



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

***UC RETIREES' ASSOCIATION AT BERKELEY (UCRAB)
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT OUR FALL LUNCHEON***

Thursday, September 19, 2019, featuring guest speaker

Professor Lewis Feldman

“The UC Botanical Garden: A Living Museum”

**Room G202 Geneva Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley
Doors open at 11:30 and buffet luncheon at 12:00 noon**

Lew Feldman believes that humans are partners with plants, especially during this time of unprecedented climate change and habitat destruction. He is certain that the future of the plant world will depend on human activities and on our expanding our knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of this remarkable group of organisms. Lew's recent appointment as Director of the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, with its unparalleled collection, gives him responsibility for leading a major resource focused on protecting rare and endangered species and on restoring habitats.

Lew received his B.S. and M.S. degrees at UC Davis and his Ph.D. in Biology at Harvard. He has conducted research and taught in the Departments of Botany and, more recently, Plant and Microbial Biology at Cal for 40 years. Lew has taught Introductory Biology for a number of years; an excellent teacher he received Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1996. As a long-time advocate for the Botanical Garden, Lew has served as Chair of its Faculty Advisory Committee for over ten years and participated in the Garden's Advisory Board.



We hope you will join us for a good lunch, camaraderie, and an interesting presentation about the history of the Botanical Garden and its role in addressing the critical problems described above.

Registration. Luncheon registrations must be received no later than Thursday, September 12. To register online, please complete the registration form at https://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_events, OR to register by phone, please call (510) 642-5461. If no answer, please leave a voice-mail with your name, email address, the name of the event (“September UCRAB Luncheon”), and the number of reservations. Registrations will be confirmed upon receipt of payment of \$25 per person. Checks should be made payable to UCRAB and mailed to UCRAB, 101 University Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550.

Parking. Free and convenient parking is available in the Church's underground parking garage--entrance on Channing Way between Telegraph Avenue and Dana Street. The number of parking spaces is limited. If you need parking, please request a parking pass when you register.

SF Bay cruise on the USS Potomac

Lunch (Optional – No Host) Join the UC Retirees' Association at Berkeley (UCRAB) for a SF Bay cruise on the USS Potomac – the Floating White House!

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$45.00 each



The USS 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 now docked at Oakland's Jack London Square. This will be a two-hour SF Bay history and sightseeing cruise. Docents will be available onboard for ship tours and to answer your questions.

Please complete the attached registration and waiver forms and submit with your payment. You may also register online here: Potomac Registration You will not be considered registered until your full payment is received. Registration form and payment must be received at the Retirement Center by Thursday October 3rd. Reservations will be taken in the order received.

The tour and cruise take place from 10:30am – 12:30pm. Please plan to arrive promptly by 9:30am to have time to park, collect your tickets and watch their video on the history of the ship. We will board the Potomac at 10:15 AM and departure is promptly at 10:30 AM rain or shine! Note: there is no elevator currently available for those unable to climb stairs. Wheelchairs must be 25" or less (wheel to wheel) to access ship and passageways.

For your comfort and safety dress is casual, but bring extra layers (if rainy, dress accordingly) so that you'll be comfortable while enjoying the cruise. The Bay is often 20 degrees colder than the shore. The Potomac has limited indoor seating, and the best views are from the boat deck and other outdoor areas. Also, because the yacht has steep ladders and may be slippery, please wear flat shoes with non-skid soles.

Lunch (Optional – No Host)

We have also made a reservation at a nearby restaurant "The Fat Lady" for those interested in lunch after the cruise. Please indicate on your reservation if you would like to join us for lunch. Please see their web site for their menu and pricing.

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UCRS NEWS

The transition of the day to day administrative data exchange for UCRS to the external record keeper, Redwood Retirement Administration Recordkeeping System was launched in February of this year. Eventually, everyone will have to register anew on the portal. You will be given instructions on how to do this in ample time when this process begins for us. Approximately 2,300 new retirees have submitted applications for this year's retirement. An exceptionally large open enrollment is anticipated for this year.

The Retirement Administration Service Center continues to be your best resource for any information you may need or the answers to any questions you may have.

The report from the Health Benefits Design Working Group was presented to Janet Napolitano and the following action was taken: UC entered into an agreement with UnitedHealthcare to offer UC retirees a new Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organization (MA PPO) plan beginning Jan. 1, 2020. Health Net Seniority Plus Medicare Advantage HMO is being dropped from the UC health plans. UC's other Medicare plans, including the UC Medicare PPO and UC High Option Supplement to Medicare plans administered by Anthem and Kaiser's Senior Advantage plan, will continue to be available in 2020. The three plans will be available during the open enrollment period. You may check on the UCnet website to see the changes: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2019/07/uc-to-offer-new-medicare-advantage-ppo-plan-for-2020.html>

The annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2019 is 2% which appeared in the July annuity check. The Measurement of Annuitant Purchasing Power is at 75%. The next meeting of the UCRS Advisory Board will be held in November, 2019.

Toni Sweet
UCRS & CUCRA Liaison

East Bay College Fund

UCRAB continues to support the East Bay College Fund. Pat Hardy presents this year's UCRAB donation to this deserving program. From left to right: Tarin Griggs, Volunteer Coordinator, Eric Guico, Sr. Program Director, Pat Hardy, UCRAB representative, and Sandra Ernst, College Completion Director.



Meet your Board – Toni Sweet

Toni Sweet is a Cal alumna who served as staff at UC Berkeley. She retired in 1993 as manager of the Division of Computer Science after 20 years of service. She joined UCRAB in 1993 and has served on the Board since 1995. She is the UCRAB representative to CUCRA and served on that Board for 12 years, first a Secretary and then as Information Officer. She also serves as UCRAB Liaison to the UCRS advisory board. She lives in the family home in Berkeley.



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Fourth Annual Renegade Retirees Picnic

A good time was had by all at the July 11 Renegade Retirees picnic in Tilden Park



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