

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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UCRAB Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Berkeley City Club

HERE COMES THE HOLIDAY PARTY

featuring the music of jazz guitarist

Jeff Massenari

Come one, come all to the annual UCRAB Holiday Party on December 10. 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 (see p.3 for details).

Enjoy music from Jeff Massenari. Jeff has performed at Yoshi's International Jazz House, Pearl's, Davies Symphony Hall, national festivals including, San Jose Jazz Festival, Fillmore Jazz Festival, North Beach Jazz Festival, The Sausalito Arts Festival, as well as in Japan, Sweden, Finland, Guam, and Italy at the Umbria Jazz Festival.

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.

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 20
February 17
March 17
April 21

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
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Retirement Center Liaison
to UCRA:

Patrick Cullinane, MS
Director

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

Editor: Marcelle Baxter
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Editor's Notes

Once again the University's autonomy has been challenged by state representatives. This has happened before and it will probably happen again. It only proves that education is a continuing, ongoing and never ending process.

We must remind those who seek to remove the University's independence, that unfettered administration has allowed the University to flourish and become the most prestigious and eminent public university in the nation. This conformation has become the engine that produces leadership and excellence throughout the state, the nation and the world.

It is important to observe history. The University of California was created by an assembly bill written and submitted to the state legislature by John W. Dinelle. It was signed into law by Governor Henry H. Haight on March 23, 1868. The law created a constitutional corporation under the name, "The Regents of the University of California," to be governed by a board of the same name. In addition, its operation was to be free from all sectarian and political influence in its operation. This structure provides uniformity and consistency without subjugation to the vicissitudes of political power.

We must steadfastly resist any incursion into this wise and prudent creation. Can't we return to an equitable measure of respect and support from the state, the principal benefactor? It is in the best interest of the state as a whole.

Marcelle Baxter, Editor

CUCRA Meeting Report - October 29, 2009

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Council of University of California Retiree Associations (CUCRA), along with that of the statewide emeriti association, CUCEA, was held on October 29 at UCSF. Much of the joint meeting was devoted to discussion of President Yudof's Post-Employment Benefits Task Group, especially the Listening Forums - held November 10, 10:30-noon in Sibley Auditorium. The Listening Forums will be repeated in the spring, at which time it is expected that some preliminary recommendations may be available for comment. The important message for retirees is that there will be no change in the UCRP benefits we now receive, and retirees will not be asked to contribute to the pension fund.

In other CUCRA actions, steps were taken to begin work on a CUCRA website, which will be housed at the UC Berkeley Retirement Center. In addition, I noted that the University may ask retirees, as individuals, to join in advocacy efforts with their legislators around issues of university financial support from the state, especially issues of special concern to retirees such as the resumption of employee contributions to UCRP. If you have given the Center your e-mail contact information, watch for alerts that will give "talking points" and sample messages you might

CUCRA Report, continued

consider sending (For further information on UC's advocacy community, see <http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/uc4ca/home/>).

Campuses shared reports on their associations' activities (see ours in this newsletter), providing ideas that others might adopt. These range from social events such as trips and golf tournaments to efforts to identify and aid retirees suffering financial hardship. CUCRA's next meeting will be in Santa Barbara in late April 2010, again in concert with CUCEA.

Marian Gade, CUCRA Chair

History and Evolution of UCRAB and the Retirement Center

1986 - Temporary Assistant Vice Chancellor Betty-Lou Harmon was trying to initiate an organization to support retiree's best interests. From that initiative, Joe Toby and others established UCRAB.

It was also contemplated at that time, to offer full, part-time or volunteer services to retirees. This plan was withdrawn, because of possible conflict with making new hires and possible budgetary constraints.

1988- The first planning committee was held and Ken Founce was named President of UCRAB.

1989- Vice Chancellor Daniel Bogan agreed to start UCRAB by allocating \$11,000 to both the UCB Emeriti Association and UCRAB. In addition, funding was provided for a part-time clerical staff person to serve both associations. The position was to be supervised through Personnel, Betty-Lou Harmon's home department. According to Joe Toby, the physical location of the associations was designated as University Hall.

