



# NEWSLETTER



Welcome! By now, everyone has probably received a notification about Dennis Kelly's untimely passing on 11/7/24. All of us were completely shocked upon receiving the phone call, text, and/or e-mail about Dennis. Dennis lived a full life and as someone said, was a "titan of labor." He was a UESF building rep, SF Federation of Teachers Secretary, union leader, and president for many, many years and just started his second term as the chair of the UESF Retired Division on July 1st. He will be sorely missed by his family, his former students, and colleagues at the school sites he worked at and throughout the labor movement. Not only was he our president and chair, but he also served on the San Francisco Labor Council and held numerous positions at the CTA/NEA and CFT/AFT levels. No words could describe everything he said and did for us, but we will try to fully summarize soon. **As of today's writing, no memorial is planned by the family. But, labor will have something in the next couple of months. Look for an event probably at the beginning of the New Year.**

You might be wondering who is writing these words and who dares to take the latest title held by Dennis Kelly—Chair of the Retired Division. Dennis nominated me to be his Vice-Chair, and I was the main one along with Mary Anne Ahtye, who ordered your food for our membership meetings. I've been retired since 2013. (Before that, I was secretary for two terms and the bilingual and elementary reps on the E-board.) I went to almost all of the Retired Division Executive Board meetings when Diane was president and was an E-board At-Large member under Rudi. Then, I started my two terms as an Executive Board member under Dennis. It is now my responsibility to be the Chair of the Retired Division working hand-in-hand with the other members of the Executive Board. I look forward to getting to know every one of you! I certainly will do my best to keep things afloat and to carry forward.

Dennis was waiting until after the election before he wrote his contribution to this newsletter. Unfortunately, his words of wisdom will just have to be imagined. For my part, I know that many of us expect that the new administration will attack working people. Let's do our best to keep fighting for a quality education for all. We hope to see you at our Holiday Party on 12/18/24 (an e-invitation will be sent) and at the first meeting of 2025 next year without Dennis. He would want us to keep on fighting for education and union/worker rights, and that is what I will encourage and lead us to do. See you soon!

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa*

Lisa Gutierrez Guzman  
(New) Chair of the UESF Retired Division

# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



There will be **no UESF-Retired Division meeting in November.**

The next UESF-R “meeting” will be our **annual Christmas/Holiday party at John’s Grill, 63 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, on Wednesday, December 18th, from 11:30 am till 2:00 pm.** Street parking, parking garages, and public transportation are available.

**Due to room size, that meeting will be limited to 40 people.** No guests nor spouses are invited. The event will be held in Hammett’s Den, 2nd floor, elevators (at the back of the restaurant) and stairs are available.

**The Luncheon is open to the first 40 members, first come, first served.** UESF is hosting this Holiday Party. There will be a no-host bar.

Join us for the Holidays for friendship, union camaraderie, good food and fun!

**RSVP HERE:** [bit.ly/UESF-RDHolidayLuncheon](https://bit.ly/UESF-RDHolidayLuncheon)

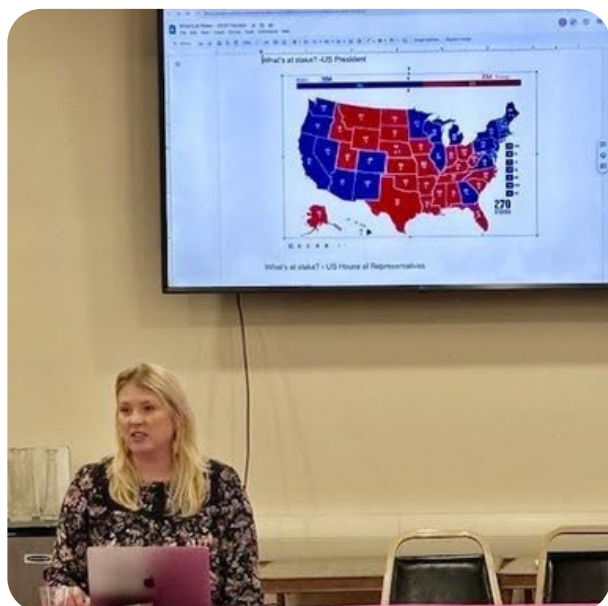
# MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS RECAP

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September membership meeting of the UESF Retired Division welcomed Jessica Ulstad, Political Director of the California Federation of Teachers, and Leslie Hu, Secretary of UESF, to talk about the November election.

