

# TOWN CRIER

University of California, Irvine, Town and Gown



EDITOR: MARILYN RYAN (714) 292-4460

MAY-AUGUST 2021

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EMAIL: [ucitownandgown@gmail.com](mailto:ucitownandgown@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.ucitownandgown.com](http://www.ucitownandgown.com)

*Our membership is open to everyone in the community (Town) and University faculty and staff (Gown). We support our unique scholarship program for students returning after a break of five years or more in their education. We offer social and educational opportunities enhanced by our association with the campus environment.*

## **GREETINGS EVERYONE.**

**WE HOPE YOU ARE STAYING SAFE, GETTING VACCINATED AND FOLLOWING THE CDC GUIDELINES.**

We are excited! Planning is under way to tentatively resume our traditional programs, such as **"Coffee and Conversation"** at beautiful Sherman Gardens on the morning of September 13<sup>th</sup>, and then a **social luncheon** in November followed by luncheons with speakers in February and May next year.

**Holly Poe Durbin, Professor of Costume Design, UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts, has just confirmed her participation for our February 2022 event. Holly has designed costumes for Broadway, London's West End and many other national and international venues. You may have attended her sparkling 2016 presentation on Film Noire. Holly's possible topic this time: "Time Travel Through Vintage Clothes."**

Understandably, there may be some limitations we must follow in terms of the structure for our events, but we are doing everything we can to make them happen and in the best way possible. For now, please bear with us and look for future announcements via email and this newsletter. We have missed you and greatly look forward to being together again soon. **In person!!!**

President's Message



Happily, our S.O.S. for a President was answered – well, sort of. Three members have stepped up to share being President for next year, starting July 2021 through June of 2022. They will divide up the months and carry on leading our organization forward. I am so glad we can continue to provide scholarships to deserving students, as well as social and educational opportunities for our members. Mark your calendars for September 13<sup>th</sup> – our outdoor Coffee and Conversation at Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar.

Several of you took advantage of UCI's many events during Asian Tea Week in March. Hearing Lisa See share her knowledge about tea and listening and learning how she researches her books was an adventure in itself. Yong Chen, UCI professor of history and author of *Chop Suey, USA*, is forever entertaining. I cannot wait for UCI's launch of their next set of webinars.

If you missed the wonderful piano concert on March 17<sup>th</sup>, arranged by our VP-Programs in conjunction with UCI Professor Nina Scolnik, go to our website to find the link and watch at your convenience. The questions and discussion conducted by Nina with the students after the performance was so enlightening.

Our University Relations and Scholarships Selection (URSS) committee has selected six deserving students to each receive a \$5,000 Town and Gown Scholarship – our fourth year in a row at the \$30,000 mark. You will have a chance to meet and hear the students speak briefly at the Coffee in September. I am consistently impressed with the stories of these students, their life challenges, and their drive to overcome obstacles in their pursuit of an education and a chance to give back to the community.

And finally, I have truly valued my time as President – even the unplanned extra year caused by the pandemic. I sincerely appreciate the dedicated, generous members who served on the Board, especially during this challenging past year. My thanks and gratitude are not enough for all the time they give and all they do for Town and Gown. And, because of three wonderful volunteers, Town and Gown will continue into next year.

As vaccinations provide a "light at the end of the tunnel" and we welcome the Summer months, occasions to be outside abound. Take advantage of all you can, and I'll see you out there.

Judith Larson, President

**COURTESY PROGRAM:**

Whenever a member of Town and Gown passes away, the Treasurer makes a \$25 donation in memory of the deceased. The Corresponding Secretary writes a note of condolence, informs the family of the donation, and requests that a notice be placed in the Town Crier, In Memoriam. When anyone in a member's immediate family passes away, the Corresponding Secretary writes a note of sympathy to the member. Please notify the Corresponding Secretary, Carolyn Woolhouse (714) 401-0821, or by email at: [eclectic.sentiment@gmail.com](mailto:eclectic.sentiment@gmail.com)

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Our URSS selection committee is eagerly awaiting the scholarship applications from the UCI Financial Aid Office. In spite of the pandemic, we are still on target to grant six \$5,000 scholarships for the 21-22 academic year. While we are not sending an appeal letter this year, your donations to the Town and Gown Scholarship Fund make a difference. If you are so inclined, you may send a check to P.O. Box 4192 Irvine, CA 92616 and indicate UCI Foundation /Town and Gown Scholarship. Thanks in advance for your support.

## Meet the Scholars



### **GABRIEL AMBROSON**

Gabriel is a History major with a double minor in African American Studies and Political Science, set to graduate in Spring 2021. Coming from a family of teachers, Gabriel initially began his journey at UCI with the intent to become a high school social sciences teacher. However, after his first quarter at UCI, he was approached by multiple professors about pursuing a graduate degree in History. He is now in the process of applying to graduate programs, with the intent to study historiography and curriculum design, specifically the way in which systemic violence is legitimized through historiography and curriculum.

