

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

Executive Board

Officers

*Iola James, President
& Trip Coordinator
iolaj@comcast.net
510/632-7264*

*Lola Harris, Vice President
510/843-4314*

*Errol Mauchlan, Treasurer
510/849-1732*

*Marian Gade, Secretary
mgade@berkeley.edu*

Directors-at-Large

Milton Elbogen, Events

*Isabelle Revoir, Membership
aurevoir9@email2me.net*

*Antonia Sweet, UCRS Liaison
510/652-9795*

*Viessa Brooks, At-Large
510/893-2191*

*Dorothy Snodgrass, At-Large
dorosdo@att.net
510/848-4353*

*Allan Jensen, At-Large
gramps@berkeley.edu*

UCRAB Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday December 16, 2008

Berkeley City Club

HERE COMES THE HOLIDAY PARTY

Come one, come all to the annual UCRAB Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 16 at the Berkeley City Club. Okay, okay, the economy is just plain dismal. But it's the season of good cheer and giving. So we can be cheerful about each other at the party and offer our gifts for the kids at Oakland's Children's Hospital.

And then there's the raffle! Everyone who comes to the party will be given a ticket that will give them a chance at winning one of the wonderful gifts contributed by generous local merchants. Yours truly will be the picker of the numbers, and I promise to be my usual goofy self.

Whether you win a door prize or not you'll be a true winner by sharing good cheer with your UCRAB pals, and if you bring a gift for the kids, you'll be an even bigger winner.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Berkeley City Club. And why not invite a friend?

Milt Elbogen

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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 the UC Berkeley Retirement Center, 1925 Walnut Street.

The coming schedule:

January 21
February 18
March 18
April 15

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

The UC Retirees' Association at Berkeley is located at:

1925 Walnut Street #1550
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

Hours: 9:00am—4:00pm
Closed Noon—1:00pm

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

Retirement Center Liaison
to UCRA:

André S. Porter
Program Manager

The UCRA Newsletter is published approximately three weeks before each quarterly luncheon.

Editor: Open
Email: ucrc@berkeley.edu

President's Message

Greetings UCRA members! Our year is well underway! The Retirement Center is settled into its new location on Walnut St. If you haven't dropped in, be sure to drop by for the facility tour. Patrick Cullinane, the Center's new director, is busy getting acquainted with faculty, staff, deans, vice chancellors, et al. At our October board meeting, our UCRA board introduced themselves and welcomed him to the Center and Berkeley campus. I'm happy to announce that Fred Henry has agreed to become our new newsletter editor. I would like to thank him for stepping up to take on this important task.

I recently returned from the AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) Conference hosted by the University of Southern California. The conference allowed me and others from UCB to interact with national and international member organizations. Our Center director and Andre Porter were also in attendance. We were able to share and obtain information and ideas that will benefit our UCB constituents. In fact, Andre presented a workshop on our award winning Retiree Work Opportunities (RWO) program. I'm pleased to report that our retiree association and Center are leaders amongst similar associations.

Many topics on aging were presented at the meeting. We learned that some of the things that improve health and well being include: volunteering, physical exercise, engagement with life (meaning activity) and intellectual stimulation. In many aspects, expectations in aging are that the next 30 years will be equal or better than the last 30 years. Other good news about aging, brain cells can regenerate. We can live to 100. So, most of all, believe that you can live to be 100!

The CUCRA (Council of University of California Retirement Associations) and CUCEA (Council of University of California Emeriti Associations) meeting took place in Santa Cruz on October 30 (See report below). We were pleased to learn that our health benefits have remained the same. The dedicated representatives from the Office of the President continue to do an excellent job keeping retirees updated about the benefits we have earned.

This is the month that we take time to celebrate all for which we are thankful. May your coming holidays be filled with blessings and joy!

Sincerely, your President
Iola James

Report from CUCRA meeting

The fall joint CUCRA/CUCEA meeting was held on the UC Santa Cruz campus on October 30th. For those of you whose eyes glaze over at acronyms, that's the Council of University of California Retirees' Associations (of which UCRA is a member), and the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations. Each group meets twice a year, at least once in a joint session.

