

USC EMERITI CENTER

Retiree Community Newsletter

September 2009

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No 3



EC Executive Director Janette Brown and host Bob Coffey welcome USC retirees, guests, and friends to the South Bay Social event.

Our First EC Regional Social Meets With Success!

The usual gathering of retirees is often connected with a lecture, a seminar, or a PowerPoint presentation. That's always stimulating, but sometimes you just want to relax and have a great conversation with your colleagues, and perhaps meet retirees from schools and disciplines quite different from your own.

That's why the Emeriti Center's first regional get-together was a purely social gathering held on a beautiful June day in Rancho Palos Verdes. **Bob Coffey** generously offered his home and garden as a venue for the event, held Saturday,

June 20, from 3 to 6 p.m. More than 50 people attended, including retired faculty, staff, spouses and their friends. The next regional social, in the Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley area, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10 (see invitation page 8).

A Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley area regional social will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Coffey noted that **Janette Brown**, Executive

Director of the Emeriti Center, is always looking for new ways to serve and engage USC's retirees. And Brown knows that some retirees far from USC do not like, or are unable, to drive to campus, so she decided to experiment by offering a regional event that would be easier to attend.

Those attending were enthusiastically positive about the get-together.

"We are so glad that Bob stepped forward to offer his home for this event.

Having a home rather than an institutional setting made a wonderful and inviting difference!" said **Jeanne Church**, "and many people offered to **Continued on page 8**

SRA'S September Meeting Welcomes the New Board

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Program: 10 a.m. – Noon

Andrus Gerontology Center Auditorium

Lunch: Noon – 2 p.m.

Rm. 224 Andrus Gerontology Center

We hope you had a lovely summer and you're ready to return to USC.

We're working on a program of what's new in health and hearing advances, and the final details will come to you by postcard.

The new board will also be there to meet you and to welcome any suggestions you may have about meetings, programs and concerns.

So save the date and we'll see you there!

Please RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 10th at (213) 740-7122 or emeriti@usc.edu.

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EC Leads in Offerings to Retirees, Aided by Provost, Staff and Volunteers

Recently, I attended an annual University of California retiree center directors meeting. The directors discussed successful retiree center programs, services, and challenges; these meetings have generated good ideas and resources that benefit the USC retiree community. After attending these meetings each year, I am even more grateful to be a part of USC. The Provost supports the USC Emeriti Center...which is an important component of the Center's success. His support enables the Center to honor, engage, and serve USC retired faculty and staff.

How do Emeriti Center programs and services compare with other university retiree organizations across North America? According to data from the recent AROHE Survey of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education, our Center is a leader in many academic and program offerings

and is among the four oldest known retiree centers in North America. In terms of space availability, however, we lack sufficient room for meetings, teaching, mentoring, and events. The majority of surveyed universities (81%) have access to retiree meeting space and 73% meet on campus. In addition, five universities have their own separate retiree buildings on campus, including: Indiana University, Bloomington; University of California, San Diego; University of Alberta; Wesleyan University; and Yale University.

How do we accomplish so much at the EC? We have a cohesive and committed EC staff and experienced and dedicated retiree volunteers who work on important projects that would normally require paid staff to accomplish. We do much because retired faculty and staff continuously lead new initiatives, using their skills

and experience in new and innovative ways, supporting us on many levels. We are very thankful to all those who contribute their time, resources, and talent to help us!

WE NEED YOU! Please consider contacting me or **Carole Gustin**, our Trojan ENCORE Coordinator, with an offer to volunteer. We cannot do what we do without you, and as we work with a tighter budget, even more assistance is needed. Please consider volunteering, joining a committee, leading a new committee, offering advice and counsel, contributing funds, or assisting in any way that you think might help support the USC retiree community. Also, tell us what we can do for you and other USC colleagues as we strive to carry out our motto, "Colleagues for Life." ■

Janette C. Brown

The USC Emeriti Center Staff is Ready to Serve USC's "Colleagues for Life"



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Step Up to Serve Alongside Your RFA Colleagues

Renew old acquaintances and make some new ones among your RFA colleagues by serving on one of our standing committees. You don't need to be on the Board to do this. The Programs & Events Committee (Co-Chairs, **Phoebe Liebig**, **John Orr**, and **Ruberta Weaver**) is planning various programs for the general RFA membership, such as tours, lectures, and entertainment. Please let us know what sort of events you would enjoy. Ideas are very welcome! The Communications Committee (Chair, **Bob Stallings**) is charged with keeping in touch with RFA members by sending birthday cards, notes of congratulations or condolences, and, of course, our annual solicitation letters. Let us know if you'd like to participate.