Gabriel had a significant break in his studies. After working as a teaching assistant in an English language program in Shanghai, Gabriel returned to Orange County to start a small business that sought to support underrepresented athletes in impoverished communities by providing connections to professional and collegiate scouting. During this time, Gabriel maintained a deep connection to the community of Orange County, working on multiple local political campaigns. Gabriel was forced to shutter his business after being diagnosed with a chronic congenital health problem. Gabriel's medical issues necessitated two major surgeries and an extended period of recovery. Confronted with significant medical debt and the prospect of no health insurance, Gabriel decided that the best way he could continue to help his community and himself was by attaining a college degree and using that degree to do what he loves most: educating students.

Dear Town and Gown members and the UCI Foundation:

*Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. The financial support of the community is invaluable for students like myself who would not be able to afford to attend college otherwise. I am immensely proud and humbled to have been selected for such a generous scholarship. I appreciate all of your efforts, both individually and collectively, to make this opportunity available.*

*Respectfully, Gabriel*



### **KERI ALBERS**

Keri moved from Northern California to Southern California to attend UCI where her goal is to be a Spring 2022 graduate with a degree in Psychological Sciences. She plans to become a Behavioral Analyst, where she will work with adolescents to overcome behavioral issues stemming from past traumas they have experienced. Keri is a single mother of a 21-year-old son, Takoda Blue Albers, who is starting at UC Santa Cruz. She has an interesting background ranging from dog training to professional organizing for hoarders, digital media marketing, to horticulture and urban farming.

Dear Town and Gown members and UCI Foundation:

*Upon learning that I was a recipient of the 2020/2021 "Town and Gown" scholarship, tears of sheer joy, appreciation, and deep encouragement welled up inside me and have not stopped flowing ever since. I am truly grateful for this awe-inspiring scholarship and plan to make the best of it and, without a doubt, pay it forward. It will play a big role in helping me reach my lifelong goal of earning my bachelor's degree in Psychological Sciences at UCI and further continuing my education with the ultimate goal of becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). It has been a bit of a rocky road getting to this point, but I have learned how to embrace the rocks and see all of the beauty they bring no matter the challenge. The opportunity this scholarship brings will go beyond myself and help me help others shine when they no longer thought it was possible.*

*Thank you, again, Keri*

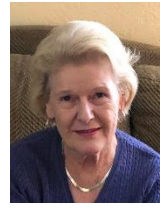
If you need **directions** or a ride to any event, please call the Chair of the Interest Group or one of the Board members. We will do everything we can to help you with transportation. **Your \$3.00 donation when attending and participating in the various Interest Groups helps us grow our Scholarship funds.**

**NOTE: ALL PLANNED DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. CONTACT CHAIRS TO CONFIRM EACH MONTH. STAY SAFE EVERYONE**

### **Appreciating the Past**

#### **ALL THINGS VINTAGE**

**MAY - AUGUST**



DATE/TIME: Wednesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: **Episodes 5 and 6 of the "Treasures of the Louvre."** This completes the six presentations given by the BBC.

ZOOM MEETING COORDINATOR: **Please email Cathey if you plan to join the Zoom meeting.**

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, June 16 at 11:00 a.m. (please note time change)

SUBJECT: **Meet for a picnic at the San Joaquin Wildlife Refuge, IRV**

Bring your own sandwich and drink.

Meet under cover where there are plenty of tables.

Time to socialize, take a walk, or do a craft.

More details later.

CHAIRS: Denise Bletsos (714) 969-6413, Carol Cowden (949) 645-2922

#### **FAMILY HISTORY WRITING**

**MAY - AUGUST**

Pending completion of our memberships' vaccinations, we are hoping to meet in person, outdoors, masked and socially distancing by May, or possibly even late April. Until then, we will, at each member's preference, share our stories via email or USPS, topics to be determined. Today's stories are tomorrow's histories!

CHAIRS: Deb Penley (949) 559-6726, Bonnie Feers (949) 786-4020



## Enjoying Nature

### **BIRDERS**

**MAY – AUGUST**

We have suspended all activity until next fall.

CHAIRS: Mary Anne Skorpanich (714) 299-1863 Marlene Brajdic (714) 905-6641.

[towngownbirders@gmail.com](mailto:towngownbirders@gmail.com)



## Book Discussion Groups

### **BOOK CLUB**

**MAY - AUGUST**

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, May 18, 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: ZOOM

BOOK: *Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd

The details of the June meeting are yet to be determined.

CHAIRS: Connie Nelson (714) 540-4902, Lea Lowe (714) 469-9588



### **LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS**

**MAY - AUGUST**

Join me for a zoom meeting to talk about books. It can be a book you are currently reading or a favorite book or author. Zoom link will be emailed to you. RSVP to [the4ryders@gmail.com](mailto:the4ryders@gmail.com).

DATES/TIME: May 24 and June 28 at 7:00 p.m.

