



The Breeze
University Section Club, Inc., Berkeley, CA
Spring 2021
Website: <http://sectionclub.org>



President's Message:

NASA has a poster with a bee in flight that reads: "Aerodynamically a bee's body is not made to fly; the good thing is the bee doesn't know." The law of physics says that a bee cannot fly. The aerodynamic principle says that the breadth of the wings is too small to keep the huge body in flight, but a bee doesn't know that. It doesn't know anything about physics or logic, so it flies anyway.

This is what we can all do. "Fly and prevail in the face of difficulty or any circumstance despite what they say." Let us be bees, no matter the size of our wings. We take flight and enjoy the bee bread of our hive! (I wanted to say "the honey of our hive" but the resident entomologist suggested I use the correct information!)

The February Phantom Beehive was a soaring success. Our total income to date is \$30,415! This amount included a large donation from one "Queen Bee," but all donors were extra generous. Of course, we all missed the camaraderie, delicious lunch, raffle surprises, and the fun of finding "such a deal!" I have contacted the executive director at the UU Church of Berkeley (in Kensington), Tess O'Riva, about securing a date for February of next year. Our new date is (drum roll) 2/22/22. You'll be able to remember that date to tell your friends: *Tu Tutu Tutu!*

Next I contacted our liaison in the Chancellor's office, **Maya Goehring-Harris**, to secure a date for the Fall Reception in 2021. Her response brought me back down to earth: "At this time, we can't schedule anything for the fall on campus, although we are chomping at the bit to do so. Carol would love to host you, but we just don't know when that will be allowed." This was a very positive response but no date. I was hoping that a date to look forward to and to plan for would be a real boost to our morale and membership (which has dipped to 263). As soon as the campus opens up again, I'll convey the date to you ASAP.

Financially we are in good shape. Students are still being helped through dire situations and they are grateful. One check, for \$1,001, was sent to our treasurer from a former female student now living in Frederick, MD. Years ago, we had given her \$1,000 during her time of need and she was paying it forward in gratitude. I loved that she added a dollar!

As you will read elsewhere in The Breeze, we have a full slate of officers for 2021-22, and directors-at-large, advisors and special projects coordinators have all been selected. Spring is here and the work of bees has begun again. I hope you will join us at the Spring Business meeting on May 10, 2021, to hear more good news and inspiring stories from our students. That's 5/10/21.

I'm so enjoying being the Beekeeper! ~ Rita Purcell, President



Proposed Slate of Officers for 2021-2022

The Nominating Committee presents an excellent slate of officers for the coming year.



President: Rita Purcell Even while working as a kindergarten teacher, Rita 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. Her Board jobs have included SOS liaison, treasurer, president, and now president again. Her four granddaughters, ages 10, 10, 10 and 8, keep her smiling and creating memories.



President-Elect: Laurie Wu McClain "I am delighted to join the Board as the President-Elect. I have been a member of the Book discussion group for the past four years but many years before that, I served on the National and local Boards of the YWCA which I know has a very close relationship with the Section Club. I am an attorney, and a grandma to two wonderful grand-daughters. I look forward to meeting all of you."



Past President: Deirdre Bauer This native of Ireland is a UC Berkeley retiree from the Electrical Engineering Dept. where she specialized in financial, staff and space management. She loves to travel, sing with her husband Robert in the Berkeley Broadway Singers, and spend time with her growing brood of grandchildren. She also enjoys gardening, photography, knitting, cooking, hiking, theater and movies, to name a few.



Secretary: Barbara Peterson Raised in Southern California, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Biology and from USC with an MBA, Barbara 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 two previous terms as Secretary and one as Secretary-elect.



Secretary-Elect: Connie Miller earned her degree in Management from St. Mary's College of California and is a licensed real estate broker. She retired from UC Office of the President as a Real Estate Officer. She serves on the Executive Board of the President's and Regents' Retirement Association. Connie enjoys her children, grandchildren, bridge, gardening, and travel.



Corresponding Secretary: Janice Lieu has been a member since 1988 and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of British Columbia. Since January 2017, she has had a second home in Bowles Hall Residential College and enjoys talking, baking and gardening with the students. She is the mother of three adult children and three grandchildren.