Continued on next page

CUCRA meeting, continued

Berkeley was well represented: UCRAB officers Antonia Sweet and I are also Information Officer and Chair of CUCRA, respectively. UCRAB President Iola James and board member Allan Jensen served as UCRAB's representatives, and our Treasurer Errol Mauchlan attended from Berkeley's Emeriti association. Our new Center Director Patrick Cullinane and our Program Manager Andre Porter represented our staff at the meetings of both associations.

The morning was devoted to separate meetings of the two organizations. Much of the CUCRA meeting was centered on items carried forward from the spring meeting including discussion of future national laboratory relations with CUCRA, now that Los Alamos and Livermore have their own separate retirement system for current employees, and maintaining on-going communications between the member associations so that we can more readily develop common stances on matters of interest.

One such area is the September Regents' action on retirees returning to work for the University. After adopting a policy, The Regents have asked for comments, and the campus associations are sharing, through our CUCRA Information Officer, their questions, reactions, and suggestions for potential changes and/or implementation. This is a matter that affects a large number of our retirees, and you may be sure that we will be watching future developments carefully and will keep you informed.

The joint meeting in the afternoon featured a personal greeting from UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthal who graciously welcomed us to the campus. As is the practice at these meetings, staff from the Office of the President presented reports and updates on several topics: the general performance of the retirement assets (in good shape despite the economy); potential resumption of employee contributions to the retirement plan; accounting requirements that mean potential pre funding of medical benefits for employees and retirees; the status of the overall restructuring of UCOP and especially of its Human Resources and Benefits unit (which deals with retirees); a discussion of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 5 (ACA 5) which would take control

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of benefits policy out of the University's hands (it did not pass in the last legislative session so was not on the November ballot); and information on changes in the 2009 medical plans and open enrollment. (There were few changes since a major overhaul had taken place for the 2008 year.)

Charley Hess, CUCEA Chair, and I reported on activities of the UCRS Advisory Board and the UC Faculty Welfare Committee, which also serves as an excellent watchdog for all retirees.

The next CUCRA meeting will be in late April in San Diego. These are valuable meetings and you should know that 50 cents of your UCRAB dues each year goes to support CUCRA – one of the best investments you'll ever make in ensuring the stability and performance of our retirement system!

*Marian Gade
CUCRA Chair and UCRAB Secretary*

Come to the Holiday Party -- and Bring a Donation!

For the fifth consecutive year we will accept gift donations for Children's Hospital of Oakland. The hospital is always in need of donations and would be delighted to receive these during the holiday season. Bring them unwrapped to the luncheon, and we will deliver them on your behalf.

Patients at Children's Hospital range in age from newborns to teens, and gifts (new, in original packaging) are especially needed for teens and babies. Here are some great ideas for items they can use:

- Rattles, plastic teething devices, Beanie Babies, crayons, colored pencils,
- Journals, blank books, note books, new or slightly used books, including Spanish language publications,
- Travel-size shampoo, lotions, dental care, and shaving items for parents,
- Gift certificates to Safeway, Albertson's, Target, Lucky's Market, Costco.

University of California Retirees' Association
1925 Walnut Street #1550
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

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Campus Events (Complete Listing of campus events at <http://events.berkeley.edu>)

Income Diversity and Gentrification

Center for Community Innovation presents Professor Karen Chapple, Department of City and Regional Planning at Lobby Wurster Hall. January 26 from 6-7pm

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Community Innovation Lecture Series: Department of City and Regional Planning, DCRP and the Center for Community Innovation offer the Community Innovation Lecture Series. Event Contact: 510/643-7553

Jefferson Memorial Lectures: "An Invitation to Struggle: The Constitution, the Military, and Political Accountability"

The Graduate Division presents David M. Kennedy, Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History at Stanford University. Barrows Hall, Lipman Room, 8th floor. February 3, 4:10-6pm

David M. Kennedy, Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History at Stanford University, will present the Jefferson Memorial Lecture. His lecture, titled "An Invitation to Struggle: The Constitution, the Military, and Political Accountability." Event Contact: 510/643-7413

Using the Fabrication Technologies from the Microelectronics Industry to Address the Unmet Needs in Drug Delivery

The Department of Chemistry presents Professor Joseph M. DeSimone, Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill at Pitzer Auditorium, 120 Latimer Hall. February 24, 11-12pm. Event Contact: 510/643-0572