

## Open Enrollment and Other ERRC News

Open Enrollment continues through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24. The Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center (ERRC) has scheduled four Zoom Webinar information sessions.

### **Session 1: Retiree Open Enrollment Q + A: Medicare Plans Only**

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

(Non-Medicare plans will **not** be covered.)

### **Session 2: Retiree Open Enrollment Q + A: Non-Medicare Plans Only**

Friday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

(Medicare transition and Medicare plans will **not** be covered.)

### **Session 3: Retiree Open Enrollment Q + A: Medicare Plans Only**

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

(Non-Medicare plans will **not** be covered.)

### **Session 4: Retiree Open Enrollment Q + A: Combined Non-Medicare and Medicare Plans**

Thursday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

(For those transitioning to Medicare, or families with both Medicare and Non-Medicare members.)

### **LA Opera**

ERRC + LA Opera partner for fantastic music. Sit back, enjoy some tunes, and have fun!

Friday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

[Click Here to Register](#)

### **Celebrating Retirees**

If you retired in 2020, ERRC invites you to join us in honoring your service to the university. Hear Chancellor Block and other leaders, network with other retirees, and enjoy Resonance A Cappella. Online event Friday, Nov. 20, 2:30 p.m.

[Click Here to Register](#)

## UCLA Celebrates Nobel Prize, No. 1 Ranking, Research Funding



*Andrea Ghez (photo by Elena Zhukova)*

**A**ndrea Ghez, UCLA's Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine Professor of Astrophysics, was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in physics on Oct. 6. Ghez was honored for her pioneering research on the Milky Way's supermassive black hole.

Ghez is UCLA's eighth faculty Nobel laureate. She joined the UCLA faculty in 1994.

### **No. 1 Ranking**

UCLA once again sits atop the list of the nation's public universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "Best Colleges," published Sept. 13. This is the fourth consecutive year UCLA has captured this ranking. "It's always wonderful to see UCLA recognized nationally, but it's especially heartening at this challenging time," Chancellor Gene Block said.

### **Record Research Funding**

UCLA attracted record support for its wide-ranging research in the 2019-20 fiscal year, receiving \$1.427 billion in research funding. That makes 2020 the third consecutive year that the university has topped its previous best.

## Staff Leaders Share Goals

Two leaders of the UCLA staff — Jessica Alexander and Lucy Tseng — met with the UCLARA Board at the Oct. 6 online meeting. Jessica is UCLA's Staff Assembly president for 2020-21, while Lucy is staff advisor designate to the UC Regents.

Jessica talked about her passion for professional development, and her appreciation for UCLARA's support of staff scholarships. Her goals include meaningful and engaging programming for Staff Assembly, such as an Emerging Speakers Series. This year Staff Appreciation Week went virtual; so has the Learn at Lunch program.

Lucy spoke about the systemwide staff engagement survey, which spurred the creation of task forces to address issues such as a decline in scores for diversity and inclusion. Another major concern is recruitment and retention, with some employees opting out after the 5-year vesting mark. Lucy would like to see retirees take an active role as mentors. Sue Abeles, UCLARA president, indicated the organization's willingness to work with Staff Assembly and the Professional Development Program on a mentorship program.

Both Jessica and Lucy graduated from UCLA and returned to campus to pursue their careers. Jessica works for ASUCLA and Lucy works in UCLA Development.

*Below, Jessica Alexander. At right, Lucy Tseng (photo by Stephan Arias). Both staff leaders are UCLA alumni.*



### UCLARA on Facebook



Joining is easy, but the group is private so you do need to request membership. Use the search box at the top of your Facebook screen and type "UCLA Retirees Association Group" (no quotes). The search will take you to the UCLARA Facebook page. Click the bar that says, "Join Group." That sends your request to the Group Administrator. Once approved, you will be notified when you log on to Facebook.

## Welcome to UCLARA!

UCLARA welcomes the following new members:

- Xavier Arambula
- Kyrie Bass
- Marcia Bates
- Barbara Calloway
- Judith Carney
- Carol Eisman
- Joyce Fried
- Joyce Haraughty
- Mary Hieto-aho
- David Hirsch
- Abumali Ana Ibarra
- Michael Kossoff
- Lorelyn Lewis
- Michael Lynch
- Joan Muench
- Indulal Nagrecha
- Laura Perry
- Saryl Radwin
- Michael Ross
- William Shellow
- Kathy Suzuki
- John Timmins
- Fernando Vinuela

### UCLARA CONNECTIONS

Published quarterly by the University of California, Los Angeles Retirees Association and the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center at UCLA:

