

*Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401*

## **EMERITUS – March 2021**



**An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association**

### **ZOOM MEETING:**

Our next meeting is Friday, March 5, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.. This will be virtual meeting using ZOOM. Information will be sent to your Stony Brook emails a few days prior to the meeting. Meeting information is also listed below.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/97145182623?pwd=YmNmSGREbkQ3UDk2S0N6QzNM Sy9UUT09>

Meeting ID: 971 4518 2623

Passcode: 275380

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,97145182623#,,,,\*275380# US (New York)

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Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 971 4518 2623

Passcode: 275380

Find your local number: <https://stonybrook.zoom.us/u/abK22MNo5I>

**SPEAKER:**

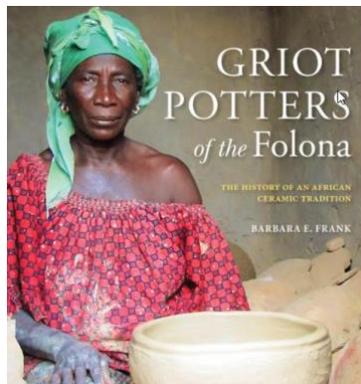
Our guest speaker will be Barbara Frank, Associate Professor, Art

**Bio:** Barbara Frank teaches courses on the arts of ancient Mesoamerica, Africa, and the African Diaspora. She holds a joint appointment with Africana Studies and is affiliated with Women’s and Gender Studies (WaGS), Latin American and Caribbean Studies, as well as The Humanities Institute (HISB).

Barbara’s primary research has been in Mali, West Africa, where she has worked with ceramic and textile artists, leatherworkers and blacksmiths on artistry, technology and social identity. She has held major fellowships including a Social Science Research Council Grant, two National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowships, three Fulbright-Hays Research Abroad Fellowships, and a Smithsonian Institution Senior Research Fellowship. Her major publications include *Mande Potters and Leatherworkers. Art and Heritage in West Africa* (Smithsonian, 1998, 2001) and an edited volume *Status and Identity in West Africa: Nyamakalaw of Mande* (Indiana, 1995). She also co-edited a special issue of the journal *African Arts* (2007) on African ceramic arts. Professor Frank has been active in and served on the boards of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA), the Mande Studies Association (MANSA), the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA), and the journal *African arts*.

**Topic:** *Mapping West African Cultural Landscapes.*

Barbara will focus on her forthcoming book, *Griot Potters of the Folona: The History of an African Ceramic Tradition* (Indiana, 2022). (<https://iupress.org/9780253058997/griot-potters-of-the-folona/>). She will frame the discussion more broadly around the idea of reconstructing history through the mapping of artistic traditions.



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## IN MEMORIAM:

### *Aaron W. Godfrey (Bill)*

Aaron W. Godfrey (Bill) was never a tenure-track faculty member so he was not one of the Emeriti. He came to Stony Brook in the mid-1960s and wore many hats including but not limited to running Affirmative Action programs and summer enrichment programs from early days including Upward Bound, Liberty Partnerships and AIM, , being president of the local UUP chapter, a candidate for the state assembly (“Send a Bill to Albany”) and – for many decades, and with great devotion – a teacher of Latin. To collect material for an obit I asked a History Dept. grad student, Bill Edwards, for some help and he returned a personal memoir about Bill Godfrey. (jtr)

Bill Edwards (peconic@!gmail.com) writes:

I first met Bill Godfrey when I was a starting-out doctoral student at the age of 73 and he kindly allowed me to audit his beginning Latin class to refresh my memory of a language I had last studied almost 60 years ago. We became fast friends and starting my second year I stayed one or 2 nights a week in their house in Port Jefferson for which he and Valerie would take no compensation, though he would allow me to bring a couple of bottles of a worthy cabernet and to host them regularly at the Mavi Grill in Mt. Sinai.

The highest praise I ever heard for a professor was at a memorial service: “She believed in her students.” This certainly fit Bill and I got to watch a man in his 80s interact with students more than six decades younger and command their respect and affection. Bill’s curiosity never left him and his vast range of knowledge encompassed having memorized huge amounts of poetry and an extraordinary collection of limericks (earthy and otherwise). He was wont to tell the same story more than once, since an old song becomes an old song because it’s a good song. His favorite passage from memory was Thomas More’s line in Bolt’s *Man for All Seasons*, spoken to Richard Rich who had betrayed him to become attorney general of Wales: “For Wales? Why, Richard, it profit a man nothing to give his soul for the whole world . . . but for Wales?” That sentence sums up Bills’ sophistication, his Catholic faith, and his love of a good joke. Bill’s range of knowledge was breath taking. He knew classical music to an enviable degree and he had sung a huge chunk of the choral repertoire. Historical grounding in ancient and medieval history pretty much covered everything between the Punic Wars and Columbus. His political views were staunchly Democratic, and in addition to donating generously through the years to Stony Brook – especially to the Staller Center – he took delight in sending money to female Democratic candidates for office through the land. He was a big fan of Kamala Harris and he would have been delighted to have seen her present role. He was the Real Deal, Stony Brook University’s answer to Mr. Chips.

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**SAVE THE DATES:**

Our next meeting will not be until Spring Semester 2021. Here is a preview of our upcoming speakers.

**April:** Patricia Wright, Anthropology

**May:** - Heather Lynch – Ecology & Evolution

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**Participate in "Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences"**

Stony Brook University Libraries announced the establishment of “Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences,” a new digital archive project to collect, preserve, and publish the institutional history of Stony Brook University. The archive will primarily be formed from submissions received directly from students, faculty, staff, and alumni that document life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interviews, first-hand accounts, written narratives, photographs, and more will be important sources to consult in the future to study, interpret, and derive meaning from this historic time period. Members of the Emeritus Faculty Association are invited and encouraged to participate in the project. For more information, please visit: <https://library.stonybrook.edu/special-library-initiatives/documenting-covid-19/>

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**Participate in the Faculty Emeritus Documentation Project**

*In return for the light labor of arranging the calendar of speakers I claim the right to be a nag. Each month the SB Emeriti newsletter includes a plea for you to go to the Old Stony Brook memory project on the web site run by and preserved in the Melville Library’s Special Collections. To date, only 19 retired SB faculty have filled out the forms designed to let you talk about the early days at SB and your retrospective views, both about what you expected (or were told) when you came and what you now have to say, looking back, on the experience. The responses are an open document and this paragraph is designed to make you feel guilty if you have not bothered to fill out the questionnaire. You can remedy this.*

*Joel Rosenthal*

In an effort to document and preserve the unique and varied experiences of the university's emeritus faculty, a questionnaire has been designed to elicit the personal reflections of faculty members':

- impetuses for accepting academic positions at Stony Brook University.
- early experiences on the campus.
- views on the evolution and growth of the institution.
- contributions to departments and to the university.
- interactions with academic and administrative leadership.
- views on the institution's role in the community (local and wider).
- assessments of the university's mission and successes as a research university.

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**Your participation is vital to documenting Stony Brook University history.**

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<http://www.library.stonybrook.edu/special-collections-university-archives/university-archives/>

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**Emeritus Faculty Association (EFA) Member Update:**

The Provost's Office has updated the EFA's member list! Below is the link for the updated contact information for all members. Please take a look and let us know if you notice any out-of-date or incorrect information about yourself or a colleague, please contact us at [provost@stonybrook.edu](mailto:provost@stonybrook.edu) with any changes. Please remember, we are **only** using your Stony Brook emails.

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/members.html>

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Visit our website: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>. It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.