

Board Adds Mentorship Chair and Committee

At its March meeting the UCLARA Board voted to add a new standing committee for Mentorship. Sue Abeles will be the first chair of the committee.

Sue has long been involved in investigating mentorship opportunities on behalf of UCLARA, focusing on mentoring career staff. In 2019 an initial feasibility project was undertaken with the Campus Human Resources Professional Development Program (PDP). That project identified clear interest from retirees and career staff, so in 2020 a PDP group undertook the task of identifying implementation requirements.

In 2021, the UCLARA Mentoring Program Advisory Committee was formed to assist with the implementation. Members include representatives from UCLARA, Campus Human Resources, Health Sciences Human Resources, Staff Assembly, the Administrative Management Group (AMG), the College

of Letters and Science, Transportation Services, and Housing & Hospitality Services. That group suggested that there were opportunities for retirees to participate as mentors in two existing campus programs: the ACE Mentoring Program and the AMG ProShare Program.

In August 2022, 11 retirees (roughly 20% of the applicants) came forward to participate as mentors for the ACE program in the 2022-23 academic year. In November 2022, six retirees signed up for ProShare. The Committee will be meeting at the end of the academic year to evaluate the experiences of the mentors and mentees and to make plans for the coming 2023-24 academic year.

“We look forward to even more retiree involvement for the upcoming academic year,” Sue said. “It’s a great opportunity to share your expertise, professional acumen, and life learnings with current career staff.”

THE SYLVIA WINSTEIN



UCLA EMERITI ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT
2023

Above: Poster for the exhibit, featuring the work of artist Kati Radics

Retiree Artists Join Emeriti Arts and Crafts Exhibit

The May 16 Emeriti Arts and Crafts Exhibit at the Faculty Club will include five retirees. Lisa Chapman, Joe Doherty, Margie Shigeko Greenwald, Suzanne Lauver and Velda Ruddock were invited to join 17 emeriti artists in showing their work.

The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Morrison Room of the UCLA Faculty Club. The exhibit is named for Sylvia Winstein, whose talent and energy shaped the art show into a beloved institution.

Please [register online](#) if you plan to attend.

Exhibition categories include acrylic painting, calligraphy, Japanese Folk Art, jewelry, oil painting, photography, sculpture and watercolor painting. The featured artist for the 2023 exhibit is Kati Radics, whose works are two- or three-dimensional collages integrating different media from paint to modeling paste, wood pieces and found objects.

Shirley Ho chairs the Arts and Crafts Committee for the Emeriti Association. This is the 45th year for the event.

Renee Fortier coordinated Retirees Association participation.



Elaine Fox Looks Back

Hello, everyone. It's hard for me to realize that in just a few short months my term as president of this amazing organization is coming to a close. Looking back over the past two years I feel so fortunate to have been surrounded and supported as president by such dedicated, smart, capable, and often funny members of the UCLARA Board of Directors.

As we are coming out of the challenging times of the past few years and the pandemic, I want to express my appreciation to the Board for regularly convening their committees and then reporting the actions taken to fellow Board members at our productive monthly Zoom board meetings. We opted not to meet in person to "stay safe," yet our discussions were extraordinary ... lively and meaningful. Each month we continued to find ways to support our membership and together we were able to plan for and provide YOU with entertaining and informative programs you enjoyed.

Here are some of the highlights of my term:

- We now have more than one thousand members!
- Our mentorship program had a great first year, and we are adding a board position to make sure the program continues to grow.
- We met face to face with our counterparts in the Emeriti Association, laying the foundation for future collaboration.
- Finances are solid thus allowing us to increase

the number of staff scholarships we award and also contribute to the Campus Food Closet.

- Our Travel Program is expanding!
- We published a cookbook for our membership at the holidays.
- We offered Zoom programs to accommodate our members far and near including dynamic speakers from Art Muse LA and the LA Conservancy.



*Elaine Fox,
UCLARA President*

As the weather begins to warm up, Michael Heafey and the UCLARA Program Committee are beginning to offer in-person, outdoor activities thus enabling us to meet, greet, laugh and learn together. Isn't that what retirement is all about?

Thank you all for the opportunity to represent YOU! I am so very proud to be able to hand over a thriving organization to our incoming president, Judith Tuch.

