

# TOWN CRIER

University of California, Irvine, Town and Gown



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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021

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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.*

## UCI TOWN AND GOWN

*Invites you to our annual*

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

**Monday, September 13, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Program starts at 9:30 a.m.**

*Outside in the Tea Gardens at  
Sherman Library and Gardens*

2647 E. Coast Highway, Corona del Mar

### MEET THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This event has been streamlined to limit risks to our members and guests.

**Vaccinations and masks are strongly encouraged.**

RSVP TO: [ucitownandgown@gmail.com](mailto:ucitownandgown@gmail.com) or call Sheyla Nelson at (949) 683-1985

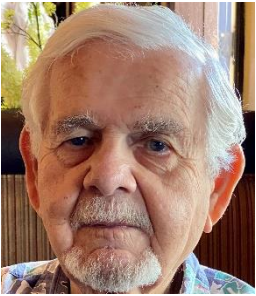
\*\*\*IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! \*\*\*

**DUE DATE SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

*Please watch your mail for a blue envelope containing renewal information  
for 2021-2022.*

Questions? Call or text Elisabeth Hoskins, Membership, at 949-836-7197

## President's Message



The first Town and Gown President was Agnes Bloomquist (1965-66), and the list of past Presidents in our most recent yearbook includes forty-seven names of which only four are men, which makes me just the fifth and thus I find myself in some pretty exclusive company.

But more importantly, I was reminded that in recent years Diane Howell served three terms as President, as did Denise Bletsos. Judith Larson just completed two years as President, and Cathey Ryder somewhat rivaled FDR, as she did the job for a staggering five consecutive terms, from 2014 through 2019. This is very revealing and somewhat ominous information.

We are in the same boat as many other philanthropic and social groups. Membership is aging and no matter how much we love and value the core principles we support, it has become increasingly very difficult to find folks with both the energy and willingness to serve, not just in the highest leadership positions, but in any capacity on our Board of Directors. **Simply put, Town and Gown needs your help!**

As do many of you, I enjoy the social aspects we offer. Even as we must continue to deal with pandemic issues it has been especially encouraging for me to see our interest group activities resume in person, whether it be Needlework, Bridge or Mexican Train Dominoes, for example.

Above and beyond socializing, the single most important reason I have served Town and Gown in several capacities for a few years now is because of our commitment to provide scholarship funds for deserving UCI students who have experienced a break of at least five years in continuing their pursuit of higher education. We have been able to provide approximately \$30,000 in such scholarships annually for the past several years. **The ability to continue this work depends on all of us!**

Circumstances permitting, we hope to see as many of you as possible at Sherman Gardens for Coffee and Conversation the morning of September 13<sup>th</sup>. Beyond that, we are doing our level best to resume our luncheons, starting in November. The plan in November is for no speaker, just a great opportunity to spend time together. Also, Professor Holly Poe Durbin of the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts has agreed to present ***Time Travel Through Vintage Clothes*** at our luncheon in February of next year. Please be careful, stay healthy, and we all look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul Kanter  
President



## Meet the Scholars

### **BERNARDO CORTEZ-PANIAGUA**

Bernardo is an exceptional young man. He served in the United States Army for six years after graduating from high school. The experiences in the Army left Bernardo with injuries that still cause him difficulties, but he never gives up! After his stint in the service, he enrolled in Los Angeles Southwest College to complete the UCI transfer requirements and begin his studies towards becoming a medical doctor. His wife is on active duty in the US Army, and Bernardo currently works at LAX as a Safety and Management Specialist, supervising cargo and reviewing orders to be delivered to warehouses. We applaud him for his perseverance, and we thank both him and his wife for their service to this country.

*Dear Town and Gown members:*

*First and foremost, I'd like to thank you for the trust that your organization has bestowed upon me as a student. This scholarship is a steppingstone into this now undergraduate student becoming a surgeon in the near future. For as long as I can remember I dreamt of one day becoming a Trauma Surgeon and giving back to my community as well. Currently I am transferring from Los Angeles Southwest College to UC Irvine to study Public Health Policy. I hope to continue to have your support and nurture this opportunity as it will allow me to focus solely on my studies with less worry about finances. Thank you for this amazing opportunity and for believing in me.*

*Thank you in advance,  
Bernardo*



### **NAJA CHRISTMAS**

Naja is attending UCI with an eye towards law school and the four-plus-one program to become proficient in Korean. Her education has been interrupted repeatedly by her own health issues, the health issues of family, and financial responsibilities. At the age of sixteen she became the head of the household. But Naja has persisted. She is not a quitter. Her strong faith has supported her throughout her challenges, and she volunteers at Hillsong Los Angeles, Hillsong Orange County, Compassion International, and she has done mission work in Mexico and Korea.

