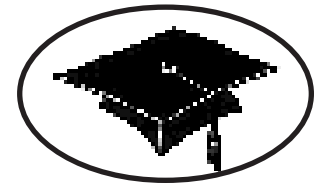


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# Berkeley Emeriti

# TIMES



January 2010



**Peggy G. Lemaux, Ph.D.**

Department of Plant and Microbial Biology

**Saturday, March 20, 2010**

The Faculty Club

## “Can Biotechnology Help Solve ‘Omnivore’s Dilemma’?”

Professor Lemaux earned her B.A. at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1968, and her M.S. and Ph.D. , both in microbiology, from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1969 and 1977. After working as a research scientist for several years, in 1991 she joined the Berkeley faculty.

Since 1999 Professor Lemaux has been Director, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Biotechnology Workgroup. The focus of the Lemaux Laboratory is on the development and use of genetic engineering and genomic strategies for monocotyledonous species such as wheat, sorghum, barley, rice, maize and certain grasses.

Her faculty position mandates statewide responsibility for outreach and educational programming related to agriculture and foods to increase public understanding.

Professor Lemaux’s especially prizes her Dennis R. Hoagland Award for outstanding contribution to agricultural research, (American Society of Plant Biologists) as she was also given an old glass and oak bookcase which belonged to Dennis Hoagland.

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**Berkeley Emeriti**

**TIMES**



**Volume 19, Number 4**

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## Luring Back the Gods

[As we had no scribe for Professor Dreyfus' presentation, he suggested that the non-attendee or the dozing attendee may be interested in the "catalog copy" for the book, *A Life Worth Living After the Death of God.*]

In our secular age, people are hungry for meaning. *A Life Worth Living* provides a feast. With an authorial voice that weaves together the insight and gravitas of Charles Taylor with the vigor and profound probing of David Foster Wallace, this book will change the way we understand our culture, our history, our sacred practices and ourselves.

Hubert Dreyfus and Sean Kelly, world-class philosophers at Berkeley and Harvard, bring into stark relief the texture of modern spiritual life. Through their examination of literature, philosophy, and religious testimony, they unearth ancient, hidden sources of meaning from our cultural history and teach us how to appropriate them in a world without God. Dreyfus is a charming, revolutionary thinker who finds in the classic texts of our culture a new relevance for people's everyday lives. His fascinating lectures are full of life and have earned him a podcast audience that often reaches the top 30 on iTunesU. Kelly is an eloquent and penetrating new voice. His urgent, questing spirit is tuned to the times as Robert Pirsig's was in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. Together Dreyfus and Kelly expose the neediness of a generation adrift and articulate a response to it that shows a life worth living.

Using some of the greatest books in the Western Canon, Dreyfus and Kelly reveal step by step how our culture lost its sense of enchantment and meaning. They follow the decline from the intensity and wonder of Homer's polytheistic world to Dante's blissful contemplation of a Supreme Being who wipes out all the lesser gods—from the failed attempt of Nietzsche's Superman to invent his own gods to the sad emptiness of our modern world as captured in the work of David Foster Wallace. Finally, they draw forth the new polytheism of Melville's *Moby Dick* to spell out what we can do to lure back the gods. In this way Dreyfus and Kelly offer a new, and very old, way to celebrate and be grateful for our existence in a secular world.

**H** We have a tape recorder. What we need is a good listener. Would  
**E** you be interested in combining these features and writing précis  
**L**  
**P** for your fellow emeriti?

*C. Babcock, Editor*

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## The Secret Garden and Much More

The UC Botanical Garden refers to itself as the best-kept secret on campus. Faculty and students often visit and comment, “I’ve heard about you, but I’ve never been here before,” in spite of its having been voted Best Place for a First Date by *Bay Guardian* readers.

There’s another secret niche closer to the heart of campus which is a charming “unknown” for music and lectures in comfortable surroundings. Arts in the Afternoon programs begin at 4 p.m. These are:

Thursday, March 11: Professor Katherine Sherwood, Art Practice, “Healing Arts,”

Wednesday, March 17: Piano Trio, “The Works of Franz Schubert,” Wednesday,

Thursday, April 1: Javanese Shadow Puppets and Gamelan Ensemble,

Thursday, May 6: University Baroque Ensemble,

## Reading Michael Pollan?

With three books on the local paperback best seller list, very likely you’ll find Michael Pollan on your bedside table, or as Groucho Marx would say, “What is that man doing on your bedside table?” Curious about your Body Mass Index (BMI)? Use this:

$$\frac{\text{Weight in pounds}}{\text{Height in inches}^2 \times 703} = \text{BMI}$$

A BMI of 18.5 to 24.9 is considered healthful; between 25 and 29.9 is overweight, and over 30 is obese. (A problem arises as one shrinks with age. (My MD daughter tells me to use the “before-shrinking inches”—ed.)

