



Eighty-eight Attend Holiday Luncheon

The first speaker at the Holiday Luncheon, Roger Behling, a post doc from Brazil, drew surprised laughter and confusion as he said, “I grew up in a small German town in Brazil watching California movies and listening to California Rock and Roll.”

Latin Americans can say startling things like that as they share with Norte Americanos our overlooked common experiences such as multi-cultural societies. The U.S. is not the only country that attracted immigrants from diverse nations. In Brazil you will find small German communities just as you will in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. There are Russian communities in Mexico, and one of the largest Chinese communities is in Havana.

Roger continued, “After a few years living in the heart of Brazil I went to Germany for further education, and now in 2012 I am at Stanford.

“Despite my academic activities I was able to take part in the English in Action program, and I also took classes in German and English at Bechtel. I learned a lot of things...that *I was taken to the cleaners* when I bought my junky car at the beginning of the year, and a few times *I was barking up the wrong tree* in my post doc research.

“Now I would like all of you volunteers to know that you are making lots of people happy including me. So I thank you very much for all your support. This is my first time in the U.S., and I’m glad that I had such a great time here.”

So said Roger Behling, a scholar with a math Ph.D. who is working on a post doc by paying attention to computational optimization and methods of software and things like that. Don’t worry about the meaning of words like “computational optimization.” According to Mary Ann Saunders, the co-chair of our English classes who introduced Roger at the Luncheon, he studies complicated things that most of us don’t get. What is also helpful to know is that multi-talented Roger is a lead singer and a Rock composer.




Stanford also reaches out to the arts and Humanities. Spouse Education Fund (SEF) chair Gwyn Dukes introduced Britta Janssen from Germany who is a second year recipient of an SEF award and came here to accompany her husband who is a Ph.D. student in German literature. In Germany Britta had a career in mediation between art and culture working in Germany, France, and Scotland. Arriving at Stanford she found a place at the I-Center teaching German, conducting tours of the art galleries in San Francisco, and as a volunteer at the Cantor Art Museum on campus.

At the Luncheon Britta said, “Following my husband to Stanford has been a great adventure for me, and I’m really, really grateful for this experience, but I’m also one of those who have a non-working Visa. So not being able to work has put a bit of a strain on myself and on my sense of purpose. We are able to afford necessary things, but its just not possible to have extra money for classes. So with the help of CCIS I was able to enroll in a class for museum careers at the Berkeley extension. This program has really opened doors for me to get to know the museum scene in the Bay Area. Each week we visited another museum, we got lectures, and we got insight through directors, mediators, educators. This has not only helped my professional goals, it

has enriched my life in many different ways. Just the simple procedure of going to a class every week following my career and passion, meeting new people of similar interests, writing papers, having to do the readings get me out and give me a purpose that I didn’t expect to find here. It also created new friendships.

“It is so wonderful that you see those problems that international spouses face and find a way to so generously offer a solution that is so effective. Even though I am a dependant spouse—that’s what is on my Visa—thanks to you I’ve gotten a healthy dose of independence. And for that I cannot thank you enough.”

[Go to Holiday Luncheon, p. 3](#)



Potluck/Music Night
Sunday, Feb. 10
6 P.M.

President's column

Carolyn Gannon



Can you believe that CCIS is turning 60 this year? There is so much vitality among CCIS volunteers that one might think CCIS is a “start-up” organization. Most of the CCIS programs have been operating for decades, and many volunteers have been supporting one or more CCIS programs for decades, as well. The energy that goes into teaching English Classes; conducting Friday Coffee, Professional Liaison and Spouse Education Fund; hosting students with Homestay and Hospitality; orienting incoming students with Community Advisors; organizing potlucks and music; and lending household goods in the Loan Closet is extremely high – a very big thank you to every CCIS volunteer!

This energy is contagious. This 60th year of CCIS is starting off with 100 more member volunteers than last year. Some of the new CCIS members are spouses of internationals, which provide a special perspective to all the programs for which they volunteer.

