

Retiree Community Newsletter

September 2013

The Emeriti Center provides gateway to retirement

Retirement is different for everyone. It might be a great pension, a gold watch, and the finances to sail off and see the world. For others, it might mean a pared-down lifestyle and pinching pennies because the mortgage isn't paid off.

"The USC Emeriti Center started thinking about the needs of USC's retirees more than 25 years ago," said **Janette C. Brown**, executive director of the Center, "and each year it has offered enhanced resources to address the needs of our constituents."

Early sessions used to entail six sessions, held at different times. Now they are intensive one-day sessions held twice a year on each campus, the UPC and the HSC.

Gone are the days when staff and faculty attended sessions just prior to retirement. Now many sign up several years prior to retirement to get a head-start on their new future. For instance, **Jerry Mendel**, a professor of electrical engineering/systems in the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, and **Richard Jewell**, Hugh M. Hefner Professor of American Film in the USC School of Cinematic Arts, have both attended transitions sessions just because they wanted to be better prepared.

Key to this process are the twice yearly "Transition Sessions" which consist of seminars and workshops for USC staff and faculty who are close to retirement where they can learn about retirement, health benefits, and the entire planning process.

"When I first came to USC," said **Awilda Bregand**, executive director of the Office of Benefits Administration, "it was difficult for many staff to leave work and attend our presentations." Soon the EC and Benefits realized they would get higher attendance with combined one-day sessions. The current Transitions Sessions provide speakers, a panel discussion, Q&A periods, and offer light breakfast, lunch and break time snacks. But in this age of the Internet, they also include connections to many new web resources and printable handouts. These sessions are solely planned and presented by USC Benefits and the Emeriti Center with financial support from Human Resources.

Recent Transition Sessions are videotaped and posted on the USC Emeriti Center website: emeriti.usc.edu. Subjects include: insurance options; retirement plans; health coverage; medicare; social security; Emeriti Center privileges and programs; and wills and trusts. The USC Center for Work and Family Life takes part, understanding that health includes "balance." Panels of USC staff and faculty retirees speak about their own retirement and how they did or didn't plan properly. This is in stark contrast to the early sessions that were audiotaped so attendees could check out the tapes and a small selection of retirement books.



Faculty members Jerry Mendel and Richard Jewell at a recent Transitions Session.

Photos: Diana Seyb

September SRA meeting features Cinema's Renov

Staff Retirement Association members, are invited to attend the General Meeting on Friday Sept. 27, in the beautiful new USC Cinematic Arts Complex, for a presentation and screening by renowned Professor **Michael Renov** of the Cinematic Arts Faculty.

Check-in at 10:30 a.m. The program will start at 11 a.m., followed by a box lunch. This is one of the main benefits of membership, because with your yearly paid or Life Membership, the program and the lunch are free. Visit the EC web site to RSVP.

Questions: **Dick Martin** (323) 343-1146 or dickmar@msn.com.

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Holiday Breakfast sponsored by the SRA/RFA/EC at Town & Gown, Thursday, Dec. 5th. More information to come later!

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Collaborations and new resources flourish

The Emeriti Center made many new connections this year, and these multidisciplinary and multigenerational collaborations offered interesting and valuable outcomes.

We hope that you had a chance to view the web recording of the April [USC Hearing Health Symposium](#). This special collaboration with the House Institute and three USC schools created a great educational resource that covered both research and practical information.

In June, the Emeriti Center collaborated with the 24th Street Theater, USC Dramatic Arts Dean Emeritus **Bob Scales**, and USC Center for Work and Family Life Executive Director **John Gaspari** for a Q&A and a reception following the premiere performance of [Sexy Widows The Musical](#), written by USC retiree **June August**.

We partnered with the USC Alumni Association and the USC

Career Center in June resulting in an interesting panel highlighting the new book, [The Encore Career Handbook: How to Make a Living and a Difference in the Second Half of Life](#), written by [Marci Alboher](#), Vice President of Encore.org. Our own Professor Emeritus **John Orr** participated on this panel along with Milken Institute President **Paul Irving**, and author and columnist **Helen Dennis** (see page 7). You can also view this panel recording on our Emeriti Center website.

The Emeriti Center joined with the SRA and the RFA to sponsor TGIF (Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends) that supports our USC international students with activities and retiree connections. If you are interested in joining our international student activities, please contact the Emeriti Center (see page 11).

Inspired by USC retired faculty and staff who wish to help support

the community as well as one another, two new initiatives have emerged. The first is a collaboration spearheaded by **David Tool** between the SRA and the USC Fire Safety and Emergency Planning Office. As result, many in the surrounding USC neighborhood have been trained to help each other in case of emergency (see page 8).

The second initiative explores how we volunteer. A small group began meeting earlier in the summer to brainstorm about how and what we might do to help one another. Our meetings are ongoing, and so far the name for this endeavor is "Trojans Helping Trojans." Join our discussions if you can; if you cannot, send us your ideas about what we might do (see page 8).

