

# **SPRING 2011**

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#### EX-Ls EXPRESS – Spring 2011

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Deadline for Newsletter submittals is 7 days after the Board meeting.

#### **EX-Ls BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Webmaster - www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls	Richard Baker

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS:**

Richard Sextro – 2010	Paul Hernandez - 1998
Don Grether – 2009	Clay Sealy – 1996-1998
Jose Alonso – 2008	Igor Blake – 1994-1996
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John Kadyk – 2006	Howard Browne – 1990-1992
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Bob Fulton – 2003	Ken Lou - 1987
Bob Birge – 2002	Virginia Cherniak - 1986
Per Dahl - 2001	Bill Bigelow - 1985
Tom Beales – 2000	Ted Bowers – 1981-1984
Ken Mirk – 1999	

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS in 2011:

Robert Belshe Ike Turiel Gloria Lozano-Acosta Diana Morris

# CALENDAR OF BOARD MEETINGS & LUNCHEONS:

Luncheons:
February 17, 2011
May19, 2011
August 18, 2011
November 17, 2011

Board Meetings start at 3:00 on the dates listed above, usually in <u>54-130B</u> (that's in the conference room addition to Perseverence Hall at the Cafeteria) at the Lab, but subject to change at the last minute, so check with a Board member if you plan on attending. We welcome attendance by interested members.

#### EX-Ls Honorary Life Members:

Shirley Ashley	Inge Henle
Esther Colwell	Bud Larsh

#### **Official Address:**

LBNL EX-Ls 530 Curtis Street Albany, CA 94706

Photo Site: www.picasaweb Photo Czar: Ned Dairiki Website: www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls

Webmaster: Richard Baker (xrobaker@comcast.net)

#### MEMBERS WITH NO CURRENT ADDRESS

Tom Elioff

Elliott Hewitt

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Change is in the wind. At the top of the list is the EX-Ls newsletter, EX-Ls EX-PRESS. If you have given us your cemail address, you are one of over 200 of the EX-Ls members who can expect to receive your next issues electronically as an attachment to an email message - only. There are over 40 for whom we do not have email addresses and you will continue to receive the News Letter by US postal. You will want to take special note of the May 19<sup>th</sup> luncheon speaker. We had announced at the last luncheon to have EX-L s member Doug McWilliams as the speaker in May to provide a slide show and talk on his many years as a photographer . That has been changed. The speaker will be Bob Budnitz, EX-Ls member and former senior officer on the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, serving as Deputy Director and then Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. The topic will be the Japanese Fukushima nuclear disaster. Dough will be available in August. We look forward to seeing you May 19 at the Berkeley Yacht club. You may or may not be aware of the big changes that are occurring at the Berkeley Lab. Look for a short note on the Lab's plans to develop a second site. The note was submitted by Armando Veramontes, Lab liaison to EX-Ls from Community Relations in Public Affairs. Speaking of ongoing change, EX-Ls welcomed Trudy Forte as Second Vice President at our January meeting, however it is already time to send Trudy your suggestions for candidates for Trudy's 2012 replacement as we all move up or out in the rotation to EX-Ls President position.

I am pleased to announce that the EX-Ls Board has chosen to make a \$1000 donation to the Japanese Disaster Relief – American Red Cross. Last year it was the Haiti Earth Quake Relief – American Red Cross.

A committee lead by Janis Diariki, and including Rich Sextro, Don Grether, Vicky Jared and Joe Jaklevic, have developed a questionnaire to be sent out to the over 2000 Berkeley Lab retirees with assistance from the UC Berkeley Retirement Center . EX-Ls would like to know more about your post retirement activities both professionally and as volunteers in the community. We plan to share this information with the Lab management.

You will enjoy reading Don and Becky Grether's experiences in their grandson's first grade classroom as part of the Lab's Center for Science and Engineering Education outreach program BLISS. Let me encourage you to consider signing up for outreach to a local school. You do not have to be a scientist or engineer to participate. CSEE provides training and materials that are proven to work and lots of fun. Just bring your enthusiasm for knowledge and learning to young minds who get little exposure to science and technology education. As former Head of CSEE I can tell you with confidence – try it you will like it.

