Cooperatively Yours

Fall 2025

Euclid Hall: A Legacy of Solidarity

by Margie Guillory

In moments of national crisis, history reveals who we are. During World War II, when Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated under Executive Order 9066, the Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC) stood as a rare institution of conscience and solidarity.

In the 1920s, the Japanese Students' Club (JSC) acquired the building at 1777 Euclid Avenue to house first-generation (Issei) and second-generation (Nisei) Japanese American students. At a time when Berkeley housing was openly discriminatory, the JSC and BSC forged a bond grounded in mutual respect and shared values of inclusion and community.

That bond was tested in February 1942, when President Roosevelt ordered the removal of all individuals of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast—citizens and immigrants alike. Faced with imminent incarceration, the members of the JSC turned to their allies at BSC with a deeply human request: would the BSC care for their house until the war was over?

The BSC Board said yes.

It was George Yasukochi, a member of both organizations, who led the effort to secure this lease. The BSC's affirmative vote, taken during a time of heightened anti-Japanese sentiment, was a bold act of resistance—an institutional decision to rise above prejudice and protect the dignity of their fellow students.

Berkeley Student Cooperative

Published Spring and Fall for Alumni and Friends of the Berkeley Student Cooperative.

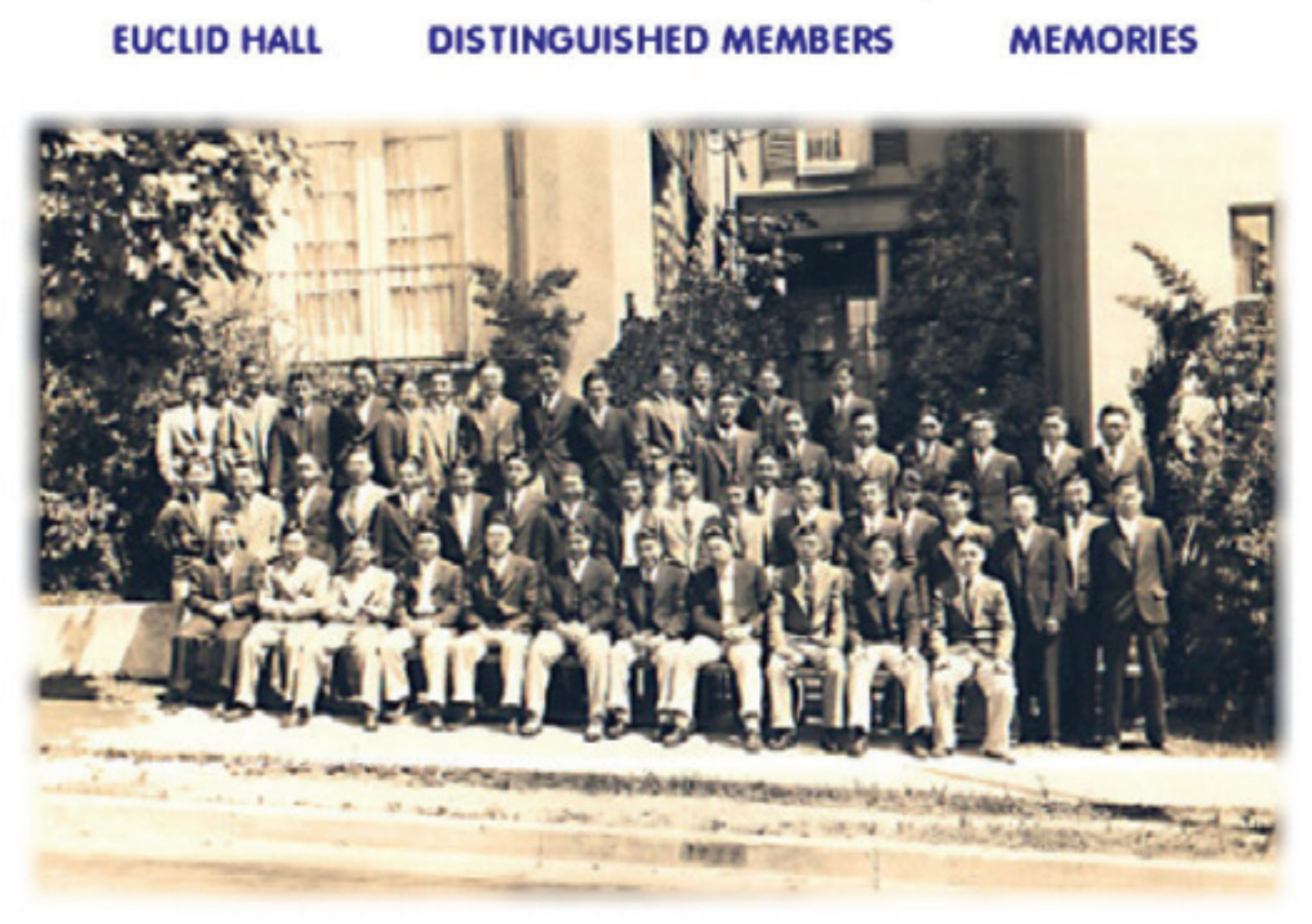
Edited by David Appelbaum, Nancy Blattel, Kaitlyn Pastor, and Portia Lewis.