The collaboration focus continues with our Sloan Grant initiatives. The USC Emeriti Center received \$100,000 last year to fund initiatives in support of retirement transitions and beyond. As one of the ACE/Sloan winners, we were required to write a monograph chapter and present at a conference call for the other ACE/Sloan winners. USC's presentation was given in August, and topics included: USC's retirement policies, the Emeriti Center and Emeriti Center College initiatives, activities, resources, and research. As part of our Sloan Grant work, we plan to conduct a survey about the contributions USC retirees make for the University. By doing so, we hope to highlight the many ways in which our retirees provide value to USC. ■



Janette C. Brown

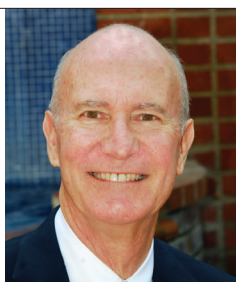
The EC hosts visitors from Taiwan



A June conversation was held at the Emeriti Center about USC's lifelong learning endeavors and how they compare with new Senior Citizen Active Learning Center initiatives in Taiwan. Shown above: Bill Rutherford, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics; Huichen Pan, officer from Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Los Angeles; Janette Brown, USC Emeriti Center executive director; and Shiou-An Yang, Senior Executive Officer, Ministry of Education and Ming-Chao Hsieh, Section Chief, Ministry of Education, both from the Department of Lifelong Education in Taipei.

Janette C. Brown
Executive Director

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Jerry Walker

USC Emeriti Center College establishes programs in Brentwood, Palos Verdes and San Marino

As a result of recent requests from the Retired Faculty Association Board (RFA) to expand our outreach to the communities in which a majority of USC retirees reside, the Emeriti Center College is offering three new enrichment programs at public libraries in Brentwood, Palos Verdes and San Marino this fall.

We are excited about the possibility of reaching a new audience that may not be as able to make the commute to campus. Our hope is to introduce more of our retirees, alumni, and others in the community, to the engaging and dynamic programs presented by USC faculty and staff.

The Donald Bruce Kaufman-Brentwood Branch Library of the Los Angeles Public Library will host **Marlene Wagner** and **Susan Aminoff** as they lead a 10-week course on "Thematic Autobiography: Writing and Sharing Your

Life" in which individuals will identify significant events in their lives, write essays capturing those experiences, and share their stories with others in small groups.

Peninsula Center Library, Palos Verdes will host **Thom Mason**, Professor of Music in the USC Thornton School of Music, for six multi-media presentations on "Jazz from A to Z: The Story of America's Music" which will include live demonstrations, musical examples, rare photos, film clips, and humorous stories.



Dr. Robert Tranquada teaching an Emeriti Center College course.

The Crowell Public Library, San Marino, and the San Marino Historical Society will host **Tom Tomlinson** for a six-week course as he explores "Health, Wealth, and Intellect: John Randolph Haynes, USC and the Making of Los Angeles, 1880-1932." Using the life of John R. Haynes and the development of USC, Tomlinson will track the growth of L.A. from a dusty town of 12,000 in 1880 to an international metropolis.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to participate in lively discussions and socialize with colleagues and neighbors in your communities. For more details on dates and times please visit our website at emeriticollege.usc.edu. ■

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Lively discussions await you in the Book Club

The USC monthly Book Club, launched in March and led by **Beth Shube**, has attracted more than 20 retirees and a couple of active faculty in the English Department. A wide variety of literary selections was chosen including "Sweet Tooth" by Ian McEwan, "The Tortilla Curtain: A Novel" by T.C. Boyle of the USC Creative Writing Program, "Old Filth" by Jane Gardam, and "The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris" by David McCullough.

Meetings will be held on the second Thursday of every month, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. at the University Club (no host lunch), including Sept. 12 and Oct. 10.

Clancy Sigal has finished his new book, "Hemingway Lives! (Why Reading Ernest Hemingway Matters Today)." Sigal may join us for a discussion of "Farewell to Arms."

Other readings may include "The Gravedigger's Daughter: A Novel" by Joyce Carol Oates, the story of a young woman whose family flees Nazi Germany in 1936; and "The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson, the story of the migration of black citizens who fled the South.

Glen and **Eileen Hamor** led USC's Retiree Book Club for more than a dozen years. We hope to continue their fine tradition of stimulating discussions. Come and join the fun, and tell us what you would like to read. Contact Beth Shube at beth.shube@gmail.com for more information ■

Jerry Walker, Director
Emeriti Center College

Important deadline for Medicare Part D

Are you enrolling in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan for 2014?

The enrollment period starts Oct. 15 and ends on Dec. 7, 2013.

The USC School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the USC Emeriti Center and USC Senior Care will be offering Medicare Part D One-on-One Sessions for individuals who need to select a plan. Sessions will take place in November 2013. Visit the USC Emeriti Center website for more details.

