

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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UCRAB Fall Luncheon

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Berkeley City Club

NO HIDING PLACE FOR OBAMA OR McCAIN!

RASKY TELLS ALL TO UCRAB

With Barack Obama perhaps poised to become the first African-American president of our country, election will be an historic event. But regardless of which candidate you will vote for in November it will be well worth your time to come to UCRAB's fall luncheon on Tuesday, September 16th at the Berkeley City Club. Our speaker will be Susan Rasky of UC's School of Journalism who will be having a conversation with us on all things presidential. Ms. Rasky will be joining us fresh from attending the Democratic Party convention in Denver. I expect she will present us with intriguing observations you are not likely to receive anywhere else.

Ms. Rasky was the congressional correspondent for the *New York Times* and has been a political commentator for National Public Radio (NPR), the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Sacramento Bee*. She will thus bring considerable experience as a political journalist to the luncheon. And she is refreshingly down-to-earth. How unusual in our era of spin.

Please complete and return the enclosed reservation form to the University of California Retirement Center by September 11. As the race for our next president keeps heating up I'll bet you'll want to check the space on the form to reserve a place at our table for a spouse and/or a friend. And if you're concerned about finding a place to park please take note of the information on the luncheon flyer describing parking lots within easy walking distance of the Berkeley City Club.

Milt Elbogen

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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 the UC Berkeley Retirement Center, 1925 Walnut Street.

The coming schedule:

September 17
October 15
November 19
January 21
February 18

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

The UC Retirees' Association at Berkeley is located at:

1925 Walnut Street #1550
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

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
Acting Director

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

Editor: Open
Email: ucbrc@berkeley.edu

President's Message

Greetings fellow UCRABERS,

It is my hope that you are continuing to enjoy the summer and our spectacular Bay Area weather. Having just returned from states with 105 degree plus temperatures, humidity, thunderstorms, and heavy rain our Bay Area continues to be a most desirable place to reside.

As the newly elected President of UCRAB, I bring you greetings. I have served as the vice President of our organization for the past six years.

It is now my commitment to carry on the work referred to in previous newsletters by our past president, Marian Gade. Of course we will also continue to work with CUCRA, our statewide Council of UC Retirement Associations, to advocate for the maintenance of the best possible low-cost benefits for our retirees.

Please inform me of other concerns that you wish our board to consider. Also, we love to receive submissions for our newsletter, which will continue to be a source of valuable information.

Iola James, President

UC Berkeley Engaging Aging Through the Humanities Conference

Saturday, October 11, 2008

9 am to 5:30 pm

Reception to follow

UC Berkeley, Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities
220 Stephens Hall, Geballe Room

Popular culture has it that aging and old age are, at best, a nuisance. Medicine seeks to ameliorate their ravages and, in decades to come, will seek to 'cure' them. The purpose of this conference is to look at aging and old age through the various lenses of the arts and humanities. There will be presentations and discussions with an historian, a dancer/choreographer, a neurolinguist, a photographer, an anthropologist, and a musician-neuroscientist. And, a molecular biologist will consider "the humanities and aging".

Registration fee is \$45.00 for all attendees. Please register prior to the event through the UC Berkeley Extension either online at www.unex.berkeley.edu/enroll or by phone at (510) 642-4111. You will need to cite course EDP #028415 and pay by credit card. Limited on-site registration begins at 8:30 am, with payment by check only.

Sponsors: UC Berkeley Resource Center on Aging/Academic Geriatric Resource Program; UC Berkeley Center for Medicine, the Humanities and Law; UC Berkeley Extension; UC Berkeley Retirement Center; Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities; ASUC Art Studio, A Public Arts Program of UC Berkeley; and UC Berkeley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Ask Adrian

Adrian Harris, UCLA Vice Chancellor-Planning, Emeritus, writes a Q and A column for the UCLA emeriti and retiree newsletters. Questions for Adrian can be emailed to harris@ucla.edu.

Question: Please explain how the MRD (Minimum Required Distribution) works and what you suggest as decision rules for such distributions.

