

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

Executive Board

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UCRAB Fall Luncheon

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

11am–2pm at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

Robert W. Cole
Director, Cal Performances

***“Cal Performances
and the
World of Performing Arts”***

Come November 3rd, Cal Performances will celebrate its 99th anniversary! For this reason, it's with particular pleasure that we invite you to attend our September 14th luncheon where the guest speaker will be Robert W. Cole, director of this hugely successful and exciting program of performing arts.

Describing this man's achievements is a formidable task. Since taking over as director of Cal Performances in 1986, Mr. Cole has garnered accolades both in this country and abroad, not only for the stellar performers he has lured to Berkeley, but for his appearances as guest conductor of the Kirov Orchestra with the Perm Ballet at the 2004 White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg, the Perm Philharmonic, and with performances of “The Hard Nut” for the Mark Morris Dance Group at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York. Upcoming engagements include another production of “The Hard Nut” this November at Sadlers Wells in London followed by performances with the National Symphony Orchestra in Armenia and the premiere of a new production of Swan Lake with the Perm Ballet.

Robert Cole received his M.A. in Music from the University of Southern California and went on to study conducting with Leonard Bernstein and Leon Barzin at the Tanglewood Music Center and with Hans Swarowsky in Europe. Mr. Cole served as associate director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and guest conductor with the Florida Philharmonic, the Sacramento and Pasadena Symphonies, the Hartford Ballet and the Chatauqua Symphony. He was executive director and music director of the Ballet Society in Los Angeles and has produced both opera and musical theatre in northern California and Los Angeles. He is also general director of the Berkeley Festival and Exhibition, an international festival of early music, which he founded in June of 1990. One of his many honors includes being named Chevalier of the Order of Art and Letters by the Government of France.

As evidence of the remarkable scope and diversity of Cal Performances,

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This organization would not exist without dedicated volunteers.

The UC Berkeley Retirees' Association invites its members to attend the Executive Board meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 256, University Hall.

The Coming Schedule:

September 15
October 20
November 17
January 19
February 16

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

The UC Berkeley Retirees' Association is located in the UC Berkeley Retirement Center 2 Boalt Hall, # 7200 Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

Hours: 8:30am—4:30pm
Closed Noon—1:00pm

Telephone: 510/642-5461
Fax: 510/643-1460

Retirement Center Liason to UCRAB
André S. Porter
Administrative Specialist

President's Message

UCRAB does not issue an "annual report" to its members, but I'd like to use this message to let you know a bit about the current state of your organization, and especially about where your dues money goes.

So, how much do your dues add up to and where do they go? Over the past few years, we have increased our paid membership from about 300 to over 570 members. This results in annual income from dues of about \$6000, adjusted for those receiving the multi-year discount. A major category of expense relates to our most important role as advocates for UC retirees within the UC Office of the President, The Regents, and the state legislature. We pay dues of \$1 per member each year to our statewide Council of UC Retirees' Associations (CUCRA), and we pay the expenses of two representatives to CUCRA's meetings when these are held at campuses other than Berkeley. CUCRA advocates on behalf on UC retirees and monitors university and governmental actions that may affect our benefits. Some say this is the cheapest health insurance you can purchase.

Advocacy and benefits retention are paramount, but other expenses also need funding. A substantial portion of your dues covers general and administrative costs, such as the printing and mailing of this newsletter four times a year, membership mailings, as well as office supplies. Prior to the establishment of the Retirement Center, a half-time administrative assistant provided administrative support to both UCRAB and the emeriti association. Both associations continue to use an equally shared .5 FTE of the Center's 3.5 FTE staffing budget. However, a recent study showed that, due to our growth efforts and increased activity, UCRAB alone was using .5 FTE. In response, the UCRAB board has asked the Center to hire a Work/Study student (to a maximum of \$1,500 per year, from our funds) to assist with association tasks – answering phones, mailing out trip confirmations, helping with the membership database, and the like. We see this as an opportunity to serve you better, while also helping a student finance his or her education at Cal. In the next newsletter, we'll try to introduce "our" student to you.

In terms of actual dollars, our trips and events account for about half the money moving through our accounts each year, but since these are designed to operate on a self-funding basis, with costs covered by luncheon and event fees, this report will not include them. Occasionally we run over estimated costs on events and then we do need to subsidize them from our dues. Therefore, we keep a balance for emergencies.

If you have comments or questions about our finances, or other aspects of our organization, please let us know. It's your association and your money, and we try to use it wisely for your benefit.

Marian Gade
UCRAB President

We are an Interesting Group!

Since retiring, we have gone in hundreds of directions...travel to distant lands, fascinating hobbies, moves to new towns, pursuit of the arts, volunteer activities, perhaps even a new career or a small business endeavor of our own.