Joe Jaklevic has provided an excellent summary of the talk at the February luncheon by Berkeley Lab's microbial ecologist Terry Hazen. Terry described how he and his team from the Ecology Department and the Center for Environmental Biotechnology studied the impact of the Gulf oil spill. As part of their research they developed an overview for the general public on the amazing role of microbes in the environment. A link to the document is provided in the article.

I want to bring special attention to the UC Berkeley Retirement Center. EX-Ls members have access to all of its programs, services and resources which includes a campus library card for example. We plan to have the UCBRC liaison, Patrick Cullinane provide a short update on past activities and announcements as a regular section in the News Letter.

I want to end with a thank you to those members of the Board of Directors made of primarily past president who continue representing EX-Ls as members of partner retirement organizations and continue to provide advice to EX-Ls officers. A special thank you to Vicky Jared – Activities Coordinator not only for her normal outstanding contribution but for effort and above and beyond in addressing the unusual challenges we faced with the February Luncheon at Spengers. It was the classic metaphor of the duck smoothly gliding across the pond while desperately paddling against the current and wind below the surface. Another special thank you to Suzanne Stroh, Membership and Treasurer, who continued to address recent changes related to both responsibilities. Her former connections to UC Office of the President have been valuable. Another special thank you goes to Joe Jaklevic, Karen Springsteen and Vicky Jared for their efforts to establish a more formal connection to the Lab's management and administration.

## LAB LIAISON UPDATE Armando Viramontes

As many of you may already know, the University of California has issued a Request for Qualifications - or "RFQ" - for the Berkeley Lab to identify asecond site to consolidate most of the current LBL programs that are located in space spread throughout the Bay Area and to prepare for long-term future growth. The Lab has set a goal for a short list of potential sites for the second campus to be selected by the end of April, and we are working to meet that goal. I look forward to updating you again on this process when we have a short list of finalist sites to announce.

Our website where you can receive updates and additional information can be found at:

http://www.lbl.gov/Community/second campus/index.html

Also, on April 25th from 7pm - 9 p.m. at the Berkeley Rep. Berkeley Lab presented Science at the Theatre: "New Light on Dark Energy: Is dark energy really accelerating the universe?" For more information on upcoming events go to:

http://www.lbl.gov/LBL-PID/fobl/

#### ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE EX-PRESS IS COMING

Effective with the Summer 2010 edition, our newsletter, the EX-PRESS, will be distributed via email. We are making this change both as a cost savings and to avail ourselves of a more efficient way to ensure that you receive your newsletter in a timely fashion. We will send it to the email address you have provided to us as a pdf attachment and we will include a link to our website. You can view the newsletter there if you prefer. As you may know, \*\*for some time\*\* we have been posting all of our newsletters on the website after they are published. You can see the Newsletter Archive at

http://www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls/newsletter\_archive.htm

Those of you who have not provided us with an email address will continue to receive paper copies of the newsletter. In addition, if you would prefer to continue to receive the paper newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor, Louise Vogelsberg at 510-233-0199.

## ALERT – LAB RETIREE SURVEY COMING SOON (IN JUNE)!

The EX-Ls will conduct a survey of <u>all</u> LBNL retirees or surviving spouses/partners to learn about your activities, achievements and interests during retirement. We know that many of you continue to be active professionally (at the Lab and elsewhere) and that many of you are very active volunteers in your community. Your responses will help us create as broad and comprehensive a picture of Lab retirees as we are able. Our objective here is to document the contributions, activities and interests of Lab retirees, in part, to ensure that LBNL management and the University are aware of the significant contributions retirees continue to make to the Laboratory, University and to their communities. Similar surveys with similar objectives have recently been conducted by other UC retiree organizations.