To help celebrate the 60th CCIS anniversary, the Annual Meeting on May 20th from 4:00-6:00 P.M. will have as keynote speaker, Fred Swaniker MBA '04, co-founder of the African Leadership Academy (ALA) near Johannesburg, South Africa. Fred is a Ghanaian-born serial entrepreneur, business consultant and McKinsey alumnus. ALA is a world-class coeducational, residential secondary boarding school, which recruits outstanding students from across Africa and prepares them for a future of leadership. A compelling speaker about the potential and future of Africa, Fred was named a Young Global Leader for 2012 by the World Economic Forum, a TED and Echoing Green Fellow and one of Forbes 10 Youngest Power Men in Africa, moderator of the 2011 SIEPR (Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research) Africa Conference. ALA was awarded the inaugural Siebel Scholars Impact award in 2012 (\$250,000 award) to further its mission to foster peace and prosperity in Africa by developing and connecting its future leaders.

“The vision that we have for this school is that it will impact Africa in the way that Stanford has impacted the world,” says co-founder and CEO Fred Swaniker, MBA '04. – Stanford Magazine, November 16, 2009

You won't want to miss hearing why and how Fred and his colleagues established ALA and the impact it is already having on the continent.

Finally, there are delightful, incredible, endearing stories from CCIS volunteers about their experience that would be wonderful to share. As part of the CCIS 60th anniversary celebration, we would love to post your stories—just a paragraph or longer—and pictures in an online album. Please send your stories and pictures to me: president@ccisstanfordu.org.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb. 10, CCIS Potluck/Music Night, 6 – 9 P.M.

Friday, Mar. 8, EIA Volunteer Reception, 4 – 7 P.M.

Friday, Mar. 8, International Womens' Day Events, all day

Friday, Mar. 15, International Swaps at Friday Morning Coffee, 10 – 12 A.M.

Sunday, May 5, CCIS Potluck/Music Night, 6 – 9 P.M.

Monday, May 20, CCIS 60th Anniversary, Annual Meeting, 4 – 6 P.M.

Friday, June 7, International Swaps at Friday Morning Coffee, 10 – 12 A.M.

The EIA Volunteer Reception is for all volunteers who have an EIA partner. It is a time to share with CCIS colleagues what it means to be an EIA partner.

At the CCIS Potluck/Music night everyone brings a dish of their favorite food. After we eat there is music provided by internationals and volunteers. Bring your international partner.

The International Womens' Day Events are sponsored by the Friday Morning Coffee.

The Anniversary and Annual Meeting combines the celebration with an election of officers.

At the International Swaps, jointly sponsored by CCIS and Friday Coffee, you can bring some item that you no longer want and exchange it for an item that someone else has brought.

Community Committee for International Students

www.ccisStanfordU.org

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ccis Communiqué

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or visit the Resource Center for International Families

Director's column

John Pearson

International student enrollment at Stanford increased slightly in fall 2012. In 2012 Stanford enrolled 3722 international students as either degree students or non-matriculated (visiting) students. Of this number, 2949 were graduate students, 521 were undergraduate and 252 were non-degree students. All told international students account for 22.24% of all students at Stanford. 2536 are male and 1186 are female. 120 countries are represented.

The highest percentage of international students, by school, can be found in Business (37.1%), Engineering (34.70%) and Earth Sciences (31.90%).

Our major sending countries, with over 100 students, continue to be China, India, Republic of Korea, Canada and Singapore.

If we compare these numbers with those from 2002 it is clear that over the last decade numbers have increased but not as rapidly as in the previous decades. In 2002 there were 2889 degree seeking international students compared to 3470 this past fall. New international graduate students increased from 798 in fall 2002 to 1053 in fall 2012. Noticeable is that the number of female international students remained almost the same (1138 in 2002 and 1186 in 2012).

In 2002 Iran was not in the top ten sending countries to Stanford—it now is; so there is some change in where students come from.

All these ebbs and flows of countries, departments, degree levels are interesting in more than just data. They necessitate different approaches to advising and programs and impact services provided both by Bechtel and CCIS.

As for the numbers of visiting scholars, on December 1, 2012 there were 1543 J-1 Exchange Scholars at Stanford from 68 countries. During the course of the academic year this number if much larger as scholars arrive and leave Stanford throughout the year.

