

Winter
2010

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Association of Retired Employees

President's Message

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Visit us online:

www.care-news.org

*"The time has come, the Walrus said,
To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing wax--
Of cabbages--and kings.*

Lewis Carroll

As another year draws to a close, our CARE board wants to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. We have a lot to be thankful for. Our organization is still alive and well after a quarter century of existence. Our annual reunions are popular, our newsletters are eagerly anticipated, and our board is working hard for you. Times are changing, though, and we are faced with some new challenges as we head into the new year. Starting with this issue, our costs for getting out our newsletter



are rising dramatically. We will still be using the print shop at Chabot College to print and mail the newsletters, but now we will be bearing the full cost of doing so. What this means for you as a member is that it is more important than ever that you pay your dues each year. If you haven't yet paid the modest \$10 for this year, please do so now so we can continue to stay in touch with you. You won't find a better bargain anywhere!

Recently, Las Positas College had a celebration to mark the completion of their new performing arts center. The building will now be known as The Barbara Francisco Mertes Center for the Performing Arts. The building is spectacular, and the celebration was festive and well attended. And Chabot College, just days before this writing, had a celebration of its own, naming the remodeled auditorium for our founding president. It's now the Reed L. Buffington Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. I had a chance to be part of that celebration, and it was truly memorable. You'll find fuller reports on each celebration inside this newsletter.

At our meeting in December, the CARE Board will be nominating members for next year's board. I will be stepping down from my job as interim president, and will be turning the duties over to a new president. We expect to nominate a candidate with lots of leadership experience and energy who will do a great job for all of us.

In January, our annual reunion promises to be very special. Don Nilson has gathered additional photos for his terrific slide show which folks enjoyed so much last year. The luncheon will be first rate, as usual, and the prize drawing will be even better than last time. We will have some very special gifts for lucky retirees to take home. If you've never attended one of our reunions, let this year be the time. It's so much fun to see old colleagues, share a meal, and reminisce about old times. And by the way, it's also the perfect time to PAY YOUR DUES.

Have a lovely holiday, and stay well.

Helen Bridge, Interim President



CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

<http://www.chabotcollege.edu/>

Open House and Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center Building Dedication

Chabot College invited the community to its Open House and Building Dedication for the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, November 3.

Tours of new campus facilities began at 3 p.m. and highlighted the spectacular new 51,000 sq ft Community and Student Services Center Building, the new Instructional Office Building 700, and renovations of classrooms and athletic facilities.



At 5:15 p.m. the crowd gathered in front of the Visual and Performing Arts Center for light refreshments and the dedication ceremony honoring Reed L. Buffington, the founding President of Chabot College. Dr. Buffington was in attendance and expressed deep appreciation for the recognition granted him. He offered delightful anecdotes about the College's beginnings in 1961. Most notable was story that Chabot opened its first classes just 11 weeks after the college district was constituted and Dr. Buffington was hired to plan and implement the new college! He also joked about his strategy of squirreling away funds needed to start the new "Valley Campus" which evolved into Las Positas College.

State dignitaries who offered praise included Senator Ellen Corbett, former Chabot College student and faculty member, and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Community Colleges. Assembly-



member Hayashi presented handsome framed Assembly resolutions honoring Dr. Buffington, and CARE President Helen Bridge shared personally expressive laudatory comments.



If you have retired from Chabot College, Las Positas or the District Office and you would like a Parking Permit, please contact Karen Silva, President's Office at 510-723-6641 or email her at ksilva@chabotcollege.edu.

The latest Chabot Hot sheet is always available on CARE's web site at www.care-news.org.



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/>

Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts Building Dedication

Sophie Rheinheimer Reporting

It was time for a party at Las Positas College, and we had one on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. The occasion was for an Open House, and the dedication of the newest building on campus, the Center for the Arts, to Dr. Barbara Mertes. It was a wonderful opportunity to return to the college to see the amazing physical transformations, and to meet with former colleagues and ol' friends.

Starting at 3:00 pm, there were student-led campus tours, music was played, and folks had a chance to enjoy each other's company. At 5:15 pm, the formal portion of the program begun. This is what everyone came to see, the official dedication of the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center of the Arts building.

With a gathering of approximately 200 people, there were many speeches during the next hour. Some were to recognize and honor the vision and leadership of our first leader of Chabot College-Valley Campus/Las Positas College. Others were to congratulate her on a lifetime of service and dedication to education. Some were to speak of her tenacity and "let's get this done" attitude throughout the years. And, one was to acknowledge the good spirit and energy that this 'fine lady' has.



