



# The Silver Slug

Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association  
Volume 32, Issue #2, November 2021



**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:00 – 2:00**

## **Virtual Holiday Party**

**Join us on ZOOM**

It's still not safe to get together in person, but we hope you will join us from wherever you are and stay connected virtually. Bring your lunch and there will be break out rooms on different

topics such as Holiday Baking, Books, Films, etc. If you have ideas for a topic, please note that when you fill out the online registration form. After the breakout discussions, the whole group will play a game of Listography!



Registration is required

Please sign up at the link below by **December 3rd.**

*Hope to see you there!*

[docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVR009fuvksRf-eGQW1R9hpIsuVe\\_iGRswJYkpEcJMXHYUUA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVR009fuvksRf-eGQW1R9hpIsuVe_iGRswJYkpEcJMXHYUUA/viewform)



### New Members

Gwynn Benner – Student Success Equity Resource Center

Kenneth Lyons – University Library

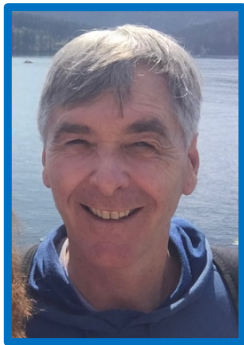
Pamela Peterson - UCOP

Lisa Rose – Institute for Marine Sciences/Seymour Discovery Center

Bradley Smith – ITS

Lynne Stoops – University Relations

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### President's Message November 2021

Dear Retirees,

I don't know about you, but it seems like time is flying by. By the time you get this newsletter, it will almost be Thanksgiving, the days are getting shorter and shorter, persimmons are ripening on trees around town, and folks are making Holiday plans. Meanwhile, your Retirees Association Board has been plugging away, continuing to meet via ZOOM and carrying on the business of advocating for all retirees. On page 3, you will see a summary of the most recent CUCRA/CUCEA meeting, page 5 has a report on the

Virtual Pop Up Craft Sale, and on page 6 is summary of the Leslie Karst book discussion.

In terms of COVID and the future, we are optimistically taking the approach that we are almost out of the woods and are tentatively planning that our Speaker's Luncheon in March 2022 will be in person. Meanwhile, we hope to see you at our Holiday Party via ZOOM on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition, if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity and would like to be of service to other retirees, we have several openings on the Retirees Association Board. We will be holding a Board Social in person (outdoors with a limited number of people) on Tuesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> tentatively set for 5 – 7pm, location TBA. This will be an informal meet and greet where you can ask questions and get to know us. If you are interested, please contact me at [wcparro@ucsc.edu](mailto:wcparro@ucsc.edu).

In addition, it will soon be time for our Scholarship Committee to start accepting applications for our two scholarship programs for the 2022-23 academic year. The Silver Slug Award for UCSC Staff, current or retired, and their dependents, who are attending UCSC, and the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship for military veteran students attending UCSC. For more information on both these scholarships, please go to the Scholarships page on our website <https://retirees.ucsc.edu/scholarships/index.html>

Take care, stay safe, and hope to see you soon,

Sincerely,  
Bill Parro  
[wcparro@ucsc.edu](mailto:wcparro@ucsc.edu)



## Christy's Corner - News from the Retiree and Emeriti Center

Christy Dawley, Coordinator, UC Santa Cruz Retiree & Emeriti Center  
(831)502-8202 rec@ucsc.edu

Twice a year the Council of University of California Retirees Associations (CUCRA) <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/> and the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) <https://cucea.ucsd.edu/> meet for a two day conference to discuss current items that impact UC retirees and emeriti. Over the years attending the bi-annual meetings, I am continuously inspired by the dedication and effort our retiree and emeriti volunteers give towards advocating for benefits and in support of other areas that impact our UC retirees. Current representatives from UC Santa Cruz include:

**Frank Trueba**, the UC Santa Cruz Retirees Association representative to CUCRA. Frank has participated in several RFP committees, including a recent effort to revamp the retiree Open Enrollment booklet.

**Barry Bowman**, the UC Santa Cruz Emeriti Association representative to CUCEA, is also serving as the campus ambassador for the triennial survey of UC emeriti. If you are a UC emeriti and have not yet participated in the survey, please use this link:

[https://uci.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8G2zjLwkt6qo3c](https://uci.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8G2zjLwkt6qo3c)

**Roger Anderson**, serves as Chair of the Joint Benefits Committee. Established by CUCRA and CUCEA, the ongoing purpose of the committee is to consider and make recommendations to the councils regarding the University's pension and benefit programs, and policy issues related to health insurance and delivery systems, and other benefit programs.

