

Spring
2019

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Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas

Association of Retired Employees

CARE President's Message

Welcome all retirees, young and old! Or, perhaps "recent and previous" is better? I would like to again congratulate our most recent, and second-largest ever, crop of 51 new retirees, from Las Positas, Chabot, and the District Office. It's hard for me to believe that I have already been retired for 15 years. I can definitely attest to the adage "Time flies when you're having fun", and I hope you all come to feel the same way. We are fortunate to have retired from an organization which provides us with such great benefits for our "jobless" years



During my years on the board, I've acquired greater appreciation for the importance of CARE, and I'm honored to be serving as the new president of the Chabot - Las Positas Association of Retired Employees. Although we provide a means to stay in touch with old friends and colleagues, we also serve other important roles, some of which I would like to reiterate with a few points from the "Advocacy and public voice" section of the "[What is CARE?](#)" [web page](#):

Retirees are officially unrepresented in collective bargaining, unlike currently-employed instructional and classified staff. CARE is not a union and does not have standing under California law to negotiate with the District in any matter. Nevertheless, we serve as your advocate by vigilant observation of actions of the CLPCCD Trustees that affect our members' interests. In addition, we work diligently to protect those interests by enlightening the District's management and Board of Trustees about the effect their decisions may have on the financial and health care interests of retirees. Finally, when issues involve both retirees and active employees, we may partner with the faculty and classified unions to present a unified voice.

So again, welcome to all of you new members of CARE, and thank you to our new directors Jane Church, Shirley Pejman, and Mark Smythe for coming on board to help run the organization. These new board members are highlighted on page 3. Also included in this issue is a piece in recognition of the 50-year career of Carlo Vecchiarelli and great article on Art Larson, CARE-co-founder and former Chabot College Dean. Art has just celebrated his 99th birthday!

Enjoy.

Tom

Web Links in this Newsletter

Several of our articles include web links shown in green. To gain easy access to the linked documents, just visit www.care-news.org, where this newsletter is online. Open the online newsletter and click any link shown in green. You'll get immediate access to its target.



COLLEGE NEWS

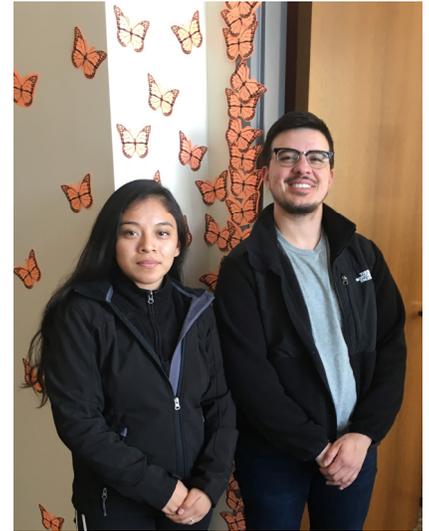


Chabot's "Dream Center" by Jane Church

Yesterday I visited the "Dream Center" at Chabot College and met with Benjamin Barboza, who shares counseling support for the Center with Sandra Genera, Puente Counselor and Katie Messina Silva. The first obvious sign that this was a unique program was the profusion of cut out paper Monarch butterflies surrounding the door.

My first question to Benjamin was; "Why is the Monarch butterfly a symbol for this program?" He explained that the beautiful natural migration of the Monarch butterfly exemplifies the philosophy "the Dream Center", which has a mission to "provide support, resources, information and referrals for undocumented students and allies in a safe confidential space." Supported by State California Chancellor's Office and funded through grants, similar "Dream Centers" are beginning to appear on an increasing percentage of CA community college campuses.

"Dream Center" counselors specialize in working with undocumented (including AB 540 and DACA) students. Some of the services are: residency questions, AB 540, Financial Aid & Scholarship resources, legal aid referrals. Also provided are general counselor support; Student Ed Plans, transfer, career and personal counselor. There is also a student organized Chabot "Dreamers Club" to provide a safe and supportive space for undocumented students on campus.



Benjamin and student assistant Elena at the door of the Dream Center

At the **Las Positas College Spring 2019 Flex Day.**

Geology Lab Technician Carol Edson and her faculty colleague Travis White offered a session titled **Exploring the Augmented Reality Sandbox in the Maker Space**. Participants heard the story of the team consisting of five students and three faculty as they planned, prototyped, built and calibrated this topographic modeling device. Session participants were invited to try out the AR sandbox, moving the sand, creating different topography, and watching the response of the system in showing elevations of mountains, valleys, and water flow.



Geology Lab Technician Carol Edson

The Augmented Reality sandbox project was funded by four grants, including a [2017 CARE Grant](#).



Student team member William Kossow

CARE Annual Dues.

