

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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UCRAB Summer Luncheon & Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Berkeley City Club

Nobel Laureate Charles H. Townes
Professor in the Graduate School, Department of Physics

UCRAB is very proud to present one of the most eminent scientist of our time as its speaker for the summer luncheon on June 11 at the Berkeley City Club. Professor Charles H. Townes won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1964. Townes is best known for his work in the field of quantum electronics, which led to the invention of the laser, surely one of the 20th century's most important scientific achievements. He will speak to us about his ground-breaking work on the laser, and maybe we'll finally understand how it works.

At the age of 94, Professor Townes is still actively engaged in research at the Space Sciences Laboratory at Cal. In fact, his assistant told me that she can't keep up with him. Please give yourself the special opportunity to meet this remarkable man at our summer luncheon. We'll very briefly handle of our annual business - mainly the board election. And, as always, we welcome you to invite a partner or a friend.

Please return the inserted reservation by June 8th. I looking forward to seeing you at the Berkeley City Club.

Milt Elbogen

Reminder: It is membership renewal time. See the insert for the renewal form and how to tell if your dues are due.

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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:

June 17
July 15
September 16
October 21
November 18

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
Fax: 510/643-1460

Retirement Center Liaison
to UCRA B:

André S. Porter
Program Manager

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

Editor: Open
Email: ucbrc@berkeley.edu

President's Message

Iola James's column is absent, as she is recovering from surgery. All indications are that her recovery is going well. The column will return in the fall 2009 issue.

Report from UCRS - February, 2009

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 FY 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 by June 22nd 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 Guide to active UCRP members and rehired retirees.

The Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 signed into law on December 23, 2008 contains a provision for a one-year suspension of the IRS regulation governing Minimum Required Distributions (MRD's) from retirement plans such as UC's 403(b), 457(b), and DC Plans. All UC participants in the plans who are 70 ½ or older in 2009 should have received an announcement from Human Resources and Benefits in February. Contact Fidelity® Retirement Services at 1-866-682-7787 with questions.

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 anne.wolf@ucop.edu with your articles.

Audit Courses at Cal This Summer

Bring your experience and viewpoints to a summer course. Seniors are well known as excellent students in higher education; because you are generally not working for a degree, you have the reputation of being pure scholars. Berkeley Summer Sessions has created a greatly discounted means for seniors to sit in on class during summer. Anyone who is 55 years of age or older by May 26, 2009, may purchase a discounted Senior Audit Card for \$50, beginning March 31, 2009. You may audit any course with available seats with the exception of language courses, lab science courses, courses from the 2009 Linguistic Institute, and courses with limited enrollment, at the discretion of the instructor.

For more information visit the Summer Sessions website at <http://summer.berkeley.edu/senioraudit>, or call 510-642-5611.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Friendship Line needs Volunteers!

Sometimes, knowing there is someone who cares 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, x 236.

UCRAB Newsletter Editor

We are in need of an editor for this publication. Desktop publishing and administrative services are provided by the Retirement Center. However, this is also an opportunity to learn or enhance those skills. What we need is someone to compile, develop, and yes, even write articles of interest to our members. The editor works with Retirement Center staff on production schedules, interfacing with Campus Copy, etc. If interested contact Iola James at iolaj@comcast.net.

Also, we are always interested in hearing from you, so send in your poetry, creative writing, trip reports or other items to ucbr@berkeley.edu.

Fidelity Online Account Session

The Retirement Center is partnering with Fidelity® Retirement Services to bring investment education to retirees. Our first session will provide hands-on information as it relates to online accounts at <http://netbenefits.fidelity.com>. In this session the facilitator will work from examples projected on a screen, while retirees can work with their own accounts. To facilitate this effort, please come to the workshop with a valid P.I.N. to get into your account. Don't know your P.I.N? Contact HR and Benefits at <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu> or 800-888-8267.

Please join us for this UC sponsored, Fidelity® Retirement Services presentation. The session will run approximately 60 minutes and will cover:

Accessing your Account Online

July 20th 10:00am

- Understand Fidelity® Retirement Services' online account access system, available virtually 24 hours a day
- See how you can log on any time to access your account and manage your portfolio
- Learn how to use the system to help maximize your retirement
-

To reserve a space and find out the location of the program, contact the Retirement Center at ucbr@berkeley.edu or by phone at 642-5461.

Berkeley Art Museum Tour

Can art inspire conservation? Can conservation inspire art? *Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet* began six years ago in the form of these questions, triggering an unusual collaboration and an extraordinary and circuitous journey. BAM/PFA, in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD) and the international conservation organization Rare, commissioned eight of the world's most thoughtful and innovative artists to travel to eight UNESCO-designated World Heritage sites and to create new works of art in response to their travels and experiences there.

Join us at the museum for a fee docent-led tour of the exhibit on Friday, August 7, at 2pm. Call or email the Center to register.

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

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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 - August 20 and 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>)

Check back in the fall

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

Luncheons - September 12, December 5

Board meetings - September 8, December 1

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

Board meetings - June 17, July 15, September 16

Fall Luncheon - September 17