

California State University, Fresno  
Emeriti and Retirees Association

# CONNECTIONS

**Newsletter #15**

Spring Luncheon

May 30, 2019

**Spring 2019**

**University House**

**(Note change of venue and time)**  
11:45 Social, 12:00 Lunch and Speaker

## **Lunch Detail**

The *Spring* luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday, May 30**. It will be at the University House, 4411 N. Van Ness, Fresno, corner of Van Ness and Holland. The “meet and greet” period starts at 11:45 AM and we sit down for lunch at 12:00 PM. The meal is free to ERA members; prospective joiners are welcome as non-paying guests. The **President’s Office will be sending invitations**. If you are planning to attend, please R.S.V.P. to **that** invitation in order to give University Catering an accurate count in a timely manner.

After the luncheon main course is finished, the guest speaker will be introduced by President Castro. A Q&A session with the presenter will follow, depending on time constraints. The luncheon ends by 1:30 PM (at the latest).

The **guest speaker** will be 25th Mayor of Fresno, Lee Brand. Mayor Brand graduated from Fresno State and continued his education at USC with a Masters Degree in Public Administration. He served on the Fresno City Council for eight years, serving as Council President and Chairman of the Redevelopment Agency during that time. He is the former President and co-Founder of Westco Equities, a property management and construction firm which he owned and managed for 29 years.

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“People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.”  
George Bernard Shaw

“We are continually faced with great opportunities brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems.”  
Margaret Mead

“The highest calling of leadership is to unlock the potential of others.” Carly Fiorino



## FALL 2018 Speaker Recap

Our guest speakers, Rei Hotoda, Music Director and Conductor of the Fresno Philharmonic, and Stephen Wilson, President and CEO of the Fresno Philharmonic, both emphasized a desire to involve the community in the Philharmonic. They work closely with Fresno State and Stephen served on the "Commission on the Future of Arts and Humanities." Giving some background on the orchestra and Hotoda, Wilson highlighted the 65th anniversary of the Philharmonic, which currently has 15,000 attendees annually. They also reach 11,000 elementary students through their Link Up Education Program, presented in partnership with Carnegie Hall which culminates in three days of concerts in May 2019.

Introducing the Maestro, who is in her 2nd season, Wilson described the two year search process which started with over 100 candidates. Hotoda comes with a long piano background, a short violin background and conducting roles at Dallas and Utah. She keeps one foot in Fresno, the other foot in traveling for various conducting venues.

Hotoda has enjoyed her time in Fresno, even encouraging her son to participate in the two week FOOSA music festival here. She highlighted the multi-lingual nature of music and the great reputation of the Fresno Philharmonic.

The upcoming November concert (Nov. 11, 2018, the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI) for the Philharmonic featured the "War Requiem" by Benjamin Britten and Hotoda walked us through the preparations for the massive undertaking. She began preparing in May 2018 and worked with a poet and a theater director since the piece is multifaceted. The production included over 300 musicians on stage, representing various parts of the war. The orchestra was combined with a chorus, a children's chorus, a chamber orchestra, tenor, baritone and soprano soloists to represent soldiers, judgement and fallen soldiers. It is a search for peace, but the tri-tone indicates that there is no peace from the trenches.

Hotoda plans to continue to mix old and new (20th and 21st century) music in the concerts and has commissioned a new piece by a Sri Lankan composer for the final concert of this season in April (2019). She is pleased that the members of the orchestra (over 500 years of experience combined) have stepped up for the new music.

The Maestro described the culmination of the many months of preparation and rehearsals (only four full rehearsals) for the concert, "It's kind of a miracle when it happens!"

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"Every bad situation is a blues song waiting to happen."

Amy Winehouse



## **Principles of Community: How we treat each other**

Since 2017, Fresno State has been engaged in a discussion around Principles of Community: How We Treat Each Other. Faculty and staff submitted more than 2,600 responses via an online poll and nearly 30 focus groups explored these principles further, helping to articulate the behaviors associated with the primary themes that emerged. <http://fresnostate.edu/president/strategic-plan/principles-of-community.html>

- **WE ARE RESPECTFUL**
- **WE ARE KIND**
- **WE ARE COLLABORATIVE**
- **WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE**

## **Nominations: ERA officers and Appointed Positions**

In accordance with the "Mission Statement and By-Laws" of the CSU, Fresno Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) - the local affiliate of the statewide Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERSFA) - nominations for the election of ERA officers, who constitute the core of the Executive Committee, shall be solicited every two years. The election balloting shall be completed by June 30. Judith Kuipers, David Quadro and Steve Rodemeyer were appointed by the President to serve on the temporary, ad hoc Nominations and Elections Committee at the March 29, 2019 meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Nominations and Election Committee invites and encourages expressions of interest in leadership opportunities by ERA members who would like to contribute to the well-being and continuity of the organization through service as an elected officer or as an appointed member of the Executive Committee - July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. Nominations are due June 7, 2019. **Elected officers** are President, Vice President and Treasurer/Secretary. **Appointed positions** of Historian/Editor and Representative to the statewide CSU-ERFSA Council will be appointed by the President with a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Additionally, two to four general At-Large positions on the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the officers of ERA. The composition of the Executive Committee "shall consist of an odd number of persons" and "shall be no more than nine and no fewer than five."

Nominations of oneself and/or other ERA members should be sent to Steve Rodemeyer, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee ([stephenr@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:stephenr@mail.fresnostate.edu)). The Committee will contact nominees regarding their willingness and availability to serve as an elected officer or as a member of the Executive Committee. The ballot will be mailed to all members of ERA in late May for return by a specific postmark deadline in mid-June. Allowing a few days for postal delivery, the votes will be tallied. A report on the election results will be submitted to the ERA President by the end of June. Names of those individuals for appointed positions received by the Committee will be included in the report. The official results of the election will be published in the Fall 2019 issue of the famous ERA Newsletter "Connections."



## President's Report

It was nearly ten years ago that, because of the declining mental health of our founder, Lester Roth, I was asked by our state organization, ERFSA, to take control of our local organization. At that point there were no activities underway, so the main tasks were to get control of the bank account and to determine if there was interest in making our organization an active one.

After a period of procrastination on my part (I wasn't really sure I wanted to undertake this effort), I sent a letter in March 2011 to our local membership describing the current status of our chapter, providing a short history of its existence, and opening a dialogue on its future. One of the things I stressed was the need for others to join me in this effort. Al Evans, Frank Powell, John Shields and Bill Stock stepped forward and agreed to participate in a leadership role to undertake revitalization of our chapter. We worked for a year to get the initial pieces in place to have a functioning organization. Our first luncheon was held in May 2012. Our first election of officers was held in the Spring of 2013. Since those beginnings, we have held two luncheons a year, produced two issues a year of a very fine newsletter, have been recognized as a campus entity and have received significant support from the current campus administration, and our members have provided support to the campus in a number of ways.

I have happily and willingly served three terms (6 years) as your president. It has been an enjoyable experience. I am particularly pleased by the success of our luncheons in terms of the number of participants and the high quality of the speakers we have managed to attract, and the willingness of a number of our members to serve in leadership capacities as officers and as other members of our Executive Committee.

As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be holding an election for officers this Spring. There comes a time in any healthy organization and with any leader that change should occur. Regarding my service as president, the time for such change has come. Therefore, I will not be standing for reelection. I do intend to remain active in our chapter and to provide a smooth transition in support of our new leader.

Dave Quadro

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"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." Fred Rogers

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**ERA Newsletter Editor**

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**Emeriti and Retiree Association**

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