The numbers tell part of the story. The experience of these students and scholars is something we are all concerned with. One increase has come from students who come to Stanford for a year, in order to complete their research for the doctoral degree at their home institution. We are not sure how such students become aware of and involved in services offered by Bechtel and CCIS, and we will be making a determined effort to assess their needs. But I know that both Bechtel and CCIS celebrate both the numbers and the diversity in the international student and scholar population.

Holiday Luncheon

continued from page 1

Carole Hessler and Marsha Alper introduced Jonathan Ho, an Ophthalmologist from Taiwan and a visiting scholar, who came with his wife and daughter to Stanford, and has a passion for music. He was matched with EIA partner Steve Longstreth.

As CCIS volunteers we sometimes focus so much on the engaging conversation, that we may overlook the seriousness of the Stanford programs. In his first sentences Jonathan indirectly brought that to our attention. "I only have two minutes, but I have so much to say. I came to Stanford for medical device innovation. My program is funded by the Taiwan government. My mission is to bring back my experience to my country.

"First of all I have to thank CCIS for giving us more than our expectation. Steve, my friend, and his wife not only provided help with English they are the mentors in our life.

They are so warm and full of humor. The first time we met they gave us a bottle of homemade honey. What a special gift. Not only are they bee keepers, but how sweet. Second, we have so many things in common. Steve and I both love jazz music. Our wives are both smart and beautiful. We have a lot of fun cooking with each other. The time is never enough. We will be here only three months, but we share our thinking. We see each other even more open with them than our parents. I have to say that getting to know them is so wonderful, it makes us feel like at home.

"We really appreciate CCIS and the EIA program. Thank you so much to fulfill our lives in the United States. Life is wonderful here, but even better with all of you."

We regret that we lack the space to report the comments of Cian Ruane from Ireland.



CCIS *Volunteer Activities*

Bob Jones Teaches California Travel and Beyond

by Mary Ann Saunders

“Jones” may be a common American surname, but our Mr. Bob Jones, Bechtel’s California Travel teacher whose classes are given on Monday mornings, is anything but common. His mature demeanor masks his “racy” past. Starting in high school, he developed his lifelong addiction to feeling the exhilaration of moving fast whether it was on his Yamaha grand prix motorcycle or in his classic Porsche RSK Spyder car. He competed in races on most of the speedways throughout California. Today, Bob is a member of the national Classic Japanese Motorcycle Club whose members restore and show motorcycles.

Bob, who has been teaching in the program for 9 years, says that helping students to make the most of their time while they are here in California is his main goal. Through videos and printed media, he informs his students about the sights to see in California, he distributes maps and then he has students plan future trips. He also often invites them to his home for a BBQ sometime during the year. As far as his students are concerned, this friendly, well-informed and interesting teacher has earned First Place in their hearts.



Bob’s hobbies - Collecting, restoring and showing Classic Japanese motorcycles

Billy Lee, an Inspired New Volunteer



Billy Lee on the right enjoying the Holiday Luncheon

Billy Lee is a man on a mission. At the age of six his parents sent him from Shanghai to Philips Academy at Andover for his pre-collegiate education, he earned a B.A. at Yale in 1955 and a Master of Architecture in 1959. His family was divided by the tumultuous revolution in China some coming to the U.S. and some staying in China to become leaders in the party. He believes strongly in friendship and one-on-one communication.

Moved by the catastrophe in Tiananmen Square in 1989, he joined with Chinese and American friends who were “pragmatic idealists” not polemically focused, but serving rather as a bridge between people. We need to realize that China is in transition, and that both countries need to understand each other. We can bring students together from around the world.

To that end he has organized exchanges between young American and Chinese students who work together to produce art and murals. These are “magic moments” when we pay attention to what we can create.

Romain Michon Played French Music at the Potluck/Music Night

Romain grew up in a small town near Lyon in south eastern France, got his degree at the University of Lyon, and a master’s in Ireland. He is fluent in English with a barely discernible Irish accent. While working on a Ph.D. in technology here at Stanford he is passionate about music. Beginning his music lessons at the age of five, he plays jazz saxophone, sings opera, and for us he played popular French music on the piano.

He likes Verdi. The two opera houses in Paris are a favorite venue, and he admires the ornate architecture of the historic Palais Garnier. As he says, “You sit there for the first half of the opera just looking up instead of at the stage. The fantastic art, the paintings, the hall itself!”

