



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD

60+ Club

Biennial Report: 2024-2026

Celebrating Forty-one Years of Service, Learning, and Fellowship

Carla Stanley, Editor

August 2026

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Philosophy and Purpose

The CSUB 60+ Club is a partnership between the California State University, Bakersfield, and the community of older and retired persons which is composed of persons from all walks of life. This community consists of concerned citizens, active and curious, with time to pursue lifelong learning.

The CSUB 60+ Club is a member-motivated and member-governed organization.



The purpose of the 60+ Club is personal enrichment through lifelong learning, social activities and volunteerism in the campus environment, utilizing the resources of the university and the experience of its members.

60+ Club Officers:

2025-2026

President:

Vice President (Programs):

Vice President (Membership):

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Directors-at-Large:

Carla Stanley

Jane Cuellar

Lois Hess

Toni Smith

Jeff Stolz

**Susan Spear, Ann Lovett, Jane Decker,
Jewel Benoit**



2024-2025

President:

Vice President (Programs):

Vice President (Membership):

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Directors-at-Large:

Carla Stanley

Carole Guillory

Jane Cuellar

Lois Hess

Toni Smith

Jeff Stolz

**Susan Spear, Augie Lyster, Jane Decker,
Jewel Benoit**

Alumni Engagement: Director of Alumni Engagement - Sarah Hendrick 2015-2026

Director of Alumni Engagement End-of-Year Report 2025–2026
Academic Year



The 2025–2026 academic year was one of meaningful engagement, collaboration, and community-building for Alumni Engagement at California State University, Bakersfield. Through partnerships with alumni, volunteers, campus departments, and community organizations, we continued to strengthen lifelong connections to CSUB while supporting the university's mission of being Kern County's University.

A significant component of this year's work centered on supporting the 60+ Club and its many contributions to the university community. The club continues to provide opportunities for lifelong learning, campus engagement, philanthropy, and volunteerism for members throughout Kern County, many of whom are proud CSUB alumni.

Alumni Engagement Support for the 60+ Club

Our Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Andrea von Schrittz, provided extensive administrative and engagement support to the 60+ Club throughout the academic year. Andrea served as the primary office contact for club inquiries related to:

- Events
- Memberships
- Non-campus events and contacts
- Payments
- Print orders
- General club inquiries

She attended Possibilities Day in September, where she welcomed guests, introduced herself, and shared how she supports members throughout their 60+ Club experience. From July through April, Andrea processed more than 118 memberships, including 25 brand-new members. Approximately 20% of this year's membership roster are CSUB alumni, reinforcing the strong connection between the club and the university's alumni community.

Andrea also:

- Distributed monthly bulletins through the club website, email communications, and mailed newsletters

- Coordinated logistics and scheduling for:
 - o Elder College
 - o Conversations with the Professor
 - o General Meeting events
 - o Holiday and Installation luncheons
 - o Committee meetings, including Scholarship, Elder College, and Budget committees
 - Attended monthly Board Meetings and fielded member questions and concerns
- Her support has been instrumental in ensuring smooth operations and positive member experiences throughout the year.

Supporting Lifelong Learning and Campus Connection

The 60+ Club plays a meaningful role in advancing the university's broader Alumni Engagement goals. Many members are CSUB alumni who remain actively connected to the university through volunteerism, philanthropy, lifelong learning, and campus programming.

Club members continue to:

- Volunteer at university events
- Support music and theatre programs
- Engage with students through conversations and educational initiatives
- Partner with the Kegley Institute of Ethics to discuss ethical issues with students
- Bring alumni speakers and community leaders to campus
- Provide opportunities for alumni over the age of 60 to remain actively involved with CSUB

This year, Alumni Board Member Ty Ohanneson visited campus to speak about regenerative farming and contributions to the CSUB Food Pantry, creating meaningful conversations around sustainability, agriculture, and community care.

Campus Beautification and Sustainability Efforts

The 60+ Club continues to make a visible and lasting impact on campus through stewardship of several cherished campus spaces, including:

- The Callison Memorial Garden
- The Rose Garden
- Two garden beds within the CSUB Edible Garden

These spaces provide beauty, reflection, and community connection for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The edible garden partnership also supports student

and community food initiatives while fostering goodwill and collaboration across campus.

We especially appreciate the dedication of 60+ Club members who volunteer their time to maintain these areas and help preserve welcoming spaces for the campus community.

As shared by Jane Couperus, Director of Planned Giving:

“Thank you, 60+ members and especially Carla Stanley, for making CSUB’s Callison Memorial Garden campus beautiful for our students, faculty and staff. It has been wonderful to see this corner of our campus brightened with annual flowers throughout the seasons and wonderful to see the faces of 60+ members who have volunteered their time to plant the garden. We are grateful for you!”

