

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory CUCRA Report for Fall 2022

submitted by Nancy J. Brown, Ex-Ls CUCRA representative

Membership: Our in-person activities continue to be limited by the COVID-19 pandemic, making it more difficult to recruit new members and officers. The Ex-Ls were forty years old in August. One of our members has been preparing a history of the Ex-Ls that has and will be appearing sequentially in our Newsletter.

Concerns: The use of Zoom for the EX-Ls virtual luncheons has allowed us to alleviate some of the impacts of COVID isolation and has the unexpected benefit of allowing retirees, who have moved away from the Bay Area or who have limited mobility, to attend the talks. While we are anxious to resume in-person meetings, we will try to continue Zoom talks for those not able to attend in person. We hope to resume in-person meetings this fall, but we need to fill some critical positions on our board first.

Activities: The Ex-Ls continue our quarterly “luncheons and speaker series” on Zoom. A new talk, presented in May by Faith Dukes, Director of the LBNL K-12 STEM Education Program at the lab, was entitled “Cultivating the Next Generation in STEM at Berkeley Lab. It was exciting and gratifying to hear of the great variety of programs and outreach activities that the leadership of this endeavor is initiating and participating in.

Retirement Center Interactions: We are grateful for the considerable support that Cary Sweeny and Camille Koue continue to provide for us from the Berkeley Retirement Center. Most recently they have continued their work with LBNL HR to inform employee groups of the resources they offer and to expand the reach of the Ex-Ls. We also appreciate the various lectures that are presented virtually by the Center. They have created an especially appealing fall line-up.