

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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Open, At-Large

UCRAB Holiday Party

With Musical Entertainment by

The Earl Watkins Duo

Tuesday, December 14, 2004

11am–2pm at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

Make plans to attend UCRAB's annual Holiday Party on December 14. The Earl Watkins Duo returns this year to provide music for your enjoyment. A few members even danced at last year's party! The duo features Earl Watkins on drums and Rodney Burge on piano and vocals. Both were born and raised in the Bay Area and have played with a variety of well-known musicians, such as Earl "Fatha" Hines, Stan Getz and Vernon Alley, among many others. On Sunday mornings the group becomes a "Trio," performing at Scott's Seafood Bar and Grill at Jack London Square. They also play a variety of engagements in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Come and enjoy their selections of holiday and other tunes.

Our Holiday Party also features give-aways and door prizes from local merchants—last year we had gifts from Berkeley Bowl, Berkeley Sports, Black Oak Books, Hooper's Chocolates, Julia Morgan Center, Movie Image, UC Berkeley Art Museum and others. We look forward to seeing you at the party where you can join us in renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. Come reminisce, sing, eat, laugh, and begin your holiday season on a note of hope and optimism for a new year filled with peace and harmony. The social hour begins at 11am. Lunch will be served around noon. This year, we are also collection donations for Children's Hospital - Oakland (see p.3).

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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 256, University Hall.

The Coming Schedule:

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20

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: 8:30am—4:30pm
Closed Noon—1:00pm

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President's Message

In early October, Vice President Iola James and I attended the AROHE meeting in Nashville, TN, representing all of you. Because this was such an interesting and informative meeting, I'd like to make this letter a bit longer than usual in order to share with you some of the ideas we heard there.

The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) is a relatively new organization whose purposes are "to strengthen faculty and staff retirement organizations in institutions of higher education, promote the cross-fertilization of ideas between retiree organizations on different campuses, and provide development models for fledgling organizations..." as well as assist the organizations in serving their own campuses. And at the Nashville meeting, all these were addressed through an excellent program (put together by a committee whose chair was our own Retirement Center Director Shelley Glazer).

Several of the sessions were devoted—as one might expect—to questions of retiree benefits: new ways of ensuring ongoing health benefits in the face of rising costs and increasing reluctance on the part of colleges and universities to carry the added burden of, e.g., prescription drugs for retirees; university-retirement housing partnerships; financial planning ("You are your own defined benefits plan," said one speaker); phased retirement; recall opportunities on campuses; availability of library and other campus privileges; and similar topics. Others explored the myriad ways in which retiree and emeriti organizations relate organizationally to, and are supported by, their institutions. For example, our Retirement Center, and those at UCLA and USC, funded by the campus and serving both volunteer organizations like UCRAB as well as the whole retiree community, are the envy of many smaller, entirely volunteer, associations.

Special conference guests included John Siegenthaler who, after a long career in journalism in Nashville, founded the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University in order to raise awareness of what he sees as continuing threats to our First Amendment rights. In his "Welcome to Nashville" speech, he noted that the press is "fallible" yet he works to preserve those freedoms of speech and press that he believes Americans take too much for granted. "A legend in his own mind," as his son calls him, Siegenthaler serves as an example of an active retiree still making a difference in the life of his community and the nation.

Another featured speaker was John P. Keating, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, who spoke on "Beyond Golden Pond: The Value of Retirement Organizations." He surveyed the current state of society and of retirement, concluding that college and university retirees, faculty and staff, are an "untapped resource," subject to a collection of "myths" about what retirement involves. These include the notion that retirement is a permanent holiday, that retirees have no responsibilities, that they are concerned only about having enough money to see them through their lives. All these, and other such myths, are wrong, claims Keating, quoting George Bernard Shaw to the effect that "a perpetual holiday is a working definition of hell." Rather, surveys of retired faculty and staff show

President's Message, Continued

high interest in continuing intellectual engagement, service, and mentoring on campuses, as well as concerns about benefits and finances. Keating charged that universities today do not make use of retirees and their accumulated wisdom nearly as well as they could and should.

