

Spring
2012

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Association of Retired Employees

Inside this issue:

Chabot News 2

New Leadership at
the Colleges

Las Positas News 3

Buffington to Speak

Meet Your Board - 4
Lucy Sponsler

CARE Fund & 5
Grants News
Retirements

Retiree News 6

Go Green 7
2012 Dues Form

New on Our Web Site 8

Visit us online:

www.care-news.org

Contact us:

www.care-news.org/contacts

President's Message

Greetings! Another spring is here, and I am starting my second year as your CARE president. I invite you to learn more about CARE by attending our next board meeting, scheduled for July 16th at 11 am at the San Ramon Golf Club. If you need further information, [email me](#), and I'll be more than happy to get in touch with you.



Happily, both colleges have new innovative presidents. Dr. Kevin Walthers, President of Las Positas College, attended our annual reunion and spoke briefly about how appreciated CARE is as an organization. In an historic action by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Susan Sperling, a former faculty member, was hired as the new President of Chabot College.

CARE is always looking out for our members' benefits. All of you have recently received new benefit information, and your CARE representatives met with the District's benefit officers to review their plans for dissemination of this information.

The continued success of this organization depends on your support. Please, if it has slipped your mind, send in your 2012 dues and consider making a charitable contribution to the CARE fund, which supports the successful new CARE Grant program. See more about the grants on page 5. The colleges and district appreciate your support of the CARE Grants in these Draconian times.

Linda Barde-Zimmerling, President

History Project

Have you looked at the CARE History Project lately? This effort, spearheaded by Helen Bridge, began with modest ambitions and a few contributions by CARE Board members. Today it includes 30 history pieces contributed by CARE members, nearly 200 historic photographs collected by Don Nilson, CARE Photographer, and a re-published book (pdf) of Chabot College: The First Twenty Years, by Ted Staniford. We invite you visit the [History Project on our web site](#) to explore its growing content and to read how you can make your own contribution.

Lucy Sponsler Joins CARE Board

We are pleased to announce the nomination of Lucy Sponsler to join the CARE board. Lucy's position will be ratified by the CARE membership at the January 2013 business meeting. Welcome!





CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Isabel Polvorosa Reporting

NEW BUILDINGS. The renovation to the existing P.E Complex is moving forward. Finishes are nearly complete and the new furniture for the faculty offices has been ordered. Extensive work is also underway in Buildings 2800 and 2900.



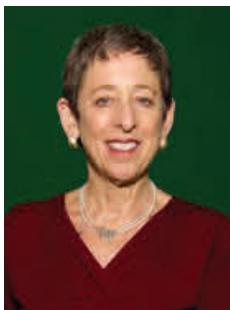
Building 1800 is under construction, with new wood framing going up. Additionally, the exterior renovation has begun and the roof structure is being strengthened. Building 1800 will house new Math and Science classrooms and labs. The site between Buildings 1700 and 1800 has been designed in coordination with faculty to serve as an outdoor classroom with botanical specimens not located elsewhere on campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Gene Wellman Baseball Field Dedication was held at Chabot Baseball Field April 26, 2012 with Zack Papachristos acting as Master of Ceremonies. Guest speakers included Brad Wellman, son of Gene Wellman.

On March 15, 2012, Chabot College presented its first annual Defense of Liberty Awards to Chiefs Sandra Spagnoli of the San Leandro Police Department and Diane Urban of the Hayward Police Department. This year's award ceremony, which coincided with Women's History Month, was particularly noteworthy since Chief Spagnoli and Chief Urban are the first women to lead their respective departments. Dr. Susan Sperling, President of Chabot college, called this year's recipients of the Defense of Liberty Award "trailblazers in their respective careers." Dr. Sperling recognized Chief Spagnoli and Chief Urban for their commitment to their communities as well as for serving as role models for men and women law enforcement trainees.

New Leadership at Chabot and Las Positas

With the February 2012 appointment of Susan Sperling, Ph.D. as the ninth President in the history of Chabot College, both our institutions now have recently selected new leaders.



Dr. Susan Sperling, began at Chabot 25 years ago as an Anthropology Instructor who taught at both Chabot and Las Positas. Dr. Sperling served in a variety of capacities including faculty member, administrator and community liaison. She served as Faculty Association President, Chabot College's first grants developer, and an instructor in the ISLS Program. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants including the Reed L. Buffington Award and grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Sperling has published widely on topics including animal rights, the history of evolutionary science, and gender and race. She earned her B.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Kevin Walthers was selected in August 2011 to serve as the newest President of Las Positas College, where he brings a wealth of experience to his new position. His previous service includes Vice Chancellor for Administration for the West Virginia Community and Technical College System. At the College of Eastern Utah, he served as Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services. He was also a senior administrator with the Utah State Board of Regents and held policy roles with the Utah State Legislature. He began his career as a high school instructor. He earned a BS, MS in Education and an Ed.D. in leadership.



