

# Cooperatively Yours

Spring 2025



## BSC Love Stories: From Community to Connection

by Kaitlyn Pastor (Hoyt '23-'25)  
BSC Publications Coordinator

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Edited by David Appelbaum,  
Nancy Blattel, Kaitlyn Pastor, and  
Portia Lewis.

Designed by Kaitlyn Pastor.

### Contact BSC:

[www.bsc.coop](http://www.bsc.coop)  
(510) - 848 - 1936  
2424 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA  
94709

The Berkeley Student Cooperative has always felt more like a lived-in, ever-evolving home than just student housing. With its sense of community, collaborative spirit, and the occasional quirky tradition, the co-ops offer something deeply human: a place where people show up for one another. From shared meals and chore charts to rooftop conversations and house meetings, life in the co-ops is filled with small, meaningful moments that bring people together. And while most residents come seeking connection, support, or simply a roof over their heads, a lucky few end up finding something even more enduring—a partner for life.





Wallace Trujillo, an Army veteran who transferred to UC Berkeley in 1965, arrived with no expectations of romance. He had lived in barracks and mess halls, and the idea of cooperative housing with shared chores and meals seemed like a natural fit. Assigned to Oxford Hall, Wallace found a sense of structure and community that mirrored his military experience but also allowed him to grow in new ways. As he became more involved in house leadership, eventually serving as House Manager, he found purpose in organizing projects, budgeting, and helping govern a space that was both dynamic and welcoming.

It was through one of those community-focused projects that Wallace met Anne Meltesen, the woman who would later become his wife. Anne had transferred to Sherman Hall from the dorms at the beginning of her junior year. After helping with a donation campaign for the Ridge Project, a new co-op initiative at the time, the two met each other at a fundraising group celebration movie night, a Beatles double bill. What began as a shared sense of purpose soon turned into walks, late-night conversations and a growing connection.

Looking back, Wallace reflects not only on the practical lessons he gained during his time in the co-ops, but also on the deeper impact it had on his life. “I gained a best friend, wife, and life partner,” he said. “Living at the co-op helped me develop a clearer understanding of my academic abilities, my ability to be a problem-solver, and to organize.” For Wallace, the co-ops offered more than housing—they provided a foundation that shaped his future both personally and professionally.



*“I gained a best friend, wife, and life partner”*

*-Wallace Trujillo*

*“...Living at the co-op helped me develop a clearer understanding of my academic abilities, my ability to be a problem-solver, and to organize.”*

Across time and just a few co-op houses over, another love story was beginning in Ridge Project during the early 1980s. Susan Bibler Coutin, now a professor at UC Irvine, was a sophomore when she moved into Ridge Project with a close friend. There, she met Curt Coutin, a senior who lived in a double room across the hall. “We were assigned to the same workshift in Fall 1980, when I first moved into Ridge Project. He was a senior, two years ahead of me, and skinny, with curly black hair. We lived across the hall from each other.”

Despite being new to Ridge Project, Curt landed a double because his roommate, who had seniority, brought him in. “The five of us (my triple and his double) spent lots of time together over fall and winter, becoming close friends,” she shared, “then at the end of winter quarter, we were all sitting in the dining room, and we planned to go see the movie *Altered States*, but then everyone except me and my future husband backed out. So it was just the two of us—our first date! I guess we were both too shy to ask each other out.”

“Soon, we were a couple, and several years later, while I was in graduate school, we got married. My husband’s roommate from his double at Ridge Project was our best man.”

The co-ops do not promise romance. What they offer is something far more rare: the space for people to show up authentically. In the shared kitchens and crowded dining rooms, through debates at house meetings and late-night rooftop talks, students let their guards down. They form friendships, build trust, and sometimes, when the timing is just right, fall in love.

Within the walls of these old houses, love has taken root quietly, steadily, and beautifully. And though every resident’s co-op story is different, for a lucky few, it ends with the person they will grow old with. It is a quiet reminder that even in the midst of academic pressures, everyday chaos, and the noise of a fast-moving world, something extraordinary can still take shape when people choose to live with intention and heart.

