

Spring
2013

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Association of Retired Employees

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President's Message

The highest result of education is tolerance... Helen Keller

Greetings to CARE members old and new. It is my pleasure to serve as president for the coming year. After a busy two years Linda Barde-Zimmerling has retired as president. She will be missed. During her tenure much was accomplished. We successfully advocated for out-of-state retirees rights to health care benefits enjoyed by in-state retirees, financial grants were made to the colleges, the Newsletter was improved, the Website was tweaked, our membership increased and we had two most enjoyable retiree luncheons.



Of all of our activities, the most significant was the financial grants made to meet unique needs of students not met by college funding. These are very difficult times for our colleges; more students and fewer classes with reduced funding has made it difficult for faculty, staff and administrators to meet the needs of students. This is where CARE has made a difference. Through careful management of its funds and contributions made to the CARE Fund by members, CARE has made significant contributions to the colleges. With your help it is anticipated that CARE will continue to provide this critical aid to the colleges and district.

As most of you have noticed, another innovation over the past year has been a section of the Newsletter focusing on the activities and hobbies of our members. Members have found this feature to be enjoyable. However, in order to continue this enlightening section, we need contributions from you and help with finding other members to tell their stories. Another intriguing feature of the Newsletter is the section spotlighting activities at the colleges. Beyond providing news of its membership the CARE Newsletter is the source for information on retirement issues at the district and state levels as well as the vehicle which carries material on district healthcare issues and rights.

A popular feature of our website has been the history project which details the growth of our colleges and district. Recently, there have been timely additions to this project but once again your experiences would help to round out this important adjunct to the growing history of the CLPCCD. The Website contains an important link to the membership directory whereby members can keep in touch with each other and links to important state and local retiree information sources.

The coming year will prove to be a challenging one as the CARE Board takes on a number of issues including the development of a Mission Statement, the challenge of meeting the rising cost of the Membership Reunion, extending the CARE message to new retirees and finding resources to continue making grants through the CARE FUND. This is where your support is needed most. Contributions to the CARE FUND help to meet the growing needs of the colleges and district while your CARE dues keep our newsletter, website and

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CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Isabel Polvorosa Reporting

Build it and they will come! Building 3400, Automotive Technology, is ready to begin renovation. The remodel facilities will include a large automotive lab and a smart classroom with complete AV capabilities. The building will house the BMW technology program.

The Building 1700 Math and Science classroom project is getting underway. The contract was awarded to BHM Construction at the March Board meeting and will be partially funded by the State. This project modernizes inefficient classrooms and instructional spaces and provides expanded technical and media services. New landscaping between buildings 1700 and 1800 will also be included. This landscaped space will contain plant species not located elsewhere on campus and will serve as an outdoor classroom.

Building 1700 architect's rendering



The Building 1200 and Performing Arts Center Plaza project is nearing completion, with only finishing touches remaining. The renovated building houses music performance spaces, practice rooms and the Little Theater, while an addition houses a new recording studio. The renovated plaza contains an outdoor stage and related seating areas.

Thanks for the memories Nina Kiger, we won't forget all the wonderful things you did for Classified.

Open Enrollment Questions

Each year, CARE members are offered the opportunity to select medical benefit plans during the District's open enrollment period. To assist, we have compiled a list of questions that may be helpful to members comparing available plans. Too long to present here, this list has been posted on the home page of the CARE web site at www.care-news.org.

Please remember that the first and best source of answers to all questions concerning retirement medical benefits is the Chabot-Las Positas CCD Human Resources Department Benefits staff. The plans available to a particular retiree depend on circumstances specific to that retiree; only the District Benefits Staff can provide accurate information.

(Continued from page 1)

member directory operating for you. That is why it is more important than ever before that you help sustain this organization with your \$10 dues. We want to stay in touch with you and keep you in touch with each other.

On behalf of the CARE Board I wish you a joyful, happy and healthy year and urge you to become involved in any way that you can in your Chabot-Las Positas Association of Retired Employees.

Chet Rhoan, CARE President



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Sophie Rheinheimer Reporting

Revisiting Las Positas College! (“What a difference a Bond Measure makes!”)

For those folks who haven’t been back to LPC (or more historically Chabot College-Valley Campus) recently, you would not recognize the place! The little college in Livermore has grown-up!



Construction is finished. New buildings are occupied. The Campus Boulevard is beautiful! (see photo).

*View looking from
the PE Complex
down to the rest of
the campus*

No one could ever have imagined how the campus would change from a small cluster of 4 buildings in 1975 to the present-day modern, expansive college campus of 2013. When the college first opened its

doors, our neighbors were all farmers and ranchers. Fences kept cattle out, and wayward staff and students in. Back then, a colleague once answered the

community telephone with the salutation, “...Hello, Frontier Village.....” Needless to say, when overheard by the college President (AKA Dr. Barbara Mertes), he was reprimanded and relegated to the ‘south 40’ to chase cattle off college land.

