

# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

## Executive Board

### Officers

Marian Gade, President  
mgade@berkeley.edu

Iola James, Vice President  
& Trip Coordinator  
510/632-7264

Errol Mauchlan, Treasurer  
510/849-1732

Lola Harris, Secretary  
510/843-4314

### Directors-at-Large

Dorothy Frey, Events  
510/527-0750

August Manza, Membership  
510/526-1651

Grace Smith, At-Large  
jmsmith@socrates.berkeley.edu

Dorothy Snodgrass,  
Speakers & Luncheons  
510/848-4353

Toni Sweet, UCRS Liaison  
510/652-9795

Martha Smyser, At-Large  
smyzer67@aol.com

## UCRAB Spring Luncheon

Thursday, March 24, 2005

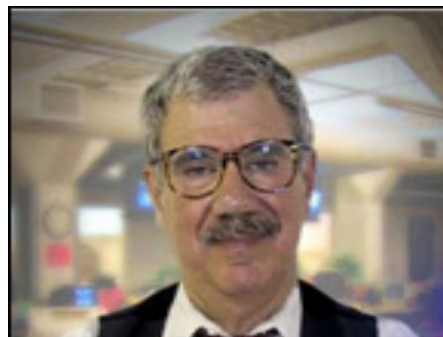
Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Bill Schechner

Reporter, CBS 5 Eyewitness News

*"Why is the News the Way It is?"*

Just mention the name "Bill Schechner" and the response very likely will be, "Oh, yes — he's that great announcer on KPIX." Indeed, Bill is widely regarded as one of the best news commentators in the business. His in-depth news reporting and interviews in this troubled period of war and political wrangling reflect thoughtful insight and intelligent observation.



After graduation from Oberlin College and Columbia University in the 1960's, Bill migrated to the West Coast to launch his career in radio and television. He joined CBS 5 in 1976, when he was host of "This Morning" and "Eyewitness News at Noon." During his first term at CBS 5, Bill worked on the series, "Schechner's Journal," winning two Emmy Awards. Many of you will also remember him from the glory days of KQED's esteemed "Newsroom." Later on, his diverse journalism career found him hosting the very popular "Morning Show" on KPFA FM.

Between stints at CBS 5, Bill moved to New York and was a correspondent for NBC Network News, anchoring NBC's "News Overnight" and serving as a national correspondent for NBC's "Nightly News." He was also a correspondent on "Real Life" with Jane Pauley. During his years with NBC, he covered politics, social issues, and did feature reports under the title, "Assignment America."

Fortunately for us, Bill chose to return to the Bay Area, joining CBS 5 for the second time in 1992; he is now seen regularly several times a week on noon and evening news broadcasts. It should be mentioned here that Bill has garnered many awards during his distinguished career — among them, the aforementioned Emmy Awards, a DuPont/Columbia University Award, an Edward R. Murrow Award and the Charitas Award.

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## *President's Message*

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:

April 20  
May 18  
June 15  
July 20  
September 21

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

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The UC Berkeley  
Retirees' Association  
is located at:

Two 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 Liaison  
to UCRAB:

André S. Porter  
Administrative Specialist

*The UCRAB Newsletter* is published three weeks before each luncheon:

Editor: Sondra Jensen  
Phone: 510/526-7595  
Email: [sjensen@berkeley.edu](mailto:sjensen@berkeley.edu)

Throughout this newsletter you'll find information on the many activities available through your retirees' organization, UCRAB. From time to time I've used this column to talk, not about what we do but about how we're organized to do it. This month I'd like to tell you a bit about how UCRAB, and its Board of Directors, operate.

UCRAB is an informal group of retirees, not officially affiliated with the University of California, although we receive services from the (partly) campus-funded UC Berkeley Retirement Center. Many retirees assume that UCRAB and the Retirement Center are one and the same — they are not! The Center serves some 9,000 staff and faculty retirees from the Berkeley Campus, the UC Office of the President, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). Each of those entities has its own retirees' organization, such as UCRAB (with about 600 members), and its own activities and newsletter, funded by members and participants. We need you and your friends to join UCRAB to keep these activities going!

Members of UCRAB who attend the June luncheon — our one official membership meeting each year — elect half of the 10-member Board of Directors. There's a single slate (so far we haven't had keen competition for the seats!), made up of volunteers and others put forward by a nominating committee. The board consists of the officers and directors-at-large that you see listed on the front page of this newsletter. It's a "working board" in the sense that most directors carry specific operating responsibilities for activities: Dorothy Snodgrass does a magnificent job of finding us interesting luncheon speakers, ably assisted by Dorothy Frey (who does those wonderful decorations for our Holiday Lunch each December). Vice President Iola James serves with me in the state-wide retirees' organization, CUCRA, and on the Retirement Center's Policy Board, as well as organizing the full program of those trips and events that we all love so much — look for the current opportunities elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our secretary, Lola Harris, is one of the board's newer members — you elected her last June. Treasurer Errol Mauchlan (who also serves on the board of the UCB Emeriti Association) is a long-term board member (fortunately or unfortunately, our by-laws do not limit directors' terms!) and keeps us on track with respect to our finances.

