This particular list has generated lots of controversy, not only for what it includes, and how they are ranked, but also for what it omits. The top 10 novels on the list are:

- 1. ULYSSES by James Joyce
- 2. THE GREAT GATSBY by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 3. A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN by James Joyce
- 4. LOLITA by Vladimir Nabokov
- 5. BRAVE NEW WORLD by Aldous Huxley
- 6. THE SOUND AND THE FURY by William Faulkner
- 7. CATCH-22 by Joseph Heller

- 8. DARKNESS AT NOON by Arthur Koestler
- 9. SONS AND LOVERS by D.H. Lawrence
- 10. THE GRAPES OF WRATH by John Steinbeck

Well, how many of these have you read? Does this challenge you to finally sit down and try James Joyce one more time? And what is <u>Catch-22</u> doing in the company of those other top ten? And where is (name your favorite)?!

Like all such lists, this one has its limitations. It's limited to books written this century in English, so it clearly does not include the very best novels of all time. The panel which produced this list is also rather limited, being made up of a mere dozen historians, writers and critics, though some are quite distinguished (e.g., Maya Angelou, Shelby Foote, Arthur Schlessinger, Jr., William Styron, and Gore Vidal).

What good is such a list? In my opinion, this list serves best to generate discussion and thought about which novels are best and why. It might just get some of us to read a novel that we'd heard of and maybe had been meaning to read but never quitegot around to it. I would *not* use it as a strict guide to novels that you *should* read.

The entire list of novels and the full panel can be found on the internet at: http://www.randomhouse.com/modernlibrary/100best/ or in any library in the July issues of newspapers, Newsweek, etc..

Lee Roper has read a couple of books recently by Stephen Ambrose which he highly recommends to the rest of us. One is <u>Citizen Soldiers</u>, an account of the U.S. Army's march from Normandy through the Battle of the Bulge to the final defeat of Germany in World War II as told from the point of view of the common soldier instead of the military historians or generals. It is still on the New York Times Best Sellers list of Nonfiction. The other Ambrose book he recommends is <u>Undaunted Courage</u>, an account of Lewis and Clark's exploration of the West (written after Ambrose and his family and some students had retraced the journey themselves). It is on the NY Times nonfiction best sellers list, paperback. Lee also recommends Paul Johnson's <u>History of the American People</u>, because it provides a view of our history from our roots in Europe right up to the present from the perspective of an 'outsider' (Johnson is an Englishman), and in less than 1000 pages. Lee admits a strong preference for nonfiction over fiction because he finds it just as entertaining and it has the added advantage of informing the reader about the world and other people.

I'll limit my own recommendations to just two books this time.

Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997) ****

This novel, a National Book Award winner, has been on the NY Times Fiction Bestsellers list for over a year now. It's been highly praised as a modern (well, Civil War era) version of the <u>Odyssey</u> because much of the story is about a wounded Confederate soldier, Inman, who finds the war too horrible and pointless and has deserted, setting out on foot to return to his home and sweetheart in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The journey is not only long but it is filled with obstacles, mostly human. In places, it is very grim. In other places, he finds help and sympathy that keep him going and add warmth to the story.

A parallel plot, unfolding in alternate chapters, tells how his sweetheart, Ada and other wives and sweethearts of soldiers who have been left behind, often on their own, must eke out a living amidst the devastation and pillaging and shortages that accompanied this war. In the end, I concluded that it is the women who are the true heroes of this story. It's a powerful novel, one of the best I've read in

some time.

The Stone Diaries, Carol Shields (Viking Press, 1993) ***

This Pulitzer winning novel tells the story of a woman's entire life, from birth to death. It is told with a series of anecdotes and letters from Daisy Goodwill, her friends and her family. There's a mix of tragedy and humor which make an otherwise ordinary woman a character you become interested in and sympathetic with and want to know more about as the novel progresses. Because of the unusual writing style with lots of changes in the point of view I found the first part of the novel required some patience, but it all comes together soon, and by the end of the book I looked back on a reading experience that I'd recommend to anyone interested in the 'human condition'.

Rating Scale:

I

- * POOR --Don't read it! Why did I waste my time?
- ** FAIR-- So-so; read it only if you really like the author.
- *** GOOD-- Worthwhile, average; read it if you have time.
- **** VERY GOOD-- Read it; you'll really like it.
- ***** OUTSTANDING -- A must read; turn off the TV and get started now!

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Notices and Short articles:

Important Notice to All Retirees

The **Retiree Directory** of July, 1998 included some out-of-date addresses and omitted some individuals who would like to have been listed. In the interest of privacy, only those retirees who expressed their wish to be listed in the directory at the time they retired have been included. If you are not listed and would like to be, or if your listed address is no longer current, or if there are any other errors or omissions (for example, you can also list your e-mail address), **please contact Lori Carver**. She can be reached by phone at (619) 644-7710; e-mail at Lori Carver@gcccd.cc.ca.us; or by regular mail at the Office of Risk Management, Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.

