

# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

## Executive Board

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iolaj@comcast.net  
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*Antonia Sweet, UCRS Liaison*  
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*Dorothy Snodgrass, At-Large*  
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*Allan Jensen, At-Large*  
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## UCRAB Summer Luncheon & Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Berkeley City Club

### EXPLORE THE WORLD AT UCRAB'S SUMMER LUNCHEON

We retirees no longer while away our time in rocking chairs. Instead, many of us hop aboard planes and cruise ships to see the whole, wide world. A myriad of adventures await those who take off, locking the doors of their homes behind them.

There are so many places to go and so many wonderful things to do that choosing the trip you are meant to take can be difficult. Let Barry and Evelyn Adler help you find your way at UCRAB's summer luncheon on Wednesday, June 16th at the Berkeley City Club.

The Adlers are Exploritas Ambassadors. Formerly known as Elderhostel, Exploritas offers elders a huge variety of guided tours and adventures all over the world. Want to hike up Denali? Exploritas will lead the way. They also offer wildlife tours in Kenya, Zambia, and Botswana. For those who love cities and their cultural offerings, there are grand tours of the theatres of New York and other cities around the world.

All of the above barely begins to cover Exploritas's globe. Barry and Evelyn will be delighted to take you further afield at the summer luncheon.

So hop aboard for adventure by completing the enclosed registration form. As always, we encourage you to bring along a spouse, partner, and friends. Forms must be received by Monday, June 13.

*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:

July 21  
September 15  
October 20  
November 17

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

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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 UCRAB:

Patrick Cullinane, MS  
Director

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

Editor: Marcelle Baxter  
Email: ucbrc@berkeley.edu

## *Editor's Notes*

Many of us are savoring the recent trip to the Napa Valley where we enjoyed the beauties of nature and the hospitality of the focuses of our visit.

The Wine Train did not disappoint. It was like a little piece of the "Orient Express." The staff was courteous and caring, the food delicious. The conviviality of the passengers contributed to the festive spirit of the trip.

At Greystone we learned about the rigorous training of master chefs who begin their studies at the central Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. Then on to Greystone in Napa and perhaps ultimately to a new CIA location being formed in San Antonio.

There is so much to see. The Napa Valley could easily be the locus of another trip with the emphasis on the relationship to San Francisco and the supporting role the Valley played. The Napa Valley has not always been wine country. Picture hay fields which provided feed for the horses that pulled carriages and conveyances in the City. Hay scows brought hay down the Napa River to the Bay and on to San Francisco. After hay, the Valley was planted into prune orchards - a very different view of what we see today.

Another trip to the Valley might place an emphasis on history where we learn how the Silverado Trail obtained its name when we visit the Silverado Museum. The Museum devoted to Robert Louis Stevenson contains important history both here and abroad. The museum also has strong ties to the University's Bancroft Library.

Another museum of interest is the Sharpsteen Museum in Calistoga. Ben Sharpsteen was an illustrator for the Disney studios. A panorama of Calistoga depicts early history, which was dominated in part by Sam Brannan, an early figure in San Francisco and a member of one of the parties which sought to usurp the territory that became California.

Let us know if you would like such a trip or if you have knowledge to contribute.

*Marcelle Baxter, Editor*



*A few of the UCRAB members and guests who toured the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) at Greystone on the May 13 trip. The facility tour was preceded by a food demonstration and special tasting.*

## President's Message

As we come to the end of our fiscal year, the UC Retirees Association at Berkeley (UCRAB) continues to advocate for safeguarding staff retiree's rights and benefits through ongoing participation in university and state organizations dealing with retirement issues. Included is representation in the statewide Council of UC Retirees Association (CUCRA), which met in April at UC Santa Barbara. UCRAB and UC Berkeley Emeriti Association (UCBEA) will host the Fall 2010 meeting with participation from Ex-L's (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) and the President's and Regents Retiree Association (PARRA).

