

**CHABOT - LAS POSITAS
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES****OFFICERS**

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DR. BUFFINGTON WARNED ME !

Back in the good old days Dr. Buffington often warned me to "be careful in making assumptions." I am going to make one anyway! I am assuming that most, if not all, of the members of C.A.R.E. enjoy receiving the Newsletter two or more times a year.

The next statement isn't an assumption - it's a fact. Even though the Newsletter, which is mailed to all retirees and is produced by volunteers, the cost of printing and mailing and the number of retirees continues to rise. This is creating a problem, for our income isn't increasing. The income comes from the dues that members are invited to contribute each year. **Out of 314 members only 78 paid dues for 2004.**

While the official policy of C.A.R.E. is that no fees or payments of any kind are required for membership, the payment of annual dues is invited to provide funds for operational expenses which are primarily the costs of the newsletter and any special mailings necessary to keep members informed on matters of mutual importance such as health care benefits, special activities and programs. Funds are also needed to provide lunch at the Reunion for guest speakers and program presenters, and, when possible, to make an annual contribution to the CARE FUND. This fund was established to meet one of the original purposes of CARE which is to provide support for the colleges and their students. Please see a separate article in this Newsletter concerning the CARE FUND. It would be prudent to also get ahead and be able to have a reserve fund for unexpected needs.

I cannot assume this problem will solve itself, so as President, I must lead to find a solution. The alternatives seem to be: (1) raise the dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00 or (2) increase the number of dues-paying members. Since I believe it is not fair to raise the dues for those few members who loyally pay dues each year, I have elected to invite and encourage all other members who enjoy the Newsletter to join with them and send in their dues of \$10.00 now, in October, for the coming year 2005.

A form for this purpose is provided below. I have faith that our membership will respond, and I extend my thanks and appreciation to each donor in advance!

THANKS

Art Larson, President

CARE DUES 2005**FROM:****NAME** _____**ADDRESS** _____**CITY** _____**STATE** _____**ZIP** _____

(Optional) Telephone _____

email _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Mail Dues Check to:

GENE HOUCK

195 SCENIC AVE.

LIVERMORE, CA

94551

ISN'T IT GREAT TO KNOW?

Isn't it great to know that four of our former colleagues now hold top positions in the Office of the California Community Colleges in Sacramento:

Mark Drummond is the Chancellor;
Victoria Morrow is the Executive Vice Chancellor;
Dona Boatright is Vice Chancellor for Educational Services;
Larry Toy is the CEO/President of the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Glenys Wilson reports that nothing in particular about medical benefits is going on right now at the District level. She is in touch with the Benefits Director and will pass along to our members any changes affecting retirees.

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

By Don Nilson

Las Positas College is off to another semester. During the summer the green-grey buildings were transformed to an adobe color. They now are a closer match to the architecture, displaying its Spanish theme.

The new gymnasium/sports structure has started to take form and overlooks the entire campus. As you look down over the newly formed foundation and the framework being erected, you are aware of the beauty of the campus and the surrounding area.

We are no longer alone. The Copper Hills Business Park and the many condominiums opposite the campus entrance are beginning to look like a new city. Behind that the gentle rolling hills are alive with new vineyards. We are growing and the land around the campus is rapidly changing also.

BUFFINGTON AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Linda Barde, instructor in Chabot College's Social Science Department, is the 2004 recipient of the Reed Buffington Award. She was presented with the award during the annual convocation ceremony in August. Congratulations, Linda.

NEW RETIREES

Ronald Arroyo
Myrna Bowman
Gary Chamberland
Wiana Choy
Carol Clough
(since deceased)
Richard Solomon
Elizabeth Flynn
Tom Gerrits

WHERE ARE THEY NOW (WITH MEMORIES OF STAFF AND STUDENTS)

From Mark Wayne

After leaving Chabot officially and living in Angels Camp, June 30, 1998, my wife, Elsie, was hospitalized and required Brain Surgery. That Fall she went into a coma, and following complications, died in November of 1999.

Following that event I went on a golf tear, playing some 200 times a year. I live on a course here and traveled all over the country. In the Fall of 2001 I met a wonderful woman, Marion (she grew up in Berlin) who was a widow, and we hit it off quite well. So well, in fact, that we got married in September of 2002. Marion is also an avid golfer. We spend a lot of time at our place at the Running Y Resort in Klamath Falls, Oregon. (I could have embellished this considerably but didn't want to bore you!)

I spoke recently with Mark Drummond who is now in Sacramento as Arnie's leader for the JCs!!! How about that one!

