

CCIS Communiqué

Community Committee for International Students

Volunteers serving
Stanford's Internationals
Volume 14 #1
Fall 2010



President Ramesh Sekar, Vice President Carolyn Gannon, Secretary Karen Imatani, and Treasurer Henry Lum

CCIS begins a new year

On July 1, four people took over the responsibility for organizing the activities of the CCIS Board and programs. Like CCIS itself they are a diverse group. Two are women and the other two are men. Three were born in the US and one was born overseas. Three learned their English from the mother's lap and one learned it in school. None attended Stanford, but one was an adjunct professor here, and two had children who graduated from Stanford.

Our new president, Ramesh Sekar, was born in Chennai (Madras), India of parents who spoke Tamil and English in their home. He lived in India for 22 years before coming to the U.S. for graduate school in Wisconsin after which he worked for high tech firms. He had two goals: 1. to change careers every five years and 2. to be a manager. As he modestly says, "He couldn't do anything specific, so he might as well be a manager." Married for 35 years, he and his wife have a son who graduated from Stanford and who now lives in San Francisco, and a daughter who is a student at Brown University. He became involved in CCIS in 2000, when Carolyn Gannon asked him to do a Profes-

sional Liaison partnership. Since then he has participated in Homestay, Community Advisors, and he even emceed at a Potluck. Last year he was vice president. He hopes to expand CCIS service to international undergraduates who are increasing in numbers. They are more vulnerable than the more mature graduate students that have been the focus of CCIS. Far from home without the family which often accompanies the graduate students, they could use a partnering such as in Hospitality where learning English is not the primary function as in EIA. Having children himself in college, he sees that they could use the uncomplicated emotional support of an "aunt" or "uncle" in the neighborhood.

Our vice president is Carolyn Gannon. She attended Bennington in Vermont for two years, and then transferred to UC Santa Barbara where she studied mathematics. After graduation she worked for GE TEMPO—Technical Military Planning Organization. She has a very small family—a husband, brother and a sister, one nephew,

[Go to New Officers, p. 3](#)

CCIS Potluck/
Music Night
Sunday,
November 14
6:00 P.M.

At the Bechtel
International
Center

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President's column

Ramesh Sekar

It is an honor and privilege to have been elected President of CCIS for 2010-11. As has been mentioned elsewhere in this issue, I have volunteered with CCIS in various capacities since 2000. It is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally rewarding to connect with some of the best minds in the world—internationals at Stanford. They bring cultural diversity and global perspectives to our lives.

When I first arrived in Madison, Wisconsin to attend graduate school in 1971, one of the stark differences I noticed in the newspapers in this country compared to international ones was how US-centric the local papers tended to be. After a while I realized that this was due to the self sufficiency of the economy, in contrast with interdependence in the rest of the world. This has changed in the last forty years, with everyday life in the US inextricably linked to what is happening in the rest of the world. Your efforts as CCIS volunteers to reach out and help international students, visiting scholars and spouses have deep and lasting effects in promoting global understanding and togetherness.

CCIS' mission is to connect Stanford internationals with the community. We are always trying to expand our outstanding team of volunteers to enrich the internationals' experience at Stanford, and in turn be enriched by their own lives. As you know, the rewards of volunteering with CCIS are deep and long-lasting, and I encourage you to invite your friends and family to join our community.

Editor's Column

John Heron

This is the first issue that we have significantly reduced the number of paper copies of The Communiqué that we mail. We had to. The Communiqué's budget was cut by 25 percent, and we either had to do that or cut the number of printed issues from three to two per year.

The postcard survey that we included in last winter's issue helped a little bit. We were able to transfer 72 members from printed copies to electronic copies. As more people become comfortable with computers that number is sure to climb, but in the meantime we ran into a wall that we have climbed over for several years by increasing the Communiqué's budget. We can't do that forever without affecting our other programs.

How did we decide which people would continue to receive a paper copy, and how did we inform them? Our answer was simple. There are nearly 800 individuals and families in the database. We calculate that there may be 300 who are active in some way. That is a huge gap. Actually, we depend on our members to tell us what they are doing, and we don't have a systematic method of determining when the interest wanes.

It is easier to get into our database than to get out. People contact us because they hear about the partnerships available in EIA or Hospitality. They may think that we are only a matching service, and once matched they don't realize that they have become members of CCIS. They may not even know what CCIS is. That's the reason we now require an interview with all new volunteers and give an expanded program description in the Fall issue.

Anyway, they meet with a partner for awhile, and then, while fondly remembering their partner, they go on to something else. Telling CCIS that you no longer want to be connected is uncomfortable. It's easier to do nothing, but for CCIS that bloats the database. Even if it isn't true, we can proudly say that we have 700 plus members. These folks rarely notify us when they move. It's the Post Office that does, at 46¢ for each address change. Each year we mail a membership form asking people what programs they want to support and asking for a financial contribution. We get about 200 responses to that request. So we chose 2006, as the cut off date. If we haven't heard from someone since then—that's five years—we've stopped mailing them a Communiqué. We notified them by email telling them that they could get The Communiqué online. So can you <http://www.ccisstanfordu.org>. Hard? Yes, but how many organizations do you support that you don't contact on an annual basis?