1116 Rolfe Hall, Box 951437  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1437

Phone: 310-825-7456

Fax: 310-825-1572

Email: [emeriti@errc.ucla.edu](mailto:emeriti@errc.ucla.edu)

Web: [www.retirees.ucla.edu](http://www.retirees.ucla.edu)

Editor: Anne Pautler

Assistant Editor: Mary Miller

ERRC Director: Ayesha Dixon

ERRC Staff: Maria Lubrano  
Eric Wang

---

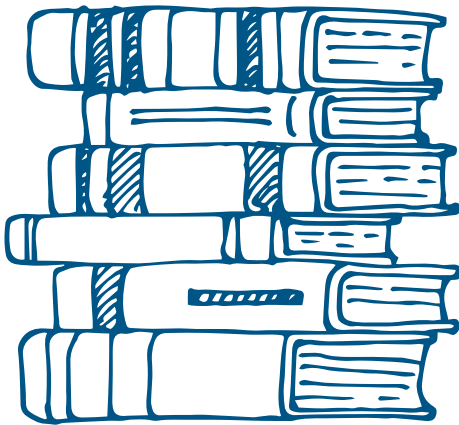
# Interest Groups: On Hiatus or Online

Interest group chair Maggie McGinley reports that most groups are on hiatus during the pandemic. Members are missing the activities, personal interaction and friendships.

The groups profiled on this page have found a way to move their activities online, with the help of the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center or Zoom-savvy members. In addition, one bridge group decided to play online bridge and have a group chat by phone while they play. A few groups report occasional online get-togethers just to check in and chat with each other.

Some retirees are pursuing their interests by taking courses. The Santa Monica College emeritus program is free and right now it's all online. A new term begins Jan. 4. See the [SMC Emeritus Program](#).

For those willing to pay member fees, there are other online learning programs for seniors including: the [UCLA Senior Scholars Program](#) at the Longevity Center, the UCLA Extension [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](#), and the [Plato Society](#).



## Campus Book Club

Pat Lotker misses the person-to-person aspect of Campus Book Club. Still, "Zoom has been a lifesaver for all of us," she says. The group moved online in July. Meetings attract 6 to 8 attendees, leaving room for a few new members. Books they've read recently include Maya Angelou's *Gather Together in My Name* and *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean.

**Campus Book Club**, 4th Thursdays, 12:15 p.m.  
Pat Lotker, 805-492-8087, [pathl@verizon.net](mailto:pathl@verizon.net)

## Thousand Oaks Book Club

Diane McCaustland moved the Thousand Oaks Book Club online in June. Their recent "reads" include *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue, *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, and *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. Thousand Oaks also has room for new members.

**Thousand Oaks Book Club**, 2nd Thursdays, 10 a.m.  
Pat Lotker, 805-492-8087, [pathl@verizon.net](mailto:pathl@verizon.net)



## Play Reading

Until March, the Play Reading group met at the Faculty Center for dinner, moving to another room for the reading. Marjorie Friedlander, the group's founder, took play reading online in May. (Marjorie belongs to the Faculty Women's Club. The group has been a joint activity of the FWC and UCLARA since 2016.)

"Zoom is a totally different medium," Rochelle Caballero notes. On the plus side, the play readers now have "stage sets" — Zoom backgrounds. They used a photo of a lake near Moscow for Chekhov's *The Seagull*. On the minus side, "Zoom fatigue" dictates shorter plays, sometimes over two nights. While live performances typically attracted 15 to 20 people, the Zoom group can be double that size, including audience members as well as readers.

The playbill for November is two J.M. Synge one-acts, *In the Shadow of the Glen* and *Riders to the Sea*. December is "dark," then January resumes with Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

**Play Reading**, 2nd Thursdays, 7 p.m.  
Rochelle Caballero, [rrcab90272@cs.com](mailto:rrcab90272@cs.com)



# The Ticket Home

**A**l Woodill was born in downtown Los Angeles, in the Alvarado District, 100 years ago. He still remembers moving to Beverly Hills, population 800, in the 20s. “There were vacant lots around to play kick the can, and hide and seek was on bicycles, on a square city block. It was a lot of fun,” Al says.

In 1941, Al had just enrolled at UCLA when his life took a different turn. “Boom, my draft number came up. Being drafted meant the infantry, and I was scared to death of the bayonet. So the next day, I went down and signed up in the Air Corps to beat the draft. So I’m a draft-dodger,” Al jokes.

Al attended three months-long trainings of increasing difficulty until he “got his wings,” and reported for deployment. He flew off to British Guyana, then to Natal and to Ascension Island where a huge landing strip was the bridge for planes to fly across to North Africa. His final destination was Casablanca, Morocco.

