

May Events Include Original Opera, Program on AI

Thank you to Michael Heafey and the Program Committee for these opportunities! Register for events at www.retirees.ucla.edu.

Live Performance of “The Grand Hotel Tartarus,” 8 to 10:30 p.m. Sunday, May 19, Freud Playhouse, Macgowan Hall. Six guests appear at an ornate hotel with no idea how they got there. The gracious and aristocratic hotel manager, Mr. Lucian, promises to fulfill all their earthly desires for eternity if they remain. In this new opera by Richard Danielpour, the guests will have one night only to ponder a choice that will affect them for eternity.

Danielpour has been on the UCLA Music faculty since 2017. His recordings can be found on the Naxos of America and Sony Classical labels.

Sylvia Winstein Emeriti & Retiree Arts & Crafts Exhibit, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 21, Faculty Club. Enjoy the art and talk with the artists. See story on page 3 for details.

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Chancellor Watch!

Chancellor Gene Block steps down at the end of July. We had hoped to welcome his successor in this issue, but no announcement has been made. Please watch local media for news! We hope to tell you about a new UCLA Chancellor in the Summer issue of *Connections*.

Retirees Assn. Increases Support for Staff Scholarships



Here Heidi Martinez, UCLA Staff Assembly President-Elect, confers with Al Aubin, UCLARA Chair of Campus and Community Relations, and UCLARA President Judith Tuch.

Since many UCLARA members worked at UCLA as non-academic staff, we can identify with the needs of current staff members for professional development. An important way UCLARA supports the retirees of the future is our Staff Scholarship program. UCLARA has funded at least four staff scholarships annually since 2013. This fiscal year marks a number of important milestones in UCLARA’s support:

We grew our Staff Scholarship Endowment to \$100,000. See the statement from UCLARA President Judith Tuch (page 2) for details.

We increased the amount of each scholarship from \$500 to \$750. Awardees use this funding to attend conferences, join professional organizations, take educational courses, or otherwise further their careers. The amount had been unchanged since 2013.

We formalized our agreement with Staff Assembly by developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU spells

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\$100,000 UCLARA Staff Scholarship Endowment

Thanks to our many members who responded to the 2023 holiday endowment solicitation by contributing. With your help, we reached our goal to make it a \$100,000 endowment. Just think, it was only ten years ago when the UCLA Retirees Association Board introduced the initiative to give four scholarships annually. Five years later, we created a \$50,000 endowment, and now for the endowment's Tenth Anniversary, it is \$100,000!

It is exciting to think that UCLA retirees will make a difference at the university by providing these scholarship awards to UCLA staff and do so in perpetuity. This is a win-win because both UCLA retirees and the staff recipients of the awards are recognized. Cur-

rently, the income will allow us to give four awards each year for \$750 each. This has been increased from \$500 each when we first began making the awards. We look forward to more awards in the future.

The UCLARA Board is grateful to UCLA Staff Assembly for including us in their annual award program that awards scholarships to staff for education, conferences, etc. to enhance their careers.

Remember to keep this endowment on your annual list of giving. The greater the endowment, the more awards can be given.

Judith Tuch

President, UCLA Retirees Association

Staff Scholarships ...

Continued from Page 1

out UCLARA's commitments and Staff Assembly's responsibilities. While these were handled informally in the past — usually successfully — changes in personnel have sometimes caused hiccups in the process.

The MOU was signed by UCLA Staff Assembly President-Elect Heidi Martinez, UCLARA President Judith Tuch, and Lubbe Levin, the Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Campus Human Resources.

May Events ...

Continued from Page 1

UCLA Conversation with Christopher Kelty and Daniel Snelson, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 30, Faculty Club. Should we be excited about artificial intelligence or terrified or both?

The Emeriti and Retirees Associations invite you to a stimulating UCLA Conversation on "Implications of Artificial Intelligence" with Christopher Kelty and Daniel Snelson.

Kelty holds appointments in the departments of Information Studies and Anthropology, and is active in the Institute for Society and Genetics. He is director of the Livescu Initiative on Neuro, Narrative and AI. Snelson, a UCLA assistant professor of English and Design Media Arts, is a writer, editor and archivist. The topics they will discuss with moderator Stuart Wolpert include how AI may impact creativity, art, culture, education, jobs and more.