Philanthropy and Student Support

The 60+ Club also contributes to the university’s larger fundraising and student support goals. Through scholarships and philanthropic initiatives, club members continue to invest directly in CSUB students and their future success. The club annually provides scholarship support for students, demonstrating a continued commitment to education and opportunity. Additionally, members contribute donations to the CSUB Food Pantry during the club’s Installation and Christmas Luncheons, as well as at each of their monthly general meetings, supporting university sustainability and basic needs initiatives.

Signature Events and Community Engagement

Possibilities Day

Director of Planned Giving Jane Couperus and I had the opportunity to serve as keynote speakers during the club’s annual Possibilities Day kickoff and membership drive event.

It was wonderful to:

- Welcome new members
- Reconnect with alumni and Alumni Hall of Fame honorees
- Hear members share their enthusiasm for activities such as book clubs, dinner clubs, and educational programming

The event continues to serve as an important introduction to the community, friendships, and lifelong learning opportunities available through the club.

Installation and Christmas Luncheons

Members of the University Advancement team attended both the Installation and Christmas Luncheons hosted at Stockdale Country Club. These events provide meaningful opportunities for fellowship and networking with club members while celebrating the spirit of community and volunteerism that defines the organization.

Highlights included:

- Installation of incoming club leadership during the Installation Luncheon
- Holiday performances, including a festive choir presentation during the Christmas Luncheon
- Food pantry donation drives that support university sustainability and student basic needs initiatives

These luncheons remain treasured traditions that strengthen relationships between the club and the university community.

Community Recognition and Visibility

This year, 60+ Club President Carla Stanley spoke with a reporter from CalMatters about the club and its impact on older adults through lifelong learning and engagement opportunities. This recognition highlighted the importance of programs that foster intellectual curiosity, social connection, and continued involvement in university life for this demographic.

Looking Ahead

The 60+ Club remains an invaluable partner to Alumni Engagement and the university. Their dedication to lifelong learning, philanthropy, volunteerism, and campus stewardship reflects the very best of the Roadrunner spirit.

We are grateful for the continued partnership of the club's leadership, members, volunteers, and supporters, and we look forward to another successful year of collaboration, engagement, and service to the CSUB community.

Sarah Hendrick, MPA

Director of Alumni Engagement

Division of University Advancement

President – Carla Stanley (2023-2026)

When I started as president, one of my goals was to get us to our fortieth year and I made it! In April of 1985, when the university was about fifteen years old, the 60+ club was organized to help the community give back to the university. We've had to change with the times and the technology. Recovery from the pandemic has been trying, but we are still here and moving forward. Our membership numbers are increasing. We have revived older activities like Around the Cracker Barrel in a new way involving the Ethics Department, and started Share and Care, answering a call to help take care of each other.

Other organizations heard of us and asked for our participation. Aging and Adult Services had us at their Older American Resource Fair. That led to our participating in the California Master Plan on Aging. Brookdale Senior Living asked us to participate in their Health Fair, while Solstice Senior Living invited us to dinner, and Ivy Place provided us with a meeting area and snacks for Share & Care. Rosewood Senior Living reached out and asked for a presentation of our activities. The City of Bakersfield invited us to participate in their talkback about seniors in the community. The Aging Network invited us to their luncheons which increases our knowledge and outreach to professionals whose job is helping seniors. All of this serves to raise our visibility in the community.

I have enjoyed many things about being president of the CSUB 60+ Club, but a new leader is ready to step in now. I will stay active in a support role and we will all work together to move forward.

Co-Vice Presidents (Programs) - Carole Guillory and Jane Cuellar (2024-2025) Vice President (Programs) - Jane Cuellar (2025-2026)

Until the 2025-2026 term, 60+ Club general meetings were held in the Stockdale Room on the CSUB campus. Meetings were held in the CSUB Dezember room starting October 2025. The change has been a welcome one as less preparation is necessary and the room comfortably seats those attending with the bonus of having tablespace.

Speakers 2024-2025:

September: Dr. Vernon Harper, Jr., Interim President of CSUB

October: Holley Peacock-Hickey, Victim Specialist with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
November: Katherine Winters, White Wolf Wellness Foundation
January: Susan Pinza, Director of the Levan Institute for Lifelong Learning
February: Randy Miller, Covenant Community Services
March: Joel Kirksey, Manager of Crop Production and Education Programming – CSUB Edible Garden
April: Mike McCoy, Executive Director of the Kern County Museum
May: Carla Stanley, CSUB 60+ Club President

Speakers 2025- 2026:

September: Sarah Hendrick, Director of CSUB Alumni Engagement – Possibilities Day
October: Mitchell Coleman, Interim Executive Director of the Tejon Ranch Conservatory
November: Jane Couperus, Director of Planned Giving in the CSUB Office of University Advancement
January: Berkeley Hanley, Community Engagement Coordinator at Kern County Animal Services (KCAS)
February: Elizabeth Graff, Volunteer and Community Engagement Facilitator at the California Living Museum (CALM)
March: Ty Ohanneson, Organic OH Olive Oil Farm
April: Michael Veatch, Program Support Assistant for the Bakersfield National Cemetery
May: Glen Lagerstrom, Director of the Levan Institute for Lifelong Learning

During the club year 2024-2025, we worked closely with the CSUB Student Food Pantry, which is a vital resource for our students. Reminders are placed in the monthly bulletins to bring food items or personal hygiene products to the meetings in order to help stock the pantry. The Food Pantry is handled by Director-at-Large Jewel Benoit.

