

# ***UCRAB Newsletter***

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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***UCRAB Luncheon and Annual Meeting  
Thursday, June 9, 2005  
Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.***

***Philip F. Elwood  
"Dean of Bay Area Jazz Critics"***

***"Jazz, Recordings, and American  
Social History"***



To compensate for the unavoidable increase in luncheon costs, the Association decided to "jazz up" its next program. So, what more appropriate speaker could we have chosen than Philip F. Elwood, widely known as "The Dean of Bay Area Jazz Critics?"

A graduate of UC Berkeley, Mr. Elwood's life-long enthusiasm for vernacular American music came from his boyhood passion for radio and junk shop record-collecting. He studied classical piano and took drum lessons for many years, playing in the University of California Marching Band and Symphony Orchestra.

For 45 years, concurrent with his journalism career – i.e., critic and columnist with the San Francisco Examiner – Mr. Elwood was jazz program producer and weekly broadcaster for Pacifica Radio's KPFA in Berkeley, as well as stations in Los Angeles and New York. He served on the first Monterey Jazz Festival advisory board and wrote the program notes for Dave Brubeck's "Jazz at Lincoln Center" Concert.

Along with his jazz activities, Elwood for four decades continued his academic career, primarily as instructor of American history and American Music on a dozen college and university campuses, including UC Berkeley, Stanford, San Francisco State and elsewhere.

He was elected to the Berkeley High School "Hall of Fame" in 1998, is

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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 10:30 a.m. in Room 256, University Hall.

The coming schedule:

June 15  
July 20  
September 21  
October 19  
November 16

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

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Retirement Center Liaison  
to UCRAB:

André S. Porter  
Administrative Specialist

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

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## ***President's Message***

I like to use this space to update our membership on activities and events impacting retirees that UCRAB, similar associations on other UC campuses, and our "parent" organization, CUCRA, are monitoring. (Reminder: that's the Council of University of California Retiree Associations.) As you know, while we enjoy our local social events, as UCRAB members we also participate in the statewide effort to maintain and enhance our retirement experience.

If you haven't already received it, you will be getting material in the mail from the Office of the President about new administrative arrangements and programs for our defined contribution plans. While primary authority for investments, including selecting and monitoring of asset classes and investment options, will remain with the UC Treasurer, master recordkeeping and administrative functions will be contracted out to Fidelity Investments Institutional Operations Company. Within the Treasurer's Office, plans are underway to create an investment structure that will give participants in the various savings plans the ability to create investment portfolios that both have more options and are more easily managed by participants. This is a complicated matter, and I urge you to read carefully the materials you receive. The new structure goes into effect on July 1.

To those of us who have been receiving on-going updates and reports, the effort seems to be going smoothly and appears to be to the long-term benefit of all of us who participate in these plans. I assure you that we will continue to monitor their implementation, and I hope you'll let your UCRAB board know your reactions in the coming months.

On another note, CUCRA has a travel program that many retirees from throughout the UC system have enjoyed. Their next trip will be in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution and will be an educational tour to Egypt in November 2005. See the back of this newsletter for more information. If you're interested, the Retirement Center has registration information and a few brochures available.

And finally, remember that the election of UCRAB board members will take place at our June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon – it's our one official membership meeting of the year and, if history repeats itself, will last approximately 6 minutes, leaving plenty of time for our excellent speaker. See you there!

*Marian Gade, President, UCRAB*

## ***Luncheon Price Increase***

For more than four years, UCRAB has kept the fee we charge for our luncheons at a constant \$20. As a result of restaurant price increases we have to raise the price to \$25 starting June 9. Please take special note of this when writing the check to send with your registration form.

## ***UCRS Advisory Board Report***

There is much ado about what the Governor is trying to do in Sacramento regarding pension plans. As we read in the newspapers he seems to change his plans frequently.

The University is, of course, staying on top of this issue. Again, the good news for us is that any changes that may be made in the future will only affect new employees and will not affect annuitants. The Governor is keeping his compact with the University and there should be a 3% increase in state funding. Lastly, and most importantly, the Cost-of-Living Adjustment for July 2005 will be 2%.

