

# neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

## GAMMA PHI BETA SORORITY SHARES THE LOVE AT LOVE ORANGE DAY

In October, more than 50 members of Chapman's Gamma Phi Beta sorority turned out to support Love Orange Day, an annual day of service that brings businesses, families and individuals together to give back to the community.

"Events like this align perfectly with our organization's focus on philanthropic spirit and community service," says Cassandra Sopko '22, a strategic and corporate communications major and president of Chapman's Gamma Phi Beta chapter. "We saw this as an incredible opportunity to partner with Orange to show our support as members of the Chapman community."

Gamma Phi Beta members participated in various community service activities throughout the day, including volunteering with the TLC Public Charter School Mural Project, the Youth Centers of Orange Fun Run and organizing the Full Circle Meaningful Marketplace donations, the Nature Center Winter Preparation Project, preparing meals for homeless neighbors with Mary's Kitchen, and being a part of the Love Orange Kick-Off Team.

"Everyone was genuinely excited to participate, and many members expressed that they will be continuing to volunteer with the organizations in the future," says Sopko. Members shared photos and videos throughout the day representing Gamma Phi Beta and Chapman to the community.

Philanthropic spirit and community service are important areas of focus within Gamma Phi Beta; the sorority requires hours of service as a standard of membership. Along with local service projects, the sorority hosts two large-scale philanthropic events each year with proceeds benefiting two local nonprofits, Girls on the Run of Orange County and Camp del Corazon.



*Gamma Phi Beta sorority members volunteered with Mary's Kitchen, pictured with President and CEO Gloria Suess, on Love Orange Day.*

October's "Airbands" event raised more than \$81,000 to support these nonprofit organizations.

"To give back to the Orange and Chapman communities in such a way is an incredible honor," says Sopko, "a sentiment shared amongst all chapters of our Greek Life community."

## CHAPMAN STUDENT COMBINES PASSIONS FOR TEACHING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

As a student at Chapman University, Maya Yesharim (BA '21 and MA '22) discovered a passion for building community while undertaking fieldwork in local Orange County schools. While still an undergraduate, Maya founded Students Help Students, a tutoring company that allows her to utilize her teaching experience while giving back to the community.

While pursuing her degree in Integrated Educational Studies (IES) from Chapman's



*Maya Yesharim (BA '21 and MA '22) founded Students Help Students while still an undergraduate at Chapman. The tutoring company has helped more than 70 local students while giving back to the community.*

Attallah College of Educational Studies, Maya worked as a teacher's assistant and for Chapman's First-Generation Programs. She also added a minor in Leadership Studies and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership Development.

Maya started Students Help Students, now in its second year, during the COVID-19 shift to remote instruction. As an experienced tutor, many parents were reaching out asking for her services during these difficult circumstances. She also knew that there were many college students from Chapman and other local universities who were looking for work.

The company matches tutors with subject-matter expertise to K-12 students in Orange County based on the children's needs. Most of the Students Help Students tutors are Chapman undergraduates or graduate students, with specialties that include math, language arts, history and science. In the past year, Students Help Students has been able to help more than 70 students with tutoring and school supplies.

A portion of all company profits are donated to local Orange County nonprofit organization Higher Ground Youth and Family Services in Anaheim, California. To learn more, visit [learningwithshs.wixsite.com/website](http://learningwithshs.wixsite.com/website).

### Did You Know?

Matt Parlow, dean of the Fowler School of Law and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law, has been appointed as Chapman University's new executive vice president and chief advancement officer. Parlow's successes in fundraising and leadership will help Chapman continue "as a rising star in the academic landscape," President Struppa says. Parlow comes to the position following the tenure of Sheryl Bourgeois, Ph.D., who served Chapman University for 24 years and whose immeasurable contributions helped build the university into what it is today.

#### Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University's Office of Community Relations at (714) 289-2097 or email [neighbors@chapman.edu](mailto:neighbors@chapman.edu).
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Join us for these engaging events at Chapman

There are many terrific Chapman University in-person and virtual events, and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the University's online events calendar, [Chapman.edu/events](https://Chapman.edu/events). Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at [Chapman.edu/tickets](https://Chapman.edu/tickets).

### **57th Annual Holiday Wassail Concert**

December 10, 2021, 8 p.m.  
Musco Center for the Arts

The beloved Chapman tradition returns to Musco Center! Join us for a magnificent concert of holiday season favorites performed by the Chapman University Singers, University Choir and Treble Choir along with music performed by The Chapman Orchestra. Tickets start at \$15.

### **Nochebuena: Christmas Eve in Mexico**

December 12, 2021, 7 p.m.  
Musco Center for the Arts

Celebrate the holidays with an evening of joyous music and dance featuring two of L.A.'s most acclaimed performance ensembles – Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles, which has worked with Grammy Award-winning Lila Downs, Pepe Aguilar and Pixar (to celebrate its animated film *Coco*), and Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar. Tickets start at \$33.

### **A Southern California Christmas**

December 19, 2021, 7 p.m.  
Musco Center for the Arts

This holiday spectacular features more than 150 musicians, singers and dancers from across the Southland in a program packed with some of the world's favorite carols. From the triumphal tones of a brass fanfare to the thrilling sound of a chorus in full voice and sugarplum dreams woven by dancers' feet, there's something for all ages in this merry delight. Tickets start at \$33.

*Before attending any in-person event, please visit [cusafelyback.chapman.edu/guidelines](https://cusafelyback.chapman.edu/guidelines) for up-to-date information about our COVID-19 event guidelines.*



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**[NeighborsofChapman.com](https://NeighborsofChapman.com)**

## **CHAPMAN DEAN RECEIVES GREATER IRVINE CHAMBER DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD**

Fowler School of Engineering Dean Andrew Lyon, an internationally known chemist, researcher and professor at Chapman University, was honored last month with a Distinguished Educator Award by the Greater Irvine Chamber.

The inaugural Distinguished Educators program recognizes exemplary Orange County educators at all levels of learning, with a particular focus on programs in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).

"It is a true honor to be recognized at the inaugural Distinguished Educator Awards ceremony," Lyon said. "The Greater Irvine Chamber displayed great vision in establishing this event. By celebrating all of the educators who truly excel in their support of a broad diversity of learners, the Chamber is honoring not only those

educators, but also Irvine's tremendous history as a place for excellence and innovation in education."

Chapman Provost Norma Bouchard, Ph.D., provided the sponsor welcome for the inaugural event.

"Chapman University is honored to be the presenting sponsor for such an important effort," said Bouchard. "Orange County's rich commitment to education at all levels is indeed both distinctive and admirable. We are grateful to be a part of this tradition at our campus in Orange and our Rinker Health Science Campus in Irvine, and through the Chamber's Distinguished Educators event to honor some of the outstanding practitioners of education in our community."



*Andrew Lyon, Chapman University chemistry researcher and Fowler School of Engineering dean, receives the Distinguished Educator Award from Bryan Starr, president and CEO of the Greater Irvine Chamber.*

More inside!