



# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

## *President's Message*

At the beginning of my tenure, I would like to thank the UCRAB Board of Directors for selecting me to serve as President for the balance of the current term.

I will do my best to continue the work begun by our beloved Kurt Lauridsen.

I want every UCRAB member to appreciate the important role that your Board of Directors plays in planning and providing a wide range of activities like quarterly luncheons, interesting trips, and an informative newsletter. It's a pleasure to serve on a Board with such hard-working and fun folks.

I am very pleased to report that Kathleen Demerdjian, who has served on the Board for the past 16 months, has been appointed Treasurer through June 2016. Over the course of 27 years at Cal and UCSF, Kathleen held a number of administrative positions that enabled her to learn about a wide range of subjects—biotechnology, chemistry, medicine, and the Arabic language. She also taught business and English to high school students in Ohio and English as a Second Language to businessmen at a South Korean steel company, to university students in a Tokyo suburb, and to women university students in the United Arab Emirates. Since retiring, Kathleen has enjoyed taking many OLLI classes, participating in UCRAB trips, and traveling to Europe and New Zealand. She currently serves as Treasurer of the East Bay Rose Society and is a member of the American Rose Society.

Let me take a moment to introduce our newest Board member, Bill Roberts. Bill joined the staff of the Bancroft Library in 1966, while working on his MLS at Cal. In 1984 he was appointed Archivist for both the Berkeley campus and the UC System, a position he held until his retirement in 2001. At that time, he was awarded the Berkeley Citation in recognition of his many contributions to the campus during 35 years of service. Currently Bill volunteers as archivist for the Berkeley Historical Society and enjoys listening to classical music and traveling in Europe. Bill recently volunteered to take responsibility for editing this Newsletter. Welcome, Bill!

Finally, I invite you to participate in the many activities sponsored by UCRAB that are described in this Newsletter. If you find one of particular interest, you're welcome to contact one of the Board members and volunteer to "pitch in." We're happy to share the fun.

*Lynn Bailiff, President*



*Bill Roberts*



*Kathleen  
Demerdjian*



*Lynn Bailiff*

## Membership report

“Welcome, welcome to the following NEW UCRAB members: Camile Abbington. Katherine Apostolou, Jahlee Arakaki, Michaelyn Burnette, Mary Anne Clark, Joyce T. Devries, Steve Finacom, Susan Gettinger, Harvey Gould, Jun Denna Hamamoto, Esther Olsen, Margaret D. Richardson, Candice L. Schott, Geraldine Swanson, Larry Thompson, Clifford Tong, Wayne Wilcox.

Thanks to all of you that renewed your UCRAB memberships. We so appreciate your being a part of the Cal retiree community. Please feel free to contact me, or membership information is available on the UCRAB website.”

*Isabelle Revoir, UCRAB Membership Chair*

## Now recruiting artists!

To all artists, craftspersons, poets, photographers, sketchers, painters, quilters, anyone else with talents and hobbies in the UCRAB member community: If you would like to display your specific interest or creative contributions at our upcoming UCRAB event to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, please contact Isabelle Revoir, UCRAB Membership Director, at 510-524-4127 or email [isabelle.revoir@gmail.com](mailto:isabelle.revoir@gmail.com).

You will be contacted with more information on this exciting upcoming event featuring our creative UCRAB retiree members. There will be a nominal entrance fee and raffle tickets available for purchase.”

*Isabelle Revoir, UCRAB Membership Director*

## Upcoming Trips and Events



### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 HS LORDSHIPS RESTAURANT

#### Program

11:00 am Social Hour and Gifts from Santa

12:00 Noon Luncheon and Holiday Raffle

Open Mic and Gift Donation Table for  
Children's Hospital of Oakland

Cost: \$25 per person for buffet lunch

Reservations must be received no later than  
November 25th

You may register at: [http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab\\_events](http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_events)

For over a decade UCRAB members have made donations for the benefit of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland at the annual holiday party. Please bring your unwrapped, new gift items to the luncheon. You may visit the Children's Hospital website to see a listing of what items are always needed and what is not accepted UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital at: <https://give.ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/pages/donate-goods>

Parking and Transportation: FREE and convenient parking is available

The #51B AC Transit bus stops close to the restaurant

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENT

*Patricia Hardy, Speaker and Luncheon Director*

*Send a check for your registration to: UCRAB, 101 University Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550.*

## UCRAB Board of Directors

### Officers

*Lynn Bailiff  
President*

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

*Lola Harris  
Vice-President  
lhh843@aol.com*

*Marian Gade  
Secretary  
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510-524-9815*

*Kathleen Demerdjian  
Treasurer  
arkdem@aol.com*

### Directors at Large

*Lynn Baranco  
lynnbaranco@comcast.net*

*Patricia Hardy,  
Luncheon and Speaker  
Coordinator &  
Chair, Scholarship Committee  
hardypatricia@gmail.com*

