



## From the President...

*by Jerry Herman, PRO President*

### The People's Chancellor

If you missed the PRO Chancellor's Reception in June, you missed one of PRO's best events. Shirley Conner, gracious as ever, volunteered her lovely Alameda home for a PRO event for the umpteenth time. In gratitude, the PRO Board awarded her a lifetime PRO membership. Linda Japzon and Jay Quesada, co-chairs of our Social Committee, outdid themselves, creating a spread of food and drink that was the equal of any A-list caterer. Shirley, Linda and Jay, I reiterate my thanks and the thanks of the 40 retirees who attended.

The venue and the spread notwithstanding, the best thing about the event was Chancellor José Ortiz. Several of us knew Jose from his tenure as Vice President of Instruction at Laney a decade ago. He left Laney to become Chancellor-President of Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria, and now he's back as Peralta's chancellor, a post he's held for about a year.

The first thing one notices about Jose is how down-to-earth he is. There's not a whit of pretension or self-importance about him. He came to the reception comfortably dressed in jeans and a sweater. Accompanied by his wife Carmen, the two of them were genuinely interested in renewing old friendships and meeting new people. His sincerity in talking and listening to people as equals is evident.

When he addressed the group, it was nothing like a canned, boilerplate speech that so many educators who have reached his level can reel off in their sleep. He was articulate but plain-spoken, direct and humorous. He was candid regarding his

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Come have fun at

# PRO's Annual Picnic

Friday, August 9  
in Redwood Park



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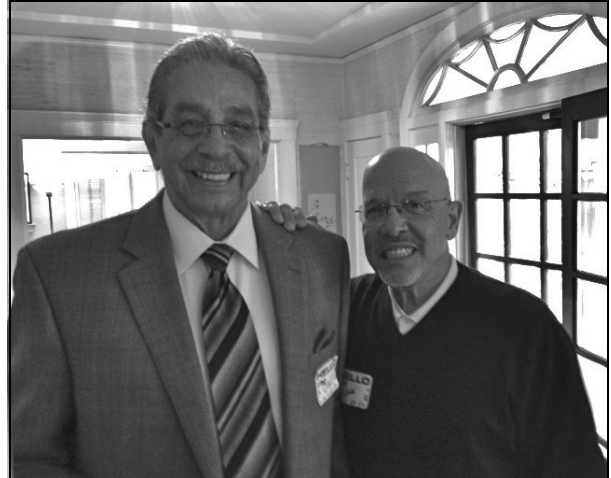
(From the President... Continued from page 1)

doubts about taking the Peralta chancellorship, fraught as it is with obstacles. He took it, he said, because he thought he could make a difference. “I had no personal or political agenda in taking the job,” he said. “I just want to solve the problems.”

As far as retirees are concerned, Jose is in our corner. He is committed to the district’s contractual obligations regarding our health benefits and pointed out that in not so many years, he’ll join our ranks. After Jose spoke and answered questions, several people told me how impressed they were with him.

I’ve been around since the Peralta District was formed, and I’ve seen chancellors come and go. Jose is a refreshing contrast to most of them, a man whose commitment is to solving Peralta’s problems and to making the education of Peralta’s students his first priority. In his first year as

Peralta’s chancellor he has proven his independence and his competence. The PRO Board is delighted to have given the membership a chance to meet him. We wish more of you had availed yourselves of the opportunity.



Retired Laney President Odell Johnson with PCCD Chancellor José Ortiz at the PRO Party for the Chancellor. Additional photos on page 4.

**Peralta Retirees Organization**

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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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**PRO T-Shirts Available**



You can order a PRO T-Shirt. Shirts are turquoise, 100% cotton and available in S, M, L and XL sizes. \$20 per shirt

To Order: Mail a check made out to “PRO” for \$20 for each shirt. Designate the size(s) you want and include your name and a mailing address. Send your check to PRO, 1250-I Newell Ave., #162, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**Welcome New Members**

PRO welcomes the following retirees who have recently joined.

**Kathleen Bauer**  
**Fred Cisin**  
**Shirley Mack**

**Rahim Noorbakhsh**  
**Carole Rogers**  
**Gary Yee**

Join your fellow Peralta retirees for

# *PRO's Annual Picnic*

In the Redwoods at the Huckleberry Picnic Area of Oakland's beautiful Roberts Regional Recreation Area

Friday, August 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



This year's theme  
***Pirates of Peralta***



**Come have fun with  
Prizes and Surprises**

**PRO will supply  
water, soft drinks,  
plates, utensils,  
salad and dessert.  
Bring your picnic  
lunch and any  
other beverage of  
your choice.**

**Parking:  
\$5 per car**

**Wheelchair  
accessible**

**Driving Directions:**

**From Highway 13 (Warren Freeway)**

Take the Joaquin Miller exit and go east, up the hill on Joaquin Miller. Turn left at Skyline Blvd. Proceed one mile to the Roberts entrance on the right.

