



The Breeze

University Section Club, Inc., Berkeley, CA

Winter 2021 Website: <http://sectionclub.org>



President's Message:

Happy New Year! I am not going to mention our "catalogue of woe" (thank you, Mary Lee Noonan) from 2020. I am not going to mention our bumpy start to 2021. I am going to talk about our joyous 54th Beehive Luncheon and Auction in the middle of a pandemic. Okay, joyous is a bit exaggerated...

Usually at this time of year, the Beehive Committee is busy sorting, tagging, packing and planning. The pillars of the Beehive have taken their familiar place preparing their appropriate table. The queen of our culinary world has assigned duties, ordered food and drink, and counted the needed table linens. Flowers, balloons, cookies, cheese platters...my mouth is watering just thinking about the BIG day. But alas, 2021 will be remembered as the year the bees swarmed and flew away. Our Busy Bees have been given a vacation and told to stay home. I'm as disappointed as you must be. I'm as sad as Eeyore.

Let's "look on the sunny side" and smile because we are here. Let's think of ways to spend the 4th Tuesday in February. Perhaps your Section might gather via Zoom for a wine party to reminisce about Beehives gone by. Perhaps you might finally clean out that Fibber McGee closet and drop a load of treasures off at Dorothy Kaplan's garage. (I've heard that she recently cleaned out about half of it so let's fill it up for '22!)

Know that your generosity and giving spirit has helped plenty of struggling students already this year (student living at home with an unemployed family member; roommate just moved out of a shared apartment; car repairs needed after being broken into and robbed...just to name a few). We will continue to make the lives of these young scholars just a little bit better.

We can only dream of the honey that could have been extracted from this abandoned hive in '21. Our busy bees will return in '22 after gathering, regurgitating, and making our Beehive as productive as ever. (Couldn't resist adding "regurgitating" since I'm married to an Entomologist!)

Until we meet again,

Rita "**Honey**" (to my granddaughters) Purcell



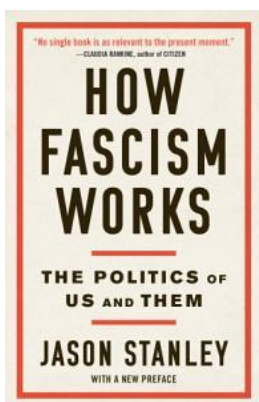
SECTION REPORTS



German Section – submitted by Joyce Arnon and Christa Shannon, Co-Chairs

Our section continued to meet via Zoom during the fall semester and enjoyed a good attendance throughout. We started off with a "get-reacquainted session" in September, learning that thankfully everyone was still healthy and safe. In October we discussed "How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them" by Jason Stanley, a thought-provoking book recommended by one of our members which seemed timely and appropriate just a few weeks prior to the elections. **Christiane Frederickson** (U.S. representative for the German textbook company Klett and NorCal AATG – American Assn. of Teachers of German -membership chair) informed us in November about the status of German instruction in America at the secondary and college level. In the second part of her presentation, she had us participate in interactive exercises to understand the newest approaches to cultural learning in Germany, a country that has seen significant changes in its ethnic composition. Lastly, we celebrated our annual Christmas gathering in December. In a varied program we showed pictures and video clips of German holiday traditions, members sang and read poems and stories, and we shared our Christmas decorations as well as memories of holiday customs while growing up.

In the New Year, we plan to watch and discuss a German movie, learn about carnival and end-of-winter celebrations in the German-speaking countries and invite more speakers in the spring.



Christiane Frederickson



Christmas market in Dresden, Germany.

Movie Section – submitted by Holly Hartley, Chair

The Movie Section has reinvented itself for the age of Covid and Zoom. Each month one member chooses the film (often suggesting 3 and letting the group choose). We try to stick to Amazon and Kanopy. We watch the films on our own. Then we meet on Zoom at 4 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month and discuss the film. The discussions have deepened our understanding of the films and, perhaps, each other. Here is what we have seen and discussed since June, when we realized there is life without "dinner and a movie." *(continued on next page)*



Movie Section, continued.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| June | "A Noble Intention" (Class struggle 19 th Century Amsterdam) |
| July | "Portrait of a Lady on Fire" (Passion in 18 th century France) |
| August | "The Truth" (Catherine Deneuve was reason enough to see this film") |
| September | "Collette" (We were in France again for a fascinating biopic) |
| October | "The Women's Balcony" (Israeli women assert themselves) and "Women on the 6 th Floor" (Middle-class Frenchman learns about life from domestics) |
| November | "Clouds of Sils Maria" (Juliet Binoche faces life as an aging actress. Beautiful Swiss scenery) and "Last Black Man in San Francisco" (Young man attaches his identity to an old family home) |
| December | "Sorry We Missed You" (English family trying to survive in the gig economy) |

After seeing two films each in October and November the group rebelled and we are back to seeing one film.