The survey (or a link to it) will be distributed by the UCB Retirement Center via email and an announcement in the June issue of the Center newsletter, the CenterPiece. Paper copies will also be available for those without email access.

Your participation in the survey is completely voluntary – although we want to encourage as much participation as possible, since (to our knowledge) this is the first such survey of Lab retirees. We will share the aggregate results with the Laboratory and the results will be posted on the EX-Ls website – <u>www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls/</u>.



#### News from the Retirement Center

All Lab retirees have access to the services of the UCB Retirement Center. This is due to a contract for Center services funded by the Lab and supported by the EX-Ls. To learn more about Center services and resources, you can visit our website at <a href="http://thecenter.berkeley.edu">http://thecenter.berkeley.edu</a>.

#### **Older Americans Month Lectures**

The Center frequently offers free educational programs for retirees, their parents and friends. Often these programs are part of our Learning in Retirement program -- <u>http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/lir.shtml</u>. At other times we offer additional programs. Such a program offering will be presented this May in support of Older Americans Month. Three free lectures are scheduled for May:

- May 4, Live Well Live Long: Latest Evidence for Later Life Health
- May 19, Health Care Reform and Medicare: What It Means for You
- May 24, *Caring for the Caregiver* in collaboration with the UCB Elder Care program.

For the May 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> programs, contact the Center to register – call 510-642-5461 or email <u>ucbrc@berkeley.edu</u>. For the May 24<sup>th</sup> session, contact CARE services at 510-643-7754.

#### Luncheon Presentation: "Blowing the Whistle at UC: Lost in a Kafkaesque World"

On Saturday, May 7, Amy Block Joy, Ph.D., UC Davis Faculty Cooperative Extension Nutritionist, Nutritional Ecology will present "Blowing the Whistle at UC: Lost in a Kafkaesque World" at the Emeriti Association luncheon in the Faculty Club. Amy Block Joy has authored plenty of material as an academic. However, as the author of "Whistleblower," she travelled a very different path. The book, published last December, is the story of what happened when she "blew the whistle" after discovering the embezzlement in 2006 of funds for a program teaching nutrition to thousands of the State's poor. The events that unfolded from the discovery of the fraud to the publication of the book are a bizarre, almost surreal story. Dr. Joy received her BA in Biochemistry and Bacteriology (with honors) at UC Berkeley in 1974, her Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences in 1979. Call Mayra at the Faculty Club, 510-540-5678 x224, for more information.

#### **Retiree Conference**

What issues and concerns do you have as you navigate the "retirement "period of life? A planning committee of retirees and staff are developing ideas for a conference for retirees in May 2012. If you have ideas about what would be helpful sessions and speakers for such a conference, send an email or call Center Director, Patrick Cullinane, at pcullinane@berkeley.edu, 510-643-3212.

Lastly, we hope you find the Center newsletter, *theCenterPiece*, informative and useful. It is published three times a year. In these challenging fiscal times, you can help the Center with the publication budget by subscribing to the electronic version of the newsletter. This green alternative saves the Center mailing and production costs.

Be well. Patrick Cullinane, Director, UCB Retirement Center

## SUMMARY OF TALK GIVEN BY TERRY HAZEN AT THE FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Terry Hazen is a microbial ecologist with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory where he heads both the Ecology Department and the Center for Environmental Biotechnology. In addition he is a principal investigator with both the Joint BioEnergy Institute and the Energy Biosciences Institute. A leading authority on environmental microbiology, especially as it relates to bioremediation, water quality and bioenergy, Terry has extensive experience in the study of the environmental impact of oil spills. In his presentation to the EX-Ls, Terry discussed the research carried out by a team which he led to study the aftermath of the recent Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Deepwater Horizon exploded on April 20, 2010 with the loss of 11 lives followed by an uncontrolled release of crude oil that wasn't capped until July 20. During that period, 4.9 million barrels of light crude were dispersed over a large area causing extensive environmental damage to coastal wildlife and uncertain effects over large areas of the gulf itself. A key question concerned the fate of the large volume of oil released into the gulf waters and the long term effects that it might produce.

