Message from the General Manager

Dear Members,

The end of 2018 is fast approaching, and in a few days we will be on our holiday break. As always, the holiday season is a time for get-togethers, some well-deserved rest, and some reflection over the past year.

2018 has seen many changes at the Faculty Center in terms of fiscal health (we are finally back into the black!), decor and dining options. I truly appreciated the support and active participation of so many members in making the necessary innovations, while honoring the original mission and valued traditions of this nearly 60-year-old institution.

I wish to thank you for your continued support, and look forward to further improving the offerings and value the Faculty Center brings to you every day.

May the best of 2018 be the worst of 2019. Safe travels, and see you in the New Year!

Happy Holidays!

Luciano Sautto
General Manager & COO
UCLA Faculty Center
As we approach the season of holidays and the end of 2018, I want to express our sympathy and support for the many in the UCLA community who have been affected by the wildfires and the tragic shootings in Thousand Oaks. These are trying times for many of our friends, families, colleagues, and students, but our better natures have been on full display as so many have and continue to assist and support those in need.

As with the year, my extended term of office is coming to an end (January 31). As I transition out, my most important role is that of improving our finances. Toward that end, I want to remind members of tangible ways to support our quest to provide a beautiful dining and conferencing facility with unparalleled offerings at reasonable prices.

First, if you have not already done so, please switch your account to a form of automatic payment (credit or debit card). Doing so saves us thousands of dollars every month, as the number of delinquent accounts is minimized. We have had as much as $30,000 in uncollected payments, which greatly compromises our ability to simply pay our bills. Make doing so a New Year’s resolution!

Second, please make a donation to the Faculty Center before the year’s end. All donations go through the UCLA Foundation and are therefore tax deductible. You can choose to fund our modernization efforts or our operations.

Third, please use the Faculty Center for all of your special events as well as regular dining—and encourage others to do so as well. It’s the extra business we bring in that ensures our financial success.

I want to take a few moments this month to discuss one of our critical tools for fiscal solvency that has been misunderstood by some. The typical restaurant in Los Angeles, and just about everywhere else, does more business in the warmer summer months and during the December holiday season.

However, our situation is exactly the opposite. We do less business in the summer when our faculty are less likely to be on campus, and other employees take time off for vacations and other activities. Historically, across the University of California system, many campuses close for a period during the summer at the end of the academic year and/or around the winter holidays in December.

For years, the Faculty Center maintained the same hours during those down months as it did the rest of the year. Since all units on campus now bear a much greater share of benefit costs, it has become impossible for the Faculty Center to maintain full service hours throughout the entire year.

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Indeed, maintaining long business hours even during low-income periods was a key factor in the substantial losses suffered by the Faculty Center (i.e., $1.7 million since 2010). This situation was absolutely unsustainable. The Faculty Center needed to address the loss of business during these periods and stay alive as an institution, while maintaining our loyal staff.

We have since learned that University of California units are permitted to curtail their operations, including adjusting to “seasonal” influences on scheduled work activities. Provisions detailing curtailment may be found in the Personnel Policies for Staff Members and in various labor contracts with represented employee organizations. (See, e.g., PPSM 2.210; Article 6 in the AFSCME labor contract; and Article 44 in the Teamsters Local 2010 labor contract.)

Faculty Center management also strives to provide affected employees with sufficient advance notice of proposed curtailment to lessen the burden on employees. In addition, when implementing a curtailment for a specific duration, Faculty Center management advises employees of their available options. Employees may select one or a combination of the following options: use paid vacation leave, use paid compensatory (“comp”) time, or take a leave without pay.

Please note that curtailed employees who remain on paid status for at least 50% of each pay period through the use of vacation leave or compensatory time receive their full health and welfare benefits. In addition, employees continue to accrue sick leave and vacation hours, as well as service credits, while on pay status. Curtailed employees may also apply for unemployment benefits without impairing their continued employment.

There may come a time when the Faculty Center does so much business during the summer through conferences and special events such as weddings or banquets that we would not have to curtail our operations. That seems unlikely since another UCLA campus unit that maintains dining facilities, Housing & Hospitality Services, has also had to employ curtailment. The bottom line is that the use of curtailment has allowed us to keep our doors open and to enhance our offerings.

