

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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Inside...

- President's Message....p.2**
- Holiday Donations...p.2**
- UCRS News.....p.3**
- Ashland Report.....p.3**
- December Events.....p.4**
- Holiday Luncheon...Insert**

Hooray, Hooray: It's Holiday Time

***Wednesday, December 14 , 2005
11am–2pm at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto***

UCRAB's annual holiday luncheon will be here before the snows fall upon Berkeley. This gathering is always a fun-filled and convivial affair because we UCRABers are such a warm and outgoing bunch. However, the holiday luncheon offers much more than our laughter and good cheer. There's the festive music of the Earl Watkins Duo, which will liven things up, and we will have door prizes from many local merchants. So put on your dancing shoes, grab a partner, and step on to the floor!

In keeping with the season's spirit of generosity, UCRAB encourages all of you to bring a donation (toys, etc.) for the kids in Children's Hospital of Oakland. These gifts must be brand new and in packaging or with tags on and must be free of gift wrapping. For more details see "Come to the Holiday Party - And Give!" (p.2) or refer to www.childrenshospitaloakland.org. From there, click on "Volunteer," and then "Other Donations."

For those of you who have yet to experience the wonderful spirit of UCRAB's holiday luncheon, please come. We'd love to see you there.

Milt Elbogen

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 18

February 15

March 15

April 19

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 luncheon:

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President's Message

Several of your board members recently attended the annual joint meeting of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA), the statewide associations for retired staff and faculty, held at UCSF last month. One of the presentations was by a new UCOP employee, Michael Reese, who spoke about an advocacy program that the University is mounting called the "UC for California Alliance." It is to be an ongoing, integrated support-building campaign, aimed at addressing some of the University's current challenges: a shrinking state budget, the effects on UC of legislative term limits, federal funds leveling off, and an apparently growing disconnect with the state's voters, among other things. The intent is to broaden support for UC through cultivating the "grassroots" -- those faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees who know and support the University and have influence with other citizens/voters and with state officials. They're also looking for those with influential contacts in their local communities and in Sacramento, as the program is also looking for new ways to cultivate present—and likely future—legislators.

One of the "grassroots" programs is an electronic advocacy effort called GetActive, which so far has about 12,000 people, mostly alumni, signed up. As I have mentioned a number of times in this column, UCRAB members can play a vital role in the advocacy effort. We know and support the University, and we also know that personal contacts are always the most credible. We can speak knowledgeably with our friends and neighbors and with our legislators about the University's contributions to the state and the nation. Additionally, we can sign up to participate in the GetActive effort at www.UCforCalifornia.org.

In the past, retirees have, I think, often been overlooked as potential advocates for UC, but we have spent not just four years on a campus, like alums, but often 20, 30, or 40 years. The presentation I heard at this meeting indicates that the University is beginning to recognize the contributions of retirees, whether staff or faculty, towards supporting UC. Now we need to show that, individually and through organizations such as UCRAB, we can continue, in retirement, be effective supporters for the University. I'm looking forward to our full participation in the electronic advocacy as well as in expanded "UC Days in Sacramento" which, in the past, have been mainly peopled by alumni and will in the future include retirees. We'll keep you informed!

Marian Gade, President, UCRAB

Come to the Holiday Party - And Give!

For the second consecutive year we will accept gift donations for Children's Hospital of Oakland. The hospital is always in need of donations and would be delighted to receive gifts during the holiday season. Bring them to the luncheon, unwrapped, and Grace Smith will deliver them to the hospital on your behalf.

Patients at Children's Hospital range in age from newborns to teens, and

Continued, p.3

All the World's A Stage...

...and nowhere will you find more attractive stages than in Ashland, Oregon, home of the renowned Shakespeare Festival. There's the lovely Elizabethan stage, the Angus Bowmer Theatre and the New Theatre, all in close proximity. I had the wonderful experience of spending six days in Ashland this past September, taking in seven plays, backstage tours, and lectures by actors and producers. Just walking around Ashland is a joy in itself, especially Lithia Park, with its winding paths, graceful swans and gorgeous gardens.

Along with 52 other dedicated theater devotees, I travelled with a tour group aptly named "The Educated Audience," led by Toni Mester, well known Berkeley resident, who, for several decades has led theatre tours to New York and London. I can't say enough about this tour for the choice of plays, the excursions, and the skillful planning that made the week so rewarding.

Oh, and what plays did I see? There was a wonderfully eclectic choice—not all Shakespeare, as you might suspect. In no particular order, here are the plays I saw: *Richard III*, *Twelfth Night*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Gibraltar* (a new play), *The Belle's Strategem*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (my favorite!) and, of all things, the zany farce, *Room Service*.

So, if you're already pondering on how to spend next year's vacation, I strongly recommend that you hie yourself to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival, especially after having been primed by the excellent Learning in Retirement course this fall.

Dorothy Snodgrass

...And Give, continued

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, including Spanish language
- Gift certificates to Safeway, Albertson's, or Target
- Travel-size shampoo, lotions, dental care, and shaving items for parents

UCRS News

The transition of the day to day administrative functions for the UCRS Savings Program to the external record keeper, Fidelity Investments Tax-Exempt Services Co. (FITSCo.) took place last July. Those of you affected by the change have been advised by letter. You now have access to new account services and a new UC Core Funds menu of investment options. FITSCo sent statements of minimum required distributions (MRD) to those of you who are subject to MRDs in September 2005. The MRD notification and payout process was delayed this year to facilitate the transition of account services to FITSCo. The process will return to the previous schedule with communications distributed in February and payments made in April in 2006.

The bid for a new contract to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory has been submitted and the University is cautiously optimistic. The winner of the new contract is expected to be announced on December 1, 2005.

The University is seeking proposals to provide financial and investment education services to the participants in the UC Retirement Savings Program and UCRP. The purpose is to increase employee understanding of retirement needs, promote participation in the UC Retirement Savings Program, promote prudent asset allocation and investment strategies and provide retirees guidance and strategies on how to best utilize retirement savings. This service should be in place by July 1, 2006.

The annual actuarial report shows that the retirement fund is currently funded at 110% which is exactly what was anticipated.

Toni Sweet

Your Article Goes Here

We are always interested in hearing from you, so send in your poetry, creative writing, trip reports or other items describing what you are doing in retirement. Remember, this is your newsletter, so we also welcome ideas about format changes, content, et cetera.

Editorial Staff

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December Events On Campus

Holiday Blood Drive

University Health Services, American Red Cross (UCB American Red Cross Club and De-Cal Class). All faculty, staff, students and retirees are encouraged to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to give much needed blood.

Location: East Pauley Ballroom

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Time: Noon - 6 pm

Contact: 594-5213 or LiuRS@usa.redcross.org

53rd Annual Noon Concert Series: Holiday Choral Music

Department of Music - Noon Concert - Hertz Hall
Marika Kuzma directs University Chorus and Chamber Chorus: Works by Charpentier, Poulenc and John Jacob Niles, plus traditional French and American carols, guest fiddler and organist.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mark Leong: China Obscura – A Photo Exhibit

Institute of East Asian Studies

Stunning black-and-white photography that captures images of the subtle currents of everyday life, official and underground, in contemporary China.

Dates: Now - December 9

Location: IEAS Conference Room , 2223 Fulton St.

Contact: 642-2809 or ieas@berkeley.edu

Sing-along Messiah

Young Musicians Program (YMP), Annual fundraiser Sing-Along Messiah, with the University Symphony conducted by David Milnes

Date: Friday, December 9, 2005

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Hertz Hall, Admission Cost: \$15

To order tickets: 642-9988