Designed by Kaitlyn Pastor.

Contact BSC:
www.bsc.coop
(510) - 848 - 1936
2424 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709

The house, then known as Lexington Hall, was temporarily used by BSC as a male residence and later converted to an all-female house. In 1948, true to their promise, BSC returned the home to the JSC. Later, in 1970, BSC purchased the building, renaming it Euclid Hall—a name that now carries with it the quiet strength of those who chose solidarity over silence.

This legacy of protection and partnership is one of the proudest in BSC's history.



Historic photograph of the California Japanese American Alumni Association (CJAAA) community gathered in front of Euclid Hall, reflecting the early Nikkei student presence at UC Berkeley. Image courtesy of CJAAA.

Legacy in Action: Profiles in Leadership

• **George Yasukochi (Oxford Hall, 1941)** was able to leave the West Coast with BSC sponsorship to avoid internment. He went on to become a leader in the cooperative movement and later served as the Controller of the Consumers' Co-op of Berkeley.

• **Yori Wada (Barrington Hall, 1937)** served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team while his family was incarcerated. He later played a key role in securing the BSC's lease of Cloyne Court from UC Berkeley and was appointed a UC Regent in 1977.

• **Norman Mineta (Ridge House)** was interned at Heart Mountain before becoming Mayor of San Jose, a U.S. Congressman, and eventually U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation. His order to ground all flights on 9/11 is now part of American history.

• **Sara Ishikawa (Sherman Hall, 1953–55)**, interned at Tule Lake as a child, went on to become a professor of architecture at UC Berkeley and a global expert in community design.

A Dream for the Future

Knowing this history, I am immensely proud that the BSC—then, as now—stood for justice. In 1942, students made a courageous choice to stand with their peers when doing so was neither easy nor popular. That same spirit must continue today.

I dream of a future where no group is ever again singled out and detained for who they are. May the legacy of Euclid Hall remind us that solidarity matters—and that student communities, even in the face of injustice, can lead with courage and compassion.

— Margie Guillory
Hoyt Hall 1970–72,
NSC 1973–80,
CO forever

Barrington Hall: The Spirit That Built a Movement

by David Appelbaum

Perched on Dwight Way from the 1930s through the 1980s, Barrington Hall was more than a student residence — it was a living idea. It embodied the radical heart of the Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC): that affordable housing, shared labor, and democratic governance could form the foundation for personal and social transformation.

While the building itself is in the process of being sold, its legacy endures not in brick or mortar, but in the cooperative values that still shape BSC today.

Born from Necessity, Built on Ideals

1933

Barrington's story began in 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression. The young University Students' Cooperative Association (USCA) — today's BSC — had been founded by students determined to ensure that no one was excluded from higher education because of financial hardship.

When the USCA took over the aging Lafayette Apartments, they renamed it Barrington Hall, renovated it themselves through collective labor, and turned it into a model of self-reliance and mutual support.

The building became home to nearly 200 students — doubling the capacity of the fledgling cooperative and housing its first Central Kitchen and Central Office, innovations that allowed the co-op system to expand across Berkeley.

Seminars on cooperative philosophy and a house newspaper, The Barrington Bull, fostered a democratic culture that was equal parts idealism, irreverence, and industriousness. Even in its early days, Barrington's residents pushed boundaries — from cheeky pranks and political debates to pioneering a way of life grounded in equity and shared governance.

Barrington Hall. Photo by Marcus Hanschen, published in California Magazine (Cal Alumni Association).

A Center of Student Power and Progressive Thought

1930s: From the 1930s onward, Barringtonians helped shape nearly every major social justice movement that swept through UC Berkeley. More significantly, it provided housing to Asian, Jewish, and even the limited number of Black and Brown students, in Berkeley during the pre and post-war eras when Berkeley housing was greatly redlined and discriminatory.

1940s: From 1942-48, Barrington supported the war effort by leasing the building to the U.S Navy. With so many students deployed to fight in WWII, the campus had a reduced male population and there was a reduced need for student housing. Operated by the U.S.Navy for officer training as well as to house shipyard workers at Richmond, (a huge number were African-Americans brought in from the South), it was a haven for those unable to find affordable housing in the restricted/redlined Berkeley of that era.

1950s: In the 1950s, residents challenged McCarthy-era fearmongering and helped lead campus conversations on academic freedom and labor rights.