— Elaine Fox, President

News from the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center

Technical Assistance for Retirees

Need help with your computer or smart phone? Maria has worked with the BruinTech community and together they have revived support to retirees in the remote format. They expect to implement the in-person format in the near future. Email Maria – mlubrano@errc.ucla.edu

Mrs. Block's Concert Series

Spring is generally a time the UC retirees and emeriti gather at the Chancellor's Residence to watch our student performers play a private concert for us. Mrs. Block asked the School of Music to add a second date to bring the music to you. **Thursday, May 11**
Register: retirees.ucla.edu/event-5179445

UCLA Parking Q & A

Questions about parking? This Q&A session will cover topics relevant to retiree parking, including retiree permits and one-time ePermits:

- Medical Center permit lots
- Disabled Person Parking Placard
- Park Mobile app
- Adding vehicle license plate
- Current office hours for support
- Survivor eligibility
- Bruin ePermit portal

Wednesday, May 24

Register: retirees.ucla.edu/event-5212127

Metro Station at UCLA

UCLA is part of a coalition seeking an on-campus Metro station as part of the proposed Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC). The STC is designed to relieve congestion on the 405. Currently Metro is considering six different STC routes. Three use a monorail and three use heavy rail, like the Purple line. One of the monorail routes has a UCLA station, while the others stop at the VA or near Westwood Park. All the heavy-rail alternatives have a UCLA station and direct connections to the Purple line.

“This rail line will ‘shrink the city,’” said David Karwaski, director of mobility planning and traffic systems for UCLA Transportation. More than 2,500 students and almost 7,500 employees live in the San Fernando Valley, according to Karwaski. “Ensuring that the Sepulveda Transit Corridor includes a station in the center of campus is a top priority for UCLA,” said Michael Beck, administrative vice chancellor.

The first phase of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project will run from Van Nuys to the Expo Line, with a future second phase to connect to LAX airport. Metro expects to decide the route of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor line and the location of stations in early 2024. Metro’s projected opening date for the line is between 2033 and 2035.

There’s much more information about — and opportunities to support — a UCLA stop as part of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor on the website of the STC4All coalition: www.stc4all.org.

Welcome to UCLARA!

UCLARA is happy to welcome the following new members.

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Annie Babikian | Cyndi Nistal |
| Michael Blevins | Keith Parker |
| Lisa Chapman | Linda Rose |
| Marilyn Cohen | Valerie Schmid |
| Leesito Flores | Pamela Senko |
| Rebecca Goodine | Edson Smith |
| Sarah Kattus | Billie Spinat |
| Christine Lewis | Judith Tanka |
| Gabrielle Miotto | Rose Turner |
| Michelle Morales | Vidit William |
| Roxanne Neal | James Zidell |
| Tara Neuwirth | |

Notices from the Interest Groups



Hiking Group

Rain disrupted planned hikes in March, but now that the weather is cooperating there will be more hikes to choose from. Above is a photo from the Will Rogers Inspiration Point hike on February 21. Hikes will be listed under “Upcoming Events” on retirees.ucla.edu, register online as you would for any event.

Learn to Play American Mah Jongg

New! As an addition to existing interest groups, here’s an opportunity for people who are interested in learning how to play American Mah Jongg. It’s a great way to meet people and exercise your brain.

Things to consider:

1. Ability to commit to playing once a week on the same day of the week for about two hours.
2. For those who don’t know the game, willingness to take group lessons (5 to 6 lessons as a group of 4 to 6 people with an instructor is recommended).
3. Players must purchase a 2023 Mah Jongg card from the National Mah Jongg League or Amazon for \$14 or \$15 (depending on print size). The card lists the valid hands for the year along with some basic rules.

If you are interested please click and complete this survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPRZCT9

Questions? Email Maggie McGinley, maggiemcg@mac.com.

UCLARA Events and Adventures

This year the Program Committee has been able to schedule more in-person events than last year.

On January 19, about 18 members and guests visited the **Japanese American National Museum (JANM)**. The “Common Ground” exhibit explored and celebrated the lives and culture of the emigres from Japan, beginning in the late 19th century. A well-curated and organized display of memorabilia and photos provided a fascinating look at their experiences. “Personally I was rewarded in finding the names of my wife’s family in the ‘Ireicho’ — the book of names of those who were sent to camps across the U.S. during WWII,” said Program chair Michael Heafey.

