

TOWN CRIER

University of California, Irvine, Town and Gown



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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

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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.



THE UCI TOWN AND GOWN BOARD NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU

As we all know, these difficult days in the era of COVID have thrown a monkey wrench into our usual informative and sometimes just fun luncheon programs.

In order to gauge your interests and to facilitate event planning, you will be receiving a *Survey Monkey* email from us on October 16th. This is an on-line opinion survey in which you will select items or categories of interest to you.

Please respond to the survey as soon as you can, and no later than October 26th. We are wracking what's left of our COVID era brains trying to plan events, either virtual (Zoom)* or actual and socially distanced, for all of us.

*Past President and ZOOM expert Cathey Ryder has volunteered to assist with any help you might need to utilize ZOOM. Please feel free to contact Cathey at the4ryders@gmail.com.

President's Message



Well, here we are at the end of another year, looking forward to celebrating the Holidays. 2020 has proved to be a unique challenge to us all. This year we will all be exploring new ways to stay in touch with family and friends – while staying safe and often away from the very people we wish most to see.

I hope you did see the five amazing scholarship students who participated in our first ever Webinar on September 14th. Our URSS committee did an outstanding job in their selection of six students to receive a \$5,000 scholarship from Town and Gown this year. Let us know if you missed it and we can send you a link and password to view the webinar.

More good news -- we are scheduled to hold our next Annual Coffee and Conversation event at Sherman Library and Gardens on September 13, 2021, so mark your calendars now.

The Board is continuing our efforts to stay in touch with you and find creative ways for us to share time together, while we cannot be together.

Several of our Interest Groups are meeting either on-line or outdoors when possible. It is so nice to see everyone's faces and talk together, even if it is through an on-line option. How much more we will appreciate being together when we can again.

Going forward, we will continue to take this pandemic one day at a time, adjust where we can and find new ways to proceed with our lives and with the future of Town and Gown.

I wish you all good health, the warmest of Holidays, and strength to find your path through this difficult time.

Stay home as much as you are able, stay in touch with each other and share a smile or a laugh whenever possible. We are all in this together – and together we can do anything.

Judith Larson
President, 2019-2020

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@att.net.

Meet the Scholar



SIRUI PAN

Sirui's goal is to graduate from UCI in the Fall of 2022, with a degree in Public Health Services. She has worked as a certified nursing assistant in a psychiatric nursing facility and wants to benefit her community further as a Physician's Assistant. After a seven-year break in her education, Sirui attended Ohlone Community College before coming to UCI.

She volunteers as a companion for patients with severe mental illness such as OCD, Anxiety, Bipolar, and other illnesses, talking with them either in person or over the phone. Sometimes she drives to their locations when they have episodes and just simply provides them with her presence.

Sirui loves taking relaxing walks. Sometimes she even puts her cat on a leash and walks around the neighborhood. She certainly attracts attention when she does this, but her neighbors have gotten used to it by now. She is an amateur cat sitter. When her friends experience recurring mental issues, she takes care of their cats when they check into a mental health facility. Sometimes this can be as short as a few days, and sometimes can last a few months.

She loves to tutor chemistry and physics, helping others to learn and even to learn from others herself. She simply loves chemistry and is so satisfied having someone listen to her go on and on about chemistry.

"Dear Town and Gown:

Words cannot describe how grateful I am for this generous gift. This scholarship will alleviate financial stress and allow me to focus on my academics. My passion is to help patients with mental illness, but my academic opportunity has been limited by my financial status. Without this scholarship, I would have to work fulltime while attending school, and it would be difficult to dedicate my all to my studies.

Numerous other scholarships did not consider me as I started my college career late, and I am so grateful for Town and Gown for believing in me. With your generosity, I will be able to focus my all on my dreams and help numerous mentally ill patients in the future. I would have loved to attend your luncheon and meet the wonderful people behind this great program. Thank you all again for everything, I will remember this kindness for the rest of my life.

With Gratitude

Sirui Pan"

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.** Last year, Town and Gown raised over \$4,000 from these Interest Group donations!

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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: A one-hour demonstration to make a velvet pumpkin for Thanksgiving.

SPEAKER: Kathy Frazer

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting/Zoom Meeting Coordinator is Cathey Ryder

DETAILS: This meeting is designed for the All Things Vintage and the Needlework groups and others who wish to attend. The Velvet Pumpkin kit will be available for pickup in three locations: HB, IRV, and NB/CM. The cost is \$10 and you pay when you pick up the kit. There will be no change available, so please have the correct amount. You will get an email closer to November 18 detailing the exact locations and times for pickup.

Right now we MUST know how many kits to make.

Please email Kathy Frazer with information at frazerka@yahoo.com

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, December 16 TBA

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



FAMILY HISTORY WRITING

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Please contact chairs for information

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



Enjoying Nature

BIRDERS

Meets on the first and third Tuesdays. Please arrive at the location by 8:15 so we can begin birding promptly at 8:30. Call us if you are running late and want us to wait for you. If it is *really* raining or windy the trip is cancelled. Masks may be required for the trail and the restaurants to best protect our members and those who serve us. If you're not sure, call one of the chairs.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, November 10 (**second Tuesday**) 8:15 a.m.

PLACE: **Santiago Oaks Regional Park**, 2145 Windes Dr, OR. Fee \$3.00 or OC Regional Parks Pass. Take Jamboree as far as it goes. Turn left onto Santiago Canyon Rd. Turn right onto Windes Rd/Meads and follow signs to Santiago Oaks Regional Park. Bring a picnic lunch.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, November 17, 8:15 a.m.

