



WINTER 2011

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The Ex-Ls Board of Directors and members gratefully acknowledge the
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Administration
For their continuing support.

I hope that EX-Ls retirement association is meeting its purpose by providing “social, cultural, and intellectual relationships” for you. When I think back on my years at Berkeley Lab (1974-2006) the good memories that stand out are the people. Was I looking through rose colored glasses or was there something special about each person at the Lab in that we knew whatever our part we were part of a community dedicated to creating new knowledge, new technologies and new ways of relating to one another to make the world better for all. The people of Berkeley Lab made it a special place for me to spend a large part of my life and through the EX-Ls we seek to continue those relationships.

On behalf of the entire community of EX-Ls I want to thank and acknowledge last years EX-Ls leadership. First to thank, is Rich Sextro, 2010 EX-Ls President. Rich lead a very active year and started a number of initiatives that will define the agenda for much of 2011. One initiative that is very special to me is a partnership with the Center for Science and Engineering Education that provides both training and opportunity for EX-Ls to contribute to science education in our local schools. Grandparents, heads-up, this is an opportunity for you and your grandchildren. I will mention other initiatives below and our plans for moving forward in 2011.

As your First Vice President, I was responsible for recommending and obtaining luncheon Speakers. However, the real thanks for quarterly luncheons should go to Vicky Jared (Activities). Vicky negotiates the contracts with Spengers and the Berkeley Yacht Club, arranges the meals, ensures that all runs smoothly, and hosts the raffle. The primary role of the Second Vice President, Joe Jaklevic was to head a committee to recruit a future President for EX-L's and we thank Joe and welcome Trudy Forte who becomes Second Vice President this year. I want to thank Suzanne Stroh (Treasurer and Membership) who as served in both these roles for the last four years. Suzanne negotiated a particularly challenging year with the implementation of a life time membership option and an end of year crisis in printing the new letter, leading to a key report clarifying EX-Ls relationships to the Lab and its resources. She is now working with the UC Office of the President for authorization of continued Lab support for the EX-Ls operation. We thank Karen Springsteen (Secretary) and Richard Baker (Web Master) for the significant time and attention they give to their responsibilities. Dave Stevens has been our News Letter Editor reliably meeting deadlines and obtaining content input which is always a challenge. We thank Dave for his dedication to keeping us all connected and informed as he hands-off the news letter responsibility to Louise Vogelsberg. A final note of thanks to Past Presidents Janis Dairiki (AROHE and CUCRA Liaison), and to Gene Binnall and Don Grether (UCBRC Policy Board) for representing the EX-Ls this past year as liaisons to these sister retirement organizations.

We have several initiatives going into 2011. We will seek to strengthen our relationship with the Lab and at the same time renew our commitment to EX-Ls by strengthening communication and interactions between members. What it means to be retired is clearly evolving. We have all found that life fills up with other obligations, opportunities and challenges. Many of you are contributing to your communities and in a small or even large way are ambassadors for Berkeley Lab. We would like to know more about your activities and think the Lab would be equally interested. Janis Dairiki is heading up a committee to develop and carry out a survey of Berkeley Lab Retirees, including EX-Ls, to guide the process and to inform the Lab about its retiree's activities and preferences. A subcommittee headed by Joe Jaklevic had the task of establishing formal links to managers and administrators in the Lab's Directorate and started that process. By working with the Lab this year we hope to reestablish an annual new retiree's reception.

You can look forward to interesting, informative and entertaining luncheon speakers this year. Terry Hazen (Center for Environmental Microbiology) was swept into the Gulf Oil spill activities last year and he and his group ended up making a phenomenal discovery. He has an amazing story to tell. I have known Terry for many years as an outstanding research mentor for students and teachers. He is one of those special people at the Lab who made my years a continued daily adventure.

I look forward to an exciting and challenging year as president and to my continued association with you through EX-Ls.

**EX-LS LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

**SPENGER'S FISH GROTTTO,
1919 Fourth Street,
Berkeley, CA 94710**

Pacific/Atlantic Rooms - Doors and Bar open at 11:30 am

Lunch Served: 12:00 noon

Speaker: Terry C. Hazen, Senior Scientist, Earth Sciences Division, Head, Ecology Department & DOE Distinguished Scientist.

Bio-Sketch: Terry Hazen is a Microbial Ecologist with LBNL 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.

Topic: A leading authority on environmental microbiology, especially as it relates to bio-remediation, water quality and bioenergy, Dr. Hazen has studied numerous oil-spill sites. In the aftermath of the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico this past summer, Dr. Hazen led a team that was able to directly study the microbial activity within the oil plume. His report that the oil had been degraded to virtually undetectable levels within a few weeks after the damaged wellhead was finally sealed made headlines across the country.

