

Spring
2016

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Association of Retired Employees

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President's Message

Welcome CARE members and friends to what we, your CARE Leadership Team, envision as inviting opportunities to connect, collaborate and share in this new chapter in our journey together.



As your new Association president, I especially want to welcome and invite our New Retirees "Class of 2016" (see p. 2). We encourage you to jump right in with us and drop us a line via [e-mail](#). As you embark on your own *personal* new journey into retirement, let us know of your joys, challenges and concerns. Also, remember that CARE is keeping an eye on your retirement benefits, as noted in the Benefits News on page 6.

I invite all of you to take an illuminating walk with us through the current campus highlights at both our colleges. At Chabot, CARE V.P. Irene Plunkett shines a light on recent college events at in her lively article on page 2. On a somewhat more somber note, on page 3, I share with you my personal tribute to the life and work of Dr. Dee Roshong, LPC Dean of Counseling emeritus, whom we lost from our CARE Team in December. Dee brought a particular grace and insight to CARE. Sadly now out of ink, we still vividly recall how the flourish of her pen captured the action at LPC for our Newsletter. For my family, I must say, losing "Godmother Dee" has left a huge blank page that remains hard to fill.

Even so, you will be encouraged to "carpe diem" when read on page 4 about five CARE members who are great living examples of choice ways to ring out all pleasures of life in retirement and the enjoyment of giving back. Speaking of giving back, please pause on page 7 and put pen to paper to verify you are in CARE's data base correctly, and write a check to support your Association, the receipt of your newsletter, web site maintenance, and many other real CARE expenses that your fully volunteer organization needs to keep you informed and connected to resources that are aimed to help you "seize the day!"

Art Tenbrink, President



THIS AND THAT, A RETIREMENT CHAT By Chet Rhoan

Former San Jose Mayor, Chuck Reed, has dropped his bid to qualify the "[Voter Empowerment Act of 2016](#)" and "[Government Pension Cap Act of 2016](#)" for the November election. However, opponents continue to challenge the defined benefits programs saying that the programs are underfunded to the tune of more than a trillion dollars (See [San Francisco Chronicle Editorial, April 2, 2016](#)). The reality remains that CALSTRS and CALPERS are funded far into the future. See: *Governor Brown's signing of Assembly Bill 1469 today, enacted as part of the 2014-15 budget, concludes a decade-long effort to bridge CalSTRS' nearly \$74 billion funding gap.* [CalSTRS press release, June 24, 2014.](#)



CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Irene Plunkett Reporting

As Chabot College winds down another successful academic year, parties and celebrations abound. We don't have space enough to cover them all, but two have already occurred and were great student-centered events.

The annual Language Arts Division awards ceremony was held on campus on Thursday, May 5, and included awards in many areas, including English, tutoring, creative writing, and world languages. As students received their awards, many of them noted that this was the first time they had been singled out for recognition in their academic careers. English faculty member Stephen Woodhams and former Chabot student AJ Hicks played acoustic guitars and gave the event extra pizzazz.

The Chabot Foundation has also had its year-end event. As Director Maria Ochoa notes:

Because scholarship fundraising has been quite successful, The Friends of Chabot College began a new tradition last fall with the award of scholarships each semester. This spring 2016, the award of scholarships was expanded to a party where 25 recipients received \$24,500 in scholarships.

The event was emceed by Foundation Board Chair Mark Salinas. Foundation Board Member and restaurateur Marita Cheng was present. A vibrant welcome was offered by President Susan Sperling. Dr. Marshall Mitzman, CLPCCD Trustee, was in attendance. Donors present included inaugural trustee Mr. Edward Martins and his wife Donna, who have funded 10 scholarships annually for the past two years. Other donors present included former Hayward Mayor Michael Sweeney, and



Chabot College Professors Agnello Braganza and Keith Mehl.

Finally, as the photo at top right shows, Chabot's world-famous alum graces the cover of the summer/fall 2016 schedule of classes.