On a rainy February 23, the destination was the **Nethercutt Collection**. A group of 35 retirees and guests gathered in the showroom of more than 130 refurbished and elegant autos. The second floor was full of antique autos while the third floor featured musical boxes and crystal. The fourth floor was a dazzling display devoted to all musical instruments.

On April 12, retirees and emeriti gathered in the Morrison Room of the UCLA Faculty Club to celebrate the new Steinway B grand piano. **Prof. David Kaplan** of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music played two Beethoven sonatas and a modern piece by Kaija Saariaho.



Left column (from top): Entrance to the JANM. Docent Marvin Inouye talks about Heart Mountain. Nethercutt showroom. Pipe organ at the Nethercutt.

Above: Victoria Steele explains how Prof. Kaplan aided in the hunt for the perfect instrument. Prof. Kaplan speaking. Standing ovation.

Leaders Brief Board on Campus Planning and Student Development

At most UCLARA Board meetings, we invite a guest speaker. These campus leaders keep UCLARA abreast of what's happening. We also get a chance to make them more aware of the Retirees Association and discover new opportunities for partnerships. Our most recent guests were in February and April.

Darnell Hunt

As an alumnus, faculty member and dean, Darnell Hunt knows the UCLA campus as well as anyone. Still, when he became Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost in September 2022, the first thing he did was to launch a listening tour. Hunt explained to the February meeting of the UCLARA Board that he wanted a sense of the top of mind issues for faculty, staff and students.

The listening tour yielded a list of priorities, and Hunt held a senior leadership retreat to explore those priorities and consider the strategic planning process for the campus. Five goal areas emerged:

1. Elevate how we teach
2. Enhance research activities
3. Engage with Los Angeles
4. Engage with the global community
5. Increase institutional effectiveness

The 2028 Olympics will put UCLA center stage and renew interest in UCLA Olympic greats such as Rafer Johnson, Hunt said.

Among the challenges the university faces is a new fiscal environment. The UAW strike settlement will result in a cost increase for UCLA of more than \$100 million over the next three years.



Suzanne Seplow

Like Hunt, Suzanne Seplow has had a long-term relationship with UCLA, in her case dating back to 1995. Currently she is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Development and Health. At the April Board meeting “Seppy,” as she is known, talked about student mental health. The 2022–23 academic year is the first full year on campus since 2018–19. Even the 2021–22 year was interrupted by a “January pause.” There is new energy and excitement on campus, but creating a sense of community can be a struggle. There has been a huge amount of staff turnover on campus, including in Student Affairs.

Basic needs are a priority. “Super commuters” — students who live more than 90 minutes from campus — have different needs than students who are completely without housing. One response to basic needs has been to decentralize some programs. For instance, there are now multiple “mini” food closets in addition to the main location in the Bruin Resource Center.

As always, the Board offered both speakers the help of the Retirees Association. Sue Abeles mentioned the pro bono services of the UCLARA Management Consulting Group, and Al Aubin reminded speakers of past contributions to the Food Closet.

Guest speakers are coordinated by Al Aubin, chair of Campus & Community Relations. He welcomes suggestions!



Spectacular South Africa

Above left: Travelers at Cape of Good Hope (Dolores at far right)

Above right: At Mandela house

At right: Spectacular scenery, sighting a zebra



UCLARA Travel News

Dolores Dyer and the UC retiree travelers visited **Spectacular South Africa** in February. Enjoy some of their photos above.

Learn about the October trip to Greece and four of the many trips planned for 2024:

Greece and Its Islands

October 9 - 24. Featuring classical Greece, Mykonos and Santorini. Dolores Dyer is the UC escort. gateway.gocollette.com/link/1125159

Costa Rica, a World of Nature

January 20 - 31. Rainforests, volcanoes, national parks and more. Visit this link: gateway.gocollette.com/link/1119452.