1960s: By the 1960s, Barrington became a nerve center of Berkeley's growing political consciousness. Residents were deeply involved in SLATE, the first progressive student political organization on campus, which broke the dominance of fraternity-backed candidates in student government. Barrington alumnus Mike Tigar ran for ASUC president in 1960, and though he lost narrowly, the campaign helped ignite the movements that led to the Free Speech Movement just a few years later.

1970s-1980s: Through the 1970s and 1980s, Barrington continued to evolve with the times. It became one of the first co-ed student houses in the nation, a hub for murals, art, and music, and a sanctuary for radical creativity and activism. Residents organized against the Vietnam War, South African apartheid, and tuition hikes — while also hosting legendary punk and experimental shows that shaped East Bay counterculture. In 1977, co-oper Neil Taxy was elected ASUC President, and several ASUC officers at the time were also co-opers, strengthening the co-op's influence in campus leadership.

A Home for Every One

Barrington wasn't a monolith but a true mosaic. Its residents included poets, mathematicians, activists, engineers, and dreamers of every persuasion. It was a place where students could learn to live authentically and think critically — a kind of crucible for what Berkeley itself came to represent.

Barington's spirit is reflected in its alumni, who went on to transform art, journalism, politics, and public life:

- **Mike Tigar,** civil rights attorney and scholar, who defended the Chicago 7 and Angela Davis .

- **Sam Quinones,** acclaimed journalist and author of Dreamland and The Least of Us, who chronicled America's opioid crisis with empathy and depth.

- **Micah Garen**, documentary filmmaker and conflict journalist, whose reporting from Iraq and Egypt highlighted human resilience amid war.

- **Erik Davis,** cultural historian and author of TechGnosis, whose writing bridges technology, mysticism, and counterculture.

- **Nancy Skinner,** California State Senator, environmental policy leader, and one of Berkeley's most enduring advocates for social and climate justice.

Together, they reflect Barrington's enduring ethos: that education without compassion is incomplete, and progress without community is hollow.

Barrington Lives On

Barrington's closure in 1989 ended an era but not its influence. Every cooperative meal shared, every decision made by consensus, every mural painted in a BSC house echoes the lessons Barrington taught generations of students:

- Democracy is messy
- Inclusion takes practice
- Living in community is a radical act

The building may soon no longer belong to the BSC, but Barrington's principles of cooperation, justice, and creative defiance remain the lifeblood of the movement. Its story continues not just in memory, but in practice — in every BSC member who still believes a better world starts with how we choose to live.

Barrington Forever.
BSC Always.

Before the Sproul Steps: The Co-op Roots of the Free Speech Movement

by David Appelbaum

When students occupied Sproul Plaza in the fall of 1964 and the Free Speech Movement (FSM) shook the nation, few realized that its political DNA traced back to a very different part of Berkeley — the cooperative houses. Long before those famous sit-ins, students in the Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC) were already experimenting with direct democracy, collective action, and independent politics.

From Cloyne Court to Oxford to Barrington Hall, co-op students lived what they later preached: that communities could govern themselves, challenge authority, and build a more equitable world from the ground up.

TASC: The Spark Before the Flame

In 1957, while the rest of campus politics revolved around fraternity blocs and administrative oversight, a group of co-op residents and like-minded students sought to inject purpose into student government. Led by Mike Miller, then House President at Cloyne Court and a member of the ASUC Executive Committee, along with Fritjof Thygesson and Peter Frank, they founded TASC — Towards an Active Student Community.

TASC's goal was simple yet radical: to make student politics matter. The group aimed to address real social issues like racial discrimination and student representation rather than campus popularity contests. Though it lasted only briefly, its ideals lit a fuse that would soon ignite across the university.

From TASC to SLATE

After TASC dissolved, Miller and his colleagues regrouped. In 1958, they launched SLATE, a new political coalition that drew heavily from co-op members and progressives across campus. SLATE's name came from its intent — to field an independent slate of candidates committed to justice, free expression, and academic freedom.

The group's presidential candidate that year, Manny Ramirez, ran against fraternity-backed Bill Strickland. When the ASUC Executive Committee criticized Ramirez for "not playing the game," he famously replied, "For some of us, it's not a game — it's about important things."

Though Ramirez lost, the campaign's emphasis on principle over popularity permanently altered campus politics. SLATE became the first organized student movement in the UC system to link campus issues with national civil rights and labor struggles — laying the groundwork for what would soon become the Free Speech Movement.

Mike Tigar and the Rise of Student Activism

Among SLATE's most brilliant and articulate members was Mike Tigar, a law student and BSC resident who embodied the co-op spirit of democratic engagement and moral conviction. Tigar quickly became one of SLATE's key strategists and spokespersons, helping articulate the link between student self-governance and broader social change.