If you’ve ever looked back and realized that love was quietly taking shape all along in familiar hallways, laughter-filled kitchens, or the stillness after a long day, your story belongs here too. Feel free to share your stories, whether they’re about friendship or love, at [publications@bsc.coop](mailto:publications@bsc.coop)!

*The co-ops do not promise romance. What they offer is something far more rare: the space for people to show up authentically.*

# The BSC Garden Takes Root

by Eytan Stanton (KNG Garden Manager since Fall '22)  
BSC Garden Revitalization Plan | Project Lead

It was a crisp and sunny Friday afternoon in February, perfect for our first construction workday. Several Garden Managers from across the co-ops gathered at Rochdale Village Apartments to break ground on our soon-to-be Garden Manager Hub. With pick axes, measuring tapes and shovels in tow, we set out to clear an overgrown, trash-ridden and otherwise neglected section of Rochdale's Davis Park.

Within a few hours of our first workday, the brambles were gone, the junk was sorted and the rocky soil was roughly evened. To finish the job, Gloria Estefan's Conga blasting from our speaker provided the requisite 120 bpm rhythm for us to dance, jump and otherwise compact the now level platform of our soon to be nursery.

Just a few months prior, we were touring horticultural institutions around the East Bay to learn what it takes to grow healthy plants from seed. From grassroots food sovereignty projects to state-of-the-art botanical garden nurseries, we noted the systems and tools that brought their seeds to life. This was our first step towards creating a cooperatively run nursery of our own, on BSC property. Without cost and transportation barriers, we could finally supply enough plants for the two acres of urban forest, vegetable gardens and backyard spaces we steward.



We hosted a design charrette just before winter break to map these best practices onto a neglected area of Davis Park. The site, selected for its sunny and unobtrusive location, was already approved by the City of Berkeley, the BSC Maintenance Department, and the Rochdale community for our hub. With floor plans of the area, each garden manager sketched where to site the nursery, up-potting station, tool storage and shade house. We regrouped, deliberated and synthesized our visions to come up with a final design for the hub.

But our project, despite generous support from the BSC and The Green Initiative Fund, was several thousand dollars short. So we threw together a crowdfunding website calling for help. Within three weeks, over 50 BSC alumni rallied behind our vision and donated the \$5,000 we needed to realize our dream.





By March shipments from nursery suppliers in Iowa, Illinois and Nevada were en route to Rochdale, co-ops ready at the door to receive them and assemble their components. We laid down landscaping fabric and leveled two thousand pounds of drainage gravel, creating a weed-proof and permeable foundation for our greenhouse. Several-thousand pieces of cedar, screws and UV-resistant panelling later, a 12' X 7' temperature regulated greenhouse stood proudly in Davis Park.

Fueled by boba and slices of pizza, we then installed a durable workbench for up-potting plant starts into pots, a shade structure for long-term plant growth and an automatic irrigation system for consistent conditions. We even got three commercial-grade 2' x 8' nursery tables to improve circulation and plant health. Thousands of seeds were donated by the Cooperative Gardens Commission for use in our new seed library and stored alongside trays, perlite, and potting soil to last several seasons. Before long, our original sketches transformed into a physical space, capable of germinating 750 crops and hardening-off 500 starts at a time.

Wiping the sweat off of our brows after a frenzied workday, one of the Garden Managers remarked that it was exactly one year ago since we first gathered in Rochdale Park. It was then that we self-organized (for the first time in BSC history) to assess the barriers we face in realizing our sustainability goals. That fateful envisioning session first planted the seeds for a more supported garden program; one that cultivates food sovereignty, supports native habitat restoration and extends the cooperative ethic beyond the doors of our units.

This May, we celebrate with all of the alumni, co-ops and broader community members reveling in the realization of our Garden Hub dream. The Garden Managers now have a home, are well integrated into BSC policy, and have cultivated a thriving community.