During the past months, the President's Task Force on Post Employment Benefits listening forums have taken place across the UC Campuses. I attended both forums on the Berkeley campus. Marian Gade, our UCRAB Secretary and CUCRA chair, was a member of the distinguished panel of presenters including Randy Scott and Gary Schlimgen from UCOP. The sessions were well attended by both staff and retirees and many questions were answered.

The Task Force is currently reviewing responses to the 2010 employee and retiree survey conducted in February, 2010. These responses, due in June, will be used to form the final recommendations to President Yudof. Based on all information received, President Yudof is scheduled to make his recommendations to the Regents in July.

Fellow retirees, it is important to know that **our retiree pension benefits and basic eligibility for health benefits will not change**. Additional forum information is available on several UC websites ([http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ucrpfuture/emp\\_task.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ucrpfuture/emp_task.html)). It has been expressed by many that we retirees are blessed with the best retirement system in the world. Further, survey results expressed 80% high satisfaction with UC retiree benefits.

Please continue to participate in our UCRAB trips and quarterly luncheons. The slate of Executive Board Members to be voted on at the June luncheon and business meeting is included in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

*Iola James*

## UCRS Report - February 2010

The Regents approved the following items at their February 2009 meeting:

1. Contributions to the UC Retirement System will be reinstated on or about April 15, 2010. In fiscal year 2010 the University contribution will be 4% and will be at least that much in 2010/2011. The employee contribution for the same period will be the same as the rates currently redirected to the DC Plan subject to collective bargaining when applicable.
2. The new policy on the reemployment of retired employees into Senior Management Group and staff positions effective January 1, 2009 changed to include retired academic appointees as well. However, it does not apply to recalled faculty teaching or research appointments.

The Constitutional Amendment Initiative 1349 which would create a separate Board of Trustees with sole jurisdiction over retirement funds needs approximately 690,000 signatures in order to qualify for the June 10, 2010 ballot.

In February the Office of the President's Human Resources and Benefits unit mailed the 2009 Personalized Retirement Update and Readiness Guides to active UCRP members and rehired retirees.

As always, log into the UC Human Resources and Benefits website: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu> for updates on the items above and information of particular interest to you.

Remember that New Dimensions, the UCOP publication, continues to look for articles by retirees. If you would like to contribute, contact Anne Wolf at [annewolf@ucop.edu](mailto:annewolf@ucop.edu) with your articles.

*Antonia Sweet*

### In Memoriam

**Edwin Clark Linsley (1920-2010)**

Former Assistant Accounting Officer

## **2010 Slate of Officers and Directors**

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

#### **2010 Slate of Officers and Directors**

The following is the proposed slate of Officers and Directors for the 2010-2012 term. All members of UCRAB are invited to make additional nominations at will, from the floor at the June 16, 2010 Annual Meeting.

The officers listed below have completed their two-year terms and have volunteered to serve another two years, if elected.

Viessa Brooks wishes to retire from the Board and will be replaced by a subsequent member. We wish to thank Viessa Brooks for her devoted and exemplary service in excess of ten years. Patricia Hardy has been nominated as a candidate.

#### **Nominated For Election at This Meeting (additional nominations accepted on June 16, 2010)**

##### **Officers**

President:	Iola James (incumbent)
Vice President:	Lola Harris (incumbent)

##### **Directors:**

Patricia Hardy  
Allan Jensen (incumbent)  
Isabelle Revoir (incumbent)

#### **Continuing Officers & Directors (for information only)**

##### **Officers:**

Treasurer:	Errol Mauchlan
Secretary:	Marian Gade

##### **Directors:**

Milt Elbogan  
Dorothy Snodgrass  
Antonia Sweet



## Save the Date!

### Floating Whitehouse - USS Potomac Tour

July 15, 2010, 9:45am -12:30pm

Cost: \$35 per person

The Potomac has a long and varied history. Built in 1934 as the Coast Guard Cutter Electra, it was renamed and converted to the Presidential Yacht USS Potomac by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. The USS Potomac is docked at Oakland's Jack London Square.