New retirees (those honored at the Provost's luncheon last November) were invited to attend the June board meeting and enjoy a casual lunch afterward. **David Lopez-Lee** raised the issue of retirees' sense of disengagement from the USC community, precipitating an interesting discussion of how we can overcome this. Again, your ideas are very welcome!

The RFA provides financial aid to selected USC students from 10 neighborhood high schools through the Russell Caldwell Neighborhood Scholarship Fund. This spring we were happy to send letters of congratulation to four students who will attend USC this fall as Caldwell Scholars. We will



SRA Board Meets With RFA Board

SRA board members, Bob and Jeanne Church attended the June RFA board meeting along with immediate past SRA President, Carole Gustin. Jeanne has been asked to join the RFA board's Communication Committee. From left, Carole, Bob, and Jeanne are shown consulting with Bob Coffey, a past RFA President.



*Left, Natalie Cohen
Right, John Hisserich*

be inviting all of the Caldwell Scholars (freshmen through seniors) to a breakfast during the fall semester.

Thanks to **Bob Coffey** for generously hosting a very well attended social get together for USC retirees in the South Bay area (see article, page 1). ■

Natalie Cohen, RFA President
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The SRA Moves Forward With a Great Team

It is indeed an honor for me to be selected as the new president of the USC Staff Retirement Association (SRA). Having said that, I hasten to point out that outgoing president, **Carole Gustin** is a very tough act to follow. It is apparent that Carole has devoted considerable attention to her responsibilities as president for the past four years.

The enthusiasm and active participation I see among the members are in large part the result of her dedication to the work of the organization. Carole has very kindly agreed to show me the ropes, and I will frequently look to her for guidance. A wonderful group of new SRA officers has offered to carry a major share of the workload during my term. I am confident that with such a great team we will be able to build on the accomplishments of our predecessors.

The nicest part of being asked to serve the SRA is the realization that friends and acquaintances I made during 34 years at USC still think well of me and feel I have more to contribute. The Emeriti Center, the Retired Faculty Association and the Staff Retirement Association are tangible evidence that those of us who have had the privilege of working at the University of Southern California are as much a part of the Trojan Family for life as are alumni.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the USC retiree community. ■

John Hisserich, SRA President
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An Exciting Array of Classes Are on the Menu This Fall

Ceramics, piano, photography and guided autobiography await you.

You are invited and urged to join your fellow retired USC colleagues in an array of fun and engaging courses and events during the fall.

At the request of an enthusiastic group of participants, the “Piano for Seniors” course will be offered again for a third season. **Bob Lipson**, pianist/accompanist, will introduce students to a sure-fire method of playing the melody line and harmonizing with chords to create their own arrangements. This course will provide participants with the tools to make beautiful music and make practice an enjoyable experience, allowing each individual to work at his or her own pace. Participants will meet on eight consecutive Tuesdays beginning Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Andrus Gerontology Center.

For those of you looking to express your artistic abilities, **Peter Bobbs**, a graduate of USC’s Roski School of Fine Arts, will again teach a seven-week hands-on course in the basic techniques and concepts involved in ceramics, in a course titled “An Introduction to Ceramics.” This course will begin on Friday, Sept. 25, from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., in the Galen Ceramic Studio.

Other exciting programs in develop-

ment include courses on beginning and intermediate digital photography, which will include scanning and editing of old photographs to preserve family histories; a “History of Los Angeles” speakers’ series and a “Fall Jazz Concert,” both to be held in collaboration with the EXPO Center/Ahmanson Senior Center in Exposition Park.

