



# Cooperatively Yours



**BSC Graduation, May 2016**

**Our graduates express "Special Thanks" to our alumni for giving back!**

## From the President

*Kevin Haroldo Ramirez, President of the Berkeley Student Cooperative for 2016-17, is a UC Berkeley student majoring in philosophy and legal studies. He plans on applying to law school, and has an interest in working for the non-profit sector or government.*

## Dear Alumni,

I am very pleased to introduce myself to all alumni receiving this newsletter.

I am very passionate about the BSC. The BSC has a mission that means a lot to me as a low-income, first-generation college student. I am honored to serve a student-governed organization that has provided me with an affordable home while I attend one of the best schools in the country, and a chance to grow as a leader.

I was born and raised in the Los Angeles Area by immigrant parents from Mexico and San Salvador. My parents taught me that life comes with struggles and choices. Because of my parents, I am not willing to give up on my goals. I did not have the luxury of tutors or a good high school. But my parents' work ethic, good grades, and good mentors in LA Pierce College and LA Valley community colleges helped get me into UC Berkeley.

**I actually got into UCLA, too, but because of the BSC, I was able to afford Berkeley.** I have resided most of my time at Andres Castro Arms,

*Continued on page 2*

**Cooperatively Yours  
relies on content  
from alumni!**

**Submission  
deadline for  
Spring 2017  
February 1, 2017**

**Contact**  
Madeleine Loh  
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but I have lived in the lovely Casa Zimbabwe as well.

My house-level positions include Kitchen Manager, Workshift Manager, and House President.

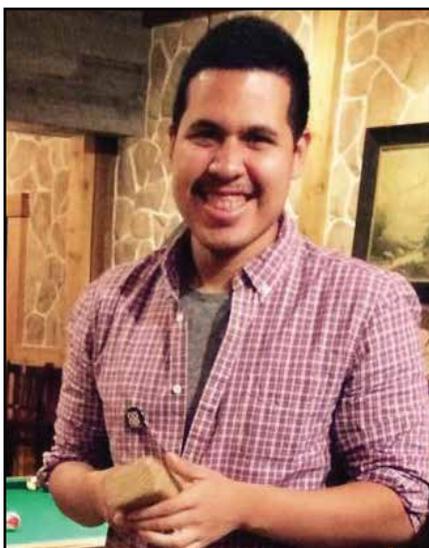
I've been affiliated with the Board of Directors for most of my time here. I have worked on Cabinet, various committees and task forces, and last year I was the Vice President of Experience & Training.

I'm extremely proud of what the BSC has accomplished, and what it has in store. The BSC is a multi-faceted organization that is always busy with activity at every level.

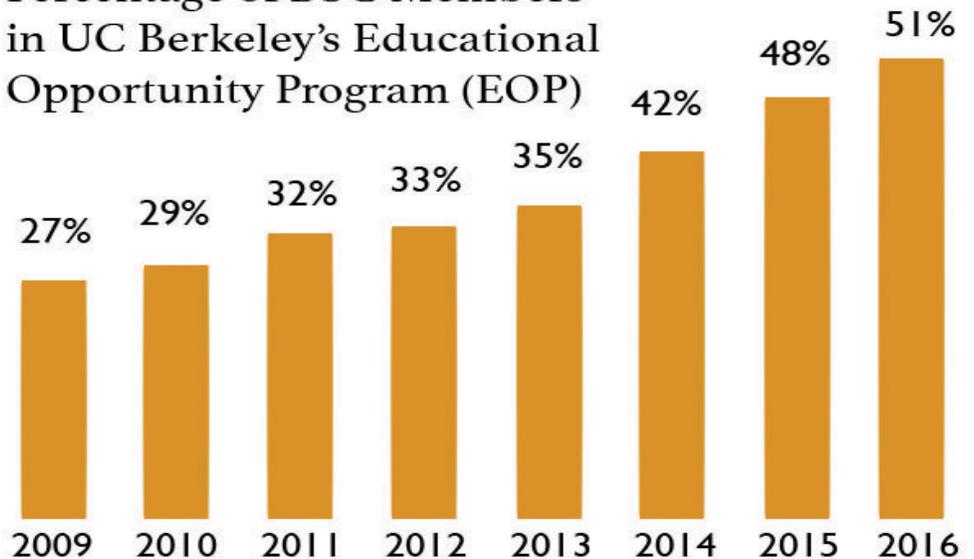
Without the BSC, my life would be actually very different now. I know from speaking to some of you that the BSC has been important to you in a similar way. I hope you enjoyed my story, and thanks for reading!

See ya at the CZ Block Party on September 25, or other alumni events!

Cooperatively,  
Kevin



## Percentage of BSC Members in UC Berkeley's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)



### From the President

Sometimes it is best to slow down and reflect on the big picture.

**The co-op is better meeting its mission.** Membership demographics—a key measurement of success—show that over 50% of members are low-income, 25% are transfer students, and 46% are first-generation. This is an increasing trend.

**Costs to members are staying low.** Room and board is only \$750/month. Many factors contribute to this, including initiatives to impact operating revenues and costs. These changes allow BSC leadership to increase spending on essentials like capital maintenance and scholarships, while keeping rent low.

Here are some of the projects we will focus on in the coming year to serve the larger mission:

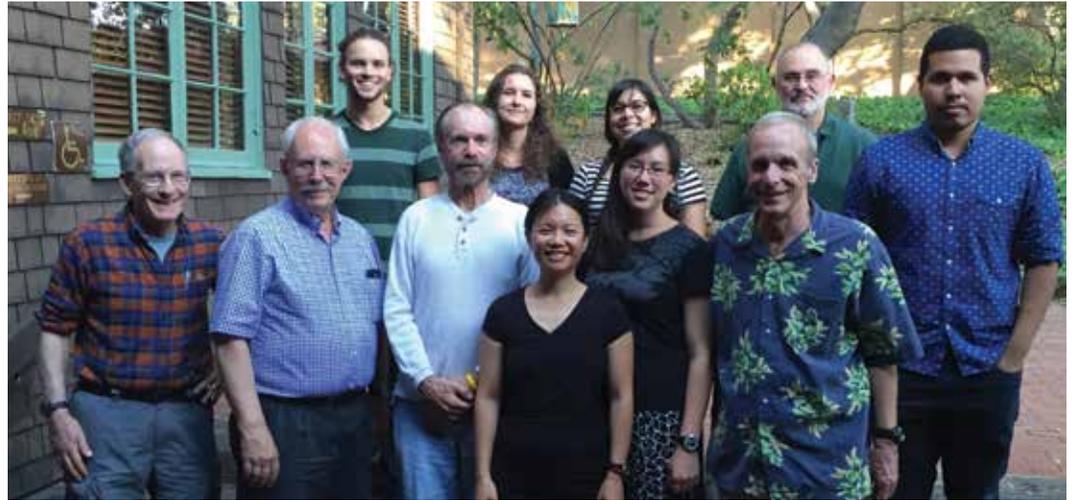
**Theme House Support Initiative.** As many of you know, Andres Castro Arms is now our Person of Color (POC) Theme House. The house is already full, with a waitlist, for Fall 2016. To ensure the Castro's success as a theme house, as well as the success of our other theme houses (Oscar Wilde, Lothlorien, and African-American), we are looking at ways to better support these students and programs.