He can talk enough about politics and history to satisfy a historian. We talked about France, the EU, Canada, and the former French colonies. Romain says that France has emotional ties to these countries especially Algeria, Morocco, and even Lebanon. Asked if he met many French speakers here he demurred, but he said that he enjoyed conversation with people from Quebec. Although there are differences in vocabulary and pronunciation which are occasionally hard to decipher, Canadians speak a classic French.



Romain studied saxophone and opera singing at Lyon’s Conservatoire for 10 years, and played the piano for us.

Spouse Education Recipients for 2012 - 2013

By Gwyn Dukes

Thanks to the generosity of contributors to the CCIS Spouse Education Fund, forty individuals who came to Stanford as spouses of Stanford students, postdocs or visiting scholars are excited to be able to move towards their own goals this winter quarter.

The Spouse Education Fund Committee received applications from forty-two spouses and partners for grants of \$100 to \$500 to pursue their academic, professional or personal interests while here in the Stanford area. The applicants were from eighteen countries; two were men and forty were women. Their backgrounds varied widely, as did their requests, but each one had given thought to what experience would enhance their stay here, and had proposed a specific class or project in line with their personal goals.

Several were interested in taking classes in the Stanford Continuing Studies program. Business classes were the most popular, followed by psychology.

Others were engaged in Master's degree programs in other nearby institutions, such as engineering at Santa Clara University, statistics at California State University-East Bay, education at San Francisco State or accounting at Golden Gate University.

Some wanted to pursue their profession in law or nursing, which required further coursework for certification in California. Others had a special interest in studying art, art history, photography, piano or taking culinary classes for a possible career change.

Through interviews with each applicant, the committee grew full of admiration for the transitions that these spouses were in the midst of making, between their former lives in their home countries, where many had been in established careers, and the new environment of the Stanford area. Most had significant disconnects due to visas that forbid them from working or professional credentials that do not readily transfer across national boundaries. They were hopeful that the courses they proposed would help them to build on their knowledge or develop their skills, so as to provide some continuity in pursuing their goals.

The total amount requested by all applicants was close to \$18,000, which exceeded the funds available. However with the generous donation of 12 tuition waivers by the Stanford Continuing Studies Program and a \$500 grant



from the Stanford Federal Credit Union and \$9,849 from the Spouse Education Funds, the committee was able to provide full or partial grants to 40 applicants. The total value of the grants awarded was \$14,094.

Both the number of applicants and the amount awarded in 2012 surpassed the 2011 figures, when 34 grants were awarded to spouses from 16 countries for a total of \$12,474.

The SEF Committee and the grant recipients are deeply grateful to the donors and local community for making these awards possible.

On December 5, 2012 the SEF Committee presented awards to 40 grantees. Eight awards were in the names of 4 revered CCIS leaders: The **Marianne Dieckmann Award** was given to Chen Zhao (China) for her MS in Biostatistics at Cal State East Bay, Marie Nief (France) for High Performance Management with Stanford Continuing Studies (SCS), and Ranjini Raghunath (India) for the Math Behind Technological Innovation (SCS). The **Charlene Ward Award** went to Hyun Ah Seo (Korea) for an art class with Pacific Art League. The Award in the name of **Sheila Spaeth** was presented by her son and daughter to Katarina Bukshytynova (Belarus & Canada) to pursue her nursing career. A new award honoring **Dorothy Grothe Bromberg** was created with funds from a Thai couple who were at Stanford 50 years ago, and wanted to honor CCIS programs and their long friendship with Bromberg. Her daughter, CCIS member Carol Stevens, shared the story and presented the award in her mother's name to Anika Sharin (Bangladesh) for graduate engineering at Santa Clara U and Britta Janssen (Germany) for Art History at SF State. The **Stanford Federal Credit Union Award** went to Korean journalist Wongsang Hong for an SCS class in Designing Breakthrough Innovations.