“I was flying a brand new plane,” Al recalls, “I called it the Ticket Home. I was assigned bombing missions over Sicily and southern Italy. By the time we got in there, the Germans had pulled out their Messerschmitt 109s and all their fast fighters because they had to take care of the B-17s and B-24s that were bombing inside Europe or northern Italy. We beat up the Italians so quickly that we didn’t have much fighter resistance. All we had to worry about really was the 88 millimeter anti-aircraft, which the Germans were famous for. Most of our targets were bridges, road crossings, or railroad yards. The only time we had to go after troop concentration was the battle of Salerno. I flew 40 missions.”

Al came home, and after the war he went back to UCLA where he majored in business and graduated within two years. He started a successful career in gemology and ended up heading that field’s national trade association. Looking back on his life as a member of U.S. armed forces, an Angeleno and a Bruin, Al Woodill made the generous decision to set aside a sum in his estate documents in support of UCLA Operation Mend, the program dedicated to healing the wounds of war.

For more information about establishing a bequest, sample bequest language, or any other flexible ways you can include a philanthropic gift in your estate plans, please contact Devon Brown, Director of Gift Planning, at [devonb@support.ucla.edu](mailto:devonb@support.ucla.edu) or 310-794-2213. For more information about UCLA Operation Mend, please contact Nicholas Middlesworth, Senior Director, Hospital Initiatives & Operation Mend, at [nmiddlesworth@support.ucla.edu](mailto:nmiddlesworth@support.ucla.edu) or 310-206-2089.

*Note: Based on recent interview with Al Woodill and a 2006 interview for the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project.*



## A Thank-You from the Food Closet

In August, UCLA’s Community Programs Office (CPO) sent UCLARA a thank-you for supporting the Food Closet. With the campus closed to most students, Food Closet pivoted to grocery gift cards. The cards were mailed to the residences of students in need.

CPO quoted one student’s message of thanks: “I am so grateful. Thank you. I don’t have a car and shopping for food during COVID has been difficult. . . . Thank you for providing equity for UCLA students.”

## 0% Wescom Technology Loan for Retirees

The UCLA Computer Store has partnered with Wescom credit union. Wescom is offering a 0% interest technology loan to members of the UCLA Community, including retirees.

You can purchase a computer, software or accessories through the UCLA Computer Store. Borrow \$500 to \$3,000 and repay the loan over 24 or 36 months.

There are specific requirements and limitations to this program. For details, see the website at: [ucla.wescom.org/technology-loan/](https://ucla.wescom.org/technology-loan/)

## Invite New Members

Do you have friends or colleagues who retired in 2020? Invite them to enjoy a free trial membership in UCLARA through June 30, 2021. Details at [retirees.ucla.edu/join-us](https://retirees.ucla.edu/join-us).

---

# Blooming in the Desert: Susan Townsley

**W**hen Susan Townsley retired from UCLA in 2007, she took a three-month vacation traveling across country. Then she took a part-time job with the California Jazz Foundation. In retrospect, she wishes she'd taken more "me" time.

In 2009, Susan re-located to Cathedral City in the Palm Springs area. She didn't know anyone, but she did have a plan. "I took a job with the Palm Springs census office," she explains. It was a surefire way to meet people. She became active in the Chamber of Commerce and went to City Council meetings "to understand what makes things tick."

Susan also pitched in as a volunteer for various non-profits. Over the years, her volunteer efforts have included helping senior centers, Boys and Girls Club, an artist society, the public arts commission and jazz groups. Working with Eddie Murphy, then director of the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center, Susan even started a local UCLA retirees group. "I just stay busy," Susan says.

## An Award for a Giving Heart

On Nov. 6 the Desert Chapter of the Association for Fund Raising Professionals will recognize Susan as the 2020 Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer for the Coachella Valley. Many of the groups she has volunteered for in the past decade wrote letters of support — something Susan found as heart-warming as the award itself.

While giving back to her community came naturally, Susan also credits the skills she acquired while working at UCLA. When she was president of Staff Assembly in 2000-01, she enjoyed meeting her counterparts at other UC campuses. From them, she learned that UCLA was the only campus without a staff appreciation day. She only had to point that out to UCLA administrators to introduce the Staff Picnic — now an annual tradition.

Administrative skills in keeping records and running spreadsheets have also proved valuable in the years since retirement. Susan worked in Parking Services during the 1984 Olympics, then as a staff member for Andrea Rich in the Chancellor's office. (Rich was UCLA's Executive Vice Chancellor 1991-95.) These

experiences taught her to organize events of all sizes and introduced her to strategic planning.