Students gather at Sather Gate during the 1964 Free Speech Movement, a defining moment in Berkeley's history. Photo courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

In 1960, the Daily Californian endorsed Tigar for ASUC President, an endorsement that triggered controversy when the UC administration pressured the paper to withdraw its support. When the Daily Cal refused, its entire editorial board resigned in protest — a watershed moment for student press freedom that presaged the confrontations to come.

Tigar's campaign, though unsuccessful electorally, electrified the campus. His insistence that students had both the right and the responsibility to challenge institutional power inspired a generation. Many of the same students who campaigned for SLATE would later be seen organizing sit-ins, publishing underground newspapers, and occupying Sproul Hall during the height of the FSM.

After graduation, Mike Tigar carried those lessons far beyond Berkeley. He became one of America's foremost civil rights and constitutional attorneys, defending clients ranging from Angela Davis to the Chicago 7, while teaching at major law schools and writing extensively on justice, equality, and the rule of law. His journey from co-op kitchen tables to courtroom podiums reflected the enduring connection between cooperative values and civic courage.

A student—thought to be Mike Tigar—stands in Sproul Plaza during a Free Speech Movement protest in 1964. Photo by Steven Marcus, courtesy of The Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

The Cooperative Ethos Behind the Movement

The co-ops' influence on this era extended far beyond individual leaders. Cloyne's open forums, Barrington's boisterous house councils, and Oxford's quiet consensus meetings all served as real-life training grounds for democracy. The very structure of cooperative living — where every member had a vote and every voice mattered — gave students firsthand experience in collective decision-making, mutual accountability, and civil disagreement.

When the Free Speech Movement erupted in 1964, many of its participants had already spent years in these democratic microcosms. The organizational DNA of the FSM — its commitment to participatory democracy and its distrust of hierarchy — was co-op through and through.

An Enduring Legacy

The Free Speech Movement is often remembered for its heroes and headlines, but its moral foundation was laid quietly — in the shared kitchens, councils, and causes of the Berkeley Student Cooperative.

Co-opers like Mike Miller, Mike Tigar, and the early SLATE organizers proved that student democracy could be a force for societal change. Later alumni — including Nancy Skinner, Sam Quinones, Micah Garen, and Erik Davis — carried forward those same values into politics, journalism, art, and advocacy.

Though the issues have changed, the lessons endure. The BSC continues to embody what the FSM demanded: a space where all voices can be heard, and where the freedom to speak, question, and create is woven into daily life.

The Free Speech Movement may have begun at Sproul Plaza — but its heart was born in the co-ops.

Where Leaders Connect

by Heesun Youm

Leaders from across the co-ops convene in Cloyne's common room for a collaborative discussion. Photo credit: Heesun Youm.

On October 26, the BSC held a Coordinator Meet-Up to strengthen connection, accountability, and sustainable collaboration across the cooperative. Coordinators from several houses gathered to share recent accomplishments, exchange approaches to their roles, and highlight practices that have helped their communities thrive. The conversation centered on two major themes: deepening community connection and improving clarity and communication across the organization.

One of the key topics was a mentor–mentee program piloted by one house. Inspired by a Big–Little model, returning members were paired with new members to help them navigate co-op life. Mentors received a small budget for bonding activities, and one group even combined their funds to organize a hike followed by pizza, which was celebrated as a warm and effective way to welcome new members and build early connections.

Coordinators also shared the importance of clearer communication among houses, coordinators, and the board. Many expressed interest in developing more accessible resources and touchpoints so that members can better understand the structure of the BSC and how to engage with it. Suggestions included expanding training materials, creating digestible explainers, and encouraging more regular conversations between members and board representatives.

Another shared theme was the value of supporting one another in leadership roles. Coordinators emphasized the importance of approaching challenges collaboratively and fostering an environment where questions, learning, and open communication are encouraged. One coordinator noted that sometimes the most cooperative solution is simply acknowledging an issue, adjusting, and moving forward together.

The meet-up concluded with a collective commitment to strengthening cross-house communication, increasing clarity in decision-making, supporting coordinators and staff, and continuing to build intentional, welcoming community spaces. Ultimately, the gathering reaffirmed that the BSC thrives on student leadership, shared responsibility, and mutual support. When communication is open and roles are clearly understood, the cooperative model becomes stronger for everyone—socially, structurally, and culturally.

Thank you

We're grateful to all donors who supported us this year, from May 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025. Your commitment sustains our mission!