The released oil is composed of various fractions that can experience different endpoints in the dispersal process. It is estimated that on average 45% of the lighter fractions of the crude evaporated from the surface in the two weeks following its released. Approximately 23% was dispersed mainly at lower depths within a plume of small 10 - 60 micron particles. Larger droplets floated to the surface where they were either skimmed, burned or dispersed.

In order to study the fate of the various fractions, Terry and his team adopted a systems biology approach in which they performed extensive sampling over a wide area followed by analysis using multiple analytical techniques. Between May 25 and Oct 20 they collected samples at multiple depths including bottom surface sediment. They operated from four different ships which ranged from 1.2 km to 384 km from the spill site.

Analysis indicated that there was extensive activity involving microorganisms that were capable of digesting petroleum products as part of their nutrient cycle. In particular, looking at a small particle plume at 1200 meters depth, they were able to detect several changes in the type of microorganisms relative to surrounding water outside the plume. Genetic analysis indicated that the more abundant species were well adapted to the metabolism of petroleum products. When combined with the availability of oxygen and certain fertilizer components, the microbial population was able to convert the oil products into bacterial biomass, carbon dioxide and water within a half life of a few days. The fate of the oil that was washed to the shore is not as clear. Due to the lack of availability of oxygen and other nutrients in the sediments, the half life of petroleum residues is much longer - greater than 62 days.

The effectiveness of the microbes in the gulf at metabolizing petroleum components comes as no surprise to Hazen. Under normal conditions that have existed for centuries, the Gulf of Mexico experiences more natural seepage of oil than anywhere else in America. It is estimated that 400,000 barrels of oil per year are typically released through normal processes. This ensures an available population of bacteria capable of natural remediation of oil spills which were quick to respond to the disaster. This fortuitous circumstance goes a long way toward explaining the rapid disappearance of the oil following the disaster.

For more information concerning the role of microbes in remediation of oil spills, access a FAQ report by the American Society for Microbiology at the following web site:

http://academy.asm.org/index.php/colloquium-program/faq-series

# BERKELEY LAB IN SCHOOL SETTINGS (BLISS)

#### **Don Grether**

You may remember that Susan Brady, the Head of the Lab's Center for Science and Engineering Education (CSEE) spoke at one of our luncheons about programs for local school children, including BLISS. Susan said that it would fine for my wife, Becky, to participate with me.

We decided to test the waters, so to speak, with our grandson Tilden's 1st grade class. Our first step was to ask our son Jeff, Tilden's father, to see if the teacher, Caroline, was interested. She was, so we met with her to discuss topics appropriate for 1st graders. She was most interested in Penguins and their Young as the students were really "into" penguins. So we attended the workshop on that topic. The workshop addressed the philosophy of BLISS. One is not to teach the topic in the way we all experienced in grade school, but rather to ask the kids questions – the classic Socratic method. Also stressed was "learn by doing". Most of the workshop involved going through the GEMS kit that the Lab had obtained from the Lawrence Hall of Science.

Caroline said that what would work best was one hour on each of four days in late January, early February. We checked out the GEMS kit and went though it thoroughly before our first session. The kit had everything we would need and, of course, was at no cost to the school. Caroline had set up each session from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon, which worked out well as when we arrived the kids were at recess so we could discuss the day's plans with Caroline and set things up. Afterwards, Becky and I would go to a nearby restaurant for lunch and discuss how the day had gone.

Basically, things had gone very well. The focus was on the largest penguin, the Emperor, which lives a harsh life in Antarctica. The students were very interested and eager to participate in the fun activities. Some of the activities involved learning about the properties of ice by playing with it in a semi-directed manner. (Learn by doing.) Other activities included comparing the kids' heights to that of a male Emperor penguin, constructing and decorating paper penguins, and role-playing as Emperor penguins – the egg laying and keeping the eggs warm during the Antarctic winter. [If you saw the movie The March of the Penguins then you know all about it.]