Chet Rhoan, CARE Vice President



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Sophie Rheinheimer Reporting

What!!! Another academic year is coming to a close!?! For the last few years, change has been the key operative word to describe what is happening at Las Positas, and this year is no exception.



Not surprisingly, the campus looks and feels so different with the addition of new buildings and openings of new roadways. If you have not been back to LPC recently, it is almost unrecognizable from even three years ago. The most anticipated and welcome recent physical change has been the opening of the new freeway exits from 580, and the flyover from Portal Avenue in Livermore. Traveling to the college is a breeze now (if you live in the tri-valley.)

Alas, this has also been a year of so many administrative changes. Fortunately, our new college president, Kevin Walthers, was able to choose two new Vice-Presidents. Janice Noble, one of our former Deans, is now Vice-President of Academic Services. Diana Rodriguez from Palo Verde College in Blythe, California is the new Vice-President of Student Services. (Blythe is somewhere in the high desert of southern California...I had to Google it). The only constant in this dynamic administrative uncertainty was our wonderful Vice-President of Administrative Services, Bob Kratochvil. But sadly, now he will be leaving! Bob has just accepted the position of President of Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, California.

“Musical chairs” can be a fun game, but not so much when administrators are involved. It is bittersweet to see our colleagues leave, but we can take pride in knowing that all our Vice-Presidents have been presidential material. In addition to Bob’s new position, our former VP of Student Services Pam Luster is now President of Mesa College in San Diego, and former VP of Academic Services Laurel Jones is President of Mission College in Santa Clara.

The main ‘constants’ at LPC are all the events at the end of the school year. There are so many, but a few highlights are:

The 9th annual glitzy black-tie event of the year (on April 28th in the Mertes Center for the Arts)! Every year, the LPC Foundation holds a Black Tie fundraising event, called BEST of the BEST Gala. It is an elegant evening to showcase the best of the best in the college’s performing arts programs, and to sample gourmet foods and fine local wines. If you have never attended, this is a ‘must do’ event in the future, at least once!

The Annual Student Scholarship Ceremony and Recognition Night (May 10th) is always a wonderful evening to acknowledge and recognize our successful and hard-working students. Approximately 250 scholarships totaling \$125,000 are awarded. This is an impressive amount, but it really is never enough when there are so many deserving students. If you are interested in sponsoring a future scholarship, contact Andi Schreiber, Financial Aid Director, at 925-424-1585.

Excitement, Pomp and Circumstance, speeches, cap and gowns, laughter, tears, congratulatory hugs, sad goodbyes. All of this is just part of Graduation Day - May 25th. Congratulations to our students and staff.

It has been a fun year reporting to you all. Thank you. Have a good summer!



Buffington to Speak at Chabot Commencement

Dr. Reed Buffington has accepted the invitation to serve as Chabot's Commencement keynote speaker on Saturday, May 26th at 10 a.m. in the Grand Court. The College has extended a special invitation to all CARE members to attend this special 50th anniversary Commencement .



Meet Your Board Members - Lucy Sponsler

It seems writing a biography is part of my official initiation as a new Board member of CARE, so here goes.

I was born in Washington, DC but grew up in Queens, NY. My father taught me to play tennis, a lifelong passion, and to fish, not a lifelong passion! My mother taught me about her travels to Mexico in the 1930s....travel became a passion. I majored in Spanish and minored in French at Barnard College, Columbia University. Summer jobs convinced me to avoid a 9 to 5 desk job. I needed something involved people, learning and variety. School seemed to meet those needs so I never left! I wound up with a Ph.D. in Spanish and Romance Philology... the study of how the Romance Languages evolved from Latin. I learned that the pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar of the Latin spoken by the illiterate populace changed over centuries into the languages in use today as people made mistakes, imitated each other and were also influenced by the languages of invaders as the Roman Empire declined. Later, I would tell my own students that by studying Spanish, French or Italian they were actually learning "very bad Latin", and it's true!



My first career was as Assistant and later Associate Professor of Spanish at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. My husband, Tom, whom I was lucky to meet in graduate school, was teaching at Loyola Law School, and although we had planned to move to Washington DC, we enjoyed the uniqueness of New Orleans and stayed. We both earned tenure and also had two sons, Tim and Nate.