Daniel Snelson

UCLARA CONNECTIONS

Published quarterly by the UCLA Retirees Association and the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center at UCLA:

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Don't Miss the Arts & Crafts Exhibit

The Sylvia Winstein UCLA Emeriti and Retiree Arts & Crafts Exhibit will be held on Tuesday, May 21 in the Morrison Room of the UCLA Faculty Club from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will be the first exhibit sponsored together by the two organizations.

More than 20 emeriti and retiree artists will exhibit their work. Most will attend in person, providing a rare opportunity both to see the work and have a conversation with the artist.

This year's arts and crafts include a wide range of media, from photography, drawing and painting to sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, weaving and calligraphy. Featured artists are Michelle Shin, a landscape painter representing the Retirees Association, and Jill Waterman, a watercolor artist from the Emeriti Association.

Retiree Barbara Wold has vivid memories of the first retiree exhibit in 2005. She volunteered her home as a gallery and ended up with art in every room, including the bathroom! Barbara chaired the event for years, expanding it and moving it to the Faculty Club (then the Faculty Center). UCLARA continued to host its



Oil painting by Michelle Shin

own exhibit through 2018.

Shirley Ho chairs the Arts and Crafts Committee for the Emeriti Association and is chair of the joint show. Renee Fortier coordinated Retirees Association participation.



Faculty Club images courtesy of Moore Ruble Yudell

Los Angeles Conservancy Honors Faculty Club Renovation

The Los Angeles Conservancy is honoring the UCLA Faculty Club with a [2024 Preservation Award](#) for its successful and creative renovation. UCLA's \$10-million investment in the Faculty Club – coupled with inventive planning, design, and fundraising — enabled the project team to revitalize the Mid-Century Modern ranch style building. The stellar project managers Clover Linné from Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners, and Eric Heggen from UCLA Capital Programs, embraced the project to the fullest degree.

For more than 40 years, the L.A. Conservancy has recognized Los Angeles County's most noteworthy efforts to preserve architecturally and culturally significant historic resources as a way of celebrating the power and importance of historic preservation. Each year, an independent jury of experts in architecture, preservation, and community development selects a distinguished group of projects demonstrating outstanding achievement in historic preservation. The Faculty Club plans a June celebration.



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.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Susan Allensworth | Rita Loew |
| Marilyn Altamura | Robert Lustado |
| Dolores Armstrong | Jean Mayfield |
| Manuel Bejar | Dzovinar Meguerdijian |
| Beverly Edwina Braxton | Edil Mejia |
| Patricia Gooch Capps | Evelia Michel |
| Elizabeth Carter | Norma Moroney |
| Roberto Castillo | Herbert Moses |
| Donald Catlin | Sabrina Obannon |
| Michael Cherashore | Herman Ooms |
| Robert Clark | Teodoro Pineda Pabalan |
| Belinda Curry | Giovanni Pauletta |
| Robert Delange | Thomas Plate |
| Anayis Derdarian | Helga Pugh |
| Marione Dozier | Dan Ray |
| Cathryn Espinosa | Erma Riley |
| Robert Farnham | Maurice Rochelle |
| Gerald Gardner | Paula Ross |
| Rochelle Gutierrez | Guillermo Sanchez |
| Clarence Hall | Ruth Simon |
| Leslie Hinman | Reiner Stenzel |
| Earl Homsher | Alva Stevenson |
| Isabelle Hunt | Mary Terrall |
| Marion Jacobs | Joan Thompson |
| Jascha Kessler | Lillian Vargas |
| Janie Kirsch | Mladen Vucetic |
| Allen Klinger | Muriel Weiner |
| David Kunzle | David Westhoff |
| Mei-Lin Lin | Sibyl Zaden |

Hiking Group



Above are photos from two recent hikes. The duckling family appeared while we circled Lake Balboa in the Sepulveda Basin on April 26. The group photo is from the more strenuous March 15 hike at King Gillette Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains. Watch for notices of upcoming hikes on the home page of our website, retirees.ucla.edu.

Playreading Group

We meet monthly via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and are open to new members as readers or “audience.” For a link, email [Rochelle Caballero](mailto:Rochelle.Caballero) and tell her you saw this *UCLARA Connections* notice.