We also worked with Janis Varner to help with the arrangements for the December holiday luncheon and the June installation luncheon, both held at the Stockdale Country Club. For club year 2025-2026, responsibility for the December holiday, and the June installation luncheons, are handled by a newly created board position—Special Events Coordinator Jane Decker. The Special

Events Coordinator also handled the speaker for the club's September 2025 possibilities day and will do so in the future.

Vice President (Membership)–Lois Hess (2022-2026)

In 2024-25, we had 117 members on our roster. We offered members the option of purchasing parking passes for \$10 to pass those fees onto our members without raising the dues, which remained \$40 per member.

In 2025-2026, we ended the year with 118 members. Membership is now purchased starting at the June Installation luncheon instead of waiting for Possibilities Day. Ninety-three parking passes were sold.

Treasurer--Jeff Stoltz (2024-2026)

The CSUB 60+Treasurer does not sign any checks, receive any checks or otherwise disburse or receive funds. That is all handled by CSUB and the contact is Andrea Von Schrittz. She can pay expenses electronically via the CSUB Accounting System or with a CSUB credit card. She receives checks or cash from 60+ members for membership and other items. The system is not set up for ACH or wire transfers from 60+ members. Fiscal years run from July 1 to June 30th of each year.

Starting Balances June 30, 2024 Jeff Stoltz assumes duties of 60+ Treasurer.

Elder College \$ 8,508.00

Scholarship Fund \$2,385.00

General Fund \$ 6,058.00

Starting Balances June 30, 2025 Jeff Stoltz continues duties of 60+ Treasurer.

Elder College: \$8,928.00

Scholarship Fund: \$3,079.00

General Fund: \$8,749.00

Starting Balances June 30, 2026 Bob Langer will assume duties of 60+ Treasurer.

The end of the Fiscal Year balances and hence start of the next year balances, won't be known until the final reports are issued in August 2026. The most current information is at the end of March 2026 and listed below.

Elder College: The current balance is \$7,420.00

Scholarship Fund: The current balance is \$3,574.00

General Fund: The current balance is \$10,041.00

Comments for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

A Budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year for the General Fund (exclusive of Elder College, Scholarships, Installation Lunch, and Holiday Lunch) was prepared and approved by the 60+ Board on May 1, 2025. It was based on expenditures during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year with small alterations made. The Expense budget amount was \$4,572. The anticipated income (mostly from Memberships and Parking Permits) was \$5,307. This would allow for a net income of \$734.

Through the March 2026 report from CSUB Accounting, the 60+ Club had expenditures of \$3,403 for items tracked for the Budget mentioned above. Key items of note were a substantial reduction in Space Rental costs from an allowance of \$2,006 to an actual of \$244. This was a direct result of moving the location of the General Meetings from the Stockdale Room at \$200 per month, to the Dezember Room, for which there is no charge. Printing costs were substantially higher at \$1,217 compared to an allowance of \$537 from the budget. Key items of increase for printing include \$473 for Flyers and Club Buttons, \$209 for Envelopes, and \$314 for Office Printing.

Through the March 2026 report, the 60+ Club income was in-line with the budget. At this point, there is a surplus of \$1,575, but additional expenses will be forthcoming for the remaining three months of the Fiscal Year.

Historian/Publicist—Carla Stanley (2022-2026)

The publicist job is combined with historian because we only used to advertise Possibilities Day to the public, but we have organized events at the end of June the last two years that require flyers and additional coordination with the university. This combined job allows the historian to keep track of everything that is happening by posting on Facebook so the public can see we are active.

I believe it is important to the organization to have the biennial reports to look back on. Seeing how we have traveled through our last forty years is very interesting to me and, I hope, to others in the 60+ Club.

The Bulletin Editor—Karen Polyniak (2013-2026)

The Bulletin continues to be under my editorship, arriving 8 times per year. About 25% of membership want to receive by US Mail because of convenience, or lack of printer, or lack of email.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Possibilities Day--Carla Stanley (2023-2025), Jane Decker (2026)

The first event of the year is Possibilities Day. The board works beforehand to see what has worked in the past and what can be improved on. We take this information along with our activity chairpersons and put on a day where we present what activities we have for the coming year. Each interest group has a table and signs up members and possible new members for the coming year. We also have a speaker from the University who fills us in on what is going on Campus. Information flyers are created and publicized. Membership information is sent to existing members and available for potential new members who arrive. This is held in the Student Union Multipurpose Room.