Last, I want to announce that our next full Faculty Center Association members meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 3:00 pm (just before the Faculty Center Association Members Holiday Reception at 4:30 pm). You won’t want to miss either!

Wishing you all a beautiful holiday season and winter break!

—M. Belinda Tucker
President, Board of Governors
Professor of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences
The Emeriti Association had its Autumn Dinner on November 14, 2018, with the largest attendance in Association history. The Main Dining Room of the Faculty Center was divided into a bar with open space for the guests to mingle at a congenial hour-long reception, and a dining area with 18 tables for 146 guests. After a dinner of great food, Association President Ronald Mellor introduced the special attraction of the evening, Professor Teofilo Ruiz, Wellman Distinguished Professor of Medieval History.

Teo has been nationally acknowledged as a master teacher, named in 1994 as one of the four “Professors of the Year” by the Carnegie Foundation. Since arriving at UCLA in 1998, Teo has received our Distinguished Teaching Award, delivered the Faculty Research Lecture, and served as chair of the Department of History and later as the Chair of Spanish and Portuguese. He received the National Humanities Medal in 2012 from President Barack Obama for his “inspired teaching and writing.” His tens of thousands of UCLA students and friends recognize the irrepressible Teo.

Teo was a captivating speaker roaming throughout the room while providing “An Introduction to Cuban History: From Colony to Revolution.” He took the guests on an enlightened journey from Columbus through the Spanish colonial era until Cuban independence in 1902. A series of corrupt and despotic rulers culminated in the Cuban Revolution, which in 1959 brought Fidel Castro to absolute control. Teo told the audience of his boyhood, living in the same street as Ernest Hemingway, a teen-aged revolutionary who was jailed for insubordination, and emigrating in 1962 to work as a taxi driver in New York and attend City College and later Princeton University. After the presentation, Teo continued to answer numerous questions while moving through the tables. The assembled emeriti and guests could see how Teo is one of the most popular teachers at UCLA with 300-400 students in his lecture courses, and his month-long UCLA summer school course in Paris has been fully enrolled for the past 15 years.

The Autumn Emeriti dinner was a festive evening with good fellowship and intellectual stimulation, with tasty food and efficient service. The Emeriti Association offers a quarterly dinner for its members, and, for those who missed it, an audio recording is available on the Emeriti Association webpage at https://archive.org/details/Ruiz111418EA.

The Association invites all UCLA emeriti and retired librarians to join and participate in our activities: especially the quarterly dinners and monthly after-lunch programs – all held at the Faculty Center.

—Ron Mellor
President, UCLA Emeriti Association
Coming Up in January: Our Prime Rib Dinner!

Prime Time for Prime Rib

Stay tuned! We’ll be putting on our annual Prime Rib dinner in January! Dates, times and prices will be announced in the new year.
Recipe of the Month: Mushroom & Pumpkin Risotto

WHAT YOU NEED

- Shallots, diced ......................... 2
- Crimini mushrooms, sliced .......... 1lb
- Pumpkin .................................. 1lb
- White wine ................................ 1 cup
- Arborio rice ............................. 1½ cup
- Chicken stock ............................ 4 cups
- Butter ..................................... 4 tbsp
- Olive oil ................................. 2 tbsp
- Parmesan, grated ..................... ¼ cup
- Salt & pepper ............................ to taste

METHOD

- Peel and dice the pumpkin and roast at 350F for approximately 10 minutes, or until tender.
- Place half of the cooked pumpkin in a food processor and blend with 1 tbsp butter, salt, and pepper until smooth. Set aside.
- Sauté the sliced mushrooms over high heat with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Set aside
- Warm up the chicken stock and set aside.
- In a medium sized pot, melt 2 tbsp butter over medium-high heat and add the diced shallots.
- Once the shallots have become translucent, add the rice and stir for 1 minute to coat the rice in butter and shallot mixture.
- Add the white wine and bring to a boil until the alcohol has evaporated.
- Over medium heat, gradually add the chicken stock while constantly stirring the rice until it has reached an “al dente” consistency, approximately 10-15 minutes.
- Add the pumpkin purée, 1 tbsp butter and parmesan cheese. Stir to combine.
- Finally, add the diced pumpkin and sautéed mushrooms, stir to combine
- More stock may be added to reach the desired consistency.
- Garnish with more grated parmesan and parsley.