**Revamped education for members and house managers.** We're excited about the continued growth of our peer education groups, led by trained BSC members, on topics such as Consent and Anti-Oppression. We also want to better equip managers to deal with the many interpersonal, health, conduct, and housekeeping issues that are inevitable in student housing.

**Empowering members and staff to be more involved in policy making.** Now Board will provide direction for policies, but ultimately staff and membership will play a larger role in developing policy specifics.

Continued from page 1

In June, The BSC held a Special Give Postmortem Party for our local volunteers to celebrate results and brainstorm ideas for next year's campaign. We were joined by Kevin Ramirez, the BSC President, and Kim Benson, the BSC Executive Director.



Special Give 2016 raised over \$93,000, a marked increase from 2015 results. We are particularly pleased with the high level of engagement by recent alumni. 83 out of the 390 donors graduated in the last 10 years. That's 21%, a high proportion of our alumni population when you consider that we have been around for over 80 years.

Our Special Give volunteers were critical to the Special Give campaign. They turned \$41,500 from our generous challenge donors into \$93,000. They spread enthusiasm and support for the BSC and our mission — making a critical difference to students who couldn't otherwise afford a college education. And, their high spirits made the Special Give campaign fun for each other and for me!

Special Thanks also go to our generous Challenge Donors, who saw an opportunity to invest in the future of the BSC and encouraged us to expand alumni support. Three hundred ninety donors stepped up to the challenge — thank you!

**Madeleine Loh**  
BSC Development Director

## BSC Special Give Performance\*

Compared with Cal Big Give

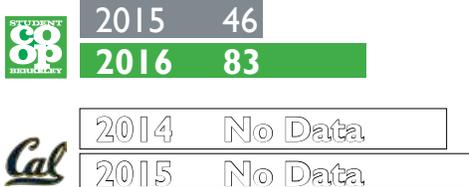
\*As of 21 days after end of campaign

### Total Donations

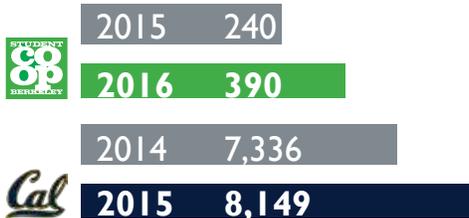


### Recent Alumni\*

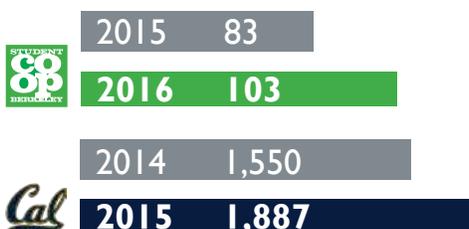
\*(Graduated in last 10 years)



### # of Donations



### First-Time Donors



## Special Give Challenge Donors

- Ted Akulian
- Anonymous (Davis House, Kidd Hall)
- TZ Chu
- Al Davenport
- John Ehrlich
- Steve Greenberg
- Sara Ishikawa
- Carl Larson
- Richard Lira
- Carol Norberg
- Bob Reyes
- Omar Shakill
- Ruth Spear
- Anonymous (Cloyne)
- Anonymous (Barrington)

## Special Give Volunteer Team

- Nancy Brigham Blattel
- Russ Button
- Al Davenport\*
- Steve Greenberg
- Nick Hamilton
- Joe Homer
- Jon Lampman
- Richard Lira\*
- Katrina McLaughlin
- Michelle Nacouzi
- Tori Partridge
- Bonnie Prestridge
- Elissa Roy
- Karen Tkach
- Michael Tripp
- Alfred Twu
- Steve Wood

\*Special Give Co-Chairs.

### Selena Feliciano, 2015

1) This place stinks, literally.  
 2) I quickly got over the bad smell and couldn't get myself to move out. I lived nearly 3 years in the big yellow castle with intelligent humans I am honored to call friends.



3) Dance parties in the kitchen, lots of Shakira. Too many wonderful memories to count.  
 4) Lots of my former housemates. I currently live with 2 of them!  
 5) Lil B.

### Elissa Roy, 2009

1) I was struck by the variety of self expression. Everybody was fully themselves, whether they were jocks, punks, hippies, geeks, mainstream, fringe, monkeys, darlings, religious leaders...



2) My thoughts didn't change much. If anything, I was a little disappointed when some newer Czars didn't seem to share some of the same values I had come to know as definitive in CZ: being as self-sufficient as possible and making as much as we could in-house, tackling big projects by working together. But it's their house now so I'm happy I was there and got to know it as I did.

3) All of them are my favorites, even the heartbreaks. I wouldn't be who I am today without knowing all of you.

4) I've kept in touch with a lot of people. We had a wonderful "little" reunion last summer - I've heard everyone had a blast.

5) As many as possible!

**"SO MANY THINGS CANNOT BE PRINTED HERE!"**

**-Tim Blair**

## Meet the CZ/RP 50th Anniversary Committee

Bill Ball

Rodney Ferguson

1) What did you think when you first moved into CZ?

Tim Blair

Elissa Roy

2) How did your thoughts change over time?

Koushik Datta

Rami Rubin

3) What are your favorite memories?

Selena Feliciano

4) Who have you kept in touch with?

5) Who would you like to see?

### Rodney Ferguson, 1986

1) First, I thought the place was a mess and smelled funny, but then saw the beer fridge.



2) Wild horses couldn't drag me away. What wasn't there to like about freedom and cooperativism. I mean I could live in a place that students actually ran. The co-op was and is a successful alternative to capitalism.