### Highlights from the CUCRA/CUCEA Joint Session, Fall 2021

- Joint Benefits Committee Report, with Roger Anderson
- Overview of the revamped Retiree Open Enrollment booklet
- UC Chief Investment Officer, Jagdeep Singh Bachler
- RASC update, with Systemwide Human Resources Vice President, Cheryl Lloyd
- Bernadette Green, Interim Executive Director at RASC, introduced recently hired team leads and shared an overview of the improvements planned at RASC.
- Presentation of 2022 Health Plan changes and rates

### Highlights from the CUCRA Session, Fall 2021

- Update from the Executive Committee, with CUCRA Chair John Meyer
- Recap of the Joint Benefits Committee Report
- Additional Health Benefits Activity, with Frank Trueba and John Meyer
  - (Rx RFP, Non-Medicare RFP, VIA Benefits)
- UC Retirees Travel Program, with Sue Barnes, <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>
- CUCRA Financial Report

CUCRA is a systemwide consortium of 13 organizations representing retirees from nine campuses, three national laboratories and the UC Office of the President.





**McIvor’s Corner – News from the UCSC Benefits Office**

Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator (she/her)  
[mecivor@ucsc.edu](mailto:mecivor@ucsc.edu)

Greetings from the UCSC Benefits Office. The Open Enrollment period for retired UC members ended on November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you made an Open Enrollment change to your UC medical plan AND you (or a family member) are enrolled in Medicare, you were informed of your responsibility to complete and return a form, to complete your Open Enrollment change. If you missed this notice, take action now. Please find the form you use at the following link: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/roadmaps/medicare.html>.

**Please NOTE:** Forms should be returned to UC Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) by 11/22/2021, in order that you can receive your new ID cards by January 1<sup>st</sup>. One form per Medicare-covered person is necessary.

And speaking of Medicare, the 2022 Medicare Rates have been released by Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) and can be viewed at the following webpage: <https://www.medicare.gov/your-medicare-costs/part-b-costs> Some retired UC members will be getting new ID cards in the mail for 2022, regardless of Open Enrollment changes. Please see the chart below to learn if you should expect a new medical ID card.

## Member ID Cards for 2022

<b>Anthem Blue Cross plans</b>	
<b>CORE</b>	1 ID card only from Anthem for medical and Rx (all members)
<b>UC Care</b>	1 ID card only from Anthem for medical and Rx (all members)
<b>UC Health Savings Plan</b>	1 ID card only from Anthem for medical and Rx (all members) HSA debit card to new members and to current members whose cards are expiring (card is good for 3 years from issue date)
<b>UC Medicare PPO</b>	
<b>UC High Option Supplement to Medicare</b>	2 ID cards (Anthem medical & Navitus Rx) to new plan members. Current plan members use their current Anthem ID and will receive a Navitus Rx card
<b>UC Medicare PPO w/o Rx</b>	Only new members receive Anthem medical ID. No Rx card Current members continue to use Anthem card issued last year.
<b>Kaiser Permanente HMO</b>	1 ID card to new members only
<b>Kaiser Senior Advantage</b>	1 ID card to new members only
<b>UC Blue &amp; Gold HMO (Health Net)</b>	1 ID card to all members, new and current
<b>UC Medicare Choice (UnitedHealthcare)</b>	1 ID card to all members, new and current

If you do not receive your ID card by January 1<sup>st</sup>, contact your medical plan directly. You may find your plan’s phone number on UC Net: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/contacts/plan-contacts.html>. Please be sure to provide your new ID card at the doctor’s office and pharmacy in the new year.

**Holiday greetings and best wishes to you in 2022!**

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## Retirees Association Scholarship Committee Report

At the end of September, the Silver Slug Award Endowment totaled \$57,478.08, the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment totaled \$206,290.59, and the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Current Year Fund totaled \$2,653.02.

Most likely due to the COVID virus, few scholarship funds were received during most of the year. Many people send their scholarship contributions with their membership dues, and that did not happen this year. As we move back into more activities and folks start renewing their memberships, we hope this will change.

In the meantime, I can use some more cups, mugs, sugar bowls, creamers, small bowls and a few large containers for my succulents. I sell these as a



fundraiser for the Bruce Lane scholarship fund. If you have items to donate, I don't drive anymore now that I am 95 years old, but perhaps I could have one of my children

pick them up. Or if you choose, you can bring the items to my home. Please call me at 426-8353 to make arrangements.