Australia and New Zealand Uncovered

March 4 - 25. Sydney, Cairns, Ayers Rock, Wellington, Hokitika and more. Visit this link: gateway.gocollette.com/link/1131334

Croatia and Its Islands

June 4 - 15. Small ship cruising on the Adriatic coast. Zagreb, Dubrovnik, ethereal waterfalls, medieval architecture. Visit this link: gateway.gocollette.com/link/1170444

Memorials of World War II

August 19 - 28. Celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings! London, Paris, channel crossing, D-Day beaches, more. Visit this link: gateway.gocollette.com/link/1170344

— Dolores Dyer, Travel Chair

The Spirit of Giving

UCLA alumnus Hojat J. Rostami was born in Iran and immigrated to the United States with limited knowledge of speaking English. After completing an M.S. in physics at the University of Michigan, he came to UCLA to pursue an M.S. and then a Ph.D. in biostatistics at the Fielding School of Public Health.

A double Bruin, Hojat served as a statistician in medical school settings and the aerospace industry before becoming a biostatistician supporting the development of new drug applications at Pharmacia Corporation and Pfizer. His wife, Antonia, was also a Bruin who earned a B.A. in Spanish in 1962 and a Teaching English as a Second Language Certificate in 1980.

Hojat is now in his sixth decade of giving to UCLA. “UCLA holds a special place in my heart,” he says. “I met my wife, Antonia, at the UCLA physics library where she was working. We married shortly after that, in 1962, and enjoyed 50 years together before she passed in 2012. Antonia was a good-hearted person and was loved by everybody.”

“I made my first gift to UCLA in 1975 and have been giving since then. I established the endowed Antonia H. Rostami Fellowship Fund in 2018 to support students pursuing a graduate degree at the UCLA School of Education & Information Studies, as Antonia was an educator. UCLA is a good place to reach as many students as possible while reaching a diverse demographic of students.”

In 2023, Hojat established a bequest and signed a testamentary pledge to create the Antonia H. Rostami Endowed Memorial Fellowship Fund in the Division

of Graduate Education. “I always knew I wanted to give to UCLA as part of my estate plans. I chose to provide fellowship support to graduate students in the Spanish and English departments because those were Antonia’s fields of study. I decided on a testamentary pledge to inspire other people to continue their philanthropy and legacy with UCLA. This pledge is meaningful not only to honor my wife but to encourage others in their giving. I want to help as many students, children, and families as I can, and I am lucky to have the means to do so. I don’t know if my story can inspire others, but I really hope it does.”

For information about establishing a bequest, sample bequest language, or for information about charitable gift annuities, please contact Devon Brown, Senior Director of Gift Planning, at devonb@support.ucla.edu or 310-794-2213.

New on the Retirees Website

Cookbook Sampler: Now you can access six recipes from our members’ online cookbook without logging in. We think the cookbook sampler will give you a better appreciation of the recipes and anecdotes that make the cookbook both useful and fun. See: retirees.ucla.edu/cookbook-sampler.

Past Presidents: UCLARA’s history stretches back to the 1980s. A new “Past Presidents” page on our website provides an interesting look at past leadership. Like our members, presidents have come from many different parts of campus and played many different staff roles during their UCLA careers. See: retirees.ucla.edu/past-presidents.

In Memoriam

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

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Carol Adlesh | Harold Knapp |
| Millicent Besser | Ernest Meanley |
| Jack Feuer | Billie Moore |
| Amy Kearney | Janet Peltier |
| Thomas Keep | Cecil Sun |
| Roy Kline | Novella Vinson |

UCLARA CONNECTIONS

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Dinner for 12 Strangers



On March 5, ERRC Director Ayesha Dixon and UCLARA's Al Aubin co-hosted a Dinner for 12 Strangers at Belmont Village in Westwood. For Ayesha it was an anniversary. In 2012 she was working at Belmont Village as a program director when Al introduced her to the Dinner for 12 Strangers tradition. They are stalwart supporters!

Dedicated Line for Survivors and Beneficiaries 888-825-6833

In early March the UC Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) introduced a dedicated phone line for survivors of UC employees and retirees. A specially trained team will help to answer questions and deliver benefits that employees have left to their loved ones. See the announcement [here](#).

You can help UCLARA determine if this new system is working well. Share feedback by emailing UCLARA@ucla.edu.

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