The list of speakers included, among others, husband Dr. David Mertes, Congressman John Garamendi, Interim President Guy Lease, Chancellor Joel Kinnamon, Trustee President Donald Gelles, former Vice-President Don Milanese, and Faculty Emeritus Ken Ross. At the conclusion of the dedication ceremony, Dr. Barbara Mertes quietly and graciously said, "It is a wonderful tribute, and I am truly touched."



The Center for the Arts building is breathtakingly beautiful. As you enter, a wall of bamboo (20-ft tall) welcomes you into this spectacular building of steel and glass. There are numerous unique elements to this state-of-the-art performing arts facility. A few of the 'wow' elements are the costume shop, welding arts studio, a classroom with 24 pianos (each with individual headphones, so that no one is disturbed), a black box theater, and a stunning 500-seat theater. You must tour it to fully appreciate all that it has.

The Performing Arts schedule for the 2010-2011 inaugural season includes Faculty Recitals, One Act Plays, Early Music Concerts, the spring musical-*Phantom of the Country Opera*, Dance Concert, Choral Concert, and much more. For a more detailed schedule with dates and time, check the LPC homepage.

See you all at the January Reunion Luncheon!



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS— Chet Rhoan

An American Dream

I was born in Los Angeles at the end of the great depression to parents who migrated to California in search of the American Dream. I didn't live that dream early on in my life. My father was a wounded WWI Veteran who spent much of his life in VA hospitals so mom and I lived as best we could. My first years were spent living with an aunt in a ramshackle house in Redondo Beach. When WWII broke out my father got out of the hospital, found housing managing a large apartment house and a job working for the Railroad. Mom was hired as a riveter in the aviation industry. In order to be closer to mom's factory we moved to a house in El Segundo where I attended preschool.



The dream faded when dad lost his job and returned to the VA hospital leaving mom and me homeless. In desperation mother moved us to an aunt's apartment in north Oakland and found work as a short order cook. With housing at a premium we were lucky to find tarpaper shack on the site of what is now the Oakland Main Library. Just before wars' end dad returned from the hospital and I started first grade at Lincoln Elementary School.

With the war about over my parents moved to San Francisco to managing the San Fran Hotel, a billet for returning servicemen, located in the heart of Chinatown. On VJ Day mom drug me down to Market Street to view the revelry. At war's end the hotel was closed and we were again homeless and jobless. I was sent to live with my aunt in Oakland again. Eventually the family moved back to Oakland. Dad found a job as a parking attendant and mom found work as a maid. We moved to a tiny one room apartment on Fourteenth and West Streets where I entered the second grade at Lafayette Elementary School. It was my fifth-sixth grade teacher who instilled in me the dream of becoming a teacher.

About a year later we moved to a three room apartment near the Oakland Central YMCA. I was very fortunate to learn to swim and later to teach others to swim for it afforded me the opportunity to swim competitively for ten years, setting national and international individual and relay records. The Y became my home. I trained three hours a day, six days a week and spent my summers at the Y camp in Loma Mar. To pay my way I sold soap door to door, delivered newspapers, worked as a camp councilor, maintenance worker, life guard and cook.

Because of my training schedule my studies at West Lake Junior High suffered. Conformity issues and post pubescence angst combined to make life confusing. The seventh grade was academically tough but the next year was worse. I was on the brink of being held back when my ninth grade English teacher intervened to help me with my class work and reinforced my interest in becoming a teacher.

At Oakland Technical High School I was tracked into industrial program. I rebelled, quit school, lied about my age and went to work for SP Railroad. That lasted about two weeks before I was discovered. A wise Roundhouse Forman sent me back to Tech. My school councilor agreed to let me return and take a few college prep classes. While I struggled, I managed to pass these classes and catch up to my class mates while earning two Block letters for swimming and a third place in the Hearst Examiner History Competition. My History Teacher helped me with my studies and encouraged me to become a teacher. As a senior, I headed up the rally squad and was a graduation speaker.

My girl friend encouraged me to go to college. However, on graduation day I went to work as a locomotive fireman with SP, fulfilling my childhood dream and moved to San Francisco, fulfilling another dream and entered SF State. I worked my way through college and law school while contributing to my family. At State I was elected as frosh VP and Sophomore President. As a junior I served on the student council; in my senior year I was elected Director of Student Activities and was inducted into the men's honor society. As a fifth year student I married my first wife, worked two full time jobs and finished college.

