



# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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

## *Spring Luncheon*

Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley  
Social Hour at 11am, Luncheon at Noon

Thursday, March 20, 2014

## *Ishmael on Ishmael Reed*

Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Lyricist and Essayist  
Professor Emeritus, English Department, University of California, Berkeley

*Reservations must be received no later than Monday, March 17. See the enclosed insert for details.*

Ishmael Reed, Professor Emeritus at UC Berkeley, is a recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant. For over thirty years, he taught creative writing courses in the English Department, retiring in 2005.

The author of twenty-nine published books to date, he is a novelist, poet, playwright, lyricist and essayist. He has been a Pulitzer Prize finalist and twice nominated for the National Book Award.

He has a honorary Doctorate of Letters from University of Buffalo and from Johnson C. Smith University at Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1989 he received a University of California Humanities Fellowship to complete his novel, *Japanese By Spring*, and received two fellowships from the African Studies Center to continue his studies of the Yoruba language. In 1991 he received an American Cultures Fellowship from the University of California, Berkeley to produce an original television drama.

He is founder of the Before Columbus Foundation, which promotes multicultural American writing. He also founded PEN Oakland which issues the Josephine Miles Literary Awards.

Biography summary by *Patricia Hardy, Luncheon Coordinator*, based on information copied from Ishmael Reed's website-- <http://ishmaelreed.org/>.

## *UCRAB Trips - 12th Annual Day at the Races & Monterey Bay*

On Thursday, April 3rd, 2014 you are invited to attend our 12th annual Day at the Races. If you have never attended, you have missed a fun filled day which includes the excitement of betting on a winning race horse, or if not winning this one, perhaps the next! At a recent Day at the Races an attendee at my table won \$50 on a \$2 bet! You'll also be seated in the Turf Club, enjoying a scrumptious buffet luncheon - the buffet menu is on the enclosed registration insert. Add to all that free valet parking (wow).

To attend this event, complete the registration insert and return it with payment. I do hope you will join us for the upcoming Day at the Races.

For several years this event's \$36 registration fee has had a special deduction allocated to our UCRAB Scholarship Fund. UCRAB is planning

to award one or more scholarships totaling \$1,000. Information about the award criteria will be forthcoming.

### **Monterey Bay Aquarium**

I have had numerous requests for a return trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium including lunch at the Bubba Gump Restaurant. Monterey's marvelous aquarium showcases the amazing ocean wilderness off California's central coast. More than 200 major galleries and exhibits feature sharks, sea otters, jellyfish, penguins and an array of other sea life. Mark your calendars for May 29th, 2014. Registration information will be sent to you by e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, please leave your name at the UCB Retirement Center to receive additional information.

*Iola James, President and Trip Coordinator*

## UCRAB Board Positions Open

The UCRAB Board of Directors has open positions for 2014-16. At the June 19, 2014 luncheon meeting the slate of recommendations will be presented by our nominating chair.

The open positions are President, Vice President, and three Directors. Although additional nominations may be made from the floor, every member who would like to be considered for inclusion on the slate may contact the UCB Retirement Center and leave your name and phone number. You will be contacted by the nominating chair for follow-up information.

*Iola James, President*

## UCRAB Board of Directors

### Officers

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

*Allan Jensen, Vice President  
grams@berkeley.edu*

*Marian Gade, Secretary  
mgade@berkeley.edu*

*August Manza, Treasurer  
510/526-1651*

### Directors

*Lynn Bailiff  
lynnbailiff@comcast.net*

*Patricia Hardy, Luncheons  
hardypatricia@gmail.com*

*Lola Harris  
lharris@berkeley.edu*

*Kurt Lauridsen, Newsletter  
kurtvl@sbcglobal.net  
925/376-1613*

*Isabelle Revoir, Membership  
isabelle.revoir@gmail.com*

*Antonia Sweet, UCRS Liaison  
and Chair of the Volunteer  
Committee  
510/652-9795*

*Patrick C. Cullinane,  
Retirement Center Liaison  
510/642-5461*

## Kudos for the Holiday Party

UCRAB member Nikki Bailey writes: “Kudos for making the lunch such a smashing event. All your efforts were greatly appreciated.” Board Member Isabelle Revoir did a beautiful job with table decorations and obtaining gifts for the raffle. A special thank you must also go to luncheon coordinator, Patricia Hardy.

