



The Breeze
University Section Club, Inc., Berkeley, CA
Spring 2022

Website: <https://www.sectionclub.org>



Rita Purcell, President

Message from the President

As my term in office is coming to an end, I find myself reminiscing over my 48 years of involvement in the University Section Club.

As a young wife and new mother, I happily joined my Entomologist husband in "Bersekeley," as our relatives called our new home. I quickly joined the Faculty Wives Club and soon found myself leading the Newcomers Section, with **Susan McColl**. I even found a way to join the Bridge Section and the Foreign Student Committee.

The **Foreign Student Committee**, now the **International Student Services Committee (ISSC)**, was where I felt at home and where I felt most needed and gratified. **Donna Dickinson** at I House introduced me to many of the "worker bees," whom I grew to admire and follow: **Margie Sauer, Judy Gordon, Kathy Graburn, Dorothy Kaplan, Grace Kobayashi, Mie Suzuki, Natalie Hahn, Mary-Ellis Adams, Mary Kay Duggan, Sally Stevens, Linda Wei, Betsy Smith, Audrey Richards, Joan Finnie, Christa Shannon, Trudi, Frei, Nancy Oldham, Ruth Tobey, Celia Kelly, Donna Oliver, Sylvia Rock, Susan Storm, Sheila Kahan, Shereen Anderson** and so many other dedicated volunteers. *(See a picture of some of these women on the next page.)*

I worked in Housing (actually driving students to rental apartments), Host Family (so many stayed at our home, joined us for holidays and became our extended family), Equipment Loan Center (for \$10, borrowing home goods loaned for their stay and returned when they left), The Centre - Wednesday at the YMCA starting in 1978 and Thursday morning at the YWCA since 1993, uniting families from all over the world, gathering with their children, to play, chat, learn, snack and enjoy each other, and the Holiday Party at I-House (Santa, clowns, a magician, music, home-baked cookies, and a handmade Cal Bear for each child to take home). No doubt about it. These devoted and gracious ladies promoted international friendship and surely world peace.

Sadly, each of these admirable arms of ISSC have folded. The internet replaced us. COVID sequestered us. Age slowed us. Times changed.

I want to recognize and honor all our Section Club ambassadors who devoted their time, talents, and tenacious desire to help make the lives of these students, far from home in a strange new country, a little bit better, a little less stressful, and a whole lot happier. "We're going to start a group just like this when we get back home!" many visitors declared.

You were tired but smiling. You knew you made a difference. You enriched so many lives. How can we ever thank you enough?

Rita Purcell, proud alumna of the ISSC

Club-wide Events 2021-2022

S.O.S. Spring Meeting, Wed., April 20, 10 -12 pm. We review project requests from campus student aid groups and decide on funding. All members welcome. Meeting via Zoom.

Annual Meeting, Mon., May 9, 9:30 – 12 pm. Representatives from all the sections share highlights from the year. Join us to learn about the financial status of the club and its philanthropy. We honor outgoing board members and welcome the new.



Centre Volunteers, December 2017: Seated l to r: Kathy Graburn, Grace Kobayashi, Natalie Hahn. Standing l to r: Mie Suzuki, Mary-Ellis Adams, Judy Gordon, Susan Storm, Sylvia Rock, Margie Sauer, Heike Feltes.

Slate of Officers for 2022-2023 To be voted on at the May 9 Annual Meeting



President: Laurene [“Laurie”] Wu McClain “I have been extremely impressed by our Club’s ability to pivot during the pandemic. Many of the activity sections have found ways to continue meeting, and our philanthropic grants have consistently helped Cal students to thrive. I am honored to serve as Club President this year. Our Board consists of a very talented, dedicated group of women. I am an attorney with a long history of working with non-profits and am most proud of being a grandma to two wonderful granddaughters.”



President-Elect: Andrea Campos graduated from Berkeley in 1975, where she was active in Cal Spirit activities and student government and majored in Economics. She recently retired from Cal Athletics where she served in the Development Department, raising funds for the men’s and women’s teams and for the renovation of Memorial Stadium. She also worked on campus in the 1980-90s for the Haas School of Business. Andrea lives in Pittsburg, where her family settled in the 1870’s and is married to David Campos, whom she met in graduate school at USC. They have two children, both Cal graduates, and two grandchildren. This past year, she chaired the Intercampus Day event and has been involved in Italian Section for four years.



