



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

Greetings to New Retirees and UCRAB Members

The University of California Retirees Association at Berkeley (UCRAB) invites you to join over 600 fellow retirees in an organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing retiree benefits. It also provides current information on possible changes in those benefits, as well as sponsoring a variety of activities such as quarterly luncheons and day and overnight trips. More information is given in detail in this issue of the UCRAB Newsletter about these topics and staying connected to the campus and other retirees. The UCRAB newsletter is published quarterly and has information of interest on current issues and news, and upcoming events and outings.

UCRAB is focused on providing varied volunteer opportunities to its members. And, we also provide outreach to the East Bay

community in such activities as varied as donating toys during the holiday season to patients at Children's Hospital to providing a scholarship in cooperation with the UC Office of the President that is awarded to an Oakland high school student accepted to any UC campus.

Membership in UCRAB is open to all retired academic and staff appointees of UC Berkeley and other UC organizations. A membership application has been inserted herewith listing dues for one year at \$20, two years for \$35, or three years for \$50. A membership form can also be downloaded by going to the UCRAB website (UCRAB.com).

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at 510-524-4127 or email me at isabelle.revoir@gmail.com. Let us know how we can serve you better! We are here for you!

Isabelle Revoir, Membership Director

UCRAB Trips and Events

I have been honored to be the Trip Coordinator for UCRAB for some time now. I have participated in a host of wonderful trips with my fellow UCRAB members. If you haven't joined us yet, I encourage you to do so! The trips are casual, educational, fun, reasonably priced. Most often transportation and lunch are provided as part of the cost.

Here is a list of many of the trips and excursions that we have taken. The trips ranged from one day to as many as six. We've visited the most popular sites several times.

- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Historical Sonoma & local wineries
- Lake Sonoma & Healdsburg
- Old Sacramento via train & California State Railroad Museum



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President's Message

This is my first message as your new President. At the very beginning of my term I want to express my gratitude to our immediate past President, Iola James, for her support and for her ideas and actions that have been so beneficial to the UCRAB organization. Fortunately Iola has agreed to stay with us to continue her assistance and to plan and carry out the trips that so many of us enjoy. I also want to express my appreciation to the very active and creative UCRAB Board. We have two new members, Kathleen Demerdjian and Lynn Baranco and two other new officers in addition to me, Lola H. Harris, Vice President and Lynn Bailiff, Treasurer. I also thank Marian Gade for her continuing service as our Secretary. We will be working in the months ahead to provide all of our over six hundred members with information, luncheon speakers, and trips designed for their special interests.

We especially want to invite UCRAB members to serve as volunteers for our many activities. Please review the list of the UCRAB Board of Directors in this Newsletter. Note the members of our Board along with the areas that they coordinate. Select an activity that interests you and contact the appropriate Board member for more information as to how you can help. While the Retirement Center staff provides outstanding support for UCRAB activities, their budget is limited. We need your help in order to continue our work.

Finally, this issue of the UCRAB Newsletter is quite deliberately designed as a recruitment device to attract new retirees and encourage ongoing members to extend and continue their memberships. We hope that as you read about UCRAB's luncheons and speakers, short and long trips, and work as your advocate that you will want to be involved as a member into the future. We welcome your participation.

Kurt Lauridsen, President

UCRAB Trips and Events, continued from p. 1

- Annual Yosemite Valley trip
- Mare Island
- Hearst Castle
- Apple Hill & Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park
- Napa Valley Wine Train with Gourmet Express Lunch and tour of Culinary Institute of America, Gray stone Winery
- Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Delta Cruise
- Filoli House and Gardens
- De Young Museum & Academy of Science & Post-Impressionist Masterpieces
- USS Potomac Tour Cruise (President's Floating White House)
- Island Hop – Angel Island and Alcatraz
- Legion of Honor, Impressionist on Water
- Winchester Mystery House and Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum
- Grand Canyon Rails to the Rim
- The Jelly Belly Factory & Anhauser Busch Brewery Tours
- Reno Snow Train Trips
- Annual Day at the Races

I have my favorite destinations on that list, but I can say that I had a great time on all of the trips. I receive many wonderful “thank you’s” and it is my pleasure to plan and enjoy trips with fellow UCRAB members. Many have inquired about the next Yosemite Valley outing. Well, mark your calendars for March 9 & 10, 2015. Additional information will be included in our next newsletter. I’m hoping to include another trip to Monterey, possible in early October 2014. Check your email for this information.