Other 2012 recipients of the SEF awards who enrolled in **Stanford Continuing Studies** classes include: Anne Isabelle van der Linde (France – business), Bei Zhang (China – business), Denisse Gonzalez (Mexico – enhancing emotional intelligence), Isabel Palomar Duclaud (Mexico – The Bauhaus Movement), Julia Gornandt (Germany – business), Lea-Ann Sakmann (Australia – Enhanced Website Design), Helen Lien (Singapore – business), Maiko Uematsu (Japan – Intercultural Communication), Olga Ertz (Russia – business), Qian Liu (China – Expressive Drawing), Renato Silveira Cordeiro (Brazil – business), Sha Wu (China – Science of Willpower), Sora Kim (Korea – Science of Willpower), Xi Yang and Yaye Wang (China – business), Yookyung Lee (Korea – Presenting in English), and Doyeon Lee (Korea – Aging and the Brain).

Grantees attending other nearby institutions include: Ane Arruabarena (Spain, art class at Pacific Art League), Eunyoung Ji (Korea, master's in education, SF State), Farzaneh Foroodi-Nejad (Iran) and Luiza Naslausky (Brazil) will take photography classes at Photo Trainer and Rayko Photo Center), Ge Liu (China) and Krishna Hariani (India) will get driver training, Helena Evers (Germany, piano class at PA Adult School), Myongshin Cho (Korea) will attend Palo Alto Writing Academy, Nina Pogorelova (Russia) will select a local art class, Sally Fox (Australian lawyer) will prepare for the CA bar exam, Sarita Hossain (Bangladesh) will study accounting at Golden Gate University, Sherly Ong (Indonesia) and Suyeun Lee (Korea) will take culinary classes at the International Culinary Center and Le Cordon Bleu, Silvia Koch (Austria) will take a Web Design class and Thi Van Anh Thach (Vietnam) will enroll in the Beginning Writer's Workshop with Foothill/DeAnza's Community Education program.

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CCIS Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 17, 2012



Pages for our electronic friends*

American Holidays

We thought it would be handy for EIA partners to have a list of days celebrated in America. There are Federal, State, and Local days as well as other memorable days like Valentines and Ground Hog Day. The actual dates may vary from year to year. For example, Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November and yet Independence Day is always on July 4. You would think that New Year's Day is fixed, but not at the Rose Bowl. The Tournament of Roses can never be on a Sunday. Where a specific day is given, you can consider it accurate for 2013. You can find more detailed information on Wikipedia, the EIA volunteer's friend.

Federal Holidays in 2013

- Tuesday January 1 New Year's Day
- Monday January 21 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Monday February 18 Washington's Birthday
- Monday May 27 Memorial Day
- Thursday July 4 Independence Day
- Monday September 2 Labor Day
- Monday October 14 Columbus Day
- Monday November 11 Veterans Day
- Thursday November 28 Thanksgiving Day
- Wednesday December 25 Christmas Day

Additional California Holiday

- Sunday March 31 Cesar Chavez Day (schools may take Monday off)

And here is a list of holidays some that are official (meaning, banks are closed and you may get the day off) but most are not. The official ones are in **bold face, italic type**.

Tuesday, January 1, 2013, is ***New Year's Day***

Monday, January 21, 2013 is ***Martin Luther King's Birthday*** which is celebrated on the third Monday, which is near the actual date of Jan. 15.

Tuesday, January 21, 2013, (every four years) Inauguration Day. Actually according to the Constitution, Amendment XX, it's January 20, but the public ceremony does not take place on a Sunday.

Saturday, February 2, 2013, Ground Hog Day. This one is a folklore tradition centered in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Details are found in a funny movie with Bill Murray and the history is in Wikipedia. Legend says that a groundhog would come out of his burrow at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded area outside of Punxsutawney, on February 2. If he sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter.

Sunday, February 3, 2013, (Sunday closest to February 1), Super Bowl Sunday. Not only is this the NFL's championship game, it also serves as an annual Olympics or Academy Awards of the television commercial. The television audience is the biggest in America, and thus the price for commercial airtime is the highest. Pregame and half time entertainment has also been memorable. In 1984, Apple introduced the Mac with an ad that depicted the mind-numbed robots who used "old" technology—think IBM. Then, twenty years later, Janet Jackson shocked, or didn't shock, the audience when she lost the top of her blouse during halftime entertainment. YouTube still has both the ad and the halftime video.