1990- ?

1996- Both the Emeriti Association and UCRAB, at the time, were located in University Hall. Marian Broome initiated the idea of a retirement center; one that would be similar to

History and Evolution, continued

the UCLA Emeriti/Retiree Center. Broome met with Vice Chancellor Carol Christ and Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien about the idea and both approved. In this year the first Retirement Center planning committee meetings began. In these first meetings, the committee discussed the function the Center would provide to UCB retirees. Essentially the mission and goals were determined. Some of the functions discussed included UC benefits, tax information and general efforts to keep in touch with retirees and tap into collective knowledges, which might benefit the University. Some notable faculty members were supportive of the expansion of the Center, such as Robert Connick, College of Chemistry, Donald A. Riley, Department of Psychology and Melvin Webber, Department of City and Regional Planning.

1997 Some of the major steps and actions resulted from Chancellor Tien's approval of the Center and the allocation of \$40,000-plus, to fund it. Shelley Glazer was hired as the part-time director of the Center and Karina Robinson as a full-time support staff member. Shelley Glazer initiated the tracking of constituent contacts and started to collaborate more with UCRAB and UCBEA.

The purpose and objectives of UCRAB were delineated in the Constitution and By-Laws

Article II - Purpose and Objectives

Section I - Purpose

The general purpose is: To Maintain a benevolent and protective organization of and for UC retired employees and to promote their welfare. Rev. 6.20.01

Section II - Objectives

- To provide information about benefits and other issues that may be of benefit and

History and Evolution, continued

interest to retirees;

- To promote opportunities for interaction and communication among retirees;
- To maintain retirees' ability to participate in campus affairs and activities; in particular to maintain a pool of retirees desiring full or part-time employment or volunteer service.
Rev. 6.12.01

UCRAB (What It's All About)

If you happen to be one of the roughly 700 members of the University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley, you're well aware of the activities and services provided by this Association. Meeting once a month, except for August and December, the Board of Directors gather in the conference room at the Retirement Center, conveniently located at 1925 Walnut Street, this meeting presided over by Iola James, President of the Board.

Among the many events planned for the year are the quarterly luncheons held at the lovely City Club on Durant Avenue (Julia Morgan's "Little Castle"). Milt Elbogen arranges for the speakers and he's come up with many stimulating guests. Another eagerly awaited annual event is the Holiday Party, always a festive occasion, where gifts are collected and delivered to Children's Hospital in Oakland.

The Chancellor's Reception for new retirees, held in the Birgeneau's beautiful home and gardens, is another highlight of the season. Then, on Staff Appreciation Day, UCRAB members sit at tables on the campus and distribute University literature, hopefully drumming up new members for the Association.

Not to be overlooked are the very popular day trips arranged by Iola James. There's the annual "Day at the Races", with a contribution going for scholarships. This past fall a large group boarded Amtrak at Emeryville for a tour of Old Sacramento, the highlight of that trip being the superb Railroad Museum, where one could easily spend an entire day.

It's not all fun and games with UCRAB. Marian Gade, chairperson of CUCRA, keeps us informed of Post-Employment Benefits, as does Toni Sweet, who announced a proposal to constitute a Pensions Benefits Board. And we're happy to announce that we have a new Newsletter Editor, Marcelle Baxter.

What It's All About, continued

I believe you'll agree, given the above account of UCRAB activities, this Association doesn't sit back and rest on its laurels. No way -- It's there to extend advice and services to all members.

Dorothy Snodgrass, UCRAB Board Member

Submitted to CUCRA by

Iola James, UCRAB President

Protect Your Assets

Be alert to pleas in your email for donations to seemingly worthy causes. For that matter, be wary of approaches from persons and the street seeking monetary help. Recently, quite a few of us received email which spoofed the address of a UCRAB member. The message stated the individual was stuck in London on a trip, because their luggage, money and documentation was stolen. Fortunately, the crooks involved didn't state how to help or where to send money. It seems they were looking for responses from someone who might wire funds offshore. Don't fall victim to any confidence game.

