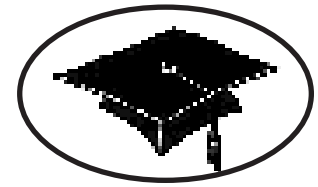

Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



Saturday, January 25, 2003

January 2003

Gene Brucker, the Shepard Professor of History, Emeritus

“Researching Renaissance Florence”

When asked to provide a summary of his presentation January 25, 2003, Professor Gene Brucker wrote that “the joys and tribulations of doing research in the Florentine state archives will introduce a discussion of Florence’s role in the creation of Italian Renaissance culture.” The great historian of the Renaissance, Jacob Burckhardt, believed strongly in the words of Andrew Graham-Dixon, that if you want to understand the Renaissance, go to Florence. Once there, muse on its past, study the sculpture and painting and architecture which was produced there, and you will understand why the city was “the most important workshop of the Italian, and indeed of the modern European spirit.” This judgment has recently been challenged by several historians. Professor Brucker will consider their objections and then make the case for Florence as the *fons et origo* of Renaissance culture. In addition to his presentation, he will also display examples of Florentine archival documents.

Gene Brucker received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1954, followed immediately by an appointment at Berkeley where he taught throughout his distinguished career. He was a recipient of Rhodes and Fulbright Scholarships, and Guggenheim, ACLS and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships. His life-long involvement with the history of Renaissance Florence began as a student at Oxford. Using the vast resources of Florence’s archives, over four decades he developed a comprehensive analysis of the city’s politics, its economic and social structures, its religious institutions and its culture.

Announcing a New Event - Friday, February 21, 2003, at 4pm

Your UCBEA Board is pleased to announce a new event February 21, 2003, to be held in the Howard Room of the Faculty Club from 4 pm to approximately 5:30pm. George Leitmann will speak on *A Legacy of Shame: Nazi Art Loot in Austria*. He was interviewed some years ago on *20/20* and has a short professionally-made video, which he will use to introduce the topic. Light refreshments will be served, and a small fee of \$5 per person will be charged to help defray the cost of refreshments and room rental. Please indicate on the enclosed luncheon response sheet if you plan to attend this special event.

Those attending may wish to make reservations for an “Early Bird” dinner in the Kerr Dining room following the event. Reservations for the “Early Bird” special should be made directly with the Faculty Club (540-6204). The cost of a three course meal is \$11.95 during the hours of 5pm–6:30pm.

Do plan to attend and support this new event which, if successful, will be continued April 11, 2003, with another special speaker and discussion opportunity.

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Professor Bruce Cain Analyzes the November Election

On Saturday, November 9, only four days after the event, Professor Bruce Cain gave us an insightful talk titled, "Looking Back at this November's Elections".

On the national scene, Cain explained that Bush was successful because he was willing to take risks by actively campaigning for Republican candidates in many states. He and Carl Rove had a well-conceived electoral college strategy, unique in mid-term elections. He chose states where Republicans were competitive and which he carried in 2000, an exception being Minnesota where Wellstone's death changed the odds. He avoided raising issues on which his position was not popular (e.g., abortion) and played the terrorist/war card well. He was able to portray Democratic opposition to his homeland security bill as giving aid to Osama bin Laden. The Democrats underestimated Bush's political skill.

How will the Democrats respond? Cain believes that they must use the filibuster sparingly on issues where there is public support for their position. He does not see Nancy Pelosi, the emerging House Minority Leader, as a leftist ideologue but as a realistic political operator who can line up and count votes.

The Democratic success in California was in part due to the stupidity of the Republicans, but this can't be assumed to be a permanent condition - eventually they should get it right and stop running 1980's candidates. They must confront the changing demographics and gender gap. California women vote Democratic by a wide margin. The Republican lack of constitutional officers may actually be to their advantage for it may force them to risk bringing out new faces. One of those risks may be (are you ready?) Arnold Schwarzenegger. When the "Terminator" was on the campus recently he showed his political savvy by bringing himself to Professor Cain's attention. Cain observed that his students were awed, likely indicating the younger generation's attraction to action heroes.

In spite of the Democrats' sweep of California constitutional offices, Cain observed low morale in post-election visits to Young Democrat clubs in both San Francisco and Oakland. The Democrats had invested heavily in get-out-the vote drives, but the actual turn out was dismal. He concludes that potential voters need something to vote for. In minority communities there is a perception that there will be little difference in conditions whichever candidate prevails. Negative campaigning also turns off voters.

Professor Cain believes that political consultants are strangling democracy by their focus on bringing down the opponent. They tend to counsel extreme caution which forecloses real debate and discussion. Consultants have their own interest in campaign money, but their role in how campaign money comes in remains largely unstudied.