Sunday, February 10, 2013, (varies with the lunar calendar) Chinese New Year

Thursday, February 14, 2013, is Valentine's Day. While not recognized by law, it has become a major American tradition for the husband to buy chocolate's for a loved one, which means spouse, significant other, or partner. It is worth noting that Maryland chose Valentine's Day to legalize gay marriage, and some other states have chosen the holiday to push forward gay rights laws.

Monday, February 18, 2013, (3rd Monday in February) ***President's Day***. This is an official holiday but benefits from explanation. Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12 and George Washington on February 22. Washington's actual birthday depends on which cal-

* These pages are not included in the print edition of this newsletter.

endar you choose. According to the Julian calendar which was in effect at the time of time of his birth, he thought that he was born on February 11, 1732. But the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752, and that put the birthday at February 22. These were the first holidays celebrated for presidents, but division by the Civil War in 1864, meant that Lincoln, an honored hero in the North, would not be celebrated in the South. In fact, many southern states acknowledged the birth of the president of the Confederary, Jefferson Davis, and his birth is still celebrated by seven states. George Washington, on the other hand was celebrated by everyone with a state holiday. Six Canadian provinces, which wanted a mid-winter weekend, celebrate a Family Day which happens to coincide with President's Day. In 1968, Congress passed a law, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which picked a day midway between Washington and Lincoln which is known as President's Day.

Friday, March 8, 2013, is International Women's Day...a holiday more recognized in the international community than in the U.S.

Sunday, March 10, 2013, (2:00 A.M.) Daylight Savings Time begins. Spring forward, fall back. Set your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00 A.M. This clock change is acknowledged everywhere except in Arizona, Hawaii, and most counties in Indiana.

Sunday, March 17, 2013, (every year) St. Patrick's Day despite its religious beginning is a secular holiday celebrated by everyone. You should wear something that is green. Kids in school hit their friends who are not wearing something green. Parade's take place all over the country with the biggest one in New York City. Beer in Irish pubs is colored green on this day. St. Patrick's Day is also celebrated in Argentina, Canada, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea, and Switzerland. For one day everyone is Irish.

Sunday, March 31, 2013, (date varies with the lunar calendar) is Easter Sunday; recognized by Christians as the day Christ rose from the dead.

Monday, April 1, 2013, is April Fools Day, which is a day that you can play tricks on other people such as setting the alarm clock forward an hour or switching the contents of cereal boxes. Since it is practiced world wide, it is not unique to the United States. French and Italian children tack paper fish on each other's back and shout "april fish" at each other.

Tuesday, April 15, 2013, (unless it is a Saturday or Sunday) Federal income taxes are due. It used to be fun to go to the Post Office that evening to watch the crowd who had waited until the last minute to file their returns. It was a communal activity. Now many people report their taxes by the internet which is not nearly as much fun.

Monday, April 22, 2012, Earth Day to celebrate and focus attention on the preservation of the planet and its environment.

Wednesday, April 24, 2013, National Secretaries' Week was created in 1952, and it's name was changed to Administrative Assistant's Day in 1981.

Sunday, May 12, 2013, (2nd Sunday in May) is Mother's Day.

Saturday, May 18, 2013, (3rd Saturday) Armed Forces Day

Sunday, May 19, 2013, (3rd Sunday) Bay to Breakers, a 12 K footrace in San Francisco. In 1986 a record 110,000 racers participated.

Monday, May 27, 2012, (last Monday in May) **Memorial Day** which originally honored soldiers killed in the Civil War, but now has been extended to all those who have died in all wars. This day is close to the end of school and marks the traditional beginning of summer.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014, (1st Tuesday) Note the year. Primary election in California (and MT, NJ, NM, and SD). In the primary of 2012, 65 percent voted by mail.

Sunday, June 15, 2013, (3rd Sunday in June) is Father's Day.

Friday, July 4, 2013, **Independence Day**, also called the Fourth of July, celebrates the day that the Continental Congress approved the document, the Declaration of Independence, which gives the rationale for separation from the King of England in 1776. It is not actually the day that John Hancock, the president of the Continental Congress signed the document or the day the Continental Congress voted for independence, which was on July 2.

Sunday, July 28, 2013, (4th Sunday in July) is Parent's Day just in case anybody got left out.