Art Interests

The Center is interested in learning who among our membership creates works of art. The medium might be oils, watercolor, ink or pencil drawings, quilts, collage or other pictorial and graphic art.

We are also seeking ideas and volunteers who might be interested in organizing, serving on a committee, etc. We are brainstorming ideas for where the works might be exhibited and anticipate wonderful exhibit openings and receptions.

Is there a preparator in our midst or does anyone in our membership have past museum/gallery experience? Please let us know.

By-Law Changes Adopted

We hope that you have all received a copy of the By-Laws as amended and have had the opportunity to review them. If you have any questions or comments please contact us at the Center.

***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.

Volunteer Opportunities

University Health Services (Tang Center) at UC Berkeley is looking for volunteers to provide customer service to our Tang information desk (TIC). This position acts as the focal point for reception at the Tang Center by staffing the Information Desk located in the lobby of the building. Duties include greeting and directing visitors/patients, handling incoming calls and performing general administrative duties. This individual may assist other administrative staff with overflow work, including word processing, data entry and internet research tasks. Basic computer skills with Microsoft Word are preferred. This position requires complete confidentiality of all patient information in accordance with federal law & University policy (HIPAA). Contact XXXX

Berkeley Historical Society - Located at 1931 Center Street in Downtown Berkeley, needs volunteers for the following activities: Train at the History Center as docents dealing with the public

Volunteer Opportunities, continued

(open 1:00-4:00pm, Thursdays/Fridays/Saturdays); Walking tours committee; Research and writing; Organizing events and exhibits; Oral History Program on recording life histories (some clerical, some hands-on with training provided; some administration; video or recording skills desirable). For information about most of these activities, email mlind@lmi.net or call Margot Lind at (510)658-3704. For Oral History information, contact Therese Pipe attpipe@jps.net or (510)841-5493.

Experience Corps is working with Oakland Unified School to match volunteer tutors/mentors in elementary schools throughout North and East Oakland. They are looking for experienced adults who can volunteer a minimum of 2 hours a week for at least one school semester. Volunteers that serve 10+ hours a week qualify for a paid stipend! Your time is the asset most needed with our younger kids before, Experience Corps will assist in training and preparing you for satisfying volunteer work that makes a measurable difference. Call David Moreno at (510)495-4966 or email dmoren@aspiranet.org.

Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) in Walnut Creek is always seeking volunteers to help in the office and thrift shop, work on pet adoptions, be a greeter. Volunteer orientations and training are offered and you can sign up online at www.arf.net or by calling (925)256-1273

Sometimes, knowing there is someone who care makes all the difference. **The Friendship Line** is a 24-hour phone line reaching out to older adults, offering support, reassurance and counseling. Volunteers provide an ongoing connection for many depressed or lonely elders. No experience is necessary. For more information, please contact Diane Nathaniel, (415)750-4180, x236.

Habitat for Humanity of the East Bay has a number of volunteer opportunities available in offices and at construction sites. For information call Eliza Schissel at (510) 251-6304 or visit their website at <http://www.habitatEB.com>

University of California Retirees' Association
1925 Walnut Street #1550
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UPCOMING UC RETIREES' ASSOCIATION EVENTS

UCRAB members are always invited to attend our sister organization's events, so mark your calendars for the following emeriti and retiree associations events coming up this spring.

EX-Ls (<http://www.lbl.gov/ex-1-express/> and <http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/lbni.html>)

Luncheons - November 19

To register download the luncheon form at http://www.lbl.gov/ex-1-express/lunch_form.htm

PARRA (<http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/parra.html>)

Luncheons return in the spring. Watch for announcements

UCBEA (<http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/ucbea.html>)

Luncheons - December 5, January 16

UCRAB (<http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/ucrab.html>)

Board meetings - January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21