Christmas Luncheon and Installation Lunch— Janis Varner (2022-2024), Carla Stanley (June 2025), Jane Decker (December 2025-2026)



Because of her close association as a member of the Stockdale Country Club, Janis did the major part of the arrangements for our Christmas luncheon and our installation luncheon. Carole Guillory arranged

the entertainment and the rest of the board worked together to take care of the program. Janis trained Carla to take her place while the board was looking for a Special Events Coordinator. Jane Decker



was up for the challenge and did a marvelous job for the 2025 Holiday Luncheon. The Christmas Luncheon is always a big draw and we had a wonderful meal at Stockdale Country Club. Entertainment was provided and one of our members Gary Knerr plays carols in the background.

At the end of the year, we hold the Installation luncheon. Again, a great meal was had and lots of good conversation with our friends.

IN MEMORIUM

Between 2024-2026, we lost members who had been active in the club as officers and interest and activity group leaders for almost twenty years. Ted Murphy and Billie Burke will live on in our memories of the 60+ Club. We wouldn't be who we are today without them.

Let's also remember Rodica Aanei, Aaron Steenbergen, Peggy Murphy, Linda McMillian, Lorna Rogers, and Carola Enriquez.



ACTION NETWORK - Sheila Ross (2022-2026) The volunteerism of the Action Network Groups is key to the partnership between the 60+ Club and CSUB. Club members provided assistance to various campus departments and worked in coordination with the Alumni Relations Office.

Currently, 60+ Club volunteers are provided for the Walter Stiern Memorial Rose Garden, Fine Arts-Music, Fine Arts-Theater, the California Well Sample Repository, and the Gordon Callison Memorial Gardens.

Fine Arts–Music: Jane Decker (2024-2025), Toni Smith (2025-2026)

Each year, Bakersfield can experience a season filled with a diverse and exciting collection of concerts performed by outside artists, students, and other members of our community. It has been a pleasure for members of the CSUB 60+ Club to volunteer our time, energy, and enthusiasm during these enjoyable events. Prior to each performance at the Dore Theatre, the volunteers' responsibilities include the sale of CDs, taking tickets, distributing programs,



and providing general information regarding the event.

During the 2024-2025 season, the Fine Arts Music 60+ Club volunteers logged in 89 hours, excluding their travel time.

We send a great big THANK YOU to everyone who graciously accepted the responsibility to assist us during this CSUB Fine Arts Music season, and to the faculty who scheduled the enjoyable events.

Fine Arts-Theater: Billie Swanson (2013-2024), Jane Decker (Winter & Spring 2024), Judy Harris (Fall 2024-2026)

Volunteer duties for theatre are to arrive 45 minutes prior to performance. They will collect paper tickets or scan electronic tickets on an iPad. Event programs are handed to attendees. After the event door closes, volunteers can stay and watch the program for free. If you plan to stay, notify the CSUB person in charge.

Spring of 2024

March 2024: The River Bride = 16 hours

April 2024: Theater of New Voices = 10 hours

Fall of 2024

Country House = 16 hours

Spring of 2025

Anatomy of Grey = 15 hours

Last Stop on Market Street = 10 hours

Fall of 2025

The Danube = 8 hours

9 to 5 the Musical = 24 hours

Spring of 2026

Theatre of New Voices = 10 hours

A Year with Frog and Toad = 12 hours

Total hours = 95 hours

California Well Sample Repository–Kim Jones (2023-2026)

The Well Sample Repository has undergone a period of significant change over the past two years. As the warehouse reached capacity and space to store additional samples became



increasingly limited, efforts to repackage and preserve older core materials necessarily slowed. What had long been a steady rhythm of organization and restoration became more challenging as room to maneuver—both literally and figuratively—grew tight.

Then, in January 2025, California State University Bakersfield experienced a profound loss with the passing of its longtime curator, Charles James. For twelve dedicated years, Charles served as steward of the Repository with deep knowledge and unwavering commitment. He was respected and admired by students and Sixty Plus volunteers. He is deeply missed, both professionally and personally.



In the spring of 2025, a new chapter began with the hiring of Rochelle Howard as curator. Rochelle brings more than three decades of hands-on experience in the handling, preservation, and documentation of well core samples and related data. Her depth of knowledge and fresh perspective have reinvigorated operations and opened new avenues for the Repository's dedicated volunteers to contribute their time and talents. Under her leadership, volunteers have undertaken the important task of relabeling aging sample boxes to preserve critical identifying information before it fades beyond recovery. Volunteers have also begun sorting through boxes of donated journals and technical publications, identifying materials of lasting value and preparing them for inclusion in a searchable database. These efforts not only safeguard the physical collection, but also expand its accessibility and usefulness for researchers, students, and industry professionals alike.