New Academic Calendar Available

The 1998-99 Academic Calendar for GCCCD is now available. It lists the academic and cultural activities at both colleges through the summer of 1999. Calendars are available from Lori Carver in the Risk Management and Benefits office.

New Committee to Address Retiree Concerns/Perks

An ad-hoc committee to consist of several classified and certificated retirees and chaired by Chuck Seymour, Director of Risk Management/Benefits will be convened to address retiree issues. The committee will meet only as needed. If you'd like to serve on this committee or if you have specific concerns which you'd like to submit, please contact Lori Carver as soon as possible at (619) 644-7710; or by e-mail at Lori Carver@gccd.cc.ca.us; or by regular mail at: Risk Management/Benefits Office, Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020, Attention: Lori Carver.

Retirees Join Regular Staff at Professional Development Luncheon

Twenty-six retirees joined a group of about 125 regular Grossmont College employees at the Fall Professional Development luncheon on Monday, August 17 at the Grossmont College Student Center. The joint luncheon provided an unusual opportunity for retirees to talk with non-retired colleagues as well as fellow retirees, and vice versa. Because few attending the luncheon realized that both retired and regular employees would be lunching together, there were numerous queries such as "Aren't you retired now?", and the reply, "Aren't you retired *yet*?!!". And the retirees could always chuckle and say, "You mean you had to *pay* for your lunch?" This joint luncheon was a first and seemed to work out pretty well.



Marie Sweadner, Retired Grossmont English Teacher Dies

Marie Sweadner

Marie Sweadner, who retired from Grossmont College in 1985, died on October 8, 1998. She had joined the English Department at Grossmont College in 1964, the year the new campus opened. She taught Introduction to Literature and Technical Writing. Prior to coming to Grossmont College she had worked as a technical writer at Convair Astronautics.

She is remembered in her department as a soft-spoken but very dedicated teacher who held her students to a high standard. Her experience in the San Diego aerospace industry made her technical writing classes especially interesting and relevant.



Jack Lynch Succumbs to Asbestosis

Jack Lynch

Jack Lynch died on October 16 following six months of illness from the severe respiratory effects of asbestosis. He had been exposed to asbestos in 1942 while in the Coast Guard working on a damaged ship, the USS Sterope. He is survived by his wife, Hazel and three daughters.

Jack taught English for many years at El Cajon High School before coming to Grossmont College in 1964, where he taught in the English department until his retirement in 1982. According to his colleagues, Jack did a marvelous job of introducing college English, and his students were consequently quite fond of him.

He was an avid reader. One of his favorite writers was Ernest Hemingway, so much so that on a sabbatical to Paris, he took the time to visit many of Hemingway's old haunts in that city.

Jack was a frequent contributor of poetry to the local El Cajon Californian (previously Daily Californian)

newspaper. He wrote a great deal of poetry, some of which he published in a 1992 book, <u>A Dream of Condors</u>. The following poem is from that book, and reveals the naturalist in Jack as well as his inquisitive and gentle soul.

The Call

I meant to do my work today but a strange bird called from a distant tree and the path though choked with new mown hay led toward the woods and mystery

And though I did not know the way nor where the path might carry me, I did not hesitate to go for something within me seemed to know my only error would be to stay

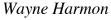
And so I left without a word to anyone, but what could I say? that I awoke because I heard from the furtherest woods a strange bird sing and an unused path looked promising?

New Emeriti Announced











Joanne Prescott



Don Shannon

Professor Emeritus status was conferred on retired Grossmont College professors **Dr. William Givens**, **Wayne Harmon**, **Joanne Prescott** and **Don Shannon** at the June 2 Governing Board meeting.



First Tuesday at Coco's

Just a reminder that you can enjoy conversation with other retirees in a very informal and comfortable setting

over coffee or a full breakfast at Coco's (at the intersection of Navajo and Fanita) at 9 AM on the first Tuesday of each month. Coco's has been reserving the rear room for our group, which varies in size from five to a dozen or more.

Send Us a Letter

This newsletter offers a unique opportunity to stay in touch with other retirees. The editors of Grapevine would like to encourage more letters from readers, telling us about anything which you believe our readers would find interesting. You can e-mail us at tscanlan@mail.gcccd.cc.ca.us or write us at : The GCCCD Grapevine,

Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.

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The <u>Grapevine</u> is a free newsletter for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges **Co-editors:** Pat Higgins, Tom Scanlan **Desktop Production and Layout:** Sirkka Huovila **Photography:** John Dixon **Biblio-Files Column:** Tom Scanlan

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The Grapevine Grossmont College 8800 Grossmont College Drive El Cajon, CA 92020

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last modified November 4, 1998 by Tom Scanlan

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