



# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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

*Thursday, June 20, 2019, featuring guest speaker*

*Joseph Lurie*

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

**Doors open at 11:30 and buffet luncheon at 12:00 noon**

Inspired by a West African proverb that says, “The stranger sees only what he knows,” Joe Lurie will provide an insightful and entertaining look at cross-cultural miscommunication in an increasingly globalized and polarized world. With YouTube, tweets, refugees, and fake news rapidly crossing cultures without context, Lurie will share a timely, intriguing, and sometimes tragic array of intercultural encounters gone wrong because of cultural misperceptions across the globe.

Joe Lurie is Executive Director Emeritus of UC Berkeley’s International House, where he served for two decades. Since retiring from I-House, Joe has been offering cross-cultural communication training and consulting for a wide range of organizations. Focusing on sources of miscommunication and misunderstanding across cultures, Joe has taught courses and given lectures at Cal, the Osher Institutes for Lifelong Learning, the World Affairs Council, and the Commonwealth Club of California. His articles have appeared in Harper’s Magazine and US News and World Report, and his book Perception and Deception: A Mind-Opening Journey across Cultures has been widely praised. David Lennon, former managing editor of the Financial Times, called his book “Brilliant.”

We hope you will join us for a good lunch, camaraderie, and an interesting presentation.

**Registration.** Luncheon Registrations must be received no later than Thursday, June 13. To register online, please complete the online registration form, 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 (“June 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



Photo by Lori A. Cheung

## UC Retirees Travel

UC Retirees Travel offers opportunities to discover the world with like-minded travelers from all of the University of California locations. UC retirees, family and friends can visit worldwide destinations featuring a mix of history, culture, arts and nature. Let the expert trip planners coordinate all of the details so you can relax and enjoy the journey.



We have partnered Collette Travel, a third-generation family-owned business that has been coordinating group tours for more than 100 years, to offer the trips listed below

Our current offerings are listed below. Visit the UC Retirees Travel website at <http://CUCRA.UCSD.edu/travel> to see details and pricing. To register or ask questions, call Collette at (800) 581-8942 and refer to the booking number listed for that trip.

- **Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains**, Sept. 30 — Oct. 09, 2019 • 10 Days  
Explore Switzerland and Italy by train and boat, viewing spectacular scenery, stunning resort villages and two of the world's most scenic lakes.
- **Spotlight on Tuscany**, Oct. 17 — 25, 2019 • 9 Days  
Enjoy a seven-night stay in Montecatini Terme, a beautiful resort town and take daily excursions to explore vineyards, medieval towns and more.
- **Discover Havana**, Nov. 3 — 8, 2019 • 6 Days  
Unpack just once and explore this culturally rich and diverse city. Discover Old Havana, historic cathedrals, the Revolution Museum and more.
- **Christmas on the Danube**, Dec. 02 — 10, 2019 • 9 Days  
Celebrate the holidays with a scenic river cruise, stopping at Christmas markets in Vienna, Regensburg, Passau, Rothenburg and Nuremberg.
- **Taste of Vietnam**, *Small Group Travel* – 24 or fewer passengers  
April 17 — April 30, 2020 • 14 Days  
Explore Vietnam's history, experience life on the Mekong Delta, stay aboard a luxury junk boat, visit the stunning Thien Mu Pagoda and more.
- **Croatia & its Islands**, *Small Ship Cruising on the Adriatic Coast*  
June 05 — June 16, 2020 • 12 Days  
See sites from medieval architecture to ethereal waterfalls. Visit cities, parks, an ancient palace and more.
- **Switzerland/Germany & Oberammergau Passion Play**, July 07 — 15, 2020 • 9 Days  
Experience the grand cities of Europe's Alpine region and enjoy a performance of the legendary Passion Play in the village of Oberammergau.

If you would like to receive email updates from UC Retirees Travel, email [UCRetireesTravel@gmail.com](mailto:UCRetireesTravel@gmail.com) and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

UC Retirees Travel is sponsored by CUCRA (Council of University of California Retirees Associations), a systemwide consortium of volunteer retiree representatives from 13 UC retiree associations. CUCRA represents the interests of UC retirees and supports the University's teaching, research and public service missions.

