

Winter  
2019

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Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas

Association of Retired Employees

**President's Message**

Welcome to the final issue of the C.A.R.E. Newsletter for 2019. It's a great one, with several informative articles about happenings on both campuses and the District office. I found the articles by our new CARE board members, to be especially interesting. I encourage you to read Carol Edson's article about the Columbian Mammoth bones excavated on the Las Positas Campus and the article about the "Knowledge Garden" at Chabot reported by Jane Church..



Most importantly, I want to invite you to join your fellow retirees, colleagues, and friends at our annual "Reunion" luncheon, to be held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the San Ramon Country Club. The cost is modest and it's always fun. Learn more about it and find the reservation form on Page 6. We hope to see you there!

Tom

**Benefits Staff Changes**

The HR Benefits Specialist team is changing! Deborah Dobbins, well-known to many CARE members, has left her position while Deborah's long-standing team member, Rosalyn Tucker, remains on the job, ready to serve employees and retirees alike.

A new Benefits Specialist, Gabrielle Culliver, was formally hired by the Trustees effective October 28, 2019. Welcome Gabrielle!

The CARE board recognized that the services provided by the District Human Resources Office Benefits Specialist team are crucial to retirees, so we sought and gained an opportunity to participate in the hiring process for this open position. CARE board member Mark Smythe joined the evaluation committee. Reflecting on this experience, Mark commented: "It was greatly appreciated by myself and the entire CARE organization to have the opportunity to serve on the hiring committee for this extremely important position. The needs of our retirees are well served by our benefits department and we look forward to continued excellence in communication and service."

**Web Links in this Newsletter**

Several of our articles include web links shown in green. To gain easy access to the linked documents, just visit [www.care-news.org](http://www.care-news.org), where this newsletter is online. Open the online newsletter and click any link shown in green. You'll get immediate access to its target.

**Credit Union Annual Dinner**

Save the Date:  
February 22, 2020  
Holiday Inn, Dublin  
Details in December Credit Union  
Newsletter



## Columbian Mammoths walked... at Las Positas College!

By Carol Edson

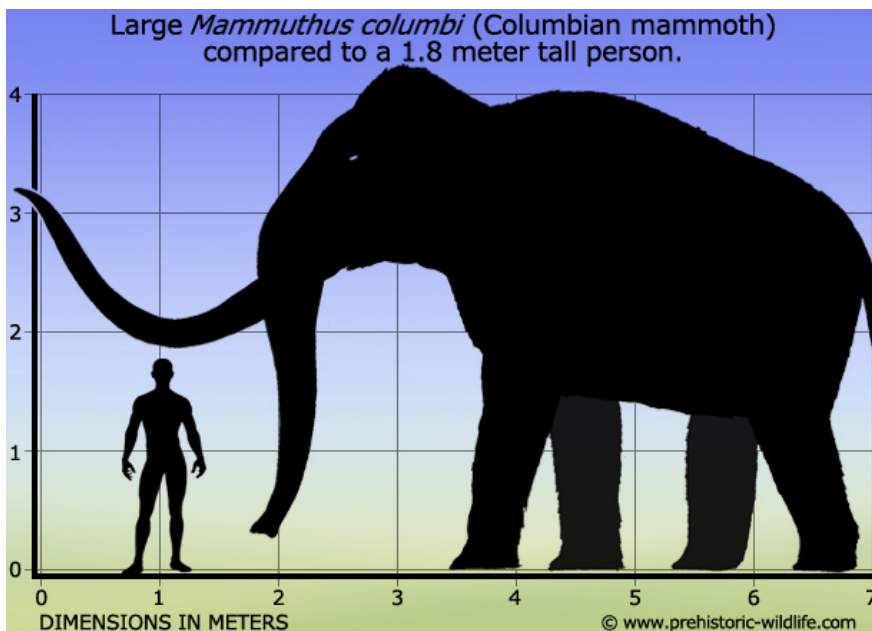
Even bigger than their more famous Woolly mammoth cousins, Columbian mammoths lived in warmer climates and did not have the dense fur. In November of 2009, construction was being done off the Loop road at LPC, by a backhoe. When about 8 feet down, the driver hit something very solid. It was quickly determined to be a large bone, and was treated as a significant fossil find by the State of California. PaleoResources sent Dr. Dave Haasl to stabilize and transport the bones to their lab.