The kids did two things that we much appreciated. On the last day they put on a penguin play for us in which they had come up with the script, constructed the props, and made the costumes. Becky went back to the school a few days later to gather up some of the GEMS items and Caroline handed Becky a manila envelope. Inside were valentine cards that the students had made for us, one per student. Very touching.

Would we do it again? Definitely. Tilden will be in the 2nd grade next year so we will need to go through a similar process – find out if the teacher is interested, take a workshop on a topic appropriate for that age group, and then work with the teacher and students. Also, Jeff will be teaching a fourth/fifth grade class this next school year and has invited us to help the students learn about Electric Circuits. If you are interested in participating in BLISS then check out the CSEE webpage at <a href="http://csee.lbl.gov">http://csee.lbl.gov</a>, which lists the topics and dates of the workshops and information about how you can sign up to take one. Although the BLISS page says "... for Berkeley Lab employee volunteers" Susan said that she welcomes participation by retirees.

Were there any "lessons learned"? Yes. One is that it is really important that the teacher be fully engaged, as Caroline was. Always present, helping us carry out the activities and, when necessary, helping calm down a group of high-energy students. Another is that we knew that we could not favor Tilden, but needed to treat him the same as the other students. He was fine with that.



• Don holding a mirror so that Tilden can compare his height to that of a male Emperor penguin

Rosa holding her hand-made – paper penguin.



# Luncheon Speaker for May 19<sup>TH</sup>

# Dr. Robert J. Budnitz

# "The Fukushima nuclear reactor accident: What happened and what does it mean?"

In response to general interest in the events associated with the Fukushima disaster in Japan, the EX-Ls have scheduled Dr. Robert J. Budnitz as our speaker for the upcoming luncheon. Bob brings considerable expertise to the topic having spent most of his scientific career involved with nuclear-reactor safety and radioactive-waste safety.

Bob's association with the Laboratory dates back to the late 1960's when he joined the Physics Division as a post-doc working on Bevatron experiments. From 1975 to 1978, he was the Acting Head and then later the Head of LBL's Energy & Environment Division. In 1978-1980, he was a senior officer on the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, serving as Deputy Director and then Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. He ran a consulting practice in Berkeley for two decades before joining LLNL in 2002 where, among other assignments, he spent two-years in Washington assisting the Director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management in the development of a new Science & Technology Program. He earned a Ph.D. in experimental physics from Harvard in 1968 and a B.A. from Yale in 1961. Bob is currently on the LBNL scientific staff where he continues to work on nuclear power safety and security and radioactive-waste management. He is a member of the EX-Ls.

Bob's talk will describe (technically, but in laymen's terms) what happened at the Fukushima reactors during and after the disastrous March 11 earthquake and tsunami, what the radioactive releases have been and what they mean, and what the path forward seems to be at the site. Potential implications that these events might have upon the future of nuclear power in general will also be discussed.



Relates to talk by Terry Hazen at February Luncheon

#### EX-Ls 2/17/11 Lunch Attendees

Jose Alonso Robert Avery **Richard Baker** Winnie Baker Bob and Sally Belshe **Roy Benedict** James Bettencourt Eugene and Myrna Binnall Igor Blake Diana Brown Jerry Bucher Robert Budnitz John Cahoon Per and Eleanor Dahl Janis and Ned Dairiki Ted de Castro Genevieve Dreyfus Trudy Washburn (guest) Vonnie Gurgin (guest) Trudy Forte **Bob** Fulton William Gilbert Rick Gough Donald and Becky Grether James Haley Terry Hazen Egon and Annette Hoyer Don Hunt Joseph Jaklevic Vicky Jared Blair and Katherine Jarrett David Johnson Joe Katz Gudrun Kleist Matt Kotowski Glen Lambertson

