



Town & Gown
OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**General Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2022, 12:00 p.m.**

In-Person: Town and Gown Courtyard and Ballroom; ONLINE: Livestream

PRE-MEETING SOCIALIZING AND HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: Check-in, socializing, and the Holiday Boutique took place in the Town and Gown Courtyard. Thanks to **Mary Hall** and **Janyce Teasley**, Hospitality Co-Chairs, for organizing the smooth check-in. Groups selling at the Boutique: **Trojan League of South Bay, Trojan Affiliates, Trojan League Associates of the Valley, Trojan Guild of Los Angeles, Spirit of Troy Marching Band**, and **USC Traveler**. General Meeting/ Live-streaming of the meeting began at 12:00 p.m.

Flag Salute by **Debbie Wong**.

Beth Petak-Aaron, President and CEO of Town and Gown of USC welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and supporting our mission of our 501c (3). It is a great day we can all come together for the purpose of Scholarship, Beautification of our campus and personal enrichment. The center pieces are donated by **Rhona Gewelber** and are for sale for \$10 each. The monies collected will go towards scholarship. The cookies were donated by **Barbara Hirabayashi**.

Beth also thanked **Tom McWhorter** for thirty seven years of service and presented him with a gift from the T&G of USC.

Carol Kroesche, the Benefit Chair, announced that the venue will be back at the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Honoree will be Dexter Holland. Plea for donations for Opportunity drawing.

Bonnie Suffridge, VP of Programs asked the **Past Presidents**, the **Board of Directors**, and the **Scholars** of the Town and Gown of USC to stand and be recognized. She then introduced the Town and Gown of USC Supporters in attendance:

Rachel Beal, Executive Director of Advancement, Rossier School of Education

A.Phoenix Delgado, Associate Dean for Advancement, Thornton School of Music

Bill Holland, Senior Director of Special Programs, University Advancement

John Iino, USC Trustee and his wife Eva Iino

Jim Key, Director, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences Communications

Tony Mazza, Director, USC Transportation

Tom McWhorter, Dean of Financial Aid, Enrollment Services

Rod, Nakamoto, USC Trustee

Pedro Noguera, Dean, Rossier School of Education

Sarah Oliva, Assistant Director of Advancement, Rossier School of Education

Glen Osaki, Senior Advisor to President Folt – International Marketing & Communications
Rene Pak, Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Amy Ross, USC Trustee and T&G of USC Woman of Distinction
Grace Shiba, Executive Director, USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association
Sarah Sturm, Manager, Development, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
George Touma, Director of Development, Marshall School of Business Jake Vogel
Jake Vogel, Director, Trojan Marching Band
Tracey Vranich, Interim Senior Vice President, University Advancement
Karla Campos, Associate Director of sales for Private Events & Conferences
Lera Van Straatum, Senior Associate Director of Private Events & Conferences
Joanne Asman, USC Mascot Traveller

Lisa Up de Graf, Physical Facilities/Historian, gave monthly “fun facts” of the history of Town and Gown of USC: Spoke of the first President of T&G of USC, Elisabeth Von KleinSmid and Second President, Mrs. John Wesley Harris (May Ormerod).

Toula Lolonis, Physical Facilities/Historian Committee member, continued with the third president, Mrs. John Davey Fowler, Margaret. During her tenure by-laws were adopted, terms were limited to two years and first scholarship was awarded.

Edie Etmekjian, the Nominating Committee Chair, introduced her committee: **Pat Whitman**, **Wilma Pinder**, **Kim Kaufman** and **Linda Dankwa**. She asked everyone to please fill out the nominating form for the best qualified candidates for the Board positions. The deadline is November 16th.

D’Arcy McLeod and Colleen Stryke, VPs of Membership informed that they had the New Member Orientations. They asked all the new members to stand and be recognized. Please use the business cards on each table to find the QR code to apply for membership.

Susie Rhodes announced the Scholar Speaker, **Catherine Ames**. Catherine was chronically ill and had been a Keck patient. She has since overcome her illnesses and is now a T&G of USC Scholar. She is a columnist for Daily Trojan, Chronically Catherine.

Susie Rhodes and **Shana Glassman**, VPs of Scholarship, awarded T&G of USC graduation sashes to the three December graduates: **Brian Yik**, **Sydney Chang**, and **Harrison Murphy**.

Bonnie Suffridge thanked **Patty Arra**, Programs committee member, who introduced Susan Kamei to the Program Committee.

Bonnie then introduced the speaker, **Professor Susan H. Kamei**, Managing Director, Spatial Sciences Institute, Lecturer Department of History USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Professor Kamei started by talking about an old trunk found in her garage. It was where her grandparents kept their stuff when they went to the “Camp”. She described what her grandparents and other American Japanese people went through before and after the U.S. declared war against Japan. She also described how immigrants were treated back then. Her entire speech and presentation are documented and available on the Town and Gown of USC website.

Bonnie Suffridge presented a Thank you gift to the speaker. **Debbie Wong** promoted the December 6th, Annual Holiday Program. Opportunity Drawing winners were selected by **Janyce Teasley & Mary Hall**, Hospitality Co-Chairs. The Opportunity Basket contained: A decorated tray with drawings of the USC campus, buildings and Trojan symbols, USC coffee mug that matched the tray, Notecards and envelopes - USC Doheny Memorial Library theme, Thank you notecards and envelopes. \$250 gift card for American Express was also an opportunity gift.

Beth Petak-Aaron thanked everyone for coming and the Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ayuko Siegel
Secretary, Town and Gown of USC