

Winter
2008

**Special points
of interest:**

<http://care-news.org/>

- **Annual Reunion**
- **Capturing the Past:**
*The Second Twenty
Years, Plus Seven
PROJECT*

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C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Association of Retired Employees

Holiday PotPourri

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,
It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,
It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity...

“A Tale of Two Cities”

Charles Dickens

Moving into this busy holiday season, we all have much to be thankful for. First of all, even though the American economy is crumbling, with people losing their homes, their jobs and their pensions, we retirees, for the most part, will be OK. Most of us have had our homes for awhile; most of us no longer need jobs; and all of us can be relatively sure that our pensions are safe (at least that's what STRS tells us. CALPERS? Likewise.) CARE retirees can still hope for "the best of times."

We can also be thankful for a board of trustees which continues to take our needs into account when they make difficult financial decisions. We can't thank them often enough for their wisdom and compassion on our behalf.

Last but not least, we can be thankful that this interminable election season is over at last!

On a much lighter subject, you may have noticed that our college history project has gotten off to a good start. At this writing, we have a dozen entries posted online, covering various subjects and viewpoints, from both campuses. Some others are in the pipeline. I hope our efforts so far will inspire you to add to our story. We all know it's worth telling, and worth saving. All you need to do is write it down and send it in. We'll do the rest. Get it to me, I'll get it to Bill, and it will show up online and in a book--IF enough of you participate. To whet your appetite, we've included part of one of our submissions in this newsletter. Look on page 5 for an excerpt of an entry submitted by Mary Straight.

Here's a last bit of good news: Our annual reunion is just around the corner. On January 24st, 2009, we will gather once again at the San Ramon Golf Club for a visit, a buffet luncheon, entertainment, and a free drawing. We'll also welcome the large Class of 2008. Details about the reunion can be found inside this newsletter. Please join us! You'll be glad you did.

As we look forward to a new year and a new president, we have every reason to be hopeful, in spite of the daily bad economic news we hear. Stay happy, and stay well.

Helen Bridge, President

ANNUAL REUNION

Chabot Las Positas Community College District ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES

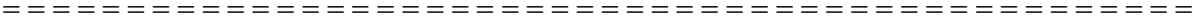
Invites you to REUNION 2009

WHEN: SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009, 11:00 a.m.
WHERE: SAN RAMON COUNTRY CLUB
\$20.00 per person

Our 2009 Annual Reunion is sure to be a memorable event, and we look forward to seeing you there. We will be enjoying the music of the Chabot College Jazz Combo, playing softly in the background while we enjoy our buffet lunch. After lunch there will be a drawing for prizes. As always, there will also be plenty of time for visiting with old friends and colleagues. After meeting and socializing with one another, we will welcome new retirees from the class of 2008. We especially encourage new retirees to join us.

DIRECTIONS TO SAN RAMON COUNTRY CLUB
From 580 East or West go to the 680 interchange.
Go North on 680 to ALCOSTA BLVD. (The first off-ramp).
From the North take 680 South to San Ramon Alcosta Blvd. Off-ramp.
Go East on Alcosta, through 3 signal lights to **FIRCREST LANE**, and turn left.
You will see the golf course. Take Fircrest to the club parking lot.

Detach & return



Reservation Form—Please send in no-later-than January 10.

Please complete this form, enclose your check payable to C.A.R.E., and mail to

SHARON TRETHAN, TREASURER, 5122 BLACKHAWK DRIVE, DANVILLE, CA 94506

Name/Names _____

Number Attending _____ x \$20 = _____

C.A.R.E. DUES 2009

\$10.00 PER YEAR OR \$100 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____ **AMOUNT:** _____ (Thank you)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

**ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO C.A.R.E. AND MAIL TO:
SHARON TRETHAN, TREASURER, 5122 BLACKHAWK DRIVE, DANVILLE, CA 94506**

DONATION TO C.A.R.E. FUND

NAME: _____ **AMOUNT:** _____ (Thank you)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

**ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO C.A.R.E. AND MAIL TO:
CLYDE ALLEN, 1463 INDIAN HEAD CIRCLE, CLAYTON, CA 94517**

Meet Your Board Members

Arthur “Art” L. Larson



When I agreed to write an autobiographical sketch for the newsletter I had to decide what to write and how to write it. I remembered that for many months I had been writing “The Story of My Life.” When asked why and for whom I was writing it my answer was that I have had such a wonderful and remarkable life that I am enjoying reliving it through writing about it. Since I now have 88+ years to write about, it’s a story too long for the newsletter; therefore I’ve decided to summarize some highlights that relate to my life and career leading to Chabot.

I have concluded that my life has been shaped and influenced by three major forces: My Family, The Church and Military Service. The remarkable part is that my life and career have evolved without much effort on my part. Opportunities just seem to have opened before me.

I was born March 5, 1920 at Ft. Morgan Colorado. From the beginning my parents provided, by example, the basic values for my life. For 16 years we lived on a farm, and in 1936 we moved to Loveland, Colorado where Dad opened a hardware and farm equipment store. Both the farm and the store were family operations in which I was given increasing responsibility in the form of chores or jobs for which I was paid.