Though the past two years have brought both challenge and change, they have also reaffirmed the enduring commitment of the Repository's staff and volunteers to preserve and protect this invaluable geological resource for generations to come.

Volunteers from the 60+ Club in alphabetical order are: Carole Guillory, Bob Guillory, Kim Jones, Stan Jones, Karen Polyniak, Irene Randolph, Susan Spear, and Carla Stanley.

Gordon Callison Memorial Garden—Carla Stanley (2024-2026)

In February 2024, Eric Weiss, Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship, asked if the 60+ Club could take care of the Gordon Callison Memorial Garden. It was a 2'-6" x 10' garden near the koi pond and needed annuals planted quarterly. Here I am with Eric Weis (Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship) and Grace Gilani (Annual Giving and Stewardship Coordinator) after we planted the bed in May 2026. I'm the one with the muddy knees—this is my kind of fun. It is an ongoing labor of love.



Walter Stiern Memorial Rose Garden - Carla Stanley (2019-2026)

We have been mulching since 2022 and the rose population holds at 197. The April blooms are amazing and, depending on the weather, a second bloom in the fall. I have seen many people out in the garden taking pictures for graduation or just sitting and having their lunch. It is a delight to give a bit of pleasure to those on campus.



We even had a visitor from far away that appeared in our rose garden one day in April 2026. Synaptus has a QR code that gives his past travels. It is fun to know someone left their friend from Kitsap Peninsula in Washington state for us to entertain. Anyone following the 60+ Club on Facebook saw his adventures.



In the past two years, volunteers contributed 200 volunteer hours.

INTEREST GROUPS—Sheila Ross (2022-2026)

The Interest Groups are organized by members who would like to share their passions with our membership. Some groups disappear when the person that started the group can no longer lead it, others have a change of leadership that keeps them going.

Around the Cracker Barrel—David Hess (2025-2026)

Around the Cracker Barrel, last active in 2020, is back. This interest group started in 2005. The statement of purpose is as follows: The Cracker Barrel will invite open dialogue concerning a variety of local, national, and international issues. In doing so, we hope to activate the symbiotic relationship between discourse and reasoning, both being fundamental to the reinforcement or modification of previously held views. Through collaboration with Professor Nate Olson, the Kegley Institute of Ethics, and its fellows in the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership (ICDP), we will open with a presentation about the ICDP program and its approach to discussing controversial topics. We opened it up for a conversation about the state of dialogue and free speech today.



Conversations with the Professor - Ted Murphy (2023-Spring 2025), Jim Mitchell (Fall 2025-2026)

This interest group has been active since 1996. It was originally known as Coffee with the Professor. It met once a month during the academic year (except December) for a lecture of about 45 minutes by a CSUB professor, followed by a question-and-answer period. Jim Mitchell returned as Interest Group leader after Ted's death.

Speakers for 2024-2025:

October 2024 – Dr. Anna Jacobsen: Restoration of Southern California Shrublands Following Type Conversion to Exotic Grasslands

November 2024—Dave Hanley: History of Hart Park and the Adobe House

February 2025—Stephan Montgomery: Historic Preservation in Bakersfield

March 2025—Dr. Penelope Suter: Neuro-Othometry

Speakers for 2025-2026:

September 2025—Matt Herman: Geological Sciences- Earthquakes

October 2025—Joel Kirksey: Food Access Coordinator

November 2025—Dr. Jeremiah Sataraka: Ethnic Studies

January 2026—Heidi He: Nursing Programs

February 2026—Soo-Yeon Park: Music Festival

March 2026—Dr. Antje Lauer: Using micro-biology methodology on Kit Fox scat to track population

April 2026—Ivan Martinez: Fab(rication) Lab(oratory)

Crafty Paper Arts—Karen Polyniak (2023-26)

Crafty Paper Arts was started in October 2023 as an Interest Group. As a long-time paper crafter, I wanted to share my interest and use up my paper stock on-hand. Continued in 2024-26 with making various crafts. Donna Baker also led a couple sessions. Traditional origami water lily, origami peacock, origami hummingbird, quilling flowers, custom card with money insert, tri-paper balls, pop-up snake card, folded book pages heart, stars & heart & butterfly filled with candy, mini-Journal, pop-up flower card, pop-up butterfly card, bunny basket, infinite flip book.