*“With shovels in tow, sweat on our brows and dance music blasting from our speakers, we are ready to bring our stewardship to the next level.”*

*- Eytan Stanton*

Photo credits for this section:  
Eytan Stanton

# Welcome BSCAA's New Board Directors!

*Thank you for stepping up to lead and support our co-op family!*

**Rory Fearon** (he/him) Stebbins '15,  
CZ '14-'16, HiP '22-'24

**Mary Gillespie** (she/her) Ridge Project  
(CZ) '76-'77, Chateau '77-'79,  
Rochdale '79-'80

**Mojdeh Feller** (she/her) CZ & Stebbins '15



Rory Fearon

“My name is Rory Fearon. I graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in philosophy and from SFSU with an M.A. in philosophy. I am currently working as a philosophy professor at AMDA, a performing arts school in Los Angeles. The most meaningful aspect of living in the BSC is the insight you gain from being forced to live with and cooperate with people who are essentially different from you. Living in the BSC fundamentally changed my understanding of what it means to be a person, a community, and the values that ought to guide us individually and connect us socially.”

-Rory



Mary Gillespie

“Mary Gillespie here—Berkeley 1975. First stop: the dorms, and then Ridge Project, Chateau, and Rochdale. Berkeley is such a large school; without the co-ops, I would have been lost. My most memorable BSC experience is when 1977 Chateau opened, and I joined 80 others. So many adventures—Cloyne’s giant banana kidnapped, and in retaliation, they kidnapped our gargoyles, King Tut party with my favorite honkies, and a pig’s head for the Godfather effect. I recently created a Facebook group—“Chateau Coop Berkeley 1977–1980” for Chateau alumni. After graduating from Berkeley and UC Law SF, I worked as a government environmental attorney and program manager until my retirement in 2019. It’s now my turn to give back as a BSCAA Board director!”

-Mary



Mojdeh Feller

“I’m Modjeh Feller, a mathematician based in Los Angeles, California. After graduating from Berkeley, I attended the University of Virginia for my PhD in Mathematics. My math career has included research, lecturing at college campuses, data science projects, and travelling to conferences. At the BSCAA, I co-chair the Marketing Committee and love keeping our audience in the loop about all the exciting stories we have to offer. I value that the BSC encouraged me to question, wonder, and dream—I’m grateful to give back to the organization that gave me the space for that.”

-Mojdeh

# A Celebration of Growth and Co-op Life

by Kaitlyn Pastor (Hoyt '23-'25)  
BSC Publications Coordinator

Organized annually by the BSC Alumni Association, Co-op Graduation is a send-off to graduating co-ops and a welcome to the next chapter of their co-op journey, being members of the ever-expanding co-op alumni family. Held at the Alumni House at UC Berkeley, the event brought together laughter, music, and shared memories. However, what stood out most was the variety of people who came: students, staff, and alumni from different corners of life, each bringing their own experiences and timelines, yet gathered in one place. For a brief moment, it felt like everyone belonged to a shared history shaped by the co-ops.

Looking at the buffet tables, I was reminded of how meals come together in co-op houses. There was something familiar about the casual setup, the shared food, and the ease in the room. It brought to mind dinners around mismatched tables, late-night conversations, birthday cookies baked on a whim, and house meetings that stretched longer than expected. These moments were not extraordinary on their own, but they formed the rhythm of daily life, something steady and quietly meaningful.

This co-op gathering, attended by over 200 co-ops, was not only about academic milestones. It marked the relationships formed over time, the ways people learned to live alongside one another, and the small but lasting shifts that come with communal living. It was about how growth happened in everyday places such as kitchens, hallways, and shared rooms, and how much that shaped the people being celebrated.



Photo retrieved from Nancy Blattel.



Photo Taken by Kaitlyn Pastor

In a campus environment that often feels fast-paced and fragmented, the co-ops offer a different kind of space. There was structure, but also flexibility and care. A sense that effort mattered, and that people would show up for one another even if imperfectly. Through the demands of school, the uncertainty of the future, and all the quiet in-between moments, the co-ops reminded us to pay attention to what really matters: connection, consistency, and community.

As people move forward into new chapters, the details may fade. The schedules, the exact roles, the daily tasks might blur. However, what tends to stay is the feeling of having lived in a space where you mattered. Not for what you accomplished, but for the way you participated. For showing up, cooking meals, attending meetings, listening, helping, and simply being part of something that only worked because everyone contributed.