Treasurer: Claire Phillips is a graduate of UC Berkeley in English and Business Administration. She is a CPA and lives with her husband Scott in Lafayette where they raised a son and daughter who are now young adults. She has enjoyed her involvement on the Section Club board and is a member of Bon Appétit.



Treasurer-Elect: Emily Ladner is a fourth generation 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 a cabin in the Sierra on a family property.

Section News

Birding

In March, our first in-person meeting, we went to Shimada Friendship Park in Richmond and walked south along the shoreline and back finding 3 or 4 dozen species. We'll visit Miller-Knox Regional Park in Point Richmond in April and Briones Regional Park in May. Rather than carpooling from Berkeley at 9 am, we have been meeting at the designated location at 9:30 am. ~ *Ruth Tobey*



French

The French Section has been Zooming along every month during the past year. We have been conversing together in French on a variety of topics suggested by our members and enjoying lively general conversation as well. In April we will have a presentation by our member, **Genevieve Boissier-Dreyfus**, about her childhood in Morocco. ~ *Ellie Hahn*

Music

We began meeting by Zoom in November to visit with each other. In December we were treated to a short program of music by Pachelbel and Bach by **Barbara-Sue White**, playing on her small home organ. In January, **Mary-Ellis Adams** sang the Patsy Cline song “She’s Got You”, enhanced with props! In February, **Mary Kay Duggan** and **Thea Davison** played a four hands piano suite of 12 short pieces by Georges Bizet called Children’s Games. In March, **Pate & Judy Thomson**, fiddle and piano, respectively, played some toe-tapping Scottish tunes. In April, **Ben Borson**, flute, and **Bill Rudiak**, piano, played music by Robert Schumann and Carl Reinecke. In May we hope to meet at the home and garden of **Emily Benner** for a concert of Robert Schumann’s String Quartet No. 2, Op. 41/2. The quartet members are: **Miwako Tomizuka**, violin, **Darien Cande**, violin, **Ayako English**, viola, and **Lin Barron**, cello. ~ *Mary-Ellis Adams*



Sew & So

The Sew & So Section has been Zooming faithfully thanks to our “Zoom master” **Susie Bailey**. We have enjoyed seeing what people are working on and having some delightful and interesting conversations. It has been wonderful to maintain the contact with quite a few of our members. We are keeping fingers and needles crossed that next Fall we may be able to return to meeting in person! ~ *Ellie Hahn*

Writer’s Workshop

In January’s Breeze we included information about **Sally Patterson Tubach’s** new book, **The Grande Dame and Hitler’s Twin: A Comedy of Errors**. **Linda Malm** sent in this review:

“As a member of the Writer’s Workshop, I was familiar with parts of the book, which were shared at our meetings while it was still a work in progress. Published in October 2020, the story left me feeling emotional. The ending especially touched me. The final chapters were wonderful, with healing, forgiveness, and love. I read the last page very slowly because I didn’t want the book to end. I felt sad because I didn’t want to say goodbye to all the characters who had become like friends to me. They all had their human flaws, but the ending was such a ‘coming together’. Until the final chapters, I wondered, how could the story possibly be resolved? But it was, and beautifully”. [*The book can be purchased at Amazon.com*].

Message from the Club Historians to the Executive Board, Directors at Large, Committee Chairs, Grant Committees and Section Chairs:

Your two historian/archivists, **Joan Jenkins** and **Linda Vida**, have agreed to continue on for another year. We have not been able to work on the Section Club files at the Tang Center or the Bancroft Library due to the pandemic, but we are eager to start working again once we can return to campus.

Please be sure to keep all of your binders intact so that we have complete sets of minutes, The Breezes, treasurer’s reports and all paperwork pertinent to the business of the Section Club. When in doubt, do not throw out! We want to be sure that all of your hard work, albeit virtual, during the pandemic is properly “memorialized” in our records. We look forward to seeing you all in person, when we can meet again.

Please do not hesitate to contact Joan or Linda with questions.