3) Things I don't remember and people I wouldn't forget.

4) Facebook is a wonderful thing.

5) Honestly, I would love to see those who didn't make it, but I know that reunions are not about who got fat, or lost hair, but about being fortunate enough to make it. Reunions are a celebration of life.

### Bill Ball, 1969

1) It was brand new and beautiful with pristine white plaster walls with redwood highlights. Modern, clean and with an adventurer feeling, being the first large co-ed university living facility at Berkeley.



2) I loved my entire time there. We formed a tight bond that survives to this day.

3) Our "house mother" Heidi. She set the tone for Ridge Project with her open, joyful, down to earth demeanor.

4) Around 40 to 50 of the original 127 residents are in regular contact with each other and have had at least one large reunion every year for the last 15 years or so.

5) Anybody from the early days (late 60s), particularly founding residents. As well as many current residents as possible.

# CZRP 50th ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY

September 25, 2016  
Everybody is invited!

[bsc.coop/cz](http://bsc.coop/cz)



**Top Dog & El Tonayense Food Trucks**  
**Live Music by John Brothers Piano Co**  
**Beer Garden**

## Weekend Pre-Party Events

### Friday Night Poker on Euclid

Limited to first 50 players

Contact: Rodney Ferguson, [rodthetrel@yahoo.com](mailto:rodthetrel@yahoo.com)

### Saturday Tilden Park Social Hike

Contact: Rodney Ferguson, [rodthetrel@yahoo.com](mailto:rodthetrel@yahoo.com)

### Saturday BBQ for the 1960s in Walnut Creek

Contact: Bill Ball, [billb\\_msn@msn.com](mailto:billb_msn@msn.com)

**Sunday September 25, 2016, 12-5pm**

2422 Ridge Rd., Berkeley, CA

Your entry ticket includes food and drink!

SAVE \$5 before September 1

\$30 general/\$20 recent grad advance tix

Reserved parking available for advance purchase

Tickets and info: [bsc.coop/cz](http://bsc.coop/cz)

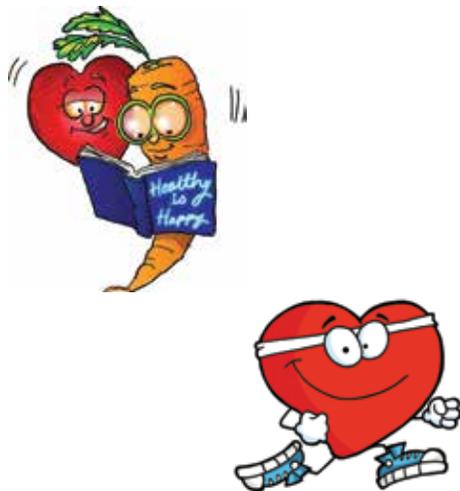
# Health Workers At The BSC

The BSC has its own health worker program, which is similar to the health worker program operated by UC Berkeley dormitories. Each BSC house or apartment has its own health worker, a position that satisfies the workshift requirement. They offer peer counseling and host health and wellness events at their houses, such as a meditation hour, a hike, or an in-house yoga class.

As the BSC Health Education Coordinator, I organize trainings and meetings for the health workers. We want our health workers to be someone who members feel is easily accessible and knowledgeable about basic health needs and community resources. During the year, we meet with representatives from organizations like the UC Berkeley Tang Center, Planned Parenthood, Student-to-Student Peer Counseling, and more. The health workers also write a health tip every month that can be about any topic they choose. Overall, the health worker program promotes health and wellness to students who are often too busy to focus on themselves.

I first became involved with the health worker program as a health worker at Euclid. I became the Health Education Coordinator because I wanted to take a broader role in health promotion at the BSC. One of the things I'm most proud of in the past year was the BSC-wide yoga workshop we organized before finals week, where we also handed out free blue books, scantrons, and lavender candles to members who attended. The best part of the BSC health worker program is that we strive to make health a priority, even in times of stress.

**Marisa Maisiak**  
Current BSC Member



Marisa Maisiak, the BSC Health Education Coordinator, lives in Rochdale Village and is majoring in Molecular & Cell Biology. She's applying to medical school.



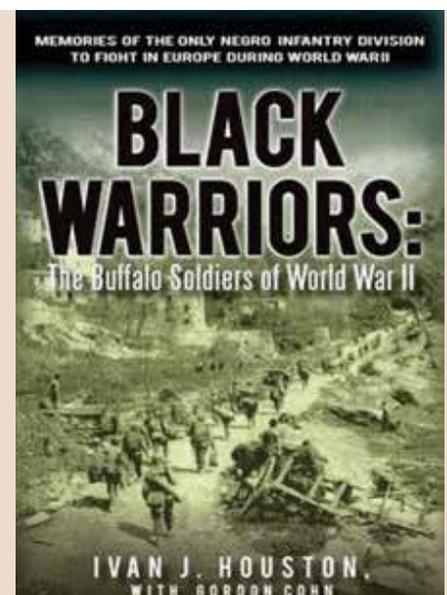
She is pictured here in front of the medical supply cabinet at Central Office, where the following supplies are available for all BSC Members:

- Bandages, \$0
- Hydrocortisone cream, \$0
- Burn gel, \$0
- Antibiotic cream, \$0
- Face masks, \$0
- Condoms and latex-free condoms, \$0
- Lube, \$0
- Gauze bandages, \$0
- Diva Cups, \$27
- Pregnancy Tests, \$1.50

## Excerpts from *Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II*

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“When I arrived on the Berkeley campus, I moved into Oxford Hall, one of the student cooperative housing units. Tuition then was a modest \$27.50 per semester, and room and board was only \$47. To make ends meet, I worked at least four hours a week at the co-op, washing dishes, clearing tables, and becoming an assistant cook. Housing in the student cooperatives was fully integrated; six of Oxford Hall’s approximately one hundred residents were Negroes.”



## Buffalo Soldier

I grew up in Los Angeles. My brother led me to the Co-ops. Norman lived in Oxford Hall in 1941. He was a varsity football letterman. How did he hear about it? It must have been through our family contacts. My grandmother was from Oakland, and my father was born in San Jose. My father was close to Walt Gordon, the first black football coach at Cal.

The Co-op fit our budget. And of course, at that time, black students couldn't live in university housing.