Dinner Club - Linda Cohen (2018-2026)

The Dinner Club meets monthly (currently the third Tuesday of the month) at 5:30 pm. Each month, a different restaurant is chosen and we try to visit mostly locally owned/operated restaurants. We have anywhere from six to 20+ attendees each month. All members are welcome to join our group, either on a regular basis or occasionally. We have dined at Italian, Asian, Indian, American, and continental restaurants and welcome suggestions from any of the group as to where to go each month. We have had a lot of fun at dinners and it's a great way to get to know more 60+ members and to patronize local restaurants.



Dinner Excursions: Mama Tosca's, Senor Pepes, Wiki's, 19th Hole, Heart of India, The Vault, Bocado's, Thai House, Mauricios, Sorella, Phoenix at Sundale, Café Smitten, Valle Flavors of Mexico, Stir Restaurant, Hungry Hunter.

Edible Garden—Ann Lovett (2025–2026)

In 2025, the CSUB 60+ Club had a presentation at the general meeting by Joel Kirkey, the Food Access Coordinator for the CSUB Edible Garden and Farm Stand. At that time, we learned that as an affiliated organization of CSUB we could adopt a garden bed at the Edible Garden. Intrigued by this idea, a few of our members started the process of obtaining a bed. Jane Cuellar was instrumental in making the arrangements and setting up our first meeting with Joel.

On April 16, 2025, we had our first official planting. With a few bumps along the way, we still managed to have a successful garden of tomatoes, squash, basil, and marigolds. This, of course, would not have been possible without a significant amount of guidance from the Edible Garden staff. In June, another bed became available giving us our second garden. In addition to maintaining our two



beds, some members also spend time helping out the Edible Garden staff, mostly trimming plants and collecting herbs for the Farm Stand. We also donate to the Farm Stand by providing some of our garden crops. We continued on to have wonderful fall/winter gardens filled with bok choy, broccoli, lettuce, beets, spinach, onions, and peas. Our garden is growing year-round and therefore requires year-round supervision. We decided to divide our garden time equally, with each person responsible for one day every other week, Monday through Thursday. This has been an amazing adventure into gardening for all of us. We continue to learn and try new things. We have become a gardening family, along with the Edible Garden staff and student gardener volunteers. Our 60+ volunteers have contributed approximately 260 hours in the first year to the Edible Garden. Our volunteers include, in alphabetical order: Jane Cuellar, Lois Hess, Ann Lovett, Augie Lyster, Chris Petela, Carla Stanley, Sheila Ross, Janis Varner, and Kathy Wagner.



Fiber Arts - Judy Lawhead (2014-2025), Carla Stanley (2025-2026)

Formerly Knit One/Crochet Too, Fiber Arts has found interested participants since 2013. We did have a pandemic pause, but started meeting again in September 2021 at Panera Bread. We stay busy with individual projects and also items for donations. Crocheted, knitted, and sewn items are donated to Links for Life, Veterans Stand Down, Hoffman Hospice, and Rasmussen Senior Center. This year we also made Patriotic lap blankets for Honor Flight.

Member Judy Lawhead crafted two shawls and a lap blanket for giveaways at events we participated in.

We also have members who are gifted teachers and would be happy to teach any newcomers. We will provide supplies for beginners. If you just want fellowship, grab a coffee and join us.



Fun & Games - Bob and Carole Guillory (2019-2026)

Fun and Games group meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at Round Table Pizza on Gosford Road. Round Table graciously allows us to use the private party room in the back at no charge. We enjoy a no-host lunch; then around 1:00 we start playing games.

We always have a game of Mexican Train going and have recently added Mahjong. Phase 10 had proven to be a popular card game. Everyone is invited to bring a game of their choice to play, as the group is always up for learning something new.



Lunch Bunch—Nancy Hine (2022-2026)

60+ Lunch Bunch meets year-round on the second Wednesday of each month to socialize while sampling a large variety of restaurants. We have really enjoyed the many different cuisines available in Bakersfield. Lunch Bunch is an excellent way for new and continuing members to learn more about each other, interesting/fun activities in Bakersfield, great places to eat, and places to which we travel. Come join us some time!

Lunch: Heart of India, Mossman's, Don Perico's, Sorella's, BC Renegade Room, Viceroy, Applebee's, Camino Real, Longhorn Steakhouse, The Vault, Tina Marie's, Red Lobster, Centro Cali, BJ's, California Pizza Kitchen



Readers Group - Kathy Wagner & Carol Black (2018-2026)

Readers' Group Kathy Wagner/ Carol Black 2022-2024 In September 2018, the leadership of the Readers' Group passed from Bertie Warren to Kathleen Wagner, with the continuing assistance of Carol Black. Prior to March 2019, there had been three different Readers' Groups. The other two groups dissolved. The former Readers' Group II became the Readers' Group.

We meet the third Wednesday of each month from September through May at 2 p.m., usually in members' homes, but we've also met at Marie Calendar's for pie and talk.