Executive Board members – past and present – shape the RFA

One of the first things of importance is to note the critical role played by **Phoebe Liebig** while serving as RFA President over the recent past and to congratulate her for the excellent job she did. First she stepped in for **Bob Baker** when he became ill, and second, her outstanding performance as RFA President included many accomplished tasks during 2012-2013. A major task for which she gets special recognition was her role in leading the development of the RFA Strategic Plan. The work on completing the Strategic Plan continues, with Phoebe continuing to lead the final effort during the 2013-2014 year while taking on her new role of Immediate Past President.

In addition, I want to congratulate the members of the Executive Board (**Bob Stallings, Jim Hills, Jack**

Crossley, Art Donovan, Kaaren Hoffman, Natalie Cohan, John Orr, and Jack Sanders) for their support making the Strategic Planning process both an enjoyable and successful effort. Also, it is important to recognize the 2013-2014 committee chairs for their key role in ensuring that each committee made progress during the year. Jack Crossley will lead the Program and Events Committee, which is responsible for many events planned for the year, especially our popular “Sherry Hours.” Phoebe Liebig will chair the Communications and Web Committee, Art Donovan continues as chair of the Benefits and Resource Committee and the Nominations Committee, while Natalie Cohen continues to lead the Ombudsman/Advocacy Committee. Kaaren Hoffman, along with very able

support from **Victor Marshand Webb**, continues to shepherd the Caldwell Scholarship Committee.

Be sure to attend the November 13th Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon and the December 5th Holiday Breakfast.

Finally, Phoebe Liebig, Bob Stallings, and Victor Marshand Webb are leading the Board's efforts for the RFA 65th Anniversary Celebration in 2014. This team is gathering material and information from RFA members will be greatly appreciated. ■

Bill Petak, RFA President
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Bill Petak

Imagining USC's 2022 RFA

As mentioned in last September's Retiree Community Newsletter, a special committee has been developing a Retired Faculty Association blueprint for the next decade.

We project the RFA will be a major resource for the university and the Emeriti Center in the intellectual and social lives of USC retired faculty and their spouses/partners or widows/widowers. It will serve as an advocate for maintenance of retired faculty rights and privileges. Not only will it facilitate new retiree interconnections to the university; it also will seek to strengthen bonds of the university to its more than 1,100 retired faculty.

The RFA is a key resource for the longer, healthier, and more interesting “4th quarter” many of us now enjoy. It currently represents and advocates for the interests of retired faculty in the larger USC community and provides opportunities to enjoy travel, music and art, to attend stimulating lectures, to socialize, and to be part of a human connection that stands

by each other in both good and difficult times. Retired faculty are distinctive in our growing engagement with a complex student body, including the largest number of international students of any American university, and in providing financial support for students drawn from diverse neighborhoods of the great global city surrounding us. However, we believe the RFA can do more to promote our members' well-being; contribute to their collegiality, intellectual and social interests; and support USC's mission in the 21st Century.

Several activities have been proposed: identifying possible sources of support for retirees to complete meaningful research; collaborating with USC academic units as investigators, advisors and guest lecturers; initiating a program of retired faculty affiliates in USC's residence halls; videotaping select Sherry Hours and other presentations for retirees and alumni; developing and hosting interactive webinars and “salons”/discussion groups

on topics of mutual interest; supporting localized social networks to promote different kinds of informal “neighborhood” activities; promoting access by all retired faculty to electronic resources; increasing RFA support for the Caldwell Scholars; and creating an updated RFA history in time for our 65th anniversary celebration in 2014.

To implement these and other activities, we need to know what interests you and how you might participate to make these aspirations become reality. More information will be provided on the RFA website: <rfa.usc.edu>. We look forward to hearing from you via telephone, email or snail mail. ■



Phoebe Liebig

Phoebe Liebig
RFA past president
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Dixon Johnson

SRA is impetus for new programs

As the 2013-14 academic year begins I want to tell you about some of the exciting activities

the SRA held this summer, and invite you to help build on them.

One activity that resulted in immediate benefit to both our USC retirees and to current students, staff, and faculty, was the establishment of the USC Neighborhood Network by SRA board member, **David Tool**. This network of residents of the University Park neighborhood patrolled by USC's Department of Public Safety has created an environment of greater trust and mutual support. With the assistance of **Bill Regensburger**, Director of Fire Safety and Emergency Planning, they started off with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, preparing and equipping more than 30 area residents on how to effectively assist their families and neighbors in the event of a disaster. For more information about the Network see the article on page 8.

The Spring SRA General Meeting was held at the new Engemann Student Health Center. Because of the careful planning of then-Program Chairs **Jeanne** and **Bob Church**, it was a great success. Remarks were offered by Director **Larry Neinstein**, and a tour of the facility was included. Of particular interest to our community is that the Faculty-Staff Clinic, previously

housed downtown, and the Oral Health Center, previously located in the University Village, are now both in the new building.