This was not just a send-off. It was a celebration of how far people have come and a quiet honoring of where it all started. The co-ops continue to grow through each generation, shaped by the people who pass through them. We are thankful for the Alumni Association for sponsoring and coordinating Co-op Graduation and for reminding us that. And no matter how long it has been, coming back always feels like coming home.

*Congratulations Class of 2025!*

# How Hoyt Hall Went From Unfamiliar to Unforgettable

by Agnee Ghosh (Hoyt '23-'25)  
PhD Graduate UC Berkeley

I first learned about co-op living from my friend, who was completing her master's degree at UC Berkeley. As an international student, I was already worried about the rent prices I kept seeing in Berkeley housing Facebook groups. To be completely honest, Hoyt Hall was not my first choice. I had my eye on Cloyne because of its academic environment. But when enrollment opened, just three weeks before I was set to move from India to Berkeley, Cloyne was full and Hoyt still had a few openings left. Knowing it was a non-men's house, I immediately signed up.

My first impression of Hoyt was very positive. Ale, the house manager, helped me lug three huge suitcases up to the third floor. I was overwhelmed with gratitude, realizing a stranger had gone out of their way to make me feel at home.

On my second day, I met Shaily, an undergraduate and longtime Hoyt resident. Her first words to me were, "Are you new?" We exchanged the usual pleasantries and contact information. If you ask Shaily today what her first impression of me was, she will tell you I seemed rude and stand-offish, which is something I have heard my whole life. I can be a little too blunt, and unfortunately, my serious demeanor does not help either.

But it all worked out perfectly. Even though Hoyt was my second choice, I cannot imagine having spent my graduate years anywhere else, not even in another co-op. Cooperative living comes with its share of friction, especially when you put 40 to 60 unique individuals under one roof. But the sense of community you build is something you would never find living in a typical shared apartment, even with friends.

As I continue to grow in my career and as a person, I will always remember my years at Hoyt and in the BSC with deep fondness. I plan to give back to the community in the years to come. Living in a co-op has made me more understanding toward my fellow housemates, many of whom have become dear friends, and has taught me how to navigate difficult situations while living, working, and growing alongside people who are different from me.

Community living does not just teach you how to live with others, it builds life skills that will stay with you long after you leave, especially when you have to work with colleagues in challenging environments. And for that, I will always be grateful to Hoyt.



*"...the sense of community you build is something you would never find living in a typical shared apartment, even with friends."*

*- Agnee Ghosh*

# Meet our BSC Scholars

“The money for the co-op scholarship goes right back into making the co-op community a more comfortable and inclusive space. I was able to put some money towards making my apartment feel like a home as well as get the materials I needed to succeed in my academics. With these things out of the way, I am motivated to contribute to the co-op community through workshift while staying focused on my goal at Berkeley which is to receive my Bachelors degree. Moreover, with the time I would have spent trying to make the money for rent I have been able to get involved in the larger Bay Area community through volunteering and gaining some real world experience that helps me in determining what I want to do after graduation. I have met the best people and been informed of so many communities thanks to the opportunity to move in a more cost-effective way.”

-Lynda Esmeralda Otero



Lynda Esmeralda Otero  
(she/her)

“I am deeply grateful to the kind and generous people who have made my college journey brighter. You’ve made such a difference in my life, helping me through the ups and downs. I owe so much to the incredible folks who believed in me and supported my dreams, even when they seemed impossible and far. The scholarship fund at Berkeley Student Cooperative has truly made living in this amazing place a reality for me. In the midst of family struggles and my commitment to relocating to Berkeley in preparation for transferring to UC Berkeley, the BSC became a beacon of hope. That light, made even brighter by the scholarship, gave me the courage to believe in myself and say, “I can do this.”

After a few years at BSC, I’ve had the privilege of growing with the support of the cooperative, its alumni, and the generous donors. I share with y’all with a warm heart that I’ve been able to continue my education semester after semester, and I’m now on the verge of graduating with dual degrees in Data Science and Cognitive Science. If it weren’t for all of the people who supported students like me at BSC, this journey simply wouldn’t have been possible.”