Past-President/Policy & Planning: Rita Purcell “Even while working as a kindergarten teacher, I found ways to be involved with the Section Club: The International Student & Scholar Committee, the Equipment Loan Center, the Host Family Program, and before COVID, as a Scholar Information Meeting (SIM) speaker, representing the Section Club. My Board jobs have included S.O.S. liaison, Treasurer, and President, two times. Our four granddaughters, ages, 11, 11, 11 (two are twins) and 9, keep me smiling and creating memories.”



Secretary: Barbara Peterson was raised in Southern California, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Biology and from USC with an MBA, and moved to Northern California in 1994 to accept a job with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from which she is now retired. She loves hiking, travel, cooking, gardening, reading and theater. She is a member of Bon Appétit and Book Discussion sections. Barbara has served three previous terms as Secretary and two as Secretary-elect.

Secretary-Elect: To be determined.



Corresponding Secretary: Janice Lieu has been a member since 1988 and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of British Columbia. She has been Jazzercising since 1995, loves to garden while listening to audiobooks and enjoys trying out new recipes. She is the mother of three adult children and has four grandchildren.



Treasurer: Julia Wenk “I have been a member of Section Club for over 36 years, actively participating in the Music and German Sections, and intermittently in the Italian Section. For the last 15 years I have served on the Board of Directors in various capacities, as Breeze Editor, President, Treasurer, and also as Parliamentarian. Aside from Section Club, I have many interests including gardening, quilting, singing, hiking with my husband and entertaining my four lovely granddaughters.”



Treasurer-Elect: Emily Ladner is a Bay Area native who spent the latter part of her career at UC Berkeley, lastly as a Retirement Analyst. She enjoys being co-chair of the Book Discussion section and is a member of the Birding and Walking sections. In summer she often spends time in an off-grid cabin in the Sierra on a family property.

**University Section Club, INC
Proposed Budget 2022-2023**

INCOME	
Dues	9,750
Bank Interest	5
2023 Beehive	<u>30,000</u>
TOTAL INCOME	39,755
CLUB EXPENSES	
Printing, publishing, postage	2,200
Fall Reception	2,500
Federal and State Filing fees	55
Insurance	4,000
Newcomer's Gathering	220
Bank Fees	55
Miscellaneous Fund	250
Website/Domain name	225
Intercampus Event	250
2023 Beehive	<u>5,000</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	14,755
2023 Beehive Profit of \$25,000 to be allocated next spring.	25,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	39,755
ALLOCATION of Thrift Shop & 2022 Beehive Income	
	22,500
SOS	6,000
Student Grants	8,500
Elberg Fund	7,000
ISSC	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATIONS	22,500

Dues Increase for Next Year, by Julia Wenk, Treasurer-Elect 2021-2022

At the March Board Meeting the Board of Directors voted to increase the dues for Section Club. Single membership dues will be \$35 and couple dues will be \$50. I am sure you are interested in the reason behind the increase.

A historical note: In 2008 at the March Board Meeting there was concern that our dues income had fallen below \$10,000. At that meeting a dues increase of \$5 for both single and couple membership was approved and the following year the dues income once again rose above \$10,000.

Fourteen years have passed since then with no dues increase. For the last 6 years the total dues income has been slowly sinking in step with a decline in membership. So far this year we have collected \$8,150. At the same time many expenses have increased and some, such as our insurance premium, may have even doubled since 2016 from \$2,440 to \$4,500 or more. Fall Reception costs are also rising. Our dues are meant to cover our operating expenses with a small cushion for the unexpected. A \$5 increase for each member will bring us closer to this goal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at <julwenk@yahoo.com>

Student Philanthropies

Student Grants – Merit Awards

~ Sonja Marken Vélez, Director at Large svelezmarken@gmail.com

Student Grants are awarded on merit. The Grants Committee honors requests to help students who are near graduation and have an unanticipated medical or financial emergency. The grant helps alleviate the student's financial distress and allows the student to complete their studies. From May 2021 until March 31, 2022 we awarded 13 grants, totaling \$17,400. Thank you for your donations.

From a recent student thank you note:

"Dear Members of the Section Club, Your support during a very difficult time was crucial to my family. The grant made it possible to focus on our health and education. We are eternally grateful."

Services Offered Students (SOS)/Elberg Emergency Fund

~ Trish Hare & Dorothy Kaplan, Co-Directors at Large
trishhare20@gmail.com dotkap@usa.net

We'd like to invite all Section Club members to the **S.O.S. Spring Business Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. It will be held on Zoom.** The Zoom link will be sent by email closer to the meeting. At this meeting we will discuss and vote on grants that our campus programs request. We accept requests from: University Health Services, Disabled Students' Program, University Village in Albany, and the Centers for Educational Equity and Excellence (known as CE3). CE3 is the administrative unit for the HOPE Scholars Program, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Undocumented Students Program, Cal Veterans Services Center, Student Parent Center, Berkeley Underground Scholars and the Re-entry Student Program. If you are interested in becoming involved in the S.O.S. program or need more information about the meeting, please contact either of the co-chairs.