New Retirees

Kathleen Allen, Chabot College, June 2016
 Lesley Barron, Las Positas College, July 2016
 Rita Carson, District Services, August 2016
 JoAnn Cerefice, Chabot College, July 2016
 Jesse Ellis Jr., District Services, June 2016
 Connie Gerton, Chabot College, August 2016
 Juan Guerrero, District Services, January 2016
 Thomas Hugel, Chabot College, May 2016
 Hassina Ibrahim, Chabot College, November 2015
 Candace Klaschus, Las Positas College, June 2016
 Kari McAllister, Chabot College, February 2016
 Carmen McCauley, Las Positas College, July 2016
 Zahra Farah Mofidi, Chabot College, June 2016

Cynthia Roberts, Chabot College, May 2016
 Karin Rose, Las Positas College, August 2016
 John Sims, Chabot College, March 2016
 James Soles, District Services, January 2016
 Linnea Wahamaki, Chabot College, March 2016
 Sherri Yeager, Chabot College, July 2016

Deceased

Ray Edwards, Chabot College, March 2016
 Virginia MacCrossen, Chabot College, February 2016
 Jimmy Ong, Chabot College, November 2014
 Dee Roshong, Las Positas College, December 2015
 Gene Wellman, Chabot College, January 2016



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Art Tenbrink Reporting

CARE lost a remarkable member in Dee Roshong, Ed.D., who died unexpectedly on December 10, 2016, and I personally lost a mentor, colleague and true friend.

I first met Dr. Dee Roshong in 1975. As assistant Dean of Student Services on the new Valley Campus in Livermore, she interviewed me there for an opening in counseling. I became immediately clear that her small stature belied a hard head and a huge heart. She spoke prophetically, yet lyrically of Valley Campus's need to tap the pioneering spirit of the place and people of the Tri Valley in order to attract and educate the most underserved folks in that time and place -- folks like mature women yearning for their chance at higher education; and folks like the diverse group displaced as G.E. closed its nuclear research reactor in the rolling hills a few miles south of the campus.



Dee had just transitioned from Chabot College in Hayward, as a respected member of Dean Art Larson's Counseling-faculty team, to be part of an aptly described "maverick group" lead by new Valley Campus Dean, Dr. Barbara Mertes. When I started counseling on her staff, I witnessed how Dee's professional values added immeasurable value to the Valley Campus vision. By showing not telling, she led by example. Everyday she put student needs above administrivia. Everyday she mentored her staff to develop best practices in counseling and student services. Everyday she helped grow us into a full service Psychology-Counseling department at the College.

I feel fortunate that I got to work with her daily over nearly three decades of ongoing development and fulfillment of that vision, now realized as Las Positas College, (LPC) a premier community college working for the people of the Tri-Valley.

More than that, Dee demonstrated courage, collaboration, and creativity. She understood how to take her community's pulse and read its restive beat. Just one example of how she chose to meet that beat was to develop 33 annual interdisciplinary weekend Symposia, in collaboration with LPC colleagues Margaret Emory in Health Science and Judy Porta in Sociology. Each of these vital events brought hundreds of folks for the first time onto campus to explore meaning and possibility in such timely topics as 1974's inaugural Symposium, *I, A Woman*. 1981 brought *Change*, and 1998 saw *Everyday Sacred*. Dee even came out of retirement in 2004 to bring us *Mental Illness, a Multi-Cultural Perspective*. By Dee's efforts, our community is a better place to live and learn.

Upon retiring her LPC Student Services Deanship in 2003, Dee immediately deepened her involvement in areas that held great meaning to her and others. Elected to the Board of Chabot-Las Positas Association of Retired Employees or CARE, she served as CARE's Liaison to LPC's active faculty and staff. Her last loving report "Remembering Barbara Mertes" appears in the Fall, 2015 CARE Newsletter online at "care-news.org."

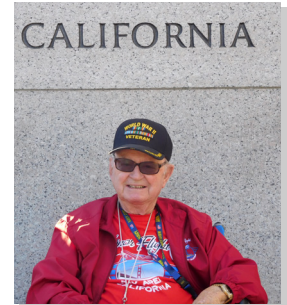
She also deepened her spiritual embrace of Tri-Valley Unity Church. There she manifest her first love, music, and more recent love of ministry to become first, Coral Director, and then Prayer Chaplain, infusing her faith and hope with the joy of infinite possibility.

Let me close with my personal summation of Dee's great generosity of spirit. Shortly after the joyful birth to us of our son, Erik, my wife, Joan, and I considered how to enlarge our family in the face of what we saw as an already overpopulated planet. We decided to adopt. As an excellent model of the fruits of adoption, Dee blessed our choice to adopt our son "Ten". We in turn anointed her to be his Godmother. She seemed to cherish her role in our family, celebrating birthdays and holidays with us ever thereafter. Now in her passing this role is left woefully empty.