Oxford Hall was a mix of guys. Nobody was too well off. It was an easy transition for me and the other black students I knew from Los Angeles: Joe Oliver, Leroy Beavers, Jerome Duffy, Ralph Philips.

I remember doing a lot of kitchen work for my workshifts. We had a cook, and I was his helper. I must have learned something because eventually I became Sunday morning cook for Cloyne Court. I would get up very early and start cracking eggs. People weren't particular about what they ate. They ate whatever was put out. They might be more discriminating today.

There was usually something going on on the weekends. We had dances at Oxford Hall and invited girls from the women's co-op houses. We definitely didn't have bands; we just played records. There was interracial dancing, which was rare in those days. Occasionally the African-American students went to parties away from campus in Berkeley or Oakland. But I was not too social in that way, as I was on the young side, only 17. My main past time was sports—boxing and track and field.

Some of us made extra money by working in the naval shipyards in Richmond. I remember helping to install bunks in the troop transports.

The group at Oxford was pretty liberal. I think my roommate was a communist. I used to have to go to a barber shop at Sacramento and Ashby to get my hair cut. A bunch of guys urged me try to get my hair cut at the Student Union. They wanted to see if the Student Union would serve me. The Student Union did cut my hair. However it was a terrible haircut. They just did not have the skills or experience to cut black hair. I had to get it redone at my usual place.



After the War, I got married and had a little girl. We couldn't stay in University accommodations because of our race, so we lived with the Black shipyard workers in Richmond.

I was fortunate. I didn't pay any tuition when I was a Cal. I bought used books and lived in cheap housing. We got a tremendous education from outstanding professors for peanuts. I feel terrible for students today, generating huge amount of debt while going to school.

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**Ivan J. Houston**  
Oxford Hall, 1942-1944

### Pg. 15

“My transition from a student at the fully integrated University of California at Berkeley and Oxford Hall, where we danced with white girls from the other co-ops, to an infantry soldier in the fully segregated 92nd Division caused me no great frustration or anxiety. I knew in advance that this was the crazy way the army operated.”

### Pg. 206-207

“In retrospect I am amazed at what we men of the 92nd Division accomplished. We were fighting to defeat Nazi Germany, and we were fighting to free the Italians, who were the real victims of the war in Italy. We won the hearts and minds of those that we freed. You could see it in their eyes and gestures. You could feel it in their voices and hearts as we captured town after town, village after village. They loved us and showered us with hugs, kisses, and wine. Our color was no issue at all, and they were not critics.”



# Sherman Hall: Two Experiences

## The 1950's The Den of Iniquity

Esther (Epstein) Sabin grew up in Connecticut and moved with her mother to a chicken farm in Petaluma after graduating from high school. She attended Santa Rosa Junior College, which was tuition-free at the time, before transferring into UC Berkeley. Thanks to a Petaluma friend who lived in Oxford Hall, Esther moved directly into Sherman Hall.

“\$35 a month covered three meals a day, a change of sheets every other week, a house mother, and housing. We didn’t have much money at all. But we had our entertainment and dances. To save money, we decorated our dances with used flowers from the local funeral home.”

Esther met her husband Sigmund at one of these dances. Women who got engaged while living at Sherman Hall would anonymously place a box of candies at the House Mother’s place setting during dinner. After dinner was over, the new fiancée “announced” her engagement by passing out the candy to her housemates, simultaneously showing off her new engagement ring.

The mores of the time subjected women to curfews and lockouts. If a woman failed to “check in” with the House President before the curfew, she was “campused” -- ie, not allowed to go out on a date over the weekend. The boy who kept her out late was supposed to give her a

bouquet of flowers.

Workarounds to the rules included the “Den of Iniquity” in the basement, and the front porch, the scene of passionate kisses before the house mother flashed the porchlight to beckon the women back into the house.

Esther is still in touch with Sherman Hall friends Rosalind (Mann) Meisel and Lillian (Schroeder) Markenson. She shared these photos of Sherman Hall dances for our enjoyment!

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**Esther (Epstein) Sabin**  
Sherman Hall, 1949-1951



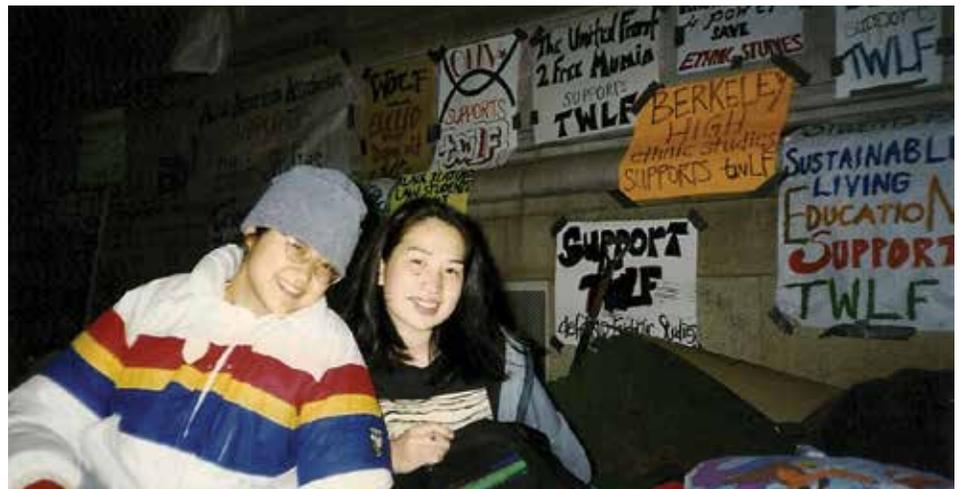
Sherman Hall Dances  
(1950s)

Photos Courtesy of  
Esther (Epstein) Sabin

## The 2000's Ethnic Studies Protest

At Sherman Hall, I admired the transfer students who tended to be in their early 20s, because they were more grounded and easy-going than us younger students, who went straight to Cal after high school. They would joke that Sherman Hall used to be a brothel, and being 17 years old, I half-believed them. Nicole, a Chicana transfer student, five years older than me, consoled me after I was unceremoniously dumped by my boyfriend over a phone call. She said my heart was broken, and I realized that was why I was so sad. She sat next to me during dinner and helped me muster up my appetite. I also liked eating dinner and laughing while watching episodes of "The Simpsons" with my fellow Shermanites.

