



# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

UC RETIREES' ASSOCIATION AT BERKELEY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

## *Fall Luncheon*

September 17, 2015

11:00 am No Host Bar and Social

12:00 Noon Lunch

Hs. Lordships 199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley, CA 94710 USA

Free parking

**\*\*NEW!\*\* Register online: [http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab\\_event](http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_event)**

or call the Retirement Center to register: 510-642-5461

When registering online, please register guests separately after completing your own registration.

Registration and payment deadline: No later than Sept 10

Dr. Sheila Humphreys, University of California Berkeley  
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Director Emerita of Diversity  
Recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics,  
and Engineering Mentoring

*Our fall luncheon speaker, Dr. Sheila M. Humphreys, will offer a fascinating and personal perspective of thirty-five years of efforts to promote diversity in the EECS Department, College of Engineering, at UC Berkeley.*

*Patricia Hardy, Speaker and Luncheon Coordinator*



## *In Memoriam*

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing on August 16th of our beloved president, Kurt Lauridsen. Sometimes we knew him as Santa Claus at our annual Holiday Parties, handing out candy and perspiring in his wonderful red suit, cap, and beard. Sometimes he was President Franklin D. Roosevelt, waving his (unlit) cigarette in its traditional holder and dispensing fascinating historical nuggets of information on the former president's yacht Potomac. But always he was our friend and colleague, first as a long-time Director of the Student Learning Center on campus, and more recently as our Newsletter editor and Association's guiding light, UCRAB's president. Gracious, always of good cheer, supportive of others' efforts -- we will all miss him greatly.

At the time of his death, Kurt had completed his President's Message for inclusion in this issue. His final words were,

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to Board and Association members for your numerous contributions this past year. This year serving as your President has been a very rewarding one, and I know that our many successful activities are a direct result of your efforts." Kurt, we thank you, too, for your devotion to our Association.

We will have a few moments of silence in Kurt's memory at our September luncheon and will inform UCRAB members by e-mail of future memorial plans.

*In sadness, the UCRAB Board of Directors*

## ***June Luncheon and Program***

The June UCRAB Luncheon, held at His Lordship's on June 18th, was a great success and was attended by close to 50 participants. In addition to a delicious lunch, we held our annual association business meeting and election of members of our Board of Directors. The program consisted of a panel discussion, in which representatives of each of the four associations that are served by the UC Berkeley Retirement Center briefly described their membership and activities. Center representatives also participated in the exchange, which was followed by a brief question-and-answer session with luncheon guests.

Nominating Committee Chair Carroll Brentano presented the slate of officers and directors-at-large for the coming year. Elected for two-year terms were Treasurer Lynn Bailiff, Secretary Marian Gade, and three Directors-at-Large -- Kathleen Demerdjian, William Roberts, and Antonia Sweet. Continuing board members whose terms run for another year include President Kurt Lauridsen, Vice President Lola Harris, and Directors Lynn Baranco, Patricia Hardy, and Isabelle Revoir.

The panel discussion, introduced and moderated by Marian Gade, briefly outlined the relationships between UCRAB, the Berkeley Emeriti Association (UCBEA), the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Ex-L's, PARRA (President's and Regents' retirees), and our UC Berkeley Retirement Center. (The Council of University of California Retirees' Associations (CUCRA) and the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA).)

UCRAB's Past President Iola James reviewed our own mission, membership, and activities, followed by Caroline Kane (UCBEA), Connie Grondona (Ex-L's), and Susan von Seeburg (PARRA). Rich Sextro, also a Lab retiree and past chair of the UCB Retirement Center's Policy Board also participated, as did Patti Owen, the current Policy Board chair.

In general, a wish was expressed for more communication among our Berkeley associations, greater openness to one another's activities and events, and increased cooperation on projects and retirees' advocacy. The sharing begun at this meeting is expected to continue, facilitated by the Retirement Center.

*Marian Gade*

### **UCRAB Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

*Kurt Lauridsen, President  
& Newsletter Editor  
Kurtvl@sbcglobal.net  
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*Lola Harris, Vice President  
& Assistant Newsletter Editor  
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*Marian Gade, Secretary  
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*Lynn Bailiff, Treasurer  
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#### **Directors**

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*Lynn Baranco  
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*Kathleen Demerdjian  
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*Patricia Hardy, Luncheons  
& Scholarships  
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*Isabelle Revoir, Membership  
isabelle.revoir@gmail.com*

*Antonia Sweet,  
UCRS Liaison  
& Volunteer Committee  
510/652-9795*

## ***UCRS REPORT***

The University of California Retirement System Advisory Board met on June 19th. In the current State budget the Governor has allocated a one time payment to the University of \$95-million to be used towards paying down the UC pension debt. In exchange he has stated that UC must have a new tier for employees who begin their employment as of July 1, 2016. For more on this be sure to follow the State budget/revisions on the UCRS Advisory Board website at [ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu).

