

SPRING
2009

**Special points
of interest:**

<http://care-news.org/>

- Outgoing
President, Helen
Bridge, Bio
- Campus
Construction
Updates

Inside this issue:

Chabot News	2
Las Positas News	3
Meet Your Board	4
Annual Reunion 2009 Photos	5
Membership	6
Directory/E-mail	
The C.A.R.E. Fund	7

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Association of Retired Employees

President Esther Goldberg's Message



I am a retired faculty member from both Chabot and Las Positas; I taught mainly history and political science. Speaking for myself and the CARE team, it is a pleasure to visit with and talk to old friends, my associates still with the colleges, the District and my fellow-retirees.

For those who wish to contact other members, Bill Threlfall maintains a website for CARE. You will find it is a very useful place to help you keep in touch.

CARE has one annual meeting, a luncheon in January. Retirees, please begin to plan now to come and enjoy the date with the rest of us. We have a fine turnout regularly and would appreciate the opportunity to see even more old friends.

The colleges are quite transformed. You will really enjoy the style and magnitude of the District's monumental building projects if you visit the other college in the District as well as your own old home. The changes are amazing!

Hope to see you at the 2010 Reunion or on a campus sometime soon.

Esther Goldberg
C.A.R.E. President

CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

<http://www.chabotcollege.edu/>

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

From Chabot College Hotsheet, February 17, 2009

Soccer Field Restoration Underway: The design phase for the restoration of the Chabot College soccer

field has begun. The field was turned into a temporary parking lot to accommodate the cars that were displaced by the repaving of parking lots A, B, G, and H. The temporary lot is now being used to accommodate the cars displaced by the solar photovoltaic projects. With design progressing well, we hope to have the field restored this calendar year and ready for play by Summer/Fall 2010.

Instructional Office Building is Getting a Roof: The Instructional Office Building continues to progress well. The concrete roof deck has been poured and is now curing. Approximately 95% of the reinforced concrete structure is now in place. The project is on schedule to be occupied in August 2009.

Community and Student Services Center (CSSC):

The CSSC is progressing nicely. The second floor concrete deck is completed and attention will be focused on getting a roof over the building next. The project is on schedule to be occupied in January 2010.

Campus Security: Training of campus employees about the functioning of the new security system has begun as various buildings are being brought online. Chabot College staff is being asked to obtain their photo security cards for access to campus buildings after hours.

Solar Photovoltaics Moving Ahead: The repaving of parking lot "J" and the drive leading into it has been completed so that the carport structures can move ahead. The panel support structures should be in place in the next several weeks.

Ready to Bid: Chabot is getting ready to launch two more construction projects: the renovation of the first floor of Building 2200, Dental Hygiene, and the renovation of Building 1900, Planetarium.

Both projects are scheduled to begin construction in May.

Click [HERE](#) for Project Management Updates



[CHABOT COLLEGE 2005 FACILITIES MASTER PLAN](#)

For Chabot College Performing Arts Center events,

visit www.chabotcollege.edu/pac

For Chabot sports,

visit www.chabotcollege.edu/pe

Contact Karen Silva at 510.723.6640 or ksilva@chabotcollege.edu to receive Chabot's monthly Hot sheet.

If you would like a Chabot College Parking Permit you may call Campus Security at 510.723.6923.

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/>



Changes Are Happening At Las Positas

by Don Nilson, all photographs by Don Nilson

There are significant construction changes occurring at Las Positas College. The upper parking lots E and H (See panoramic photo at bottom of page) have shade structures installed that incorporate solar equipment. These photo-voltaic panels will eventually provide 20% of the electric power needed to run the campus. These are scheduled for completion on March 31, 2009.

The new artificial turf Soccer field next to the Athletic Center is finished (See photo #1 to the left).

Also the addition of the Aquatic Center on the other side of the Athletic Center is scheduled to be finished in March (See photo # 2 to the left). The Pool House makes a significant change to the landscape as viewed from the front of the Multi-Disciplinary Building (See photo #3 left). The shell has been completed with the roof and other details in the finishing phase. With the ceramic work on the two swimming pools completed, along with the installation of mechanical systems and pool security fencing, a formal ribbon cutting is scheduled in the middle of March.

As you enter the Campus and look where the old soccer field was located, you will see the framework of the College Center For The Arts.



Framework of the College Center For The Arts photo taken from Building #100

The structural steel frame for the music classroom wing is complete and the stud framing for the exterior walls is underway. These buildings will include the Theater Audience Chamber, Fly Loft and the Tele-Data infrastructure. For those of you who enjoyed the grassy quad area, it has been paved over and holds another building housing Academic Services.

Things have come a long way from the memories of cows wandering on the campus and the feelings of being in the country .



“A First Class Lady
All The Way”

Meet Your Board Members

Helen Bridge, President 2006, 2007 & 2008

The short version of my story can be told in ten words: Mother of three starts college; likes it; stays till retirement. The longer version is a bit more complicated.