From 1994 until her retirement, Susan worked for Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, then dean of graduate education. As a founding member of UCLA Friends of Jazz, Susan met many of the giants of the jazz scene — and she's still involved via the Herbie Hancock Institute and International Jazz Day.

## A Diverse Campus

Most of all, Susan says, UCLA taught her about working together with people of different backgrounds. The population of Cathedral City is about 55,000 — virtually the same as the daily campus population during Susan's career. "UCLA taught me how to just get along with everybody," Susan says.

Sometimes Susan literally ends up back in Westwood. When she was mentoring three local high school students, she learned they'd never been on a university campus. So of course Susan took them on an eye-opening day trip to UCLA.



---

## Travel: Canadian Rockies by Train

We are looking forward to 2021 and travel! On Oct. 22 we had an online presentation by Collette Travel and chose Sept. 9 for our Canadian Rockies tour. If you missed the meeting, please contact me for access to the recording and more information:

**Dolores Dyer 805-758-0053** or [ddyer44@verizon.net](mailto:ddyer44@verizon.net)

This trip is designed for the on-the-go traveler and requires walking, standing, navigating hills and uneven ground, and climbing into different transports. Some long days will be balanced with free time. All inclusive adventure, airfare, hotels (except pre- and post-), tours and transportation included.

### **CANADIAN ROCKIES BY TRAIN 2021 (9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS)**

**Pre-Night: Westin Bayshore**

**Day 1: Vancouver, British Columbia**

**Day 2: Vancouver - VIA Rail [Breakfast and dinner]** A city tour of Vancouver includes Stanley Park, Chinatown, the waterfront and Gastown, plus picturesque Granville Island and its fascinating markets. We board VIA Rail's The Canadian to begin our journey.

**Day 3: VIA Rail - Jasper, Alberta [Breakfast and dinner, Sawridge Inn and Conference Center]** Our train whisks us past the peaks of the Monashee Mountains, the stunning Pyramid Falls, and the glaciers of the Albretha Icefields. Afternoon arrival in Jasper.

**Day 4: Jasper [Breakfast, Sawridge Inn and Conference Center]** Maligne Lake is the backdrop for our breakfast. An optional cruise highlights the beauty of Spirit Island. Later, enjoy dramatic Maligne Canyon. Return to your hotel with time to explore independently.

**Day 5: Jasper - Icefields Parkway - Lake Louise [Breakfast & Dinner, The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise]** Enjoy a day of sightseeing en route to Lake Louise: the unforgettable Icefields Parkway, Athabasca Falls and Athabasca Glacier. Choose a ride across the glacial ice or take a walk on the Glacier Skywalk. Take pictures at Bow Lake and walk along its shore. At the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, it's Diner's Choice among the great restaurants.

**Day 6: Lake Louise - Banff [Breakfast & Dinner, The Fairmont Banff Springs]** View the spectacular Moraine Lake and the awe-inspiring Valley of the Ten Peaks en route to Banff. Known as the "Castle in the Rockies," the Fairmont Banff Springs offers another Diner's Choice for dinner.

**Day 7: Banff [Breakfast, The Fairmont Banff Springs]** Set off for a scenic drive through Banff featuring the powerful Bow Falls and Surprise Corner. Meet a local ammolite specialist to learn about this rare gemstone found only in Alberta. During leisure time you might stroll thought Banff's delightful downtown.

**Day 8: Banff - Calgary [Breakfast & Lunch, Westin Calgary]** Leave the wonders of the Rockies for the prairies of Alberta en route to the Kananaskis Valley. Visit a local ranch for a line dance lesson and a wagon ride. Delight in an Albertan barbecue with beautiful views of the mountains. We end in the vibrant city of Calgary.

**Day 9: Calgary - Tour Ends [Post-night Westin Calgary]**

## UCLA Retirees Respond to CUCRA Survey

The Council of University of California Retiree Associations (CUCRA) wrapped up its 2020 survey on Oct. 23. Preliminary numbers show more than 950 UCLA retirees participated — a substantial increase over the 622 who replied to the 2016 survey.

UCLARA board member at large Judith Tuch was the local "survey champion." With ERRC director Ayesha Dixon and her staff, Judith sent notices and reminders to UCLA retirees to prompt their participation.

A formal survey report will be published in 2021.

## In Memoriam

The UC Office of the President has reported the deaths of the following UCLA annuitants. We are grateful for their service and extend condolences to their families.