Dee, in life we knew and loved you mightily. Always will you live in our memories and continue to inspire us to love through our lives.

Retiree News

Stan Lichtenstein's Honor Flight story: Recently I was one of 26 WW II veterans who were given an "Honor Flight", all expenses paid, to Washington D.C., to visit our national memorials; the youngest of us was 88, the oldest, 97! The highlight was the hundreds of people at each site greeting us and thanking us for our service -- it's been 70 years, and it's easy to forget the accomplishments of so many—and the loss of so many lives. At San Francisco and D.C. airports, bands, bagpipes, veterans from other wars, and scores of adults and children met us to salute our service. It was a treat unexpected yet fully appreciated, and always to be remembered.



If you know of a veteran, urge him/her to contact "honor flight bay area" website at <http://honorflightbayarea.org/> to take this once-in-a-lifetime experience.. - Stan



A 2015 Christmas-day National Public Radio *Morning Edition* story reported on **Julie Segedy's** remarkable volunteer work with Lighthouse Refugee Relief, helping refugees coming ashore on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Listen to the radio story and hear Julie speak at <http://www.npr.org/2015/12/25/461005663/more-migrants-arrive-by-boat-to-greeces-shores-on-christmas>

Learn more about Lighthouse Relief at <https://www.facebook.com/lighthouse relief/>

Lydia Cooper joined the Menlo Park Historical Association archivists in 2004, and is currently serving on the Association board as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. She has been a frequent contributor to the Association's newsletter, *The Gatepost*.

Learn more about the Menlo Park Historical Association : <http://inmenlo.com/2010/01/08/history-comes-alive-at-the-menlo-park-historical-association/>

View *What's the story behind the cement artichokes in downtown Menlo Park?*, an article inspired by one of Lydia's *Gatepost* contributions: <http://inmenlo.com/2012/08/11/whats-the-story-behind-the-cement-artichokes-in-downtown-menlo-park/>



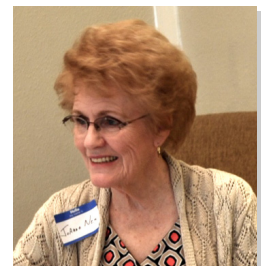
As a follow-up to his lead guitar role in his group, Band of Gold-SF Bay and his bass guitar role in the U.S.S. Hornet Big Band, **Billy Smith** continues to excel in his musical pursuits. Billy and his trio can be heard frequently at the Fremont Senior Center for listening and dancing pleasure, and he won Senior-Senior fourth place in the 2015 Old Time Fiddle Contest in Oroville, California!

See fiddle contest results and learn more at http://www.csotfa.org/contest_results.html

View contest video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgo9cTZGS10>

With a nearly lifelong love of music, **JoAnne Neu** has played the violin since age six. She keeps her musical skills fresh as an active member of the Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra and the Castro Valley Adult School Orchestra, where she joined their 2016 concerts of Beethoven's Symphony No 6 "Pastoral", Bizet's: L'Arlsienne, and Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz.

Learn more about JoAnne's music at <http://www.thesymphony.org> and <http://cvorchestra.org>



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 described below.

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

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

Will / Trust Provisions. Please also consider adding the CARE Fund to your will or trust as a "contingent beneficiary" to receive benefit in the event your existing named beneficiaries do not survive you or cannot otherwise benefit. e.g.

"Contingent Beneficiaries. In any instance where any part of the trust estate is not disposed of under the foregoing provisions, the same shall be distributed to THE CARE FUND, a charitable fund of the Chabot-Las Positas Association of Retired Employees."

CARE Fund Special Projects Grants

Each year, our grant program awards a portion of our charitable CARE Fund earnings to stimulate special projects that help Chabot-Las Positas employees do a better job of serving students, staff, and the colleges. We are proud of this program, which is now in its fifth year of operation.