The *UCRAB Newsletter* would love to gather stories from UCB retirees on how they are spending their leisure – or maybe not so leisure – time. Have you become an expert in growing Bonsai trees? Would you like to share information about a recent trip you have taken? Can you recommend community services especially geared to retirees? Do you know of agencies in desperate need of volunteers? Have you found wonderful classes that we should know about? Are you learning to draw? Have you discovered a new career that excites you? What books have you especially enjoyed recently?

We plan to boast a little about our new adventures in the next newsletter – anonymously if you wish – in hopes that it will simply be of interest to each other. Who knows, it might also provide some ideas to those still employed at UC who are considering the sometimes frightening notion of **retirement!**

Send your own stories and ideas to Board member Sondra Jensen at sjensen@berkeley.edu or call her at 510/526-7595.

Robert Cole, Continued

here's just a sampling of upcoming programs this fall: Yo-Yo Ma, the Bolshoi Ballet, Bobby McFerrin, Renée Fleming, The Royal Court Theatre of London, Arlo Guthrie and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

So no matter how your taste runs – opera, drama, ballet, American jazz, politics – you will experience the best in the world of performing arts. Thanks, of course, to Robert Cole.

So do join us for a stimulating afternoon on Tuesday, September 14th, at Spenger's – social hour at 11:00 and lunch at 12 noon, followed by Mr. Cole's address, which will undoubtedly be a fascinating discussion of the great artists he has brought to Berkeley these past eighteen years.

Dorothy Snodgrass

Ask Adrian

Q: *When we prepare to retire, usually in our mid-60s, we receive plenty of advice about proportionate diversification of our financial portfolios among stocks, bonds, CDs, cash, etc. to assure us a comfortable future with prudently minimized exposure to risk. As we age, however, should these guidelines remain the same, or should our pies be sliced differently (say at ages 70, 80 and 90) to keep our assets surviving safely as long as we ourselves do?*

from Robert Eckert

A: ~~There are many cookbook formulas available about how your asset allocation should change over time. Many suggest change as you age, e.g. have 100 minus your age in equities – but unfortunately, there is no one correct answer.~~

If you have a high risk aversion, it is unwise to invest a large percentage of your assets in the most volatile investment option – equities. If you lose a large percentage of your assets through a dramatic change in the value of stocks, the older you are, the less time you have available to earn it back. However, some individuals consider investing a form of entertainment, and as long as the risks taken don't jeopardize your financial future, investing can be as enjoyable as a vacation gambling trip to Las Vegas.

We are very fortunate to have the University Defined Benefit Program, which hopefully provides for a substantial portion of your needs in retirement. Tax deferred investments and external investments hopefully provide for enrichment of your retirement years, and security in an environment of unpredictable future increases in the cost-of-living.

At any age, the key to investment decisions is your ability to sleep well at night! It is far more important to have a steady goal and a pattern of spending less than you make and investing the difference.

Adrian Harris

Adrian Harris, UCLA Vice Chancellor-Planning Emeritus, writes for the UCLA emeriti and retiree newsletters. We are reprinting this column with hope that it may be of interest to many of you.

University of California Retirees' Association
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Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Docent at Lawrence Hall of Science

Put your skills to work in an exciting environment. Learn more about science and education, meet new friends, and help children and families enjoy science. ___LHS Volunteer Docents: Assist visitors with hands-on activities in conjunction with exhibits and special events; help with outreach programs to schools and the community; interact with visitors and small animals in the Bio Lab; teach computer classes; and research products and provide customer service in our museum store.

No science background is necessary. An interest in learning new things, working with families and children ages 3-10, and good communication skills are helpful.

Orientation for new Docents will be held Thursday, September 23 from 3:00-5:00pm. If you would like to attend or receive more information call the LHS Docent Coordinator: 510/643-5471 or email docents@berkeley.edu

Volunteer Tax Counselors Needed

Each year AARP Tax-Aide volunteers provide free help preparing income tax returns for senior and low-income taxpayers at nearly 9,000 locations nationwide. Sixty-eight of those locations are in the East Bay where this past spring over 13,000 taxpayers were assisted. Next year new counselors will be needed to meet the needs of even more very appreciative clients.

If you enjoy working with people and are comfortable dealing with numbers, the Tax-Aide program may be for you. All volunteers receive training in basic tax law in January and qualify to become a Tax-Aide counselor by passing an IRS test. Counselors typically volunteer 4 to 8 hours per week during the ten-week tax season.

To learn more about joining the Tax-Aide team in your community, contact Baird Whaley at (510) 843-4126.