In 2000, there was a campus protest due to the proposed financial cuts on the Ethnic Studies department. Students were



Stephanie (left) and Amy (right) at the Ethnic Studies protest on campus in 2000

camping in front of Chancellor Berdhal's office daily. On a couple of nights, the police harassed students by shining lights at them so they couldn't sleep, and some arrests were made. I was compelled to show support for the seven students who went on a hunger fast along with other students and community groups. Amy Lau, a fellow Shermanite, went with me to sleep out a night in protest. I borrowed a sleeping bag from another Shermanite, Yoko. It was a wonderful, high-spirited, optimistic night and I felt larger than my individual self. There were hundreds of students

and luckily, no police came. In the morning, I carried my sleeping bag and walked across campus. It crossed my mind that I looked like a homeless person, but I felt like I accomplished the mission and it was worth it.

While living at Lothlorien, a fellow elf taught me how to play chess. We were studying at the International House café and he bribed me to get the chessboard at Loth with a free drink. So I got the chess board. He withdrew from school for a year and traveled across Europe competing in chess tournaments. He had the rating

of a grandmaster. He gave me my first chessboard. Many years later, I needed a little job, and started teaching chess to elementary school students. I am grateful he taught me chess.

Another memorable character was the Kitchen Manager at Lothlorien. He had long blond hair and blue eyes. He made up the rule that you can get time and a half if you cooked naked. And to set the example, he did it, but he wore chaps and an apron! He was from the East Coast and went to an Ivy-League preparatory boarding school, which I never knew existed. He told me about Buddhist prayer flags and the dharma wheel that perpetually spun, which I never heard of before either. One day while walking in the mountains behind the co-ops, during a study break, I saw what he described, and that began my interest in learning and practicing Buddhism.

On another occasion, Lothlorien had a tradition of having a Fall Brunch with magnificent vegetarian fresh food, music, and performances. There has always been a fruit tart in the gigantic co-op dimensional pan, measuring 3 foot by 4 foot. When I walked into the room while they were making it, his girlfriend threw pieces of fruit at me so I wouldn't see what they were making. The Kitchen Manager made one with my name spelled out with an array of fresh fruit and berries for my birthday. I was very touched and surprised.

Jeremy was another elf who stands out in my memory because of his kindness, despite his sharp wit. Something we all asked each other was, "What is your major?" I told him I was taking pre-medicine classes and he said abruptly that I

was doing that because my parents wanted me to be a doctor. I was so stunned by that brash honesty that I couldn't respond. I thought it was harsh, but later on, I realized he was partially right. But before I even realized that, he apologized saying I should pursue those studies if I chose to. He later would check in on me to see if I was wearing a helmet when I rode my bike, and if I brought food with me when I went on the airplane. I see now that this was his way of showing he cared about me.

I make personal hygiene beauty and cleaning products with natural, organic plants to minimize harm to the body and environment. It gives me joy and satisfaction to educate myself and others on what ingredients are in the products I use and to make an alternate version friendly towards the environment, health, and budget. I used to be too busy to think about what I put on and in my body and how that impacted the environment and other life, but meditation and slowing down has allowed me to contemplate that. I may not make a spectacular income, but I am happy and content with what I do. I also write to create and add to the world's beauty.

I would like to hear from Nicole, a Shermanite, because she acted like a big sister to me with her soft and wise affection. I would also like to see the former Kitchen Manager at Lothlorien, the chess player, and Jeremy, to thank them for their insights into whom I was that made me learn more about myself and align my values with how I spend my time today.

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**Stephanie Lee**  
Sherman Hall 1997-2001  
Lothlorien 1998



# Oscar Wilde Reunion



Oscar Wilde House is best described as an experience of grand proportions. Living at Wilde this year has challenged me to rethink every aspect of identity I had brought with me to UC Berkeley. Through dialogue and friendship with house members, I learned an incredible amount about myself- not only about my gender identity and sexuality, but also about my passions, politics, and values- for which I will always be grateful. On Saturday, April 23rd, over 60 Wildebeests packed into the Wilde living room to share in years of queer kinship made possible by the unique opportunity of living in our queer co-op.

For older alumni, the house had considerably changed- notably

the addition of dozens of murals and two stripper poles. We were also reminded of the progress since 1999 to further the rights of LGBTQ people, and the work that still needs to be done. Yet, a theme of the speeches given during the night seemed to be the continuity of Wilde's house spirit. Wilde has acted a catalyst for creativity, community, and ventures into discovering the possibilities of authentic identity. It was humbling to hear about the pioneers of the house who occupied our queer home in a different era. Wildebeests of different cohorts, ranging from the founding class to current house members, came together in community to reflect on the impact our house has made in our lives.

I was intrigued to discover the origins of some of our most quintessential Wilde house traditions. Wilde alumni Jeff Koo and Gina Cardazone explained the Wilde marriage ceremony, a practice originating at a time when same-sex marriage was illegal in California. Every year, new house members become engaged to the house upon arrival, and proclaim some sort of commitment when moving out. Jeff and Gina shared the story of an elaborate rooftop marriage ceremony which involved a false bride and a massive feast for which the kitchen manager had budgeted weeks in advance.

Our reunion would not have been possible without the leadership and enthusiasm of



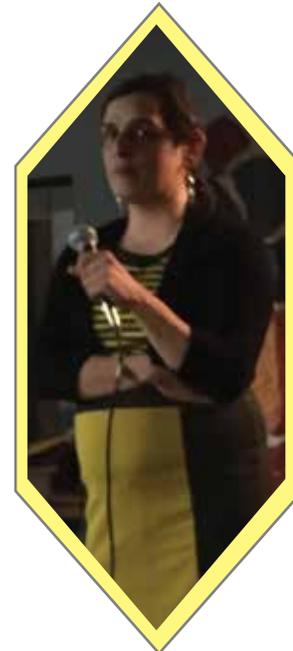
the beloved Wildebeest, Alfred Twu, and the various Wilde house managers who contributed time and support to make our evening so memorable. The event was also made possible due to the generous contributions of the BSC Alumni Association. Of course, a thanks is in order for all the Wildebeasts in attendance whose compassion and liveliness made for an unforgettable evening.

Here's to the peace and prosperity of Wildebeests everywhere- and to next year's reunion!