Response: MRDs are mandatory by April 1st of the year following the year in which you reach the age of 70 ½, unless you are on the University payroll during the distribution year, in which case you do not have to take a distribution from University tax deferred accounts. Distributions are computed using the balance in tax deferred accounts on December 31 of the previous year, divided by life expectancy (in years) shown in an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) produced Uniform Distribution Table that shows your expected longevity---life expectancy (in years) for each age from age 70 to 115 and older. If you are married it takes into account joint life expectancy assuming your spouse is no more than 10 years your junior. If your spouse is your sole beneficiary and is more than 10 years your junior, a different joint life expectancy table based on your specific ages is provided by IRS. The older you are, the smaller the reduction in life expectancy each year. For 403(b) accounts, the balance in the fund as of the last day of 1986 is excluded from the computation until you reach the age of 75, at which time the total balance is included in the computation. If you take your first distribution during the first quarter of the year after you reach age 70 ½, you should be aware that you will also have to take a second distribution by the end of that year, which could have tax consequences for that year.

You have the option of deciding from which investment fund or funds the distribution will come, and when the withdrawal will occur. The default

option for the University is to take the distribution proportionally from each fund you have and to issue the payment at the end of the year.

If you have IRAs in addition to your University tax deferred accounts, you must take MRDs from them as well, with the option of taking the total amount from whichever IRA or IRAs you would like. Unfortunately, University tax deferred accounts and external IRAs can not be combined in determining from which funds the MRDs should come. Generally, it is beneficial to take the University distribution from the fund or funds which are earning the least. Likewise, IRA distributions can be taken from the one or more accounts which are earning the least.

Some financial planners have advised that it is desirable to not take more than 4% of your investment balance during any year, in order to assure you do not run out of money. Clearly, that “rule” becomes impossible for those with most of their investment assets in tax deferred accounts. For MRD computation purposes, the numbers of years you are expected to live are set by the IRS, and the older you are, the percentage you must withdraw each year rises, and quickly exceeds the 4% “rule.” The stated “decision rule” only works if the required withdrawal amount over 4% is invested and not spent. Of course, those who have significant assets that are not subject to MRDs would have no problem complying with the “decision rule.”

Adrian

2008

Report from UCRS – June, 2008

The UCRS Retirement Benefits Administration Review continues. The possibilities under consideration are out-sourcing, retaining the responsibility for data consolidation and retaining the responsibility for both data consolidation and customer service by Human Resources in the Office of the President as a service center. The evaluation process for the possibilities has a target deadline of October 2008. If changes are made the implementation will take up to 18 months to complete and all constituents should expect extensive communications.

The University currently has guidelines for re-employment of retirees. While the percentage of retirees being rehired is relatively low, the Compliance and Audit unit is concerned about full compliance. Therefore, a new policy regarding re-employment of UC retirees in Senior Management Group and staff positions has been drafted and is under preliminary review. The proposed staff policy reduces the normal reappointment percentage from the current guideline of 46% to 43%. This insures that rehired retirees will not be eligible for active membership in UCRP. Nor will they be eligible for active employee health and welfare benefits. Limiting reappointments to 43% also avoids complications for rehired retirees who

are covered by Medicare. All reappointments of retirees must be approved in accordance with local procedures.

State Senator Leland Yee's Resolution (SCR 52) was passed by the state legislature in September 2007. It memorializes the UC President and the Regents to establish a shared governance structure for UCRP. The purpose is to provide shared governance by including trustees representing the UC administration, faculty and staff participants in both represented and non-represented categories. This would be similar to CalPERS and CalSTRS. The Office of the President is currently in the process of discussing possible governance models.

As always, login to the UC Human Resources and Benefits website: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu> for information of particular interest to you.

Also, UCOP's New Dimensions newsletter is looking for articles by retirees. If you would like to contribute, contact editor Anne Wolf at annewolf@ucop.edu.

Antonia Sweet



SPOTLIGHT

I celebrated my 70th birthday (in June) by taking a 70-mile backpacking trip (in July). When I go solo, I stick to well-established, popular trails. For this trip, son Donald ('89) planned a cross-country trip that avoided most trails. Looking at the pictures, I can't believe I did that. We camped below 9,000 feet only twice during the two weeks. The rest of the time we were at 10000+ feet. My knees will never be the same, but sleeping under the stars at 11,000 feet was great for my spirit.

Since "retiring" in 2004, I have been on call-back status, but will retire for real in March 2010 (after I finish the projects on my desk and train my replacement).

Joanne Sandstrom
joannes@socrates.berkeley.edu

Trips & Events

Teatro ZinZanni Anyone?