The Emeriti Center College will again be collaborating with the USC Alumni Association in “Reunion Weekend ’09,” Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 – 24, at the Davidson Conference Center. **Dagmar Halamka**, Clinical Professor of Business Law, USC Marshall School of Business, will examine the excitement and fundamentals of exploring different business enterprises, in “The Joy of Business;” and **Richard Smith**, Professor and former Chair of the Studio/Jazz Guitar Department, USC Thornton School of Music, will explore the trials and triumphs of teaching the music of The Beatles and James Brown, instead of Bach and Brahms, in a talk titled “Rock Goes to College.”

And last, but not least, I, along with my wife **Lora Walker**, M.A., will lead a group of participants in writing and sharing their life stories in a course titled “Guided Autobiography.” This course will also feature, via web



Relaxing While Catching and Releasing

Emeriti Center College Director Jerry Walker is enjoying retirement to the fullest while on a break away from his ECC endeavors. The rainbow trout Jerry proudly holds was caught July 8 on Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon, and it weighed 5 lbs. 7 oz., and it was released alive and well.

camera, the course founder, Professor Emeritus of Gerontology **James Birren**, Ph.D., D.Sc. Participants will meet for 10 consecutive Fridays beginning Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Andrus Gerontology Center.

We invite you to explore these possibilities and make new friends! Please refer to the Emeriti Center College website at www.usc.edu/ecc for course fees and further details. To register, please call (213) 740-7122. ■

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Seated, from left: Wallace Blischke, Robert Filep, Kenneth Williams; Standing, from left: James Halls, Clive Grafton, and Jerry Walker.

Emeritus Professors Gather for Breakfast With Commencement Marshals

For the first time, University Marshal **John Callaghan** invited all emeriti faculty who were planning to attend Commencement ceremonies to join the faculty marshals for breakfast on May 15. Members of the University Convocations Committee and **Dennis Cornell**, Associate Senior Vice President for University Relations and Chief of Protocol, supported the idea of including emeriti in the traditional breakfast for faculty marshals who lead graduates into Alumni Park. Emeritus professors are honored every year by being invited to march at the head of the active faculty column in the Commencement procession, and inclusion in the marshals’ breakfast is an additional way of demonstrating the university’s appreciation for the retired faculty. ■

“Colleagues for Life” Site Provides Great Resources

I’ve blogged about a variety of subjects during the summer, so check out our EC blog site at www.colleaguesforlife.blogspot.com

Here’s some tips:

Did you know you can access your Medicare Account, including monitoring CMS payments, by signing up at www.medicare.gov/coverage/home.asp

And AARP has developed a “doughnut hole calculator” – another tool to be used when selecting your Medicare Part D Policy. Go to doughnuthole.aarp.org. AARP’s Doughnut Hole Calculator is powered by DestinationRx as part of a special arrangement between AARP and The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

For a website which deals with long-term care, go to www.ltcmonth.com

To find discount generic drug programs in your area, go to www.medtipster.com/search.php

Personally, I’ve signed up for on-line monitoring of my Medicare account. The URL is: www.medicare.gov/coverage/home.asp

Part 1 took just a few minutes. I had my temporary password pattern e-mailed to me (if one doesn’t enter an e-mail address, it gets snail-mailed) – you choose a login during this step.

Password instructions were emailed to me. Setting up the temporary password was a bit confusing when I first read the e-mailed instructions, but when I printed them out and followed them step-by-step, I was successful.

Account information includes processed claims by time period or claim number; a list of preventive services to which you are entitled; health and drug plans (the drug plan table shows the plans I’ve had since sign-up); account maintenance (e.g., change login and/or password); a message board (upon sign-up, most of the messages are instructions for various aspects of the site); and publications and tools.

If you have suggestions or comments for this EC blog column, feel free to e-mail me. ■

– Elaine Steward
eslady@gmail.com



Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Deadline

The deadline to submit nominations for the **USC Faculty Lifetime Achievement Awards** is October 30. Outstanding retired faculty members are honored for their “notable contributions to the University, their profession and community.” Awards will be conferred at the Academic Honors Convocation on April 13, 2010. For specific criteria and additional information, go to www.usc.edu/emeritcenter and click on “Awards.” ■

An Editor’s Thoughts

One of the first things my grandson Cameron wanted to see when he visited me this summer was my worm farm. I’d been telling him about the hundreds and hundreds of wriggly red worms in my bin that work hard to convert kitchen waste into rich humus.