Community Committee for International Students

In order to reduce spam we have separated the email addresses into two parts. Please add the officer's prefix to the general address as follows:

example@CCISstanfordU.org

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Cooking, Dolly Sacks, cooking@
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English-In-Action, Marsha Alper, Carole Hessler, and Sim Moo, eia@
Events, Annie Nunan, events@
Friday Morning Coffee, Chula Morel-Seytoux & Gwyn Dukes, coffee@
Homestay, Karen McNay, homestay@
Hospitality, Donna Shoemaker, hospitality@
Loan Closet, Chula Morel-Seytoux, loan-closet@
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Send email to Susanne Maas, smaas@
or visit the Resource Center for International Families

Some Thoughts on Orientation

Another Orientation has come and gone and thanks to CCIS it was very successful. While we continue to offer more programs focusing on practical issues we have noticed some changes in the last few years. If we offer dinners at \$3-4 dollars we run out of food; if we offer dinners at \$7-8 dollars we have few students! So as long as we can find ways to subsidize dinners during Orientation, students come and enjoy the chance to meet other students. This year we ran two bus trips; both sold out early which meant students who arrived after the first few days of Orientation did not get a chance to sign up. Do we offer more bus trips next year? We have noticed more and more new international graduate students arriving early—so much so that the busiest days for the volunteers in Community Advisors was the beginning of the week prior to Orientation week. We are now thinking of moving some of our regular Orientation programs to the week before and offering them twice. Our closing reception was well attended. We received some suggestions that we move it to earlier in the week. Programs for new family members and new international female graduate students were also popular.

Other than international graduate students there are two other groups of students who have orientations: the international frosh class is now larger than ever with almost 150 students arriving this year, along with an equivalent number of parents. So our three-day Orientation for international frosh is hectic and busy, and we offer special receptions and workshops for the parents. They were well received. Post-doctoral students, while welcome to attend any of our Orientation events, congregated at Bechtel the week after Orientation for a welcome event for all Post-docs. It is organized by the Post-doctoral student Association, and Bechtel is delighted to provide the space. In planning for next year Orientation we will need some thinking about when to begin and what we can. Overall we were very pleased with student turnout to both graduate and undergraduate international Orientation. We did a lot of email outreach during the summer, which seems to have paid off, and we even have a Facebook page that helped us announce new programs.

In terms of the numbers of new international students we welcomed approximately 1000 new international graduate and undergraduate students this fall.

Our thanks, as always, go to the many CCIS volunteers who do so much to personally welcome these new students.

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and a few cousins. She and her husband studied together in university before settling in the Bay Area in 1984. She cofounded a tech firm and later worked for Sun and then Oracle as a vice president of product development. Living near a university, which has always been important for Carolyn, she became involved in Stanford's cultural activities. Meeting Chula Morel-Seytoux and looking for ways to volunteer she discovered CCIS. She has served in Professional Liaison, Community Advisors, EIA, Homestay and Hospitality almost every year. She was treasurer for the last ten years and is chair of the Spouse Education Fund. As a volunteer outside of CCIS Carolyn has been a child advocate, long-time trustee at Bennington College, docent at Hidden Villa, active

board member of the African Library Project, and strongly supports TheatreWorks.

Henry Lum, who is our treasurer, is the retired Stanford Adjunct Professor of the group. He grew up in Hawaii as a third generation immigrant and attended a private school before going to Purdue to study electrical engineering. Upon graduation, he spent six years in the Navy and was sent to Purdue to get his master's degree. In 1964 he came to California to be closer to their family in Hawaii. He joined NASA and was an Associate Director. Prior to retirement, he was director of a software R&D facility in West Virginia. He has three daughters all of whom went to UC schools (UCSF, UCSB, and UCLA). As an Adjunct Professor Henry, who had heard a great deal about

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CCIS Programs in 2010-11

EIA / English in Action

English in Action is where most volunteers get to know international graduate students, visiting scholars, or members of their families. Acquaintances, meeting every week for an hour, can become lasting friends.

Experienced EIA volunteer partners know families all around the world, and it's not surprising to talk with another CCIS member who just returned from a wedding in Mexico or is planning to have dinner with a friend when they visit Beijing. EIA partners mean a great deal to each other.

That's because frequent conversations with someone who is highly motivated to become fluent in English and has a multitude of questions about American culture will open up subjects that many Americans don't get many opportunities to talk about. Of course, volunteers offer suggestions about American English, vocabulary, and slang. You, who learned your language from your parents and refined it in school, are the expert.

Most internationals register for EIA in October. The EIA committee matches nearly 200 students and spouses, and students come in throughout the year as they hear about EIA from a friend or a university professor.

The EIA Committee holds training workshops for new volunteers each year.

Committee contact: Marsha Alper, Carole Hessler, Sim Moo, eia@ccisStanfordU.org

English Classes

The thirteen teachers prepare a weekly lesson on a range of subjects. Classes are held in a classroom reserved in the I-Center for the fifteen to twenty or more spouses who want to learn and practice speaking in English. The teaching strategy encourages interaction with an emphasis on fun in a place where it is OK to make a mistake.