Under the inspired leadership of **Dick Martin**, a third tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) was held in June and attracted more than 40 participants. The success of JPL with the amazing flawless landing of its rover "Curiosity" on Mars, and their on-going space exploration activities are immensely exciting – hence three different visits by SRA members and friends! The September General Meeting promises to be quite special (see page 1)!

Administratively speaking, the SRA is in good shape. Membership continues to grow; with many current USC staff employees also as members. Total membership now exceeds 650. Financially we are in good shape and therefore able to support various worthy USC-related activities, such as the Caldwell Scholarship Fund and the installation of hearing loop technology in Gerontology auditorium.

As always, please feel free to share your opinions about the SRA and to suggest future activities and events. Also we're always on the lookout for more volunteers, so just let me know if you want to become more involved. Remember, the SRA is YOUR organization. ■

Dixon Johnson, SRA President
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USC Reunion Weekend 2013, Friday & Saturday, Nov. 15-16

Join colleagues from the classes of 1963, 1973, 1983, 1988 and 2003 for a wide array of social, academic, athletic, creative and family-friendly activities, sponsored by the USC Alumni Association. Visit the EC booth on Game Day!

For more information visit: alumnigroups.usc.edu/reunions

SENIOR HUMOR

Cecil B. DeMille (1881–1959), the famous Hollywood film director and producer, once directed a film that required a huge, expensive battle scene. Filming on location in a California valley, the director set up multiple cameras to capture the action from every angle. It was a sequence that could only be done once.

When DeMille yelled "Action!" thousands of extras playing soldiers stormed across the field, firing their guns. Riders on horseback galloped over the hills. Cannons fired, explosives were blown up, and battle towers loaded with soldiers toppled down. The whole sequence went off perfectly. At the end of the scene, DeMille yelled "Cut!"

He was then informed, to his horror, that three of the four cameras recording the battle sequence had failed: in Camera #1, the film had broken; Camera #2 had missed shooting the sequence when a dirt clod was kicked into the lens by a horse's hoof; and Camera #3 was destroyed when a battle tower fell on it. DeMille was at his wit's end when he suddenly remembered that he still had Camera #4, which he had placed along with a cameraman on a nearby hill to get a long shot of the battle sequence. He grabbed his megaphone and called up to the cameraman, "Did you get all that?"

The cameraman on the hill waved and shouted back, "Ready when you are, C.B.!" ■

– **Len Wines**
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SENIOR CYBER TIPS

About online photo sharing

Want to share photos online with family and friends but don't like Facebook? There are numerous alternatives. Most provide free storage, have some editing capability, and allow you to order prints, calendars, etc., that you can either receive by mail or pick up at Walgreens, CVS, Target, and elsewhere. If you take medium-quality photos (about 2 MB each) with a point-and-shoot camera, you can store roughly 2,500 photos for every 5 GB of available storage. Popular sites include the newly-renovated Flickr (my favorite), Photobucket, Shutterfly, and Picasa Web/Google+.

Don't overlook Dropbox and Skydrive which can also be used for sharing photos. Check out several, select one that has the features you need, and stick with it. Costco, Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens among others have websites to which you can upload photos for printing. Whatever you do, back up your most valuable photos on external storage devices.

– **Bob Stallings**
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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:

Robert Avakian (dentistry); Boris Catz (medicine); Hugh Kopel (dentistry); James Loper (communication/journalism); Randell Makinson (architecture); Barbara Rossier (education); Stephen J. Ryan (medicine); William Van Cleave (international relations); Gerald Lee Vale (dentistry); and Dallas Willard (philosophy).

In the News

Liebig is honored

Phoebe Liebig (gerontology), past president of the RFA, was the recipient of a 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from The California Council on Gerontology & Geriatrics at their annual meeting in April. She was honored for her outstanding achievements in gerontology and geriatrics.

Shooting New Mexico symphonies

Irene Fertik (News Service/photography) – who relocated to New Mexico last year – will be doing pro bono photography for non-profits in Albuquerque, including the New Mexico Symphony, Albuquerque Symphony, and Accion, the Albuquerque Film & Media Experience. Also, a feature on Fertik's work, "From Tesfa to Tikva: Documenting the Ethiopian Experience in Israel," ran in The New Mexico Jewish Link.



Brown appointed as adjunct faculty

In May, Dean **Pinchas Cohen** informed EC Executive Director **Janette Brown** that the faculty voted unanimously to appoint her as an adjunct faculty member at the USC Davis School of Gerontology. Brown wrote the cover article, "Collaborative programs position retiree organizations as unique valuable," for AROHE Matters, the E-newsletter of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education.

Siegel donates volumes to library

Gilbert Siegel, C.C. Crawford Distinguished Professor of Public Productivity Improvement, Emeritus, from the School of Policy, Planning, and Development made a donation to the USC University Libraries of his long-collected body of technical books and other publications. It consisted of approximately 2,000 volumes.