The worms live in a two-tier plastic container in my kitchen where they are content to eat leftover chopped up carrots, coffee grounds, wilted spinach, eggshells, and other vegetables I buy and don’t get around to eating.

Cameron was fascinated and eager to help me feed them, and interested to watch me harvest worm casings for my garden and “worm tea” to add to the water for my patio plants. The bin, started six months ago with a few worm inhabitants, is now a wall-to-wall writhing worm village, and I joke that I’ve named them all – variations of squiggly and wiggly – although I admit that it’s often difficult to tell them apart.

Most children love worms, so we’ve had a shared adventure feeding them. And worms love my garbage (although I have to remind myself that I’m buying vegetables for myself, not just for them!)

It’s one little thing I can do to help the environment in a small way, and the worms are no muss, no fuss. It’s a good thing, all around.

Want to start a worm farm? Just Goggle “worm farm” or some variation of that, and you’ll get a bunch of information sources to choose from.

Happy vermiculture! ■

– Christine Shade
shade@usc.edu



Christine and Cameron

Got Skype?

If you have a computer and a high-speed Internet connection (via DSL, cable, or satellite), then you might be interested in Skype.

Skype is a free downloadable application that allows you to make (free) voice calls over the Internet to anyone who is also running Skype on her/his computer (including multi-party conference calls), (free) video calls, and (inexpensive) calls to landlines and mobile phones almost anywhere in the world.

With an inexpensive Webcam and headset (or Webcam with a built-in microphone), you can see and hear – and be seen and be heard by – anyone with a similar setup. Skype runs on all three major operating systems (Windows, Mac OS X, Linux) as well as selected mobile phones such as the iPhone. Note that, like all VOIP (voice over Internet protocol) applications, there is no 911 capability through Skype.

Check out Skype and its numerous features at www.skype.com/welcomeback.

REMINDERS:

Elaine Steward has been posting helpful items about health and financial matters on our blog, www.colleaguesforlife.blogspot.com. Also, check out videos and photos from some of the past year's major USC retiree community happenings on www.colleaguesforlife.org.

– **Bob Stallings**, rstallin@usc.edu

* If there is a tip that you would like to read about in a future issue please e-mail Bob Stallings at rstallin@usc.edu, or Len Wines at len@winesland.net.

In The News

Sharing Their Expertise: USC retirees who were called upon for their comments on news topics in recent months or highlighted in the news, include:

- The *Wall Street Journal* featured research by **Malcolm Klein**, professor emeritus (sociology), aimed at identifying young people likely to join gangs. Last year, L.A. city officials turned to Klein and his USC colleagues to design a test that they hope will empirically identify gang-prone children, the story noted. This year, the test will help allocate gang-prevention funds. Klein's research has shown that about 15 percent of youth in gang-ridden areas will end up joining a gang, meaning that the vast majority of adolescents never become involved. In L.A., Klein's theories appeal to policymakers eager to stretch limited resources, and the emphasis on data is part of what officials have been calling an epidemiological strategy. The *Washington Post* also quoted Klein about the recent indictment of a Latino gang that was allegedly motivated by racism.

- **Lillian Hawthorne**, professor emerita (social work), wrote a *Los Angeles Times* op-ed about her experiences using a portable oxygen supply to treat a chronic lung condition. "The greatest effect for me was that it was so image-changing," Hawthorne wrote. "What people now saw was not me, but the fact that I wear oxygen."

- The *Denver Post* quoted **Stephen Krashen**, professor emeritus (education) about kids who prefer to read comic books. Parents don't need to worry about this, according to Krashen. He advocates free voluntary reading, in which children choose what they read. When they're finished, there is "no book report, no questions at the end of the chapter, and no looking up every vocabulary word," he said, adding that copious reading was the best way for children to learn spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

- The *Los Angeles Times* featured **James Vail**, professor emeritus (music) and USC alumnus, who is stepping down after 40 years as choirmaster of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Vail headed the Thornton School's choral and sacred music department for 15 years, and mentored many notable musicians during his 38 years at the university, the story stated.

- *The Daily Breeze* ran a column by specialist in aging **Helen Dennis** (whose articles often appear in this newsletter), in which she mentioned teaching a course at the USC Davis School's Andrus Gerontology Center a decade ago. In the class, she provided case studies showing that most U.S.

