



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

UCRAB FALL LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Berkeley City Club

Social Hour at 11am Luncheon at Noon

Registration form inserted in this newsletter

Joe Lewis



Helping UC Employees Transition to the Next Phase of Their Lives

Joe Lewis, Director of the Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) in the Office of the President began his phased retirement in July. He is stepping down from his responsibility for the areas of Customer Service, Retirement Operations, Operational Compliance, Retiree Insurance and Business Controls, including staffing, training, communications, systems, and stakeholder and vendor relationship management. These activities are of great importance to all University retirees and Joe will discuss their future and some changes that lie ahead.

The Customer Service Center responds to more than 8,400 written, oral, and email inquiries per month, from 59,000 retirees and 33,000 former employees, and also fields questions from 185,000 active employees who are members of the University of California Retirement System. The Retirement Operations Unit processes 2,000 death and survivor cases and over 3,300 retirements annually. Joe is especially proud to be the primary interface between OP and the UC Retiree Associations.

Patricia Hardy, Luncheon Coordinator

Senior Communities

Our final senior residence to be featured by a UC Retiree is Grand Lake Gardens, home to Caroline Summer. Caroline came to the Bay Area after earning a Ph.D. in English Literature from Cornell and teaching 10 years at Michigan University.

She made a career change and received an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a license as a Marriage and Family Therapist. After working in this field at several positions in the Bay Area she joined UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program as a Learning Disabilities specialist. Caroline also maintained a private practice until her retirement in 2010.

Kurt Lauridsen, Editor

About Grand Lake Gardens

For the past year I've lived at Grand Lake Gardens (GLG). Opened in 1966, GLG is a small retirement community in Oakland, near the Grand Lake Theater and Lake Merritt.

I explored various senior residences before choosing this one but had no trouble making a decision. GLG has everything I value most; wonderful people, attractive physical features, interesting activities, and location in a dynamic Oakland neighborhood.

Most important, I like the people who live here. In some ways they're very different from one another. Their ethnicities vary and so do their vocational backgrounds; at dinner last night I shared a table with a former New York social worker, two airline pilots (a married couple), a pianist/harpsichordist, and a student of cabala.

Despite their differences, the residents seem to have one thing in common; almost all are warm and friendly. After my first dinner with GLG residents (in our beautiful sixth-floor dining room, with its panoramic view of Oakland) I knew I'd enjoy getting to know them. I didn't realize that I'd find something exceptional here: a warm and close community whose members love and support each other in many ways. It probably helps that GLG

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President's Message

As we transition into fall we have a few things to recap and a few things to look forward to. At the June 20, 2013 annual business meeting, the slate of officers and directors up for election and minor changes to our constitution and bylaws were unanimously approved by members present. If you would like a copy of the revised document, contact the Retirement Center.

A sub-committee of the UCRAB Board is diligently working on a survey to allow association members the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding activities and programs. The survey should be presented later in the year.

A new updated UCRAB bookmark is now available and maybe obtained from the Retirement Center or at the quarterly luncheons.

Concerning your health and welfare, open enrollment and a scheduled Medical Plan Information Day is planned for the month of November. Be on the look out for Retirement Center announcements with more details.

This year I would like to see us focus a little more on volunteerism. If you are interested in volunteer activities please let us know! I'm sure your services will be appreciated.

A couple of trips are now announced (see Trips) and others will follow. In the spring, we offer the Monterey Bay Aquarium!

It's great to be retired.

Iola James, President

About Grand Lake Gardens, Continued

is comparatively small; with just 77 residents on our current roster, we get to know each other well.

GLG offers apartments of various sizes. My one-bedroom unit is spacious and well-appointed, with a modern bath and full kitchen. I had it painted in bright colors, which I love. Right now I'm sitting in front of the sliding glass doors that lead to my balcony, where potted spring flowers are blooming. Below, in the patio, residents are sitting under umbrellas chatting as they finish their picnic lunches. In the distance I see people working in our garden, where we raise the vegetables we contribute to a local food bank. There's also a meditation garden, with a fountain and flowering plants, where I like to take a book and a cup of tea.

GLG offers a wealth of activities. On Fridays and some evenings there are "van trips" to points of interest, such as concerts, art exhibits, gardens, and restaurants. There are also activities on the premises. I faithfully attend two exercise classes but my favorite groups are devoted to discussing poetry or novels, or reading plays aloud. I'm also part of a team that keeps our good-sized library stocked with books from the New York Times best-seller list.

For me nothing is more pleasurable than just walking out the door of GLG to run errands or explore our lively neighborhood. I can find all the amenities (pharmacies, banks, food stores) as well as shops and restaurants of all kinds. My favorite day is Saturday, when I can cruise through the Farmer's Market, drop in at the public library for a good book, and then walk over to Lake Merritt to sit on a bench and read it.

With good food, an attentive staff, and reliable transportation to medical and other appointments, GLC makes life easy and enjoyable. Even my two cats are happy here; my son credits the "good vibes" of the place. For more information please feel free to contact me: (510) 526-3529, carolinesummer@world.oberlin.edu. Grand Lakes Garden, 401 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610. GLG's number is (510) 893-8897.

UCRAB

Executive Board

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UCRS Advisory Board Report

The University of California Retirement System Advisory Board met on June 21st. It was announced that Ellen Lorenz is the new director of the UCOP Customer Service Office. Joe Lewis, her predecessor, has begun phased retirement. Thank you Joe for all the excellent support that you have provided for us over the years. I'm sure that Ellen will continue the fine work that you began.

The COLA beginning July 1, 2013 is 2.1%.