Jessica spoke of the lay of the land (left photo) regarding the Presidential election while Leslie (who was substituting for Cris Garza, UESF’s Political Director, right photo) focused on the local election. Both speakers presented the many ways Retired Division members could be involved in working on the election.

UESF has instituted a Wednesday COPE (Committee on Political Education) newsletter for dues-paying COPE members. **Retirees who wish to participate in COPE should send a \$20 check made out to UESF COPE to the UESF office at 2310 Mason Street, SF, CA 94133, directed to Cris Garza.**



## OCTOBER MEETING



Recent changes to the Health Services System program for San Francisco retirees were explored during the October 17th membership meeting of the UESF Retired Division.



Representatives from HSS, Kaiser, and Blue Shield were welcomed to the meeting by Rudi Faltus, Executive Board Member of the Retired Division. **Jessica Shih, from HSS**, started the presentation by citing her SFUSD bonafides and noting that UESF Retired Division Treasurer, Pat Crawford, had been her counselor at Lincoln HS. **Julie Brady of Kaiser** followed with an overview of the Kaiser HMO plan and the offerings available to seniors. She was followed by a pair of speakers from **Blue Shield, Tiffany Gill and Charles Lee**.



The formal presentations and some questions were covered before lunch. The guest speakers were then invited to stay for lunch and meet the members individually to discuss individual concerns and other items that had not been touched on in the presentations.

The event was so successful that Jessica asked if another session could be arranged to steer members toward the preventative medicine offerings of Kaiser and Blue Shield.

### WARNING

**Those nice unsolicited phone calls that come to seniors offering us "new" benefits if we already have Medicare parts A & B can be dangerous. Signing up with those plans can mean the loss of significant benefits we already have through HSS. Please call HSS and verify the consequences of signing on to any of these unsolicited phone offerings.**

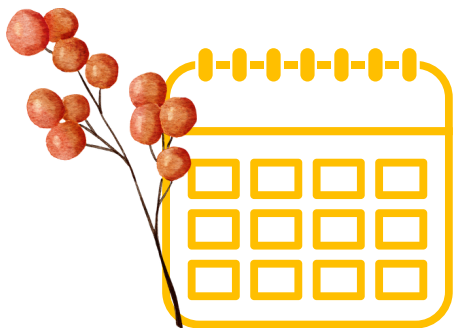




# NATURE WALK: GREEN GULCH FARM

We went on a walk from **Green Gulch Farm to Muir Beach**, a level two mile hike. We explored the Farm and gardens and continued on to Muir Beach. Extensive work has been done in both Green Gulch and Muir Beach to restore the riparian habitat and encourage the salmon run. We had lunch on picnic tables at the beach. For those who needed a ride, we met at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park at 9:00 AM. We gathered at the Green Gulch parking lot at 10:00 AM. **To minimize our impact on the center, this event had a limit of 10 persons.**

**For other nature walks in the future, please contact Louis Webb and take a look out for email blasts that contain more information.** Guests are always welcome. In responding to these emails, please include a telephone number, so Louis can notify you in case of cancellation due to bad weather. If you have questions about future nature walks, you can email Louis Webb or call 415-566-0594, cell 415-317-6681.



Monday, Nov. 18th  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Looking for a fun, flexible, and fulfilling volunteer opportunity? Consider becoming a docent for Heritage Hikes, San Francisco Heritage's free historic house museum field trips, available to all SFUSD 3rd grade classrooms.

**Starting in January, we are looking to train volunteers to lead history tours of the Haas-Lilienthal House on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from February through May.** You can pick whatever shifts work for your schedule. During the tour, teachers and parent volunteers will be present.