*Hello, UCI Town & Gown,*

*My name is Naja Christmas. I wanted to write this letter and acknowledge your wonderful act of generosity towards me. In this life, we are taught many lessons, but often the act of assisting others is not one of them. People that go above and beyond the expectations of kindness are truly unique. These acts of thoughtfulness are very special to those who receive them. These scholarships change the trajectory of people's lives. I cannot express in written words what this means to me, I want to tell you that for an independent student whose parents died young—scholarships are lifesaving to me. They are the only reason I can pursue my degrees. The degrees I will receive are as much yours, as they are mine because we are a family now. You officially have a kid in college you can root for.*

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.**

## **Appreciating the Past**

### **ALL THINGS VINTAGE**

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**



DATE/TIME: Wednesday, October 20, 10:30 a.m.  
PLACE: The Bowers Museum, 2002 N Main St, SA  
SUBJECT: Two Exhibitions:

**The Miao: Masters of Silver** An exhibition of outstanding silver jewelry by Chinese Craftsmen

**The Artistic Legacy of Ann and Bill Cullen** Bill Cullen was the host of 'The Price is Right', and his wife, Ann, was a watercolor painter in the style of the Californian Plein Air. In addition to Ann Cullen's paintings, there are 53 paintings in their collection including Rex Brandt.

NOTE: We may eat at the Tangata Restaurant if it is open.  
CHAIRS: Denise Bletsos (714) 969-6413, Carol Cowden (949) 645-2922

### **FAMILY HISTORY MEMOIR WRITING GROUP**

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

Family History Memoir Writing group will tentatively continue to plan to meet outdoors, weather and COVID permitting.



DATE/TIME: Thursday, September 23, 11:00 a.m.  
DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 28 11:00 a..m.  
LOCATION: Locations and topics to be determined  
CHAIR: Deb Penley (949) 559-6726

**++++SOMETHING NEW: WALKING IN ORANGE COUNTY PARKS++++**

**Come join us for our first walk**

DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 28, 9:30 a.m.

WHAT: *The Huntington Beach Central Library and the Secret Garden*

PLACE: We'll start with breakfast at The Park Bench Café, 17732 Goldenwest, before we walk in the park.

DIRECTIONS: From PCH turn on Goldenwest. Proceed 2 ½ miles, pass the sports complex and the signal at Talbert (for the Senior Center/Library). The Park Bench is on the right. From the 405 proceed south on Goldenwest 2½ miles, pass Slater and Armstrong's Nursery. The Park Bench is on the left.

CHAIRS: Denise Bletsos (714) 969-6413, Diane Howell (714) 960-7170

**Enjoying Nature**

**BIRDERS**

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**



We meet the first and third Tuesdays. Lunch optional. Please arrive at the location by 8:15 so we can begin birding promptly at 8:30 AM. 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: Marlene Brajdic (714) 905-6641 [marlene.brajdic@outlook.com](mailto:marlene.brajdic@outlook.com), Mary Anne Skorpanich (714) 299-1863 [skorpanich@icloud.com](mailto:skorpanich@icloud.com)

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 5

PLACE: Crystal Cove State Park, 8471 N. Coast Hwy, LB. Fee \$15.00 or State Parks Membership or State Parks Annual Pass. The Park is located on the ocean side of PCH at the intersection of Newport Coast Drive at the Pelican Point entrance. Turn right after the entrance gate and drive to the last parking lot. Bring a scope if you have one. Lunch will be at the Beachcomber Cafe.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 19

PLACE: Irvine Regional Park, 1 Irvine Park Rd. OR. Fee: \$3.00 or OC Regional Parks Pass. From the 405, take Jamboree north as far as it goes, then turn right to reach the park entrance. Or, from 55 North take Chapman Ave east to Jamboree and turn left. In the park take the first left, then a quick left into parking lot. Bring a picnic lunch

## Book Discussion Groups

### BOOK CLUB

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER



DATE/TIME: Tuesday, September 21, 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Home of Gail Wheaton, 77 Hillsdale Dr, NB (949) 524-8779

BOOK: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

LEADER: Corinne Stover

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 19, 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Home of Connie Nelson, 995 Hartford Way, CM (714) 549-4902

BOOK: *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamante

LEADER: Barbara Paulson

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

### LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS AND AUTHORS Via Zoom

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

DATES/TIME: Mondays September 27 and October 25, 7:00 p.m.