At each meeting, we discuss a book which has been selected by the group. Each member is encouraged to offer book suggestions for reading and discussion. Discussion questions can often be found online or in the back of the book. We also have generic questions. Often during the summer, we read a longer book or a series of related titles to be discussed in September.

Books read in 2024-2025:

Sept. The Armor of Light
by Ken Follett

Oct. The Man Who
Died Twice by Richard
Osman

Nov. Eruption by
Crichton & Patterson

Dec. Nicked by M.T.
Anderson

Jan. The Edge by David Baldacci

Feb. The Women by Kristen Hannah

Mar. A Sense of the World by Jason Roberts

Apr. Unfinished Love Story by Doris Kearns Goodwin

May Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt



Books read in 2025-2026:

Sept. The Echo of Old Books by Barbara Davis

Oct. Spy Coast by Tess Gerritsen

Nov. James by Percival Everett
Dec. Buckeye by Patrick Ryan
Jan. Slow Horses by Mick Herron
Feb. Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy
Mar. The Dreamt Land by Mark Arax
Apr. The Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown
May Birding to Change the World by Trish O'Kane

Share & Care—Jane Decker and David Hess (2024-2026)

The Share and Care group was an idea developed after the Commission on Aging presentation to the 60+ asking for input for the Area Agency for Aging Master Plan. Some of us realized that as a group, we could address many of the issues that arose. In June of 2025, we had an event where we brought together members of the funeral industry, hospice and the Commission on Aging to discuss with us how to talk to our families and friends about the difficult decision that comes with the end of life. It was a hit. Our 2026 event will revolve around wellness.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Elder College: Carol Black-Calderwood (2024-2025)

I volunteered to be Chair of the Elder College Committee which consisted of:

Karen Polyniak, Lunch both days, & Hodel's Seminar

Jane Cuellar, Tejon Ranch & Speaker Research

Sheila Ross, Lunch & snacks

Jeff Stoltz, Registration, Hodel's & Speaker Research

April 16, 2025, we had an all-day field trip to Tejon Ranch. Tejon Ranch provided transportation throughout the ranch with tour guides from Fort Tejon and Ridge Route Museum pointing out points of interest. Karen Polyniak, with the help of Sheila Ross, provided sandwiches for a picnic lunch and snacks on the bus.

April 17, 2025, we had a half-day seminar at Hodel's Country Dining located at 5917 Knudsen Dr. in Bakersfield that included continental breakfast, buffet lunch and snacks. Speakers were: Richard Precot, Instructor at California Aeronautical University, Miles Museo, TV Meteorologist (Retired), and Bonnie Kane, Naturalist. Registration was provided by Carol Black-Calderwood and Jeff Stoltz.

We had 20 paid members at \$100 each and 9 paid members at \$50 each (who attended Hodel's only). Total expenses were \$2,300.51. We made a small profit of \$149.49.



Elder College: Jeff Stoltz (2025-2026)

Jeff Stoltz was the Committee Chairman of Elder College Committee. Key members of the Committee were Sheila Ross, Ann Lovett, and Diane Mitchell. Auxiliary members were Karen Polyniak and Lois Hess.

Tasks performed included:

Ann Lovett and Sheila Ross - Lunch research and details for the day in Taft. Both made a trip to Taft for a discussion with OT's Cookhouse owner Dominique. OT's was a recommendation from the West Kern Oil Museum as OT's caters a monthly lunch there for a service group. They were difficult to get a hold of, however, as they were undergoing organizational changes and had closed the restaurant and were just doing catering. Ultimately, it worked out well, and the lunch was very good. By having it catered at the West Kern Oil Museum, it allowed 60+ to provide lunch to five docents there.



Jeff Stoltz - Coordinated with Hodel's for lunch on the second day. Coordinated with Classic Charter for the bus on the first day.

Diane Mitchell - Made initial contacts with West Kern Oil Museum, Fred Holmes, and most speakers for the second day.

Ann Lovett - Provided contact and coordinated with speaker from Coso Geothermal Power Plant.

Sheila Ross - Got water and cookies from Costco for the bus trip.

Planning visit to West Kern Oil Museum - On January 15th, a scouting trip was made to the West Kern Oil Museum in Taft by Jeff, Sheila, Diane, and Ann. We toured the Museum and met with Greg Mudge, the Head of Volunteers. We also met with Fred Holmes, the owner of a local Oil Production Company. Details were discussed and finalized for the Elder College trip on April 22nd.

Andrea Von Schrittz - Part of CSUB Alumni Organization, and monetary handler for all CSUB 60+ activities, invoices and payments were addressed by Andrea.

April 22, 2026 - Bus trip to West Kern Oil Museum. Jeff Stoltz provided introductory oil production highlights on the trip there. First stopped at the Oil

Workers Memorial, then toured the Museum. Afterwards, visited the Lakeview Gusher site and toured an Oil and Water Plant and field locations with Fred Holmes as the Speaker on the bus. Of particular interest was a natural Oil Seep, and a Steam Generator using Solar Power and heated bricks as the energy source.

