



# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

***UC BERKELEY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO JOIN US  
AT OUR FALL LUNCHEON  
Thursday, September 20, 2018***

**Geneva Hall (Room G202), First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley**

**11:30 room opens - 12:00 Noon Lunch**

The speaker for our September luncheon will be Professor Evan Variano, who will talk about chaos theory and illustrate it using air flow (turbulence and clouds), water flow (ocean currents and ecology), and fire—topics of increasing importance to residents of California and the world.

Professor Variano's research can help us better understand catastrophic events in today's headlines—fire tornadoes, super hurricanes, and hundred-year floods. He points out that “an understanding of fluid mechanics is [also] crucial for an engineer whose goal is to restore or preserve a natural environment [like] wetlands, rivers, or the ocean.”

Professor Variano received his B.A. in Physics from Princeton University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. He joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cal in 2007 and is currently an Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering.

Note the new location for our luncheon: Geneva Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. The room is accessible by elevator from the garage and from the first floor. Entrance to the church garage is on the south side of Channing Way, between Telegraph Avenue and Dana Street; up to 40 free spaces have been reserved for our luncheon depending on availability; please request a free parking pass when you make your reservation and display it on your dashboard. If the church garage is full, other parking is available in the Telegraph-Channing Garage, entry from either Channing Way or Durant Avenue. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m., and coffee, tea, iced tea, and iced water will be available. (No alcoholic beverages will be available at the Church.)

Registrations must be received no later than Wednesday, September 13. Please complete the registration form at [https://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab\\_events](https://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_events), OR call (510) 642-5461. (If no answer, please leave a voice-mail with your name, email address, and the name of the event you're registering for.) 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.



## ***Renegades!***

The July Renegade Retiree picnic, appears to be on its way to becoming a tradition among the several associations related to the Berkeley Retirement Center. The picnic, however, is not a Retirement Center or University sanctioned activity; thus -- Renegades! A number of participants showed up in their traditional blue and gold T-shirts with the Renegade Retiree logo.

Retirees from UCRAB, the Ex-L's, UCOP, and Emeriti gathered on July 14th to enjoy a barbeque, delicious dishes provided by attendees, and good company. Caroline Kane of the Emeriti again provided organization as well as wine. Our own Patti Owen has volunteered to take over the planning for next year's picnic.

As usual, many of the attendees brought their own delicious dishes to share with the group -- salads, fruit, desserts -- enough to ensure no one needed to cook dinner that night! And the event ended with the traditional community sing, led by Marian Gade (guitar) and Jerry Michaels (Dobro), always held at the end of the event so that those who can't bear to hear "You Are My Sunshine" or "I've Been Working on the Railroad" one more time in their lives may leave knowing they're not missing anything.

Thanks to all who came, who provided food, who helped set up and clear the site, to the faithful cooks who always turn out to help, and especially to Caroline Kane who instigated the Renegade Retiree event and has organized it from its inception. We're looking forward to July 2019.

*Marian Gade*

## ***Learning in Retirement***

Three interesting courses are being offered by the Learning in Retirement program, each of which has four to five meetings in successive weeks. The Retirement Center website, <https://retirement.berkeley.edu/home>, has more details about each of these, along with registration information.

**Aspects of Islam**, beginning September 14

**The Origins and Nature of Language**, beginning October 16

**What's New in the Ancient World? Old Problems and Modern Technologies**, beginning January 22, 2019

## ***Membership***

UCRAB welcomes three new Board members: Dave Duer, Nancy Horton, Ben Tucker. We look forward to working with these talented people to further our goals and activities.

We also welcome new members of our organization; please introduce yourself to them at our next luncheon: Stephen Andrews, Mark Cronenwett, James and Juliane Monroe, Wendy Parfrey, Nadesan Permaul, Linda Turitz, Elise Jacobs Woods, Marcy Whitebook.

## **UCRAB Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

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## *University of California Retirement System*

The University of California Retirement System Advisory Board held its final meeting of the fiscal year in Oakland on June 22, 2018. The Redwood Retirement Administration Recordkeeping System will launch in February 2019 replacing the current system. It is a huge data exchange and management program. Everyone will have to register anew on the portal. You will receive instructions on how to do this with ample time to spare.

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 will be presented to Janet Napolitano by the beginning of the fiscal year. You may check on the website to see it at this time.

New Unique ID numbers will replace Social Security Numbers and will be issued by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) April 2018-April 2019. CMS will replace the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) with a randomly generated Medicare Beneficiary Indicator (MBI). By January 2020, HICNs will no longer be exchanged with Beneficiaries, Providers, Plans and other third parties. Starting last April 2018, people with Medicare are able to check the status of card mailings in their area on Medicare.gov. Medicare will send new numbers to medical plans as they are issued. Medical plans will send new numbers to UC for those currently on Medicare to populate our systems. UC will not need to conduct a campaign to collect these numbers.

The annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2018 is 2%. It appeared in the July annuity check. The Measurement of Annuitant Purchasing Power is at 75%.

*Toni Sweet  
CUCRA/CUCEA Liaison*

## *Ucrab Supports The East Bay College Fund*

UCRAB's donation will contribute to scholarships awarded to graduates of Oakland high schools. Almost 90% of the 1,156 students currently participating in the E.B.C.F.'s program are the first in their families to attend college. In addition to four-year financial support, the students receive mentoring, connect with other E.B.C.F. scholars at their college, and participate in workshops to learn valuable skills like living within a budget.

Pat and Lynn also serve as mentors for students in the program.

UCRAB members are welcome to support the program financially, volunteer as a mentor, or assist at an event. For more information, go to <https://www.eastbaycollegefund.org> and click on **get involved**.



*Pat Hardy (center), UCRAB's Scholarship and Mentoring Coordinator, presents a check to representatives of the East Bay College Fund. Pictured, from left to right, are Senayt Sium (a freshman participating in the E.B.C.F. program), Alli Starr (Director of Strategic Partnerships at E.B.C.F.), Pat Hardy, Rosa Baeza (Development Manager at E.B.C.F.), and UCRAB President Lynn Bailiff.*

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