IN MEMORIAM

We honor and mourn our university colleagues who have died. Those who were recorded by press time, and whose names were not noted in previous newsletters, are:

HENRY CLARK (*religion*); NURETTIN "NURI" ERTURK (*staff photographer*); NATHAN FRIEDMAN (*dentistry*); PETER GARDINER (*ISSM*); RANDOLPH CHAPMAN LEWIS (*medicine*); GERALD LUBIN (*medicine*); THOMAS P. NICKELL JR. (*vice president, university affairs*); WILLIAM R. SMITH (*accounting*); AND JAMES STANCILL (*business*).



Helen Dennis, a specialist on aging and financial matters, leads the seminar.

The New Retirement: Beyond \$\$\$

Although economic conditions require a focus on finances, there is more to retirement than money. **Helen Dennis**, a specialist on aging, employment and retirement conducted a retirement seminar sponsored by the Emeriti Center on April 30 at the Health Sciences campus and on May 1 at the University Park Campus. Nearly 70 faculty and staff attended both sessions.

The purpose of the seminar was to provide key information and tools on ways to make the next chapter in life – retirement – the best one. The seminar assisted USC faculty and staff to determine if and when to retire as well as elements to consider in creating the best possible future.

Nine trends were identified that are shaping the retirement experience:

- 1) Retirement involves more years for those taking early retirement;
- 2) Retirement involves fewer years for those working longer;
- 3) Economic challenges are more pervasive;
- 4) Work is part of retirement;
- 5) Some companies are age friendly;
- 6) Older adults are seeking employment;
- 7) Retirement is big business;
- 8) Retirees are the new social capital; and
- 9) Expectations are high in this new life stage.

The information presented and interactive exercises stimulated discussion on how to use the USC work experience as a planning tool for the future, elements of successful aging, assessing one's retirement readiness and identifying new opportunities in later life such as encore careers.

The next workshop, *The New Retirement: Purpose and Passion in the Next Chapter of Life*, will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Gerontology Room 224.

Helen Dennis writes a weekly column on Successful Aging for the South Bay newspaper, The Daily Breeze.

Hadley Faculty Award Nomination Deadline

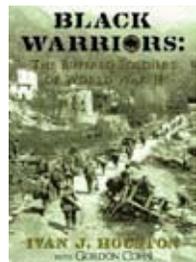
The deadline to submit names for the Emeriti Center's inaugural **Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC** is Oct. 15. This award recognizes a retired faculty who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award is conferred every November at the annual Provost's Luncheon honoring recent retired faculty. For specific criteria and additional information, go to www.usc.edu/emericenter and click on "Awards."

businesses would find themselves in the business of aging, due to demographic changes.

• The *Pasadena Star-News* ran an op-ed by **Ellin Lieberman** (emeritus/pediatrics), advocating for a public health care option. "As a physician and retired USC medical school professor myself, I know the fastest and most expedient way to save our health dollars – now 16.7 percent of our GDP – is prevention," Lieberman wrote.

Cohn Helps Write Life Story

• Since retiring in 1992, **Gordon Cohn** (medicine) has assisted 33 others in the preparation of their life stories. His latest effort, "Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II: Memories of the Only Negro Infantry



Division to Fight in Europe," has just been published by iUniverse. It is the story of L.A. native Ivan J. Houston, 83, former CEO of the Golden State

Mutual Life Insurance Company and for two decades among *Ebony* magazine's list of 100 most influential Black Americans. Houston, at 19, served with the only African-American army division to see combat in Europe during World War II, when the American military was racially segregated.

Errata

Please note that in our June newsletter the photo caption with the article about staff retirees did not include **Annie Fung's** name. Fung is in the third row, between Essie Kwan and Marisa Kasperek. The EC Web site's photo caption is correct.

Continued from page 1

bring homemade dishes next time.”

Retirees also commented on how enjoyable it was to meet with colleagues and friends, some of whom they had not seen for quite a while. Others made friends with fellow retirees living in the same area whom they had not previously met. And **George Vassilakis** offered to teach Greek lessons to any retiree willing to meet in Redondo Beach!