In the discussion, one of Professor Cain's colleagues praised his analysis

Berkeley Emeriti

F I M E S



Volume 12, Number 3

Published two weeks before each meeting of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association: To provide closer networking for members with meeting announcements, meeting reviews, executive committee actions, pertinent campus news, and to reach out to members who cannot attend the meetings.

Editor: Claude Babcock

Phone: 510/848-3368

In Memoriam

Chang-Lin Tien

1935-2002

A Warning to Retired Academics

Some weeks ago I received a letter from an "Honorary Society of Retired Academics and Engineers" announcing that my name had come to their attention as being a worthy candidate for membership. They asked a few perfunctory questions about my educational background and working experience. I should indicate my interest in joining this group and would then be interviewed in more detail.

I answered affirmatively and received a phone call from an interviewer a couple of weeks later. I was then asked a long series of personal questions and was eventually informed that I was fit to join that society. The interviewer rattled off a number of benefits of members (e.g. networking opportunities, reduced transportation costs and hotel costs). She was willing to sign me up for an annual fee of \$500 and requested my credit card number. I answered that I had not seen anything printed about the society, i.e. a list of current members and the advantages one would obtain as a member, and I requested to get some printed material on these subjects before signing up. The interviewer then told me that they were not doing business in this way and that I had first to give my credit card number to become a member then I would then receive all the printed material I had requested.

I responded that I was not as dumb as I was old (82 years) and hung up.

This is obviously a scam directed at retired academics. Unfortunately, I no longer had the initial

Special Thanks

Thank you to **Professor Emerita Joyce Lashof**, Chair of the Academic Senate committee on University-Emeriti relations, for her tireless and on-going work to ensure that emeriti receive clarification about how the UC options for health insurance coordinate with Medicare.

Editor's Note

To make a more interesting newsletter, we would like members' submissions. If you have an article or even a short item that might interest our group, contact me at 848-3368. Material (preferably typed) also may be mailed to: UCBEA, 2 Boalt Hall #7200, Berkeley, CA 94720 or sent by email to: ucbrc@uclink.berkeley.edu.

SATISFACTORY SERVICES

MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Phone numbers are area code 510
unless otherwise noted



New Listings

Please submit any new listings you might have to ucbrc@uclink.berkeley.edu, or you can phone the editor at 848-3368.

John Agnitsch (367-6564; agnitsch@aol.com) of Agnitsch Electric is a licensed electrical contractor who is "fast, efficient, and ideal for small jobs." (J.B. Neilands)

California Drapes (895-2111), Proprietor: Maria Furtado: "Excellent work, less costly than other drapes-making services. Highly recommended! (Clare Cooper Marcus)

Tom Cat Moving and Hauling (864-1900, fax 864-1064): "Serving entire Bay Area." Tom Maris was on-time, courteous to persons on both ends of the transaction, put furniture where I asked and then moved it when I realized I'd made a mistake. (Claude Babcock)

Note: Between newsletters you can view all listings at <http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/ucbea-services.htm>.

Adrienne Rich at Lunch Poems Series February 6 Noon –1pm

Since winning the Yale Younger Poets Award in 1951 at the age of 21, Adrienne Rich has become one of the towering voices of our culture. Her many volumes of poetry and criticism summon us to reexamine our lives, from gender roles to the structure of our relationships and politics. Her most recent works include the book of poems *Fox, and Arts of the Possible: Essays and Conversations*. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Women's Studies and by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. Location : International House Auditorium.

Emeriti Honors

Nuclear chemist **Darleane Hoffman**, professor in the graduate school and a researcher at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, along with two other Cal scientists were named to the *Discover* Magazine's 50 most important women in science list in the November 2002 issue.

Kinsey A. Anderson has been elected member of the Academy of Sciences of Europe for 2002.

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Teach at UC Merced Summer Session

UC Merced (UCM) and the UC Davis (UCD) Summer Sessions Offices are again partnering to offer courses for students in the San Joaquin Valley. They are currently seeking emeriti faculty to teach courses in the following areas during Summer Session I or II [June 23 – August 1 or August 4 - 12]:

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Chemistry
- Chicano Studies
- English Literature
- Music Appreciation
- Political Science
- Public Speaking

These courses can be taught via videoconferencing to the UC Merced Centers (in Fresno, Bakersfield and Atwater), online, or in person at one of the UCM Centers. Students who complete their courses will receive UCD credit. Both faculty and students have given these courses high marks, and we are looking forward to building on these positive experiences in summer 2003.

If you are interested in teaching this summer for UCM, please contact the UC Merced Office of Summer Sessions at 559/241-7407.