



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retiree's Association Berkeley

President's Message



The days are getting shorter, the election is over, and COVID is on the rise. We are in the midst of holidays with Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas and Hannukah and Kwanzaa (or whatever you celebrate) ahead of us. This is the time to reflect. So, take a deep breath, close your eyes, and focus on the positives in your lives. I, myself, am grateful for my health and that of my family; that I have housing and food to eat; and that I have connections to friends and communities.

The pandemic has become the center of our lives. It has affected how we shop, dine, work, exercise, visit with friends, travel, etc. As a retiree, I am able to adapt my life to accommodate the necessary changes, but feel badly for those who have young children who must be schooled or those with health conditions who cannot venture out. The Berkeley Retirement Center website has a section on Keeping Connected during COVID-19 which includes resources, events and activities, volunteer opportunities, learning and enrichment, and health and wellness. I hope you take a look.

I am going to miss UCRAB's annual holiday luncheon where I look forward to seeing "old" friends and meeting new ones. It is always a fun time to visit with Santa and bring gifts for those children in the hospital. Perhaps you might find another source this year where you can donate a toy or two. With the news of promising vaccines, hopefully we'll be able to resume our luncheons sometime in 2021! We will continue to offer speakers via Zoom, so stay tuned. Happy Holidays to everyone. Stay safe and please wear a mask.



CUCRA/CUCEA REPORT

The semi-annual meeting of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) took place on October 28-29 via Zoom. The first day was a joint meeting with the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA). The two primary topics were the Health Benefits Advisory Committee (HBAC) with Office of the President (UCOP) staff speaking about various benefit issues. HBAC has been meeting over the past year with a charge to look at the health benefits currently provided to both active and retired UC employees. The committee included representatives from CUCRA and CUCEA, as well as, Senate members and administrative staff. The report has been finalized and submitted to senior administrators at UCOP and should be available sometime in December.

Cheryl Lloyd, the Interim Vice President of Human Resources at UCOP, spoke about the current state of the Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC). Almost two years ago, RASC transitioned to new platforms to manage benefits for retirees. It has been a very rocky transition resulting in months long delays in processing retirement applications and other related benefits. When the pandemic sent everyone home to work, systems were not in place for a seamless pivot. In fact, a new phone system is just now being put in place. UCOP has hired consultants to create a new customer service model, and they hope to have changes in place early in 2021.

In the CUCRA meeting, Patti Owen was elected to be Secretary who will serve on the CUCRA Executive Board. John Meyer from Davis and Sue Abeles from UCLA will serve as Chair and Vice Chair. There was a brief report about the CUCRA Survey reports in preparation. One of the Survey Committee's jobs is to clarify the definition of 'emeriti'. There were also comments about the Health Benefits Advisory Committee and its forthcoming report.

A new set of Bylaws and Standing Rules were presented, voted upon and approved. These Bylaws and Standing Rules reflected needed changes to allow CUCRA to file as a 501(C) 4 organization. The travel program is on hiatus, trips planned for 2021 have been postponed to 2022. CUCRA sends two representatives to the Joint Benefits Committee, for the next two years Adrian Harris from UCLA and Joe Lewis from UCOP. In a discussion of survivor benefits and it was suggested that retirees go to UCRAYS to check if your survivors are set up correctly. The April meetings will be hosted by UCLA.

Patti Owen and Toni Sweet

Volunteer Opportunities

UCRAB has been contacted by an organization called Friends of All Ages. It is a program that pairs students in grades 3-5 with a senior volunteer for virtual reading sessions. They hope to create a safe, structured space where seniors and kids can engage and learn together during this tumultuous time. If you are looking for some way to connect during your time at home, this would be a great opportunity. For more information, go to www.friendsofallages.org.

150 Years of Women at Berkeley

During the current calendar year, Berkeley has been celebrating and documenting the many contributions of women over the past 150 years. Departments have been writing about the women in their departments, and the campus has been profiling a number of female staff who have made significant contributions during their careers at Berkeley.

I am pleased to note that two women who have close UCRAB connections have been featured during the past year. [Marian Gade](#), a longtime member of the UCRAB Board and current Secretary, received accolades for her longtime service in the Center for the Studies of Higher Education and her role as Clark Kerr's research associate. [Patricia Hardy](#), a former member of the UCRAB Board, was a longtime staff member of the Department of Statistics. You can find their stories at the links above.

Beatrice Rudawsky, Class of 1916

This colorful story was submitted by Beatrice's granddaughter Robin Mayrisch Andrae. Beatrice came to Berkeley from the University of Nevada and majored in chemistry. Beatrice's mother, Harriet, was a seamstress and often repaired uniforms for the Cal football team. Beatrice married Lenard Mayrisch, also a Cal graduate, and many members and descendants of his family also attended Cal. Robin worked at Cal for many years.

WOMAN MAKING EXPLOSIVES

Miss Beatrice Rudawsky, graduate student at the University of California, is at work on experiments intended to give a vast increase of strength to high explosives. Within a few weeks she will complete the labor of months and, in perfecting her discovery, believes she will have a process that will result in the most powerful detonator of shells known to science

Her experiments deal with a process which will create a volume a gas many times more terrific than that of "Explosive D", a secret American preparation used to explode shells when they strike an object. During her work Miss Rudawsky has succeeded in making a weak solution of hexa nitro-tuloul. This was [here the original newspaper article repeats one line and leaves out the next line] substance is yellow and resembles needles. It is placed on the ends of shells to explode when the target is struck.

"I don't see why a girl cannot undertake serious in science, said Miss Rudawsky.

"I consider war a horrible way of settling national differences, and I do not like to think of my experiments as assisting in human slaughter. I the discoveries I have made are valuable, I would rather feel that I had accomplished a step in science and consider the effect upon warfare and national defense to be a secondary matter.

"Explosives, to my belief, are a s valuable to peaceful pursuits as to war."

Bismark Daily Tribune, February 9, 1916, page 5.

Contributions sought

Do you have an interesting Cal story like the one above? We would like to include stories like this in future issues of our newsletter. Your contributions may be sent to UCRAB@berkeley.edu.

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