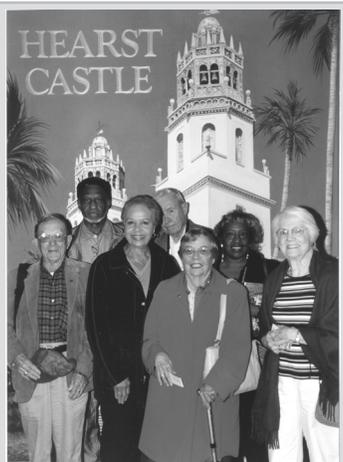
Richard Jensen of UC-Santa Barbara, chair of our own statewide retirees' organization, CUCRA, gave a clear presentation on keeping organizations vital, stressing that organizations need a vision, a plan, and a way of measuring whether they achieve those, and it is in this latter function of performance measurement and accountability where most organizations fail. But all these elements need to be part of the organizational culture.

"From Age-ing to Sage-ing" was a provocative presentation of ways in which we might become "elders" and not just "old folks," passing on our experience and hard-won wisdom through mentoring to leave "a lasting legacy...transmitting our seed in a non-biological way."

And these were just some of the topics of presentations, discussions, and exchanges of views and information. It was a very substantive and informative program, and we returned with the strong conviction that AROHE is an organization that has earned our admiration and continuing support. Consequently, your Board has voted to renew our AROHE membership for the coming year.

Marian Gade

UCRAB Trips and Events



UCRAB members enjoy the fascinating Hearst Castle in San Simeon, CA. From left to right, Jack Merritt, Mark Edwards, Iola James (UCRAB Vice President and Trip Coordinator), Per Dahl, Eleanor Dahl, Shirley Edwards and Maria Suarez.

In addition to the serious business of annual conferences, monthly association board meetings and quarterly luncheons, we participate in some interesting day trips and amusing overnight excursions. Recently we took an exciting trip to historic Hearst Castle.

Watch for flyers in future newsletters announcing our next events. At this time, we are planning a daytrip to the wine country

in addition to our third annual UCRAB Day at the Races. Usually taking place in mid-March, the Day at the Races event will be moved to mid-May of 2005 due to a schedule change at Golden Gate Fields. You should also note that the Day at the Races helps raise money for our scholarship fund.

Iola James

Bring Donations to the Holiday Party

Board member Grace Smith has learned that Children's Hospital is always in need of donations and would be delighted to receive gifts during the holiday season. Therefore we are collecting gifts at the Holiday Party. Bring them unwrapped and Grace will deliver them to the hospital on your behalf.

Patients at Children's Hospital range in age from newborns to teens, and gifts are especially needed for teens and babies. Here are some great ideas for items they can use:

- Rattles, plastic teething devices
- New Beanie Babies
- Crayons, colored pencils
- Journals, blank books, note books
- New or slightly used books, some in Spanish
- Gift certificates to Safeway, Albertson's, or Target
- Travel-size shampoo, lotions, dental care, shaving items for parents

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December Events on Campus

Center for Latin American Studies: Exhibit "Markets", Images of the Mexican market through collage, photography, and objects, through Friday, December 10. Contact: 642-2088.

Berkeley Art Museum: "Threshold: Byron Kim 1990-2004", Abstract paintings, through December 12.

"Collage: Works from the Collection," through December 19.

"MATRIX 213: Some Forgotten Place," through December 19.

Hearst Museum of Anthropology, Kroeber Hall. "Tesoros Escondidos: Hidden Treasures from the Mexican Collections"

Colibri, lively musical journeys through Latin America, Kroeber Hall December 5.

Cal Performances: Matthew Bourne's "The Nutcracker," Zellerbach, through December 5. Tickets: 642-9988.

Tallis Scholars, First Congregational Church Renaissance sacred vocal music, December 3. Tickets: 642-9988.

Music Department - Noon Concert (Free): Javanese Gamelan Ensemble, Noon Concert, Hertz Hall Wednesday, December 1

Noon Concert (Free): Messiah Sing-Along, Hertz Hall, December 3.

Noon Concert (Free): University Chorus and Chamber Chorus, Hertz Hall, December 8.

Weekend and Evening Concerts: University Symphony, Lutoslawski, Symphony No. 3 and Beethoven, Symphony No. 3, Hertz Hall, December 10 and 11. Tickets: 642-9988.