46" long mammoth humerus  
on display at Las Positas College

After several months of hard work, the bones had been strengthened with epoxy-like substances, and Dr. Haasl had fitted them with supportive plaster jackets to protect them. It was determined that the find included the left front leg bones; the humerus, radius and ulna. At this point the state of California dictated that the bones go to the designated repository, at the Paleontology department of UC Berkeley.

I began working to get the bones 'loaned back' to the college for display. This has been a longer and more difficult process than I could ever have imagined...there is no protocol for such a unique find! The continuing turnover in college administrators increased the delays, because I would have to start over explaining this amazing opportunity to the new person...again and again.



Eventually, Dan Cearley from Anthropology and I were able to go measure the bones, and then a few weeks later, go pick them up. Mind you, this was in 2019; it took 10 years with all the snafus and staff changes. Bottom line- we have the bones on campus now, and are hard at work getting a display case ordered, and planning an art installation to show the size of the actual animal. Stay tuned- this saga has been long and complicated, but I have every faith we will get it done.



## College News



### The Knowledge Garden at Chabot

By Jane Church

The following is excerpted and adapted from an article in "The Chabot Spectator", (M Sykes: 9/17/2019) and President Sperling's 9/17/2019 report to the Board of Trustees. I thought you would be interested in this "unique experience" for students. - Jane

"Did you know there are 121 species (Plants, Fruits and Vegetables) growing on our campus? Out behind the Softball field ...Chabot's Knowledge Garden ...is growing plants from all over the world. The Garden is financed by professors, the Student Senate and other organizations. One of the primary groups caring for "The Garden" are the students of SIC (Student Initiative Center) as well as by clubs, classes and community members and it is open to anyone who wants to be involved.



In September, the Garden held a "End of Summer/Start of Fall" Open House event!

Sean McFarland, English Instructor and inspiration behind the creation of "The Knowledge Garden", was certainly involved in this open house, as was the SIC, Passion and Purpose, and FRESH Food Pantry who collaborated in putting on this event. Over 150 people came by to pick tomatoes, listen to drumming from the Justice Arts Collective, enjoy smoothies, learn about gardening, sign up for clubs, participate in a scavenger hunt, learn the difference between marjoram and thyme, and much more!



Knowledge Garden  
Welcome Sign

### New Retirements

Susan Benz, Chabot College, October 2019  
Diane Brady, Las Positas College, December 2019  
Joseph Dazhan, Las Positas College, July 2019  
Mireille Giovanola, Chabot College, June 2019  
Kenneth Grace, Chabot College, January 2020

### What are you doing now?

Many have expressed an interest in finding out what their fellow CARE members are doing with their lives. If you would like to give us an update, we would love to hear from you! We will publish the information in future newsletters as space is available.

### In Memoriam

We have lost these valued CARE members recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Richard Albert	Isobel Dvorsky
Jerald Ball	Debra Kuita
Connie Clark	Howard Larsen
Dolores Cysewski	Stan Lichtenstein
Barry Deadder	Judith Martinez
Frank Denney	Linnea Wahamaki
Fred Duman	

CARE publishes life tributes and profiles in the History Project of its web site. Family or colleagues who wish to submit a tribute for publication may send it to the newsletter editor by email to [editor@care-news.org](mailto:editor@care-news.org).

## Meet your Board Members - Irene Plunkett



My relationship with Chabot College began, in a way, in the late 1950's and early '60's. My parents, Richard and Marion Plunkett, had moved from Oakland (where I was born) to Hayward as they realized that they could use my dad's G.I. Bill (he had been in the 1st Marine Division in WWII) to buy a house. The downside was that they loved Oakland. They had met at the old University High there, and it was the place my mother's family had immigrated to from New Brunswick, Canada. Even then, Oakland was a cool place and it was easy to get to the City. By contrast, Hayward was still agrarian in the early 50's and our tract, Schafer Park, was mostly tomato fields filled with jack rabbits.

My dad tried to use the educational part of his GI Bill to work on his Bachelor's degree, though that meant a trip to San Francisco City College—a tough go after commuting for work from Hayward to Oakland and back.