*Toni Sweet, UCRS Liaison*

## ***Tip of the Month***

The "Tip of the Month" is a new section of the newsletter that will include information and tips that are helpful to retirees. We hope you find this information useful. If you have a tip you would like to share, please send it to the editor.

For our first tip: Did you know the Retirement Center has a resource library containing pamphlets and brochures on UC Benefits, retirement housing, Social Security and Medicare, and other topics? Most brochures and pamphlets can be mailed to you, but there are also books that you can use at the Center. Their very helpful staff can also make copies of materials that cannot be removed. Walk-in hours at the Center are 1pm-4pm, Monday - Friday. If there is something specific you need, the helpful staff can email or mail many items to you.

## ***Membership Renewal***

UCRAB memberships are based on a July to June year, which means many of your memberships will expire this month. Check for the numbers above your name on the mailing label. If your label has "04-05" your membership expires June 30, 2005.

*August Manza, Membership Chair*

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

CUCRA met in March at UC Santa Barbara. In a conference call with the Office of the President the following update was given: The University is in negotiations with the health providers for new contracts. As we suspected there will be some increase in the cost of health care, but we won't know how much until the negotiations are concluded.

The good news is that there is no indication at this time of reductions in benefits. The CUCRA Board has three newly constituted committees and after the Finance Committee report it was suggested that the Finance Committee could become the Budget Committee which would be very useful. During the Health Care Committee report it was noted that CUCRA will be keeping an eye on the shift with the Medicare D program for drugs which goes into effect on January 1, 2006. The Communications Committee suggested that it be called the Relations Committee in view of its role to develop better relationships with the constituents. They will be publishing a brochure for future members showing the many CUCRA achievements.

*Toni Sweet, UCRS Liaison*

## ***Philip Elwood, Continued***

a charter member of the Jazz Journalists Association, the Northern California Broadcast Legends, and was the "Emperor" of Sacramento's Jazz Jubilee in 1994. In the fall of 2003, at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual San Francisco Jazz Festival's "Salute to Phil Elwood", he received the Beacon Award's highest tribute for "his vital role in preserving the traditions and encouraging the growth of jazz in the Bay Area". That same year, then-Mayor Willie Brown proclaimed November 3<sup>rd</sup> "Phil Elwood Day".

Please join us for lunch on June 9<sup>th</sup>, when in addition to speaking about jazz, Mr. Elwood will discuss the important role 78rpm phonograph records has played in capturing American Social History. As always, there's a social hour at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and the usual lively question and answer period.

*Dorothy Snodgrass*

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## **UC Retirees' Association Travel Interest Group**

Have you ever dreamed of learning more about ancient Egyptian history and the roles of the pharaoh, religion, art and architecture? This opportunity and more is yours to experience by joining the UC Travel Interest Group in November 2005.

This year we are offering a wonderful opportunity to visit Cairo, the Pyramids, Memphis, Sakkara, Aswan, Valley of the Kings and Queens, and Luxor along with a deluxe 4-night Nile River Cruise. The total trip is 12 days and includes 22 meals. The outstanding part of this adventure is that we are partnering with Smithsonian Journeys who offer the best in educational travel worldwide. Their custom-crafted tours are created for adventurous travelers like you.

Your educational highlights in Egypt will be presented by noted Egyptologist Chahinda Sayed Fahmy Karim, who will lecture in Cairo, and National Guide and Egyptologist Lillian Naquib, who will accompany you throughout your

journey.

The travel dates for this opportunity-of-a-lifetime adventure are November 3 to 14, 2005. Rates are: Double \$3,824 pp; Single \$4,624; Triple \$3,794 pp; includes round trip air from San Diego, CA, hotel transfers, air taxes and fees. Additional Airport Gateways – San Francisco, CA at no additional cost; from Los Angeles, CA, please deduct \$50 pp from the above rates.

For more information and to obtain a tour brochure, contact Collette, Vacations Special Account Desk, at (877) 584-7302, and refer to Group Reservation No. 122470. Information sheets and limited brochures may also be obtained by contacting the Retirement Center. For general tour information, contact Rosemary Norling, Chair, UC Travel Interest Group, at [rnorling@ucsd.edu](mailto:rnorling@ucsd.edu) or (858) 453-0908.