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An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

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Emeritus Faculty Association news March 2016

Next Meeting: Friday, March 4th, 10:30 a.m. in the **Chemistry building, room 412**. Our speaker will be Frank Myers, and his presentation will be titled "Ronald Reagan's Risky Rhetoric."

Bio: Frank Myers came to Stony Brook in 1964 in the political science department and has been here ever since. His research and published articles have focused primarily on two areas: British foreign and defense policy on the one hand and political rhetoric on the other, although these tended to blend when he was writing on the rhetoric of British leaders in the making of foreign policy. He was dean of social and behavioral sciences from 1979 to 1982 and dean of international programs from 1986 to 1990. In 2007 he was named a distinguished teaching professor. He joined the emeritus faculty in 2010.

Abstract: Ronald Reagan is remembered--and often revered--as a master of political rhetoric, as the Great Communicator. He is also remembered as one who executed one of the most surprising changes of policy in recent times when in 1985 and 1986 he adopted a receptive and even friendly attitude toward Gorbachev in negotiations on nuclear weapons after a lifetime of condemning communism and the Soviet Union. In this talk I will argue that both of these views of Reagan are wrong, that his rhetoric during his first three years in office was a failure that nearly brought about a catastrophe, and that his receptive approach to Gorbachev was not a reversal of his previous policy

but rather a realization of it. Finally I will try to draw out some implications of the Reagan experience for the current political situation.

In Memoriam:

Francis Bonner

[Written by Michael Bonner, February 17, 2016]

Francis Truesdale Bonner died early in the morning of Monday, February 15, 2016, at the age of 94. A physical chemist, he spent most of his career as a professor at SUNY Stony Brook, before its name was changed to Stony Brook University. He was the founding Chairman of Stony Brook's distinguished Department of Chemistry.

Francis and Evelyn had three children, Michael (b. 1952), now of Ann Arbor, MI; Alisa (b. 1955), who died in 1974; and Rachel (b. 1957), now of Kfar Tavor, Israel. Evelyn died in 1990. As Francis entered retirement soon afterward, he continued to do consulting work, but devoted himself mainly to non-scientific pursuits, especially music. He had played the violin since his Utah childhood, and had taken up the viola in his early 40s. Now he played in a variety of venues and groups, and in this way he met Jane Carlberg, a violinist from Andover, CT. The two married in 1994 and remained together in the waterside house in Setauket, LI that the Bonners had owned since 1972.

Francis Bonner enjoyed hiking and bicycling and had a deep love of nature. His many friends appreciated his sense of humor, which remained with him right to the end. He spent the last six months of his life at Sunrise Senior Living, East Setauket, and died peacefully of pneumonia at Stony Brook Hospital. A memorial service will be held at noon on Sunday, March 6, at the Bates House in Setauket.

John Gagnon

[Written by Cathy Greenblat, Gagnon's widow]

PALM SPRINGS, CA, February 22, 2016 -- John Henry Gagnon, the influential sociologist who went from writing the last volume of the famous Kinsey reports on sex to challenge the view that sexuality is basically biological, died of cancer on February 11 in Palm Springs, California. He was 84 years old.

Gagnon was Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he taught and researched from 1968 to 1998. After retirement he kept working and publishing and had an appointment at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology at the University of California San Francisco, in the laboratory of Robert Grant.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Professor Cathy Stein Greenblat, a sociologist and photographer; by his four children, Andrée Giselle Gagnon, Christopher Hans Gagnon, Leslie Greenblat Shah, and Kevin D. Greenblat; and his five grandchildren, Kathryn Rozen Gagnon, Charlotte Duren Gagnon, Alicia Nirada Inthasri Gagnon, Anjali Rose Shah, and Kiran David Shah.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family welcomes messages at the Caring Bridge website, <https://www.caringbridge.org/> established for him.

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