Alexa Groenke
Allen Ansevin
Allen Davenport
Andrew Leong
Andrew M. Friedland
Ann Markey
Anne Catherine Hadreas
Ashley Whittaker
Bank of America Foundation
Ben Gertner
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bob Reyes
Bonnie Ricca
Brian Wong
Bruce Kane
Carolyn Mulvihill
Connor King-Ries
Daniel Endsley
Fidelity Charitable
Gary Marcos
George Gorbatenko
Henry R.D. Simpson
Jeffrey W. Koon
Jerome Fishkin
Jonathan P. Heritage
Judi Sui
Judith Gray
Kat Poole
Katherine Naegele
Kerry Rose
Koushik Datta
Laura Mingst
Marcella Murphy
Margaret M. Johnston
Margaret M. Johnston
Marshal & Bethann Merriam Charitable Fund
Mary Ann Benson
Mary B. McNeill
Mary Prescop
Michael Nishida
Mitchell I. Bonner
Nancy Lucke Ludgus
Nicholas Van James Brunt
Norbert Ralph
Oren Leong
Panorama Global Fund
Peter Larson
Raymond Martin Alpert
Rishi Malhotra
Robert A. Hughes
Robert Berend
Sacramento Region Community Foundation
Sara Ishikawa
Sarah Pauly
Stephanie Fisher
Stephen A. Klein
The "Bogie" Boger Bucks Scholarship Fund
The Friends of Rodney Ferguson
The Randall Klarin Scholarship Fund
The Ted Akulian Scholarship Fund
The Victor Garlin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Thomas Cluster
Travis Richardson
Victor Klebanoff
Vincent Fausone
Willi J. Reid Foundation
Zoe Jo Jo Fried

Here are messages from students whose experiences were made possible by your generosity!

"Your contribution has allowed me to focus on my studies and research without the constant worry of financial strain. Beyond the financial help, your support gives me encouragement knowing that there are people who believe in students like me and want to see us succeed."

"... Your donation has helped me personally by allowing me to focus more on full time school by lessening the financial burden of rent in Berkeley. I also love being a part of the coops which have let me find community outside of class here and your donations make it possible"

"...Because of your support, I've been able to take full advantage of the opportunities the Co-op provides, from leadership experiences to developing real-world skills in collaboration, financial planning, and community-building. Beyond the Co-op, your support has allowed me to pursue professional development opportunities outside of the BSC that I otherwise would not have been able to, helping me grow in ways that prepare me to enter the workforce with confidence and experience."

"As a current graduate student living in the co-ops, this scholarship has truly helped me and has made a meaningful difference in my life.

Thank you for believing in students like me and for investing in our future. Your generosity not only supports my academic journey but also strengthens the cooperative model that makes the BSC such a unique and inspiring place to live and learn!"

"I am grateful for the thoughtful gesture you demonstrated in donating to the Berkeley Student Cooperation, an organization that has provided affordable housing (a deep sense of community) to students who, otherwise, may struggle to afford the living expenses of the Bay Area. Efforts like yours remind us that goodwill and love make the world better."

"One of the greatest blessings of my time at UC Berkeley has been being accepted into the BSC, as affordable housing is so rare, and finding that community was already a huge relief to make the move from Los Angeles to pursue higher education at my dream school make sense. To then be awarded the scholarship on top of that was another weight lifted off my shoulders. Between my role as Kitchen Manager at my co-op and the scholarship support, I've been able to focus on my second and final year in the Social Welfare Master's Program without the constant worry of how I'll stay housed or fed. Your gift has made a real and immediate difference in my life. I will carry this act of generosity with me and make sure to pay it forward once I'm in my career after graduation. Thank you again for believing in students like me and making our journeys a little lighter."

"Thank you again for your generosity and for believing in BSC members like me. Your support truly changes lives."

"As someone who has always worked for what I have, I am deeply touched by this kindness and compassion."

"As a scholarship recipient, your donation has helped me more than you can imagine. With your gift, you have granted me the opportunity to spend more time in the community that I love and to better study what I'm passionate about. Stebbins has truly become my home over the last two years, and I wouldn't trade my time here for the world..."

Make A Difference

Oral History Project

by Robert Hughes

"Women had lockouts! And housemothers."

"There were a lot of military Veterans on the GI bill that provided leadership in the house."

"The son of a right-wing John Birch Society leader lived in the room next to me."

"I'm Filipino and my roommate was Mexican, and others confused us even though we did not look alike at all."

"I grew up in a very liberal environment and was shocked at the provincialism I found in the co-op at the time."

"I had never seen so many white people."

"We minorities could only live at home or in the co-ops at that time in Berkeley"

"I came from a narrow, conservative upbringing and my eyes were opened to a broad, multi-colored, multi-cultural world."

"The son of a Socialist Party leader lived in the room next to me."

"There were Armenians from Romania, named Alpha and Omega."

These are a few paraphrased snippets from questionnaire responses and interviews completed by the Oral History Project Team. They give glimpses of different times during the 90-plus year history of the BSC, as well as the ever-increasing diversity and inclusivity of the co-op. The one consistent thread has been that they, for the most part, came for the cheap housing and food but found so much more in the way of support, learning practical skills and how to get along with all sorts of people, as well as gaining self-confidence and a sense of individual and group accountability. Lessons, friends, and in many cases spouses, that stayed with them for the rest of their lives.

