



March 2023

President's Message

As I write this, we are experiencing bizarre weather. Rain, Sun, Snow, Wind, sometimes all at once. The holidays are now far behind us and, if you are like me, planning for that next trip or activity is well underway. Now that COVID is no longer the driver of our lives, UCRAB is beginning to plan events and luncheons to bring retirees together. In this newsletter you will find a planned trip to the Rincon Annex to view the New Deal Art. This is a follow-up to a talk given by Professor Emeritus Richard Walker as part of the UC Retiree Learning Series. The guide for the Rincon Annex, Gray Brechin, will also be giving a talk on April 20.

Currently, the UCRAB Board is identifying ways to bring retirees together, whether through social events, trips, or luncheons. One area we have been exploring is how to identify volunteer opportunities, both on and off campus. On campus activities have the advantage of bringing retirees back to campus where they spent so much of their adult life. Stay tuned for future announcements.

UCRAB continues to monitor issues related to benefits and to advocate on your behalf where necessary. The Retirement Administration Service Center is still experiencing long delays when processing retirement applications and survivor benefits. They are continually reorganizing to find the best operational model to meet the needs of their customers. The new process for password reset in UCRAYS has helped, especially for those trying to

access their 1099-R forms for tax purposes. The Council of UC Retiree Associations (of which UCRAB is a member) and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations continue to press UCOP on the health benefits provided to out-of-state retirees. The \$3000 annual allocation to these retirees for purchase of health insurance has not changed since its inception 12 years ago. The general issue of out-of-state coverage has become an issue for both active employees and retirees due to individuals moving out of state while continuing to work remotely.

Patti Owen

UCRAB President

Elections

The UCRAB Board of Directors is seeking nominations for a Secretary, Treasurer and 3 at-large board positions. Board Members serve two year terms effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

In addition to providing advocacy for staff and non-senate academic appointees at the Office of the President and State of California legislature, UCRAB currently offers virtual events featuring interesting speakers on scholarly, cultural and topical content.

We look forward to returning to hosting social events, quarterly luncheons, day trips and overnight travel opportunities. The Board's objectives are to:

- Provide information about benefits and other issues that are useful to Retirees;
- Promote opportunities for interaction and communication among Retirees
- Assist retirees in continuing to be of service to the University.

We are seeking individuals who will enrich the board's diversity with their experience and skills. Specifically, knowledge of communications, event planning, speaker engagement and fundraising are desired.

Individuals can nominate themselves or they can nominate others. Nominations should include the following information: name, year retired, department/unit at time of retirement, functions of prior position/s, e.g. financial, operations, fundraising, management, etc. Please submit nominations to UCRAB Vice President Marty Takimoto, takimoto@berkeley.edu no later than April 15, 2023. Questions can be sent to the above email address.

Rincon Annex Tour April 13

Join the UC Retirees' Association (UCRAB) for a tour of the Rincon Annex in San Francisco. We will meet at the Embarcadero BART station and walk a block to the Annex. For those who wish, we are organizing a lunch at Yank Sin, a popular nearby Dim Sum restaurant. The cost for the tour will be a \$25 tax deductible donation to The Living New Deal. This tour is limited to 20 members, so don't delay! A waitlist will be created for a possible second tour in the near future.

Our tour guide will be Dr. Gray Brechin who is the founder of [The Living New Deal](#) and former Vice-President of the National New Deal Preservation Association. He is an historical geographer and author, who received a BA in History and Geography, an MA in Art History, and a PhD in Geography at Cal.

The Rincon Annex was built by the Public Works Administration as a post office in 1940. The exterior of the building is decorated with dolphin bas-reliefs and carved eagles. A series of 27 murals,

"History of California" by the artist Anton Refregier, were completed after World War II and it was the last New Deal mural project.

In 1953, some in Congress considered Refregier's murals to be anti-American and wanted them destroyed, but San Franciscans came to their defense and saved them. The murals are now protected and have been listed by the National Register of Historic Places since 1979.

It is recommended that anyone who has trouble standing for long periods of time bring a walker or a camp-style stool.

[Sign Up Here](#)

In Memoriam

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

Leslie Banez	Financial Services Supervisor II
Norman Buffington	Programmer/Analyst III
Chi Chen	Librarian
Nada Clarkson	_____ Assistant III
Emil Dupres	Staff Research Associate III
Connie Heinrich	Administrative Analyst
James Gordon	Library Professional 4
John Gibson	*
David Weldon	Principal Administrative Analyst
Adelaide McManus	Buyer 4
Susan Meyer	_____ Assistant I
Margaret Smith	Specialist
Mark Swanson	_____ Assistant III
Robert Tarr	Principal Producer-Director
Catherine Wong	Applications Programmer

*Title at time of retirement is not available