Spenger's Menu: Choice of one of the following entrees:

1. Bay Shrimp Louis Salad with 1000 Island dressing - Clam Chowder Soup
2. Pork Tenderloin with Bourbon Pepper Glaze - Lunch Salad

Cost: \$25 per person (prepaid)

Reservations: Please make checks payable to Ex-Ls. Send to:

Vicky Jared
4849 John Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

For regular mail, the reservations slip is on last page

Please call or email Vicky (925) 228-2145 - jaredrv01@aol.com if you want to sign up or have questions.

Vicky Jared must receive reservations by Monday, February 14

EX-Ls' Policy on Creation and Use of an E-mail List

July 7, 2010

**[Approved at EX-Ls Board Meeting of July 8, 2010;
amended January 31, 2011]**

Policy

The EX-Ls Board of Directors authorizes the creation of an e-mail distribution list to be used for communication with the membership as directed by the Board. The list will be created and maintained by the EX-Ls Webmaster or, alternatively, by a List Master appointed by the Board.

Members' e-mail addresses are compiled as part of the membership or membership renewal forms distributed and collected by the membership coordinator. These email addresses will be shared with the webmaster/list master, as will any revisions or corrections to the email addresses obtained by the membership coordinator. The membership forms will provide members the following options regarding the use of the email address (yes or no to each option): 1) receive email correspondence from the UCBRC and 2) list the email address as part of the member listing in the EX-Ls annual directory. Any corrections to the email address or to the use options may be communicated to the membership coordinator or to the webmaster/list master.

The email list may be used only by the webmaster/list master, and may not be shared with, given to or accessed by anyone for any purpose unless expressly authorized by the Board of Directors. Use of the list for communicating EX-Ls information or business requires the explicit approval of the President of the EX-Ls, or his/her designee. Use of the email list for communications from other organizations or for other purposes requires explicit authorization from the Board of Directors. Authorized use of the email list means that material to be communicated to the membership is provided to the webmaster/list master for distribution.

Welcome New Members

Robert Belshe

Ike Turiel

Member with No Current Address:

Does anyone know the address of Tom Elioff?

2011 OFFICERS

President:	Rollie Otto	Treasurer/Membership Coord:	Suzanne Stroh
1 st Vice President:	Joe Jaklevic	Activities Coord:	Vicky Jared
2 nd Vice President:	Trudy Forte	N/L Editor:	Louise Vogelsberg
Secretary:	Karen Springsteen	Webmaster:	Dick Baker

IDIOSYNCRATIC PERSONAL COLLECTIONS

Dave Stevens

A preview glance at Don's note about the di Rosa Preserve brings to mind several personal collections – including the di Rosa – that I have managed to visit. I think what most distinguishes these collections from those created for large public institutions is that the collectors – unlike museum curators, who generally try to stick to professional curatorial criteria – are free to include whatever it is that they like and for no other reason than that they like it.

The most well known in this country is probably the Barnes Foundation (in common with Shoji Hamada, of whom more later, Dr. Barnes stipulated that his collection not be called a “museum”) in greater Philadelphia, perhaps the home of more Renoirs than any other single venue. (A snippet of its history was fictionalized in “The Permanent Collection”, a play presented at the Aurora Theatre a few years ago.) Barnes had very specific ideas about how to display his collection, and it had little or nothing to do with traditional curatorial practice; he placed works in close proximity, not because they shared an artist, a time, or a “movement”, but because he thought they complemented each other in some way (color or line or subject matter). That's the way I try to hang the pictures in my house, so I agree with him.

Henry Mercer had so much stuff that there are (at least) two collections of his in Bucks County, Pennsylvania: one in his former house and one in the Mercer Museum. The former, in an eclectic castle designed by Mercer and somewhat reminiscent of the Winchester House, is devoted to ceramics, primarily those of American Moravian provenance, but also includes many of historical significance. He began what is now the Mercer Museum as a collection of American artifacts and handicrafts that were being superseded by technological advances of one kind and another. He had to build another castle to hold it all, including an atrium large enough to *hang* a whaleboat, a stagecoach, and a Conestoga wagon.

More impressive even than Mercer's atrium, however, is Alex Jordan, Jr.'s House on the Rock, in Spring Green, Wisconsin, with its associated museum, that contains, under one roof, everything from a reproduction of a town street, circa 1910, to a host of self-playing musical instruments, ranging in size from a music box to a twenty-piece orchestra with strings and brass (still in working order; the day we went was the day after it had been featured on a local television show, so there were lots of people there to feed quarters into the slots to get the instruments to play), and what may be the world's largest carousel, unique in that it has no horses. (Lots of deer and unicorns and rabbits and lions and tigers and bears, oh my, but no horses.)

The last two I want to mention were brought to my attention by the Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association. (Sakai is Berkeley's first sister city, and possibly the only one where the relationship was not politically inspired. Berkeley and Sakai have been sisters for more than 40 years.) Among the principal rewards of participating in a sister-city program are (a) the opportunity to host goodwill visitors from the sister city, and (b) the opportunity to visit the sister city and its surrounding countryside. This past summer, about 15 people from Sakai visited Berkeley, and one of our major group activities was a day trip to the di Rosa Preserve (notice how the word “museum” seems to be anathema to collectors). Don captured the flavor of the place very nicely, but neglected to mention a couple of things. One is a very nice small transparent gazebo that seems to have been built for the sole purpose of displaying some very nice stained glass. Another is that the large hall in the gallery building has a mansarded ceiling that allows the installation of additional paintings at a height that would be very hard to see if the walls were vertical. And, presumably *not* part of the exhibit, one of the trees near the house is a distressed conifer that has been so severely pruned in an effort to keep it alive that it looks more like a tree by Picasso or Braque than a real tree.