Also captured is how much the BSC has evolved and changed in governance and the way things are run. What it was like to be the first student co-ed housing in the nation. The introduction of vegetarian cooking, and the shift from a Central Kitchen trucking meals to the houses to individual houses cooking for themselves. The introduction of theme houses. And much more over the years.

And it is all leavened by funny stories about pig's heads left in a bed, a kinkajou housed in a pen, a co-oper taking a shower naked in the rain on Bancroft Ave. to collect money from a dare, bathtubs moved to the roof to roast a pig for a luau, and many more reminiscences.

Organizational history tends to get lost when you are having continual turnover every 2-4 years. The goal of the Oral History Project is to capture as much of the BSC's history as possible and archive it for future generations and multiple potential uses, such as member recruitment, orientation, training, and events. One specific goal is a documentary video for use during the BSC's Centennial in 2033.

The team has completed at least 30 video interviews and 2 audio interviews to date, has questionnaire responses and additional material from another 50+ potential narrators we hope to interview. An immediate goal is to complete 50 video interviews which will qualify the Project for opening an institutional site at archive.org, which can be linked to Bancroft Library, the BSC and BSCAA websites, and available to the general public and historians.

The Project Team can use your support.

- If you haven't already completed an initial questionnaire or been in communication with a team member, we want to hear from you and capture your memories.

- We need historic photos, videos, any other memorabilia of your time living in the co-op and events of your era.

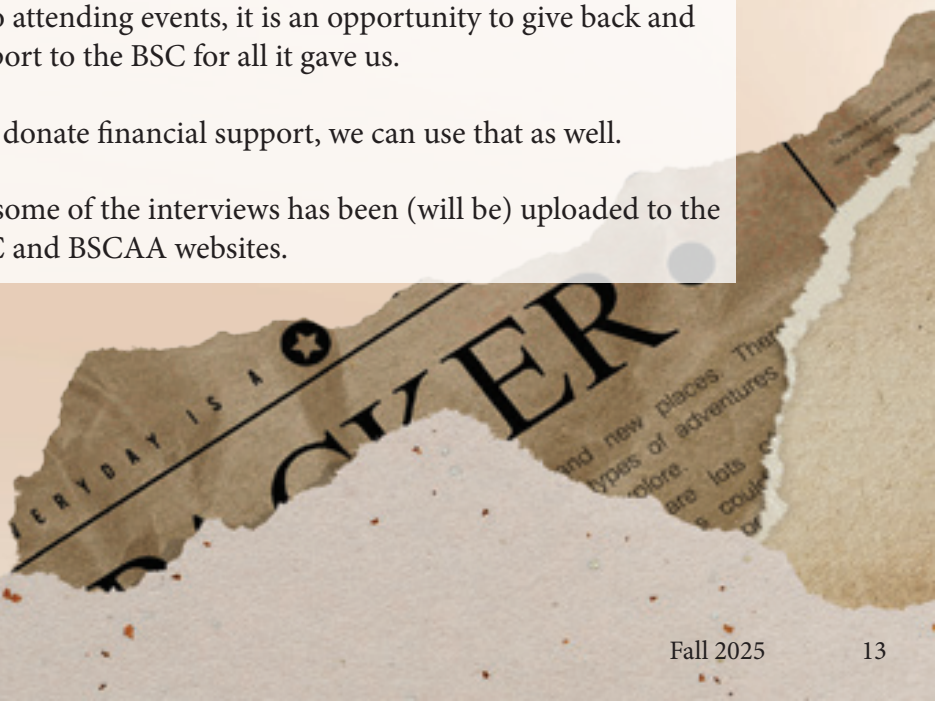
- We need more interviewers, from all over. You can use your cellphones for in person video interviews, or do remote interviews by Zoom or Google Meet. We have a training video and materials to help you.

- We particularly could use help from those with IT experience in organizing and maintaining archives.

As one narrator we interviewed stated, for those not close to Berkeley, unable to contribute much financially, and not much into attending events, it is an opportunity to give back and provide support to the BSC for all it gave us.

Of course, if you can afford to donate financial support, we can use that as well.

A short video promo with clips from some of the interviews has been (will be) uploaded to the BSC and BSCAA websites.



Alumni Spotlight

by Noelle Gillies

Scott, Rosaleen, and Noelle
Photo courtesy of Noelle

I was on the board of directors for several years for Umunhum Brewing, the first co-op brewery in California. We were unable to open our own brewery and taproom; instead, we contract-brew in San Francisco South Bay breweries. In 2023 and 2024, we had joint events with BSCAA, where we tapped kegs of our beer, and BSCAA provided A Slice of New York co-op pizza and Niles Pie Company co-op cookies. Unfortunately, due to tough conditions in the craft beer industry, since the COVID Pandemic, we could no longer stay in business and had to shut down.

