



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

Executive Board

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Upcoming Trips and Events

See enclosed flyers for more info!

Day at the Races

Thursday, June 7, 11 am

Don't miss this annual event!

Delta Cruise

Thursday, June 28, 10am

Enjoy a three-hour delta cruise aboard a private yacht along the beautiful Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.

Beans and Buds

Thursday, July 19, 9am

Explore the Jelly Belly Factory and Budweiser Brewery. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy this trip!

UCRAB General Meeting &

Summer Luncheon

Thursday, June 14, 2012

Berkeley City Club

No Host Bar at 11 a.m. Luncheon at Noon



“Some Baseball Poems: A Talk by Baseball and Poetry Buff Lewis Rubman, PhD”

In his June talk, Lewis Rubman will comment on three baseball poems—two from authors in baseball-loving countries outside the United States. Japanese poet, Haruki Kadokawa wrote “Lights-out Siren” and Nicolás Guillén, the Poet Laureate of Revolutionary Cuba, penned “Elegy to Martín Dihigo.” Rubman will also include Richard Jackson’s “Center Field.”

Lewis entered UC Berkeley’s graduate program in Spanish in 1963. Last December, just 48 years later, he completed his doctorate in Comparative Literature following his retirement from the Alameda County Social Services Agency. He incorporated his passion for baseball into his literary studies titling his dissertation *On the Poetry of Baseball*.

Lewis and his wife Gail have been avid A’s fans for years and travel frequently to ball games throughout the Greater Bay Area, the U.S. and the world.

In Memoriam - Raymond A. Colvig, March 4, 2012

UC Retirees' Association at Berkeley 2012 Slate of Officers and Directors

The following slate of Officers and Directors is proposed by Carroll Brentano, Nominating Committee Chair, for the 2012-2014 term. All members of UCRA are invited to make additional nominations at will, from the floor at the June 14, 2012 Annual Meeting.

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

Nominated For Election at This Meeting

(additional nominations accepted June 14, 2012)

Officers:

President: Iola James (incumbent)

Vice President: Allan Jensen

Treasurer: August Manza (one-year term)

Directors:

Patricia Hardy (incumbent)

Lola Harris

Isabelle Revoir (incumbent)

Continuing Officers & Directors

(for information only)

Officers:

Secretary: Marian Gade

Directors:

Kurt Lauridsen

Dorothy Snodgrass

Antonia Sweet

May 2012 UCRS Report

The UCRS Advisory Board has a website which is open to the public. You may view the Board's materials by accessing it via the "At Your Service" website.

To access the materials, go to: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/> and click on "Retirement and Savings Plans" under the information column.

After the page opens, click on the "Quick Link" entitled UCRS Advisory Board Information. This will take you to the Board's homepage: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/ucrs-advisory-board/>.

CUCRA (Council of UC Retirees Associations) also has a website with good information at <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/>.

The Governor's pension reform proposals are of great interest to UCRS. To pass the Legislature it will take a two-thirds vote of both houses, then a majority of votes in a statewide general election will be necessary to complete the process. Some of the provisions will apply only to those hired as of July 1, 2013 while others would apply to current employees as well. They will not apply to retirees.

Remember, too, that the editor of *New Dimensions*, the UCOP retiree publication, continues to look for articles by retirees. If you would like to contribute, contact Anne Wolf at anne.wolf@ucop.edu.

Antonia Sweet

President's Message

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of the 2012 academic year, I look forward to your attendance at the forthcoming annual business meeting and luncheon. The slate of officers will be presented and voted upon at this meeting. As always, the business portion will be brief, allowing time for our speaker, Lewis Rubman.

I hope that you have participated in and enjoyed UCRA's various activities over the last year: quarterly luncheons, the October Mixer and Art Show at the Berkeley Yacht club, Retirement Center Barbecue, day-trip to Apple Hill and Marshall State Park, and our annual Yosemite trip. We also enjoyed the unique opportunity to learn about the building of the new Bay Bridge, culminating with an on-site tour.

I continue to be grateful to our board members for their monthly meeting attendance, each with the purpose of how we may serve our association members. Thanks, too, for the assistance provided by the UC Berkeley Retirement Center staff.