New Orleans has a tropical climate and Tom began suffering from serious allergies. Although I enjoyed teaching, committee work, and the Academic Senate, there was a lot of in-fighting in my department. For me the most important thing for students was teaching, but the emphasis was on "publish or perish". No one ever evaluated my teaching. I decided on a career change to leave my department and possibly New Orleans too. So I attended Tulane University part-time and earned a Masters in Health Care Administration (a health care oriented MBA). My classes were stimulating even though it was a strain to continue teaching and manage a household as well. But with that degree I obtained a 2 year position at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Tom was named Director of Staff Attorneys at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, also for 2 years. So with dog and 2 sons, by then 11 and 14, we headed to California, intending not to return.

Looking back, this was a big risk, but Tom eventually found a more permanent position and I decided that I really liked health care policy more than the daily details of administration. I also missed teaching. Luckily LPC was seeking an instructor in Spanish and I was hired. I enjoyed the friendliness of the college and found there was little back-biting. I was able to teach French and later Italian, to serve as Academic Senate President, and then to take over the management of our first Title III grant as well as write and administer a second Title III grant with the help of a consultant and of many at LPC. I enjoyed this variety. As LPC grew I was pleased that it retained its focus on students. I was happy to have my tenure committee evaluate my teaching and make suggestions for new teaching techniques. Most importantly, I realized that students become motivated if the instructor takes a personal interest in them.

In 2006 Tom had a Fulbright teaching fellowship at the University of Latvia Law School in Riga. I retired and joined him. Riga, called the Paris of the Baltic, lived up to its reputation. There were restaurants of all the nationalities that had been part of the former USSR, museums to help us understand the terrible events of the 20th century, and opportunities to travel to Lithuania, Istanbul, and Sicily. Our landlady told us about life under communism and how she was interrogated by the KGB because her husband played Beatles music! What a marvelous opportunity to learn about Eastern Europe.



In retirement I have turned a hobby into a part-time job by leading hiking tours for Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. Usually I lead in Spain, France, and Italy, though I have also led in Croatia, Canada and India. I have appreciated the opportunity to meet interesting clients and to understand cultures from the inside, through work, rather than as a tourist. Tom and I also enjoy cycling trips (see photo at left in Argentina's wine country). Although I'm quite happily retired, I'm looking forward the new opportunity of serving on the CARE board and helping support the faculty and students of Chabot-Las Positas.

CARE Fund News

The CARE Fund is the source of our charitable activities and is designed to provide an extra measure of support to education in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. Currently, fund proceeds are being allocated through the new CARE Special Grants Program as described below, and the CARE fund has increased its contribution to the grants for this year. Your donations help make this program possible, so please be as generous as you can this year to assist our public education!

CARE Fund Contribution: \$35; \$75; \$100; Other: _____

Detach and return
or

Print form at

www.care-news.org/support

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make check payable to **Chabot-LPC Foundation**.

In the "For:" or "Memo" section in the lower left, write in **CARE FUND**. Mail to:

Dr. Clyde Allen, CARE Fund
1463 Indian Head Circle
Clayton, CA 94517-1239

CARE Fund Special Projects Grants Program News

The 2012-2013 CARE Fund Special Projects Grant Program is getting underway. Last year's pilot project was such a success that the CARE Board has doubled the award monies for this year, with an increase to \$3,000. The interest and response to last year's grant program and the continued financial need in our district warrants this increase. The CARE Board is pleased to provide the financial assistance so that more projects can be funded.

It is gratifying to know that our support of these grant projects makes a difference. One of last year's recipients, Carol Edson, submitted the following in her summary report:

"...our CARE grant materials have allowed us to better meet student needs while also being careful in these times of financial hardship. The hard-drive and the boxes have fostered student contact with the best materials we have to offer.... Thanks again to the CARE group for giving us this opportunity to provide excellence in science education."

If you would like to learn more about the grants program or read the winning applications, visit www.care-news.org/grants.