May 9 - *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller

June 13 - *Stage Door* by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman

No July reading - taking the month off!

August 8 - *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

Briefings from Campus Leadership

Guest speakers are invited to most UCLARA Board meetings. These campus leaders keep UCLARA abreast of the many initiatives and innovations on campus. 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.

Shalom Staub

Shalom Staub has served as UCLA Director of Community Engagement for more than five years.



He spoke at the February meeting, and explained how his group is taking the lead on Goal 1 of the [UCLA Strategic Plan 2023-28](#): “Deepen Our Engagement with Los Angeles.”

The 2028 Olympics will provide expanded opportunities for community engagement. The new UCLA Downtown Campus is another avenue for engagement: 30 research and teaching proposals have been approved for this new location.

Staub detailed some of the many individuals and groups involved in the academic side of community engagement. There’s a new special advisor on community-engaged scholarship, appointed by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Darnell Hunt. The deans have selected faculty members to serve on the Community Engagement Advisors Network. The UCLA Los Angeles Community Engagement Council will provide a framework for community members and academics to interact.

Staub also talked about undergraduate curricular initiatives. One example is a tuition waiver for unpaid community internships during the summer. A Quarter in L.A. experience is also being developed, combining leadership courses, internships and other experiential learning.

All in all, Goal 1 efforts are significantly increasing

campus-wide attention to community-engaged research and teaching/learning.

Michael Beck

Michael Beck, who has served as UCLA Administrative Vice Chancellor for about eight years, spoke at the April meeting. He fielded a series of questions from Board members. Four main topics emerged, the first being the new South Bay campus. Beck explained that the initial focus will be sustainability, and students will be able to do a quarter in residence, just as they now do for the Quarter in Washington D.C. or the Quarter in Sacramento. These programs allow UCLA to accept additional students without overcrowding the Westwood Campus.

A related topic was campus housing. UCLA is now able to offer a 4/2 guarantee — four years of guaranteed housing for new freshmen, and two for new transfers. Because the demand for housing is so great, the percentage of triples (three to a room) is increasing.

One housing innovation is a co-op environment in the new Gayley Towers, where students will have shared kitchens on every floor and pay a lower rent.



The Luskin Conference Center was another topic of discussion. Beck explained that during the pandemic UCLA was able to get open-ended permission to post room sales on the open market. This means visitors can book through hotel and travel sites, filling surplus rooms not needed for a conference. So the Conference Center, instead of running at a loss, now turns a profit for the campus.

Finally, Beck talked about the planning efforts for the 2028 Olympics. There are many campus committees already at work. UCLA will be the athletes village, using residence halls, dining halls, and sports/recreation venues to house athletes and allow them to do their training.

Welcome New Members!

UCLARA is proud to welcome the following new members to the Retirees Association. If you see a familiar name, reach out and say hello!

Thomas Callahan

Danica Fiaschetti

Patricia Jakel

Paul Phillabaum

Chris Clayton

Betty Glick

Marjoyrie Kunzle

Gail Pollack

Allen Cohen

Madelyn Glickfeld

Bob Larsen

Grace Salas

Donald Dirks

Joyce Guinyard

Suzanne O'Connell

A Life-Changing Gift: Ed Griganavicius

Ed Griganavicius was only 45 years old when he received a new heart through the donor program at the UCLA Health Cardiovascular Center on January 12, 2010. “It’s my second birthday,” says Ed, who turns 60 this year. “If it wasn’t for UCLA’s dedicated team of professionals and the organ transplant program, I wouldn’t be here today.”

An avid climber, hiker, and skier, Ed was diagnosed with heart failure due to a genetic mutation that runs on his mother’s side of the family. When researching local heart transplant programs, Ed was immediately drawn to UCLA’s innovative research and successful outcomes.

“I looked at numerous heart transplant programs and realized I probably had the best one in my backyard,” Ed recalls. “One of the reasons I chose UCLA is that their transplant program also extends to older adults. There is a high likelihood that I will have another heart transplant within my lifetime.”

Ed credits his entire UCLA medical team—particularly Dr. Abbas Ardehali, Dr. Daniel Cruz, and Stephanie Lackey—for seeing him through every part of the journey to his new heart. Ed remained positive. “I had a lot of hope for—I had a two-year-old,” he says. “I remember being wheeled on the gurney into the surgery room, and the nurse was very solemn. And I said, ‘I’m getting a gift today.’”