We salute our Caldwell Scholars

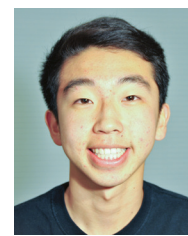
Two new students, **Eduardo Avila** and **Joshua Park**, joined the RFA Caldwell Scholarship Program this semester.

Avila hails from Manual Arts High School and will major in aerospace engineering. While in high school, he was involved in the MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) Program. His dream is to become a chief engineer at a large aerospace, aeronautical or engineering company dealing with ground-breaking technologies. "I want to be able to say I helped change the world, that I made an impact," Avila said.

Park graduated from Belmont High School where he was president of the National Honor Society and Belmont's Christian Club as well as serving as captain of the junior varsity basketball team. His early and steadfast involvement with community food banks and outreach



Eduardo Avila



Joshua Park

programs for the homeless in downtown Los Angeles evolved "because of my heart to serve the homeless," Park said. He will major in economics.

Two former Caldwell scholars, **Natalie Guevara** (civil engineering) and **Eva Ortega** (psychology/neurosciences), are now proud USC alums as members of the class of 2013.

The RFA Board offers its congratulations to our new and graduated Caldwell scholars. ■

– **Victor Marchand Webb**

Easy options for when you can't drive – try metro rail, buses and more

Getting from “here to there” is made easier every year through new transportation services for those who want to downsize their driving or who may be experiencing driving limitations. The Emeriti Center is doing its part to let its members know about their options, many of which are offered by L.A. County, including metro rail and city buses.

Information on these valuable resources continue to be developed by our retired faculty and staff. Recently, **Connie Horak** conducted a mini-research project to determine where to find transportation resources in L.A. County. It was surprising how time-consuming this project became since there is no one place to find out about all forms of transportation.

The Center is grateful to Horak for her help on this project. You can find the [Transportation Resources for LA County](#) information in the Resources section of our website. You'll find listings for: LADOT/Cityride; LADOT DASH; METROLINK; EZ PASS; ACCESS

(a curb-to-curb accessible paratransit transportation for functionally disabled individuals in L.A. County); services in Pasadena, Culver City, and Santa Monica and other cities; as well, there are contacts for various food delivery services from Von's and other grocery stores to Meals-on-Wheels to senior gourmet meals.

Retired USC researcher **Donna Simmons**, recently tried out light rail to USC for the first time. “The ride was easy, quiet and speedy,” Simmons said. “We started in Culver City, leaving our car in the free park-and-ride lot, and got off the train at the USC Expo Park stop. Now I'm tempted to explore the other connecting rail lines, just to see where they go and how easy it is to get around L.A.”

If you cannot download the PDF version of the Transportation Resources document from our website, we would be happy to send a printed copy to you if you call the Emeriti Center: (213) 740-8921.

In addition, please contact us with any new resources that you find at emeriti@usc.edu. ■

Double lessons – retiree tutors neighbor's twins

“I have been tutoring my neighbors' twins, Jasmine and Joshua, since they were four years old,” said **Lynn Williams**, a staff retiree from the Health Sciences Campus.

“They are now almost 14 years old!” Williams exclaimed. When the children were old enough to start school, they attended a private school. The mother, trusting Williams' guidance, shared with her that she was disappointed that the twins were not learning math or English

very well at the private school. Williams suggested that she and the mother go to the local public school to see if she thought it might be better for her children. After enrolling in the public school, Lynn began tutoring the twins in math, starting with American coins, asking “what is the amount on this coin?” From there, she coached them in their writing of book reports, and she eventually included history and mythology in her tutoring repertoire.

“When I first started tutoring the twins,” she said, “they would knock on my door. Now that they are older, they call me on the phone for help.” ■

– Diana Seyb

SUCCESSFUL AGING

Retaining independence is a consistent priority among older adults. Medical alert systems can help. Many include a base station and a pendant that could be worn around the neck as part of a necklace, as a belt clip or on wrist like a watch.

Here are 10 tips to consider when selecting such a system, adapted from Seniorlist.com.

1. Determine if the medical alert system is compatible with your telephone service. Ask if the system works with the VOIP (voice over internet protocol).
2. Find out about the range of the alert system. The range usually covers most normal sized homes, which is 400-600 feet. Test the system after installation.
3. Determine who will install the system and what the fees are.
4. Ask if you need a landline. Many require this, with a few exceptions. Some do connect to a wireless system for use outside the home and others interface with cell phones.
5. Determine who staffs the call center, their location and average response time.
6. Find out if the system comes with other services such as medication reminders.
7. Ask, “What if the system fails?” Will someone come to your home to fix it?
8. Determine if the system has an automatic fall detection capacity.
9. Ask if there are options to purchase or lease the equipment. Read the fine print to determine if the equipment is yours and what happens if you damage the equipment or you no longer need it.
10. Ask, “What is the yearly cost?” ■



— **Helen Dennis**,
Specialist on
aging, employment and
the new retirement,
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Lynn Williams

Trojans Helping Trojans: tea, coffee and conversation

The USC Emeriti Center held its first Trojans Helping Trojans “casual conversation” in June about volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. The purpose of the meeting was to gather ideas from USC retirees about their needs and of other retirees they knew, and to address ways we might be able to meet those needs. Those attending were enthusiastic and presented many ideas.