WHAT: Talk about books

PLACE: Zoom

CHAIR: Cathey Ryder (714) 470-1353, [the4ryders@gmail.com](mailto:the4ryders@gmail.com)



## Games

**MAY - AUGUST**

### **BRIDGE**

As we get vaccinated and conditions improve, we hope to see one another again soon.

*We will advise any changes during the summer, either by email or phone calls.* Remember to stay in touch with one another – take care and stay safe!

CHAIRS: Judith Larson (714) 969-4415, Mira Craig (949) 786-4250



## MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

MAY – AUGUST

Looking forward to when we can resume our usual schedule. Hopefully it won't be too much longer. If you have any questions call the chair.

CHAIR: Pam Kirkendall (949) 422-4579, or pamelakirk@cox.net



## Arts Appreciation

### MUSIC

MAY - AUGUST

We look forward to resuming our usual schedule as soon as possible. Social Distance. Wash those hands!!! **And, PLEASE, wear a mask when in public.**

DATE/TIME: First Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

WHAT: Music Department students perform miscellaneous classical pieces

PLACE: **TO BE DETERMINED**

CHAIR: Paul Kanter (310) 991-8519



### NEEDLEWORK AND FRIENDS GATHERING

MAY - AUGUST

DATE/TIME: May 14, June 11, July 9 and August 13 (all 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays)

TIMES/PLACES: 10 a.m. on Zoom while we continue to meet virtually. When it is safe to meet in person, you will be given the specifics.

DETAILS: This is your group, and we welcome your suggestions. You will be notified of each month's program and you will be given the details as we get closer to each date.

: Some possibilities are meeting in outdoor areas to do projects, gathering in public spots that we can explore and, in August, lunching at the Tea House on Los Rios in Capistrano.

CHAIRS: Carolyn Woolhouse (714) 401-0821, eclecticstentiment@gmail.com  
or Carol Freund (949) 786-7828, ecfreund1@cox.net

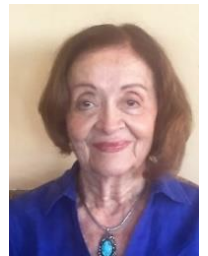


### PLEIN AIR PAINTING

MAY - AUGUST

We meet at various outdoor scenic locations, focusing on seascapes, mountains, shore life and quaint and/or historical buildings. Watercolors, acrylics, oils, charcoal – any medium you prefer is welcome.

CHAIRS: Magda Abramson (714) 960-0887, Eula Casselman (714) 639-1226



**Food, Fun, and Friends**

**MAY - AUGUST**

**SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Stay tuned for the fall. We hope to have breakfast together in October.

CHAIRS: Cathey and Bob Ryder (714) 470-1353

**HAPPY HOUR IN HISTORIC OC**

Let's plan to revisit the lovely patio bar at The Spaghetti Bender on PCH in Newport Beach on Thursday, July 28 at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 27.

CHAIRS: Cathey and Bob Ryder (714) 470-1353, or the4ryders@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAY AFTEROON AT THE MOVIES**

We will regroup in the fall.

CHAIR: Cathey Ryder (714) 470-1353

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Please make the following changes to your Yearbook:

New Phone Numbers

Reed, Caroline Frye  
(714) 847-1953

Rogers, Linda  
(714) 202-5747

Ruedy, Lynne  
(949) 552-6071

Member Renewal

Heilig, Patricia  
19131 Sierra Majorca Rd.  
IRV 92603-3939  
(714) 552-2608  
pmheilig@icloud.com

New Members

Parker, Robert and Fiona  
9407 Flicker Ave  
FV 92708  
(657) 203-4498  
fionaparker2@aol.com

Change of email

Sue Miekosz  
smiekosz@gmail.com

**NOTE: ALL PLANNED DATES/ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. CONTACT CHAIRS TO CONFIRM EACH MONTH. STAY SAFE EVERYONE**

**MAY – AUGUST INTEREST GROUP CALENDAR**

**MONDAY:**

9:30 a.m., Plein-Air Painting (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)

7:00 p.m., Let's Talk About Books (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

**TUESDAY:**

8:30 a.m., Birders (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays) **Indefinitely postponed**

1:00 p.m., Book Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

**WEDNESDAY:**

10:00 a.m., All Things Vintage (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) Time change on June 16

11:30 a.m. or after 1:00 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Afternoon at the Movies **Indefinitely postponed**

1:00 p.m., Family History Writing

1:30 p.m., Music (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) **Indefinitely postponed**

**THURSDAY:**

10:00 a.m., Bridge (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) **Indefinitely postponed**

1:00 p.m., Mexican Train (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) **Indefinitely postponed**

5:00 p.m., Happy Hour in Historic OC

**FRIDAY:**

10:00 a.m., Needlework and Friends Gathering (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday)

**SATURDAY:**

9:00 a.m., Saturday Morning Breakfast (4 times a year) **Indefinitely postponed**