SPONSORED SERVICES



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

While most Cal students have returned home to follow their classes via the internet, others remain nearby, living in University Village, or in the general vicinity of the campus.

From August through the end of the fall semester we received eight grant requests totaling \$ 11,620. Of the four most recent requests, three came from the Educational Opportunity Program which helps first-generation low-income students and one came from University Health Services – Tang Center, asking for financial assistance to pay for essential medical needs. Whether the aid we provide pays for medical treatment or the monthly rent and groceries, all recipients are grateful for the help we give. One student writes:

Thank you! This grant will immensely help me and I'll look forward to contribute back to this beautiful club in the future.

~ Letter from a Student Grants Recipient

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

The SOS Committee has been functioning during the past fall semester despite the pandemic. Even though the campus has gone to virtual teaching, students still have unexpected needs as they navigate the process and remain in their apartments or have moved back home. We were able to hold the SOS Fall Business Meeting on November 9, 2020 via Zoom. At least 22 board and Section Club members attended and listened to our speaker, **Charly King Beavers**, M.A., Berkeley Hope Scholars Coordinator. Ms. Beavers was appointed after the retirement of former coordinator, Deborah Lowe Martinez.



Charly King Beavers

Ms. Beavers lectured that HOPE Scholars is an academic retention program supporting incoming freshmen, transfer, graduate, and returning students who are former foster youth, probation youth, or were orphaned before the age of 18. The program tries to create a sense of belonging and community. This has become difficult during COVID. Seventy-two (72) students are in the program this year, an increase of almost 20 students over last year due to more community outreach. The program's funding comes mainly from donors and a small percentage from the University Development Office and Alumni Association. Charly works remotely, teaching a transition course and providing counseling and assistance towards food, health and housing needs. Online programs, whether they are counseling or social events (cooking, yoga, crafts, etc.) have proven to be hugely beneficial to these students. Charly believes these programs will continue after students return to campus. The ability to connect from home allowed a beginning to 'gathering' opportunities.

All of our campus liaisons know that we are accepting requests for funding from Elberg Emergency Grants at any time. During October, November, and December we were able to provide funds to eight students for a total of \$6,135. Our grants are a lifeline that gives a student the edge to be able to remain in school. We receive grateful thank you notes from the students, such as the one in the yellow box to the right.

In March we will be asking our campus liaisons to send us a request for funding if there is a need for a new program or piece of equipment. Usually equipment is requested by University Health. We would like the programs to be sustainable later with University funds or other grants, but this is not always possible because the university has so many cutbacks.

A BIG thank you to all of our Section Club members and friends who gave so generously during the fall membership sign up. Your generosity puts us in a good position to provide our grants. Please remember Section Club if you would like to honor a friend or the memory of someone.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"It has been an extremely challenging semester. Attending University remotely during a global pandemic is enough of a challenge, but experiencing health issues on top of it all has been very hard. I sincerely want to say thank you for granting me this award for some of my equipment expenses. Thanks to you I'll be able to manage some of the physical challenges I have been experiencing."

~ Letter from an Elberg Emergency Grant recipient

Beehive update: PHANTOM!

In the last issue of the Breeze we indicated there might be a virtual Beehive. After research, the board voted to *not* proceed with this idea. Instead, a **PHANTOM** Beehive is planned. More details are coming. We hope we can all meet at the Beehive in 2022!

If you find yourself **cleaning out your closets** during this time of COVID, remember that Section Club still has an ongoing relationship with Children’s Hospital Thrift Shop, Bambino. They are open and accepting our donations. They share the proceeds of the sale of our donations. If you have “nice, in good condition” items, we welcome them. We cannot accept clothing at this time. Please deliver to the home of Dorothy Kaplan.