*Iola James  
Past President,  
Event/Trip Director  
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*Isabelle Revoir  
Membership Coordinator  
isabelle.revoir@gmail.com  
510-524-4127*

*William Roberts  
Newsletter Editor  
wroberts1939@yahoo.com*

*Antonia Sweet  
CUCRA & UCRS Liaison  
510-848-6079*

## *(continued) Upcoming Trips and Events*

### **Join us on a Magnificent MOTOWN trip Aboard Amtrak Sierra Scenic Train Two nights & Three days, March 8-10, 2016**

Sit back, relax and watch the spectacular wintertime scenery from your reserved seats. The Motown Theme Scenic Train includes fun features such as a Dance Car, Piano Lounge, Smoking Car, and Card Magician. We will depart from Emeryville Amtrak Station at 10:00 am on Tuesday, March 8, and return from the Reno Amtrak Station at Thursday, March 10th at 10:00 am.



Trip Includes Round trip coach transportation with baggage handling from train to room; two nights at the Eldorado Hotel Casino, including one buffet breakfast per person; lunch on the train, to and from Reno; onboard entertainment with Ms. Martha Reeves & the Top Shelf Classics' Motown; and "Winner's Book" of coupons including discounts on meals, gaming, and shows. Optional 48-hour waiver cancellation is available for an additional \$10/person (48 hours within a business day period ~ weekends not included). Attendees will also be able to purchase discount tickets to "Footloose," a musical produced at the Eldorado Hotel.

Cost for Early Bird Pricing:

- \$295.00/person double occupancy
- \$345.00/person single occupancy
- \$285.00/person triple occupancy

Registration packet, including payment, must be received at the Retirement Center by 4pm on Thursday, December 3, no exceptions. We hope you will be able to join in on this not-to-be-missed opportunity!

You may register at [http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab\\_events](http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_events)

For questions, call Iola James, Event/Trip Director, 510-632-7264.

Make checks out to UCRAB: cash and credit cards cannot be accepted as payment.

Return registration packet and payment to:

UC Berkeley Retirement Center, 101 University Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

## ***UCB Retirement Center***

The Retirement Center is well into its second decade of providing stimulating programs and meaningful services to active employees and retired faculty, staff and their surviving spouses or partners. Gifts to the Retirement Center allow us to continue and enhance the robust programming we offer. Your gift to UCBRC enables us to navigate challenging economic times and ensure our continued success.

Though UCBRC gets its core funds from the campus, those funds do not fully support our activities. In 1997 we established an endowment to ensure our long-term continuation and an annual campaign to meet immediate programmatic needs. Donations to our annual fund directly supports existing programs.

For this year's Big Give, the Retirement Center will focus on growing its endowment funds - currently \$350,000 - and has established a five-year goal of doubling the endowment. Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Big Give on November 19 and consider contributing to the Retirement Center Endowment to help meet our 5-year goal.

To learn more go to: <http://retirement.berkeley.edu/donate>.



*Cary Sweeney, UCB Retirement Center Director*

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### ***Council of University of California Retirees Association October 28-29, UCD***

UCRAB was represented by Antonia Sweet, President Lynn Bailiff, and Secretary Marian Gade. A major focus of the meeting was small group discussion of the nominating process for CUCRA officers and the development of leadership roles. Suggestions for improvement included an effort to have more personal contact among members and with the Nominating Committee as well as clearer definition of officers' duties and the time commitments involved. Some associations are also experiencing difficulty in recruiting leaders.

CUCRA and CUCEA (Council of University of California Emeriti Associations) are considering changing the meeting format to enhance productivity and reduce participation costs to campus associations. CUCRA continues to work towards a survey of all retirees with the double purpose of informing CUCRA of our interests as well as emphasizing to UC and campus administrations the importance of retiree contributions to the University and to their communities.

At the joint meeting of CUCRA and CUCEA there was further consideration of the report of the Joint Benefits Committee concerning the designation of beneficiaries of retirement savings accounts: naming a will or trust as beneficiary may trigger unexpected tax problems. All retirees should check with their legal counsel or with Fidelity to ensure that beneficiaries are listed correctly.

The Director and Manager of RASC (Retirement Administration Service Center) reported the satisfaction rate for service from RASC at 85% satisfied. Although it will not affect current employees or retirees, there was a report on the progress of the task force on the creation of a new retirement tier for employees hired after July 1, 2016. There will be no major changes to medical plans for 2016; Open Enrollment closes on Nov. 24, 2015.

Check the CUCRA website at (<http://cucra.ucsd.edu>) for more information from the Davis meeting, including reports of activities of other campus associations.

*Toni Sweet*