-Alizera Keshmiri



Alizera Keshmiri  
(he/him)

Receiving a BSC scholarship made a huge difference in my ability to focus on my future. Without the constant stress of working long hours just to make rent, I was able to dedicate more time to applying for internships and ultimately securing two offers. I interned at one of those companies, which later led to a return offer. Now, I’ve graduated with a full-time job lined up and the peace of mind of knowing my next steps. None of this would have been possible without the financial relief provided by the BSC, and I’m very grateful for the opportunities it opened up for me.

-Maricruz Montes de Oca-Sanchez



Maricruz Montes de Oca-Sanchez (she/her)

The BSC scholarship has tremendously helped me during the academic school year by allowing me to focus more on my academics and research rather than worrying about an extra job to pay for one of the rent cycles. As a senior, it has permitted me to focus on the next steps of my life as well!

-Tushita Wadhawan



# We appreciate you, donors!



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# Popcorn, Pies, and People!

by Kaitlyn Pastor (Hoyt '23-'25)  
BSC Publications Coordinator

On April 12, 2025, Cloyne Court opened its doors for the Cloyne Carnival, a lively afternoon filled with music, games, and the unmistakable energy of co-op life. The event brought together members from across the Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC) for a much-needed moment of fun and reconnection.

For William Gulliver, co-president of Cloyne, the highlight of the event was seeing members from other houses, Central, and Board laughing, hanging out, and simply enjoying each other's presence. "It's time to bring that stuff back," he said, referencing the pre-pandemic days when the BSC was known for large scale interhouse gatherings like sports tournaments and holiday parties. The carnival was a revival of that spirit.

Setting up the event was a true community effort. Members from Cloyne and other houses jumped in, some even at the last minute, to help organize booths, prepare snacks like cotton candy and popcorn, and bake pies that left a lasting impression. "We have some seriously talented people in the BSC," William added.

More than just a celebration, the Cloyne Carnival embodied the essence of cooperative living. "It was about bringing the community together and really exemplified the value of pooled resources," William reflected. Whether through spontaneous teamwork or thoughtful conversations, the event reminded everyone that the BSC is more than housing. It is a shared experience rooted in care, support, and collective joy.



Photos throughout courtesy of Lili



# Oral History Project

by Robert Hughes  
(Barrington, '57-'61)

Co-ops depend upon people-power to succeed, and long-term success depends upon passing on the learnings from one generation to another. That becomes challenging in a student co-op where, in most cases, a student has a mere 4-5 years to gain sufficient experience to rise to governance positions let alone pass it on to future generations. Which makes the legacy of the BSC, nearing its centennial and still succeeding in its mission, truly remarkable.

But if you try to recap the history of the BSC – as organizers of the recent 90th Anniversary Celebration did – you will find mostly lists of houses and dates of major policy changes. Very little on the people, their experiences living in different eras facing different challenges, or how living in a co-op affected their later lives. Other than for the original founders.



Anne Meltesen and Wallace Trujillo in 1966.  
Photo courtesy of the original owner.



HUAC planning meeting at Barrington Hall, Berkeley. Photo credits to owner.

Dan Eisenstein (Cloyne '54-'59) and Nancy Blattel (Barrington/Rochdale/Northside '73-'79) saw the need to begin collecting more people history before we lose any more of our elder BSC Alumni. And with the support and encouragement of BSCAA President Portia Lewis (BSCAA President '23-'25, CZ '18-'20, Rochdale '20-'21, HiP '21 & '24) the BSC Oral History Project was born.

Contact has been established with 80+ alumni, mostly in the target years of the 1950's and 1960's, and roughly half have completed initial questionnaires. Among these were two with experience in collecting oral histories. Professor Susan Bibler Coutin (Ridge Project aka CZ, '80-'83) at UC Irvine who actually teaches a course in oral history gathering, has assisted in developing the approach and tools of an oral history project, and conducted a Zoom webinar for the alumni project team and DARcom. Anne Meltesen Trujillo (Sherman, '65-'67) has been actively involved as a volunteer in an oral history project involving survivors of the Nazi occupation in WWII, and has been helpful in critiquing the project organization.



Barrington Hall House Council meeting, circa 1960, considering applicants for house manager positions. Peter Paolino, second from left seated behind the Barrington Bull, is among those scheduled to be interviewed. He and Ed Silva, seated forward to his right, both served as House President.