WHAT: Talk about books and Authors

PLACE: Zoom – RSVP for the Zoom invite – [the4ryders@gmail.com](mailto:the4ryders@gmail.com)

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



## Games

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

### BRIDGE

*Congratulations to the new Chair, Ann Shonstrom*

DATE/TIME: Thursday, September 9, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 14, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, 1601 Bayside Dr, CdM

DETAILS: *Note the new start time – 10:30 a.m. We have lunch at BCYC.*

***Contact chair for reservations or cancellations.***

COST: \$4.00 plus your lunch at the club

CHAIR: Ann Shonstrom: (949) 786-3062; [shonstroms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shonstroms@sbcglobal.net)



## MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Mexican Train Dominoes is back! We play on the third Thursday of the month. It is easy to learn, and everyone is welcome to join. Come and have an afternoon of fun and conversation!



DATE/TIME: Thursday, September 16, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 21, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Home of Cathey Ryder, 19882 Felcliff Ln, HB  
DETAILS: Please RSVP to [pamelakirk@cox.net](mailto:pamelakirk@cox.net) or text (949) 422-4579  
CHAIR: Pam Kirkendall (949) 422-4579

### Arts Appreciation

## MUSIC

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

#### HOPE IS ON THE HORIZON!!



Currently, all Town and Gown music remains cancelled indefinitely, but pandemic concerns allowing, we now hope to be able to resume our monthly miniconcerts in October of this year. \* 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: **Regents' Point Senior Living Community\***, 19191 Harvard Ave, IRV  
CHAIR: Paul Kanter (310) 991-8519, Elisabeth Hoskins (949) 646-3074

\*Diane Howell was able to secure the sponsorship of Regent's Point resident/Town and Gown member Ann Harrington and the facility has tentatively put us on their schedule commencing in October 2021, for which we are most grateful.

## NEEDLEWORK AND FRIENDS GATHERING

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

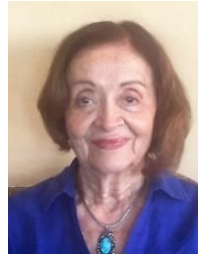
DATE/TIME: Friday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Zoom meeting  
DETAILS: We will have our usual format. Scavenger Hunt, a Needlework segment, Kitchen Sharing and Trivia Game. As we get closer to the date, we will email you the specifics.  
CHAIRS: Carolyn Woolhouse (714) 401-0821, [eclecticsentiment@gmail.com](mailto:eclecticsentiment@gmail.com) or Carol Freund (949) 786-7828, [ecfreund1@cox.net](mailto:ecfreund1@cox.net)



**PLEIN AIR PAINTING**

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

We will be meeting in September at Central Park in Huntington Beach. In October at the Newport Back Bay. Hope everybody will be well by then (Eula Casselman broke her hip but she is recovering nicely). Hope to see you soon



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

**Food, Fun, and Friends**

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

**HAPPY HOUR WITH FRIENDS**

We so enjoyed the patio bar at the Spaghetti Bender on PCH in July that will repeat the experience on Thursday, September 23 at 4:30pm. You must RSVP to Cathey Ryder at [the4ryders@gmail.com](mailto:the4ryders@gmail.com) or call (714) 470-1353.

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

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**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)

**In Memoriam**

Jane Wilderman  
Suzanne Peltason



## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 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 and Authors Via Zoom (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)

### **TUESDAY:**

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

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

### **WEDNESDAY:**

10:00 a.m., All Things Vintage (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

1:00 p.m., Family History Memoir Writing Group

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

### **THURSDAY:**

10:30 a.m., Bridge (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

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

5:00 p.m., Happy Hour with Friends (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)

### **FRIDAY:**

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