We are a small organization, and your contributions make our work possible. Although CARE extends membership to all retirees without charge, we depend entirely on your **\$10 Annual Dues** payments to fund printing and mailing of our newsletter and the operation of our website. Currently, these expenses are exceeding our income, and some retirees are not contributing dues. We are like public television; your help is crucial to our continued successful operation!

Note that your dues are used in direct support of our programs; there are no stipends paid to board members, who volunteer their time and service.

Please contribute your dues payment now. The **Dues Form** on page 7 provides the details.

Jane Church, Shirley Pejman, and Mark Smythe Join CARE Board

The CARE board has received an infusion of new talent and youthful energy with the addition of Jane, Shirley, and Mark! Each brings professional and organizational experience, including service in the college governance process:

- Jane Church, retired Chabot College Counselor, was long active on the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate.
- Shirley Pejman, retired Chabot College DSPS Counselor and Instructor Special Programs & Services performed extensive service on the Faculty Senate.
- Mark Smythe, retired District ITS Network Systems Specialist, served as multiple terms as Classified Union President through negotiations over three contracts from 2006 - 2014.

Together with these great new additions, the full CARE board is shown left to right below.

Front: Rachel Maldonado Aziminia, Mark Smythe, Shirley Pejman, Irene Plunkett

Rear: Gay Connor, Art Tenbrink, JoAnne Neu, Wayne Phillips, Tom Gerrits, Sharon Trethan, Jane Church, Bill Threlfall



A Tip of the Hat to Art Larson!

Art Larson, now in his 36th year of retirement, is familiar to many CARE members for his service as Chabot College Assistant and Associate Deans of Instruction and Dean of Student Services. In these roles, he earned respect of his colleagues as a thoughtful, fair-minded and straightforward leader.

Ted Staniford, in his 1981 book: "Chabot College, the First Twenty Years", described Art as follows:

Student Personnel Services, including a wide range of responsibilities related directly to the students themselves, is headed by Dr. Arthur L. Larson, Dean of Student Personnel, a dynamic administrator much loved and respected by students. Like Reed Buffington, Dr. Larson maintains an open door, and when students and staff reporting to him are not in his office, he is among them wherever they are, contributing to the positive and vital experiences of college life, and leading, by example, in the dedicated work of preparing young people for the future.

Reflecting on his long-time service with Art in the early years of the college, Bob Wiseman commented:

It is no surprise that Dr. Art Larson, hired by Dr. Reed Buffington, was hand-picked because of a "Shared Institutional DNA". Like so many of the early hires of the CLPCCD, Art, like Reed, was driven by what outcome is in the student's best academic interest followed closely by their personal growth. These two "twin compass points" served Art well while at the helm of his ship. He possessed an uncanny knack for "anticipating stormy weather" and was able to smoothly navigate his ship around potential storms. Art also understood the use of Empathy v.s. Sympathy while dealing with crisis situations. He was an astute listener able to remain objective while encouraging students, faculty and staff alike to openly express their concerns without fear of condemnation.

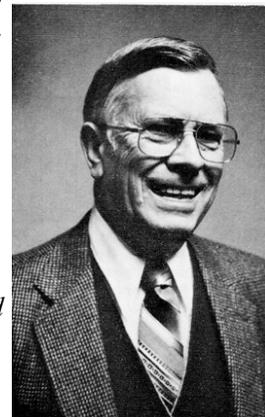
Ruben Hernandez noted similar character:

During the many years I worked at Chabot College, Dr. Larson treated me with respect and kindness, encouraging my efforts and professional growth. His educational and military experience led to high expectations for colleagues which were matched by his own exercise of the highest standards for service to students. I was always able to look to him for professional advice and support. He was a top Chabot College administrator!

Bob Wood described his first interaction with Art:

I recall the first time I met Dr. Larson after joining the Chabot family. I was on my way to the Library when I heard my name called. Dr. Larson was approaching. He stopped and asked how I was doing and how the adjustment to a new setting was going. We spoke for only a cou-

ple of minutes when he ended the conversation with a warm invitation to come by his office if any questions were to come up or just to get better acquainted. This is what I most appreciate about Dr. Larson. No matter who he encounters he is welcoming, attentive and inviting. And this is true on campus, at the Student Personnel luncheons and CARE gatherings.



Vic Willits highlighted Art's initiative in student programs:

As Dean, Art was responsible for starting the "Enabler" Program to provide additional services of students he referred to a "handicapable". The first office was located in the conference room off the Rotunda in Bldg 100. Art was also largely responsible for obtaining the first State funding for Enabler type programs statewide.

Seven-term CARE President Helen Bridge, thinking of Art, said:

Hired by Reed Buffington, he was a good friend. He encouraged students, was well-liked, and was funny. Art was active in the work to prepare the 2015 memorial for Reed Buffington, and during the event, Art's relationship with Reed came alive as Art made an "imaginary phone call" to Reed. Everyone present was moved by Art's imaginative memorialization.