UCOP is currently negotiating with the various health care vendors. Again, check out the UCOP website for information as the negotiations progress. There should be no changes for 2016.

The COLA beginning July 1, 2015 is 2%. It is based on the 1.5% average increase in the CPI (Consumer Price Index). For those who retired after July 1, 2006, please refer to the table in the May edition of "New Dimensions." You will find the increase in your checks that were paid at the end of July. Purchasing power is kept at 80% or higher. For PERS the purchasing power is 91%.

*(continued on next page)*

## *(continued) UCRS REPORT*

Don't forget to check the CUCRA (Council of University of California Retirees' Associations) website at <http://cucra@ucsd.edu/> for information presented at the April meeting held on the San Diego Campus. Representatives from each location's retiree association attend the spring and fall meetings each year where information and ideas are shared and UCOP representatives make presentations and are available to answer questions. The fall joint CUCRA-CUCEA (Council of University of California Emeriti Associations) meetings will take place in October on the Davis Campus.

Reminder: The editor of New Dimensions, the UCOP publication, continues to look for articles by retirees. If you would like to contribute, contact Anne Wolf at [annewolf@ucop.edu](mailto:annewolf@ucop.edu) with your article.

*Toni Sweet*

## ***Upcoming Trips and Events:***

**REGISTER ONLINE AT:** [http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab\\_events](http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_events)

For details, contact Trip and Event Director, Iola James, (510) 632-7264, [iolaj@comcast.net](mailto:iolaj@comcast.net)

Registration opens August 24.

### **Sept 24, 2015 Monterey Bay Aquarium Excursion**

Join us for an educational tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium on a chartered luxury coach to Monterey by the scenic route via highway 1. The Aquarium's featured exhibit is "Tentacles! The Astounding Lives of Octopuses, Squid, and Cuttlefish."

Midway through the tour, we will enjoy lunch at Bubba Gump's on Cannery Row, where you will have an appetizer, choice of one of five entrees, beverage and dessert. As we pass through "The Artichoke Capital of the World," we'll make a stop for access to the freshest artichokes available. (Not included in the trip price!)

**Cost:** UCRAB members (and guests): \$70.00/person Non-UCRAB members: \$80.00/person.

To pay for the trip, send a check or money order to: UCRAB, 101 University Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550.

Reservation and payment must be received by September 14, 2015. No refunds!

**Transportation:** Thursday, Sept 24, 2015. Board bus: 8:00 AM – Return to Berkeley: 6 PM

Meet in Foot Hill Parking Lot (North side of campus; Hearst Ave at Cyclotron Road). Hearst Ave. and Cyclotron Road; bus also picks up at parking lot on corner of Hearst and Oxford around 8:40 a.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Oct 2, 2015 Oakland Symphony, Opening Night: Renshaw & Rachmaninoff**

Friday, October 2, 8:00 PM, Paramount Theatre, Oakland

Pre-concert talk at 7 pm Post-concert reception

Price: Orchestra seats starting at \$28, and Rear Balcony seats starting at \$16

Michael Morgan, Conductor Mason Bates Devil's Radio - West Coast Premiere

Two internationally acclaimed local artists—composer Mason Bates, who has worked with the Symphony since early in his career, and Menuhin Competition winner and Crowden School alumnus Kenneth Renshaw—take the stage for what promises to be a sensational season opening. Bates's Devil's Radio (2014) swings and grooves from quietly propulsive to shimmering melodic "lures" to a bluesy bassline.

*Iola James, Trip & Event Coordinator*

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## ***NOW RECRUITING ARTISTS!***

To all artists, craftspersons, poets, photographers, sketchers, painters, quilters, and anyone else with talents and hobbies in the UCRAB Member Community: If you would like to display your specific interest or creative contributions at our upcoming UCRAB event to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, please contact Isabelle Revoir, UCRAB Membership Director, at 510-524-4127 or email [isabelle.revoir@gmail.com](mailto:isabelle.revoir@gmail.com).

You will be contacted with more information on this exciting upcoming event featuring our creative UCRAB retiree members. There will be a nominal entrance fee and raffle tickets available for purchase.

## ***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES***

Cheryl Jakielo, Human Resources Senior Manager for the Bay Area Discovery Museum ([cjakielo@badm.org](mailto:cjakielo@badm.org)), has announced that the Museum has multiple part-time employment and volunteer opportunities that would be a good fit for retirees. If you are interested, contact <http://www.baykidsmuseum.org> or call 415-339-3994.

*Toni Sweet, UCRAB Volunteer Coordinator*

## ***MEMBERSHIP REPORT***

Welcome to our new members Gail Getty, Gail Offer-Brown, and Alice Kubler. Thanks to the more than 50 people who have renewed their UCRAB membership since the last newsletter. We appreciate your being a part of the Cal retiree community. Please feel free to contact me, or membership information is available on the UCRAB website.

*Isabelle Revoir, UCRAB Membership Chair*