As time went by and the college continued to grow, fence lines were moved further and further up the hills. Bulldozers and earth movers leveled the ground for new buildings: Automotive Technology, the Little Theatre, the Learning Resource Center, the Science Building. Growth was steady, but agonizingly slow.

THEN, in March 2004, voters approved (‘barely’) Bond Measure B. Las Positas College was given the go-ahead to build-out the campus! Plans were created for the Physical Education Complex and Aquatic Center, the Multi-Disciplinary Building, the Childhood Development Center, the Science Building-Part II, Mertes Center for the Arts, and the grand Student Services Administrative Building. A Campus Boulevard running through the center of the campus would pull everything together.

Today, the college sits along the hillside surrounded by a housing tract of garden apartment homes, vineyards, and business complexes. (Costco is only one mile away.) A 1.25 mile campus loop road surrounds the college. Parking lots are everywhere, and solar panels have been erected in several of them. (They provide welcome shade during those scouring Livermore summers.)

The last decade has been a time of tremendous growth and physical change for Las Positas College. You MUST come back for a visit. Some things still feel and look familiar, but you will be in a constant state of awe. The campus is breathtaking!

Interview with Dr. Reed Buffington

Chabot College recently posted an online 17 minute video interview with Dr. Reed L. Buffington, the first President of Chabot College, who recalls the founding and development of Chabot and Las Positas. On the home page of our web site, we have provided a [link to this fascinating interview](#).



Meet Your Board Members - Sharon Trethan

I was born and raised in Oakland, California, where my mother had great dreams of me becoming a ballerina. As a little girl, I spent countless hours studying ballet. In junior high I joined the ballroom dancing group and we performed at various activities in Oakland. When I started high school I really loved tap and modern dance and was teaching at a dance studio in Oakland as well as at home. The Fran Malione Dancers was a professional performance group which provided the open door to my intended dance career. I danced with this group in showcases for Anna Maria Alberghetti, Liberace, Rusty Draper and others and continued to perform with the group at other locations throughout California. Dancing was a big part of my younger years.



Upon graduation from high school I started work at Oakland Public Schools in the Purchasing Department. About a year and a half later I left and danced professionally in Reno for six months. I turned down a chance to audition for the famous June Taylor Dancers in New York. New York was just too far away for this Oakland girl.

I started back to work at Oakland Public Schools. In 1964 Peralta Colleges was formed and I was offered a job in the Purchasing Department. During that time I met my husband Ron and we were married in 1966. That ended my dancing career.

In 1974 I left Peralta Colleges and began working at Chabot College in the Purchasing Department. What great times we had in Building 200. While working at Chabot College I attended classes at night and received two AA Degrees. In 1991 the District Office moved to Pleasanton and I was then the Materials Procurement Manager. Later, I became the Director of Human Resources. There were many challenging factors in Human Resources. I have fond memories of working with wonderful people at both campuses and the District Office. Things started to change in the community college system so I decided it was time to retire, which I did in October 2002.

Ron introduced me to performance cars, starting with Corvettes and moving on to Porsches. Together we enjoyed autocrossing and joined car clubs in the Bay Area and drove in competition events throughout the state. Time Trials with Porsches was our next racing venue. There were not a lot of competitive ladies' driving then, so often I was out there with men and doing pretty well. Later, I worked on a professional race car team. I did the timing and scoring. I worked the 24 Hours of LeMans in France from 1978 to 1982 and on an Indy 500 team from 1988 to 1991. One of my greatest pleasures was meeting actor Paul Newman, who drove one of the team cars at LeMans. Our relationship continued over the years.



I enjoy wine tasting. My husband and I joined a small group of wine-appreciative friends for "blind" wine tasting. We belong to several wine clubs in Sonoma, Sierra Foothills and Paso Robles and currently maintain a wine cellar with over 1000 bottles. My other hobby is playing golf. I wasn't very good but now after getting some good instruction, my game has improved. I love being outdoors enjoying the weather and wild life. I have been very fortunate to travel to many places in the world. Cruising is my favorite way to travel.

I live each day to its fullest and I am lucky to be healthy and have a wonderful husband to share our time together.

Shanon Christiansen Joins CARE Board

We are pleased to announce that the nomination of Shanon Christiansen to the CARE Board was ratified by the Care Membership at its January 2013 annual business meeting. Welcome!



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 CARE Special Grants Program as described below. 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

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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

For 2013-2014, CARE is once again proud to be able to provide assistance to education in our District. For the third year, the Board has voted to dedicate a portion of our charitable CARE Fund earnings to grants in support of special projects that improve service at the colleges. In the past two years, we have funded eleven projects for a total of \$4500. These small grants (ranging from \$120 to \$800) have funded equipment and supplies. To see those eleven winning proposals, visit www.care-news.org/grants

Sophie Rheinheimer, Special Grants Committee Chair

District Retirement Benefits Contacts

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

Medicare Reimbursements

Did you know that the District can deposit your monthly Medicare Part B reimbursement to your Chabot Federal Credit Union account? If you want to arrange this convenient option, contact Deborah or Rosalyn at District HR.