Iola James, Trip Coordinator



Coming of Age helps people 50+ to enrich their experience of aging by using their expertise to strengthen their communities

Angie Pratt is currently Director of Community Engagement Programs for Northern California Presbyterian Homes and Services (NCPHS). In that capacity she serves as supervisor for the managers of AARP Experience Corps Marin, Coming of Age Bay Area and the two San Francisco Senior Centers, all community engagement programs of NCPHS. Prior to her work with NCPHS, Angie was Director of the Alzheimer's Association in Northern Nevada where she worked in administration of programs serving persons in the early stages of memory loss, family caregivers and caregiving professionals.

Angie is a certified trainer for a federally funded, evidence-based, nationally recognized program for caregivers called Care Partners Reaching Out (CarePRO) and the Alzheimer's Association in Northern Nevada received national recognition for their outstanding work with caregivers through this program from the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Care giving. Angie has worked in the area of senior services for over ten years. She has a Master's degree in Applied Spirituality from the University of San Francisco and is presently pursuing post-master's training in spirituality.

UCRAB has played host to a broad and distinctive array of prominent speakers from both the campus and the community including Chancellor Emeritus Heyman; Professor Robert Hass, Poet Laureate; Valerie Coleman Morris, Former CNN Financial Network Anchor; Dr. Washington Burns, Executive Director of the Prescott-Joseph Center; Ruby Long, Vice President, North Oakland Village; and most recently Ishmael Reed, Professor Emeritus, English Department, UC Berkeley.

After listening to your feedback on the 2014 UCRAB Survey we set out to enliven your experience as members of UCRAB. We are delighted to announce that the September 18th Luncheon will be held at Hs. Lordships Restaurant at the Berkeley Marina. Over the next few months we look forward to hearing from you and other members about whether you like the new location and anything else you wish to share about your experience at our luncheons.

Thank you for joining us for the UCRAB Quarterly Luncheons.

Patricia Hardy, Luncheon Coordinator

UCRAB FALL LUNCHEON

Hs Lordships Restaurant

199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley * 510-843-8144

Social Hour at 11am Luncheon at Noon

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Angie Pratt,

Coming of Age Bay Area

Registration form inserted in this newsletter.

See back page for more information.

UCRAB as Your Advocate

Social events and trips loom large in the minds of retirees when we think of UCRAB, our Berkeley retiree association, but membership in the organization is also a means of influencing the future of our retirement benefits and those of future retirees.

UCRAB, for example, has two representatives on the Policy Board of Berkeley's Retirement Center. Our voice is heard in the Chancellor's Office on campus issues relating to retirement. On a wider scale, each of the University of California's "locations" -- campus, lab, Office of the President -- has at least one retiree association, and, as in Berkeley's case, some have more than one. UCRAB is open to all Berkeley retirees (faculty and staff) while the Emeriti Association (UCBEA) serves retired faculty. The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the UC retirees from the Livermore Lab and Los Alamos, and other campuses have their own associations.

Each of these is then a member of one or two University-wide retirement groups: CUCRA (the Council of University of California Retiree Associations, to which UCRAB belongs) and CUCEA (Council of University of California Emeriti Associations), the state-wide gathering of emeriti associations.

Lest your eyes have glazed over at this bureaucratic-seeming account, here's the bottom line: through UCRAB, you have a voice in a University-wide conclave that addresses issues, such as benefits, that affect all UC retirees. CUCRA and CUCEA have formed a Joint Benefits Committee (JBC) which takes up in detail different aspects of retirement, health, and welfare issues and then makes recommendations to CUCRA and CUCEA at their semi-annual joint meetings. If adopted, those recommendations are forwarded to the Office of the President for consideration and potential adoption. CUCRA and CUCEA also represent retirees on the University of California Retirement System Advisory Board, another

avenue for advocacy.