As always, we encourage our members' ideas and suggestions on how we may continue to add to your retirement enjoyment. Please join us on the upcoming trips described elsewhere in newsletter.

Isn't it great to be retired?

Iola James, President

Up Close and Personal

This spring the Learning in Retirement Program offered an outstanding course on the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge. On the last day of the course, 75 of us met near the toll plaza and were divided into three groups. While one group enjoyed an overview with video lecture detailing the plans, manufacture, assembly and installation of the parts for the new span, another group went via a small bus onto the new span and the east end of the cable portion. The third group traveled by boat to observe the new span from the water level.

We observed the workmen stringing rods up over the tower, down around the saddle back, back up over the tower and down to the anchorage. When compressed together, the rods will form the cable and will be anchored at the east end of the new span.

On our way to the boat we passed the Left Coast Lifter, a \$50 million crane built specifically for the bridge construction. A small harbor boat took us out on the Bay where we saw temporary structures supporting the new span and large cylinders which tie together the span sections. I lost my hard hat in the Bay while looking up at the 'nesting' facilities that will allow birds who now nest in the ironworks of the original span to nest in the new span.

The new span will open Labor Day Weekend, 2013. Thank you Learning in Retirement and UCB Retirement Center for the unique opportunity to tour this most important Bay Area bridge.

Antonia Sweet, UCRS Liaison

The statewide organizations of UC retirees (CUCRA) and emeriti (CUCEA) met on April 26-27; attending were UCRAB President Iola James, CUCRA Rep. Allan Jensen, and myself (also chair of CUCRA).

Highlights included a discussion of UC President Yudof's recent acknowledgement that retiree organizations are an integral part of the UC family and eligible to participate in UC-sponsored liability insurance programs. CUCRA's Bylaws and Standing Rules were reviewed with a key addition being the formal recognition of the long-standing Joint Benefits Committee (JBC), a group appointed by CUCRA and CUCEA to consider, and make recommendations regarding, pension and health problems and benefits for UC retirees.

Debora Obley, UC Associate Vice President, Budget and Capital Resources, candidly reviewed the University's budgetary problems. She pointed out that Governor Brown's proposed ballot initiative would benefit the University indirectly, despite the fact that it is not specifically targeted for any of the revenue. However, it will help the ongoing structural deficit that California has been contending with for more than a decade. UC can't move forward until the State actually resolves that issue. For information on how to help advocate for UC in Sacramento, visit <http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/>

The next meeting is slated for the Santa Cruz Campus in late October.

Marian Gade, Secretary, CUCRA Chair



Yosemite Trip

More than 40 members and guests enjoyed a two-night, three-days winter sojourn in Yosemite which included a two-hour tour of one of our most prized National Parks. *Photo courtesy Blaine Davis.*

See the inserts in this newsletter to find out more about upcoming trips and adventures!

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Senior Discounts

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 20, 2012
July 18, 2012
September 19, 2012
October 17, 2012
November 14, 2012

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

Retirement Center Liaison
to UCRA:
Patrick Cullinane, MS, Director

We all like to save a little money. Here are some local suggestions:

Grocery Outlet:

Berkeley on 4th Street: 8am-2pm; 2nd and 4th Thursdays

Oakland on Broadway: 8am-12pm; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Boston Market: 10% off (65+)

American Airlines: various discounts (65+) call before booking

Denny's: 55+ senior meals; special AARP Member discounts

Comfort Suites: 20%-30% discount (60+)

Dollar Rent-A-Car: 10% (50+)

Hyatt Hotels : 25%-50% (62+)

AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan \$29.99/month (65+)

Verizon Wireless: 65 Plus Plan \$29.99/month (65+) --U of CA Berkeley 15%

Arizmendi: 10% senior citizen discount; Lakeshore, Oakland & Emeryville

AARP Discounts

Welcome New Members

Welcome to all of our 35 new members! We are happy to have you as members and hope to see you at our quarterly luncheons at the Berkeley City Club and our UCRA adventures to points of interest. Planning is underway for upcoming trips to the Winchester Mystery House and the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum. See you there!

Isabelle Revoir, Membership Chair