Don't forget that CUCRA has a website at <http://cucra@ucsd.edu/> It contains interesting information gathered at its meetings. Representatives from each campus retirees association attend the meetings that are held in the spring and the fall of each year. Iola James, the President of UCRAB (the University of California Retirees Association at Berkeley) attends the meeting along with Allan Jensen, our Vice President.

Reminder: Check the article in "New Dimensions" discussing the responsibilities of our individual beneficiaries regarding Power of Attorney, trusts, etc. Of particular interest is the checklist of information that each of us should be sure to provide to whoever will be handling our affairs: where important documents are located, where our bank accounts and investment accounts are held, how to contact UC regarding pension and death benefits, etc. Adrian Harris, a UCLA budget office retiree and chair of the CUCRA-CUCEA Joint Benefits Committee, produced the checklist as a reminder to us of so many items we may otherwise forget to include in our instructions. You can find it on the website under the "What's New" category, "Getting Personal Affairs in Order."

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.

Toni Sweet, UCRS Liaison

Welcome New Board Member

The newest member of the UCRAB Board is Lynn Bailiff. Lynn began his career at Cal in 1975 as a member of then-Vice Chancellor Mike Hayman's staff. During the ensuing 21 years, Lynn worked in a variety of capacities to improve the quality of undergraduate education and to make Cal's undergraduate student body more reflective of the State's diverse population. Lynn is perhaps best remembered as Executive Officer in the Division of Undergraduate Affairs, with Vice Chancellor Mac Laetsch and for four years as Director of the Disabled Students' Program.

After taking early retirement from the University in 1996, Lynn managed a private-sector research company for five years and, since 2001, has assisted high school principals in the Oakland Unified School District with financial and organization management. Lynn retired from the District in 2011, and continues to stay active with part-time consulting.

Lynn also finds time for traveling with his wife Fran, listening to jazz and classical music, and walking daily in the Oakland Hills. Welcome, Lynn!

Kurt Lauridsen, Editor

UCRAB Trips

Legion of Honor: By popular request I have scheduled a one-day excursion to the Legion of Honor *Impressionists on the Water* exhibit on Sept. 12, 2013. Please refer to the enclosed insert for detailed information.

2014 Mid-Week Reno Snow Trip: Several of our members and their guests enjoyed the two-night mid-week trip in 2013. The 2014 Mid-Week Reno Trip will be scheduled for Feb. 11, 2014. The Johnny Cash and country music theme trip will be further described in the spring newsletter.

Iola James, Trip Coordinator

Membership Update

Thank you to all who have renewed your UCRAB membership by responding to the UCRAB Newsletter inserts sent either by e-mail or hard copy. We so appreciate your membership and we will continue to offer interesting luncheon topics as well as trips in the future.

Congratulations to the following retirees who won a one-year UCRAB memberships at the UCBRC Summer BBQ: Don Grether, Tun Lin, Pamela Milin, Joe Quincy, Deirdra Thorne. We hope to see you at future UCRAB events.

Isabelle Revoir, Membership

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UCB Retirement Center Update

UCRAB invites you to observe our executive board meetings held at 10:30 am on the third Wednesday of the month at the UC Berkeley Retirement Center, 1925 Walnut Street.

The coming schedule:

September 18

October 16

November 20

Please note that no meetings are held in August or December.

Upcoming UCRAB Luncheons:

September 19

December 5

Retirement Center Liaison
to UCRAB:
Patrick Cullinane, MS

The fall issue of the Center's newsletter provides a harvest of educational, fun, and retirement management programs. It can be found online at <http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/centerpiece.shtml>. Below is a summary of some of the fall activities:

Medical Plan Information Day – Fall is open enrollment time. Changes in plans are anticipated. The Information Day is set for Nov. 13.

Alumni & Family Weekend (Homecoming) 2013 – Retirees have more opportunities to be engaged at this year's homecoming weekend, including an Open House at the Center, the BBQ before the game, and fun weekend volunteer opportunities.

Chancellor Dirks Inauguration – Retirees can join the celebration of the Inauguration of Chancellor Nicholas Dirks on Nov. 8.

LBNL Learning in Retirement Series – An October series will highlight the Lab's efforts in Bringing Science Solutions to the World. Lab Director Paul Alivisatos will speak at the first session on Oct. 8.

Ready to Travel? – Come to the travel interest group party in November. Trips booked benefit the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA).

Retiree of Distinction – Read about a recent staff retiree and his retirement experience.

To learn more and to register for events, contact the Center at 510-642-5461, ucbrc@berkeley.edu or check the Center website – <http://retirement.berkeley.edu>.

Patrick C. Cullinane, Director, UCB Retirement Center

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

Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant Ave, Berkeley
Social Hour at 11 a.m. Luncheon at Noon

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Transitioning to the Next Phase

Joe A. Lewis

(retired, UC Office of the President)

Come hear Joe Lewis discuss projects and initiatives for the Retirement Administration Service Center as well as the latest updates on retirement elections.

Reservations must be received in the office no later than Thursday, September 12.



Parking and Transportation Information for the Berkeley City Club:

Low-rate parking is available in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. The entrance to the lot is on Channing Way between Dana St. and Telegraph Ave. Also, the Berkeley City Club will validate parking for the Sather Gate Garage (enter from Durant, between Dana and Telegraph). The #51B and #7 AC Transit busses stop close to the Berkeley City Club and Downtown Berkeley BART.

Reservation for the UCRAB Fall Luncheon

Member Name:	_____
Address:	_____ _____
Phone Number/email:	_____
Spouse/Partner/Guest Name:	_____
Phone Number/email:	_____ _____
Guest Name:	_____
Phone Number/email:	_____ _____

Meal Choice: _____ Regular Entrée _____ Vegetarian Entrée

Enclosed is my check payable to UCRAB for \$25.00 per person.

Please mail this reservation form to: UCRAB, 1925 Walnut Street, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550