With your support, the **Elberg Fund** has been critical in helping students with immediate crises. To name a few, we supported women who were dealing with domestic violence, students with unexpected and ongoing medical expenses, and a stalking situation where the student had to furnish a move to a safe home for her protection.

Here is a letter we received recently from a Elberg Fund recipient:
Dear University of Berkeley Section Club,

Thank you ever so much for your generous grant awarded to me during this time when I need it most. Being able to attend UC Berkeley after coming from extreme poverty, lack of infrastructure, and no family is something I never dreamed of. This has been a long road with so many unexpected costs/hardships, but I promise to get through this. This aid means more to me than you can imagine.

Donations to our student philanthropies are always gratefully accepted. To learn more about the various funds and two endowments, please go to our website: <https://www.sectionclub.org/campus-support>

You may make checks payable to University Section Club, Inc. and mail to:

Claire Phillips, Treasurer,
University Section Club,
1021 A Timothy Lane,
Lafayette, CA 94549,

or pay electronically through Cheddar Up <https://section-club-annual-dues-and-donations.cheddarup.com>

If you have questions, please contact Treasurer Claire Phillips at claire@phillipstrustees.com or call 510.543.7831.

Audrey Richards

made a donation to the Elberg Fund in honor of **Judy Gordon.**

Intercampus Day Report *by Andrea Campos*

The Section Club hosted its first virtual Intercampus Day on Wednesday, March 30. The event was held via Zoom and included the philanthropic support clubs from UC Davis, UC Merced, and UC Santa Cruz. The committee produced a video, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Women at Cal. Approximately 100 viewers participated.

The program was introduced by Chair **Andrea Campos** with a video greeting from president Rita Purcell. **Chancellor Carol Christ** welcomed all the members, highlighting their philanthropic activities that support their campuses.

Journalist **Linda Schacht Gage** narrated the video which included an historic review of the highlights of women on the campus. Pre-recorded interviews were presented which included Katharine Thompson, who attended Cal during the war years; Section Club president-elect **Laurie Wu McClain** who attended Cal in the 1960s; and Joan Parker and Luella Lilly, former administrators in the Athletic Department who spoke about the challenges of implementing Title IX. At the conclusion, there were videos of the women's basketball team, Nobel Laureate Jennifer Doudna, and a montage of famous Berkeley alumnae set to the singing of "Hail to California" by the Golden Overtones, Cal's acapella women's singing group.

The program was produced by committee members **Betsy Dixon, Elly Skarakis, Betsy Hansen, Audrey Richard, Janet Martinelli** and **Sherry Rufini**. Given that the committee did not want to spend all of the funds that were budgeted for the event, Sherry filmed all of other interviews and edited the sound, photographs, music, and videos using Apple Movie, a technique that she learned during the making of the film.

Earlier committee members included **Holly Hartley** and **Deirdre Bauer**. Assistance was provided by **Jeni Bezar** and **Derrick Leung**. The committee worked closely with Robert Bean, from the campus' office of University Development and Alumni Relations. Section Club member **Sheila Humphreys** provided a wealth of information based on her work with the campus' 150 Years of Women Committee.

The video is posted on the Club's website.

Next year's Intercampus Day will be held at UC Merced.



Beehive 2022 Wrap-up – *Beehive Auction Chair, Mary-Ellis Adams*

Thanks to a terrific committee, (**Carole Brown, Holly Hartley, Martha Griswold, Barbara Peterson, and Monica Rohrer**), our annual Beehive fundraiser, was very successful! We took in \$16,155 on items sold and \$5,015 in donations for a total of \$21,170. We put together a homegrown auction *by email*. A virtual first!

The funds raised support our Student Grants – Merit Awards, Services Offered Students (S.O.S.) and the Elberg Emergency Fund. Thanks to all who bid on the auction or made a financial donation, as well as to the people who donated vacation homes, tangible goods, or any of the wonderful experiences which people have already started to enjoy. See the picture below of the recent UC Botanic Garden Tour, conducted by Dr. Lew Feldman. Garden Director.



Intercampus Committee: Sherry Rufini, Betsy Hansen, Andrea Campos, Betsy Dixon, Elly Skarakis, Audrey Richards.