August Manza has served as our membership chair, increasing the UCRAB member body by over 50% while in that post. Toni Sweet acts as our representative to the systemwide UCRS advisory committee, giving us clear explanations and advance notice of the sometimes arcane workings of our retirement system. (Look for her article, too.) Sondra Jensen, whom you elected last June, was forced by other events in her life, to resign from the board, but she has been replaced by Martha Smyser, a former board member. Sondra is continuing to give us assistance with the

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## ***President's Message, Continued***

Newsletter, but if anyone is looking for a good volunteer position, we would appreciate a regular editor coming forward. Grace Smith, another recent addition to the board, was the person who came up with the connection to Children's Hospital, which greatly appreciated all your donations of toys and other gifts for patients at our December Holiday Party. And everyone gives me good advice, support, and (I hope!) has some fun at our monthly meetings.

If you'd like to attend a board meeting, you're welcome. They're held the third Wednesday of each month, usually in University Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Let me, or the Retirement Center, know if you're coming so we can be sure you have the correct date and place. Other questions about your organization? Send me an e-mail and I'll try to help.

*Marian Gade, President, UCRA B*

## ***UCRP News***

At the November meeting of the UCRS Advisory Board, it was reported that the new 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan already had over 6,000 participants thanks to the communication efforts of the UC HR/Benefits office. There will be a transition to a master record keeper platform and the development of a core funds menu, both of which are scheduled to come into effect on July 1, 2005. If feasible it will include not only the 457(b) Plan but the 403(b) and DC Plans as well.

The Regents approved amendments to the UCRS Plan to conform with the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003. UCRP was already in compliance with the major provision of the Act which had extended survivor benefits to active, inactive and disabled members with domestic partners as of July 2002. With the additional amendments it now recognizes equivalent same-sex unions from other jurisdictions, and approved court order related dissolutions of state-registered partnerships. Now UCRP extends survivor benefits to eligible domestic partners of All UCRP retirees, not just those who retired after June 30, 2002. Those who retired before July 1, 2002 and who opted for a reduced benefit to provide continuation payments for their domestic partners will be allowed to choose a new benefit payment option.

*Toni Sweet, UCRS Liaison*

## ***Bill Schechner, Continued***

Oh, and we mustn't forget, he also served in the U.S. Army.

Discover for yourself why this droll, laid back newsman is one of the most popular and highly rated announcers in the business.

Please join us for lunch at Spenger's on March 24th for a revealing account of television news in the making. As always, there's a social hour at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon.

*Dorothy Snodgrass*

## ***Tour of Sonoma***

The UC Berkeley Retirement Center and UCRA B have teamed up to offer an educational tour of the historical town of Sonoma. Sonoma is known as the birthplace of California, for it was in the town square of Sonoma where the Bear Flag was first raised on June 14, 1846. The town once served as the capital of the short-lived California Republic. Sonoma is also the location of Mission San Francisco Solano, the last and northernmost of the 21 California missions. Our tour includes The Plaza, a National Historic Landmark that includes Sonoma Barracks, La Casa Grande, and the historical home of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. The tour will also cover viticulture with a guided tour of the Sebastiani Winery and a visit to the small Viansa Winery and Italian Market Place. To request more information, contact the Center at 510-642-5461.

## Events on Campus

### **Music Department - Noon Concerts, Wednesdays, Hertz Hall:**

- March 30 Masterpieces from early 17<sup>th</sup>  
century Italy
- April 6 Jazz standards by Tyner,  
McFarland & Chick Corea, vocals  
by Perfect Fifth, a capella  
vocal ensemble
- April 13 Shostakovich, Piano Trio No.2,  
op.67  
Webern, Sonata for Cello, Three  
Miniatures
- April 20 Love Songs by Robert and Clara  
Schumann
- April 27 Gamelan
- May 4 New Works by students, graduate  
composition seminar

**Cal Day Concert:** Sat., April 16, 11 a.m.,  
Hertz Hall. Edmund Campion, Hold That  
Thought (2004); Chopin, Piano Concerto  
No. 2.

**Botanical Garden:** Fri., April 29, 5 p.m., Spring  
Plant Sale, members only. Sat., April 30, 9 a.m.,  
Public Plant Sale.

### **Noon Lunch Poems, Mondays, Morrison Room, Doe Library:**

- April 7 Suji Kwock Kim  
May 4 Student readings

**Berkeley Art Museum:** "Drawn by the Brush:  
Oil Sketches of Peter Paul Rubens," through  
May 15.