**Matthew Travers**  
Current BSC Member



*Oscar Wilde Alumni Jeff Koo (left) and Gina Cardazone (right) explained the Wilde marriage ceremony, a practice originating at a time when ame-sex marriage was illegal in California.*



# ALUMNI NOTES



**David Trachtenberg  
Barrington,  
Kingman  
1978-1980**

Upon unpacking my suitcase in Barrington Hall I promptly nailed up a blanket to the ceiling to separate myself from my new roommate. That was a real dick move. But soon the blanket came down and Thomas and I became fast friends.

After a semester at Barrington I moved across town to Kingman Hall which was bucolic by contrast.

For several years my shift at Kingman was the Thursday night dinner crew with friends Eric and Suzanne which I always really enjoyed.

After not seeing each other for 14 years I ran into my old college roommate, Beth Brumbaugh, and within a year, we were married and pregnant with our first child. We've been a pair for 23 years and have two great kids, a couple of dogs and a vegetable garden. Life couldn't be better.

I've had my own architectural practice here in Berkeley for 25 years and have made a mark on the town that I love.

I grew up in and around communal life, which resonates with me. As we get older, our circle of friends dream of some form of co-housing as a way to age in place and stay in community.

**Michele Woods Jones  
1966-1969**

I was one of the original residents of Ridge Project. What I loved most was the opportunity to learn from the wide array of fellow students from all over the world. My first year I was in a triple with two Jewish women. Our relationships blossomed and I learned so much about Jewish traditions and beliefs. As a Catholic, this was an eye-opening experience. I believe that my career in multicultural communication and conflict resolution is directly related.

Work shifts were: 1st floor bathroom, Central Kitchen, and House Council.

I established two lifelong friendships with Linda Lee and Susan Lease. One of my best friends in neighboring Ridge House, John Ireland, died while on vacation in Hawaii. He was a beautiful spirit with an open and inclusive value system. He was a genuine ally with respect to race relations.

A student named Yogi was fascinating. He had a photogenic memory. I was an EOP student who studied day and night. He spent his time visiting and sleeping, but maintained a 4.0 GPA!!! There was an architecture student, Michael McDonald, who was so bright and talented and committed to exploring his creativity. We often worked into the night on projects and papers. He was thoughtful and kind. I will never forget him.

I have experienced many leadership positions in administration, counseling

and conflict resolution. I spent three years in International Conflict Resolution, mostly in eastern Europe. For the past 10 years, I have managed my own consulting business in strategic planning, organizational development, multicultural communication and conflict resolution.

However, what brings me the most joy is my role as Nana to four wonderful granddaughters.

I would welcome seeing any of the great people I lived and studied with from 1966 to 1969. I have great memories of life in the COOPS!!



**Yelda (Mesbah) Bartlett  
CZ, Castro, Rochdale  
1996-2001**

Debbie Lin (Castro) and I attended Megan Stewart's (Castro) wedding in Santa Cruz on June 11th. It was super fun and made us nostalgic for the times when we only had to go down the hall to see each other

I am celebrating my 8th year as an attorney. My husband Ben and I live in South Berkeley. Ben and I are involved in local politics.



*Michele Woods Jones*

**Ross Kilburn  
Chateau, Fenwick, Lothlorien  
1987-1988**

At Chateau I met my good friend Julian Dierkes. The last I heard he had joined a Mongolian tribe of yak herders as part of his University of British Columbia professorship.

At Lothlorien I was on the Board and was a member of the Intensive Kitchen Experience.. IKE was a pre-dawn, Grateful Dead inspired deep kitchen cleaning meditation.

I feel really blessed to have met so many brilliant, creative, inspiring people at Lothlorien. One of the main reasons why I continue to provide financial support to the BSC is because I hope to create an opportunity for others to be equally moved during their college years.

I'm currently leading a law firm that focuses on debtors rights. We help people get their financial lives back on track.

In my spare time I dabble in homesteading, permaculture, water catchment, progressive politics and jumping in cold rivers. I love my '52 Ferguson tractor, '68 Jeepster Commando and '71 Honda motorcycle.

I would like to hear more about Jack Thorpe - my understanding is that he is involved in DNA communication fields that are embedded in business cards.

**Kevin Peterson  
Cloyne, Lothlorien  
1985-1989**

Cloyne's maintenance program inspired me, and at Loth I eventually became the Maintenance Manager, chaired MaintCom, and later OpCom,

and served as President. These days I'm a physician taking care of hospitalized elderly patients, which is profoundly satisfying. As my patients struggle with diseases presenting existential challenges, I am also confronted by my own mortality and am given daily the opportunity to reflect on how to best use my own life.

Hanging out in the Loth foyer, eating Sunday Brunch and reading to each other from the newspaper are some of my fondest memories.

If someone could help put me back in touch with Rob Schwarz, philosophy major and runner, I've been harboring a question for him for many years now and I haven't seen him at the Loth reunions I've attended.

**Peter Simmons  
Oxford, Barrington, 1949-1950**

**The Absent Elephant**

In the spring of 1949 there were a substantial number of vets living and boarding at Oxford. There was a strong move by younger residents to purchase a TV, something opposed by many of the vets. I have no idea why they objected. Those debates occurred before I arrived at Oxford in the fall of 1949.

In the fall of 1949, the TV opponents adopted a strategy of proposing an alternative to buying a TV rather than simply saying NO to TV: they proposed buying an elephant.

The anti-TV group contacted an elephant vendor in India and learned that the price was reasonable; further, they contacted the (Knowland) Zoo in Oakland and the zoo agreed to house the elephant at no charge.

The venture fell apart because (allegedly) federal law required payment for a mahout to accompany the elephant. Further, (allegedly) federal immigration law required that a mahout could not enter the country unless someone posted a bond assuring that he would not become a burden on taxpayers.

The anti-TV organizers gave up at this point, discouraged by the potential expense of securing a bond. Oxford remained elephant-less ever after.

As workshift manager at Barrington, I had a single room on the first floor, immediately adjacent to the Haste Street door. My soon-to-be-wife shared the single room with me several nights a week [please don't tell our grandchildren!]. The arrangement worked reasonable well for us; we recently celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary.

I retired this past January after 50+ years as a law professor, including 18 years as dean of the Rutgers Law School.

**William (Bill) Blythe  
Ridge House, 1952-1954**

My favorite memories of Ridge House were the meals—usually good, but with plenty of bread, peanut butter and jam to fill out any empty spaces after dinner. I washed dishes and cleaned heads – nothing memorable, except maybe Sunday mornings cleaning toilets after a night of partying.