Examples of ways the EC might benefit retirees: workshops on tech areas such as computer programs and social media; and transportation options to campus;

Examples of services that could be offered by retirees were: contacting pre-retirees about resources and services available; organizing regional socials; forming telephone trees to maintain contact with those who cannot come to campus.

Other discussions involved working on Emeriti Center projects/programs, such as helping with mailings and acting

as hosts for events, and organizing daytime activities, such as exhibits of retirees’ art or creative endeavors.

“At our second meeting in July,” said **Carole Gustin**, who led the group. “We focused on regional volunteer opportunities using a soon-to-be implemented software mapping program, used by the Emeriti Center, which shows areas where USC retirees live. **Harriet**

Servis, a committee member, said, “It would be fun to connect with people in my area, like neighborhood buddies.”

In discussing reaching out to USC retirees through the Emeriti Center, **Donna Simmons** said,

“I really enjoy coming back to USC and connecting with other retirees.”

The Trojans Helping Trojans group plans to meet once a month. Please follow our progress as we build our volunteer committees. Watch for notices in your email and on the Emeriti Center website: <http://emeriti.usc.edu/>. ■

– **Carole Gustin**



Photo Diana Seyb

More than a dozen retirees gathered in July for the second meeting of the new “Trojans Helping Trojans” volunteer group. Shown above with EC director Janette Brown, are several of the attendees: Harriett Servis, Brown, group leader Carole Gustin, Leslie Pittman, and Donna Simmons.

Safety first in USC's neighborhood

A new initiative is helping to bolster social and cultural ties in the neighborhood between USC and neighborhood residents.

The USC Neighborhood Network is an initiative of the Staff Retirement Association. Its purpose is to build a more integrated and supportive community within the USC Public Safety Department’s Patrol and Response area.

On two days in June, in order to help prepare the community for earthquakes and other major disasters, the Fire Safety & Emergency Planning Office of USC provided a Community Emergency Readiness Training (CERT) first-aid and emergency preparedness/response techniques to 35 members of the community, including 16 local residents and staff members of Hebrew Union College, University Church and the Caruso

Catholic Center.

A second CERT short-course will be provided to another group of residents at a future date. As part of the FFASNN on-going program, monthly potluck suppers are held at 2810 and 2806 Ellendale Place to continue first-aid training provided by nurses living in the area and to endeavor to build friendships among the community folk to enable neighbors to look out for each other in emergencies. The elderly, disabled, and single-parent households will be identified for special

attention during disasters and reporting responsibilities will be assigned.

This program will also help improve the well-being of students living in the area and help develop social and cultural exchanges in the community and to pay attention to supporting the businesses and cultural organizations in the area.

For information contact **David Tool**: dtool42@yahoo.com or (323) 400-8838. ■



There was a great turnout for the neighborhood CERT course.

Benefactor Recognition

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

Donor

Dr. Stephen B. Schnall

Honoree

All Military Service Men & Women

Please consider supporting the Emeriti Center this fall with a planned gift, endowment contribution, or a donation to help us grow our resources, mentoring and service initiatives that exceed the scope of our operational budget. To learn more, please call Janette Brown (213) 740-7121.

First "Sherry Hour" scheduled for Oct. 4

The Retired Faculty Association is delighted to have **K.C. Cole**, professor of journalism in the Annenberg Center, as our first Sherry Hour speaker of the new academic year, on Friday, Oct. 4. The event is from 3 to 5 p.m., in the Academy Room (241) of Doheny Memorial Library. Cole served for many years as a science writer for the Los Angeles Times. At the same time she focuses on journalism and the arts.

Our Nov. 8 speaker is **Hannah Gary**, clinical associate professor of law at the USC Gould School of Law. She heads the school's International Human Rights Clinic and her topic is the International Criminal Court.

Mark your calendars for our 2014 schedule: Feb. 14 (**Donald E. Miller**, professor of religion and sociology at USC and director of the Center for Religion and Civic Culture); March 14 (**Jacob Soll**, professor of history with a strong background in accounting and a close relationship with the USC Leventhal School of Accounting); and April 11 (**Jack Wills**, Professor of History, Emeritus, an expert on Chinese history).

Join us for fellowship, sherry, good hors d'oeuvres, and stimulating speakers. ■

— **Jack Crossley**
crossley@usc.edu

continued ... "gateway to retirement"

To stress that retirement doesn't begin the day your employment ends, the Center developed a five year Steps to Retirement guide to help employees review their status and to help them determine how, when and what to do with retirement. This guide is now available on the new employee gateway ([Life stages and events](#) section: "[Thinking About Retirement?](#)") and the EC website offers further information under the [Retirement Planning](#) section at the top of the page.