## Story Hour (SH) and Lunch Poems (LP) 101 Doe Library, Morrison Room Holloway Poetry Series (HPS), 315 Wheeler Hall

Sara Hoteling (SH) Thur, March 11, 5-6p.m

Bruce Andrews (HPS) Wed, March 17, 6:30p.m.

Lisa Chen (LP) Thur., April 1, 12:10-12:50p.m.

Michelle Richman (SH) Thur., April 8, 5-6p.m.

Oni Buchanan (HPS) Thur., April 8, 6:30p.m.

Gwenyth Lewis (HPS) Thur, April 15, 5p.m.

## Crucial Biobib Survey Under Way

All Emeriti Association members have good reason to be pleased and very grateful that 314 of our colleagues have responded so far to the statewide 2007-2009 emeriti biobibliographic survey—a record contribution to the case for sustaining emeriti benefits as high as possible in years to come.

Given the state’s drastic cuts in UC funding, and the consequent fact that the University is scrutinizing its “unsustainable” support of retiree benefits, a scrutiny scheduled to result in budget-saving deliberations this spring, the survey’s results should be in hand by that crucial time.

So that campus emeriti associations may most optimally meet this goal (and to allow for those less prompt than ours) final survey tallies and reports from all are due now. Late responses will be accepted.

These will be compiled and printed here in a UC-wide report for early March distribution to the campus associations, statewide administrators, statewide Academic Senate officers, and, most particularly, to the many members of the President’s Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits. Campus associations, in turn, will distribute copies to the local administrators and Senate officers they believe most appropriate.

This amended timeline gives emeriti who have not yet contributed to the survey a window of opportunity to still do so within the next week or two.

Our indebtedness and thanks to all who have already responded are great but will expand with joy at every additional response, either by regular mail or especially via the net, typically taking just ten or so minutes, at <http://biosurvey.questionpro.com/>.

*Charles Berst  
Survey Chair*

## Wanderlust?..... Weekly Wednesday Walks

The East Bay Regional Park District sponsors nature hikes every Wednesday, which offer a great opportunity to explore the extraordinary natural beauty and variety of our East Bay parks. These are open to walkers of all ages and abilities. Each walk, beginning at 9:30 a.m., has a different destination, ranging from two-and-a-half to six miles round trip. If you are a regular at Hertz Hall, you may want to keep this address for the summertime. For a schedule go to [www.ebparks.org/activities](http://www.ebparks.org/activities) and click on “Regional in Nature.”

BERKELEY EMERITI TIMES  
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*Below the Fold*

**PLAY ON—57th Annual Noon Concert Series Hertz Hall, 12:15 – 1 p.m.**

ROMANTIC PIANO		Wednesday, March 10
Piano Sonata in G D894	Sezi Seskir on restored 1854 Etard piano	
SYMPHONY: RITE OF SPRING		Wednesday, March 17
Stravinsky	University Symphony Orchestra, David Milnes, conductor	
STRAVINSKY & JANÁČEK		Wednesday, March 31
Janáček Sonata for Violin and Piano	Hrabba Atladottir, violin	
Stravinsky <i>Duo Concertant</i>	Michael Seth Orland, piano	
BEETHOVEN QUARTET		Friday, April 2
String Quartets, op. 59 in C major & op, 74 in E-flat major	Students	
AMERICAN SONG		Wednesday, April 7
Eight American Composers	Candace Johnson, soprano; Victoria Theodore & Margaret Kapasi, piano, with chamber ensemble	
BAROQUE		Friday, April 9
Bach, Handel, Vivaldi	University Baroque Ensemble, Davitt Moroney, director	
PIANO TRIO		Wednesday, April 14
Schumann Piano Trio #1	Axel Strauss, violin; Jean-Michel Fontereau &	
Kirchner Piano Trio #1	Jeffrey Sykes, piano	
NEW MUSIC		Wednesday, April 21
Composers from the composition seminar directed by Ken Ueno		
GAMELAN		Wednesday, April 28
Music from Indonesia	students, directed by Midiyanto	
GOSPEL		Friday, April 30
Hollywood Be Thy Name; Gospel on the Celluloid Screen		
	University Gospel Chorus, D. Mark Wilson, director	
BAROQUE TUESDAY		2:15 p.m , Tuesday, May 4
Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Charpentier	University Baroque Ensemble	
CHAMBER BRIDGE		Wednesday, May 5
American and Swiss composers	Lara Bruckmann, soprano; Eva-Marie Zimmermann, piano	