The date and location of the 2022 Scholarship Luncheon has not been decided yet. We all hope that this event can be in person and we will keep you posted as things develop.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon,  
Maxine Lane  
Scholarship Chairperson



## Virtual Pop-Up Craft Sale A Fundraiser for the Silver Slug Award Scholarship Fund

The Virtual Pop-up Online Craft Sale in October was a huge success and raised \$1,500 for the Silver Slug Award Current Year Fund. On Oct. 15, 16 & 17, people could use an online order form to select hand made items such as purses, zippered bags, pillows, greeting cards, napkins, luggage tags and aprons. The following week, Karalee Richter and Patt Takeuchi coordinated curbside pick up for these items at their homes. Of course, many of the "curbside pickups" turned into longer visits and a chance to catch up. Some folks asked, "Is there anything left? What else can I buy to support the scholarships". And they ended up purchasing more items while they were there in person. One way or another, nearly every item was sold and the crafters have their work cut out for them to restock inventory for next year! The generosity and support of all the participants is much appreciated and every purchase large or small helped to make this such a successful endeavor. The Silver Slug Award Scholarships are given to UCSC Staff, current or retired, and their dependents, who are attending UCSC in pursuit of a degree. These funds will go towards scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year. If you or anyone you know are interested in applying for the scholarship, please go to this web page for more information <https://retirees.ucsc.edu/scholarships/silverslugaward/index.html>

**Thank you to our team for all their work to make this event possible:**

**Patt Takeuchi**, Co-Organizer, crafter; **Karalee Richter**, Co-Organizer, technical, photographer and crafter; **Cori Houston**, photographer and technical; **Frank Trueba**, greeting card maker and technical; **Candy Berlin**, crafter; **Jane Howarth**, crafter; **Jane deVette Gomez**, crafter



## Slugs on the Go!

UCSC retirees find ways to be of service, stay active, and learn new things.

*If you have photos or stories to share, please submit to [ucscsilverslug@gmail.com](mailto:ucscsilverslug@gmail.com)*

## SECOND HARVEST HOLIDAY FOOD & FUND DRIVE

UCSC will again participate in the Second Harvest Holiday Food and Fund Drive which will run through January 15, 2022. This year our very own Chancellor Larive is the co-chairperson for this countywide effort. The UCSC Retirees Association Board has decided to support this campaign by getting the word out! If you'd like to give, go to our campus donation page at

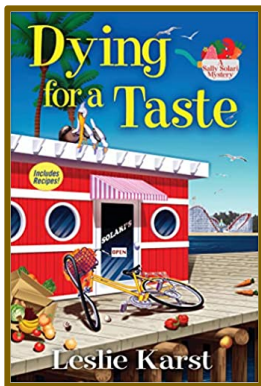
<https://give.thefoodbank.org/participants/216914-ucsc-retirees-and-emeriti> where you can contribute to this cause and provide food security to those struggling in our community.



To view the kick-off video, featuring Chancellor Larive, visit the Second Harvest Food Bank Food & Fund Drive page on their website at <https://www.thefoodbank.org/holiday-food-fund-drive/>. In addition, background information about the campus campaign can be found at <https://holidayfooddrive.ucsc.edu/>. For those interested in volunteering with the Second Harvest Food Bank there are several opportunities available, including remote volunteer work you can do from the comfort of your home. To learn more, visit the Second Harvest volunteer page, <https://www.thefoodbank.org/volunteer-trial/>.

## PAST EVENTS

### A Writer's Reinvention & Journey



On Friday, October 1, several retirees were treated to a virtual talk by local author, Leslie Karst, entitled "A Writer's Reinvention and Journey - How did a one-time research attorney go from drafting dry legal memos and appellate briefs to penning culinary mystery

novels?"

During the half hour presentation, Leslie covered a wide range of topics including her transition from lawyer to writer, plot/character development and how she incorporates much of

herself and personal experiences into her plots. Each book in her Sally Solari mysteries features one of the four senses. She brings together her own personal life events and interests into each of those themes. On her website, she writes as "The daughter of a law professor and a potter, I learned early, during family dinner conversations, the value of both careful analysis and the arts--ideal ingredients for a mystery story." As a long-time Santa Cruz resident and UCSC Stevenson College grad, her mysteries take the reader to familiar sights in Santa Cruz and she incorporates her interest in culinary arts and music into her novels. The main character, restaurateur and part-time sleuth Sally Solari, takes long bicycle rides along West Cliff Drive and up the coast, those  
*(cont. next page)*

same routes you'd see real-life Leslie riding along any day of the week. Leslie also talked about the ins and outs of marketing her books, struggles securing an agent and personal frustrations and successes. For aspiring writers, one of the main take-aways was to not be discouraged and to persevere. She experienced many rejections before her Sally Solari series was finally

published. She is currently working on a new mystery series that takes place on the Big Island of Hawai'i, Leslie's second home.

For more info, see Leslie's website at <https://www.lesliekarstauthor.com/>

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dec. 3, 2021 – Deadline to register for Virtual Holiday Party

Dec. 7, 2021 – Virtual Holiday Party

Jan. 25, 2022 – Board Social

March 2022 – Annual Speaker's Luncheon (hopefully in person)

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## **In Memoriam**

*Word of the deaths of the following UCSC Staff and Faculty has been received. Condolences are extended to their families, friends and colleagues.*

### **April 2021 to September 2021**

William Urbick  
Debra Hyder  
Robert Wilt  
Sherry Patricia Phillips  
John Lynch  
Douglas Anderson