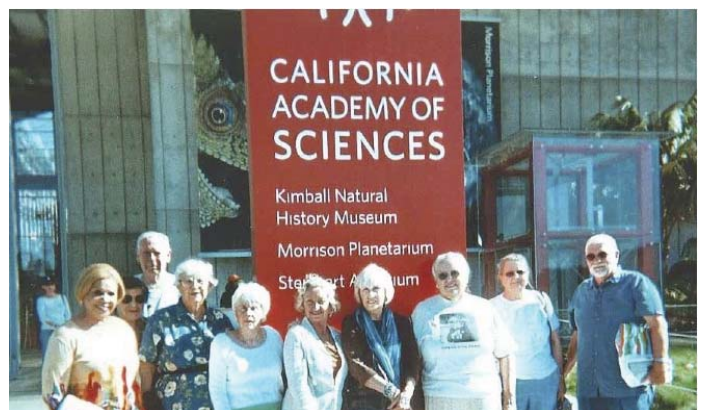
And many such recommendations are adopted. Equity for those who took the PERS Plus-5 package in the early 1990s and flexibility in how retirees take their Minimum Required Distributions from the UC savings plans are examples of recent successes. Currently the JBC is concerned with possible changes in how Health Care Facilitators work and the health plans offered to retirees living outside California, among other issues.

As our representatives speak up for you and future retirees, numbers do count. Being able to say that we represent a significant proportion of Berkeley's retirees is important as we talk with campus leaders and exercise our voice through CUCRA. Whether you participate in local activities or not, your membership serves you, and others, through supporting UCRAB's advocacy efforts. We urge you to join us.

Marian Gade, Secretary



Members enjoy several days and nights in Yosemite, above, and a day trip to the Academy of Sciences, below.



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Board of Directors**

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& Volunteer Committee*
510/652-9795

UCRAB invites you to observe our board meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month (with the exception of August and December) in University Hall Conference Room 198 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

Meet Your New Board Members

Thanks to your votes at the last UCRAB luncheon meeting we have two new Board Members: Kathleen Demerdjian and Lynn Baranco. Kathleen was born in Cleveland, Ohio and resides in San Leandro. She retired in 2006 after serving as a Senior Financial Analyst in the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3) at UCB. Kathleen spent over 27 years at UCB and UCSF.

Kathleen earned degrees at the University of Toledo and the University of Michigan and then taught business and English subjects in Ohio high schools. She enjoys taking OLLI @Berkeley classes, volunteering at OLLI and the East Bay Rose Society and traveling.

Lynn Baranco is perhaps best known in the Berkeley community as the long time Director of the Office of Relations with Schools. For almost twenty years Lynn was central to the campus effort to increase the quantity and quality of applicants to Cal with particular emphasis on people of racial-ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds that were underrepresented. Lynn holds a graduate degree from UC Berkeley in Public Administration and served as Assistant to the Chancellor in the area of outreach from the campus to local communities.

Since “retiring” in 1992, Lynn has managed the Gear Up Program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), been a trustee of the Peralta Community College District, and is active with memberships and consultancies too numerous to mention.

Kathleen and Lynn bring a wealth of experience from the University and surrounding communities to the UCRAB Board. We look forward to working with them.

Kurt Lauridsen, Editor

So You Want to Volunteer!

The following is a list of places in the Community that need volunteer workers along with their contact information.

- AARP Experience Corps Bay Area: ecba.today@gmail.com
- Ashby Village: mok@ashbyvillage.org
- BOSS, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency: bossmail@self-sufficiency.org
- Coming of Age: ComingOfAge@NCPHS.org
- Episcopal Senior Communities: itdarling@jtm-esc.org
- Jewish Coalition for Literacy: 510-318-6474, www.jclread.org
- Oakland Landscape Community: rgpiper33@gmail.com
- Reading Partners: karen.jarratt@readingpartners.org
- Women’s Initiative: ktaylor@womensinitiative.org
- Writer Coach Connection: 510-524-2319, www.writercoachconnection.com

Enjoy volunteer time. *Toni Sweet, UCRAB Volunteer Coordinator*

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Retirees' Association at Berkeley
101 University Hall
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Telephone: 510/642-5461
Fax: 510/643-1460

UCRAB Luncheon Schedule

Thursdays
11:00 am No Host Bar
12:00 pm Luncheon

Upcoming Luncheons
(Spring & summer speakers TBA)

September 18, 2014
Speaker: Angie Pratt,
Coming of Age Bay Area

December 4, 2014 (Holiday Party)
March 19, 2015
June 18, 2015

Hs Lordships Restaurant
199 Seawall Drive
Berkeley Marina
510-843-8144
(Free and convenient parking
available)



Having fun at the annual UCRAB Holiday Luncheon