PLACE: **Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve**, 28000 Pacific Coast Hwy, HB. Free. The reserve is along PCH on the inland side between Golden West and Warner. Meet in the parking lot. Bring a scope if you have one. **Do not leave valuables in your car**; thefts have occurred here. We will lunch at the Blackboard Bistro in Seal Beach. Turn right on PCH and drive into Seal Beach. The restaurant is on your left at 12th St. Parking in rear.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 1, 8:15 a.m.

PLACE: **Muth Interpretive Center**, 2301 University Dr, NB. Free. From the 73 or Bristol St, take Irvine Ave toward the ocean and turn left on University Dr. Parking lot is on right. Lunch is at the Chateau Garden Bistro in the Ayres Hotel at 325 Bristol St. Turn left out of the Muth parking lot onto University, then right on Santa Ana Ave and right on Bristol. Turn right into the hotel parking lot. The restaurant is in the back.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 15, 8:15 a.m.

PLACE: **Mason Regional Park**, 18712 University Dr, IRV. Fee \$3.00 or OC Parks Pass. University Dr in IRV between Culver and Harvard. Turn right at the entrance and park in the first parking lot. Lunch will be a holiday potluck and give exchange at a location to be determined. Bring a dish to share, your own plate, cup, utensils and something to drink. If you want to participate in the gift exchange bring a wrapped, inexpensive "birdy" gift.

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

Book Discussion Groups

BOOK CLUB

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Please contact chairs for information

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



LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Join me at a zoom meeting to talk about books. Save the Date and plan to join a zoom meeting on November 23 at 7:00 p.m. No meeting in December and let's hope for an in-person gathering in January.



Zoom invitations will be sent out to those who are interested in talking about books. Email me to get on the email list. Happy Reading!

CHAIR: Cathey Ryder (714) 470-1353 the4ryders@gmail.com

Games

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

BRIDGE

No bridge dates are planned for the balance of the year.

The Bahia Yacht Club is still not open for play or lunch. We will advise if things change. We wish everyone the best Holiday possible under these challenging circumstances. 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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Unfortunately, we will have to cancel our games for November and December due to the corona virus. I hope you are all well and that sometime soon we will be able to continue our games.



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

Arts Appreciation

MUSIC

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

We look forward to resuming our usual schedule as soon as possible. Meanwhile, all Town and Gown music is cancelled indefinitely. Social Distance. Wash those hands!!! **And, PLEASE, wear a mask when in public.**

The Music Group typically meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of most months. We usually do not meet during July, August, or September.

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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

DATES/TIMES: Friday, November 13, Friday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Zoom meeting set up by Cathey Ryder

DETAILS: This will be the standard agenda until we can meet again in person.

Cathey Ryder – scavenger hunt

Carolyn Woolhouse – joke, riddle, or words to ponder

Carol Freund – kitchen tips or recipes

Anyone – “Show and Tell” your needlework project(s)

Also in November- All Things Vintage has invited us to their “make a velvet pumpkin for holiday décor” event on Wednesday, November 18. See the All Things Vintage posting in this newsletter for details

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



PLEIN AIR PAINTING

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.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

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



Food, Fun, and Friends

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

One of our favorite things to do is go out for breakfast. We love to try new places. But right now, we are enjoying breakfast at home. We hope to plan a Saturday morning breakfast with friends in 2021. We have several new places on our list of fun breakfast spots.

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

HAPPY HOUR IN HISTORIC OC

As much as we would like to visit a historic spot in Orange County and enjoy Happy Hour with you, socializing in an enclosed space is still not an option. We have some new spots to visit. Hopefully by spring 2021, we can schedule a Happy Hour.

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

WEDNESDAY AFTEROON AT THE MOVIES

Everyone has heard that movie theaters are just not safe right now. Who knows if the Regency South Coast Plaza will even offer the Senior Matinee in the future? Hope to see you at the movies in 2021.

CHAIR: Cathey Ryder (714) 470-1353

Please make the following changes to your Yearbook:

Changed Addresses/other information

Nancy Berg
2031 Orange Ave #304
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-2167
949-423-7888
No email

Sally Menzel
24652 La Vida Dr, Laguna Niguel, 92677-1914
949-533-9055
menzel@cox.net

Rena Jones
24 Corniche #F
Dana Point, CA 92629

Emily Kearny
970 Sandcastle
Corona del Mar, CA 92625-1616

Carolyn Woolhouse
eclectic.sentiment@gmail.com
(change of email)

Suzanne Owens
suzannedowens@gmail.com
(change of email)

New/Corrected Phone

Magda Abramson
714-510-4778

Nikolas and Denise Bletsos
714-969-6413

Kathleen Ellis
714-508-0763

Lauren Nivans
714-748-2884

Lyn Ruedy
949-552-6091

Richard and Gail Wheaton
949-524-8779

Lorraine Horton (delete email address)

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

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER INTEREST GROUP CALENDAR

MONDAY:

9:30 a.m., Plein-Air Painting (2nd Monday) ***Please contact chair***

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

TUESDAY:

8:30 a.m., Birders (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) ***November 10th is the second Tuesday***

1:00 p.m., Book Club (3rd Tuesday)

WEDNESDAY:

10:00 a.m., All Things Vintage (3rd Wednesday)

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

1:00 p.m., Family History Writing (4th Wednesday)

1:30 p.m., Music (1st Wednesday) **Indefinitely postponed**

4:30 p.m., Happy Hour in Historic OC **Indefinitely postponed**

THURSDAY:

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

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

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

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

Please contact chairs with any questions!