

Spring
2015

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Association of Retired Employees

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President's Message

The CARE Board and other retirees have had some interesting times over the last few months. There's good news about our friend Chet, some interesting news about some of our newer members from Las Positas, and a wonderful program at Chabot College honoring our founding president, Reed Buffington.



Chet Roan was well enough not only to attend the Buffington Memorial, but also to write the article below sharing some of his usual insights for our newsletter. As for our Las Positas board members, how about this? Vice President Art Tenbrink and his wife celebrated an anniversary by going to a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the South's surrender at Appomattox. A great great-grandfather was present when it happened. How thrilling that must have been! Tom Gerrits and his band, the Delta Wires have been heating up the scene with their music.

Perhaps the most significant event since the last newsletter was the Reed Buffington Memorial program at Chabot College on April 12th, held in the Reed Buffington auditorium. It was wonderful, a fitting tribute to our founding president. For those of you who couldn't make it, I share some details on page 4 of this newsletter. Everyone who attended was given a DVD of the program, so if you know someone who was there, you'll perhaps have a chance to see it.

We should all be very proud of our large, strong retirees club and the benefits of belonging. I'm very proud of our current board, which I believe to be the strongest in our entire history. Thank you, thank you, for all your efforts and your enthusiasm. You make my job not only easy, but also a real joy. Enjoy your summer.



THIS AND THAT, A RETIREMENT CHAT By Chet Rhoan

Now that the legislature has passed and Governor Brown has signed AB 1469, which sets a sustainable course to rectify the imbalances in the CalPERS and CalSTRS retirement account of Teachers and State Employees, it is time to turn to other retirement issues.

Once again former San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed is seeking to qualify a ballot initiative to limit or eliminate defined benefits. As most of you know Defined Benefits are less volatile and more retiree friendly than expensive 401Ks. To Protect future generations of retirees, avoid signing Reed's petition, and if it qualifies consider voting against it.

On another note, please help retired teachers who have worked in the private sector to fully fund their Social Security allotments by contacting your Congress person and your State Legislator to support [SJR 1 \(Beall\)](#) to put California on record in support of congressional elimination of the federal Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) in Social Security. FACCC also supports [H.R. 973 \(Davis - IL\)](#), the U.S. House of Representatives' measure to repeal the WEP and GPO.



CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Irene Plunkett Reporting

Chabot College might be more than 40 years old, but this year has been full of "firsts" even so.

You may have heard this, but it is such good news it bears repeating: the women's basketball team took the statewide championship by beating Mt. SAC 63-58 in a thriller game with lots of good play. The team has since been celebrated and recognized up and down the state—at the Hayward City Council, by U.S Congressman Eric Swalwell, at the California State Assembly, and by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees.



Chabot's founding Superintendent-President, Dr. Reed Buffington, was recognized, honored, and remembered on Sunday, April 12, at the auditorium named in his honor on the Chabot campus. One hundred and thirty-eight attendees, including current and former faculty, classified professionals, students, friends, and family gathered to express thanks and admiration for his vision, his expertise, and his compassion. His three daughters took the stage at the end of the ceremony and gave a lively and humorous view of his career and contributions through the eyes of his family. A buffet feast at the new event center capped the event. Kudos to Maria Ochoa of the Chabot Foundation for her careful and respectful organizing.

Finally, Academy-Award winning actor Tom Hanks has made at least three highly-visible, published references to his time as a student at Chabot College in the past few months. While Hanks had often referred to his time at Skyline High School in Oakland, CA, he had made relatively few references to his time as a student at Chabot in the 70's. That all changed when he wrote an [op-ed piece in the New York Times](#) in support of President Obama's proposal that community college education be offered tuition-free in the U.S. In the course of making his case, Hanks referred repeatedly to his time at Chabot, crediting the college and specific instructors for helping him to become the person he is. Subsequently, he made a visit to campus and published a picture of himself next to a college sign. Last week, he sent out an email appearing on the White House website saying it all over again! Most recently People magazine on-line has re-published his letter. It's probably safe to say that lots more people know what we have known all along: Chabot College is a place where dreams come true.



See: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/14/opinion/tom-hanks-on-his-two-years-at-chabot-college.html>



2015 CARE Reunion Photos

Photos taken by Don Nilson, CARE Photographer, are now available on our website: www.care-news.org
Choose **Reunion** from the top main menu.



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Dee Roshong Reporting

College 40th Anniversary Features Retiree Luncheon. Las Positas College administrators, faculty and staff retirees attended a special 40th anniversary luncheon and program on April 17, presented, appropriately, in the Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, which is named for the College's founding Dean.

Chabot College-Valley Campus, now LPC, began on March 31, 1975, with 38 staff members: 4 administrators, 16 faculty, and 18 classified staff. Fourteen of those 38 multi-talented pioneers were among the 70 who attended this important event. All of the staff members present were part of the group who brought this successful College from a 4 building campus serving 500 students in 1975 to a 25 building campus now serving 9000 students in 2015!