Brief welcomes were given by Coffey and Brown, who invited retirees to suggest the kinds of local events they would like to see. Brown also reminded the gathering that those retiring from USC are “Colleagues for Life.”

A brief morning rain brought sprinkles but by party time the sun was shining and the weather was perfect. Many of those attending gathered in the luscious back yard and enjoyed the ocean view.

Several people, in particular, contributed to the success of this event. Special thanks go to Coffey, who hosted the event, and to **Ruberta Weaver**, who helped with event planning and furnished flowers for the tables, and meatballs as part of the refreshments.

Jeanne Church and Ruberta Weaver greeted all at the front door. The Emeriti Center staff handled invitations, RSVPs, and name tags. Brown provided flowers, her always-delicious brownies, and helped plan and implement the party. **Bob Church** acted as photographer for the event, and took many great photos. ■

1. Ruberta Weaver and Jeanne Church teamed up to meet and greet their colleagues and friends. **2.** Marie-Laure Ilie and Paul Ilie relax in the garden. **3.** Bob and Joselyn Penny were among the more than 50 retirees who came to the afternoon event. **4.** Judith Webb and Patricia Edson, with host Bob Coffey. **5.** Pauline Basil, Douglas Basil, and Margaret O’Gorman. **6.** Argie and George Vassilakis arrive and are greeted by Bernie Pipkin and Janette Brown.



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The Next EC Regional Social ~ Pasadena-San Gabriel

Hosted by Mitzi Tsujimoto

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 ~ TIME: 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

It's a potluck, so bring your favorite snack, appetizer, fruit, or salad.

THE FAIR OAKS BY REGENCY PARK
951 S. FAIR OAKS AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91105
RSVP: emeriti@usc.edu OR (213) 740-7122

Would you like to host an EC Regional Social in your area? Local gatherings of USC retirees are a good way to meet interesting new people and to renew former friendships in a casual setting. The EC will be happy to help with collecting RSVPs, name tags, and a contact list for the local social committees. Interested? Contact the Emeriti Center at: (213) 740-8921 or send a message to: emeriti@usc.edu.

To view photos from the first EC Regional Social in the South Bay hosted by Bob Coffey, go to: www.colleaguesforlife.org and click on South Bay Social.



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Teaching and Learning Are Both Ongoing

The desire to learn new things doesn't stop when you retire or join the senior generation. Nor does the desire to teach new things to others.

Bob Stallings, professor emeritus, School of Policy, Planning, and Development and Retired Faculty Association board member, gave three weekly presentations in May on Microsoft Excel at the Ahmanson Senior Citizen Center in Exposition Park.

Sessions focused on using the spreadsheet application for storing and analyzing data on tasks such as keeping track of blood pressure readings and preparing income tax forms. The 23 students used Excel 2003 to format worksheets and to create formulas for manipulating data.

The series was created by **Earlie Moore** of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Jerry Walker, Director of the USC Emeriti Center College, and was the first of several presentations on a variety of topics that the Emeriti Center College will be giving at the Ahmanson Senior Center. ■



Emeriti Center retiree Bob Stallings stays active teaching classes at the Ahmanson Senior Center; he also contributes to the newsletter's SeniorCyber column and is the EC's Web Master.



The Nethercutt Museum's showroom holds a spectacular display of vintage autos.

SRA Field Trip Was a Classic

The SRA field trip on July 9 to view the Nethercutt Collection of classic cars in Sylmar was a huge success. More than 30 of our retirees and their guests spent an enjoyable day taking a guided tour of the museum and sharing lunch.

Thanks to **Dick Martin** for arranging the trip and making reservations.

The museum, founded by the Merle Norman cosmetic family, houses the largest collection of classic automobiles in the world, in two buildings. The second building also holds the Nethercutt's collection of musical-producing items including a player piano that plays George Gershwin playing "Rhapsody in Blue" and a 500-pipe organ.

Admission to the museum is free, and we'd suggest you put this site on a list of interesting places to visit or to take friends and relatives. If you weren't able to join the group, go to: www.nethercuttcollection.org to view the collection. ■

We Thank Our Center Benefactors

Through the Emeriti Center's Benefactor Recognition Program, we thank those who have become benefactors of the Center and who have recognized honored colleagues, friends, and family with a \$500 or more contribution.