The two-hour bay cruise and docent-led tour will be a joint event between UCRAB and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab EX-Ls. Cost includes coffee and tea. For additional information and registration, contact the Center at 510/642-5461.

*Iola James*



*The USS Potomac.*

## Day at the Races



### FLASHY GREEN

GOLDEN GATE FIELDS, CA 4/23/2010  
C SPUTNIK.....SECOND  
EE ZO GO.....THIRD

6 FURLONGS 1:10.50 PURSE \$16,000  
UC BERKELEY RETIREES ASSN

HAROLD GREENE OR ART SHERMAN...OWNERS  
STEVE SHERMAN.....TRAINER  
RUSSELL BAZE.....UP

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*At the eighth annual UCRAB Day at the Races, members and guests enjoyed a photo with Jockey Russell Baze. It just so happens that Russell was the winner of the UC Berkeley Retiree's Association Named Race. A portion of the proceeds from the annual event is set aside for the UCRAB scholarship fund.*

## ***From Our Members...***

### **Santa Cruz Trip**

As a member of the University Section Club, I attended an Intercampus Gathering at the University of California at Santa Cruz on March 22, 2010. This event was hosted by the UCSC Women's Club in the Stevenson Event Center, where we and members of UC Merced were warmly welcomed by Chancellor George Blumenthal.

Called one of the 14 most beautiful campuses in the world, UCSC, with an enrollment of more than 16,000 students, is indeed an absolutely breathtaking campus, set among soaring redwood trees. There were several interesting lectures throughout the day (i.e., "The Beauty of Hubble: Science and Art from the Hubble Space Telescope" and a performance by the Flat Musica Choral Group of the Women's Social Club.)

After lunch on the patio, walking tours of the campus were offered, giving close-up looks at the impressive Theatre Arts complex, Music Center and Digital Arts Research Center. There was also an Arboretum Walking Tour of the UCSC renowned gardens.

Returning to Berkeley at 3:30, we all agreed that this trip to UC Santa Cruz was a delightful experience.

*Dorothy Snodgrass*

### **Yosemite Trip**

Anne Greenwood compiled a travelog expressing the joys and wonders of the Yosemite trip. The beauties of nature always enthralls as she tells of passing "...along the Merced River, rushing with water," and then, "...the trees - first the Digger Pines tilting crazily in their dusty green needles, Live Oaks, Black Oaks..."

"It was a great trip and I'm very glad we went."

*Excerpted from Anne Greenwood's letter*

Just wanted to say my spouse (Annette) and I greatly enjoyed the recent Yosemite trip, so thanks to Iola and anyone else for organizing and watching over us. We would be happy to repeat the trip next year. And might be even happier if it was a two-night stay at Yosemite.

*Cheers, Jeremy and Annette Lys*

### **Yosemite Trip, continued...**

A note to tell you that the trip to Yosemite on March 15th and 16th was informative, refreshing, relaxing and fun. I hope there'll be another trip next year.

Iola James did a fantastic job of coordinating the details, especially troubleshooting several Amtrak issues and letting us know the best places to eat. Leaving the detailed work to someone so capable as Iola was a joy.

Most rewarding and interesting was the two-hour Yosemite floor tour. The guide was very knowledgeable and we got out of the bus four times to soak in the beauty of Half Dome, Yosemite Falls (upper and lower), Bridalveil Fall, El Capitan and Sentry. It was breathtaking. The weather couldn't have been better. Too bad the golden poppies hadn't bloomed yet, but there was so much beauty in the trees, rocks, cliffs and abundant waterfalls. I'd love to go back to see the waterfalls at 100% capacity.

Everything from the gorgeous scenery, good lodging, comfortable transportation, informative tour and group leader made it an enjoyable and exciting time.

A couple of stories:

#1) While walking to the lower Yosemite Falls I had a chance to meet many tourist from other countries; young Japanese students, French tourists and Canadians. What was so ironic was that most foreign tourists come to Yosemite when they visit America. Yet as I talked to the American tourists I met, they often said, "I've lived in California for many years and this is the first time I've come to Yosemite."