For many of the group, this was the first time they had seen each other since their own retirements. The event quickly became a "love fest", renewing valued relationships and celebrating successful careers building programs to serve our beloved students. Pictured below is a photo essay of this wonderful day and of the legacy of relationships we built in the process of building this College.

AND--a reminder-- the CARE Reunion provides an opportunity for Chabot, Las Positas, and District retirees to gather, at least once per year, to renew our valued relationships. **SAVE THE DATE---JANUARY 23, 2016!!**



Civil War Is No More By Art Tenbrink

In its centennial year, to commemorate the end of the American Civil War, Mr. Sanford challenged us, his motley crew of eleventh grade Social Studies students, to contemplate the event's history and write our impressions. With an overactive imagination, I set myself with the troops under fire on April 9, 1865. Of course I came through that final day of battle around Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia heroically. I did not then conceive that on that day fifty years hence I would really carry the red mud of those hallowed grounds heavy on my boots. Nor that my sweat would soak my muslin shirt and render my rough wool blue uniform little comfort as musket blasts and officer's orders rang near in my ears. Yet on April 9, 2015, in the spirit of my wife's great Grandfather, W. S. Baker, Jr., an actual Civil War soldier then under General Grant's command, sweat soaked, so dressed I knocked my rouge boots together in a kind of ruby-shoe-like flash. From behind rail fencing that framed the hilly battlefield, thousands of spectators' jaws dropped as hundreds of blue and gray "re-enactors" afoot or mounted maneuvered to bugler-relayed officers' commands: "Hold position," "form up," "charge."

That afternoon my wife, Joan, and I joined the mass of spectators from all across the country and the world, to witness General Lee in full dress uniform rein-in Traveler, dismount in dignity, and enter Wilber Mclean's house where he accepted generous terms for the Confederate's surrender penned by the hand of General Grant therein 150 years ago to the day.

Later that evening Joan, slipped into the period dress she designed from a 19th C. portrait of her Great grandmother, Salome. I escorted her to dine at the historic Babcott House. There Lee and Grant circulated among the guests disposed in their roles to discourse on the previous four prophetic years. Waylaid at our table, General Grant showed his resolve under fire as our extra-inquisitive English tablemate, Gerald, harried Grant on one point. He seemed obsessed that had Lee not prevented the Confederates disbanding into small groups to wage guerilla warfare rather than surrender, the South would have prevailed. Grant listened to the Londoner's theory. Then, he gave voice to the reality of more than half-a-million civil war dead. "By his wise acts this day I measure Robert E. Lee a true patriot. He set aside hatred to rejoin brother to brother. His sights on the future and the Union are a fair shot longer and truer than you or I might ever see."



Reed Buffington Honored at Memorial Service

Friends, colleagues, and family gathered at the Reed L. Buffington Performing Arts Center on April 12, 2015 to honor the memory and celebrate the educational legacy of the late Dr. Buffington, the founding Superintendent-President of our college district. The service included a rich presentation of live and recorded remarks about Reed's inspiring character. Speakers included Susan Sperling, Jannett Jackson, Carlo Vecchiarelli, Edward Martins, Vic Willits, Carolyn Greene, and Reed's daughters Lauren, Gail, and Alison, who together provided a glimpse of a nurturing family life with this man of high expectations. Attendees also viewed videotaped interviews with John Wagoner, Helen Bridge, Zach Papachristos, Fred Sims, Melinda Matsuda, Art Larson, Jerry Egusa, Carlo Vecchiarelli, Judy Young, Geoffrey Milton Thatcher, Gwen Yeo, Richard Yeo, and Marion Sanchez. Dr. Larson's particularly moving interview was delivered in the format of a "phone call" with his longtime friend, Reed.



Throughout the event, clear themes emerged about the character, behavior, and beliefs of Dr. Buffington: an abiding focus on excellence, an interest in social justice and a view that the community college is an instrument thereof, a personal interest learning, matched by an equal interest to use every event and interaction to teach others, and a conviction that his work at Chabot College had meaning and value.



The sheer number of participants in the service and the full and frequent applause by attendees gave testimony to the high esteem in which this great leader was held. Following the service, guests retired to the Chabot College Event Center for a reception and more conversation about Dr. Buffington. Afterward, CARE President Helen Bridge commented on the fine efforts of Foundation Director Maria Ochoa in organizing the event: "All in all, it was a very special afternoon."

CARE Fund Charitable Giving

The charitable **CARE Fund is supported by** special donations deposited to the Chabot-LPC Foundation, where the principal is conserved for the future while the earnings provide for philanthropic contributions to the colleges. Currently, these contributions are being allocated through the CARE Special Projects Grants Program.