I now am retired, but for 42 years taught mechanics at San Jose State University and consulted in the automotive field. I received a BS in architecture and MS in Civil Engineering from Cal, and then

defected and took a Ph.D. from Stanford

My wife Bonnie (of 61 years) and I enjoy reading and traveling.

I roomed with Adrian Ruyle in the small room just to the left off the entryway. I'd like to hear from anyone who was at Ridge in the 1952-54 time period.



**Albie Davis  
Sherman Hall  
1954**

We lived next door to the Stadium. When the visiting football teams broke

training early, they stopped at Sherman Hall first. I remember a lovely fling with a football player from Penn State.

I learned to play bridge, or as we called it "One Hand!" We played throughout the evening,ade peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Dropped a grade point and gained ten pounds. I still love bridge.

My workshift went from dishwashing and dining room duties to Central Kitchen where I learned how to make great pies working side by side with the chef! His secret? "Don't overwork the dough." He used a dowel and flattened the dough with two strokes. Flipped it into a pie tin. I put in the filling, and attached the top pastry.

I never did get a BA. Had four children instead. Got a BA waiver at 40 and received my independent study Masters from Lesley College when I was 41. I worked as a director of a desegregation program in Boston until the federal funding stopped. I then worked for the

District Court Department of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, first as Director of Law Related Education, then Director of Mediation. I trained mediation trainers in Hungary and South Africa, and trained mediators in USA, Canada and Australia. I had also have a few articles published.

I made lots of great girlfriends in the Co-op: Christine Warren; Marion Nestle; Joan Laurence; Sara Ishikawa; Imogene . . . sorry whomever is left out. I love you all!



**Bernie Altman  
Cloyne Court, Northside  
1965-1970**

I have fond memories of an all-Co-op retreat (1966 or 1967) in La Honda, above Palo Alto. Everyone played "Thumper" except for the astrophysics Ph.D. candidate who brought along a solid state handbook for light reading.

My first semester I was burdened with pot wash at the old Central Kitchen in Oxford Hall. It was considered such an undesirable assignment that only four hours per week were required instead of five. Pot wash was all about grease. No amount of soap or hot water could get rid of the grease, and a lot of it came off on the drying towels. I had two back-to-back 2-hour shifts on Monday afternoons—when most everyone was gone, so it was also lonely besides being just dreadful.

I was later baker's help. I had to get up obscenely early, but we helped Mr. Johnson, the baker, prepare his wonderful cinnamon rolls. By far the best Co-op food in those days were Mr. Johnson's baked goods. I'd kill to taste one of his date bars again.

I was Food Services Chairman for two quarters. The first quarter I worked my tail off, haunting Central Office preparing mimeo re-heating instruction sheets. Essentially the instructions read, "Don't overcook the vegetables." I don't remember if the effort was successful or not, but I was commended by the Board. The second quarter I didn't work nearly as hard, and was reproved by the Board.

I am still working and threatening to retire but I'll continue as long as I still enjoy what I'm doing, which is Building Evaluation. A recent project was the Capitol Records Building in Hollywood; I've also looked the corporate HQ of Twitter in San Francisco, a 1920s office building on Broadway in New York, and a boat parts factory in Singapore.

My closest Co-op friends were other architecture students: Scott Goldsmith (now deceased), Tom Pedersen, Lee Fielder, Dennis Smith, Bob Candy—all from Cloyne. Pari Pierce (now Pedersen) from Hoyt and Ridge Project.



**Kerry Rose  
Barrington Hall, Rochdale  
1974-1977**

Most memorable "character" was definitely "Pink Cloud". I'm still in touch with so many friends that mean so much to me. Yeah Facebook. I loved Cal Athletics then and maybe even more now! I remember varnishing desks as a workshift assignment and being a manager bossing people around. I lived in a room that was small than a closet - but it was all mine.

No matter where I go or who I meet or what I do - my children are my greatest joy.

**Stephen Winslow  
Ridge House, Kingman Hall,  
Northside, 1987-1981**

Kingman was one of the first to assume all cooking duties (no more Central Kitchen). The cooks prepared fantastic meals, especially our quarterly "Special Dinners." I remember one Special Dinner followed by a dance jam, when I joined a carload of revelers who headed to Mt. Tam.

At Kingman I was workshift manager and my roommate Sandor was kitchen manager. I set up the workshift schedule so the bathrooms were cleaned nearly every day. We were a great team and Sandor was very skilled at budgeting for the meals. We accumulated a budget surplus, which we used to build a hot tub built by architecture student Chris Spaulding.

I went into environmental engineering and law (UC Davis) which brought my wife Helen and me to Massachusetts. I continue to do environmental work and community planning in Gloucester, Massachusetts. I carry on the BSC spirit of positive change in my work. I helped make Somerville and Boston into top bicycling communities on the East Coast.

Would love to hear from Sandor Weiner, Deb Bernstein and Carrie Smith who were a fun loving crew when I first arrived at Kingman. I still stay in touch with Leslie and Keith Nordman who met at Kingman, married and live in Palo Alto. Eric Blue from Ridge House enchanted all the freshman guys. Catherine Sananes (now Katz), great cook and French accent. Jim who sang Purple Rain. The P-Chem study group. Kingman had several boarders who were Iranian

students who went back to Iran in 1979 to join the revolution. I always wondered what happened to them.



**Susan (Stern) Conforti  
Lothlorien 1968-1982**

I remember fun times in the sauna and cooling ourselves off outside with a hose, the bad times when someone was upset and threw hot soup at me, and the weird times trying to convince nearby frat house members that vegetarians were patriotic citizens. I remember staying up all night talking with a fellow who lived (I think) above the kitchen, near whose room was a sign saying something like "Chappaquiddick - if you can't spell it, it doesn't matter" (a jab at Ted Kennedy). There were magazines arriving for "Tofu Miso" (tofu and miso soup were not well known yet) and there was an old vehicle that had dozens of bumper stickers, including, "Don't laugh, it's paid for." I learned that you can stop ants from invading by covering up their trails with talcum powder. I learned that you can get used to toilet stalls with no doors. I learned that you can put raw cubes of eggplant into green salads. I would love to reminisce with folks!