"In 2005 I attended a session," said **Christine Shade**, who retired in

mid-2006. "I remember **Bob Scales** addressing the group, saying, 'You *do* realize that you won't be receiving a paycheck anymore, don't you?' It was an eye-opener, and made me realize I should have been paying attention way earlier!"

"The USC Emeriti Center and the Office of Benefits Administration are here to help," said Brown. "We have a wealth of information and ideas to share. Transitions to Retirement Planning Sessions are considered the best way to learn about retirement options many years before you retire." ■

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Okay, I admit it – I fell again! I didn't fall in love, or fall victim to a scam – I fell down, smack on the floor onto my kneecaps, after tripping on a lamp cord.

The falling was bad enough, but what made it worse was that I was scheduled to leave the next day to take my grandson, Cameron, back home to Alaska. I went straight for the RICE plan: rest, ice, compression, and elevation, and that helped. But even walking slowly was still a big "ouch" for the right knee and I had an obvious limp.

The immediate problem was getting through two airports while carrying my heavy laptop in my carry-on bag. Lucky thing I had a strapping 13-year-old who, Sherpa-like, agreed to shoulder my bag!

I probably should have requested a wheelchair, but didn't think my condition warranted that, so I did the stoic (and likely dumb) thing and grimaced all the way with every step. Pride apparently not only goeth before a fall, it also goeth after one.

But this was my second fall on my right kneecap in three months. The first happened in my driveway in June as I made a bad turn and went down – it took a couple days to bounce back from that one.

I'm thinking I've used up all my good-luck chips for falls. At my age, I'm not only in "pay attention" territory here. I'm in "pay better attention" land.

I'm sharing – please feel free to use my experience as your own wake-up call. ■



— **Christine Shade**
shade@usc.edu

Making the most of the second half of life

The term “encore” can be interpreted broadly to include different situations within multiple generations: again, once more, anew; also something of greater importance. Many retirees want work that combines personal meaning and social impact with continued income in the second half of life, or meaningful volunteer opportunities for their own special causes. “Several years ago, unaware of the Encore movement, the USC Emeriti Center created the Trojan Encore Program in order to register retired faculty and staff who are interested in working or volunteering part-time on USC campuses,” said **Janette Brown**, executive director of the Center. “As the baby boomers age, the encore movement is gathering momentum and the nonprofit, Encore.org, has been a national leader in promoting encore careers with a purpose, passion, and a paycheck for the common good.”

In June, the USC Emeriti Center, Career Center, and Alumni Association hosted, “Making the Most of the Second Half of Life: An Encore Career Event,” featuring **Marci Alboher**, Encore.org vice president, author of the newly published *Encore Career Handbook*, a consumer friendly road map to finding purpose, passion and a paycheck in the second half of life.

Milken Institute president, **Paul Irving**, and Encore.org board member, moderated the conversation with

Alboher, a former New York Times career columnist and **Helen Dennis**, an expert in aging, employment and retirement (see her column, page 7). Alboher signed copies of her *Encore Career Handbook* and networked with attendees.

Two USC panelists shared their encore career stories: **Sue Cook**, USC alumna, executive director of the Arcadia Performing Arts Foundation; and **John Orr**, professor emeritus of religion and past president of the USC Retired Faculty Association (RFA). Orr is a great example of encore career, changing his career in “later life” by studying documentary photography and exhibiting his work at many Los Angeles venues. And, as a member of the Hearing Loss Association of Los Angeles’s advocacy committee, Orr consults with movie theater chains and L.A. performance venues to improve their assistive listening systems, advocating the use of hearing loop and captioning technology.

“Sue Cook and John Orr were interesting,” noted an attendee who filled out a comment card. “I am just starting a new business with a partner so the information was inspiring.”

The Encore panel was recorded for future viewing and is located on the Emeriti Center website.

“From the Emeriti Center perspective, we encourage and hope to inspire our pre-retirees and retirees to explore their options for new endeavors creatively. Their work may contribute to

the common good and may or may not include a paycheck,” said Brown. The event showcased the Center’s belief that when people engage in purposeful and interesting work post retirement, their health and energy improves, and they contribute in significant ways – benefitting families, communities and beyond.

In the future, the Emeriti Center plans to conduct a survey that will collect information on what retired faculty and staff do in their postretirement years.

“We encourage everyone to participate in the survey,” said Brown. “Because no matter what you do, large or small, your good works in the community, at USC, or even within your own family, are inspirations to others and illustrate the value that our USC retiree community provides.” ■



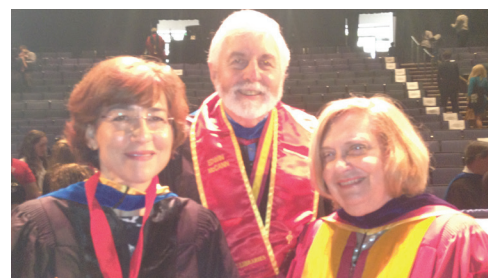
Presenters included Paul Irving, Marci Alboher, and Helen Dennis.