Your CARE Fund contributions are fully tax-deductible under federal and California law. The Foundation for Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. (EIN: 237074515)

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

Mail to: Bob Wiseman, CARE Fund Manager
2600 Kelly Street, Hayward, CA 94541

CARE Fund Special Projects Grants. Our Grant program awards a portion of our charitable CARE Fund earnings to start special projects that help employees do a better job of serving students, staff, and the colleges. Here are the titles of the winning grant proposals we funded for 2014-2015: **Screencasts: Technology Support for DE Courses , Let's Get Organized , Storage and Reference Textbooks for Cadaver Lab, Business Services Guide**

To learn more about the grant program, visit www.care-news.org/grants/.

New Retirees

Lawrence Aguiar, Las Positas College, January 2014
Gloria Broudy, Chabot College, September 2014
Mary Dermody, Chabot College, August 2014
Jerry Egusa, Chabot College, July 2015
Josephine Galliano, Chabot College, June 2015
John Gonder, Las Positas College, July 2015
Theodore Kaye, Las Positas College, July 2015
Cynthia Keune, Las Positas College, June 2015
Kaaren Krueg, Chabot College, February 2015
Jane McCoy, Las Positas College, July 2015
Rosemary Mogle, Chabot College, July 2015
Joseph Pimental, District Services, June 2015
Dana Richards, Las Positas College, March 2015
Jane Vallely, Chabot College, June 2015

Deceased

Jane Berg, Chabot College, January 2015
Beverly Levine, Chabot College, July 2014

Irene Plunkett Joins CARE Board

We are pleased to announce the nomination of Irene Plunkett to the CARE board. Irene is a recent retiree from the Language Arts faculty at Chabot College who contributes a fresh perspective and new energy to our Board.

Welcome!



Guy Lease Appointed at SFCC

Guy F. Lease, who twice served as Interim President of Las Positas College, has been appointed as the new special trustee for San Francisco City College, replacing recently retired special trustee Robert Agrella. Dr. Lease is expected to continue the transition of college governance back to the locally elected board of trustees.

A Visit to the Chabot College Planetarium

On Saturday, March 28, 2015, 32 CARE members and guests attended a special invitational showing of "Stars of the Winter Sky", arranged by Chabot Planetarium Director Scott Hildreth. The show was narrated by CARE member Dr. Billy Smith and written by Dr. Larry Toy, both faculty emeriti of Astronomy at Chabot. CARE members gained a sense of the outstanding planetarium experience offered to students every day at the College.

The show began with a bit of humor and nostalgia as attendees viewed historic photos of themselves and Chabot colleagues that Scott Hildreth had discovered in a computer archive. Some members looked nearly unchanged! The focus of the presentation was key constellations that can be viewed in winter, with explanation of descriptive parameters such as brightness and color temperature.



CARE members learned that the planetarium was extensively remodeled in 2009-2010 as a Measure B bond project. The renovation replaced the original 12 slide projectors and optical planetarium projection system, which was inflexible and prone to malfunction, with a modern digital projection system featuring a computer-controlled Spitz projector that lowers to the floor when not in use. The renovation was featured in [*Bringing a "jewel" back at Chabot: Newly refurbished planetarium a hit with students and faculty.*](#) San Jose Mercury, November 29, 2010.

The planetarium theater, which can accommodate full-sized classes, is used for Astronomy and Physics classes and, according to Scott Hildreth, is a marvelous "smart classroom" learning venue with the potential for even broader use in other disciplines. Placement of the computer controls at the front of the room allows the instructor to interact with students while the technology is in use.

CARE members were treated to light refreshments and enjoyed conversation during the social opportunity that preceded the show. Applause and comments highlighted members' enjoyment of the show and gratitude for the efforts of Billy Smith and Scott Hildreth.



Barbara Mertes Ends Service as Trustee



After a long career at CLPCCD, which culminated in 14 years service on the Board of Trustees, Dr. Barbara F. Mertes submitted her resignation effective December 10, 2014. In 1975, she founded Chabot College Valley Campus, providing leadership in its construction and development toward establishment as Las Positas College. She is seen at right with her late husband, Dr. David Mertes and architect Paul Cianfichi, reviewing plans at the Livermore site. She served as District Vice Chancellor of Institutional Planning and Facilities Development, winning grants and special allocations valued at \$100 million. Her work was recognized in 2010 by the dedication of the Barbara Francisco Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College. After retirement, she plans to remain involved with the college through its foundation.



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C.A.R.E. Dues 2015

Your dues are used in direct support of our newsletter and web site.
No stipends are paid to board members, who volunteer their time and service.
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New on the CARE web site:

- [An updated article on CARE Advocacy for Retiree Medical Benefits](#)
- [2015 Application for the CARE Special Grants Program](#)
- [Photos from the 2015 CARE Reunion](#)



Featured on the CARE web site:

[The Support CARE page](#). Here you'll find a clear explanation of CARE dues and of the CARE Fund, our charitable fund dedicated to assisting the colleges. It also provides an introduction to the CARE Special Projects Grants Program, which allocates charitable donations to the colleges.

To visit the History page, just select **Support CARE** from the top main menu at www.care-news.org.

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