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[lynnbailiff@comcast.net](mailto:lynnbailiff@comcast.net)

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[plowen@berkeley.edu](mailto:plowen@berkeley.edu)

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[mgade@berkeley.edu](mailto:mgade@berkeley.edu)  
510-524-9815

Kathleen Demerdjian  
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Director-at-Large  
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[hardypatricia@gmail.com](mailto:hardypatricia@gmail.com)

Nancy Horton  
Membership Coordinator  
[njhorton0120@gmail.com](mailto:njhorton0120@gmail.com)

William Roberts  
Newsletter Editor  
[wroberts1939@yahoo.com](mailto:wroberts1939@yahoo.com)

Antonia Sweet  
CUCRA & UCRS Liaison  
and Luncheon Coordinator  
510-848-6079

Ben Tucker  
Speaker Coordinator  
[tucker602000@yahoo.com](mailto:tucker602000@yahoo.com)

## CUCRA/CUCEA MEETING, April 24 - 25, 2019

The meeting of the Council of UC Retirees Associations was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 24th at the University of California San Diego Faculty Club.

After the Officer's reports the major part of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion of possible changes in the health care program offered by the University to retirees' health benefits for 2020 and beyond, HR is considering whether a Medicare Advantage PPO might replace the current HealthNet Seniority Plus Plan, the retiree Medicare Supplemental PPO plan, and/or the Medicare High Option PPO plan. (Changes to the Kaiser Plan were not mentioned.) There are several reports that explain the options and the process more fully, available on the CUCRA website: the Joint Benefits Committee report. one that gives more information on the issue and the process. and one that is an analysis of Medicare Advantage PPO vs. what we have now.

The question is whether a Medicare Advantage PPO plan might save significant money and whether it might do so without being disruptive to the retiree members. Although health plan contracts must be signed by the end of June 2019 to take effect in January 2020, it seems unlikely that any changes will take effect before 2021.

The Berkeley Emeriti Association is writing to urge President Napolitano to refrain from rushing to a decision and, most importantly, to make sure to fully consult the stakeholders (retirees and emeriti) before making the final decision.

Sue Barnes will be taking over as the CUCRA Travel Coordinator. She will assume the full duties of the position after she retires as the Director of the UCLA Retirement Center. Please see the article in this Newsletter on Travel. She suggests that campuses may want to establish travel interest groups. Also, the group discussed the Joint Statement of Purpose for CUCRA and CUCEA. Slight word changes were suggested. It will be discussed in the Joint Meeting.

The Joint Meeting was held on April 25th. We were welcomed us and given some information about UCSD which is building lots of housing on campus because there are now 30,000 undergrads and approximately 10,000 graduate students, similar in size to the Berkeley Campus. It was announced that Redwood, a database company, and the UCRAYS Project which is the new self-service data system for employees and retirees which will allow the sharing of email addresses will be live at the end of June. The Joint Purpose Statement will be discussed at the next meeting. The major part of the meeting was devoted to UCOP's presentation of the possible Retiree Health Insurance and Medicare Advantage changes. The meeting was adjourned at noon. The Fall meeting will be held at UC Davis on October 30th and 31st.

*Toni Sweet, CUCRA Representative*

## UCRAB wishes to welcome its newest members

Mark Van Valkenburgh  
Jewel Diles

Wei-e Wang  
Denise Matsub Lapidus

## Day at the Races

"Heavenly Holiday" won race #1 and some UCRAB members got to go down to the track to meet the jockey. Proceeds from this event enlarge our scholarship fund which goes to the East Bay College Fund



University of California  
Retirees' Association at Berkeley  
101 University Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550  
Telephone: 510/642-5461  
Fax: 510/643-1460

## ***Fourth Annual Renegade Retirees Picnic - SAVE THE DATE!***

The Renegade Retirees are holding their Annual Picnic. All retirees and friends are welcome to join us to meet “old” friends and to make new ones. The grill will be busy with burgers and sausages (including vegetarian). Beverages will be provided, along with plates, cups and utensils. We ask that you bring something to share—salad, dessert, side. As always, there will be a sing along with our own Marian Gade and Jerry Michaels after lunch.

Date: July 11

Time: 11:30ish – 2:00ish

Where: Tilden Park's Island Picnic Area

Cost: \$10.00 per person

For questions and to RSVP, contact Patti Owen, [plowen@berkeley.edu](mailto:plowen@berkeley.edu).

Hope to see you there!



***Now you can follow UCRAB on Facebook***