Here is a short story about ex-students.....I had so many wonderful students it would be very difficult to single out ONE. To begin, I had students from the Business Data Processing program who became CEOs and very influential people in their field. Look at our own MIS staff: Eric Stricklin, Tom Gerrits (now retired), Dave Suhr, Joe Kevin, and others, and the many employees who took PC classes over the years. (In the beginning it was just John Newell and myself.) Two I've seen in the last couple of months: Ralph Smith is now a big-wig in management with State Farm Insurance who drove an ambulance when he was in my class, and who is now living in Auburn. Another, Bob Smith, is the General Manager of the Athletic

Club of Bend. Bob sold cars part-time while he attended Chabot part-time. I could go on and on. BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE.

**MY MOST MEMORABLE STUDENT:
MARIA GUADALUPE NAVAS**

By Carol Conway

She walked into my Computer Science 10 introductory class in the fall of 1988, a petite blond with a Mexican accent. As is my custom, I ask students to tell me if they prefer to use a nickname and after class she asked me to call her Lupita. Later in the class she asked me if she might comment her computer programs in Spanish and I recall telling her absolutely because comments are most useful for the program writer and also because I would learn some Spanish! During that term she proved to be a superior student, and over the course of the next three years or so, we became friends as she continued to take all those Computer Science courses needed to transfer. I would see her in our computer laboratory frequently although she was not in any of my classes after the first.

Over time I learned that she was 19 years old when she started Chabot College and had abandoned a scholarship at a fine university in Mexico City in order to help her mother and little sister who had come to the states, illegally as it turned out, although I did not know that at the time! She could not always manage a full course load because she helped her mother clean houses for a living and they were quite poor. She never complained about this, although in Mexico she had come from a middle-class family. In fact, her grandfather was a senator of Mexico and was a signatory to the Mexican constitution. While in high school, Lupita tutored the daughter of the president of Mexico.

One day in the spring of 1991 Lupita was in the lab office bemoaning the fact that she could not seem to meet nice young men! (This was not really true for she had admirers!) I said I would love to have her meet my son who had a similar complaint about not being able to meet intelligent and interesting young women in his male-oriented Silicon Valley computer engineering world. By pure coincidence, my son called that week to invite us to dinner for Mother's day, so I asked Lupita if she would like to come along. I told her all about my son, including the fact that he was/is a computer

“nerd” but good-hearted and family-oriented. She accepted the invitation, and when she tried to bail out her mother told her that would be most impolite and drove her to our house!

Suffice it to say that Lupita married my son the following February, transferred to Cal State Hayward that March, graduated with honors in Computer Science, and is now a software engineer with Tektronix in Beaverton Oregon where both work. We have two beautiful grandchildren, Kathryn and Mark, who are bilingual because Lupita has made certain they would be able to speak Spanish from an early age. There is more to the story of their marriage than I have room to tell here that involves Immigration, amnesty, and Carlo Vecchiarelli's help to Lupita and her family.

Lupita is becoming very active in politics. She is now a U.S. Citizen, as is her mother. Lupita is about to be elected chairwoman of the Multnomah, Oregon Democratic party and she is becoming known in Oregon politics. She has never lost her feelings for the poor and the dispossessed. I will not be surprised if someday she is elected to congress as she is bright, compassionate, beautiful, and personable, and a dear friend.

RUN CARLO RUN !!!!

Carlo Vecchiarelli is running as a candidate for a position on the Chabot-Las Positas District Board of Trustees. He is running to represent Trustee Area 5 which consists of Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol. It will be great to have Carlo, a member of CARE, serving on the Board. All CARE members who reside in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are encouraged to vote for Carlo in the coming November 2nd election and to get out and encourage their neighbors to do likewise. Let's all support Carlo in any way we can and prepare to welcome him as a new Trustee at our coming Reunion in January!

DEATHS

Carol Clough (8/10/04)
Linda Lucas (9/22/04)
Don Martinez (6/22/04)
Linda Lucas (9/22/04)
Don Martinez (6/22/04)
Mischa Schwartzmann (6/22/04)

A RETIREMENT ADVENTURE

By Janice Albert

Retirement travel has given me adventure as well as a whole new identity, all because of a passion that began in the summer of 1966 and is still alive today.

In the summer of '66, I was lucky enough to join a tour of England and Scotland organized by the National Council of Teachers of English. The focus was homes of British authors, such as Milton's tiny cottage where the blind poet imagined *Paradise*.

Back home, I began to look around for California literary sites and for a short time taught a course in California authors at Chabot College, a course that ended when the austerity of Prop 13 set in.

By 1996, thirty years later, I was ready to pick up where I had left off, and I discovered that others had been hard at work in the meantime. Salinas was building a research and visitor center in honor of John Steinbeck. Eugene O'Neill's house in Danville was now part of the National Park system. In southern California, memorials abounded to writers such as Richard Henry Dana (*Two Years Before the Mast*) and Helen Hunt Jackson (*Ramona*). I got out my camera, put gas in the car, and set to work.