How fortunate I was the day Jo-an and I met as student teachers at Casey Junior High School in Boulder, Colorado. We became engaged on Valentines Day and were married in August. We are now celebrating our 57th anniversary. All through the years Jo-an’s love, care, support, and encouragement have supported me and my career. Our greatest blessing is our son, Eric and his family – Doris, Susie and Joanna. They bring much joy and fulfillment to our family. Eric changed his career goal from dentistry to follow me into student services. He is a senior member of the Student Services at Skyline Community College.

Church attendance and participation have always been the center of our spiritual and social life. My close and continuing friendships have been associated with the church. When in high school I set forth the purpose of my life “to so live to find favor and good understanding with God and Fellowman”.

My military service was the best training and experience I could have had in preparation for a career in education. Opportunities opened for me one after another in command and staff positions. I received great job satisfaction and recognition. I entered the service a private and came out a major. Teaching assignments and leadership responsibility – plus attendance at four military schools caused me to change my career goal from architecture to education. At the end of the war, I elected to go into the Army Reserve and return to the university.

To complete the requirements for a degree and a credential, student teaching was required. In my 2nd quarter, the 8th grade social science teacher suddenly resigned and I was hired to take his place, a position I kept for the next three years. An incident I’ll always remember is when I attended a teachers association meeting, spoke up and found myself elected President to lead salary negotiations!

A new opportunity came when I was offered a teaching job in San Leandro at twice my salary. I signed up and went home to tell Jo-an we were moving to California. In San Leandro I was assigned to an elementary school. Again this was providential for I shortly became a vice principal, then an elementary school principal and last the Principal of Bancroft Jr. High.

It was a lucky day for me when Reed Buffington and a group of Chabot Faculty members came to visit Bancroft. I don’t recall the details, but I know I was enticed to Chabot where I was offered a position with John McKinley, as Assistant Dean of Instruction for Evening and Extension and then as Associate Dean of Arts and Science. Then came the challenge as Dean of Student Services. The privilege to have served with Reed Buffington, John McKinley, Bill Moore and Dick Yeo is deeply appreciated as the highlight of my career, as is the collegial association with other members of the administration, the student services, the faculty and the staff with whom I worked.

Now, I am in my 25th year of retirement. The time has passed quickly. Jo-an and I enjoy our family time together, memories of trips and vacations, volunteering and the continuing friendship and association with those with whom I’ve worked with or met throughout my career. I take great satisfaction knowing that C.A.R.E. is in good hands meeting its purpose.

The Second Twenty Years, Plus Seven Project

In our previous newsletter, Helen Bridge highlighted the goals and strategy of our new college history project. We're again inviting your contributions, so to give a bit more sense of the project, here is an excerpt from one of our excellent submissions to the history project.

Mary Straight's description of her experiences at Las Positas College makes inspiring reading for us all. To see the rest of her writing, go to www.care-news.org and click on the history project section.

A Valley Campus Success Story

Submitted by Mary Straight

Las Positas College

In March, 1975 I ventured out to what was then known as Chabot College-Valley Campus. I was an older student at the time, but the term "Re-entry Student" had not yet been coined. I was just the "older lady" at the ripe old age of 25! I was a bit apprehensive to say the least! Would I fit in and could I do it? Fortunately, Spring Quarter did not have a lot of new students and some were even older than I. My first three classes were: Spanish 1A with Maria Elena Pelinen, Health 1 with Sophie Rheinheimer and California History with Joe Downs. Dr. Barbara Mertes was our Dean. We had 4 buildings, with another two "under construction". My first impression was that of a caring institution and a wonderful learning experience. To this day I have not changed my mind on that score.

I worked as a student assistant in the Library, and in Admissions & Records with Ginny MacCrossen, Marge O'Leary and Linda Pfeiffer. We had one of our earthquakes during my Library days, I can still remember gluing many books back to their bindings. After I graduated in 1980, I then came back as on "on call hourly" employee. In 1984, I was hired part-time for the Assessment position. Working part-time enabled me to continue my education at CSUH earning my BA in History and Women's Studies in 1990. I later earned my MA in Humanities. With the encouragement from faculty and the many friends I made over the years here, kept me on my quest to further my education (something I had NO IDEA I would do back in 1975)! This year, I begin my 25th. year at LPC.

(Continued... To read the rest of the story and many others, visit www.care-news.org.)