During the 2024 election year, I wanted to reach out to friends and family I had lost touch with. This December, I visited my BSC friends who live in Carpinteria, Scott and Rosaleen (Weddle) Lancet! We met during our conflict mediation and peer counseling workshift days.

During our 1988 spring retreat, I remember Scott asking me could I introduce Rosaleen to him. So when Scott met Rosaleen, they did get along. They got along so well that after graduation, they traveled the world together, got married, and later became parents to a daughter and a son. Their daughter Daryanna is a BSC alumna, and their son, Daniel, currently resides in Cloyne. Scott is a third-grade teacher, while Rosaleen is a psychiatric social worker.

After so many years apart, coming back together, we picked up our conversation where we left off, regaling their kids with tales of our co-op days, and our conversation went on late into the night. I am grateful to BSC for providing the container where I was able to start a valuable friendship with these great people.

- Noelle Gillies
(BA 1987,
WO 1988-89,
ROCH 1989-90)

Alumni Notes

by Mojdeh Tarighat Feller

Did you know: the United Nations designated 2025 as the International Year of the Co-ops! This choice was made to uplift the theme that cooperatives build a better world, and the UN has recognized that cooperatives drive progress across the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Some of the objectives for this designation include raising public awareness, promoting growth and development, advocating for supportive frameworks, and inspiring leadership. We find this near and dear to our mission, and we were proud to learn that our alumni Esteban Kelly spoke at the UN recently on behalf of the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives. This group is the only grassroots membership organization for worker cooperatives and democratic workplaces.

Esteban is the Executive Director for the Federation and has led efforts for economic democracy for over 20 years. At the UN, he described how we can all work together to show the power of cooperatives, laying out a strategy for solving global problems, improving business models, and uniting with our shared mission. You can read more about Esteban's role in the fight for democracy online through Nonprofit Quarterly. We had the honor of interviewing Esteban for our Fall 2023 Cooperatively Yours Newsletter, and in this International Year of Co-ops his words remain a powerful call to action to us alumni who have had the opportunity to call the BSC home,

"Think about all the people who don't have the access and privilege to tap into an established cooperative like you. If you have benefitted from a cooperative you didn't start yourself, it is your duty to associate, become a member, and join the movement. If you have an issue with your local co-op association, first join and then change it. There's a democratic process there for a reason and nothing's going to change unless you connect, participate, and invest the time to change it."

- Esteban Kelly

We are so grateful that our alumni are leading the charge at dynamic, powerful events around the world! Cheers to the International Year of Co-ops, and many more generations of cooperative leaders!

Fall 2023 Cooperatively Yours Newsletter
can be found on the BSC's website below
https://bsc.coop/docs/alumni-newsletter/bsc-newsletter-fa23-online-final.pdf
(See page 14 in the Fall 2023 issue)

— Mojdeh Tarighat Feller,
BSCAA Marketing Committee Chair
Stebbins '15

Letter from the BSCAA President

by Portia Lewis

Hello again intrepid & dedicated co-op alumni community!

My name is Portia Lewis, and I use the she/her pronouns. In June 2023, I was elected the President of the BSCAA Board of Directors. For the last three years, I have had the opportunity to report to you all what we have been up to at the BSC Alumni Association. And as you all know, we have been busy, so each time I sit down to write to you all, I never know what exciting developments to share.

On this beautiful Fall day, the sun is shining here in Berkeley, the leaves are dropping and I am reminiscing that it was this time four years ago when the Save Rochdale Coalition was in its formative stages. I and the other Coalition co-founders were cautiously optimistic that our adhoc volunteer group of BSC alums and members could make a positive difference in the increasingly desperate negotiations with the University of California.

This year, and one Legislative Bill (SB 56) sponsored by BSC alumna and former CA State Senator Nancy Skinner later, the BSC is finalizing the transfer of the ownership of the land under Rochdale. At the time this was beyond my wildest dreams. Today, the BSC's ownership of the land under Rochdale is a reality.

Suppose you are not currently a BSCAA member or do not currently receive our communications. In that case, 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).

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.

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! By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have just held our 2025 Annual Meeting & Election, (shout out to our newest Board Directors who have already brought fresh ideas & passion to the BSCAA!) but as always, you can reach out to me anytime about how to join the Board - president@bscaa.coop.

Being elected the President of the BSCAA has been a gratifying, motivating, and eye-opening experience. I am now half way through my final term as BSCAA President and I am incredibly proud and excited of all we have accomplished these past three years at the Alumni Association - but that is only possible with the support of you all.

As the BSCAA looks forward to the new year, we look forward to welcoming our new BSCAA Board Directors, continuing to strengthen our relationship with current BSC members & Staff, building solidarity with other co-ops, and many more fantastic alumni events. I will end by saying, now is the time to get looped back in, either with the BSC or BSCAA.