After retirement, Art has continued involvement with the college and his work-life associates. In the early 1990's, Art co-founded and served as historian for The Vacayshun Group, an informal social club which included retired friends Reed and Elaine Buffington, Art and Joanne Larson, John and Jackie McKinley, Leo and Ellie Meyer, Bill and Peggy Moore, Victor and Arlene Willits, and Richard and Gwen Yeo.

Now in his 99th year of life, since his retirement Art has continued to touch many of us through his seminal and ongoing work on the **Student Personnel Council** and on **CARE**:

Student Personnel Council

In 1970, as Dean of Student Services, Art Larson brought his administrative team together as the "Student Personnel Council." This group did not disband following Art's 1983 retirement. Instead, under Art's leadership this group of twenty to

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

thirty has continued with annual luncheon "meetings" up to the present day. In the Reed Buffington style, Art promptly calls the meetings to order, following up with an informal agenda for sharing. Each member offers both professional and personal family updates over the year since the prior meeting. It is notable that several of the original group who left Chabot College to pursue careers at other colleges or in other fields of work return for these luncheons. The respect and love for Art as a leader, a mentor, and a friend continues to this day.

In more recent years, the group has expanded to also include counseling faculty and classified staff who were at the college with Dr. Larson, had heard about the reunions, and wanted to participate in the luncheons. Melinda Matsuda, who has been involved in the group over the years, said:

The reunions have evolved to be more like a "celebration of Art Larson" and his leadership and mentorship for us all. And he is so humble and kind, he absolutely hates the attention! When calling the lunch meeting to order,"even at 99, as he apologizes about his hearing, he doesn't seem to have missed a beat . . .

CARE

Art envisioned CARE, set it on a firm course, and nurtured it for 35 years!

In 1984, after retirement, Art and several colleagues founded CARE, the Chabot Association of Retired Employees. As the organization's first President, Art and his fellow CARE Directors jointly crafted CARE's Constitution and Bylaws and in 1985 gained formal recognition of the Association by the Trustees of the South County Community College District. Art remained active on the CARE board for decades, serving many terms as its President, helping to advance the vision of CARE's founders by leading the organization and welcoming new members to its ranks. Today, he is recognized by CARE as Director Emeritus and continues to track CARE's work by email and telephone.

A frequent contributor to the CARE Newsletter, Art also published a number of pieces in [CARE's History Project](#) that was developed by Helen Bridge. These contributions include [The Birth of CARE](#), which reveals Art's essential role in the founding and development of the organization, [The Chabot College Athletic Hall of Fame](#), and tributes to Dorothy Hudgins, Leo Myer, Helen Bridge, John McKinley, Reed Buffington, and Barbara Mertes..

**The professional life of Art Larson has been an inspiration for many of us.
We tip our hat to you, Art!**



Art Larson presiding at the 2017 Student Personnel Council Luncheon

Seated from left to right: Ruben Hernandez, Rick and Nonnie Moore, Judy Young, Shanon Christiansen, John Cognetta, Art Larson, Joanne Larson, Melinda Matsuda, Sheila and Fred Sims, and Vic Willits

New Retirements

Richard Blair-Keeney, Chabot College, December 2018
 Rudolph Cockerham, Chabot College, July 2019
 Isobel Dvorsky, District Board Member, December 2018
 Carol Edson, Las Positas College, August 2019
 William Hanson, Chabot College, March 2019
 Margaret Schumacher, Chabot College, July 2019

In Memoriam

We have lost these valued CARE members recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

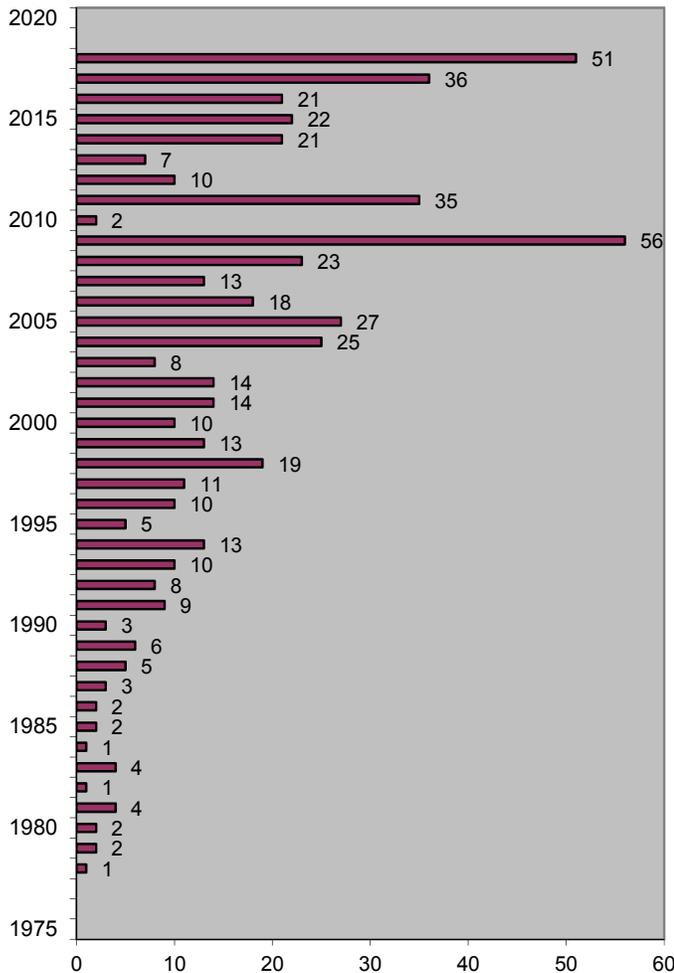
Donald Benson	Meg Boubel
Myrna Bowman	Charles Dean, Jr.
Marguerite Hope	Victor Mahabali
Phillip Manwell	Adolph Oliver
Milton Rube	Nancy Jean Weitzmann