During my fifth year I volunteered for Nixon and interned for Congressman Millard who urged me to pursue a law degree. I went to Hastings College of Law where I attended for two years until finances and the birth of my second daughter

forced my withdrawal. I returned State to pursue a masters' in Political Science. I attended the 1964 Republican Convention but switched my affiliation to work on the Johnson campaign. While completing my master's degree my third daughter was born. I was admitted to a number of schools including the University of Iowa where I was awarded a small teaching fellowship but the stipend was not enough to support my growing family.

I looked for a community college position, but found none so I began applying to high school. I found one at Oakdale Union High School where I was given six classes of remedial US and World History students. After two years I was awarded an NDEA Summer fellowship to SF State. On the last day of the seminar I was chased down by an Education Professor I knew who told me about the position in the ISLS program at Chabot. I was hired by Dr. Buffington and taught in the Social Science Division for the next thirty-six years. I am blessed to have achieved my dreams and to have shared them with my wife of 32 years and our 23 year old son.

CARE Member Directory



More than 130 members have joined the free CARE member directory, and this is a pitch for you to join as well. Here's why:

- **Social contact**. When you were working actively, colleagues could reach you through campus E-mail, but that E-mail service was discontinued soon after your retirement. A listing in the CARE Member Directory will help current and retired CLPCCD colleagues keep in touch with you, so we invite you to join!
- **"Going Green"**. As described by Helen Bridge in this issue's President's Message, CARE is facing increasing costs for printing and mailing our newsletter. We hope to encourage you to consider reading your newsletter online. Notices of each online newsletter release are sent by E-mail to all Directory members. To "Go Green", just send an E-mail note to Sharon Trethan through [care contacts](#) and request that you be removed from the mailing list.

To learn more and join, visit the Member Directory page at www.care-news.org.

Or simply check the **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory** box as you complete your 2011 CARE Dues form on page 7. Thanks!

New Retirees

Bharati Bhatt,
Chabot College, August 2010

Alice Lo,
Chabot College, December 2010

Looking for Lost Retirees

Douglas Divine
Virginia Maruyama
Tina Miller
Gordon Peak
Roberta Pratt
Larry Sizar

Sad News - Deaths

Aileen Furuyama,
Las Positas College, October 2010

Leendert Kamelgarn,
Chabot College, January 2010

Leo Meyer,
Chabot College, October 2010

2011 CARE Reunion

Please join your colleagues at the reunion and annual meeting!

We will enjoy an elaborate buffet lunch, an expanded show of historic and current campus photos produced by Don Nilson, a prize drawing with higher value prizes, and a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends and co-workers.

When: Saturday, January 22, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Where: San Ramon Country Club

Cost: \$22.00 per person

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 and return

**Reservation For
Annual CARE Reunion and Lunch**
January 22, 2011, 11:00 a.m.
San Ramon Country Club

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

Sharon Trethan, C.A.R.E. Treasurer
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506

Name/Names _____

E-mail Address _____
(please print clearly)

→ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory**

Number Attending _____ x \$22 = _____

2011 Dues (if not already paid) \$10 = _____

Total Amount Enclosed = _____

Deadline for Reservations: January 10, 2011

CARE BOARD

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Interim President

Esther Goldberg
Past President

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and Trip Advisor**
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Contact the board:
www.care-news.org/contacts

C.A.R.E. Website:
www.care-news.org/

GO GREEN!

CARE newsletters are available on the CARE website at care-news.org.

If you would prefer to read your newsletter online,
please email Sharon Trethan through [care contacts](#)
and she will revise our newsletter mailing list.

Be sure to provide your e-mail address and we'll alert you when each newsletter is released.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please send your change of address to Sharon Trethan through [care contacts](#)

or

5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

Detach and return

C.A.R.E. DUES 2011

(\$10.00 per year or \$100 Lifetime Membership)

Support from CARE members is key to our success.

Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2011 dues!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

(please print clearly)

→ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory**

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

(Thank you!)

Please cut and mail this form and your check payable to **CARE** to:

CARE c/o Sharon Trethan
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506

Chabot Community College

25555 Hesperian Blvd.

Hayward, CA 94545

President's Office