**Diane Louie Huntsinger  
Ridge House, 1966-1970**

In 1966, I was an incoming freshman and one of the first residents of the Ridge Project (now Casa Zimbabwe). I had just turned 17, and was smart enough to know that I didn't know a thing compared to all the "old folks" (some were even 19 and 20 years old!). I spent a lot of time listening and learning, and know that my Berkeley experience would have been much different and much less rich if I'd

lived in a dorm. The persons who taught me the most about life, music, and wine were Sean and Pam (Nunotani) Donahoe, Sharon (Mayer) and Larry Lewis, and William Ball. William and Rami Rubin have spearheaded many reunions for the Ridge Project and Ridge House alumni, so it's been great to keep track of most of them over the years.

I worked the switchboard and the snack bar, but my favorite shift was Tuesday breakfast cook because I liked cooking eggs to order. Years later I learned that my grandfather and great-grandfather were cooks, too. I just lost my job a few months ago, so will transition into retirement soon, I hope. My husband and daughter give me much joy.



**Rebekah Kouy-Ghadosh  
Davis House, Oscar Wilde  
2002-2004**

I lived in Wilde. One of my favorite memories was creating the Barbra Streisand memorial stairwell [She's not dead, but her career is]. What I'm doing now is running my company Bex Spex where I design eye glasses and sell them all over. I think having to problem solve on a daily basis in my work is something the coops prepared me for. When I was Kitchen Manager I had to figure out budgets and supply. It was a chance to give it a go on a smaller scale before branching out in my own creative venture.

The friends I still have from college are the ones I made while living at Wilde. I still see many of them with some regularity.

# In Memoriam

**Ted Klaseen and George Cooper were lifelong donors to the Berkeley Student Cooperative. We are honored that they were a part of our organization, and grateful for their support.**

## **George Cooper May 17, 1916 - April 8, 2016**

George graduated from UC Berkeley in 1940 with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. During his college years, he spent time working in the Sierra Nevada gold mines and lived in Sheridan Hall, which the BSC operated from 1934-1943 (the building is now Alpha Sigma Phi, on the corner of Piedmont and Dwight). George served as

House Manager, House President, and later President of the Berkeley Student Cooperative, which was then known as the "UCSCA."

George was a distinguished Air Force pilot during World War II, for which he earned many distinctions for his courage. After the war, he was a research test pilot for NASA. He participated in 30 test programs of propeller-driven and jet-propelled aircraft and collaborated with Robert Harper to what became the Cooper-Harper Scale, which continues to be used as the worldwide standard

for measuring aircraft handling qualities. He retired from NASA in 1973 as a chief of flight operations.

After retirement, George ventured into commercial winemaking, and was the founding winemaker of Cooper-Garrad Estate Vineyards in Saratoga.

George was married to UC Berkeley classmate Louise Garrod. They had four children and many grandchildren, some of whom of also lived in the Berkeley Student Cooperative.



## **Theodore A. "Ted" Klaseen May 8, 1923 – April 9, 2016**

Ted was born to a school teacher and a coal miner. After graduating from Fremont High School in Oakland, he started at UC Berkeley in 1939. In 1942 he reported for service in World War II. After being wounded, he returned to UC Berkeley in 1946. Ted worked as a manager at Oxford Hall and attended activities at the

YMCA, where Harry Kingman and Ed Duckles were inspirational models. Ted was a life-long supporter of the Berkeley Student Cooperative.

Ted married Violet Hardees Klaseen, with whom he had five children. He worked first as a dairyman, and then as a soil scientist. His activities were centered on peace or the environment. He and Vi were members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) in Modesto and then a part of anti-Vietnam war activities in Redding, including a weekly silent vigil that lasted the

duration of the war. At Redding First United Methodist Church Ted taught adult Sunday school classes, led the Social Concerns Commission, was a member of the Meditation Group, and served on the Board of Trustees and the Genocide No More: Save Darfur Committee.

He was one of the founding leaders of Shasta County's Habitat for Humanity and active in the Democratic Club and the Shasta County Citizens Against Racism (Shasta County Citizens Advocating Respect). He was also a hand glider.

## From The Berkeley Student Cooperative Alumni Association

**BSC Alumni Summer BBQ**  
**Saturday, August 20**  
**Noon - 4:00 pm**  
**Burlingame, CA**  
**(address provided upon RSVP)**

You are invited to a BBQ on the San Francisco Peninsula on August 20th. Come enjoy delicious food while meeting up with old friends and making new ones!

**RSVP at [bscaa.org](http://bscaa.org)**

Hosted by Justin and Cameryn Erickson, sponsored by the BSC Alumni Association.

**BSCAA Annual Meeting 2016**  
**Sunday, October 2**  
**11:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**Oscar Wilde House**

“Cooperative and Queer: The BSC & the LGBT Community”

Join members and friends of the BSC Alumni Association to catch up on the goings on of the BSC and Cal community over delicious food and drinks, and vote in new board members for the upcoming year. This year we're also happy to present a panel discussion about the intersection of the BSC and LGBT communities, and how they've developed together over the years.

**RSVP online at [bscaa.org](http://bscaa.org)**

Ballots for the upcoming board election will be mailed out to alumni in September, and available online at [bscaa.org](http://bscaa.org).

## Planned Giving at the BSC

**The BSC is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit. A legacy gift shows your willingness to invest in our mission now and in the future. Many of us cannot afford to make a major gift in our lifetimes. But we can set up a legacy gift now so that the BSC receives these great gifts in the future.**

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*The BSC is proud to partner with Silicon Valley Community Foundation to provide estate planning options to our alumni, including charitable gift annuities.*



- ✓ Income for life (4-9%)
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## Donate to the BSC!

The BSC is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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- Where It Is Needed Most

## Join the Alumni Association

The BSCAA is a separate 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

For questions about the BSCAA, contact the president, Analise Smith-Hinkley, at [aesmithhinkley@gmail.com](mailto:aesmithhinkley@gmail.com)

### Lifetime Membership, BSC Alumni Association

- \$500 Lifetime Membership
- \$250 Recent Grad Lifetime Membership

### Annual Membership, BSC Alumni Association

- \$50 Annual Membership
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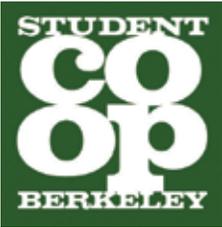
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# Address Update

[bsc.coop/alumni/update](http://bsc.coop/alumni/update)

Moved? Changed your name? Different email address? Let us know so we can keep you informed about local events and BSC news that matters to you. Use the online form, or just contact Madeleine Loh at (510) 649-8984 or [mloh@bsc.coop](mailto:mloh@bsc.coop)



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