April 23, 2026 - Seminar at Hodel's Country Dining located at 5917 Knudsen Dr. in Bakersfield that included continental breakfast, buffet lunch and snacks. Speakers were Paul Gipe - Electrical Vehicle Consultant; George Harmer and Paul Umbro - Proposed Geologic Thermal Energy Storage Facility; Joe Ashley and Travis Hunt - Carbon Sequestration Project currently in construction; Chris Ellis - Geothermal Plant in eastern Kern County in operation for 30 years.



Income - Sixteen paid members (although two were not able to attend) at \$100 each for the first day. We collected a tip for the driver and gave it to him afterwards (not out of 60+ funds). Four members at \$50 each (who attended either the bus trip or Hodel's only). Total income was \$1,800.



Expenses - Classic Charter was \$1,445. OT's Cookhouse was \$789. West Kern Oil Museum donation of \$500. Hodel's was \$1,015. Costco Snacks was \$29. Total expenses were \$3,779.

Financial Totals - $\$1,800 - \$3,779 = \$1,979$ in the red. Not the desired financial outcome. The bus was a fixed cost, so if 38 people attended (the bus capacity) instead of 16, that would have allowed an additional \$2,200 in income. However, OT's cost was at \$31 person (with 25 minimum people, tax and tip and setup included). Hodel's cost was at \$40 per person (with 25 minimum people, tax and tip and room included). So, for 22 additional people attending, the food cost would have gone up \$72 each. The net gain would have been about \$27 per person if 22 additional people went on the full Elder College. That would be an

increase in funds of \$613, so still would have been \$1,365 in the red. Thoughts for future Elder College planning - if folks going can't be increased, perhaps don't use a bus and instead use a caravan of personal cars. Also, could raise the cost to above \$100 total (and \$50 per day) to capture the actual costs incurred.

Scholarship—Cheryl Tikanen (2019-2020), Carla Stanley (2021-2023), Susan Spear (2024-2026)

January 2019, Cheryl Tikanen suggested we consider providing a student scholarship. The Scholarship committee was set up in April consisting of Cheryl, Kim Jones, Kay LaFebvre, Sharon Mills, and Carla Stanley (Three board members and two members at large). With input and direction from Heath Niemeyer, Director of Development, a scholarship agreement was drafted with information required by the university. Specifically:

Scholarship will be renewed annually by a board vote

Scholarship will be \$1500

Only upper division students from the school of Nursing or Education will be eligible and those students intending to teach high school subjects

Grade point requirement is 3.0 and above

A 300-500-word essay on “Contributions to our community” must be completed.

2025 scholarship winner: Michele Chavez

2026 scholarship winner: Jilliyln Perkins

Food Pantry—Carole Guillory (2022-2024), Jewel Benoit (2025-2026)

In 2017, CSUB opened a Food Pantry on campus to help address food insufficiency among the student body. Members bring items to the general meetings and the students working at the Food Pantry would pick up the food items by the end of the meeting.

Bingo Fund Raiser with Temblor—Jane Decker (June 2025)

A special event was created for us at Temblor Brewing on Monday, June 16, 2025, from 7 to 9 pm. It was a fun night of Bingo. It was free to play but the way we made money was people purchased additional Bingo Cards. Prizes were provided by Temblor but we made more money because our interest and activity groups

contributed prizes so people would be motivated to purchase more Bingo Cards). We made approximately \$800 on the event.

Getting Your Life in Order—Carla Stanley (June 2025)

We had a one-day seminar we called GETTING YOUR LIFE IN ORDER on June 30, 2025 at the CSUB Dezember Leadership Development Center. Our moderator was member David Hess, a Retired Critical Care Doctor. Our panel participants were Stephanie Lynch, Commission on Aging (and a 60+ member); Ryan D'Amato, Hoffmann Hospice Family Support Manager; and Ann Gallon, Past President of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Kern County. We hoped to assist our members in finding the help they needed with advice on multiple aspects of living, aging, and end-of-life decisions that shouldn't be put off. We had 32 members attend.

Health is as Health Does—Jane Decker (June 2026)

We had a one-day wellness seminar featuring three speakers sharing insight and experiences on helping people live better: Susan Saelee, Executive Director, Blue Zones of Bakersfield; Debra Wilson, Department Chair, Nursing; and Gwen Mitchell, 60+ Club member and Wellness Instructor.

Biennial Report (2024-2026)

The entire board, along with the heads of committees, action and interest groups, has contributed the information and photos that make up this report. Thank you to everyone for their energy and imagination in keeping our organization vital.



Life is like riding a bicycle. To stay balanced, you must keep moving.

[sign in front of CSUB Health Center until Spring 2026]