Marlene Wagner is honored by PKP

The Phi Kappa Phi All-University Honor Society honored staff retiree **Marlene Wagner** with a Lifetime Service Award for “her extraordinary leadership and dedication to the USC chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.” Wagner served the USC community for more than three decades and played a key role in PKP’s activities

since 1981 when PKP began its faculty recognition awards.

The Initiation Ceremony was held Wednesday, May 15, in the Bing Theatre. Students, faculty and senior staff were recommended for membership and **Caleb Finch** was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. ■



From left to right: Alison Renteln, professor and executive board member; Ed McCann, professor and president of PKP, and Marlene Wagner, past president of PKP.

TGIF partners with OIS and ISA

The SRA, RFA, and USC Emeriti Center continue to partner with the USC Office of International Services (OIS) and the International Student Assembly (ISA) to promote the Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends mentoring program (TGIF). We began with a dinner reception last February and followed up in July with a noontime discussion with international students and current and retired faculty and staff.

International student, Sida Wang, is creating a web site to list interested mentors, so that students can connect with TGIF American friends. **David Tool** is working with **Cynthia Berne** to offer conversation meetings at the University Church where international students can drop by to practice their language and enjoy learning more about American Culture.

We don't want ANY international visitor to go back home and say "I never had an American friend." We want to



help students navigate USC, practice speaking and writing English, learn about American culture and learn about the local community.

If you are interested in building bridges of friendship with our international students and scholars, please email: emeriti@usc.edu for the latest updates on the developing web and events. ■

THE EC'S BOOK NOOK

"Mary Coin" (2013)

by Marisa Silver

It is a 1936 black-and-white moment in history: Mary Coin, an exhausted migrant farm laborer with six children, is captured on film in central California by photographer Vera Dare as she documents the effects of the Great Depression. Decades later, Walker Dodge, a professor of cultural history descended from landowners, works to unravel the mystery of the iconic photograph and how it may have played a part in his own history as he struggles to hold his own family together. Coin is courageous, Dare is ambitious, and Dodge is focused – these three lives are knit together in an extraordinary, poetically told, powerful tale.

Call for nominations

Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award

Deadline: Friday, Oct. 18

Outstanding retired faculty members are honored for their "notable contributions to the University, their profession and community." Awards will be conferred at the 2014 Academic Honors

Convocation in April. For specific criteria and additional information, go to <http://emeriti.usc.edu/> and click on "Awards" or call Gloria M. Reyes at (213) 740-8175.

Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award

Deadline: Friday, October 4

This award recognizes a retired faculty member who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award is conferred at the annual Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon honoring recent retired faculty on Wednesday, Nov. 13. For specific criteria and additional information, go to <http://emeriti.usc.edu/> and click on "Awards" or call Gloria M. Reyes at (213) 740-8175. ■

EC members travel the globe



SRA board colleagues show USC spirit in Budapest, Hungary, in June. At the Fishermen's Bastion, from left, Bob Church, Jo and Art Ochoa, and Jeanne Church.

Faculty research applications are available now

Faculty research fund applications invited The USC Emeriti Center maintains a fund to assist retired faculty with the expenses of research and publication that is made possible by a grant from the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation. One grant of up to \$2,000, or two grants totaling \$2,000, may be awarded during the academic year. Funds may be used to reimburse research expenses and hire undergraduate research assistants. Previous grant recipients may reapply for funds after a period of three years.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Forms can be obtained from the Emeriti Center College web page, <http://emeriticollege.usc.edu/>. A project description and a simple budget are requested. For questions, call Jerry Walker (213) 740-1289 or Judy Diaz (213) 740-8841.



RETIREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER: Thursday, September 12

USC Book Club meeting (see page 3)

Friday, September 27

SRA General Meeting (see page 1)

OCTOBER: Friday, October 4, 3 to 5 p.m.

RFA Sherry Hour, Doheny Memorial Library, Rm. 241

NOVEMBER: Wednesday, November 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon
Town & Gown

Saturday, November 16

USC Homecoming/Retiree Community Gathering Place

Friday, November 22, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

2014 Medicare Part D Rx Coverage Updates
UPC, Andrus Gerontology Center Auditorium

DECEMBER: Thursday, December 5, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

USC Retiree Community Holiday Breakfast
Town & Gown (requires paid-up memberships and RSVP)

USC Emeriti Center

Phone (213) 740-8921

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USC Retiree Community Newsletter

Janette C. Brown, Executive Director

Christine Sinrud Shade, Editor

Contributors: Retired Faculty Association and
Staff Retirement Association members; and
Emeriti Center leaders and staff.

SAVE THE DATE:

USC Vision Health Symposium

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2014, in the
USC Davis School of Gerontology
Auditorium.

The enrollment period for 2014
Medicare Part D (prescription
drug) coverage will begin on Oct.
15 and end Dec. 7, 2013.