**If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Rochelle Jacobs, [rochellej11@yahoo.com](mailto:rochellej11@yahoo.com).**

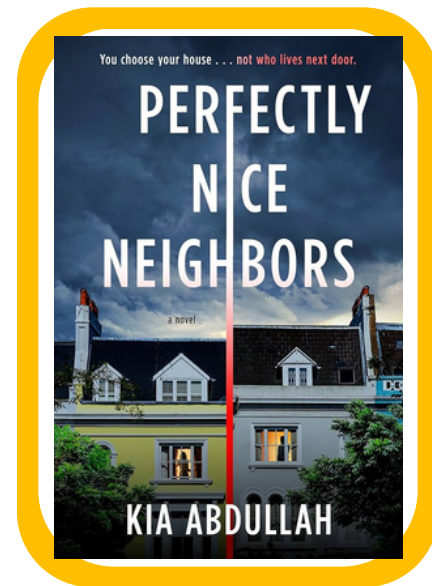
For more information about the program: [Heritage Hikes](#) | [haaslilienthalhouse](#)

# BOOK GROUP

The long-standing UESF Retired Division Book Group meets at **Squat and Gobble Cafe, 1 West Portal Avenue, on the 4th Friday of each month.**

We meet in the 2nd floor dining area. You may place your lunch order downstairs. Our discussion begins at 1 pm and lasts about 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Please note that **we will not meet in November** due to the Thanksgiving holiday, but will meet on **Friday, December 6th**. For this meeting, the book selection is ***Perfectly Nice Neighbors*** by Kia Abdullah.



After the December meeting, the next meeting will be on the usual schedule, on **January 24th**. The books for discussion are the classic, ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*** by Mark Twain and the 2024 reimagining novel, ***James*** by Percival Everett. It is suggested that these novels are read in order.

**For more information, contact Alexia Tindol at (415) 333-4045 or Anna Bolla at [acbolla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acbolla@sbcglobal.net)**

***This group has met over many years, but new participants are always very welcome!***







## OHP CLASSES HAVE ENDED! NOW THE INTERVIEWS BEGIN!!!

*by Lisa Gutierrez Guzman and Ken Tray*

Retirees who participated in the Oral History Project (OHP) were offered six online classes taught by two CCSF retired instructors. These classes were paid out of your union dues and offered to us through City College of San Francisco Extension. We learned a lot about many oral history projects, past and present, across the nation. You might have heard about Zora Neale Hurston and Studs Terkel in the past. But, did you know about the Wayne State's Walter Reuther Labor Archives holding many AFT interviews in their library? UESF will be adding our interviews to those when we finish.

We also learned about the Library of Congress and the Orange County Community College Retiree Chapter which solely started and became active due to the oral history interviews that took place of their recent retirees. And, right here in the Bay Area, we heard from domestic workers in the Mission District trying to survive during COVID, and at City College of S.F., AFT 2121 members were interviewed or were the interviewers of their earlier retirees. And the above is just to name a few of the outside speakers that we heard!

Now it's UESF's turn! All of the current UESF OHP classmates have all taken three of our very own UESF retirees who were instrumental during the strikes back in the 70s and who later formed your merged local (AFT and NEA) back in 1989. They have taken us through the modern era (all of our past presidents who are still with us will be interviewed). **But, we WANTED to interview about 60 people, not the 25 or so who were our top priority.**

So, it's not too late for you to join our Oral History Project so that we can tap into the other approx. 35 UESF members who were instrumental in developing the legacy of our union. **If your time has become a little more free, please help us interview some of these folks.** If the CCSF instructors are not around to teach you what they taught us, we UESF interviewers will get you up to snuff so that we can get to so many more people. **If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Lisa Gutierrez Guzman and/or Ken Tray. Just leave a message in the union office. They will give it to us, and we will get you oriented. You will not have to drive or take public transportation to participate. All of the interviews will be on Zoom.** HELP US get this important project done!





# IN MEMORIAM

It is with profound sadness that we inform UESF-Retiree members of the passing of **Shannon O'Hara**. Shannon was fifty-nine years old and died peacefully in his sleep.

Assigned by CTA as a field representative for UESF, Shannon was one of the important behind-the-scenes figures who made the NEA/AFT merger work. In 2003, when the prior UESF office was sold, CTA was so far out of the loop that Shannon was not told. But, once involved in the work of the local, Shannon saw to it that CTA shared in all the appropriate activities and was a key figure in bargaining the contracts of the 21st century.

At the time of his death, Shannon had risen to the role of Regional Manager--one of the four positions directly under the CTA presidency. **There was no obituary nor services.**



*Shannon O'Hara with former UESF President & Retired Division Chair, Dennis Kelly, and former UESF President, Susan Solomon*