- Lilla Aftergood
- Veronica Banuelos
- Richard Bright
- Phyllis Clark
- Paul Delong
- Kenneth Hill
- Delores Leverette
- Lilia de Alday Lina
- Cecilia Murphy
- Terri Lynn Patterson
- Kenneth Reed
- Ida Riordan
- Doran Ross
- Fred Ross
- Juana Sandoval
- Craig St. Louis
- Elizabeth Teas-Hester
- Bertha Tenney
- Margery Walters



---

# Touring Sustainable UCLA with Nurit Katz

The good thing about touring via Zoom, Nurit Katz assured her audience, is that she can whisk you all over the campus in seconds. And she did.



On Oct. 8, Nurit Katz, UCLA's first Chief Sustainability Officer, showed her After-Lunch viewers multiple examples of sustainability efforts. UCLA is playing a leading role in the Sustainable L.A. Grand Challenge, designed to make Los Angeles the first sustainable megacity by 2050.

Ackerman Union has solar panels. So does Structure 9, part of an engineering research project allowing electric cars to return stored power to the grid. The cogeneration plant generates as much as 85% of UCLA's electrical power — and captures waste heat.

In terms of the built environment, all new University of California buildings conform to demanding LEED Silver standards — and many at UCLA

achieve Gold and Platinum status. Nurit showed the remodeled Saxon Suites (Platinum) as just one example of a sustainable design approach.

Active transportation is another aspect of sustainability. Fewer than 50% of staff drive alone every day — and only 25% of students. (These are pre-pandemic stats.) Student-led projects like Stair Well make staircases into vertical art galleries, and encourage people to bypass the elevator with slogans like “Free Workout Just Steps Away.”



Other sustainability efforts focus on food insecurity and food waste. Nurit showed the community garden at the Sunset Canyon amphitheater and the tower gardens used by the Bruin Plate chefs. She also showed the Bruin Plate cookbook.

As examples of water efficiency and reclamation, Nurit pointed out outdoor study places and drought-resistant plants replacing some unused grassy areas. Bioswales — systems to rechannel and cleanse rainwater — are another new feature. The rooftop garden at the Court of Sciences Student Center (the site long known as The Bombshelter) is flourishing.

Nurit is an avid nature-watcher. She shared her photos of the birds that frequent campus, including a red-tailed hawk. A family of Great Horned Owls has nested on campus for about a decade.

The After-Lunch session was co-sponsored by UCLARA and the Emeriti Association. Michael Heafey of UCLARA and Stephen Cedarbaum of EA coordinated.



# Seeing Downtown LA with the LA Conservancy

More than 80 UCLARA members joined the Oct. 21 Downtown LA virtual tour. Guide Alex Inshisian began with a map of Tongva villages.

We saw Pershing Square, once a tree-filled park (1849) opposite the Biltmore Hotel (1923). Next stop was the Los Angeles Central Library, built in 1926 by architect Bertram Goodhue. Goodhue, inspired by King Tut's tomb, changed his original design to incorporate the pyramid on top.

The LA Conservancy itself was founded in 1978 as part of the successful effort to preserve the Central Library from demolition.

We "climbed" the Bunker Hill steps and visited Bunker Hill when it was a residential area of Victorian homes. Angel's Flight is the only structure that remains, and even it has been relocated.

The Grand Central Market has been reinvented several times, from a produce market to today's restaurants. The Million Dollar Theater (1918) has also changed with the times. We learned that the Brad-



*This photo of the Biltmore Hotel is from UCLARA's March 2020 in-person LA Conservancy Tour.*

bury Building was inspired by a sci-fi novel, *Looking Backwards*. We finished our tour at Biddy Mason Memorial Park, a remembrance of the former slave and pillar of the community.

UCLARA board members Elizabeth Juncosa, Michael Heafey and Barbara Rabinowitz arranged the virtual tour especially for UCLARA members.

## Complimentary Retirement Review

Keep your retirement on track. Bruins receive a complimentary retirement review from our Member Financial Advisor, Al Durazo.

University Investment Services, powered by CommunityAmerica Financial Solutions, LLC (CAFS)\* can provide you with flexible options to customize your goals.



**Schedule an appointment today! • [adurazo@ucu.org](mailto:adurazo@ucu.org) • 424.433.3390**

\*Securities and advisory services offered through CommunityAmerica Financial Solutions, LLC ("CAFS"), Member FINRA/SIPC. CAFS is a SEC registered investment advisor. Products offered through CAFS: are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal. Representatives are registered through CAFS. University Credit Union ("UCU") has contracted with CAFS to make non-deposit investment products and services available to credit union members. UCU and CAFS are unaffiliated. University Investment Services is a marketing name used by CAFS. For further disclosure information, go to <https://creditunionbd.com/disclosures/>.