For 2015-2016, CARE received a total of 18 proposals from Chabot, Las Positas, and the District Office requesting grants ranging from \$85 to \$1,500. From this group, we able to fund nine outstanding proposals:

- Communication Lab Signs by Veronica Martinez - \$400
- "Mindset" Theory & Tutor Training by Jane Wolford - \$313.50
- Creating Instructional Videos with Camtasia by Maritez Apigo - \$84.95
- Veteran's Writing Project by Jim Ott - \$237.11
- Difficult-to-Source Rocks & Minerals by Carol Edson - \$500
- Vessel Topping System by David Everett - \$488.70
- Creative Accounting Teaching Methods by Erick Bell - \$271
- Research Supplies for Plant Water Use Experiments by Michal Shuldman - \$400
- Women's Basketball Carts by Clarence Morgan (partial funding) - \$350

To learn more about the grant program and see outcome reports from past winners, visit www.care-news.org/grants/.

Benefits News

Board Policy 7380: Retiree Health Benefits

A recent change in CLPCCD board policy raises questions about District-paid health benefits for retirees. The CARE Board has studied the changes, identified concerns, and is working on them collaboratively with the Chancellor and District staff.

What Happened

Beginning in Spring 2013, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District launched an ongoing project to update its board policies and administrative procedures. On August 18, 2015, the District replaced the previous board policies pertaining to retirement medical benefits by board policy [BP 7380](#), Retiree Health Benefits, which essentially deletes all detail included in previous policies and replaces it with a flawed reference to collective bargaining agreements.

CARE's understanding is that the changes in board policy BP 7380 were not intended to alter established benefits for retirees. Instead, they were part of an effort to focus board policies on policy matters while referencing procedural details in other documents. Unfortunately, drafting errors in BP 7380 result in uncertain impacts on existing benefits:

1. The language of the new BP 7380 pertains only to retired academic employees. It appears to make **no provision for medical benefits to retired classified, management, or confidential/supervisory employees.**
2. The language includes: "**Enrollment pursuant to this policy shall be at the retiree or surviving spouse's domestic partner's own expense.**" This provision conflicts sharply with previous board policy and with the relevant sections of the faculty and classified collective bargaining agreements.
3. The language mentions optional dental care plan benefits but **omits optional vision care** plan benefits.
4. The language includes: "Information on retiree health benefits **for represented employees** can be found in the respective collective bargaining agreement." This sentence is BP 7380's reference to the union contract language, but it only refers to "represented employees", who are currently active employees. **Retirees**, who are not employees and are not represented bargaining unit members, **are not covered.**

What CARE Has Done

On March 7, 2016, CARE wrote to Chancellor Jackson requesting an opportunity to work constructively with District staff to address our concerns. The Chancellor was responsive to this request. On March 24, 2016, CARE representatives met with District staff and presented suggestions for simple revisions to BP 7380 that would remedy the problems noted above. That meeting ended on a positive note with District staff advising that they saw no problem with the suggested revisions.

What's Next

CARE hoped to be able to report that our proposed revisions to BP 7380 would be going to the Trustees for approval this spring. However, we have received notice that the revisions we proposed are still under review and the District does not anticipate that a policy revision will be presented to the Board until the end of the summer break. In the meantime, CARE will continue to pursue this matter toward satisfactory resolution.

Interview with District Benefits Staff

On April 28, 2016, Newsletter Editor Bill Threlfall interviewed Deborah Dobbins and Rosalyn Tucker, HR Benefits Technicians. The overwhelming impression was of two friendly and welcoming staff, dedicated to insuring active employees and retirees receive all their entitled benefits. The interview, which is a rich source of information relevant to all retirees, is available on the CARE web site at <http://care-news.org>.



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5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

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

District Retirement Benefits Contacts

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Rosalyn Tucker 925-485-5504 rtucker@clpccd.org

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C.A.R.E. Dues 2016

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No stipends are paid to board members, who volunteer their time and service.
Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2016 dues!

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

New on the CARE web site:

- [Interview with District Benefits Staff, April 28, 2016](#)
- [A Visit to the District Office](#) - a map and pictorial guide
- [Winning Applications for the 2015-2016 CARE Special Grants Program](#)



Featured on the CARE web site:

[The Resources page](#). Have you checked out our Resources page? It contains links to helpful online resources as well as archived stories and documents. Here are a few examples of the archived medical benefits stories you'll find there:

- Interview with District Benefits Staff
- Open Enrollment Questions - A CARE Tool for Comparing Benefits
- Retirement Benefits Provisions of New CLPCCD Faculty Contract
- The Transition to Medicare Advantage Plans at Age 65 for STRS Retirees

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

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