**From 580**

Exit on 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. and proceed up the hill on 35<sup>th</sup>, which will eventually become Redwood Road. At the intersection of Redwood and Skyline Blvd., turn left and proceed for one mile, then right to stay on Skyline. Proceed for one mile to the entrance to Roberts on the right.

**RSVP: Let us know if you're coming and how many will be in your party. Call or e-mail Social Committee Co-Chair: Linda Japzon 510-483-7183 · [coolbigeyes41jdp@gmail.com](mailto:coolbigeyes41jdp@gmail.com)**



# Medicare Reimbursement Issues

## Retroactive Medicare Reimbursement

All Peralta retirees and dependents that are 65 years old or older should be enrolled in Medicare. Once you are enrolled, you will be billed by the Center for Medicare Services for Medicare Part B and for any amount due if you are not eligible for free Part A. The Peralta District will reimburse you for any Medicare premium that you are required to pay for Part A and/or Part B.

However, the District is limiting what it will pay retroactively to people who have been paying Medicare but did not make a claim because they did not know that they could be reimbursed.

PRO and the PFT are jointly protesting the decision not to reimburse retroactively because it was never negotiated. Apparently the District has created a Summary Plan Description (SPD) for the reimbursement program without consulting either the union or PRO.

If you are paying for Medicare, but have not re-

quested reimbursement you should do so immediately. The procedure for requesting reimbursement, together with links to the necessary forms, can be found on the PRO website's Medicare Tutorial:

[www.peraltaretirees.org/Docs/Medicare/mcreimb.htm](http://www.peraltaretirees.org/Docs/Medicare/mcreimb.htm)

## Medicare Part D Reimbursement

The District has refused to reimburse those Kaiser retirees who are paying for Medicare Part D. Although Peralta retirees generally do not enroll in Part D (the prescription drug coverage) those who are in Kaiser's Senior Advantage are enrolled by Kaiser automatically. Depending on income, the retiree may have to pay a premium which the District has so far refused to reimburse.

PRO is working with the PFT to change the District's policy since the contractual intent was that enrolling in Medicare should be cost-free to the retiree. We are continuing to discuss the issue and expect it to be resolved shortly.

## PRO Hosts Party for Retirees in Honor of PCCD Chancellor José Ortiz

*PRO hosted a party in honor of PCCD Chancellor José Ortiz on June 23. The party was held at the Alameda home of PRO member Shirley Conner. Linda Japzon and Jay Quesada, PRO's Social Committee co-chairs, made all the arrangements for the festive reception. Read PRO President Jerry Herman's article on page 1 for a detailed description of the event.*



*Shirley Conner receives a lifetime membership in PRO from President Jerry Herman as a thank you for generously providing her home for many PRO events.*



*Chancellor Ortiz with PRO's Social Committee co-Chairs Linda Japzon (l) and Jay Quesada.*



*PRO Board Member Pat England was one of the 40 retirees attending.*

# PRO's Spring Garden Party



*(From Left) Jay Quesada, O.J. Roundtree, Diana Lara, Jimmy Cato, George Herring, Marge Maloney, Ed Lopez, Linda Japzon, Angelita Finlayson, Bishop Scott, Barbara Southworth, and Ralph Marinaro*

About 35 PRO members and friends gathered on Saturday, May 18, for a garden party at the Alameda home of Shirley Conner. The weather was perfect, the garden was lovely, the food was great, and the company, as with every PRO gathering, was congenial and friendly.

Oldies but goodies music provided by the Retroz Band contributed to the festive atmosphere. And loads of thanks to Lanvie Apparel (1419 Park Street, Alameda) for supplying the clothing for the spectacular fashion show.



