

# San Francisco State University Retirement Association

## Off-Campus Bulletin – Fall 2010

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### NEWS FROM THE FIELD... SUSAN QUINLAN'S ADVENTURES WITH DOLLS

Susan Quinlan, Emeritus Librarian, retired from the J. Paul Leonard Library at the end of 1999, and embarked on a whole new career. Susan and husband Terry moved to Santa Barbara where they established the Susan Quinlan Doll & Teddy Bear Museum & Library in late 2005. The Quinlan Museum, open four days a week – Friday through Monday – is home to over 3,000 dolls and teddy bears, as well as a research library of 10,500 related books amassed over the years. The museum features lovely murals, a tearoom, gift shop, and three galleries of permanent displays. Next March, the museum will sponsor a book signing of *Alice in Wonderland* by well-known doll artist Nancy Wiley.

In January 2010, Susan mounted an exhibit of movie-related dolls and bears at the Santa Barbara Public Library for the 25th anniversary of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. The Quinlan Museum is proud to have co-published a beautiful art book with the National Institute of American Doll Artists (NIADA) entitled *NIADA Art Dolls: Rich Tradition, New Ideas* (2009). The NIADA organization honored Susan with a 2009 Patron of the Year Award for her support of the project. Susan and Terry appeared as characters in an adult mystery book called *The Clockwork Teddy* by John Lamb. There have been numerous articles published about the museum, some of which can be seen online at [www.quinlanmuseum.com](http://www.quinlanmuseum.com).

Since retiring, the Quinlans have traveled the world, cruising the Mediterranean, river boating it up the Rhine and down the Danube, and exploring China (where they got to go down into the pit with the terracotta soldiers), Peru, South Africa, India, and Nepal, and including a fly-by of Mount Everest. They spent a quick weekend in Germany for a teddy bear show in Rede-Wiesenbruck, "a really interesting old town filled with life-size sculptures of townspeople." Doll and teddy bear conventions take the couple to many out-of-the-way places, such as Clarion, Iowa; Binghamton, New York (the carousel capital of the world); and Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Next year the Quinlans will venture out in new directions. Terry is organizing a three-day doll and teddy bear artist convention in May 2011 in Philadelphia. Susan is working with members of her local doll club to put together a program on Madeleine Fox, a doll artist. They are planning to use the local public access television studio (with state of the art equipment) to produce the program and distribute it to public access television channels across the United States. They intend to finish it in time to show at United Federation of Doll Clubs' convention next July. Susan is working on a script for the project and is excited that this project will give her experience in a whole new field.

**Susan Quinlan... on RETIREMENT** "This has been an absolutely fantastic and fun almost 11 years since *retiring*. Terry and I have met so many wonderful people, both artists and collectors. It is such a privilege to mix with these creative and imaginative people, and they are such an inspiration to do more creative things ourselves. Some people may call this retirement, but we call it heaven."