The District Office Has Moved!

District HR staff are now at
7600 Dublin Blvd., 3rd Floor, Dublin, CA 94568

New Retirees

Neal Ely, Las Positas College, March 2013
Kyle Judson, District Services, March 2013
Katsushige Kajiwara, Chabot College, Dec 2012

Deceased

Kathleen Conneely, Chabot College, March 2013
Vincent Gallegos, District Services, August 2012
Nina Kiger, Chabot College, April 2013
Doret Kollerer, Chabot College, October 2012
William Moore, Chabot College, December 2012
Bruno Orsetti, District Services, February 2013
Patricia Richmond, Las Positas College, December 2012
Frank Sumares, Chabot College, March 2013

The Red Shoes

by Helen Bridge

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

The Education of Henry Adams, Henry Brooks Adams

The other day, as I was browsing the daily newspaper's TV log, I came across a listing for "The Red Shoes," that wonderful ballet film starring a young, red-headed Moira Shearer, a film that I had loved since I first saw it in the early 50's. Like many other young girls, I had a secret wish in those days to be a ballerina, and even though the film ended sadly, I thought it a thrilling story.

These days, when I think of "The Red Shoes," I think of Eddie L., a student of mine in the early 1990's, one of many immigrants I taught over the years, new arrivals working for a future in America by taking classes at a low-cost community college. Eddie, by all measures, was unremarkable-- a native of Hong Kong, here with a brother and some cousins, working long hours for little pay, and taking as many classes as he could fit into a day with only 24 hours. In class, he was frequently sleepy, sitting in a back row corner, often resting his head against the wall, rarely speaking, never holding my gaze for long. It was only when I gave my usual assignment of daily journal writing that I really began to know the pain that lay behind his inscrutable expression.

My first reading of Eddie's journal was a shock. Where many students had begun by writing dutiful daily half-pages of superficial blather about boys and homework assignments and the difficulty of their English class, Eddie's entries went on for pages. He talked about feeling worthless, about the crushing poverty and cramped conditions in the tiny apartment he shared with seven family members, about the fall from high outdoor stairs in Hong Kong which fractured his skull, leading to months of hospitalization and leaving him with a two-inch long vertical indentation on one side of his forehead. He felt disfigured and useless, and to an alarming extent, almost suicidal. I spent a long time deciding how to respond to his revelations, in the end simply telling him in a long note that he had worth and value and a future. I found places in his writing to praise, and asked questions about some of his comments. He reacted to my note by writing ever-longer entries (and getting back longer ones from me), draft after draft of papers, and a gradual, tentative participation in class. I can't say he bloomed, by any means, but he did raise himself from the level of despair I had seen initially. He passed the class with a C.

As usual, the semester ended too quickly, with me feeling that I had done an inadequate job helping Eddie to find his way. One day, just before final exams, Eddie showed up at my office with a question about an assignment. He talked shyly about his job at the local video store, and I volunteered the information that I was a movie buff. After that, we had a brief but animated conversation about favorite films. Then he left. He showed up the day of the final, wrote his exam and disappeared without a goodbye or any word. I felt disappointed and somehow at fault for not extending myself further.

The last day of the school year, after finals were over and I had read my last huge pile of student papers, I came to campus to turn in grades. In my mailbox I found a wrapped package and a note from Eddie. In the package was a video of "The Red Shoes," and a long, painstakingly written note which said, among other things, "You listened when no one else heard. Please don't forget me. I'll never forget you. For the rest of your life, you have an friend."

I think that virtually every teacher who reads this will have his or her own special memories of some special students. As for me, I don't talk about my own teaching much, or even think of it too often any more, but once in a while my memory is jogged and I remember once again what a thrilling profession teaching can be. You know what I mean.

Go Green Ends!

We regret to announce the suspension of CARE's "Go Green" program, in which members elected to read the CARE Newsletter online. While the program attracted nearly 100 participants, records showed that only about half of these participants actually opened CARE e-mail messages linking to the online newsletter. We want to communicate reliably with all our members, so we have resumed sending the newsletter via US mail to all members.

We are grateful to those who participated in "Go Green". CARE newsletters will continue to be available on the CARE website at care-news.org, and if you have provided your e-mail address to CARE, we'll continue to alert you when each newsletter is released. To be added to the notification list, send an e-mail request to Bill Threlfall, [Newsletter Editor](#).

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Please send your change of address to CARE Treasurer,
Sharon Trethan via [e-mail](#) or
5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

Change of E-mail

Please send your change of e-mail address to CARE Communications Director,
Bill Threlfall via [e-mail](#)

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C.A.R.E. Dues 2013

(\$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 2013 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)

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:

- [CLPCCD Open Enrollment Questions - a CARE tool for comparing benefits.](#)
- [The Elliston Winery, a new piece by Helen Bridge in the History Project.](#)
- [2012-2013 winners for the CARE Special Grants Program.](#)
- [Link to an online interview with Dr. Reed Buffington.](#)



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 180 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.](#)

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