In Memoriam



Grace Fretter's extremely long life ended on February 2, 2022, with her having achieved 102 years, most of them spent here in Berkeley. Her birth in Lost Springs, Wyoming was attended by the local veterinarian. Her family left the ranch and came to Oakland where she graduated from University High, followed by UC Berkeley. There her love of theater was nurtured with her becoming an active thespian forever onwards. And it was there that she acted with another student, Gregory Peck, and met her husband, Bill Fretter. He became a graduate student in the Physics Dept. and that commenced their lifelong connection to UC Berkeley.

A sabbatical in Paris started the family's lifelong love affair with France. The Fretter household, with two sons and a daughter, was famous for its hospitality, and student exchanges were welcomed. They started making wine in Napa and that opened up yet another gateway to France! As Bill's career developed, Grace was called upon to do a great deal of entertaining. Its culmination came when her husband was made Vice President of the University and they moved into the Selden Williams House, a Julia Morgan designed residence, owned by the University.

The Fretters were both stalwart members of the Drama Section where they performed in and produced a great number of plays over the years. She became a well-respected character actress in the Bay Area. Grace wrote a one act play about an imagined friendship between Julia Morgan and Phoebe Apperson Hearst that was frequently performed. She played Julia, and her close friend Barbara Oliver was Mrs. Hearst. And everyone knows about the subsequent creation of the Aurora Theater!

Grace was an extraordinary letter writer and her correspondents were all over the globe. Many were written in French. She was a person who really enjoyed the warmth of friendship and wanted to stay in touch with her friends and acquaintances. She will be greatly missed by so many. ~ *Contributed by Sara Knight*

Julie Dobson, a member of Book Review and French Sections, died in March 2022, at the age of 100. She was the sister of **Cecile Weaver**, also a Section Club member, who died in December 2020.

Section News

Members of the **Italian Section** visited a travelling exhibit of unique Italian design products at the Italian Institute of Culture in San Francisco. Called "Created in Italy," the exhibit featured modern examples of products from all over Italy. The examples showcased in the exhibit offered a vivid sense of Italian ingenuity, featuring a variety of individuals and ideas that illustrate the quality and creativity of Italy's multifaceted innovative industrial production.



Left to right: Maria Micale, Shahla Verrall, Annamaria Di Giorgio, Paola Tonelli, Ellie Hahn, Andrea Campos, Barbara-Sue White.

In the last months, depending on how threatening Covid was, the **Movie Section** has enjoyed both Zoom and meetings in member's homes. We have seen "Coda" (not the Oscar-winner but an excellent film with Patrick Stewart as a pianist near the end of his career), "Power of the Dog," and "Passing." It has been a rich year and we have learned much from each other.



Music Section met at the home of Ellie Hahn in March. Here is a photo of Thea Davison (piano) and Tom Fattaruso (cello) performing a cello sonata by Vivaldi.

Tennis Section has been meeting regularly at the Channing courts. Our singles match, played every year since 1929, was won by **Helen Dornbush**, holding the trophy, next to **Dorothy Kaplan, Linda Wei, and Norma Lyndon.**



Members of the **German Section** have enjoyed varied programs since the beginning of the academic year: On the sunlit terrace of **Bruce MacKenzie's** beautiful home we started out with a discussion about the German federal elections and the legacy of Angela Merkel, who had been in office for 16 years. In November Annemarie Müller brought us a fascinating presentation (via Zoom) about Dresden, its history, culture and current events.



Bruce McKenzie and Joyce Arnon



Regine Goth-Goldstein, Maria Ritter, Heidi Hartmann



Trudi Frei, Regine Goth-Goldstein

The fact that the speaker was **Joyce Arnon's** cousin and that she spoke to us directly from her hometown made this program extra special.

In February we individually watched the acclaimed film "Das Schweigende Klassenzimmer" (literally "The Silent Classroom," official English title "The Silent Revolution") about the reaction of a group of East German high school students to the Hungarian uprising in 1956. The discussion then took place via Zoom. In March **Trudi Frei** gave us a lively talk (via Zoom) about her hometown entitled: "Luzern - an attraction for artists, dreamers and nature enthusiasts." The beautiful images and interesting stories made all of us want to put this charming town on our bucket list!

Writer's Workshop Section is excited to announce a book coming out by member **Susan Austin** entitled **Drawing Outside the Lines: A Julia Morgan Novel**. You can pre-order from Mrs. Dalloways and can find more information about the book and about ordering on Susan's website <https://susanjaustin.com/>