*Susan Cota, George Herring, Loe Baculpa, John Maloney, and Bishop Scott*



*Marge Maloney and Rita Haberin*



*Yvonne Carter and Shirley Conner*



*O. J. Roundtree and Ida Pound*



*Jimmy Cato*



*Verna Johnson, Cynthia Johnson, and Debra Payton*

## PRO Scholarship Recipients for 2013

*Every year the PRO Scholarship Fund awards a \$1000 scholarship to a transferring student at each of the Peralta colleges as part of our continuing commitment to Peralta's educational mission. The recipients are chosen jointly by the scholarship committees at each of the colleges and by members of the PRO Board. They are always strong academic achievers who are highly motivated and who have overcome difficult obstacles to achieve their success. This year was no different.*

*The scholarships are announced during an award ceremony held by each college. This year a PRO member presented the award at each ceremony, met the student recipient, and had the opportunity to say a few words about PRO's mission.*

### College of Alameda

**Student:** Shema Khidir

**Presenter:** Alex Pappas

Shema is an activist student who has been working in the Save Our Schools Club. She was involved in organizing a major rally in Sacramento calling on legislators and the governor to provide the resources requisite for student success. She also serves as president of the youth committee of the Islamic Center of Alameda where she works to motivate teenagers to pursue education. She will be attending CSU East Bay or SF State where she will major in Business Administration and International Relations. Ultimately she hopes to work in developing countries on alleviating poverty.

### Berkeley City College

**Student:** Larry McDaniel

**Presenter:** Jerry Herman

Larry McDaniel wrote this in applying for the scholarship: I can't help but think of the years when I was not worthy of the PRO scholarship award. In 2009 my GPA was 0.83. I failed a multitude of my courses resulting from being dismissed from the Peralta District three



*Jerry Herman and  
Larry McDaniel*

times... As a teenager I was exposed to a communal value structure that placed drugs, opportunistic criminal activities and material possessions above education. I fell victim to that structure, which stunted my development." □

Obviously Larry has transformed himself since 2009. His GPA upon graduation was 3.8. He was a student senator in the BCC Student Government, a BCC student ambassador, a college writing coach, a volunteer with the Big Brother-Big Sister program, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the academic honor society, and he teaches children piano - among his other accomplishments.

He will pursue his BA in sociology either at Berkeley or Columbia. Then he wants to earn a PhD focusing on urban community values and their impact on educational development with a career goal of teaching in college and establishing non-profit organizations that provide educational and economic support to at-risk youth and their families.

### Laney College

**Student:** Okala Mundeke

**Presenter:** Bruce Jacobs

Okala is an immigrant from the Congo, a single parent of five children and a survivor of domestic violence. She has worked as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and at the Pentecost International Church in Hayward. Since March 2011 she has also volunteered at Washington Hospital in the Emergency Room.

She is graduating with a 3.792 GPA. Her goal is become a nurse and she will be attending the Nursing Program at Merritt College in the fall. Laney CALWorks Counsellor Irina Rivkin indicated in a letter supporting Okala's application that she "has demonstrated high potential, motivation and commitment to success in college and in the community.



*Bruce Jacobs and  
Okala Mundeke*

*(Continued on page 8)*

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

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

### Contributions Received for the PRO Scholarship Fund

In Memory of:	Contributor
Tom Carpenter	George Herring
Jeff Devers	George Herring
Cecil Toland Draper	Juanita Peterson

### IN MEMORIAM

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

**Marcia Gerin  
Michael Gilmore  
Cleo Ross**

*If you have any information about the passing or the serious illness of a Peralta retiree, please contact Bruce Jacobs at: [webmaster@peraltaretirees.org](mailto:webmaster@peraltaretirees.org) or by writing to PRO, 1250-I*

*(PRO Scholarship Continued from page 6)*

## Merritt College

**Student:** Alba Lopez

**Presenter:** Yvonne Lewis

Alba is intent on becoming an educator. She herself was poorly served by the educational system. She was encouraged by a counselor to drop out of school when she was in high school. After leaving School, she began to work with at-risk youth for Oakland Parks and Recreation where she “witnessed how students like myself continued to be discouraged from attaining a higher education.”

Her initial entry into college was difficult both because she did not have adequate skills and because her father did not support her attending. She had to leave home and with much effort managed to succeed academically graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

Alba will be attending UC Berkeley where she in-



*Alba Lopez*

tends to major in interdisciplinary studies. Her goal is to “conduct cross-disciplinary research to unearth the various social, political, cultural, and economic factors that perpetuate significant educational gaps among minorities and low-income communities.”

## New Blue Cross Cards

The District issued new Medical Insurance Cards for retirees who are enrolled in Blue Cross/ CoreSource. The new cards were necessary because the District shifted to a new network of providers which allows for much wider choice for those retirees who do not reside in California. All California providers that were part of the network prior to the change are also in the new network.

It is necessary to provide all your providers with the new card the next time you see them in order to make sure that billing is properly done. If you did not receive a new card contact Jennifer Seibert at 510-587-7838. Additional cards are also available.

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