For details on how you can participate, call (213) 740-8921, or send an e-mail to emeriti@usc.edu.

| DONOR | HONOREE |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Victor M. Webb | Rosetta C. Jefferson |
| Christine Glogow | Carole Gustin |
| Christine Glogow | Women In Management Founders |
| Christine Glogow | William Bruce Storm |
| Robert E. Coffey | Janette C. Brown |

Note: The three contributions from Christine Glogow were made in December 2008, and should have been acknowledged in an earlier newsletter. We apologize for the delay.

The EC Senior Housing Survey Is In Progress

The USC Emeriti Center Senior Housing Survey responses are continuing to come in. If you are interested in the possibility of living in a facility that houses senior Trojans it is not too late to identify yourself and indicate your interest in what you would like to have included in the facility and its neighborhood.

For a copy of the senior housing survey, visit our web site or call (213) 740-8921.

Early findings indicate that there is significant interest in having the facility on or adjacent to the USC University Park Campus.

The top amenities desired include: internet access, parking spaces for residents and guests, transportation services, a dining room, and a security guard. More than 50 percent would like to have assisted-living capabilities, a cleaner/laundry facility, educational programs, exercise room, library, maid services, swim facility and resident storage space. The top desired services in the neighborhood include: grocery, bank, bookstore, restaurants, pharmacy and parking.

It should be noted that there are a few interested in having a facility located near the USC Health Sciences

Campus. We are fortunate to have a new voice joining the active ranks of the Emeriti Center Executive Committee, **John Hisserich**, the new SRA president. He has been an advocate for investigating the USC Los Angeles County Hospital building as a residential multi-use facility including some space for senior housing. For the next EC newsletter I've asked John to fill us in on his efforts in this regard. It sounds like an exciting possibility and opportunity to explore. ■

– **Bob Scales**, rscales@usc.edu

Rethinking Housing and Aging in Place

Combining home modifications with the Obama administration's plan to retrofit dwellings throughout the country for energy conservation could help millions of older adults to age in place.

So would the adaptation of safer building codes and the development of age-friendly communities, according to a recent article by USC Davis School of Gerontology elder-housing advocates **Jon Pynoos** and **Caroline Cicero**.

Their recommendations appear as the cover story of the recently released Winter 2009 Public Policy & Aging Report, a publication of the National Academy on an Aging Society.

"Policy responses to support aging in place have been piecemeal and fragmented, leaving many older people in homes that are unsupportive and in communities that offer them few housing options," said Pynoos, the UPS Foundation Professor of Gerontology, Policy, Planning and Development. "Even worse, we continue to build new homes that lack the features to help the next generation of older persons."

Although research shows the many benefits of home modifications, which

range from inexpensive fixes such as grab bars and handrails to more costly repairs such as ramps, stair glides and walk-in showers, more than 1 million older adults report a need for home improvement, according to the article.

Pynoos and Cicero, a doctoral candidate in gerontology, proposed the Obama administration's plan to weatherize 2 million homes as part of its economic stimulus package could be an opportunity to implement home modifications in units occupied by low-income seniors.

The authors see hope in two movements that have gained traction on the state and local levels: visitability and universal design.

"Visitability provides basic accessibility on the first floor of a home for its residents and makes it possible for persons with a disability to visit other people's homes," Cicero said. Its four main components include a zero step entrance, interior doors with a minimum width of 32 inches, an accessible route inside the house and a half bathroom on the first floor.

A universally designed home has

features such as accessible entries, variable height countertops, front-loading appliances that include washers and dryers raised off the floor, doors with either lever handles or automatic openers and "livable" first floors.

"Supporters of universal design suggest that many of its features add minimal extra cost and that housing designed better for older and disabled people enhances the lives of everyone," Pynoos said.

Outside of the home, aging-friendly cities provide features such as usable transportation, well-maintained sidewalks, accessible retailers, social services and health care.

"When local governments plan neighborhood improvements offering mixed uses and walkable streets, they call it 'smart growth.' This recent trend in planning provides design that is by nature beneficial to people across all stages of the lifespan," Cicero said. ■

– **Athan Bezaitis** (courtesy USC News)



Jon Pynoos

Photo credit: Mark Jones

A Well-Deserved 2009 Award for the Eddys

An Emeriti Center retiree and her spouse was among those receiving 2009 Alumni Service Awards from the USC Alumni Association at the 76th Annual Awards Gala on May 2 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.

