

The Breeze

University Section Club, Inc., Berkeley, CA

Website: <http://sectionclub.org>

Fall 2020



Dear Members,

Thanks to all the members who sent in generous donations along with your dues payments this year. Your donations will be a tremendous support to Cal Students during these trying times. I'd also like to thank all of the section chairs who are doing their best to sustain our club and our friendships during this time of social distancing, and last, but not least, I'd like to thank all the members of the board who work tirelessly on behalf of the club.

We are all trying our best to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. I hope your sections are able to meet virtually or with social distancing. Be sure to check our website: <http://sectionclub.org>. We hope to use it as another way of staying in touch with our members.

The board hopes that members will be able to attend our on-line meetings. Announcements are sent by email from the Corresponding Secretary and include the Zoom link. In the spring we hope to have a club-wide virtual event with a speaker or a musical performance by members. If you have any ideas along these lines please contact me at arcapeters@cs.com.

As you know, the Beehive in February is the Section Club's major fundraising event. A committee is working to plan a **virtual Beehive**. A Section Club first! Please monitor our efforts by reading all email correspondence from the club. We may be calling on you to offer your skills, talents, vacation homes, etc.

I hope that you and your families are staying well and taking care of yourselves during this pandemic. We are all looking forward to a less restrictive and safe way of living and carrying on with our club and its activities!

Sincerely, Chrys Peters, President



The Section Club board and section chairs at the August board Zoom meeting.

Section Reports



The **Italian Section** began meeting online using Zoom when it became apparent we could no longer meet in person. In July we heard an informative presentation from Professor Alessandra Cassar, Professor of Economics at the University of San Francisco, entitled, "Finding the Femina Economica." In August we decided to just have an informal chat amongst ourselves. We celebrated birthdays and shared how we are coping with COVID-19 precautions. In October we will hear a presentation by attorney Anthony Alioto on settlement of Italian estates, inheritance, and citizenship document preparation.

The **Birding Section** will meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. We will drive independently to a location within a short drive from Berkeley. We will wear masks and walk as a socially distanced group. We will return home in time for lunch. Just bring binoculars, water and a snack if you need one. Call or email Ruth Tobey to get information about our planned meeting place and driving directions, or if you need to borrow binoculars. Beginners are welcome. Birding is a great way to enjoy nature even during the pandemic.



The **Book Discussion Section** is meeting by Zoom on the first Friday of the month at 1:30 pm. Each month we discuss a book. In October it will be Elon Musk, led by Linda Jones. Linda has already been emailing us footage and videos of his Space Craft launches and success. Anyone who wishes to become a new member should feel free to join, we welcome you. Contact Emily Ladner if you would like to be added to the roster. We are also providing reading recommendations based on what members have been reading recently.



The fiction and nonfiction subgroups of the **Writers' Workshop** have been meeting regularly on Zoom each month. We will continue to have an opportunity to check in with members at that meeting to share what they have been working on, and some writers will choose to read for a short period a piece for which they would like feedback. Meeting by Zoom seems to work fairly well for the Writers' Workshop, although we all miss the presence of each other.

Bon Appétit will meet for an all member Zoom meeting on Sunday, October 18, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, in lieu of our usual autumn all group gathering. As it is difficult to meet, even in a small group, for a dinner party with masks and physical distancing, one of the primary topics for our October meeting is to share ideas about how to meet and eat in ways that feel safe and comfortable, as well as fun.



Tennis Section. Some of our tennis gang are having a ball getting out to play together at courts other than our usual campus courts, which are chained. Once tennis play was given the all-clear, members took the bold step to meet up at Kensington courts and then the courts on Hopkins Street. We are social distancing, meet Monday through Friday, and come as one feels like playing. *Find more information about Tennis Section on page 7.*

Section Club Philanthropy

Student Grants - *Sonja M. Velez and Julia Wenk, Student Grants Co-chairs*

Since the beginning of June, Student Grants has received 8 requests for financial help totaling \$11,359. Most of the requests came from students with senior standing to whom we give special preference. The reasons varied greatly - from job loss due to the COVID-19 virus to unexpected deaths in the family and more. One student had medical costs from a hit-and-run car accident. Another, a single mother who had lost her job, needed funds to pay for child care. A third request came from a student who lived at home and feared eviction after the student's father, the main provider of the family, died. Each story paints a picture of a student struggling to concentrate on academic studies while burdened with financial problems. All were thankful for our help. *At right is a letter we received from one student.*

Dear Student Grants Voting Committee,

I want to thank you supporting me with this Section Club grant. This summer has been incredibly stressful and difficult; however, this help has truly made me feel so relieved. This relief has helped me focus more on my academic journey this summer and I hope you all know that I am truly grateful. Thank you and I hope you are all safe during these challenging times.