In mid-April the project team met in the Convent's Library and practiced interviewing each other with the learnings and tools that had been developed. Fox Nakai (Cloyne, Lothlorien, Stebbins, 2013-2014), who has a video production firm in Oakland, provided tips and critique for interviewers using their own video equipment, as well as recording the interviews himself.

The project team plans to create a BSC Oral History site on Archive.org as soon as it has the minimum 50 items required for a site controlled by an institution. Bancroft Library's Oral History Center has agreed to accept transcripts with a link to the Archive.org site for the recordings.

The project team is now ready to begin interviewing. It envisions a mixture of interviewers reaching out in person or virtually to alumni, mini-group events (era or house specific) for multiple simultaneous interviews modeled on the practice session just held, interview sites coupled with BSC events to which alumni are invited, and potential outreach efforts in other parts of the country with large numbers of BSC alumni. Marcella Murphy (Cloyne, Northside, Oxford, Rochdale, Stebbins, Sherman, '69-'77) already is working on a Southern California effort where she lives.

Current BSC members interested in helping the project are welcome to volunteer and will be provided the training materials. The team can use more interviewers, either solo or in partnership with an alum where a younger perspective and greater IT skills would be useful. Organizational help in setting up protocols and procedures for archiving the interviews, consent forms, related messaging, and linking to other electronic and print media that already exists also is needed. For more info, email Bob Hughes (Barrington, '57-'61) at [hughesrah39@gmail.com](mailto:hughesrah39@gmail.com).



Tom Kuykendall, Bob Hughes, and John Alcorn.  
Photo courtesy to owner.

# Alumni Notes

By Margie (Miller Greene) Guillory  
Hoyt Hall '70-'72, NSC '72-'80, CO forever

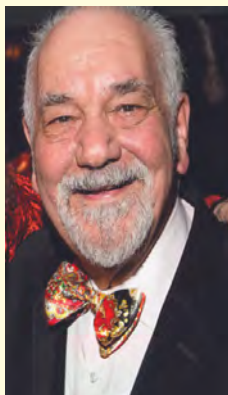
## Farewell to Narsai

Much has been written about Narsai David as the restaurateur, entrepreneur, radio personality and family man but he was also a generous supporter of BSC students. Narsai was a long-time scholarship fund donor, planner, and featured speaker at many BSC events. His stories as a member of Cloyne Court and as a food manager and food service leader were memorable—from burning scrambled eggs as a Cloyne breakfast cook to fooling other kitchen managers over coffee blends. He always had the best stories.

We could always count on Narsai to say “Yes!” to being the master of ceremonies at BSC events, checking on catered food preparation, and giving entertaining speeches.

We asked him to speak at a BSC Parents’ Orientation and expected him to speak as he did on KNBR Radio about food. Instead, he talked to the parents about what to expect when their children came home from the Co-op with purple hair, tattoos, and body piercings. It was perfect, unexpected, and very Narsai.

Narsai David at Berkeley Community Scholars Annual Dinner in 2014. Photo taken by Noah Berger.



1950s Cloyne Court Alumni Gather at Convent. Narsai David is in the center. Photo credit: Unknown

At the Kingman Hall dedication after speeches from Harry Kingman and UC President Yori Wada, everyone stood around waiting for two pine trees, the symbol of cooperation, to be ceremoniously planted in the ground. Narsai took off his jacket, picked up a shovel and started digging a hole. His take-charge attitude spurred others into action that day.

His memory lives not only in his recipes, cookbooks, and stories but also in the BSC Scholarship Fund where he so generously gave. The interest from his donations continue to help BSC students to this day and will into the future.



# Letter from the BSCAA President

by Portia Lewis, BSCAA President '23-'25 - CZ '18-'20, Rochdale '20-'21, HiP '21 & '24

Hello again intrepid & dedicated co-op alumni community!

My name is Portia Lewis, and I use the she/her pronouns. As I near the end of my second term as President of the BSCAA and the BSC wraps up another year, my mind cannot help but wander reflectively back to when I first joined the co-ops in 2018. As a junior transfer student, who lived at home in the same rural foothill community of 13,000 people while completing community college, I could not have begun to imagine what moving to BSC had in store for me. Little did I know that as I passed through the large glass doors at Casa Zimbabwe, I stepped into a community that had shaped generations of lives and would profoundly shape the next seven years of mine.

