

2021-22 Is Full of Promise for UCLARA

We have all been challenged over the past year because of the pandemic and are finding new ways to stay connected. This includes the UCLA Retirees Association wanting to plan and deliver the Association's programs and events for our members as part of the benefit of belonging. The Board wishes to thank you for your paid membership for the year and for your continued interest and loyalty.

Despite a pandemic, the Association rose to the occasion and provided outstanding programming to members and friends during the past year. Of even more importance, this quality programming was made possible free of charge to those who attended. This was a Board resolution despite the programs themselves having a substantial cost. The Board wanted to provide free programming like this during a difficult year for everyone as a benefit of membership.

With much hard work and planning by the Program Committee, coupled with available technology and the assistance of the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center, we accomplished the impossible:

- Programs offered to Association members covered world tours, City of LA tours, opera and music, and art history programs.



This 2017 photo shows our Cooking Group. During the pandemic, Judy Deutsch did cooking demos via video.

- Interest Groups pivoted and used technology such as in the cooking programs.
- Book clubs continued to meet via Zoom.
- The beginning bridge group met virtually and played bridge online.
- Members traveled virtually to locations far away, remained connected to one another, and, even

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March Madness and Vaccination Gladness

So much has happened since the winter issue of *Connections*.

First, March Madness. At halftime in their first NCAA tournament game, the 11th-seeded UCLA men's basketball team trailed by 11 points. But the Bruins managed an overtime win against Michigan State, then victories against BYU, Abilene Christian and Alabama. A win against Michigan put them in the Final Four for the first time since 2008.

UCLA's heartbreaking 1-point overtime loss to Gonzaga was widely hailed as the most exciting game of the tournament, attracting almost 15 million viewers.

UCLA athletic director Martin Jarmond put it this way: "I think this team personified resiliency, toughness. The way that they performed, you can draw comparisons to just how tough it's been, this pandemic. We needed something good to happen."

There was much to rejoice about on the vaccination front, as well. UCLA Health actively notified eligible staff, faculty and patients about vaccination appointments. To date, UCLA Health has administered more than 30,000 doses to UCLA employees, and more than 100,000 to patients.

The forecast for Fall is positive!



A Visit with Heather Briston, Archivist

At the March meeting, the UCLARA Board had the opportunity to meet with Heather Briston, UCLA University Archivist and Head of Curators and Collections. Heather came to UCLA in 2011 from the University of Oregon. Initially the head of public services for the UCLA Library, Heather was promoted to her current position in 2014.



Her first challenge was to prepare for UCLA's centennial celebration in 2019-20. The Archives created a "picturing UCLA" database of more than 10,000 photos and documents from UCLA history. Exhibits included a display of Jackie Robinson photos and letters.

Then the pandemic struck. The staff has been working remotely since March 17, 2020. The physical work of the archives — for instance, digitization of original materials — had to be modified or put on hold. Even the curators have had limited access to collections. If the campus is able to reopen for the Fall quarter, the physical work will resume.

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 friends and families.

- Moni Margaret H. Berger
- Edmond Black
- Jorge Briseno-Hernandez
- Edna Collins
- Paula Columbia
- Leslie Comstock
- Marie Gamos
- Brien Helstien
- Karen Henderson-Winge
- Willard Imai
- Mildred Johnson
- Clarice Jones
- Ingeborg Kolbe
- William Martin
- Sylvia Moguel
- Joan Moon
- Ruth Taft
- Antony Wilson

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more astounding, the programs saw participation of 100 or more!

- Virtual programming enabled participants who otherwise would have been unable to physically travel to programs and events on or near campus due to distance and/or other constraints.

At the end of June 2021, you will receive a renewal reminder for 2021-22 membership dues. There will be no dues increase in the coming year. As the world rebounds from the pandemic, you can expect to receive many benefits for your \$25 individual membership or \$35 individual plus spouse/partner membership annual dues. Programming will now be enhanced with virtual events coupled with in-person group events; Interest Groups will start up; the Newsletter will continue to inform and educate; and the Travel Program will resume. The Association will continue advocating for

retirees, supporting UCLA staff with staff development scholarships, supporting campus initiatives, and providing services to the campus. The Association is also working on the implementation of a retiree mentoring program, which we hope to announce next fall. The Association is active and well, and even stronger after the pandemic. Your membership dues make all this possible.

When you receive the membership reminder around June 30th, we hope you will renew immediately. 2020-21 was a fantastic year despite a pandemic; 2021-22 will be a banner year! If you are not currently a UCLA Retirees Association member but attended our many virtual programs as a guest this past year, then please consider joining and being part of a dynamic and active association. In this way, you can continue to enjoy the many benefits the Retirees Association has to offer.

Membership Marketing Committee

Long-time Board members step down

At the end of June 2021, two long-time members will step down from the UCLARA Board: Mary Ann Sherritt and Rod Rose.