I was the sixth of seven children, born in 1937 in Salt Lake City. We moved around a lot, so by the time I was in fourth grade, I was in my sixth grammar school. About then, my folks finally bought their first small home. There were five children still at home, a home with only two bedrooms and one bathroom. We never owned a car.

I always loved school, but knew that college was out of the question. I worked part time starting when I was fifteen, so school was sometimes secondary. Of my siblings, only one other graduated from high school, so that seemed very normal to me.

I married my high school sweetheart two months after I graduated in 1955. After a year, we moved to California. I was pregnant by now with my first child. By age 24, I had three preschool age kids. When my youngest was 6 months old, I read about a new “junior college” opening in San Leandro, near the Caterpillar plant. With a girl friend, I signed up for a couple of night courses, mostly to get away from my three rambunctious youngsters for a few hours.

In the beginning, I was shy, but soon found myself participating in class with increasing enthusiasm, especially when report card A's began piling up. One semester led to another, for five years, mostly at night. About then, I divorced, moved, and realized that an education was an absolute necessity. I transferred to CSUH, with a combination of grants, loans, a small bit of child support, and a mixture of full time or part time jobs, including some time as a pharmacy assistant at St. Rose Hospital.

I ground out a BA in English, taking 15 units per term. After I was admitted into the MA program. I attended four straight quarters without a break to finish the course work (still working part time), then cranked out my Master's Thesis over the following summer. To get the quiet time I needed for research and writing, I borrowed money to send my kids to a day camp. I got my M.A. in time to land a part-time job at Chabot College in the Fall of 1970, eight and a half years after I first started school there. I was 33 years old.



The early years at Chabot College

Even as a rookie instructor, it didn't take long for me to realize how much I loved teaching. My students were wonderful, full of joy and enthusiasm about learning--and in that first year, I was learning as much as they were.

In April of 1971, about midway through my second semester of teaching, I wandered into another life-changing event. One night before class, I went to the mailroom to pick the week's pile of announcements. A tall blonde guy was there, also picking up his mail. He followed me out the door. One thing led to another, and 3 1/2 months later, we got married.

Oh, and one other thing: my new husband, Les Bridge, was raising four daughters. Along with my three children, that made seven kids, ranging in age from 17 to 7, and all of them would be living with us. Five were teens.

My first four years of teaching were challenging, partly because I was also, for the first year or so, still teaching a class or two at Cal State, and for one

semester, one at Merritt College as well. One year, I had a day job as a medical assistant for an obstetrician. At home I was cooking for nine, and trying to navigate the treacherous path that all stepfamilies tread. I gradually got a few day classes at Chabot, however, and a full time opening finally came in 1974. There were the usual candidate interviews with division members, then with Dick Yeo, and finally with Dr. Buffington. Even though I was my division's third choice, Reed took a chance on me, and I became a full timer.

In those first few years, I was content to stay pretty low key, working hard to develop my teaching techniques---and I had a lot to learn! In 1981, I finally volunteered to serve on the Faculty Senate, since no one else seemed to want that job. The Senate was intimidating, but I soon found my voice, and a mentor. Vicki Morrow, Senate President at the time, was a model of leadership and class. After only one year of her term, however, Vicki was appointed to chair the Social Science Division. I still remember the day in early 1982, walking across campus with George Sage, and George asking me if I would be willing to serve as Senate President. I honestly thought he was joking, and even felt a little insulted, that he would make fun of a rookie that way. Well, he was serious, the Senate elected me, and I began my political involvement on campus. That involvement continued until my retirement in 1997.

I led the Senate for three years, including a stormy contract year and an accreditation year. Over the following years, I was on six visiting accreditation teams around the state. Six years later, after I had retired, I was hired as a consultant when the next accreditation year came around.

My other extra responsibilities on campus included work on a lot of committees: hiring, search, presidential interviews, grievances, college foundation, ad hoc, college policies,, and so on. See a pattern here? In all my campus activities, I found my greatest success in collaborating with other people. I was one of those folks of whom it could be said, “She plays well with others.” Later in my career, Les and I traveled overseas during several vacation periods, and I also studied in England for four summers. For one semester or so, I served as division chair of Language Arts. I quickly discovered, however, that I liked teaching a lot more than being an administrator. Teaching is a way of touching other people's lives, and if you're lucky, changing them as well.

Over the years, I read graduates' names at commencement, went to many graduation ceremonies, and spoke at commencement three times. And in 1997, I was invited to deliver the keynote address. That was the year I retired, and the same year I received the Buffington Award. During all these years, Les gave me encouragement and support. I couldn't have done it without him. As for our family life, all our children are middle aged now, married, with wonderful children of their own. All have good jobs and strong family lives. They all live close by, and are loving friends with their folks and with one another. Life has been very good to me, and I credit Chabot College for a lot of that.