CARE publishes life tributes and profiles in the History Project of its web site. Family or colleagues who wish to submit a tribute for publication may send it to the newsletter editor via [email](#).

When did CARE members retire? After last year's flood of retirements, there were relatively few this year. We saw this same pattern in 2010 after the 2009 golden handshake. The chart below shows the retirement date of current CARE members (N=547).

Data courtesy of CARE Treasurer, Sharon Trethan, 2019.

Number of CARE Members by Year of Retirement



Carlo Vecchiarelli Steps Down

After serving as CLPCCD Trustee since 2004, Carlo Vecchiarelli submitted his resignation from the Board in January 2019.

Carlo has completed a remarkable 50-year career of service to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District and its students. Hired in 1968 as a full-time science instructor at Chabot College, Carlo went on to become Dean of Admissions and Dean of the Science and Math Division. As Dean of Admissions, he built a strong program of international student attendance at Chabot.

Following his retirement from the College in 2004, Carlo was elected CLPCCD Trustee of Area 5 and served three terms as Board President. Over his professional career, he has demonstrated a singular dedication to this district, its institutions, and its students.

Job well done, Carlo!



CARE BOARD

Tom Gerrits
President

Irene Plunkett
Past President

Wayne Phillips
Vice-President

**Rachel
Maldondo Azimonia**
Secretary

Sharon Trethan
Treasurer
District Liaison
CARE Fund Manager

Jane Church
Chabot Liaison

Vacant
Las Positas Liaison

**Gay Connor
JoAnne Neu
Shirley Pejman
Art Tenbrink**
Activities Co-coordinators

Bill Threlfall
Director of Communications
Newsletter Editor
Grants Coordinator

Mark Smythe
Director at Large

Art Larson
Director Emeritus

Don Nilson
CARE Photographer

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

Change of Address or E-mail

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

Send change of email to CARE Communications Director, Bill Threlfall by [email](#).

District Retirement Benefits Contacts

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

Important reminder from District Benefits staff:

"Please note that you or your heirs must notify the District of any changes to your eligibility status within thirty days of the event (e.g. **marriage, divorce, death**). Any financial loss that the District incurs due to failure to notify the District will be the responsibility of you or your heirs."

Detach and return

C.A.R.E. Dues 2019

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.
Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2019 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:

\$10 per year or \$100 lifetime membership (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

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. For 2018, CARE awarded \$2,500 in grants to 12 great proposals from thoughtful applicants at Chabot and Las Positas Colleges:

- Disposable Earplugs for Library Students by Diana Kleinschmidt - \$275
- CIN! Table Cloth Banner by Pedro Reynoso - \$283
- Master Class Series by Titian Lish - \$66
- Community Oral Health Projects by Julie Coan - \$142
- Communication Studies Display Supplies by Raphaella Ianiello - \$120
- Loaner Graphing Calculators by Melissa Bailey - \$134
- More Eco-Friendly Reusable Markers by Segal Boaz- \$262
- Lego Design & Creativity Workshops by Mumtaj Ismail - \$278
- CalWorks Mobile Children's Cart by Elsa Saenz - \$444
- Periodic Table for Studying by Mary Love - \$228
- Tech to Increase Tutoring Success by Javier Hernandez - \$212
- Headphones for Tutoring Center by Anamarie Navarro - \$118

The CARE Fund, which underwrites these grants, is supported by the generous donations of CARE members. 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) Please contribute to the CARE Fund:

CARE Fund Contribution: \$35; \$75; \$100; Other: _____ (Thank you!)

NAME _____

*Detach and return
or*

ADDRESS _____

Print form at

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

www.care-news.org/support

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

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

Mail to: Sharon Trethan, CARE Fund Manager, 5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506

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