Calling all Amazon shoppers! Amazon has a program that allows Amazon shoppers to give 0.5% of eligible purchases to a charity of their choice. Because we are a 501(c)(3), University Section Club is an eligible donee, and is listed in the program. The program is very simple to use, and does not change the price of anything you purchase. From Amazon’s desktop site, you just need to do your shopping at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) instead of [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com). From their mobile application, you just need to set it up one time by going to Settings in the main menu, tap on “Amazon Smile” and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone. The club will be sent a check once a quarter for any donation we have earned. This is a simple way to increase income to the Section Club! Please contact treasurer Claire Phillips with any questions, or see this link for additional information:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_dshb_aas_saas

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



Grace Wahlberg

Grace was a lovely woman who participated in Photography Section and Music Section. She sang second soprano in the chorus for over twenty-five years. She died in December 2020 at the age of 91 in Brattleboro, Vermont where she had lived for her final two and a half years

Priscilla Magee

Priscilla was a member of Music Section and performed in chamber ensembles with her violin. She was very supportive of other musicians. Priscilla died in December 2020 at the age of 95.



Cecile Weaver

Cecile was a longtime member of the Section Club. She used to work at the plants table at the Beehive fundraiser and was a member of the Book Discussion Group. She died in December 2020 at the age of 102.

Virginia Foote Anderson

Virginia was an active member of the Writers' Workshop and a leader and frequent hostess for the Non-Fiction group for many years, where she helped many of the members write their books. In recent years, under the name Virginia Foote, she published three books about her family, *Amorette's Watch*, *Lulu/Anne*, *My Mother Part One: Lulu*, and in 2016, *My Mother Part Two: Anne*. She died on December 30, 2020, at the age of 96.



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

Report from the Membership Chair – Geneviève Boissier-Dreyfus

At its latest meeting the Board noticed, with gratitude and appreciation, that most of the members have not only sent their dues, but have also donated more than usual. As you read in the reports from our Sponsored Services, Cal students still encounter difficult situations and are relieved to get help from such a friendly and caring group. So, **Thank You!**

If you wonder about the Activities Sections, most meet at their regularly scheduled time, mostly via Zoom. You just read about the Movies and German sections which have reported on how their members enjoy learning something new and keeping up with each other.

If you have not renewed yet, would you consider sending your dues? Thank you!

150 Years of Women at Berkeley



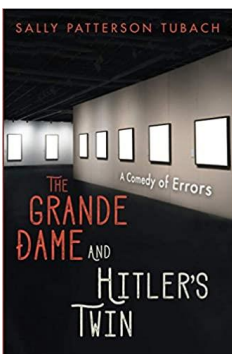
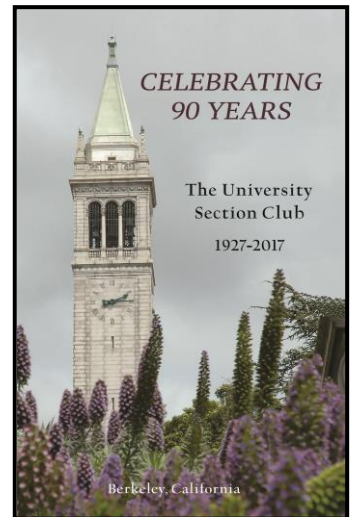
Prior to our club's 90th anniversary in 2017, Joan Finnie and Mary Lee Noonan spearheaded the creation of "**Celebrating 90 Years: The University Section Club, 1927-2017**" – a beautiful booklet detailing the history of this remarkable group. All members received a copy of the booklet at the fall reception in 2017.

Now you can see the booklet in a digital format:

https://150w.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/celebrating_90_years_the_university_section_club.pdf

on the website of **150 Years of Women at Berkeley**.

Many thanks to Sheila Humphreys, a Section Club member and academic staff emerita, who is Co-Chair of the 150w History Project (150W.berkeley.edu), and saw to it that our history was included on this website.



Sally Patterson Tubach, a longtime member of Writers' Workshop, recently had a book published. **The Grande Dame and Hitler's Twin: A Comedy of Errors** – can be purchased on Amazon.com.

Club-wide Events 2021

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.