REUNION 2009

Report by Bill Threlfall

Each January, CARE sponsors a reunion that is the highlight of our social calendar, with good food, entertainment, and most important, an opportunity to connect with the friends and colleagues you worked with for so many years. Seeing them once again is a reminder of why you loved your job!

About 75 CARE members met on January 24, 2009 at the San Ramon Country Club, our traditional venue for the reunion.

Guests were introduced, including the two college Presidents and Credit Union General Manager.

New retirees were recognized, as were the Reed Buffington Award winners who were in attendance. During a brief business meeting, three new CARE Board members were elected: Dick Albert (At Large), Lettie Camp (Secretary), and Chet Rhoan (At Large). Esther Goldberg was elected President for 2009. Finally, outgoing CARE Board members and officers were recognized for exemplary service.

After final remarks by outgoing president Bridge and incoming president Goldberg, Gay Conner introduced the Chabot Jazz Band members, who performed while attendees had a delicious lunch. Following lunch, Clyde Allen conducted the prize drawing, with about fifteen prizes being won by lucky retirees. All prizes were contributed by CARE Board members and by the Chabot Credit Union, which provided six outstanding gifts



Outgoing C.A.R.E. President,
Helen Bridge (standing)



Chabot Jazz Band
Members



Socializing Retirees

Please [Click here](#) for pictures and text from C.A.R.E. Annual Reunions, 2007 and 2008

Please click [here](#) to pay your 2009 C.A.R.E. dues. Thank you.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
YOUR 2010 REUNION**

**Saturday, January 23, 2010
San Ramon Country Club
San Ramon, CA**

RETIREE NEWS

SAD NEWS—Deaths

Royal (Roy) Johnson, Chabot College, December 2008

Milton (Mel) Norte, Chabot College, March 2009

LOOKING FOR LOST RETIREES

Constantine Mastroyannis

Georgia Ellen Owens

Gordon R. Peak

Theresa M. Rivera



CARE Board Members:

Back Row, L to R: Bill Threlfall, Heidi Spearer, Gay Connor, Dick Albert, Lettie Camp and Norma Kernes

Front Row, L to R: Don Nilson, Sharon Trethan, Chet Rhoan, George Anna Tow, Helen Bridge, Clyde Allen, Esther Goldberg and Art Larson

The Second Twenty Years, Plus Seven



CARE is continuing with an open-ended project to write an informal history of the last 27 years at Chabot, Las Positas and the District .

To "Visit www.care-news.org to learn how you can contribute The contributions to date are listed and linked [THERE](#). Check again soon for additions.

WE ENCOURAGE AND WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS PROJECT.

CARE Member Directory

Are there retirees you wish to reach, but you lack their contact information? Would you like other CARE members to be able to reach you?

One of CARE's purposes is to serve the social interests of members by providing opportunities to keep in touch with each other. To support this function, we have established an E-mail member directory which you are invited to join.

To see the directory, learn more, and join, visit the CARE website at:

<http://care-news.org>

Also please check out care-news.org for:

- Current and past CARE Newsletters
- News about our annual reunion
- Information about CARE and its services to members
- Updates not published in the newsletter

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Please contact Heidi Spearer at [CARE](#) for comments on the newsletter.

What would YOU like from this organization? The CARE Board want to know what new services our members desire. Please share your views with us. Thank you

Please contact Bill Threlfall at [CARE](#)

Esther Goldberg
President

Helen Bridge
Past President

Vice President
Vacant

Heidi Spearer
Newsletter Editor

Norma Kernes
Chabot Liaison

Lettie Camp
Secretary

Sharon Trethan
Treasurer

Clyde Allen
CARE Fund Manager

Gay Connor
Activities Coordinator

John R. McKinley
Retirement Consultant

Bill Threlfall
*Director of
Communication*

Sharon Trethan
District Liaison

Don Nilson
Las Positas Liaison

George Anna Tow
*Interim Health Care
Director*

**Art Larson ,
George Anna Tow,
Dick Albert,
Chet Rhoan**
Directors at Large

Website:
<http://care-news.org>

The CARE Fund

In these difficult economic times, please consider making a donation to the CARE fund. Our continuing support can help the colleges in many ways.

Make checks payable to the Chabot-LPC Foundation, and send your check to:

Clyde Allen
C.A.R.E. Fund Manager
1463 Indian Head Circle,
Clayton, CA 94517- 1239

GO GREEN!

After one year of our new CARE Newsletter format and Website, we'd like to hear from you. If you would prefer to pick up your newsletter from our website, please email Sharon Trethan at CARE and she will revise our newsletter mailing list.

District Retirement Benefits

<http://www.clpccd.org/HR/HRRetirementBenefits.php>

Links found at the above site: [STRS](#), [PERS](#) [CALPERS](#), PERS & STRS Cash Balance Comparison, [CARE](#), the Chabot-Las Positas Association of Retired Employees

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