



Fall 2022

President's Message



Welcome to the new academic year and happy Fall. As always, the summer is a quiet time for UC sponsored activities, and UCRAB is not alone. We ended last year with a wonderful talk by Wendy Hillis, the Campus Architect. She discussed the 10 year

plan for the campus, revealing current and future construction projects, including People's Park. This latter has been put on hold, so we just need to wait to see how it unfolds. At our meeting, we also held board elections. The results are: President-Patti Owen, Vice President-Marty Takimoto, Directors at Large—David Duer, Kurt Libby, and Valerie Ventre-Hutton. All of these individuals have been on the board, and I am delighted that they were willing to continue. We are always looking for individuals who are interested in getting involved and who can bring fresh perspective and new ideas to the table!

Included in this newsletter is a link to a short survey (4 questions) regarding possible future activities and whether, with Covid still lurking, we can or should have in person gatherings. Even though Covid has been waning, I have heard of several recent cases of individuals who have contracted it despite

mitigating with masks, vaccinations, socializing outside, and limiting contacts. Retirees are a demographic where there need to be extra precautions, and we want to make sure our activities remain safe.

The Annual Renegade Retiree Picnic was held in July at Tilden Park, "sponsored" by the four retiree associations affiliated with the Retirement Center: UCRAB, the Ex-Ls, UCBEA, and PARRA (UCOP). About 40 individuals braved the cloudy, windy day for a fun-filled afternoon. It is always a treat to reconnect with former colleagues and to meet new ones. Speaking of activities, UCRAB (prior to Covid) has held an annual holiday party in early December. At its most recent meeting, the board decided to cancel this year's scheduled event due to the lingering Covid issue and the inability to hold it outdoors. Maybe next year....

As we move into the holiday season, I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

Patti Owen

UCRAB President

George Breslauer to Speak on the Ukraine-Russia Conflict

UCRAB is pleased to host a talk by George Breslauer, Professor of the Graduate School, in the Travers Department of Political Science. The topic is “Russia’s War on Ukraine: Origins and Prospects”.

The talk is scheduled for **November 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m.** via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)

Membership

UCRAB is an organization which represents all staff and non-Senate academic retirees. In the past, we had been a dues paying organization, but we recognized that our dues paying “members” made up a very small percentage of eligible retirees. Last year, we decided to move to a voluntary donation structure so that our newsletter and other announcements of activities would reach all retirees. The mission of UCRAB is to foster communication and collaboration between retirees and the university community, advocate on behalf of retirees, and establish opportunities for retiree engagement and recreation. In order to achieve these goals, we need your support

You can support UCRAB today by donating here: [Click Here to Donate](#) or by sending a check to:

UCRAB
c/o UC Berkeley Retirement Center
101 University Hall
Berkeley, Ca 94720-1550



UCRAB members tour Filoli House and Gardens in 2019

Survey

As the world starts opening up, UCRAB would like to know what activities are of most interest to our members. Over the past two years, we have only been able to sponsor speakers via Zoom, with no in-person events. We have put together a very short four question survey to ascertain the comfort level of our members. Should we hold events in person or via Zoom? Should events take place indoors or outdoors? What sorts of activities should UCRAB sponsor?

Please complete the survey available here: [Click here to complete the survey.](#) Thank you for your input.

In Memoriam

Following are those staff and non-Senate academic employees of the Berkeley campus who have passed away since our last newsletter.

Esther Aguilar, ___ Assistant 1
Charles Antoniak, *
Dennis Bartling, Buyer V
Doris Bluel, Student Affairs Officer I
Delores Bonander, Cooperative Extension Advisor
William Carlin, Network Engineer 1
Donnie Craven, Management Services Officer II
Christine Cziko, Academic Coordinator 1
Norma Harrison, *
Diane Hill, Project Policy Analyst 5
Ronald Howard, Senior Custodian Leader
Edgar Jones, Senior Storekeeper
Veronica Keeton, Student Academic Advisor 3
James Kelly, Academic Coordinator II
Judith Levy, Associate Librarian
Constance Lewallen, Specialist
Jordan Safine, Senior Administrative Analyst
Susie Sheridan, Payroll Analyst 4
Carol Suveda, ___ Assistant 3
Herbert Thier, Academic Administrator
Brenda Williams, *

*Title at time of retirement is not available