Sophie Rheinheimer, Special Grants Committee Chair

New Retirees

Chabot College

John Komisar, May 2012
Maurice Ngo, May 2012
Sheela Nicholson, June 2012
Milton Rube, May 2012

Las Positas College

Mary Campbell, May 2012

Sad News - Deaths

Irving Batz, Las Positas College, April 2012
Eleanor Jardine, Chabot College, February 2012
Frances (Sue) Wood, Chabot College, March 2012

Looking for Lost Retirees

Alexandra Crosetti Donna Impey

District Retirement Benefits Contacts

Deborah Dobbins 925-485-5505 ddobbins@clpccd.org
Roselyn Tucker 925-485-5504 rtucker@clpccd.org

Retiree News

Victor Chen has become a widely-recognized expert in repair and restoration of fountain pens. His special expertise, rare parts, and tools enable him repair pens shipped from around the nation, and he has published many articles in pen restoration journals. Victor and his partner Roger Cromwell operate Penopoly, a vintage pen restoration, and sales company. Quoted in reference to Victor's pen restoration pursuit: "It's cheaper than therapy!" Learn more at www.penopoly.com



Tom Gerrits is the bass guitar player and a vocalist for the Delta Wires, an award-winning East Bay blues band that performs regularly throughout northern California. The Delta Wires have recorded 5 CDs and were voted "Best Band" Oakland/East Bay, by the readers of Oakland Magazine and also by the East Bay Express. Learn more at www.deltawires.com

Barry Schrader has resumed his role as columnist for the DeKalb Daily Chronicle in Illinois. In addition, he is the author of two books: *Will the Last Person Leaving Livermore Please Unscrew the Bulb In Fire Station One* and *Hybrid Corn & Purebred People*. View his biography and learn more at www.bunnweb.org/dekalb/



Bill Threlfall has developed two award-winning online maps of the Oakland-Alameda waterfront for the web site he operates for Waterfront Action, an Oakland non-profit. One of the maps highlights waterfront parks, trails, and other public access opportunities, while the second presents waterfront history. See the maps and learn more at www.waterfrontaction.org

Art Tenbrink is a licensed Marriage Family Therapist with a practice in Pleasanton who also makes artfully crafted wooden pens to sell as *Art Pens for Peace*, the net proceeds of which go to peace education and action organizations. Learn more by e-mail at artwritenow@gmail.com or at 925-462-2588



Jack Fishbaugh has retired from the board of Greyhound Adoption California, a greyhound rescue organization of which he was the founding chairman. He was honored as founder at the organization's annual Greyhound Picnic in 2011. Learn more at www.greyhoundadoptioncalifornia.com

Jerry Ball has become widely recognized for his haiku poetry, which appears frequently in Bay Area newspapers. A former president of the Haiku Society of America, he was recently appointed honorary curator of the American Haiku Archives at the State Library in Sacramento. He won third place and an honorable mention for his haiku in the international 2009 Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi Contest, which is judged in Japan by Japanese judges! Learn more at <http://www.sjcpl.com/biographies/JerryBall.html>



We want to share your retirement story! Please send information to the [newsletter editor](#).

CARE BOARD

Linda Barde-Zimmerling
President

(vacant)
Past President

Chet Rhoan
Vice-President

JoAnne Neu
Secretary

Sharon Trethan
Treasurer

Sophie Rheinheimer
Las Positas Liaison

Isabel Polvorosa
Chabot Liaison

Sharon Trethan
District Liaison

Bill Threlfall
Newsletter Editor

Clyde Allen
CARE Fund Manager

Gay Connor
Activities Coordinator

Bill Threlfall
Director of Communications

**Dick Albert,
Esther Goldberg,
Rachel Maldondo Azimina,
Don Nilson,
Lucy Sponsler,
Bob Wiseman**
Directors at Large

Art Larson
Director Emeritus

Don Nilson
CARE Photographer

Karen Silva
CARE Associate

Contact the board:
www.care-news.org/contacts

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](mailto:Sharon.Trethan@care-news.org)
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 CARE Treasurer, Sharon Trethan
by [e-mail](mailto:Sharon.Trethan@care-news.org)
or
5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

Detach and return

C.A.R.E. Dues 2012

(\$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 2012 dues!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

(please print clearly)

→ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory.**
(E-mail address required)

→ **Yes, I want to "go green" and receive this newsletter via e-mail.**

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

www.care-news.org

New on the CARE web site:

- [Nearly 200 historic photos in the History Project.](#)
- [The Spanish Summer, a piece by Helen Bridge in the History Project](#)
- [2012-2013 applications for the CARE Special Grants Program.](#)



Always on the CARE web site:

- [Information about CARE, its mission and governance, including meeting minutes, board membership, contacts.](#)
- [Every issue of this newsletter since 2006.](#)
- [Information about Reunions, past and planned.](#)
- [A member directory with E-mail contact information for more than 175 CARE members.](#)
- [The CARE History Project, chronicling our distant and recent work experiences.](#)
- [The current issue of the Chabot Hotsheet and Board of Trustees Report.](#)
- [Information about how you can support CARE's operation and charitable activities.](#)

Chabot College
25555 Hesperian Blvd.
Hayward, CA 94545
President's Office