Janet Ewart Eddy '54, MS '78, PhD '91 (USC Rossier School of Education) is president-elect of the Half-Century Trojans, and her husband **James A. Eddy** '52 (USC Marshall School of Business) is past president of the celebrated group.

The Eddys are Trojans through and through – past, present, and future. The past is relevant because both of their fathers were working at USC when they were born, and they were raised in true Trojan tradition, practically growing up on the campus. They married in 1953, and their four children are all graduates of USC.

“Life is all about relationships and we have been blessed with many: a close family, friends of many years and new friends, treasured organizations and this University,” said Janet.

At the ceremony Jim talked about “pulling the kettle drums around the Coliseum floor at half time” when he was just 10 years old and eavesdropping as his father met with USC graduating class student leaders.

They are both active in volunteer activities at USC, thus highlighting their USC “present,” and, as for the future, they have 10 grandchildren ranging in age from 17 to 6, and their oldest will come to USC in 2010 on a soccer scholarship.

“Life-long learning, the central focus of my work at USC,” Janet told the gathering, “is a personal passion for both of us.” ■



James A. Eddy and Janet Ewart Eddy

USC Units are Eager for Retirees' Help

With the hiring freeze continuing and the economy still volatile, you truly have an opportunity to give back to the Trojan Family. Departments and schools understand the importance of retiree experience and knowledge, and highly value university expertise, so if you are interested in working or volunteering for a part-time project, the Trojan ENCORE website is waiting for you. Go to: sites.google.com/site/trojanencore and click on For Job Seekers.

The system is easy to use and has clear instructions. Fill out the application, attach your resume, and your information will appear online

for hiring managers to view. They can then contact you with campus opportunities at their school, department or division.

You will be making a significant contribution to the university community, working with students, faculty and staff. Don't delay! Do it today!

For further information and/or to get on our email update list please contact: **Carole Gustin**, cgustin@usc.edu. ■



Carole Gustin

Intergenerational Mentoring and Learning

As part of the Guided Autobiography class during the spring semester, USC gerontology student **Grace Sasaki**, chose to do her Guided Autobiography class project on **Nancy Warner**. This



Nancy Warner and Grace Sasaki

included a photo book entitled: “Life Review with Dr. Warner and Lifespan Development Aspects of Guided Autobiography.” While working with Grace on the project, Nancy mentored Grace, helping her with the medical school application preparation.

“The Guided Autobiography method is different from structured life review,” said Sasaki, “it has therapeutic implications.”

THE EC'S BOOK NOOK

“The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World of Human Waste and Why It Matters”
by **Rose George (2008)**

In the U.S., most of us don't give it a second thought. But the “big necessity” in the slums of Mumbai and many other places in the world, is a simple, accessible toilet. However, according to George, 2.6 million people in the world have zero bathroom facilities. How does this affect you? Do you travel, desire clean water sources, or care about public health? This book is direct and illuminating, and you'll learn about an issue that affects every human on earth. Discussing the subject of human waste shouldn't be taboo – it's too important. –**Christine Shade**

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USC EMERITI CENTER FALL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER: Tuesday, September 15

SRA General Meeting and lunch (see page 1), 10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 22

Helen Dennis, The New Retirement II, GER 224, 1 p.m.

OCTOBER: Thursday, October 8

SRA Trip to LACMA, Tour led by Karen Lansky, 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 10

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley area regional social, 11 a.m.

Friday/Saturday, October 23-24

USC Alumni Reunion Weekend

NOVEMBER: Saturday, November 14

Homecoming, SRA/RFA/EC cookie/coffee tent prior to game

Thursday, November 19

Provost's Faculty Recognition Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER: Wednesday, December 9

SRA/RFA/EC Holiday Celebration, Galen Center, 9 a.m.

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REMINDERS:

Send USC Campus Directory changes to the EC by Sept. 25.

Send Hadley Faculty Award nominations in by Oct. 15 (see pg. 7)

Send Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award nominations in by Oct. 30 (see pg. 5)

USC EMERITI CENTER