Section Club Philanthropy

SOS – Services Offered Students – Trish Hare and Dorothy Kaplan, Co-Chairs

The **SOS Spring Business Meeting** will be on **Wednesday, April 21st, 10 am - Noon** by Zoom. We will vote on proposals from our campus programs: HOPE Scholars, EOP, Veterans, Student/Parent Program, Tang Health Center and others. Annually, these programs seek grants to fund special equipment or to start a new project. This meeting is open to all Section Club members and we urge you to attend in order to become better acquainted with the value of our club! **If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact Trish Hare for the Zoom link information.**

Student Grants – Sonja Marken Vélez and Julia Wenk, Co-Chairs

In mid-March, after several quiet months with no requests, Student Grants received in the space of a week two new requests for financial help. One of the requests came from a graduating senior with a GPA of 3.85, whose laptop was damaged when she accidentally spilled a glass of water on it, preventing her from completing assignments and participating in online classes. This caused her much stress, adding to worries about her youngest son who needed a special medical appointment at the Los Angeles Children’s Hospital. She received \$1,500 to replace her computer and thanked the Section Club for its generosity :

“This money will not only allow me to purchase a new laptop, but it will allow me to continue to take full advantage of my education here at UC Berkeley. No words can ever express my gratitude....”

At the beginning of the academic year and into December we saw many requests for aid. After the winter break it was unusually quiet, but experience has shown us that as each semester draws to a close, request activity increases. In the coming weeks we expect to receive more requests. It has been a difficult year for the students. We are thankful that Student Grants can help alleviate financial stress and we are grateful for the donations received from our membership which enable us to provide aid. Since the start of our fiscal year on July 1st we have awarded 13 grants totaling \$18,633.

Donations to our student philanthropies (Student Grants, SOS - Services Offered Students Project Fund or Sylvia Elberg Emergency Fund, or the General Fund) are always gratefully accepted. You may make checks payable to University Section Club, Inc. and mail to: Claire Phillips, Treasurer, University Section Club, or pay electronically through Cheddar Up <https://section-club-annual-dues-and-donations.cheddarup.com>

Cheddar Up allows the payor to use a credit card or electronic transfer to make a donation *and* to pay the fee, instead of the club. The fee for using a **credit card** is 3.5% of the transaction, plus 45 cents, **or** you can pay using an **electronic transfer** from your bank account, also for 45 cents. You do not need to set up an account for payment. If you have questions, please contact Treasurer Claire Phillips.

Report from the Membership Chair -
Geneviève Boissier-Dreyfus

What a very peculiar year for all of us! I never thought I would live through a pandemic even though as a child growing up in Morocco, epidemic and pandemic were not out of the ordinary. I especially remember the mass vaccinations to control and stop the spread of poliomyelitis.

This year the pandemic meant no in-person activities. This may account for the low number of renewals. At last count we are 263, from a high of 400 a few years back. It is true that we lost members due to advanced age, moving elsewhere, or sadly, passing away.

Thank you for your continued membership in the Section Club. We need you, and the students at Cal need you!

Commendations Report – Audrey Richards

Mary-Ellis Adams joined the Section Club and Music Section chorus in 2002. At various times over the last nineteen years, she has chaired the Beehive Luncheon; participated in the Centre activities; served on the Board as President-Elect, President and Past President/Policy & Planning; chaired the Nomination Committee in 2018 and the Commendations Committee in 2019; chaired Music Section, and is currently the Breeze Editor. Mary-Ellis has proved to be not only a person found behind the scenes, cheerfully doing whatever needed to be done, but also in front of the scenes. We are proud to honor Mary-Ellis with Honorary Membership this year.



Mary-Ellis in front of a quilt she made during the pandemic, wearing a babushka she made to rein in her pandemic-length hair!



In Memoriam



Paula Phillips – Paula was active with the French and German sections and The Centre – the hospitality arm of the International Student and Scholar Committee (ISSC). Paula brought produce from her garden to the delight of the international visitors. Every year she made a delicious pecan-pumpkin pie for the Centre’s Taste-of-Thanksgiving party, and for many years provided homemade cookies for the Beehive, from recipes of her mother’s! She died in January 2021.



Our sincere sympathy goes to **Joan Jenkins** on the recent death of her husband, **David Jenkins**. Dr. Jenkins was a Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at UC Berkeley from 1966 to 1999. He was 85 years old.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of a Section Club member, see page 5 for further information.