And, finally, Shoji Hamada's home and studio, in Mashiko, Japan, which we visited on a goodwill trip in 2003. Hamada shared Henry Mercer's passions for ceramics and folk art, and strongly urged his fellow artists to return to the old traditions. To support these efforts, he scoured the world for his “reference collection” of artifacts – not limited to pottery – only a small portion of which can be on display at any one time. (When we visited, there were Inuit, Panamanian, Chinese, and Indonesian items, as well as Japanese.) Judging from the prevalence of funerary urns, he seems to have been of a somewhat morbid turn of mind.

This is not to disparage the formal display of fine art, which can be immensely rewarding, but because we expect so much of the famous museum collections it can be hard for such an exhibition to live up to our expectations. We generally know little or nothing in advance about personal collections such as those sketched above, and our delight at the surprises offered – or our surprise at the delights offered – can make a visit to a personal collection a very memorable occasion.

Napa Valley's Hidden Gems

Don Grether

Within the last ten months or so my wife Becky and I have “discovered” two places to go in Napa Valley that we had never heard of before. While we have not conducted any kind of systematic survey, most people we have asked have never heard about them either.

Di Rosa Preserve (see photos on page7)

Rene di Rosa was a reporter for the SF Chronicle who inherited some money and bought about 500 acres of cattle ranch land in the Carneros region just off Highway 12. He went to UC Davis to learn how to grow grapes and hung out with artists, some of whom went on to a reasonable degree of fame in the modern art world, including Robert Arneson and William Wiley who are well represented at the Preserve. Rene converted about half of his land to vineyards. He didn't have his own winery but rather sold his grapes to wineries in the area, and did very well at it, using part of the profits to buy modern art. At some point he sold the vineyards to Seagrams and had even more money to buy art. About ten years ago he gave the land, the buildings, and his 2000 pieces of art to a public trust. He died just this past fall at age 91.

The Preserve has about 1000 pieces of art on display at any one time: at the Gate House, the main gallery, di Rosa's former residence, and all over the grounds. None of it is like the classic image of modern art as splotches of color on a large canvas. It is highly imaginative and some of it is downright funny. We took Becky's sister and her husband there and the latter, who doesn't like much of any art, was fascinated.

The Preserve can't afford guards so what they offer are docent-led tours. And the place is not open every day. So check it out at <http://www.dirosaart.org> and, if interested, call them to be part of a tour. It's rather inexpensive. We were so impressed that we became members and went there four times in 2010, always with friends or relatives who we could get in for free. On one occasion Rene was there, but was very frail and in a wheelchair. One warning. Some of the photographs could be disturbing to young children.

Castello di Amorosa

Basically it's a rags to riches story for Dario Sattui who also owns the V. Sattui Winery in St. Helena, the profits from which he used to build a Italian-style medieval castle just off Highway 29 between St. Helena and Calistoga. One reason that the castle is not well known is that it can't be seen from the highway. Castello di Amorosa is also a winery but its wines are not well known, as they are not available in stores or restaurants but rather only at the castle or for members of a wine club.

We went on a very cold day (for the Bay Area). The castle is unheated, but especially below ground level was warmer than outside. Not only did Dario insist that the castle be constructed with the same materials and methods as medieval castles, but that the wines be made the same way. Although neither is really quite true. While composed of rocks and bricks, our tour guide said that the castle meet modern seismic and fire codes. Also, the grape de-stemmers, crushers, and fermentation tanks are very modern. The only link to a medieval winery that I could see was the labyrinth of underground tunnels that had oak barrels on both sides for aging the wine.

The castle includes an armory and a torture chamber. They really knew how to torture people back then, far more gruesome than anything used today. I think. Or at least I hope so. Similar to di Rosa one goes on a tour, but includes a wine tasting. Reservations are probably not needed during the off-season, but definitely are during the tourist season. Check out <http://www.castellodiamorosa.com>.

DI ROSA PHOTOGRAPHS



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Albany, CA 94706

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SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

To: Vicky Jared
4849 John Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Be sure to make reservations by February 14

From: _____

I plan to attend the Ex-Ls Luncheon

>>\$25>>

PREPAID

I will bring guest(s). Name(s) of guest(s): _____

I would like: . Bay Shrimp Louis Salad with 1000 Island dressing _____
Pork Tenderloin _____

I ____ would like to carpool / ____ am willing to drive

____ Please seat me close to the speaker and screen

The lunch form is also on the LBNL/EX-Ls Web page: www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls