

Winter
2011

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Association of Retired Employees

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Visit us online:

www.care-news.org

President's Message

"Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." - Helen Keller

Greetings, it is that time of year: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year, and the annual CARE meeting. This has been both a wonderful and sad year for CARE. CARE lost one of its founding members, John McKinley, amazing educator, father and friend. The CARE Board is still growing with the addition of two new board members, Rachel Maldonado Aziminia, and Susan May. Our membership is strong, our newsletter, CARE directory, and website continue to be a success.



We encourage members with internet access to consider reading this newsletter online. This choice will save costs for CARE while helping to save the planet! We'll alert you when each newsletter is released, so to "Go Green", please see page 7.

At the colleges, Chabot is celebrating its 50th year, with many varied activities. Las Positas is busy building, and both colleges have record enrollment. You'll find fuller reports on each college's activities inside the newsletter. New additions to the History project, a list of 35 new CARE members who retired in 2011, and the list of CARE Grant Program winners can also be found inside the newsletter.

Once again a year ends and a new year begins, which means its time for the annual reunion and CARE board nominations. We are fortunate all the current CARE board members have agreed to serve another year, and I have agreed to run again as your CARE president.

Reunion! In January, our annual reunion will offer the continuation of Don Nilson's slide show, with many new photos, along with pictures of the changing campuses. Besides the wonderful food and amazing guests, the prize drawings will continue to be exceptional. At last years reunion over thirty-five gifts were given out, provided by the CARE board and the college credit union. If you have not attended the annual reunion, consider coming. It is wonderful to see old friends, enjoy the meal, gifts and conversations. It is also a great time to pay your annual dues, and make donations to the CARE fund. With lean economic times your annual dues of \$10 are needed more than ever! Remember to visit our web-site, care-news.org. for all the content listed on page 8. The CARE board wants to wish all of you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Linda Barde-Zimmerling, President



Susan May Joins CARE Board

We are pleased to announce the nomination of Susan May to join the CARE board. Susan's position will be ratified by the CARE membership at the January 21 business meeting. Welcome!



CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Isabel Polvorosa Reporting

On November 8, the Classified Senate gathered to pay homage to all of the branches of our US Military. They also paid special recognition to MaryLou Cisneros who passed away in December 23, 2010. MaryLou had worked at Chabot for forty years. She joined the Student Services team as a Payroll Technician and assumed the position of Veterans Benefits Specialist in 1998, where she worked until her passing. MaryLou was a pleasant and dedicated employee who always went above and beyond to serve “her” veterans. You might remember seeing her working the tailgate parties and Chabot crab feeds.

On another sad note our Classified Emeritus Rich Strauss passed away Oct 6, 2011 at the age of 53 from a massive heart attack. Rick was the voice of Chabot’s KCRH radio station who started at Chabot as a Radio Technician in the Mass Communications Program. Rick’s famous voice could also be heard on Pleasanton station KKIQ, where he served as an on-air personality in the morning for a number of years.

Great news from our Classified Senate! Lisa Carlsen was the winner of this year’s Linda and Bob Carson Classified Professional of the Year Award. In Spring 2005, she was honored as Outstanding Tutor of the Year. During the past few years she was an Instruction Assistant in the WRAC Center and the Language Center. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from UC Berkeley and joined the team in the Disabled Students Programs and Services Counselor/Learning Disabilities Specialist, serving students across campus.

Building 300 is nearing completion. It will become a smart classroom building, with computer labs, IT Dept., and campus servers. I went through the new rooms that once housed three computer operators, three network personnel, the printers, copiers and the whole network system for the District in two very cramped rooms. Now the space takes in three whole classrooms that include not only computer rooms, but also computer support staff. It is a beautiful building and worth going to see. Also, Building 1800 will be starting construction soon and the Building 4000 fitness center should be done in November.



Retirement Legislation Update

The attacks on Public Employee Pensions (PERS and STRS) continue and require our close attention. Two ballot initiatives have been received by the Secretary of State for numbering and legal analysis. They will be forwarded to the legislature before signature gathering. These initiatives are described in a November 2, 2011 Fresno Bee article, [The State Worker: California group moves to put pension overhaul on 2012 ballot](#) and briefly highlighted in Bloomberg Business Week’s November 3, 2011 piece, [Advocates Press for California Pension Changes Beyond Brown Plan](#).

The initiatives, sponsored by California Pension Reform, would move new state and local workers into either a traditional 401(k) retirement plan or onto a hybrid that combines elements of a 401(k) and traditional government benefits. In January, the sponsoring group will decide which to pursue. To qualify for the November 2012 ballot, each initiative would need to go through the customary signature process.

Other pension reform initiatives with potential impact for educators are already numbered and available on the Secretary of State’s web page at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/cleared-for-circulation.htm>. These include:

- 1501. Increases Income Taxes on Teachers, Nurses, Police Officers, , and Other Public Employees for Pension Income.
- 1502. Increases Retirement Age for Teachers, Peace Officers, and Other Public Employees.
- 1504. Reduces Pension Benefits for Public Employees. Creates a New State Retirement System for Private Sector Employees

Chet Rhoan, Vice President



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Sophie Rheinheimer Reporting

Las Positas has a new college president! Dr. Kevin Walthers left his position as the Vice Chancellor of Administration for the West Virginia Community and Technical College System and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission to join LPC on August 8, 2011. We have been waiting a long time for a permanent president. Welcome!

Congratulations to Dale Boercker, LPC mathematics instructor extraordinaire, for being selected the 2011 Reed Buffington Award recipient. The Buffington Award for teaching excellence is the highest honor any faculty member can receive from our District. Dale retired as a full-time faculty member in June, but was called back to Convocation Day in August to receive her recognition. We hope to see Dale at our next CARE Reunion Luncheon so we can congratulate her in person.



Construction continues on the future Student Services-Administration building as seen in the photo. Because the entire area is fenced-off, the 'yellow brick road' in front of Building 800 no longer exists, leaving the walkway by the arches as the only direct route from upper to lower campus. It is a tight squeeze especially when classes are changing, but a great way to get to know the students better!

LPC has so many unique programs that I would like to highlight one of them in each issue. This month's spotlight is on the Las Positas College Foundation. Its director, Dr. Ted Kaye offered these words,

The Foundation was established in April 2003 by a group of community leaders dedicated to ensuring that the students and communities that LPC serves have a premier community college. The specific goals of the LPC Foundation are two-fold: (1) to inform and educate the communities served about the special treasure they have in Las Positas College and (2) to give individuals and business partners an opportunity to invest in the future of LPC students. The organization's main focus is the funding of student scholarships, supporting vital educational programs, and continuing outreach to the community through college-sponsored programs. This effort is especially important today because of the constraints on state funding due to the challenging economic climate.

The Las Positas College Foundation is such an important and wonderful organization for the college. To learn more about it, contact Ted at (925)424-1010 or visit the Foundation's web site at www.lpcfoundation.org.

Out-of-State Medical Retirement Coverage



If you are considering retirement living in a location out of California, CARE strongly urges that you consult District authorities regarding the medical retirement coverage you can expect.

The problem is that current faculty and classified contracts are mute on the subject of out-of-state medical retirement coverage. As a result, the medical coverage available is governed by District practice rather than contractual language. In some situations, District practice has not met expectations or has been inconsistent.

For **faculty**, out-of-state coverage is addressed by new language in Sections 20B.5.c and 20C.6 of the recently ratified Tentative Agreement between the Faculty Association and CLPCCD, which will be effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014. (available at <http://www.clpccd.org/hr/FA.htm>) For **classified** staff, past experience suggests contract negotiations are likely to yield similar provisions. We encourage interested retirees to monitor the status and provisions of these contract agreements at <http://www.clpccd.org/hr/HRContactsandSalarySchedules.php>.

In all cases, the safest course of action is for each individual retiree to reach a clear understanding with the District about the medical retirement coverage options that will be made available in the planned out-of-state retirement location.

Meet Your Board Members - Rachel Maldonado Aziminia

I retired in December 2009 after working at Chabot for 29.5 years, but I continue to work part-time with the Excel program, a federally funded program that serves ESL students who are pursuing a certificate and/or associate degree or are planning to transfer.

I was born and raised in Fresno, California. After graduating from Fresno State University in spring 1972, I held several jobs. i.e., a Fresno County eligibility worker, a Fresno City College EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) administrative assistant, a Salinas community worker, a Monterey County Youth Corps counselor assistant, a United Farm Workers union organizer. In 1977 I attended San Jose State University to complete my Master in Social Work.



The most rewarding experience I had before working for Chabot was that of a UFW organizer at the age of 24. I learned a lot about the plight of farm workers—the long working hours, the poor wages, the lack of benefits, and the lack of respect. It was an honor to work with the UFW and I respected the farm workers' struggle to establish a union that would fight for fair treatment, respect, and a just wage.

In September 1980, I began working for EOPS as the outreach coordinator. Beginning in fall 1983 and for 21 years, I worked as an EOPS counselor/instructor. In fall 2003, I became the EOPS/CARE (Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education) Coordinator/ Counselor and the following year I also became the coordinator for CalWORKs. The years with EOPS/CARE/ CalWORKs were rewarding; I met many amazing students who were successful despite the hardships they had to overcome. I truly enjoyed seeing a few of my students who would come by to see me and to let me know that they had earned their degrees—I was honored that they remembered me and that they wanted to share their success with me.

I have always been a supporter of organized unions. As a classified employee I was the president of the California School Employees Association for approximately 9 months but had to resign because I was hired as a counselor. I was also a member of the Community College Association/California Teachers Association/National Education Association that provided me the opportunity to be involved at the state and national levels. In addition to serving on the CCA Board for 10 years, I served as the CCA statewide secretary and vice president as well as the CTA Hispanic Caucus Chair. One of my most memorable experiences was meeting and getting to know the president of the Colombian teachers union, a female teacher who required bodyguards because her life was threatened by the Colombian government. I was thankful that I lived in California where we public teachers have a right to union representation. In 1999, I was honored to receive the statewide Student CTA Advisor of the Year award. As a retiree, I am a member of CTA-Retired.

I have been married to Abbas Aziminia, an Iranian immigrant, for 29 years. We met in 1979, a few months before the Iranian students took over the American embassy in Tehran. We married in 1982 and will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary in 2012. I have traveled to Iran for the past 24 years. The first time was in 1987 and since then we have traveled every 3 to 4 years. I was there during the Iran-Iraq war never knowing if Saddam Hussein would drop bombs randomly in Tehran, during the time Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, during the reign of Khomeini and after his reign. My visits to Iran have definitely expanded my worldview. Furthermore, the young Iranians that I have met are curious about Americans and want to learn more about us—they really do like Americans! In fact one year, I was provided the opportunity to speak to an audience of Sabzevar (my husband's home town) University students who were studying to become English teachers.



This past spring, I traveled to Iran to celebrate Iranian Noruz (New Year) which is the first day of spring. It is celebrated for 13 days and on the last day everyone leaves their home to celebrate. It was quite an experience because during the Noruz families visit each other and my husband's parents had many visitors since they are the elders in his extended family. During the visits, food plays a very important part of the celebration. There was always chocolates, nuts and seeds, pastry, fruit, and of course, the ubiquitous tea.

When I retired I decided it was time for me to lose weight. In July 2010, I joined Weight Watchers at work and lost 46 pounds this past year. Because of this, I applied and was hired by Weight Watchers as a receptionist. As a retiree, I plan to stay active and healthy.

CARE Fund Special Projects Grants Program - News

The 2011-2012 CARE Fund Special Projects Grant Program was a rousing success! The combined timing of financial need in a budget-strapped district and the availability of CARE funds coincided perfectly to make this program so worthwhile and well-received.

There was great interest and response to the \$1500 grant. Thirty applications were received: 19 proposals from Chabot and 11 from Las Positas. It was not an easy task for the Grant Committee to choose a winner, so thank-you to Clyde Allen, Linda Barde-Zimmerling, Isabel Polvorosa, and Bill Threlfall for their invaluable help.