*Kurt Lauridsen, Editor*

We thank the following local merchants who so generously donated a gift certificate or merchandise:

- The Junket German Deli in the El Cerrito Plaza, entrance at Carlson and San Pablo Avenue
- La Fable Restaurant Francaise at 1508 Walnut Street in Berkeley
- Little Star Pizza, corner of Stannage and Solano Avenue in Albany (great deep dish pizza)
- Scott’s Restaurant in Jack London Square in Oakland
- T-Rex Restaurant, 1300-10th Street near Gilman in Berkeley
- Trader Joe’s in El Cerrito Plaza
- Restaurant Valparaiso, authentic Chilean Food, 1403 Solano Avenue in Albany (the only restaurant I know of that has empanadas).

If you are in the neighborhood, check these places out!

*Isabelle Revoir, Membership Coordinator*

Thank you to UCRAB members who so generously donated such wonderful gifts for children and their families who must be in Children’s Hospital during the Holidays. It was a delight working with Iola James and Allan Jensen in loading up all the books, toys, and personal care items for drop-off at Children’s Hospital, Oakland. Your support to Children’s Hospital is appreciated.

*Patricia Hardy, Luncheon Coordinator*

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.

## UCRAB Membership Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to excellence, the University of California Retirees’ Association at Berkeley Board is conducting a brief survey to measure your satisfaction with activities offered by UCRAB. Please be reminded that members who complete the survey by March 3rd will have an opportunity to enter a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by March 3rd.

Thanks, *Patricia Hardy, Chair Survey Committee*

## ***Council of UC Retiree Associations Meeting***

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) was held at UCSF on November 4, 2013, following the joint meeting of CUCRA and Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA), the statewide emeriti council. Representatives from campuses, labs, and UCOP attended; guests included members of the Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA).

The morning joint meeting had centered heavily on reports from UCOP representatives and concerns about health insurance issues.

Business items at the afternoon CUCRA meeting included:

The re-election of John Dahl (UCLA) as Treasurer and Jeff Garberson (LLNL) as Information Officer. Election of Deanna Falge-Pritchard (UCD) as Secretary to fill remainder of term of resigning Marguerite Jackson (UCSD).

The results of a survey of member associations, their organization and activities, which was coordinated by Sue Barnes, UCD Center Director, were presented. Highlights of the survey include:

- The first Retirement Association organization was established in 1980 (PARRA of UCOP) with the remainder founded in 1980s and early 1990s.
- Dues are fairly similar across all associations.
- There are varying numbers of Board members and frequencies of newsletter distributions.

Several concerns were raised that will be addressed by the Executive Committee and discussed further at the April meeting.

The report of the Joint Benefits Committee (JBC) of CUCRA and CUCEA: There was considerable discussion of the Open Enrollment process for health insurance, especially the provisions for retirees living outside California who will need to negotiate their insurance needs through ExtendHealth -- an organization about which CUCRA and CUCEA previously had expressed serious concerns.

The University was thanked for responding to prior comments about the handling of information re: Minimum Required Distributions (MRDs) from UC savings programs. It should now be easier for retirees who received MRDs to customize them to suit their needs.

Rosemary Norling (UCSD) from the CUCRA Travel Group, which raises funds to support CUCRA as well as organizing interesting and informative trips for UC retirees, reported on recent and upcoming trips abroad.

The spring 2014 meetings of CUCRA and CUCEA will be held at UC Santa Barbara on April 30 and May 1. Fall meetings will be held at UC Berkeley on October 22 and 23, hosted by the UCB Retirement Center with assistance from UCRAB and the other UCB-affiliated retiree associations. (Watch for a call for volunteers for that meeting).