Eventually, though, the community voted the funds for a community college which soon (after a brief spell in San Leandro) came to reside in Hayward. Not long before, in 1959, Cal State Hayward had been established and my parents, and lots of others as well, felt pleased that their children would have access to at least two local colleges.

After graduating from Mt. Eden High School, I attended Willamette University (in Salem, OR) for my undergraduate work and then San José State for my Master's work. For awhile, I worked for Bay City News Service with founder and editor Dick Fogel as the first San Francisco Bureau Chief of that new, regional wire service.

One day, Dick came up to me and noted that somebody from Chabot College had put in a request for one of us to sit on the professional advisory panel for the communications major there. He looked at me, "You interested?" I said sure—partly because I was interested, and partly because an occasional break from the minute-to-minute deadlines of a wire service was starting to sound good.

The faculty member who had put in the request was, of course, Stan Lichtenstein. In those days, VATEA funding of vocational programs required that those programs be informed by working professionals in the field. The panel proved to be interesting and lively and gave me a glimpse into the college as well.

Later, I left that position and took a teaching job at the American Language Program at Cal State Hayward. That intensive ESL program refined the linguistics training I had in graduate school and give me experience in teaching multiple levels, in testing, and in assessment and placement. One day, one of my colleagues said rather casually to me, that I should look at Chabot College as another possible teaching site. It hadn't occurred to me, but the timing was good. The ALP was a good teaching gig, but the opportunities there were limited.

I did find my way to Chabot, discovered the English department (in the old building 700), and met division secretary Gay Conner and department chair Leland Kent. As it turns out, there was a need for an evening ESL instructor—this time working not with privileged 1-20 students, but with refugees from Southeast Asia and immigrants from all over. Eventually, I was able to secure a full-time, tenure-track position in the English department and my teaching duties expanded to composition, reading, and literature. I was able to write a U.S. Women's Literature course and have it approved for Chabot and for transfer as well.

Later, my work expanded further as my co-madres—Theresa Lebeiko, Jeanine Paz, Jane Wolford, Margarita Olimpio-Segura, and Vicki Morrow—developed TWSP—The Women's Studies Project, a cross-curricular focus on women's issues and contributions. This work and this team informed a great deal of my career. Our work was complemented by grant work focused on helping women to enter and to succeed in non-traditional careers; this project became Women's Programs and Services, coordinated by Chabot math instructor Harriet Hungate and later by me.

With my second sabbatical and lots of extra hours, I was able to complete my Ph.D. in Philosophy and Religion with an emphasis on Women's Spirituality and wrote and taught a course with that name as well.

Even in retirement, I continue work in many of these areas as well as with the labyrinth, an ancient walking meditation pattern, promoting its use in higher education through Veriditas, a non-profit devoted labyrinth education.

*Cheers to you all. May your Winter Solstice be peaceful.*

*Irene*



## CARE Grants Update

Each year, our grant program awards a portion of our charitable [CARE Fund](#) earnings to stimulate special projects that help Chabot-Las Positas employees do a better job of serving students, staff, and the colleges. In the eight years of the grant program's operation, we have awarded 57 grants totaling \$22,371, all of which has been contributed by the generous donations of CARE members like you!

For 2018-2019, CARE awarded \$2498 in grants to twelve great proposals, and three of them are highlighted below:

### Community Oral Health Projects

Submitted by Julie Coan of Chabot College | Manager/Supervisor: Dale Wagoner  
Award: \$142

Julie Coan, Dental Hygiene Instructor, sought funds to acquire two “Rex the Dinosaur” dental puppets for use in community dental health programs operated by Chabot dental hygiene students. These programs provide practical experience teaching dental hygiene practices to children 3-10 years of age.

**Outcome:** The puppets are now used by students to instruct children in the Chabot College Dental Hygiene Clinic as regularly scheduled patients, and they are used in outreach programs such as the annual “Give Kids a Smile Day”, providing free dental hygiene services to children in the community.

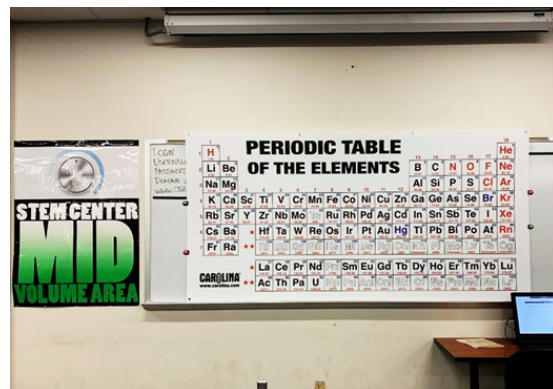


### Periodic Table for Studying

Submitted by Mary Love of Chabot College | Manager/Supervisor: Gabriel Chaparro  
Award: \$227

Mary Love, Instructional Assistant in the STEM Center applied for a grant to fund a large, wall-mounted periodic table of the elements for ready visual access in the Center.

**Outcome:** The applicant reported: "The periodic table has been a massive help when tutoring our students. You can see it from anywhere in the room. Students don't have to go rummaging through their backpacks to find a periodic table or waste time trying to pull one up on their phone. Our Chemistry students really appreciate it and when they walk into the center, they know immediately that we are there to support them."



### Disposable Earplugs for Library Students

Submitted by Diana Navarro-Kleinschmidt of Las Positas College | Manager/Supervisor: Don Carlson  
Award: \$275

Diana Navarro-Kleinschmidt, Library Services Specialist, planned a pilot test of disposable earplugs to meet the needs of students who require quiet in their studies and reading.

**Outcome:** Success was reported for the pilot project, together with a plan to continue the practice: “Since offering our library students these disposable earplugs, we have already gone through half our supply! We expect that we will need to reorder more in the Fall! The library has had far fewer complaints of the noise.”



## 2020 CARE Reunion

It's that time again! Retirees, please join us for our annual CARE Reunion and Luncheon. We are excited to welcome all new and recent retirees. It is a time to enjoy catching up with your friends and colleagues at the CARE Reunion and Luncheon.

The reunion will be held at the San Ramon Valley Country Club, a quick drive off Highway 680. There is plenty of free parking, with easy access to the venue. The luncheon will be a buffet featuring delicious food, including dessert. A no-host social will be followed by the business meeting, a brief update on CARE activities, the luncheon, and drawings for raffle prizes donated by the CARE Board.

In addition, we will have the pleasure of a presentation by David Everett, Faculty & Program Coordinator for the Viticulture & Winery Technology Program at Las Positas College. David was awarded three CARE grants: 1) Upgrading Winery Sanitation Tools/Protocols; 2) Supporting the Vessel Topping System; and 3) Supporting the Fermentation Room Temperature Control System. These grant projects provided additional tools needed for the students in this program to be successful in their field of study.

**When:** Thursday, January 23, 2020

- 11:00 a.m. No-Host Social
- 11:45 a.m. Business Meeting
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch

**Where:** San Ramon Country Club

**Cost:** \$25.00 per person



**Directions to San Ramon Country Club:**

- Take 680 to Alcosta Blvd. off-ramp in San Ramon.
- Go East on Alcosta through 3 signal lights.
- Turn left on Fircrest and continue to the club at **9430 Fircrest Ln, San Ramon, CA 94582**



*Detach and return.*

### Reservation For Annual CARE Reunion and Lunch

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 11:00 a.m.  
San Ramon Country Club



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

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

Name/Names \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(please print clearly)

**Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory**

(E-mail address required)

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

2020 CARE Dues (If not already paid) \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation Deadline:**  
January 10, 2020

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

**CARE BOARD****Tom Gerrits***President***Irene Plunkett***Past President***Vacant***Vice-President***Rachel****Maldondo Aziminia***Secretary***Sharon Trethan***Treasurer**District Liaison**CARE Fund Manager***Jane Church***Chabot Liaison***Carol Edson***Las Positas Liaison***Gay Connor****JoAnne Neu****Shirley Pejman****Art Tenbrink***Activities Co-coordinators***Bill Threlfall***Director of Communications**Newsletter Editor**Grants Coordinator***Mark Smythe***Director at Large***Art Larson***Director Emeritus***Contact the board:**[www.care-news.org/contacts](http://www.care-news.org/contacts)**Change of Address or E-mail**

Please send your change of address to CARE Treasurer, Sharon Trethan by [email](#).  
or mail to 5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

Send change of email to CARE Communications Director, Bill Threlfall by [email](#).

**District Retirement Benefits Contacts**

Rosalyn Tucker 925-485-5504 [rtucker@clpccd.org](mailto:rtucker@clpccd.org)

Gabrielle Culliver 925-485-5505 [gculliver@clpccd.org](mailto:gculliver@clpccd.org)

**Important reminder from District Benefits staff:**

"Please note that you or your heirs must notify the District of any changes to your eligibility status within thirty days of the event (e.g. **marriage, divorce, death**). Any financial loss that the District incurs due to failure to notify the District will be the responsibility of you or your heirs."

**C.A.R.E. Dues 2020**

Your dues are used in direct support of our newsletter and web site.  
No stipends are paid to board members, who volunteer their time and service.  
Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2020 dues!

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

(please print clearly)

→  **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory.**  
(E-mail address required)

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**

\$10 per year or  \$100 lifetime membership (Thank you!)

Please mail this form and your check payable to **CARE** to:

**CARE c/o Sharon Trethan**  
**5122 Blackhawk Dr.**  
**Danville, CA 94506**

*Detach and return  
or*

*Print form at  
[www.care-news.org/support](http://www.care-news.org/support)*

## Carol Edson joins CARE Board

CARE is delighted to welcome Carol Edson to the CARE Board. Her intellect, organizational skills, and pleasant demeanor will be of great value to our organization. She recently retired from more than a decade of service as Las Positas College Geology Lab Technician, during which she won four CARE Special Project Grants!



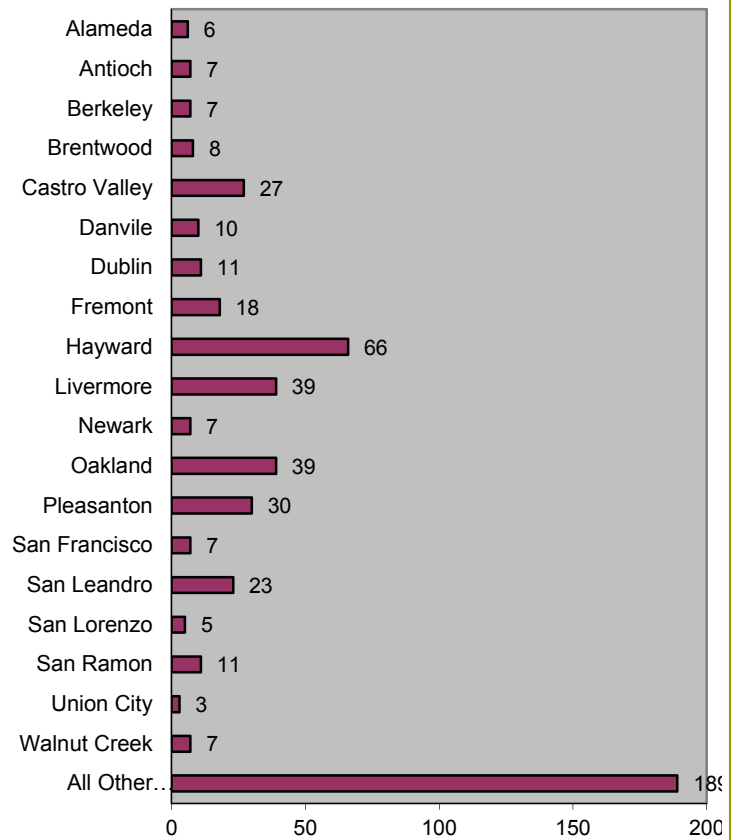
Carol will serve CARE as Las Positas College Liaison; you can see her work on page 2 of this issue.

## Where do CARE members reside?

Nearly 90% of CARE members live in California, and their cities of residence spread widely, as shown by the chart at right.

*Data courtesy of CARE Treasurer, Sharon Trethan, 2019.*

## CARE members by California city



Chabot College  
25555 Hesperian Blvd.  
Hayward, CA 94545  
President's Office