Not a day goes by that Ed doesn’t feel grateful for that gift—and to the donor who made his recovery possible. “Somebody made the conscious choice that upon death they were going to benefit somebody else,” Ed says. “It’s not a question of should I give back. I have



to. Not to give back would be selfish and definitely not in the spirit of the donor program and the medical care that allowed me to receive the transplant—and extend my life.”

On January 12 of this year—exactly 14 years after Ed’s heart transplant—Ed finalized a bequest to The UCLA Foundation that will help benefit future transplant patients. He hopes this gift will help reduce health disparities and promote health equity for those who do not have the same financial flexibility and access to health insurance that his family had. “It’s not just about giving back,” Ed says. “It’s about paying it forward and ensuring that others that are awaiting transplant have the same opportunity as I did.”

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

ERRC News & Events

Save the dates! Here are some upcoming events sponsored by the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center.

Town Hall about UCLA Email Storage, Friday, May 17, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. via Zoom. Register at <https://retirees.ucla.edu/event-5673222/Registration>

Do you use a “g.ucla.edu” email address, or store photos on UCLA Personal “g” drive? UCLA is reducing its Google Workspace storage. Find out how the changes will affect you, and what options you have.

ERRC Cares: Hunger Free America, Thursday, June 6, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. via Zoom. Register at <https://retirees.ucla.edu/event-5669404/Registration>

Hunger Free America is a nonpartisan, national non-profit group working to enact the policies and programs needed to end domestic hunger and ensure that all Americans have sufficient access to nutritious food.

You can help end hunger in America by dedicating your time and talents. Our Strategic Volunteerism team can connect you with a range of volunteer opportunities, from conducting data verification on the USDA Hunger Hotline information, to serving at a food bank, to helping nonprofit and charitable organizations with grant application reviews. If you are 55+, there is a dedicated senior volunteer program to help you find the right opportunity.



ERRC Staff: Lam Luu, Ayesha Dixon, Maria Lubrano

Maria Lubrano Retires from ERRC

Maria Lubrano is retiring after 39 years of service to UCLA. As a resource specialist at the Emeriti/Retiree Relations Center, she responds to the needs of individuals as well as supporting campus organizations, including the Retirees Association and the Emeriti Association. Maria juggles many responsibilities — maintaining accounting records, organizing programs, assisting at events, and referring emeriti and retirees to campus resources. Stop by the ERRC to wish Maria well. We hope she enjoys retirement and will become an active member of UCLARA!



The Community Shred event on Saturday, April 13 was a big success, with about 3,600 pounds of paper shredded.



Ayesha Dixon and Al Aubin hosted Dinner for 12 Strangers at Belmont Village on March 3. Ayesha, Alicia Thomason (Community Relations, Belmont Village), Al, and Greg Crosby (Dining Manager, Belmont Village).

Upcoming Travel Opportunities

Time to take that special trip you have been thinking about, but putting off. Time to travel with UC Retirees Travel! Get to know your fellow retirees from all the different campuses, and bring friends and family. We have five terrific escorts who are here to make your trip unforgettable.

When you participate in UC Retirees Travel, you help to support CUCRA (Council of University of California Retirees Associations). CUCRA represents retiree interests and advocates for retiree benefits in regular meetings with UC leadership.

So many of our 2025 trips are filling up. Don't end up on the waiting list. If you see a trip you like, jump right in and make a deposit as soon as possible.

Tropical Costa Rica

January 31 — February 08, 2025 • 9 Days

We did this trip in 2024. It was so successful we are repeating it (and the prices are unreal).

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213566

The Northern Lights of Finland

February 20 — February 27, 2025 • 8 Days

Your chance to sleep in a glass igloo and watch the Northern lights!!

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213555

Italian Vistas

March 03 — March 15, 2025 • 13 Days

Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Florence, Venice.

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213502

Canadian Maritimes and Coastal Wonders

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Anne of Green Gables Museum.

July 27 — August 06, 2025 • 11 Days

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1254704

For further information, contact **Dolores Dyer** at ddyer44@verizon.net



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