Monday, September 2, 2013, (1st Sunday in September) is **Labor Day** which is close to the opening of school and marks the end of summer and the traditional beginning of the political campaign season.

Sunday, September 8, 2013, (1st Sunday after Labor Day) Grandparent's Day

Monday, September 9, 2013, is California Admission Day which was once honored as a school holiday in California. Interestingly, despite the various holidays local schools recognize, the school year has traditionally been 180 days. The holidays are simply arranged to satisfy local interests.

Friday, September 27, 2013, Native American Day was begun by a resolution by Governor Reagan in 1968. In 1998, the California State Legislature made it an official holiday, but it is not a commonly observed day off. South Dakota and Tennessee have followed.

Monday, October 14, 2013, (second Monday in October) is **Columbus Day** which celebrates the October 12, 1492, landing in the New World. It has become controversial to celebrate the day because of the way native Americans were treated by European immigrants. Despite that it is a Federal holiday.

Thursday, October 24, 2013, is United Nations Day which honors the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. By the way, the charter was negotiated and signed at the Opera House in San Francisco in 1945.

Sunday, November 3, 2013, (2:00 A.M., see March 10. The 2 A.M. business is to eliminate confusion over legal documents.) Daylight Savings Time ends.

Tuesday, November 4, 2014, is Election Day. (Note the year.) The Constitution states that Congress shall choose the date for national elections, which has been set for the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in even numbered years (2008, 2012, 2014). California favors the 1st Tuesday after the first Monday of non-presidential years (2010, 2014) for the state or general election and puts primaries in June of even years. Local governments are not uniform across California but choose from March, April, or November. No election shall be held on any day other than a Tuesday, nor shall any election be held on the day before, the day of, or the day after, a state holiday

Monday November 11, 2013, is **Veterans Day**. Formerly it was called Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I which did not end with a surrender.

Saturday, November 23, 2013, is Big Game between Stanford and Cal football—in 2013 it is at Stanford.

Thursday, November 28, 2013, (4th Thursday in November) is **Thanksgiving's Day**. The Pilgrims of Massachusetts brought with them the tradition of offering thanks for the fall harvest. Some people claim that the first one took place in 1621, but that is shrouded in mythology. The date of the celebration varied from state to state until Lincoln chose November. Thus the first Thanksgiving celebrated by all states (in the union) was in 1863, by the presidential proclamation of Abraham Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War. Many school districts also take Friday off.

Friday, November 29, 2013, (the day after Thanksgiving) is Black Friday, the biggest shopping day of the year.

Wednesday, December 25, 2013, **Christmas Day**, while not a secular holiday, is a Federal holiday.

Thursday, December 26, 2013, Return Day when you return Uncle Elmer's wonderful tie that doesn't match any piece of clothing you own. (I made this one up. JH)

Thursday, December 26, 2013, through Wednesday, January 1 2014, Kwanzaa, seeking to give African Americans their own holiday as an alternative to the existing holiday celebrations, Dr. Maulana Karenga, an African American author and activist, named the weeklong holiday from the Swahili phrase meaning 'first fruits of the harvest.' Kwanzaa is observed by lighting candles, feasting and exchanging gifts.

Tuesday, December 31, 2013 is New Year's Eve.

An important note: while the United States is a diverse country of immigrants who have brought with them their traditional holidays and commemorations, those chosen for this list include those that are celebrated by the vast majority of Americans—well, maybe you can pick the one exception. These are the events that connect us as Americans. If Christmas was not a legal holiday, it would remain as a religious holiday recognized by those who are Christian. But numbers and tradition dictate that it is. Those not Christian look on it as a secular holiday. I've been told that Jewish people go out for Chinese food. It is not the only exception to the Constitutional rule that church and state should be separate. Arguments can and are made by those whose religious holidays are not recognized nationally. It's recommended that you go to Wikipedia for Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, and other holidays. You could also look up the special days for tribes of Native Americans such as the Lakota, Navajo, and Cherokee. You may wonder what people whose holiday is not recognized as an official holiday do when their day falls on a work day. Some employers such as school districts will let the employee take the day off and deduct it from their sick leave. That gives everyone the same number of days off which seems fair to most people..



CCIS Holiday Luncheon
Monday, December 17, 2012