Mary Ann retired from UCLA in 1998 and joined the Board in 2005. She is now the corresponding secretary. Rod retired from UCLA in 1991 and joined the Board in 2009. He served as president from 2014 to 2018, and currently serves as immediate past president and chair of the nominations committee.

“Two old-timers retiring from the Board at the same time? They will leave a huge hole,” said Hallie Masler, former editor of *UCLARA Connections*. Hallie recalled how Mary Ann would pitch in with newsletter distribution and show up for many activities and events.

Elizabeth Juncosa talked about Mary Ann’s presence at meetings. “She always has a smile and something pertinent and important to contribute to the discussion. She is a strong advocate for the elderly, who many times have transportation issues. She speaks up for those not able to.”

John Dahl cited Mary Ann’s long service to the Board, her interest in bringing the best to members, and her suggestions for “a wide

variety of programming that would appeal to many.”

As for Rod Rose, Hallie called him “a sweetheart of a man,” and mentioned their shared enjoyment of UCLA basketball games. “Rod is also the consummate world traveler and videographer,” she noted.

Nancy Varat also recalled Rod’s fondness for sharing the trips he took with Val, his wife. “It was always nice ‘traveling’ with Rod . . . he entertained us with a video of an amazing trip to Iceland.”

“Rod Rose is a multi-talented, visionary leader,” Elizabeth noted. “Rod always encouraged the organization to keep up with technology and make advances. He was a strong advocate for paying membership dues with a credit card online. He strongly supported Wild Apricot, which Sue Barnes implemented, to streamline our manual processes and improve event sign-up and participation.”

John offered these thoughts: “Rod brought a broad perspective of Board structure and leadership that reflected itself in the bylaws, initiatives, and organizational growth of the Association. He thought outside the proverbial box.”



Above: Mary Ann Sherritt and Rod Rose at the 2015 Holiday Party.

Left top: Mary Ann with artist Emilie Robertson at the 2018 Arts and Crafts Exhibit. *Left bottom:* Mary Ann and hubby at the Hollywood Bowl.



Right top: Rod holds the plaque presented at the end of his term as president in 2018. *Right bottom:* Rod chatting with attendees at the 2018 Holiday Party.



Thanks to Michael Heafey, Judith Tuch and Eric Wang for their photo research.

May Events

Adam Nagourney of the N.Y. Times in conversation with Daniel J.B. Mitchell

Nagourney has been the Los Angeles bureau chief of the Times since 2010. Prof. Mitchell, professor emeritus at UCLA Anderson School of Management and the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, is an authority on the California budget, labor unions, wages, downsizing, outsourcing, and benefits and compensation.

After-Lunch Lecture: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13



Hidden Treasures of the Veneto with Art Muse LA.

Often overshadowed by its regional capital, Venice, the Veneto is an area filled with enchanted towns, inspired landscapes, and hidden art treasures. Come with us to discover medieval settings tucked into the pre-alpine landscapes and works by such luminaries as Giotto, Veronese, Giorgione and Canova, still in their original locations.

Armchair Travel: 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 26

Play Reading Group (May)

Angel Street (AKA *Gaslight*) by Patrick Hamilton, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 13

Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 27

Contact Marjorie Friedlander, friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com for the Zoom link to the Reading.

June Events



Beethoven and Politics with William Kinderman

Prof. Kinderman, a formidable concert pianist and chamber musician, is an international authority on the music and creative process of Ludwig van Beethoven. He holds the Leo M. Klein and Elaine Krown Klein Chair in Performance Studies at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

After-Lunch Lecture: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 10

Play Reading Group (June)

Tartuffe by Moliere, 7 p.m. Thursday, June 10

Othello by William Shakespeare, 7 p.m. Thursday, June 24

Contact Marjorie Friedlander, friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com for the Zoom link to the Reading.

Contact Rochelle Caballero, rrcab90272@cs.com to be added to the email list for Play Reading.

See the Events Page Online

New events are posted as available, and they often fill up fast! For the latest in upcoming events, see retirees.ucla.edu/Events

A Lifetime's Legacy

Some lives are so deeply rooted in a place, or a profession, that they become part of what defines it. A good example of this is Robert Edgerton and the UCLA Department of Anthropology. Robert completed a Bachelor's in Anthropology at UCLA in 1956, and stayed on to earn a Ph.D. in the subject in 1960. And this was only the start of a 47-year career at his alma mater as a prolific and renowned scholar and faculty in the field of Sociocultural Anthropology.

His wife, Karen Ito, also a Bruin and a medical anthropologist, earned her B.A. in Anthropology in 1969, followed by a Master's in 1973 and a Ph.D. in 1978.

Robert passed away in 2016, and Karen remembers fondly, "My husband really believed in and loved UCLA. He always wanted to give back and support the university." Wanting to honor his lifelong dedication, she thought of endowing a chair, but first, she says, "I wanted to have an immediate effect on students because he was devoted to supporting and nurturing them." So she established the Robert B. Edgerton Endowed Graduate Student Award.