After many hours of reading, ranking, and discussion on the merits of each proposal, the Committee selected four projects to fund, either fully or partially. The winning projects and the successful applicants were:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Backup Hard Drive | Carol Edson (LPC) |
| Boxes for Mineral Display | Carol Edson (LPC) |
| Taking Note of Foreign Languages | Catherine Suarez (LPC) |
| Transfer Student Web | Michael Schwarz (LPC) |

As the Committee Chair, I had the privilege to present the awards at the November 2nd LPC Town Meeting. They were VERY happy. Great fun!

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

Desre Anderes-Solomon, June 2011
Joseph Berland, June 2011
Stephen Daprato, June 2011
Arlene DeLeon, June 2011
Darrell Dolin, June 2011
Melva Garcia, June 2011
Susan Gill, June 2011
Miyo Harvey, June 2011
Ruben Hernandez, June 2011
Cynthia Hicks, June 2011
Kathleen Kaser, June 2011
Patricia Keeling-Haines, June 2011
Gloria Mead, June 2011
Mary Mino, June 2011
Wayne Nakano, June 2011
Judithann O'Toole, June 2011
Ramon Parada, June 2011
Susan Tong, June 2011
Christopher Waldo, June 2011
Erna Wiemer, June 2011

Las Positas College

Dale Boercker, June 2011
Richard Butler, June 2011
Fredda Cassidy, May 2011
Alexandra Crosetti, August 2011
Susan Hiraki, June 2011
Martha Konrad, June 2011
James Lavine, June 2011
Philip Manwell, June 2011
Judith Martinez, June 2011
Barbara Stuart, June 2011
Nancy Wright, June 2011

District Services

Stanley Barnes, June 2011
Kathleen Barto, June 2011
Harry Jennings, June 2011
Robert Kint, June 2011

Sad News - Deaths

John Cleary, Chabot College, October 2011
Irene Garcia, Chabot College, June 2011
Harrison Hannon, Chabot College, July 2011
John McKinley, Chabot College, May 2011
David Minor, Chabot College, September 2011
Diane Sivers, Chabot College, May 2011

Looking for Lost Retirees

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Jack Criqui | Mary Dias |
| Martha Honeycutt | Ellen Johnson |
| Virginia Maruyama | Jeanette Mo |
| Daniel Odom | |

District Retirement Benefits Contacts

Deborah Dobbins 925-485-5505 ddobbins@clpccd.org
Alice Noriega 925-485-5209 anoriega@clpccd.org
Rosalyn Tucker 925-485-5504 rtucker@clpccd.org

2012 CARE Reunion

Please join your colleagues at the reunion and annual meeting!

We will enjoy an elaborate buffet lunch, a fresh new slide show of historic and current campus photos produced by Don Nilson, a fun prize drawing, and a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends and co-workers.

When: Saturday, January 21, 2012, 11:00 a.m.

Where: San Ramon Country Club

Cost: \$22.00 per person

Directions to San Ramon Country Club:

- From 580 east or west go to the 680 interchange.
- Go North on 680 to ALCOSTA BLVD. (The first off-ramp).
- From the North take 680 South to San Ramon Alcosta Blvd. Off-ramp.
- Go East on Alcosta, through 3 signal lights to FIRCREST LANE, and turn left.
- You will see the golf course. Take Fircrest to the club parking lot.



Detach and return

**Reservation For
Annual CARE Reunion and Lunch**
January 21, 2012, 11:00 a.m.
San Ramon Country Club

Please complete this form, enclose your check payable to C.A.R.E., and mail to

Sharon Trethan, C.A.R.E. Treasurer
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506

Name/Names _____

E-mail Address _____
(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. (E-mail address required)**

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|---|------|---|-------|
| Number Attending | _____ | x | \$22 | = | _____ |
| 2012 Dues (If not already paid) | | | \$10 | = | _____ |
| Total Amount Enclosed | | | | = | _____ |

**Reservation Deadline:
January 12, 2012**

Reservations must be prepaid.
There is no pay-at-the-door option.

CARE BOARD

Linda Barde-Zimmerling
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Past President

Chet Rhoan
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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 through [CARE Contacts](#), 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 through [CARE Contacts](#) 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:

- [New History Project pieces by Carol Markos, Susan May, and Art Larson.](#)
- [Winning proposals 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.](#)



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