

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

Executive Board

Officers

Marian Gade, President
mgade@berkeley.edu

*Iola James, Vice President
& Trip Coordinator*
510/632-7264

Errol Mauchlan, Treasurer
510/849-1732

Lola Harris, Secretary
510/843-4314

Directors-at-Large

Milton Elbogen, Events

Isabelle Revoir, Membership
aurevoir9@email2me.net

Antonia Sweet, UCRS Liaison
510/652-9795

Viessa Brooks, At-Large
510/893-2191

Dorothy Snodgrass, At-Large
510/848-4353

Eloise Schmidt, At-Large
eloisehschmidt@yahoo.com

UCRAB Fall Luncheon

September XX, 2007

Berkeley City Club, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Jesse H. Choper

Earl Warren Professor of Public Law, Boalt Hall

“The New Supreme Court”

This is an event you won't want to miss! Mark your calendars for June 15 when Jesse Choper will be the speaker at UCRAB's Summer Luncheon at Spenger's Fish Grotto.

Professor Choper is one of UC Berkeley's most distinguished faculty members. He began his legal career with a bang as the law clerk to Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Choper started teaching at the Boalt Hall School of Law in 1965 and served as its dean from 1982 to 1992. He received the UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award in 1998 and was presented with the Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 by the Boalt Hall Alumni Association. Currently Professor Choper is vice president of the American Association of Arts and Sciences.

Most importantly for us UCRABers, Professor Choper has long been a very popular and engaging public speaker. The thousands who have had the good fortune to hear him have invariably come away feeling stimulated, informed, and entertained. He is looking forward to speaking to us on June 15 when his topic will be the “new” Supreme Court.

With the recent appointments of Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito there is much to discuss regarding future “hot button” cases that might come before this court. Our Summer Luncheon will thus be a wonderful opportunity for all of us. We'll enjoy the always-convivial social hour starting at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and our very brief annual meeting and election, and then, best of all, we'll be truly privileged to listen to Jesse Choper.

Please reserve your places early by filling out the enclosed form. And remember, spouses and friends are always welcome!

Milton Elbogen, Events

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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 182, University Hall.

The coming schedule:

September 19
October 17
November 14 (2nd Wed.)
January 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

Telephone: 510/642-5461
Fax: 510/643-1460

Retirement Center Liaison
to UCRAB:

André S. Porter
Administrative Specialist

The UCRAB Newsletter is published approximately three weeks before each quarterly luncheon.

Editor: Sondra Jensen
Phone: 510/526-7595
Email: sjensen@berkeley.edu

President's Message

At the July meeting of UCRAB's Board of Directors, one member who has served on the board off and on for many years, commented that the organization is in much better shape than it was some time ago, and that it runs much more smoothly. We talked briefly about some of the reasons this might be, and I thought I'd share them with you and brag a little on our association.

Trips and events: Venues, destinations, and programs continue to attract increasing numbers of members and guests. Our June trip to the Monterey Aquarium was oversubscribed (we're limited to 56 people by our bus capacity), and we've already had requests for another in a year or so. (Remember to sign up early for the upcoming trip to Healdsburg and the Sonoma area.) We have VicePresident Iola James to thank for arranging these excellent trips.

Luncheons: For many years Dorothy Snodgrass turned up fascinating speakers for our luncheons, and we are in her debt. In the past year, Milt Elbogen has taken on that responsibility, with equal success. The luncheon programs he's produced at the Berkeley City Club this spring have drawn good crowds and rave reviews. We look forward to increasing our contacts with the City Club (more on that next time, I hope).

Another recent change: August Manza, our membership chair for many years who built membership numbers through personal contacts and rigorous attention to when memberships expired, has turned over that task to Isabelle Revoir who, like Gus, pays careful attention not only to recruiting members but retaining those we have. Our thanks to both of them!

Errol Mauchlan continues to keep us on the straight and narrow financially, helping us figure out what projects we can afford to undertake and keeping a healthy reserve (for such unforeseen occasions as having to pay for a cancelled bus trip, e.g.).

Sondra Jensen resigned from the Board shortly after she was elected a few years ago because her "part-time" retirement business became too successful! But Sondra has continued to edit our Newsletter, fitting that into her busy schedule.

We have good information on what's going on with respect to retirees at the University and State level, thanks in part to Toni Sweet's eagle eye on the UCRS Advisory Board and its discussions. In addition, several of us are regular participants in our state-wide retirees' association, CUCRA, which, along with the statewide emeriti association, CUCEA, and their Joint Benefits Committee, has managed to obtain several objectives that benefit some of the least-advantaged retirees from UC.

And there's no way UCRAB could operate as it does without the full support of the Retirement Center and its staff. You may remember that the association pays for a part-time Work-Study student to help with our administrative tasks, but all the staff, and Andre Porter in particular, are always on hand for advice and support. Thank you!

I could go on with contributions that individuals, board members and others, are making to benefit all of us. I urge you to support our association

President's Message, continued

and recruit new members. The more we have, the more we can do! My thanks to all of you who make UC retirement rewarding and interesting!

Marian Gade, UCRAB President

UCRAB Trip - Healdsburg

Letters from Mosul

UCRS Advisory Board Report

The Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration selected the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) to manage that laboratory for seven years effective October 1, 2007. LLNS is made up of the University of California, Bechtel National Inc., BWX Technologies, Inc. and the Washington Group International. Benefits for lab employees will be similar to those offered at the Los Alamos Lab and the transition will be handled in much the same way as the Los Alamos transition was handled.

A proposal to restore purchasing power for the UC-PERS Plus 5 Plan annuitants to the same level as their UCRP counterparts will be presented to the Regents. It, also, provides for a permanent annual COLA at the same level UCRP would provide in the future. There are approximately 770 annuitants who will be effected by this proposal.

The plan for UC employees to return to paying contributions to the pension plan has been put on hold by the University because of the state budget.

In recent UCRS Advisory Board elections, David McGraw was elected Chair, he will be serving for a second year. Thomas Leet was elected Vice Chair. The voting for the election of two non-Academic Senate UCRS Advisory Board members closed on June 22nd. All active UCRP employees were eligible to vote. The results will be posted on the UC Human Resources and Benefits website: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu>

Antonia Sweet

University of California Retirees' Association
2 Boalt Hall, # 7200
Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

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Aging at Home: A Successful Project in Boston

One of our readers has called my attention to a very interesting article published in the *New York Times* in February. Titled "Aging at Home: For a Lucky Few, a Wish Come True," the article describes an ambitious undertaking by Beacon Hill Village, a nonprofit organization created by and for local residents who are determined to grow old in familiar surroundings and to make that possible for others.

"Aging in place" is the wave of the future, experts say, an alternative to nursing homes and assisted living centers. At Beacon Hill Village, members live in one of two large neighborhoods and pay dues to belong. The program was started by a dozen or so residents who wanted to remain at home even after transportation and household chores became difficult. They also wanted to avoid dependence on adult children and were unwilling to move into senior housing.

Membership dues can be based on personal income and cover weekly trips to the market, rides from volunteers, group exercise classes, relevant lecture programs and much more. Paid services such as home repair or home health aides are generally discounted anywhere from 10 to 50 percent from the going rate. Members are very appreciative of helpers who take them shopping, volunteers who carry animals to the vet, people who water their plants, and meals that are delivered regularly.

Beacon Hill has recently published a how-to manual which they will sell for \$300 to \$500 to guide others through the complexity of creating a business plan and surveying community needs. The article can be seen in its entirety at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/09/garden/09care> (free registration with nytimes.com required).

What a good idea!

Sondra Jensen