Having provided help for students, Karen circled back to the idea of creating a chair to commemorate Robert's impact on his field, through a future gift from her estate. "He worked with the first cohort of developmentally disabled people who were released from state hospitals by the Reagan Administration. He followed them into the community and studied how they survived, and documented all the skills they developed to pass through society as competent," Karen explains. The result of this field work was the publication of a key title, *The Cloak of Competence*, which is to date the book the longest in print from the University of California Press.

With the Robert B. Edgerton Endowed Chair now part of her estate documents and her own future legacy as the very first endowed chair in Anthropology at UCLA, Karen represents, as her husband did, the true meaning and nurturing spirit of the words alma mater.

For 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 or 310-794-2213.



Chancellor Gene Block, UCLA Advocate of the Year Howard Welinsky, and Keith Parker at the 2016 UCLA in Downtown Los Angeles Day. *Photo by Reed Hutchinson for UCLA.*

Keith Parker: Retired But Still Advocating

In January 2018, Keith Parker stepped down as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Government and Community Relations. He had served in that role since November 1998, and worked at UCLA since 1981.

But retirement hasn't kept Keith from being active in the community. When he visited at the April UCLARA Board meeting, he shared some of his new activities. He's now a member of the City of Los Angeles Civil and Human Rights Commission. He's also playing an active role in the California Coalition for Public Higher Education. That organization is dedicated to the welfare of the UCs, CSUs and California community colleges. Keith talked about "the golden dream" —the idea that higher education should be open to everyone in the state. Not only can education change lives, but California needs a highly skilled, highly educated work force. Higher education funding has barely regained its 2008 level.

Board members asked how retirees can advocate for the University. Keith reminded us that all our elected representatives — City Council, State Assembly and Senate, and U.S. Congress — need to hear that we care about higher education. "Being retired doesn't mean that our advocacy is less impactful," he said. "I would argue that it's more impactful because we have more to say, more experiences to point to."

UCLARA Travel Group: Ready to Roll!

We have exhausted our stay-cation! We've washed and cleaned. Social distanced! We've been *good*. Now it's time to get out and travel!

The UCLARA travel group is ready. My bag has been packed for months! Our trip to the Canadian Rockies is almost completely booked, hip, hip, hooray. But we still have room for you.

We have some great trips planned for 2022 with Collette Travel. It is important to know that if for any reason the trips get cancelled you will be totally refunded — no vouchers. Remember, these trips include airfare, hotels, most meals, most excursions and transportation. This is an opportunity to spend time with old friends and meet new ones. These adventures are open to friends and family as well.

We recently had a great Zoom meeting where we saw slides regarding our 2022 trips. Please check it out: ucla.box.com/s/8aj7bsdcp9510ee6sagmm1qylcofux27

If you have any questions please give me a call: Dolores Dyer 805-758-0053. Or email ddyer44@verizon.net

Here are the planned trips:

2021 September: Canadian Rockies by Train

Starting in Vancouver and ending in Calgary. Beautiful turn-of-the-century hotels in Lake Louise and Banff. If you go on this adventure there is a \$150 discount on the next one.

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1046225



2022 April: Netherlands, Belgium and France

Highlights include the Keukenhof Tulip Festival and Floriade Expo. gateway.gocollette.com/link/1052319

2022 September: Switzerland

Hidden trails and majestic peaks, all by train. Details pending.

2022 October: Cuba Discovery

Explore the history and culture of this fascinating country. Highlights include an Old Havana walking tour, National Hotel tour, cigar factory tour, Hemingway's farm and way more. cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/2022Travel/2022-10cuba.pdf

2022 December: Christmas on the Danube and Christmas Markets

Features a 6-night Danube River cruise.

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1055724

UCLARA CONNECTIONS

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

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Recap of Recent Retiree Events



A Visit to Casa Azul, the Home of Frida Kahlo. Art Muse L.A.'s Clare Kunny took us to Mexico on April 15, to visit what is now a museum dedicated to Frida Kahlo. Pairings of self-portraits and photographs helped us to understand Kahlo as a person and as an artist. We also saw her crutches and braces and learned about the life-long pain she endured from spina bifida, polio, and a trolley accident.

Goldberg on "Coalition of Lineages." The After-Lunch Lecture on April 8 featured law professor emerita Carole Goldberg and the new book she just published with Duane Champagne. Through meticulous archival research, they traced the history of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of California Mission Indians, who have lived in the area now known as Los Angeles and Ventura Counties from time immemorial.

Los Angeles Vintage Cool. The LA Conservancy showed us a new 30-minute video tour on March 24. Locations we visited included the Pacific Design Center, Angels Flight, the Bradbury Building, Los Angeles Theatre and the Westin Bonaventure.

"Que Sera Sera" with Alan Chapman and Karen Benjamin. The After-Lunch Lecture on March 11 provided a wonderfully entertaining program of the songs of Livingston and Evans, along with commentary about the origins of the songs. Hits included "Tammy," "Mona Lisa," and "Que Sera Sera." Nancy Varat was one of many who left the session humming the tunes.

Complimentary Retirement Review

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

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