Leading the Way

Here's what your colleagues have contributed so far to our history project. As you can see, all three parts of our college community are represented:

Chabot

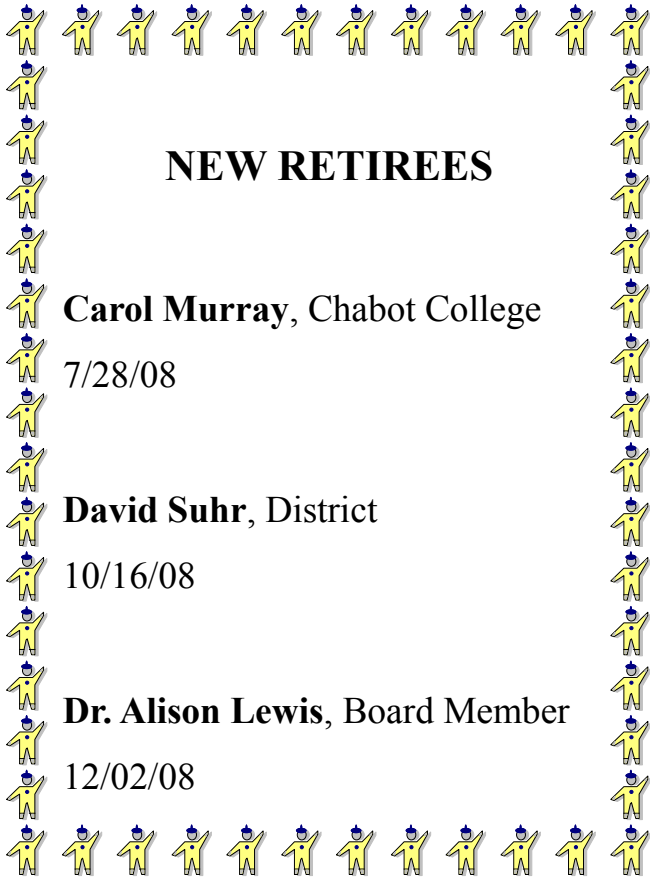
- The Loma Prieta Earthquake—Helen Bridge
- Chabot College Leadership—Helen Bridge
- The Rise and Fall of Community Services—Clyde Allen
- Years of Memories at Chabot—Vince Gallegos
- The Birth of CARE—Art Larson

Valley Campus/Las Positas

- A Valley Campus Success Story—Mary Straight
- Bakin' and Shakin' at Valley Campus—Jim Adams
- The Beginnings of Las Positas College: One View—Esther Goldberg
- Automotive Ingenuity at Valley Campus—Don Nilson

District

- Maintaining a Campus—Bruno Orsetti
- The Day the Computer Stopped—Almost Permanently! - Bill Threlfall



NEW RETIREES

Carol Murray, Chabot College

7/28/08

David Suhr, District

10/16/08

Dr. Alison Lewis, Board Member

12/02/08

CARE Member Directory

Are there retirees you wish to reach, but you lack their contact information? Would you like other CARE members to be able to reach you?

One of CARE's purposes is to serve the social interests of members by providing opportunities to keep in touch with each other. To support this function, we have established an E-mail member directory which you are invited to join.

To see the directory, learn more, and join, visit the CARE website at:

<http://care-news.org>

Also please check out care-news.org for:

- Current and past CARE Newsletters
- News about our annual reunion
- Information about CARE and its services to members
- Updates not published in the newsletter

LOOKING FOR LOST RETIREES

We don't have a current address for the following retirees.

Faye Barthelme

Jack Criqui

SAD NEWS - DEATHS

Margaret Wiedman, Past Board Member

6/7/08

Ken Eberhard, Chabot College

9/30/08

CARE BOARD

Helen Bridge
President

Art Larson
Past President

Heidi Spearer
Newsletter Editor

Norma Kernes
Chabot Liaison

Secretary (Vacant)

Sharon Trethan
Treasurer

Clyde Allen
CARE Fund Manager

Gay Connor
Activities

John R. McKinley
Retirement Issues

Bill Threlfall
*Director of
Communications*

Sharon Trethan
District Liaison

Don Nilson
Las Positas Liaison

**George Anna Tow,
Esther Goldberg**
Directors at Large

RETIREE NEWS

In the past year, we have lost four CARE Board members: Maxine Calleri, Glenys Wilson, Gene Houck, and Bob Wood. We are in URGENT need of new board members.

At our annual reunion on January 24, 2009, we will be taking nominations for board membership from the floor.

Please think hard about finding a willing volunteer for these positions. Check with your nominee about his/her willingness to serve. Or, how about just nominating yourself?

Duties for these positions are minimal, but we need new members to spread the load.

Please do your part so that we can keep CARE alive and thriving.

District Retirement Benefits

<http://www.clpccd.org/HR/HRRetirementBenefits.php>

Links found at the above site: [STRS](#), [PERS](#) [CALPERS](#), PERS & STRS Cash Balance Comparison, [CARE](#), the Chabot-Las Positas Association of Retired Employees

Alice Noriega 925.485.5209 anoriega@clpccd.org

Rosalyn Tucker 925.485.5504 rtucker@clpccd.org

GO GREEN!

After one year of our new CARE Newsletter format and Website, we'd like to hear from you. If you would prefer to pick up your newsletter from our website, please email Sharon Trethan at CARE and she will revise our newsletter mailing list.

Thank you

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Hayward, CA 94545