Initially, I found an outlet for my enthusiasm in the publication *California English*, published by the California Association of Teachers of English. Editor Carol Jago gave me a page of each issue in which to feature a local writer, such as Jack London, M. F. K. Fisher, or Ambrose Bierce. Later, these articles were grouped into the CATE website, where they now receive about 17,000 hits a month. You can go to www.CATEweb.org and click on the tab "California Authors" to find the 27 essays currently posted.

In addition, I connected with an Elderhostel program in Healdsburg and developed six hours of instruction in California Authors which includes a 90-minute slide presentation of literary sites. Because so many of "our" authors have come from someplace else, I have traveled on purpose to find the other half of their lives. My photos include Mark Train's home in Hartford, Connecticut, Bret Harte's gravesite in

Frimley, England, and the Seuss sculpture garden in Springfield, Massachusetts. I have assembled a two-page handout of addresses, phone numbers, and visiting hours for about forty authors' sites.

This activity has given me a life as a speaker at conferences of English and Humanities teachers, as well as the Oakland Museum of California and the California Historical Society in San Francisco. These appearances have proven to be opportunities for further research. Often I've asked the audience about some site that has eluded me—where did Jessica Mitford live in Oakland? How can I find John Muir's burial place? There's often a face that lights up with willingness to help with this project.

In the case of John Muir, someone offered to put in a call to "the right person." (Through a series of sales, the Muir cemetery is now detached from the National Park site in Martinez.) I was offered a personal guide to the sequestered location. As I approached the rendezvous point, a head appeared around a door. "Are you the photographer?" "Yes, I am," I answered. Thus was I escorted to the clandestine gravesite as Janice Albert, once a mere English Teacher, now historian, sleuth, and photojournalist.

APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At its meeting on September 7, the District Board of Trustees adopted the 2004-2005 Budget which included \$2,151,520 for the (RUMBL) Fund which pays the costs of our retiree medical benefits. These costs are increasing for the District each year due to the rising costs of health care and the increasing number of retirees. For 2004-2005 the cost of medical premiums for retirees increased approximately 27%. Health care is a major concern for retirees and we in CARE are most appreciative of the benefits which our District provides for us. Representatives of the CARE Board will carry to the Board of Trustees our appreciation for their action on our behalf.

2005 REUNION

Put **SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2005** on your calendar and plan to attend our annual Reunion in San Ramon. Entertainment is being arranged for your enjoyment. You will received detailed information about the reunion in December.

C.A.R.E. FUND

The C.A.R.E. Fund is the financial foundation of one of the driving forces in establishing the C.A.R.E. organization—to provide a vehicle for the support of the District colleges. The C.A.R.E. Fund (obviously) with a balance of zero but with active participation of members donating, the Fund is now over \$29,000 strong. It is still a drop in the bucket and needs to be many times stronger.

The Fund's funds are professionally managed and are invested in stock and bond mutual funds to provide diversity, safety and income. That income, along with the contributions of members, provides the basis of grants to each of the colleges. To date, the Fund has provided a total of \$4,500 to the colleges. The money for the colleges is prorated according to the size of each institution. The funds are no-strings-attached donations so the chief executive officer can decide where and how the funds would best benefit the college. The larger the C.A.R.E. Fund is, the greater the earnings and the greater the annual donations, the larger the distribution can be.

Member donations to the C.A.R.E. Fund are more important now that ever. If you have observed the performance of your own investments, you know that the market has been in the doldrums for the last three and a half years. While there have been sporadic "recoveries," the market is still not where it was in 2000. The import of this is that earnings—dividends, interest, capital gains—have been far less than anticipated. And this puts a squeeze on our ability to distribute funds to the colleges.

If you think this is an appeal for you to open your checkbook and make a donation to the C.A.R.E. Fund, you are right! As both the Federal and State governments are cutting back on the support of public education at all levels, it is critical that the private sector (that's you) help to fill the funding gaps. Please complete the form below and be as generous as you can. Make the check payable to: Chabot-LPC Foundation and in the lower left, write in For: CARE FUND.

Thank you.
Clyde Allen, C.A.R.E. Fund Manager

I want to support the Chabot and Las Positas colleges with a generous donation of:

_____ \$35; _____ \$50; _____ \$75; _____ \$100; _____ \$150; _____ \$200; \$ _____ (other)

Please contact me each year in October (or _____) for my annual contribution.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ ZIP _____

THANK YOU

MAIL TO: Clyde Allen
1463 Indian Head Circle, Clayton, CA 94517-1239