Set along San Francisco's historic waterfront, Teatro ZinZanni is a bewitching evening of European Cabaret and Cirque, Divas and Madmen, Spectacle and Sensuality with Live Music and a Gourmet Five-Course Dinner – set in the nightclub of your dreams!

We have secured a discount price of \$111. Tickets are usually \$150, plus. Our plan is to join up and take BART and Muni, which stops right in front of Pier 29. Let us know if you are interested in this excursion and we'll ask you for possible dates in September.

Oakland Port Tour - October 16, 2008, 1pm

We are pleased to again offer our annual Port Tour - a rare glimpse at the giant cranes and maritime operations from aboard a Blue and Gold Fleet ferry. Call 642-5461 or email ucbrc@berkeley.edu to register.

Yosemite Valley - Spring 2009

We're making our overnight trip to Yosemite Valley an annual event. Let us know if you're interested in going in March 2009. As some of you know we couldn't accommodate all requests for our 2008 trip. Get on our contact list letting us know if you are a couple, single wanting own room or single willing to share a room. Call 642-5461 or email ucbrc@berkeley.edu to get on the list.

Enjoying a Day at the Races



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS, CA		5/15/2008	VOTE		DAVID MILBURN & DONALD MULDOON.....
LIKE A TIGER.....	SECOND		1 MILE 1:35.18	PURSE \$26,000	R.B. HESS.....
COWBOY CRUISER.....	THIRD		WINDSOR SIRRS BRANCH 176		JOE CASTRO.....
COPYRIGHT VASSAR PHOTOGRAPHY 2008			BEL MARIN WOMEN'S CLUB		
			UC BERKELEY RETIREES ASSN.		



Some of our more than 50 attendees at UCRAB's Annual "Day at the Races" celebrate with the winning jockey. As this is our annual event supporting our UCRAB Scholarship Fund, part of the proceeds will be donated to Cal's General Scholarship Fund.

Volunteer Opportunities

Be A Writing Coach for Teens! Looking for an effective way to help students succeed? Become a writing coach in a Berkeley, Albany or Oakland secondary school English class and help students develop into competent and confident writers and thinkers. Training provided; coaching begins mid-October. The commitment is only 1-2 hours per week during the school day. To learn more or register, visit www.writercoachconnection.org or contact Lynn Mueller at 510/524-2319, writercoachconnect@yahoo.com

Don't Waste Your Mind!! Berkeley City Collage is in need of basic math and writing tutors. The time commitment is 1-5 hours per week with a flexible schedule. Tutors meet students on the BCC campus. To become a tutor, contact Dr. Joanie

Gillispie, BCC Basic Skills Program, by email at drjoanie@hotmail.com or call 415/380-9985

A fellow UC retiree, Betty Chan, is writing her memoirs and needs an editor/proofreader to help her clean her draft in preparation for presentation to a publisher. Are you a retired English major or professor who can volunteer to help Betty? If so, call Betty at 510/236-2288

Expand Your Universe. Chabot Space & Science Center is recruiting volunteers to excite and inspire visitors about our Planet Earth and the universe. Training and enrichment opportunities are provided. Additional benefits and incentives include discounts, and exhibit previews For information or to attend our Volunteer Orientation Saturday, October 19, 10-12:30pm. RSVP required call 510/336-7414 or visit www.chabotspace.org/volunteer.

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Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS
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Campus Events (Complete Listings at <http://events.berkeley.edu>)

OLLI@Berkeley Open House: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Fall 2008 courses. September 16 from 9:30 am. to 12pm. Open house/Tour at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94704. Hear about OLLI@Berkeley's fall 2008 Courses. Event Contact: 510-642-9934

Gospel: 56th Annual Noon Concert Series - The Department of Music presents University Gospel Choir directed by D. Mark Wilson, performing "Hear it in the Air": Gospel music for changing times. October 15 from 12:15 to 1:00pm. @ Hertz Concert Hall. Tickets not required. Event Contact: 510-642-4864. Don't miss the other concert series events at Hertz Concert Hall!

Golden Dragon Acrobats Cal Performances presents the art of Chinese acrobatics in a Family Fare (fun for the entire family) event. November 28 and 29, 8:00pm. November 29, 2pm and November 30, 3pm. Tickets are \$24/\$34/\$46 - available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

**Rush tickets: UCB students, \$10; UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older, \$15; all other community members, \$20. Sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning 1 hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline.