



The Peralta Retiree

April—June 2012

Vol. 8 No. 3

<http://www.peraltaretirees.org>

From the President...

by Jerry Herman, PRO President

A Shout-Out To PRO Volunteers

As PRO members know, we have been advocating that eligible Peralta retirees not enrolled in Medicare join asap. Peralta will save lots of money if all eligible retirees are in Medicare, and that's in our interest because the more Peralta saves, the less our lifetime healthcare benefits are likely to be threatened.

Several months ago the District's Benefits Office, headed by Jennifer Seibert, launched an extensive campaign to get the non-Medicare retirees enrolled by March 31. PRO wanted to cooperate with this project as effectively as we could, so under the coordination of PRO Board members Linda Japzon and Jay Quesada a cadre of PRO volunteers was recruited to call individuals in the target group and persuade them to enroll in Medicare. The volunteers sifted through a list of 70-80 non-Medicare retirees selecting those whom they knew to call. Although we don't yet have specific numbers of how many actually have enrolled in Medicare, the PRO callers report that a significant number did agree to join, a successful conclusion to an important project.

On behalf of PRO, I want to publicly thank the volunteers who made the calls: Helen Bersie, Rita Haberman, Chris Hadley, Don Hongisto, John Lodato, Les Margolies, Bunny Moeller, Art Naftaly, Shirley Nedham, Ned Pearlstein, Ponnies Rasmussen, and Judy Thomas. And, of course, Linda and Jay. We are indebted to you for the valuable work that you've done.

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PRO is having a Spring Garden Party

You're Invited!

Sunday, May 6 - 2—6 PM

\$10/Person

Details on Page 3

PRO Theater Party at Woodminster Amphitheater

Fiddler on the Roof

Friday, July 20

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Spring and Summer Events

Don't miss two of our most popular yearly events:

Garden Party

The May Garden Party at Shirley Conner's lovely home in Alameda where PRO members gather to eat, drink and socialize with their fellow retirees is back this year scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, May 6. Details on page 3.

Woodminster Theater Party

The Woodminster Theater Party is on July 20. This year's production is the beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. If you have attended our Woodminster events before, you know that the troupe mounts outstanding productions directed by former Laney student Joel Schlader. We have secured some of the best seats in the house for PRO, so get your reservations in early because tickets will go fast. Details on page 5.

Peralta Retirees Organization

1250-I Newell Ave., #162
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

<http://www.peraltaretirees.org>

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The Peralta Retiree is published four times a year by the Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)

PRO Board Update

PRO Board Selects Yvonne Lewis To Replace Socorro Taylor

Socorro Taylor regrettably resigned from the PRO Board on March 4 due to a conflict which made it impossible for her to attend PRO Board meetings. Socorro has agreed to continue to serve on PRO's Scholarship Committee and will continue to be PRO's liaison with the Peralta Foundation which administers the scholarship program.

Under PRO's bylaws, it is the responsibility of the remaining members of the Board to select someone to serve if a position on the Board becomes vacant. The Board appointed Yvonne Lewis to fill the vacancy created by Socorro's resignation.



Yvonne began her career in Peralta at the College of Alameda in 1976 as Staff Assistant to the Assistant Dean of Instruction. She assumed the position of Executive Assistant to the President of Laney College in 1982 and remained at that post until retirement on August 2, 2008.

She also held interim positions at Peralta District Office during two transition periods of filling the presidency at Laney College: Acting Executive Assistant to the Interim Chancellor (1995-1996) and Acting Executive Assistant to the Interim Vice Chancellor of Educational Services (1999-2000). She worked as a part-time instructor in the Business Department at College of Alameda (1978-1981) and

(Continued on page 4)

Welcome New Members

PRO welcomes the following retirees who have recently joined.

Tom Branca
 Jeffrey Devers, Jr.
 Stewart Hall

Eleanor Liu
 Lloyd E. Maxton
 Ray Valles

It's Spring!
**PRO is Having a
Garden Party
You're Invited!**

**Sunday, May 6
2-6 PM**



We'll be gathering in the garden at the home of Shirley Conner at 1624 San Jose Avenue, Alameda, CA. There will be hors d'oeuvres, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, entertainment, and, of course, door prizes.

\$10/person · Reservations required by April 30

To reserve complete the form, enclose a check made out to "PRO" and mail to: PRO, 1250-I Newell Ave., #162, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Please print.

Name _____ # of People _____ X \$10 = _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

I need driving directions

Mail to: PRO, 1250-I Newell Ave., #162, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PCCD Offers Retirees Long Term Care Insurance Option

by Alex Pappas

Recently the District sent out an announcement that it was sponsoring a one-time only opportunity to enroll in a long term care insurance program offered by Transamerica Insurance Company. Long Term Care insurance provides benefits to covered individuals who require assistance for daily living activities. Payment for nursing care or in-home aid is generally not covered by either Medicare or Peralta's medical insurance.

The District is not offering any subsidy. All premiums for the insurance are paid by those who choose to enroll. However, substantial discounts are available by enrolling through the District: 40% if a couple enrolls; 10% for an individual.

Another advantage of the program is a more liberal medical underwriting approach through May 11 when the enrollment opportunity ends. What this means is that individuals who might not be insurable for long term care insurance if they sought it in the individual marketplace may be able to obtain the insurance as part of the District initiative.

There are a variety of policy options available. These include choices about the maximum benefit you can receive, inflation adjustments in coverage, and the elimination period, i.e., the number of days you are responsible for paying the cost of Long Term Care services before the policy begins to pay benefits.

This program is not connected in any way with the PERS/ long term care program.

The District is offering the program through Retirement Options for Educators, LLC. Retirees interested in signing up for a policy or in getting an individualized assessment of eligibility and policy costs can contact Karen Marblestone Perry at 650-341-5050, Ext. 118.

If you have any questions feel free to email them to me at alex.pappas@yahoo.com

Odell Johnson Honored



Odell Johnson, Laney College President Emeritus and a PRO member, was celebrated on March 16 with the formal renaming of the Laney College Theater as the *Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center*.

The ceremony included a gathering at the Laney College Bistro where a number of speakers, including Laney retirees Stan Peters and Shirley Coaston, spoke about President Johnson's contributions to Laney, the Peralta District, and the city of Oakland. Mayor Jean Quan also spoke. Afterwards there was a performance of *Alice in Oaksterdam*, performed by Laney College Theater Arts students.

(PRO Update ...Continued from page 2)

at Laney College (1982 - present). She also served several terms on the Laney Staff Development Committee. Yvonne is a co-founder of the Peralta Association of African American Affairs (PAAAA), local chapter; Laney College Classified Senate LCCS); and the Peralta Classified Senate (PCS). She served one term as a representative on the California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS) Board. During her tenure at Peralta, she mentored and trained many students. Welcome Yvonne!

PRO's New Address

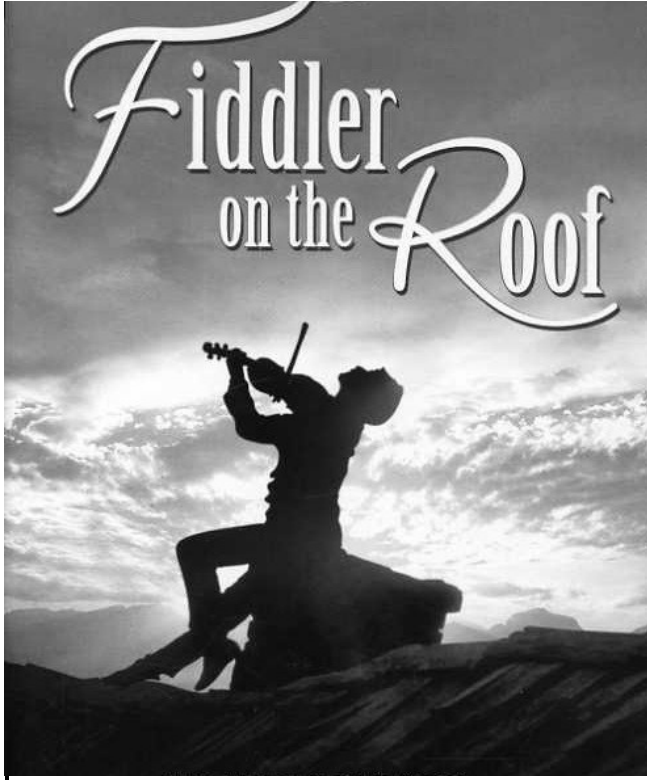
PRO has a new post office box. The move was made in order to facilitate the pick-up of mail by PRO Treasurer Anna Pavelka-Lodato. We will also be picking up mail at the old Post Office box for the next few months, but it is best if you send all mailed communications to the new address:

1250-I Newell Ave., #162

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PRO also changed banks from Bank of America to Mechanics Bank. The Board decided to make the change as a response to the call by the Occupy Movement and other progressives to withdraw money from the large banks which played such a large role in the economic collapse.

Order Your Tickets Now for the PRO Evening at the Woodminster Amphitheater



The universal story of tradition versus change is beautifully told in one of the most famous and popular musicals in Broadway history, ***Fiddler on the Roof***. The tale of Tevye and his daughters, based on Sholem Aleichem's short stories, is set in a poor Jewish village in Czarist Russia in the early years of the twentieth century.

The themes are universal -- tradition, family, love and marriage, resignation, regret, and optimism -- and the characters are honest, funny, and memorable. Songs like "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were A Rich Man," and "Matchmaker" help tell this dramatic story in the best tradition of American Musical Theater.

Friday □ July 20

\$23.50 per ticket

(center section—close to the stage—regular price for these tickets is \$44 — order early as there are only a limited number of seats available)

To reserve your tickets (friends and family are welcome)
complete the form below and mail by June 20 to:
PRO, 1250-I Newell Ave., #162, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

✂

Please send me _____ tickets for the Woodminster Summer Musical *Fiddler On The Roof* on Friday, July 20. Enclosed is my check made out to 'PRO' for _____ (\$23.50/ticket).

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____ Email _____

_____ Phone _____

CalSTRS News

Working After Retirement: All Exemptions Ending June 30

Starting July 1, exemptions to the annual postretirement earnings limit will end. Under current state law, if you work in any CalSTRS-covered employment, as either an employee, independent contractor or an employee of a third party, on or after July 1, you will be subject to all applicable earnings limits and will no longer be able to apply for any exemptions, which include:

- Direct Classroom and Remedial Exemption
- Emergency Exemption
- Limited Term Appointment or Assignment Exemption
- 12-Month Break Exemption

In past years the California Education Code provided exemptions to the annual postretirement earnings limit. By law, these exemptions are set to end June 30, 2012. No new legislation has been approved to extend these exemptions.

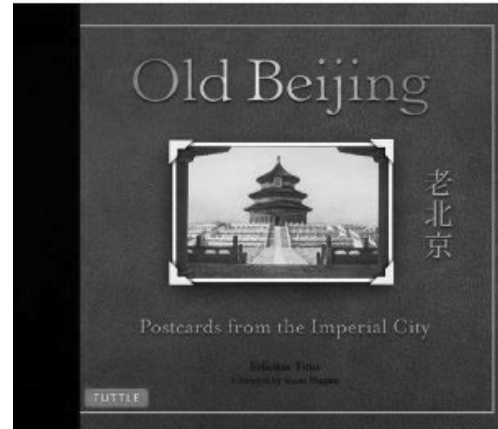
With exemptions no longer available starting with the 2012-13 fiscal year, you should work closely with your employer to track your earnings reported to CalSTRS. Exceeding the annual postretirement earnings limit can significantly affect your retirement benefit.

You can continue to receive your full CalSTRS retirement benefit, with no earnings limitation, if you take a job outside of CalSTRS-covered employment, including work in:

- Private industry
- Private schools
- Public schools outside of California
- UC or CSU system

For more information contact CalSTRS at 800-228-5453.

Felicitus Titus Book Captures Old Beijing



Peralta retiree Felicitus Titus is the author of a new book which will be available this May. The book is entitled *Old Beijing: Postcards from the Imperial City*. It is based on Felicity's collection of 350 vintage Beijing postcards.

It is a "last look" at the old Beijing (formerly Peking). It comprises her collection of 350 vintage postcards, amassed in the Bay Area while teaching German and French at Laney College. Felicity was born in China, the daughter of a businessman. She studied Chinese in Peking at the college of Chinese Studies and at Fu Jen Catholic University for two and a half years at the end of World War II.

Nostalgia drove her to collect these familiar images. She developed 25 chapters of Peking themes, e.g., Walls and Gates, the Forbidden City, The Imperial Family, Memorial Arches, The Summer Palace, and more. Many of the images are of places that were torn down during the course of the Chinese Revolution.

According to Felicitus, today Beijing is a high rise haven and rings of freeway ramps. The postcards have become historic documents. She tells us that the book is her contribution to the lost city.

Old Beijing: Postcards from the Imperial City is currently available at Amazon.com and will be available at local independent bookstores after May 10.

Contribute To The Pro Scholarship Fund By Honoring Or Memorializing A Friend Or Loved One



Yes, I want to support the PRO Scholarship Fund with a contribution.
(Please print)

In honor of: On the occasion of: In memory of:

Please send acknowledgement card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip: _____

Contributor's Name: _____

Contributor's Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip: _____

Make check payable to: **The Peralta Foundation—PRO**

Send to: PRO, PO Box 1951, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal and state law.

Contributions Received for the PRO Scholarship Fund	
In Memory of	Contributor
Carl Tonini	Helen Bersie and Chris Hadley

STRS No Longer Mailing Benefits Statements

Starting February 1, 2012, CalSTRS will no longer send benefit payment statements (also known as direct deposit advices) by U.S. mail to benefit recipients enrolled in the Direct Deposit program.

If you are not enrolled in the Direct Deposit program and currently receive your benefit payment checks by U.S. mail, this new process does not affect you.

If you are enrolled in the Direct Deposit program, this new process will not affect your benefit payments. Your benefit payments will continue to be deposited directly into the designated bank account on file with CalSTRS.

Instead of receiving your benefit statements in the mail, you can view and print current and previous benefit statements online using your myCalSTRS account. You must activate your myCalSTRS account to view your benefit payment information. If you have not yet activated your myCalSTRS account, go to CalSTRS.com to sign up.

IN MEMORIAM

The following Peralta retirees have passed away during the last months. PRO extends our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones.

**Elsa Bogosian
Robert Chin
Charles Keilin
Gordon Woods**

If you have any information about the passing or the serious illness of a Peralta retiree, please contact Bruce Jacobs at: webmaster@peraltaretirees.org or by writing to PRO, 1250-I Newell Ave., #162, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PFT, PRO Partner to Present Retirement Workshop

PRO joined with the Peralta Federation of Teachers to present a workshop for current Peralta District employees who are considering retirement this spring. The workshop was held on February 22 at the PFT Office. Attending were 20 potential retirees many with their spouses or partners.

The workshop began with a presentation by PRO President Jerry Herman who told participants about PRO's history and the vital role PRO plays in tracking health insurance benefits developments in the District as they affect retirees.

PRO Vice-President Bruce Jacobs then spoke about medical insurance benefits. He provided details about eligibility for lifetime benefits, Medicare enrollment, the integration of District benefits with Medicare, and survivor benefits. A second workshop is being planned for early May.



A rapt audience in the PFT Office listens to PRO VP Bruce Jacobs explain how Medicare integrates with Kaiser and CoreSource for retirees.

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