A lot has changed in the BSC since I first meandered past the Central Office, arms filled with my belongings, on my way to becoming the die-hard co-oper I am today. In 2020, amid my senior year, a global pandemic rocked the very core of the organization. The effects of which still reverberate through the membership and the Central Office. Despite all the change, what has stayed the same, is the generations of co-ops, current members and alumni alike, that have sustained, molded, and stewarded the BSC.



Co-ops cut the ribbon at Garden Hub Opening Day Celebration. Photo taken by Natalie Grivalja.

In the last few months as the BSC continues to rebuild its foundation; navigate Staff turnover, deal with challenges in occupancy, and undertake critical capital improvement projects—the Alumni Association has continued our steadfast support and partnership. As always the Alumni Association delivered treats for students during Reading and Recitation Week (aka Dead Week). Many alumni are volunteering in the Central Office, helping support key departments such as Accounting and Development. And with key fundraising efforts such as the Special Give! Further, we partnered with Eytan Stanton, the BSC's Garden Manager Coordinator, to ensure the BSC Garden Revitalization Project's dream of a Garden Hub at Rochdale came to life! The opening day which regrettably will have happened on May 4th, before you receive this newsletter. More recently we created an initiative to support the BSC's increasingly vulnerable immigrant and international student population. As we look to the remainder of the year, we at the Alumni Association are looking forward to hosting some spectacular events for alumni & current members, such as some of our favorite events Co-op Graduation and the recently renamed Greenberg Strawberry Creek tour, named in honor of the late & incredible, Steve Greenberg. Our alumni across the country can look forward to Happy Hour events! If you are in a part of the country that has not had a Happy Hour event, let us know and we will support you in bringing one to a city near you!



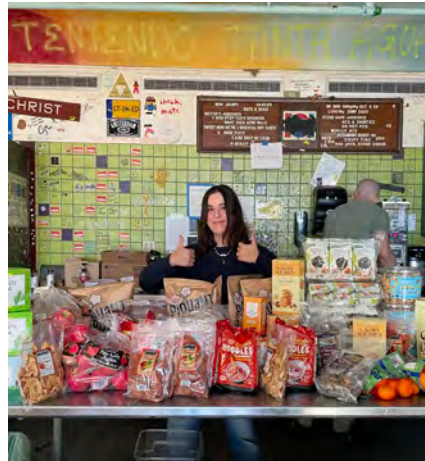
Attendees listen to presenter Allyson Greenlon of UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County at May Garden Hub Opening Day Celebration. Photo taken by Natalie Grivalja.

The BSC is on better footing than it has been in years and continues to stabilize more every day. This would not have been and continues not to be possible without the generous support of alumni like us. If living in the co-ops contributed even a fraction as much to your life as it did to mine—and you can manage even the smallest donation in these uncertain times—I encourage you to join me in giving back. Our help is particularly needed now as the BSC works to complete much needed capital improvement projects, rebuild its membership base, and provide essential member services—all while never losing sight of the mission of providing cooperative affordable student housing.

In my relatively short time as a member of the Alumni Association board, the role of alumni as elders in the co-op community has become abundantly clear. Not only the role we play in fundraising but also as mentors, those who carry and share the institutional knowledge that has allowed the BSC to thrive for over 90 years. So perhaps sometimes more profound than our financial support is the contribution of our time back to the BSC. Whether by staying informed, attending events, volunteering, or being a member or Board Director of the AA.



BSC Garden Manager Coordinator and Garden Revitalization Project Lead, Eytan Stanton at Garden Hub Opening Day celebration. Photo taken by Natalie Grivalja.



BSCAA Board Director, Mojdeh Feller, poses behind Reading, Rest, and Recitation (RRR) Week treat delivery to Casa Zimbabwe (formerly Ridge Project). Photo Credit: Unknown

Suppose you are not currently a BSCAA member or do not currently receive our communications about our fantastic events—I invite you to take the opportunity (right now!) to sign up - there is more about our very affordable memberships & how to opt into our mailing list below- we are always accepting new members (& we promise we will not spam you). You can also find us on social media—Instagram & Facebook!