For further information concerning activities of the various associations, the report of the Joint Benefits Committee of CUCRA and CUCEA, financial reports, etc. see <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/meetings/materials.shtml>

*Marian Gade, Secretary, Allan Jensen, Vice President, Iola James, President*

### **Membership Update**

Bill and Nora Braner, Robert B. and Jan Gunnison, Katherine Imurd and Isumi Tamasu, Jon Johnsen and Doris Lopez, Cynthia Kroll and Arden Hall, Irene and Samuel Lam, Peter J. and Bonnie Lawrence, Nancy Rae Palmer, Nick Pigati, Cheryl Stiles-Haskins and Clifford Haskins, Jessica Weld, Myrna and Carlos Zialcita.

We are so happy you joined UCRAB. Please let us know how UCRAB can serve you best. We hope to see you on a UCRAB-sponsored trip or at one of our quarterly luncheons. Please introduce yourselves to Board members. Thank you for your membership!

*Isabelle Revoir, Membership Chair*

### **In Memoriam**

Marie Herold, Patricia Vanderberg, Donald Walters

University of California  
Retirees' Association at Berkeley  
1925 Walnut Street #1550  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550  
Telephone: 510/642-5461  
Fax: 510/643-1460

### ***UCB Retirement Center Update***

There are many opportunities to expand your knowledge and to explore important subjects.

**An Aging America – Challenges and Opportunities** -- Biennial Retiree Conference, May 15, 2014 -- Jennifer Granholm, UCB Distinguished Practitioner of Law and Public Policy and Michigan's 47th governor from 2003 to 2011 will keynote the conference. She was just selected to co-chair the Priorities Action USA political action committee as it begins raising money for Hillary Rodham Clinton. Her keynote address is titled, *Cracking the Code: Creating Good Jobs in America in a Global Economy*. "Are we in a 'new normal' of higher unemployment and widening income gaps? Can we do something about it? How do we make an aging America a better place for our children and grandchildren?"

**Workshops and Exhibitors** -- Conference workshops will address creativity, memory, caregiving, housing, technology, and sex. The conference will also feature an exhibit hall.

**Registration** -- Fee of \$35 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and workshop materials. Registration closes May 8. Contact the Center at 510-642-5461 or [ucbrc@berkeley.edu](mailto:ucbrc@berkeley.edu).

**Changing Medical Plans after Open Enrollment** -- Are you enrolled in the wrong plan? Changes may be possible, however, **action must be taken by March 31, 2014**. Call the UCOP Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) at 800-888-8267 to review your options.

**Next Retirement Center Director** -- Associate Vice Provost Angy Stacy will lead the search committee for the next UCBRC director. Share your thoughts about the Center's future with Angy at [retireeideas@berkeley.edu](mailto:retireeideas@berkeley.edu).

**UC Berkeley Financial Fair** -- Thursday, April 10, 10am – 2pm, Alumni House, UC Berkeley -- No registration is required; workshops are first come, first served, and are free. Volunteers needed! To help out at Fair, call Wendy Nishikawa at (510) 642-7883. Find more info online at: <http://uhs.berkeley.edu/facstaff/financialfair.shtml>.

*Patrick C. Cullinane, Director, UCB Retirement Center*

**UC RETIREES' ASSOCIATION AT BERKELEY**  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR  
**SPRING LUNCHEON**

Berkeley City Club  
2315 Durant Ave, Berkeley  
No Host Bar at 11 a.m. Luncheon at Noon

Thursday, March 20, 2014

***Ishmael on Ishmael Reed***

Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Lyricist and Essayist  
Professor Emeritus, English Department,  
University of California, Berkeley

*Reservations must be received by the Retirement Center no later than Monday, March 17.*

***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. The #51B and #7 AC Transit busses stop close to the Berkeley City Club and Downtown Berkeley BART.



**Reservation for the UCRAB Spring 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