

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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Inside...

President's Message....p.2

Did you know?.....p.2

Direct Deposit.....p.3

Noon Concerts.....p.4

Upcoming Trips.....Insert

Fall Luncheon.....Insert

UCRAB Fall Luncheon

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Al Young **California Poet Laureate**

"The Years as Ears, How Stories and Songs Melt Time"

When asked about the possibility of speaking at the fall UCRAB luncheon, Al Young stated, "I'll be delighted to join the UCRAB gang at Spenger's." And we are delighted to welcome Mr. Young, who on May 12, 2005, was named Poet Laureate of the State of California by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Upon his appointment, Muriel Johnson, Director, California Arts Council stated, "Like jazz, Al Young is an original American voice." Upon making the appointment, Governor Schwarzenegger said, "Al Young is a poet, an educator and a man with a passion for the arts. His remarkable talent and sense of mission to bring poetry into the lives of Californians is an inspiration."

At our luncheon, Young's topic will be "The Years as Ears. How Stories and Songs Melt Time." He will talk about how a lifetime of listening to voices, stories and music (especially jazz) has influenced him as a writer. And listening is key to Mr. Young's poetry. Much of it is meant to be read aloud and listened to. It is full of the kind of music only words can make.

The role of the Poet Laureate is to spread the art of poetry and encourage literacy and learning in California. The Poet Laureate provides a minimum of six public readings in urban and rural settings across the state and educates community, business, and state leaders about the value and importance of poetry and creative expression.

Al Young was born in Mississippi and was reading by the age of three.

Continued, p. 3

This organization would not exist without dedicated volunteers.

The UC Berkeley Retirees' Association invites its members to attend the executive board meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 256, University Hall.

The coming schedule:

September 21
October 19
November 16

Please note that no meetings are held in August or December.

The UC Berkeley Retirees' Association is located at:

Two Boalt Hall, # 7200
Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

Hours: 9:00am—4:00pm
Closed Noon—1:00pm

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The UCRAB Newsletter is published approximately three weeks before each luncheon:

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President's Message

I wonder if the rest of you still feel like September is the beginning of the new year? After years of running our lives by the "academic calendar," some of us with children in school as well as working on a campus, it's sometimes hard to remember that not everyone thinks "Welcome Back!" as summer ends. But I do want to welcome all of you, and especially new members – some just recently retired – to our organization. We're here to serve you – socially and as an advocate for retirees' interests. Let us know what kind of activities you'd like and what your concerns are.

You will note that our luncheons and speaker invitations are being handled by new Board Member Milton Elbogen. I'd like to send a special thanks to Dorothy Snodgrass who, for so many years, has arranged our luncheons and our excellent speakers. We know the tradition will continue! If you have suggestions for speakers, or if you'd like to help arrange a luncheon in the area east of the tunnel (I've been warned not to say "over the hill!"), let Milt know.

As usual, our Vice President and Trip Coordinator, Iola James has been working hard to bring us interesting trips (Thanks Iola!). See the blue insert for our latest offerings.

For those of you with investments with UC, a reminder that the new Fidelity master record-keeping platform is now up and running after many months of hard work on the part of both UCOP and Fidelity folks. It should simplify our lives and provide clearer options for participating retirees.

Marian Gade, President, UCRAB

Did You Know?

Isn't it great to know that we will always be part of the "Cal Community?" As part of that community, many of us visit the campus regularly. When doing so, try Bear Transit, the campus' convenient shuttle and bus system. It offers shuttles like the Perimeter (P), which travels clockwise around the campus, the Reverse Perimeter (R) which travels counter-clockwise, and a Central Campus (C) shuttle, all for 50 cents. If coming to the campus by BART, catch Bear Transit on the corner of Shattuck and Addison. For more information visit <http://pt.berkeley.edu/beartransit/> or call 510/643-7701.

Are You Using Direct Deposit?

As you may know, direct deposit is an automatic, computerized method of electronically depositing your monthly UC Retirement System (UCRS) benefit directly into your bank account. You may not know that there was a recent error at the U.S. Post Office, which resulted in pension payment delays of up to two weeks for many retirees not using direct deposit. As a result, the UCRS Customer Service Center phone system became overloaded as it attempted to handle over 2000 calls a day. If this happened to you, you might consider the direct deposit option to potentially avoid the frustration of not receiving your benefit check on time, compounded by a reduced ability to contact UCRS to check on the status.

You may sign up at any time, subject to monthly processing deadlines (the 15th of each month). For example, if you sign up by the September 15, direct deposit will be effective for your October benefit that is paid November 1. Until direct deposit becomes effective, your benefit check will continue to be mailed to you. You may cancel direct deposit at any time, subject to these same deadlines.

To sign up for direct deposit, complete the *Electronic Direct Deposit Form* (UCRS 160), which is available for download on the At Your Service web site (<http://atyourservice.ucop.edu>). Just click on “Forms and Publications,” located on the upper right-hand side of the At Your Service home page, and then click “Direct Deposit.” From there you can select the *Direct Deposit Fact Sheet* and the *Direct Deposit Enrollment Form*. For those without Internet access, call the Center. They will be happy to send these documents to you.

Al Young, continued

He began publishing poems, stories and articles in his early teens. Young earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of California, Berkeley. A Berkeley resident, Al Young is author of numerous books of poetry as well as novels and collections of essays. He is a recipient of National Endowment for the Arts, Guggenheim, and Fulbright Fellowships and has taught at Cal, Stanford University, Rice University, the University of Arkansas, UC Santa Cruz, the University of Washington, and the University of Michigan. Versatile and prolific, his works have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Review*, *Seattle Review*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. As a screenwriter, Young has worked with Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor.

The music of Al Young’s words is something we all can look forward to at the September 15 luncheon at Spenger’s. So please be sure to fill out the enclosed reservation form and return it in time to save a place for yourself (and a guest) at what is bound to be a delightful event.

Milton Elbogen, Events

Membership Renewal

UCRAB memberships are based on a July to June year, which means some of your memberships expired on June 30. Check for the numbers above your name on the mailing label. If your label has “04-05”, this will be your last UCRAB Newsletter. Remember, membership is only \$15 per year (\$40 for three years). Renew today!

August Manza, Membership Chair

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Fifty-third Annual Noon Concert Series

We are pleased to announce the following free concerts offered by the Department of Music and held in Hertz Hall:

September 21

Jazz Quartet

Faculty Recital: Christy Dana Quartet plays "The Jimmy Van Heusen Songbook"

September 28

Piano Trio

Bach Sonata No. 1 in G for violin solo, Brahms Piano
Trio No. 1 in B

October 5

Solo Voice & Piano

Faculty Recital: Songs from Stone Settings. Songs by Fauré and Debussy, excerpts from Ravel's Miroirs & Messiaen's Catalogue d'oiseaux for solo piano

October 12

"La basse continue"

Faculty Recital: French Baroque sonatas for bass instruments including works of François Couperin, Joseph Bodin de Boismortier, and Michel Corrette

October 26

The Iberian Flare

Spanish composers and those influenced by the Spanish idiom for Scarlatti's birthday! Music of Soler, Albero, Scarlatti, Lopez, and Salavere featuring trio ensemble members Katherine Kyme, violin, Joanna Blendulf, cello, and Charlene Brendler, harpsichord, with guest Stephanie Neira, Spanish dancer