“I love a good, warm risotto in the fall and winter. This one's a simple recipe, good for weeknights or dinner parties alike.” - Chef Tony
Play Readers News: An Inspector Calls

We’ll meet on Thursday January 10 at 7 pm in the Faculty Center. The cast will read aloud, script in hand, An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley. Afterwards you’ll have a chance to discuss the play with the cast and directors.

A classic of the 20th century, An Inspector Calls is a drama in three acts, set in an industrial town in England. It takes place in a single night in April 1912, during a dinner party at the home of a wealthy factory owner. An inspector arrives, and reports the death by suicide of a young working class woman. The inspector is seeking information about the young woman and the circumstances that may have led to her death.

Priestley was an English novelist and playwright (1894-1984). When the play was written, all the London theaters were fully booked for the season, and the play opened for the first time in Moscow, in September 1945. It opened in London in 1946, and on Broadway in 1947.

We’ll need readers for 8 characters, 4 women and 4 men. If you’ve never participated as a reader, you are welcome to join our group and be considered for a role.

Please contact Rochelle Caballero, chair of the Play Readers, at rrcab90272@cs.com for more information or to be added to the Play Readers’ mailing list. Be sure to let her know if you’d like to be a reader.

Make an evening of it—join the cast for dinner before the performance, 5:30 pm at the Faculty Center. To reserve, contact Marjorie Friedlander, friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com.

Next up, Thursday February 21 at 7 pm, the Play Readers will present a play by the late Neil Simon, probably Broadway Bound. Please note change of date for February: because Valentine’s Day falls on the second Thursday, our presentation will be on the third Thursday in February.

FWC News

By the time this newsletter goes to press, several members and guests of the Faculty Women’s Club will have attended one of their Centennial events: attending the sold-out 2018 Pulitzer Prize winning play by Martyna Majok called “Cost of Living” at the Fountain Theatre, Sunday, December 2nd. Stay tuned for news of more Centennial events in this space. Questions? Please email Bette Billett, bettebillett@ucla.edu.

The Scholarship Committee reminds you to Think 1001 when donating to the FWC Scholarship Fund. To donate, make your check payable to The UCLA Foundation (write FWC Scholarship on the Memo line) and mail to the UCLA Foundation, PO Box 7145, Pasadena, CA 91109-9003. For credit card donations, go to https://giving.ucla.edu/FacultyWomensClub or the FWC website, https://uclafacultywomensclub.wordpress.com.

The FWC is eagerly awaiting their next dinner at the Faculty Center, where they will meet this year’s FWC scholars and Dr. Nina Shapiro, Director of Pediatric Ear, Nose, and Throat at the Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and noted author of Hype, a guide to navigating through medical myths and bad advice. For more information, please see http://drninashapiro.com/. Further details will appear in the upcoming FWC and Faculty Center newsletters.
Faculty Center Hosts Retirees’ Arts & Crafts Exhibit

Women giggled with delight as they tried on earrings and necklaces made by several jewelry vendors. Visitors ogled the beautiful displays of glass, ceramics, paintings, sculpture and photography created by other UCLA Retirees Association members. They bought Christmas and Chanukah crafts and won door prizes awarded for the first time this year. Background music added to the festivities.

The event was the UCLA Retirees Association’s annual Arts & Crafts Exhibit, held on November 15 at the Faculty Center’s elegant California Room. By all measures, it was a huge success. Twenty-four talented members displayed their creations for about 200 enthusiastic visitors to the show. Some of the exhibitors were first-time participants and enjoyed sharing their work with others. And several chose to donate their profits on sales to the Retirees Association’s staff scholarship endowment or other charitable causes.

Fourteen years ago, the first Association art show was held in a member’s home. But it didn’t take long before so many retirees wanted to participate that the exhibit was moved to the Faculty Center where it has become an annual event. It is a prime example of the partnership that the Retirees Association shares with the Faculty Center.

—Hallie Masler
UCLA staff retiree and newsletter editor for the UCLA Retirees Association