Student Grants are awarded on merit through CAL campus liaisons representing a broad spectrum of the student population. Our grants are a one-time solution to a nonrecurring problem. The Student Grants Committee is grateful for the donations our members have generously given and which enable these awards. We wish you good health and stay safe!

Services Offered Students (SOS) and Elberg Grants - *Trish Hare and Dorothy Kaplan, Co-Chairs*

This fall, along with your dues payments, many of you selected to donate to the Sylvia Elberg Memorial Fund which received over \$10,000! The Elberg Fund enables our committee, on request from a campus staff member, to pay out almost immediately, a grant of up to \$1,000 to a student with an unexpected or urgent financial need. Since July 1 we have distributed \$3,700 with some COVID-related requests. *Below are words from a letter of a recipient who is a first-generation, disabled, undocumented, re-entry student:*

I would like to start by saying thank you for granting me this emergency assistance. I am extremely grateful. As a first-generation, low income college student, unexpected school expenses can really mess things up for me. The check that I received from you will help alleviate a lot of the burden that I've been carrying during these challenging times. Thanks to you, I am able to use your assistance to worry less about my financial situation and focus more on my school.

Section Club Philanthropy, Services Offered Students (SOS) and Elberg Grants, cont'd.

Also, SOS received donations of almost \$3,000. This is amazing! These funds will be applied to our spring program budget to address requests from campus units for a program-related project or equipment needs.

In September, we sent out our annual letter and guidelines to our campus unit coordinators to offer our assistance and introduce our committee members. We are so very lucky to have dedicated staff at Cal that vet student requests so we can be assured that the proposals we receive fit our guidelines.

Thank you to all who continue to support the Elberg, SOS and other club philanthropic programs throughout the year!



Following pandemic precautions, Past President Deirdre Bauer (left) presents Janice Lieu with the Honorary Membership certificate which was awarded her at the annual meeting in May. Janice says, "It was the knowledge that I helped so many deserving Cal students and all the wonderful members I volunteered with that kept me dedicating my time to the University Section Club. I was deeply touched when I heard that I had been given this special commendation. Thank you for this tremendous honor!"

SOS Fall Business

Meeting via Zoom, Mon., Oct. 26, 10 am. Join us for our business meeting and to hear Charly King Beavers, M.A., Berkeley Hope Scholars Coordinator, who will speak about the program and how COVID-19 has impacted Cal students who are current or former foster youth. The Zoom meeting will open at 9:45 am so we can begin promptly at 10 o'clock. All members of the club are invited to attend and a Zoom invitation will be sent by email shortly.

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.



In Memoriam



Sharon Serrière, who had joined the French Section with her husband Vianney in the fall of 2018, passed away on 19 April 2020. During this short time with the French section she and her husband shared many of their interests. Her affability, graciousness and delicious baked goods are remembered by all who had the chance to meet her.

Written by Geneviève Dreyfus

Betsy Hess-Behrens, 97, died peacefully June 10, 2020, in her apartment at The Point at Rockridge, where a day earlier loved ones were let in for leave-taking.

A longtime member of the Section Club Writers' Workshop, Betsy published novels *Crazy Quilt* and *The Stranger in First Class* as well as stories *Winnowing & Wandering* and *Wandering & Wondering*. A week before her death she emailed a story to the Writers' Workshop Fiction Group to be critiqued. It is hoped that she had a chance to read the rave reviews.



Betsy held a doctorate from UC Berkeley in Anthropology of Education, culminating in a Fulbright Scholarship and a book, *Pictures, Process and Piaget: Children's Drawings and Intelligence*. Besides her academic and literary achievements, Betsy was a devoted and loving mother of four. In earlier years she ran machines during WWII, was a top model in Chicago, sang with the San Francisco Chorus under Seiji Ozawa, and taught at St. Mary's College – to cite the short list of her accomplishments.

Betsy's pleasures included cheering on the Giants baseball team and exploring nature, preferably with a beloved dog. Her latest canine friend, Greta, was by her side at the Point when she left this world that she graced with much passion and talent. Written by Diane De Pisa



The Section Club lost a marvelous member when **Marjorie Gunderson Glicksman** passed away on July 16, 2020. Marge had enriched the entire Bay Area theater world and was one of the founding members, along with Barbara Oliver, of the Aurora Theater Company. She helped create the UC Drama Section and gave great support to Berkeley Rep and many small theaters throughout the Bay Area, including Berkeley High.