#2) In our room there was a sign that reminded us to keep our doors and windows closed when we're out because of raccoons, insects, etc. One lady on the Yosemite floor tour bus said, "I should have done what the sign said. Last night a rat ran across the room floor."

Please pass this on to Iola and folks involved with the UCBRC. I appreciate what they do for the retirees.

*Kate Gong, UCB Retiree*



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Expand Your Universe at Chabot Space & Science Center

Are you fascinated with the mysteries of the universe? Do you want to spend more time around people who appreciate science? Join our volunteer community and help us inspire and educate our visitors about our planet Earth and the Universe.

- As a Zero Waste Facilitator, you will share your interest and knowledge with K-8th grade students on recycling and waste reduction. (Fridays, one to two times per month, from 10:00 am to noon).
- If you are looking for something to do on an occasional basis and help educate the community about the work we do, become a Chabot Ambassador (holidays, days, weekends, evenings).
- As an Exhibit Guide, you will enjoy unique conversations with visitors on the exhibit floor (Wednesdays-Sundays).
- As a School Group Guide, you will assist in the education and inspiration of over 50,000 school children (September-June).

Chabot Space & Science Center volunteers can make astronomy and science come alive for visitors through interactive science and astronomy experiences. Get inspired today and visit our website for a complete description of volunteer opportunities. Our next volunteer orientation is Saturday, June 5, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. You are invited to attend and learn more about being a volunteer. To sign up for orientation, visit <http://www.chabotspace.org/volunteer/default.asp> or email the Volunteer Department [volunteers@chabotspace.org](mailto:volunteers@chabotspace.org).

**Ashby Village** is a non-profit, membership organization that provides members with the practical means and confidence to remain in their own homes as they age. Volunteer opportunities include social visits, transportation, reading aloud, phone check-in, cooking, health advocacy and teaching classes. There is a link to the volunteer form at [www.ashbyvillage.org](http://www.ashbyvillage.org) or call 510/204-2860.

**University Health Services (Tang Information Center Community Volunteer Position)** 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. Basic computer skills with Microsoft Word are preferred. This position requires complete confidentiality of all patient information in accordance with federal law & University policy (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act- HIPAA). Contact Diane Drew at [ddrew@uhs.berkeley.edu](mailto:ddrew@uhs.berkeley.edu) or 510/642-5065.

**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 (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](mailto:mlind@lmi.net) or call Margot Lind at 510/658-3704. For Oral History information, contact Therese Pipe [attpipeln@jps.net](mailto:attpipeln@jps.net) or 510/841-5493.

**Experience Corps** is working with the Oakland Unified School District 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. 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](mailto: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, and be a greeter. Volunteer orientations and training are offered and you can sign up online at [www.arf.net](http://www.arf.net) or by calling 925/256-1273.

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

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### *Campus Events*

**Michael Pollan's The Omnivore's Dilemma** - Through June 30, Exhibit | Moffit Undergraduate Library, Elevator Lobby

**Drunken Angel: Akira Kurosawa** (Japan, 1948): Restored Print Film - Series | June 4 | 8:50-10:30 p.m. | Pacific Film Archive Theater

**The Conservator's Art: Preserving Egypt's Past** Exhibit - Artifacts | Through May 11, 2011 every Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday | Hearst Museum of Anthropology

**William T. Wiley: What's It All Mean**, Exhibit - Multimedia | Through July 18, 2010 every Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday | 11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Berkeley Art Museum, Galleries 4, 5, and 6

**Health\*Matters Walking Group**, Sport - Recreational | January 11 – August 30, 2010 every Monday, Wednesday & Friday with exceptions | 12:10-12:50 p.m. | Campanile (Sather Tower), South side at base of Campanile. Fit 30-40 minutes of walking into your work day for the benefits of social support, stress relief, and renewed energy. No enrollment required. Check the website for special events: <http://uhs.berkeley.edu/facstaff/healthmatters/walkinggroup.shtml>.