We could not do what we do without our BSCAA member contributions! If you did not already know, recent & soon-to-be graduates receive your first year of membership for absolutely free! There is nothing you need to do. Upon graduating, you will receive a welcome email from us; it really is that easy. Finally, if you have had an inkling of stepping up your commitment to our alum community, I strongly encourage you to run for the BSCAA Board! In my humble opinion, there is no better way to participate in the community not to mention all the fun we have working together. As always, you can reach out to me anytime about how to join the Board or learn about volunteer opportunities - [president@bscaa.coop](mailto:president@bscaa.coop).

*Until next time, stay dedicated, inspiring, and cooperative!*

Cooperatively Yours,  
Portia

# Join the BSCAA!

You can join online at [bscaa.coop/membership](http://bscaa.coop/membership). Or fill out this form and cut out; mail with a check to “BSCAA” at 2424 Ridge Rd, Berkeley, CA 94709. Membership rates can be found at [bscaa.coop/membership](http://bscaa.coop/membership). Questions? Email us at [info@bscaa.coop](mailto:info@bscaa.coop)

Name

Email

Mailing Address

House(s) Lived at & Years

Select which applies

Lifetime membership

Annual membership

## Where do your donations go?

All donations ultimately keep rents low for students. How do we use your donations specifically?

### 1. Capital Improvements

Donations to Capital Improvements help us preserve and improve our most important assets - buildings and infrastructure. When you donate to capital improvements, you help relieve the biggest upward pressure on rents as we tackle years of deferred maintenance, software upgrades, and capital projects like seismic retrofits.

### 2. Scholarships

Donations to Scholarships go directly to our lowest-income students who get a rent reduction of 1/6 to 1/3 off their rent.

### 3. Where It Is Needed Most

Donations to Where It Is Needed Most are unrestricted donations. You are investing in the BSC and our mission to make an impact on the affordability of higher education and the cooperative movement. The Board determines the use of these funds. In the past, unrestricted donations have funded seismic retrofits and helped us grow our operating reserves.

**1 Choose your gift:**

- \$100       \$1,000
- \$        \$
- I am making a gift in my will
- I am donating appreciated securities

**2 Choose your area of support:**

- Capitol Improvements
- Scholarships
- Where it is needed most

**3 Payment and Contact Information:**

- My check, payable to Berkeley Student Cooperative, is enclosed.
- Please charge my credit card.\*  
\*American Express not accepted

CARD NO.	
EXP DATE	CVV/CSC CODE
SIGNATURE	
NAME	
ADDRESS	
MAIL	
PHONE	
YOUR BSC HISTORY	

# Many ways to give!

The Berkeley Student Cooperative is a student-run 501(c)(3) affordable housing provider that removes barriers to higher education for low-income and traditionally marginalized students and empowers them with community-building skills that they can take into the future.

**Legal Name:** Berkeley Student Cooperative, Inc., a California not-for-profit corporation, with its principal place of Business in Berkeley, California.

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Confirmation of our tax-exempt status is provided in the form of a letter from the US Department of Treasury, available upon request.

**Tax ID:** 94-0948140

**Contact:** David Appelbaum, Director of Development at [development@bsc.coop](mailto:development@bsc.coop)

**Donor Advised Fund:** The BSC can receive gifts from donor advised funds like Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, and Schwab Charitable Fund.

**Qualified IRA Distribution:** If you're over 73 years of age, you can make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. You'll pay no income tax on that amount and satisfy your required minimum distribution.

**Securities Transfer:** Avoid capital gains tax by donating appreciated securities.

**Employer Matches:** Double your impact — ask your HR department about gift matching! The BSC has received matching employer donations from Google, Apple, Facebook, Applied Materials, Lawrence Livermore National Labs, and others!



2424 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709

# The Berkeley Student Cooperative, est. 1933

The mission of the Berkeley Student Cooperative is to provide a quality, low-cost cooperative housing community to university students, thereby providing a unique educational opportunity for those who might not otherwise be able to afford a university education.