**Richard LaPierre** Bud Larsh Doug McWilliams Ken Mirk Marty Morimoto **Robert Mortiboy** Rolf Muller Charles Ogden Karl Olson Pat O'Sullivan (guest) Rollie Otto Conway Peterson Terry Powell Stephanie Roth Nina Santos David Schenderlein Robert Schmieder Esther Schroeder Andy Sessler **Richard Sextro** Brenda Shank **Robert Smits** Karen and Bob Springsteen Frank and Marie-Agnes Stephens Dave and Sally Stevens Robert Stokstad Greg Stover Suzanne Stroh Clyde Taylor Diane Thielvoldt (guest) Isaac and Ellen-Matthews Turiel William Turner Irma Vogel (guest) Gordon and Evie Wozniak Allan Zalkin Jon Zbasnik





A couple of pictures from the February Luncheon



Thursday, May 19, 2011

## BERKELEY YACHT CLUB 1 Seawall Drive Berkeley Marina

# Bar and Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Bar is located to the left of the entrance door Beer or wine about \$4.00

# Lunch Served at 12:00 Noon

Speaker: Dr. Robert J. Budnitz, LBNL, Sr. Staff Scientist and EX-Ls Member

Title: The Fukushima Nuclear Reactor Accident: What Happened and What Does it Mean?

**Biosketch:** Dr. Budnitz earned a B.A. from Yale in 1961 and a Ph.D. in Experimental Physics from Harvard in 1968. He joined LBNL as a post-doc in the Physics Division working on Bevatron experiments. From 1975 to 1978, he was the Acting Head and then later the Head of LBNL's Energy & Environment Division. In 1978-1980, he was a Senior Officer on the Staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, serving as Deputy Director and then Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. Dr. Budnitz ran a consulting practice in Berkeley for two decades before joining LLNL in 2002 where, among other assignments, he spent two-years in Washington D.C. assisting the Director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management in the development of a new Science & Technology Program. He is currently on the LBNL scientific staff where he continues to work on nuclear power safety and security and radioactive-waste management.

**Topic:** In response to general interest in the events associated with the Fukushima disaster in Japan, the EX-Ls have scheduled Dr. Robert J. Budnitz as our speaker for the upcoming luncheon. Dr. Budnitz brings considerable expertise to the topic having spent most of his scientific career involved with nuclear-reactor safety and radioactive-waste safety. The talk will describe (technically, but in laymen's terms) what happened at the Fukushima reactors during and after the disastrous March 11 earthquake and tsunami, what the radioactive releases have been and what they mean, and what the path forward seems to be at the site. Potential implications that these events might have upon the future of nuclear power in general will also be discussed.

Catering Service: R & J Catering, Hayward, CA

# MENU:

Caesar Salad (family style), hot rolls and butter will be served at the tables along with coffee and water. Hot tea is available on a side table.

Entrees:

Oven Poached Salmon with aioli cream sauce, Kona Teriyaki Chicken toped with sesame seeds, Wild Rice Pilaf, Rotelle Pasta in Garlic Parmesan Butter, Mixed Vegetables with herb butter.

Desserts: chocolate and white cake

Cost \$25 per person (prepaid)

<u>Please send in reservation form on page 11</u>. Thank you.

**<u>Reservations</u>**: Computer access to the LBNL/EX-Ls Web page (www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls) will also give you the lunch form. Vicky Jared must receive your reservation by Monday, May 16. The form should be mailed to Vicky Jared, 4849 John Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553. Please call or email Vicky (925) 228-2145 - jaredrv01@aol.com if you want to sign up or have questions.

See you at the May 19 luncheon Be sure to make reservations by Monday, May 16, 2011 Mail To: Vicky Jared, 4849 John Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553

From:	
I Plan to attend the EX-Ls Luncheon:	\$25 per person - PREPAID
I will bring guest(s)	
Name(s) of Guest(s):	
Menu is Buffet: Advance Choice is not requir	ed
Please make check payable to EX-Ls	Total Enclosed: \$
Willing to carpool: As Rider?	As Driver?
Need to sit closer to the Screen?	Other:
Wish Assistance with Buffet?	

LBNL EX-LS 530 Curtis Street Albany, CA 94706

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