Marge inspired many directors and set designers with her brilliant flare for costume design and properties. She maintained a costume archive at her home that was freely lent to all thespians. We must mention that many of our plays were performed in her basement theater and that the 50th anniversary of the Drama Section was celebrated there. Her boundless energy, her wisdom and her endless generosity will be greatly missed. Our "blithe spirit"! Written by Sara Knight and Grace Fretter

Nicole Welmond, a longtime member of Section Club, sadly passed away at home on July 16, 2020. She had been for many years an active member of the French Section where, using her relationship with the Bay Area's French community, she procured many speakers to enliven its programs. For her work promoting everything French, the French government awarded her the prestigious "Médaille des Arts & Lettres" which she proudly wore on her lapel. Her charm and vivacious spirit will be missed by all who knew her. *Written by Geneviève Dreyfus.*



It is with great honor that I write this tribute to and reflection on **Natalie Croce Lagorio** who recently passed away at the age of 98 (99 Christmas Day). Natalie was a member of the Section Club for 60 years. She became involved after she married Professor Henry J. Lagorio, Dept. of Architecture, Cal. She was a vivacious, charming, elegant woman who lived a full, successful, extensively travelled and unique life. Highlights include: the Department of State, Foreign Services, Washington D.C. and later assigned to the Embassy, Berne, Switzerland; later recruited by J.D. Zellerbach, Ambassador to Italy, as his personal secretary. While in Rome, she met, and then married, a fellow Oakland High School student, "Hank" Lagorio, then a Cal Professor working on a special architectural program. As his wife, she played a significant role when he served as Director for the Education Abroad Program in Italy.

Natalie was active, supportive and a committed member of Section Club, serving as chair of many committees, as well as on the Board of Directors. In addition to her commitment to helping Cal students, her greatest love, to the last years of her life, was as a vivacious, supportive, and loyal participant in the Italian Section. We will miss her but remember her with the happiness and joys she brought to many.

Written by Terry De Luca Schooler



Our deepest sympathy to Diane Morrison on the death of her husband, Bruce Willats, in April of this year. Diane is co-chair of Photography Section.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of a fellow Section Club member, the information is on page 4.

PLAN NOW FOR THE FIRST-EVER Virtual Beehive Fundraiser!



Mark your **2021 calendars** for the annual Beehive Fundraiser, **Tuesday, February 23, 2021**. Ask your guests to save the date too! The Beehive will be quite different in 2021. No fee. No luncheon. No wine table. A photo and description of items and experiences will be available to view for all dues paying members and their guests for 5 days. Dates and website information will be sent by January 2021.

All Section Club members are encouraged to **donate an item** (jewelry, wine, handmade item, dishware, art, etc.) **or experience** (vacation home; quiche/bread/cake/cookies/book delivered 1/month for a year; 1 dinner for 4 delivered to your front door; nature tour for your family/bubble; pet sit for a week; Zoom tutorial cooking class for adult or children); or a Theme Box of goodies from a Section, rather than a raffle basket. *These are just a few ideas of ways you can contribute to the Beehive's success!* This is our major fundraiser of the year to go towards helping Cal students as you've read about on the pages above in **Section Club Philanthropy!**

Contact Chrys Peters or Rita Purcell.



Tennis Section continued from page 2. We couldn't have our tournament last May, therefore our trophies will skip a winner for 2020. This was also true for names during WW II. The first name that appears on the singles trophy is Kathleen Drew Tolman, and is dated 1928.



Left: Rita Kohl, a past winner of the singles trophy.

Left: Singles trophy dating back to 1928.

Right: Gayle DeKellis and Monica Rohrer, 2019 winners of the doubles trophy.



University Section Club, Inc.
Tang Center at UC Berkeley
2222 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94720-4300

Return Service Requested

Club-wide Events 2020-2021

Fall SOS (Services Offered Students) Meeting via Zoom, Mon., Oct. 26, 2020, 10 am. All members are invited to learn how Cal students are helped through our grants and project funding.

Beehive, Tue., Feb. 23, 2021. A "virtual" first! Stay tuned!!

Annual Meeting, Mon., May 10, 2021. 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.

Spring SOS Meeting, Tue., May 18, 2021. We review project requests from campus groups and decide on funding. All members welcome.