The BSC needs our active support as alumni - whether through making a critical donation or through the contribution of our time and energy, our support that has been critical for sustaining the BSC for the last 92-years. Let's keep it going!

It has been an honor being the Alumni Association President!

Cooperatively Yours,
Portia Lewis
BSCAA President '23-'24
CZ '18-'20, Rochdale '20-'21, HiP 21'

Join the BSCAA!

You can join online at 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. Questions? Email us at 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 assests - 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
- ☐ $1000
- ☐ $
- ☐ $
- ☐ I am making a gift in my will
- ☐ I am donating appreciated securities

2 Choose your area of support:

- ☐ Capital 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

EMAIL

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) chartiable 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 dd@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.

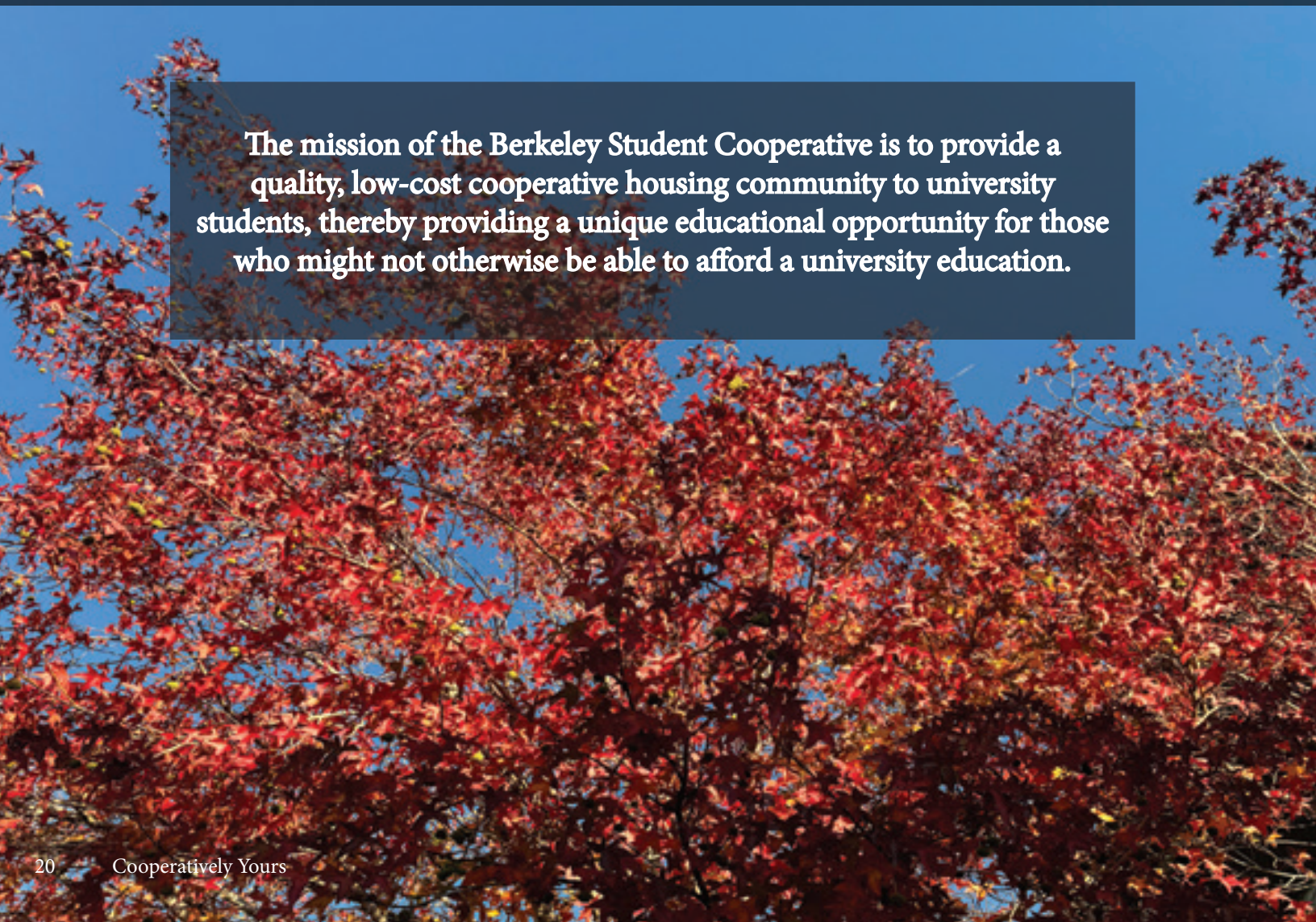
Qualified IRA Distribution: If you're over 70 1/2 years of age, you can make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. You'll pay no income tax on that amount and satisfy your required minimum distribution.

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!

Berkeley Student Cooperative
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.