This is a popular program for volunteers, and many teachers have been on the staff for years. There is always a need for substitutes, and that is a good way to see if this is a fit for you.

Mary Ann Saunders and Karen Sortino chair the English Class program and can be emailed at englishclasses@ccisStanfordU.org

Loan Closet

OK, imagine that you're settling into a furnished apartment on or nearby campus. You look in the cupboard and see that it's bare. No glasses, plates, pots and pans, silverware, napkins. What about a toaster, or an iron or even an ironing board? A vacuum cleaner? Linen? None in sight. Well, of course, you can buy this stuff even though much will not be taken home when you return to your country. That's especially true of the electrical appliances which run on America's favorite voltage, 120 while the rest of the world energizes on 220.

Chula Morel-Seytoux manages the CCIS Loan Closet in the basement of the Abrams Building in Escondido Village. For \$10 a year for an individual, or \$20 for a couple, you can check out what you need for the duration of your stay at Stanford. Where does the money go? Oh, it buys more toasters which is the one item that people tend to wearout before buying a new one.

Chula not only keeps a store neat and tidy, with other volunteers, she also uses the incoming donations to buy the items that need replacement.

We ask our members, "Are you downsizing your home?" If so, Chula would love to talk with you.

Chula Morel-Seytoux can be emailed at loanclinet@ccisStanfordU.org



Elizabeth Wiltshire, Christchurch, New Zealand

Cooking Classes

In all of the CCIS programs there is an effort to demonstrate the human experiences we share. Cooking and eating are certainly among those. Like most CCIS activities, Dolly Sacks, who chairs this program, begins by asking a simple question: what is American cooking? There's got to be more than the ubiquitous McDonald's.

The job for Dolly is to demonstrate that our food, like our people, come from everywhere: Italy, Mexico, China, France! And the seasoning comes from Asia and Africa.

Dolly likes to teach American family favorites such as the Crummy Chicken that she learned to love growing up. After several years of classes Crummy Chicken finds itself on dinner plates in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Contact: Dolly Sacks email at cooking@ccisStanfordU.org

Hospitality

Like English in Action this is a matching between people. It started out as a program where you put another plate on the table and invited an international to the Thanksgiving dinner. Hospitality has grown since that simple beginning.

Today people get together several or more times a year to celebrate birthdays and other holidays. Like EIA you will answer cultural questions about America and can build lifetime friendships.

This is a program that does not focus on learning English. Thus, you may have an opportunity to meet people from other English speaking countries.

If you want to get to know an international and don't have the time to commit yourself to a once-a-week meeting in EIA contact Donna Shoemaker. Donna is emailed at hospitality@ccisStanfordU.org.

Homestay

What happens when internationals come to Stanford before the university has housing available? In the welcome information packet that the I-Center sends out to incoming internationals is a letter from CCIS which invites the international to apply to stay with an American family if the university housing will not be open when they arrive. The time is limited to a period of up to one week.

The American hosts often greet the international at the airport. After some rest from the flight, the hosts can escort them to campus to finish the registration now required by Homeland Security, to introduce them to CCIS and to learn about all of the I-Center and CCIS programs. Usually at the end of Homestay a big barbecue is held so that all the Homestay people can meet each other. Quite often Homestay hosts and guests discover that they want to continue seeing each other, and they continue as though they were Hospitality partners.

Karen McNay is the chair of Homestay and can be emailed at homestay@ccisStanfordU.org.

Professional Liaison Program

It can be disorienting to be a professional architect, nurse, teacher, pharmacist living at Stanford while your spouse is engaged in study and research. In your home country among colleagues and friends you are respected for the skills that you have acquired. Then you come to America where your visa won't allow you to work, and you seem to lose status if not self respect.

PLP makes a match with an American in the same profession. You compare techniques and responsibilities. Despite worldwide universalities like fast food, popular music, and movies there can be unexpected differences. In some countries an architect not only designs the structure of a building, but in residential work they also do interior design and the landscaping—jobs that in America are frequently sub-divided into separate professions. Europeans, particularly German teachers, are amazed at the extra curricular activities supported by American high school teachers. Europeans don't expect to find biology teachers at the end of the day leaving the lab equipment to coach soccer or advise the Mock Trial Team.

The international spouses who learn about the Professional Liaison Program discover that there is more to Americans than seen on TV. They don't expect that they would ever have a

chance to meet someone of their own occupation. They assume that Americans are too busy and not interested.

Gina Bertolino, who is new to the Board this year, chairs PLP. Her email address is plp@ccisStanfordU.org

“My transport is a bicycle. I carried the linens I bought at Macy's back to my apartment on my head. I was so surprised when the person at the Loan Closet, loaded my stuff into her car and took them to my apartment. Chula was so nice.” ~Elizabeth Wiltshire

Spouse Fund

Each fall around thirty international spouses apply for scholarships ranging up to \$500. Again, American generosity comes as an unexpected gift that helps spouses pursue an interest that leads either to career enhancement or personal development. The CCIS Spouse Fund solicits in a separate mailing around \$7000 to fund this activity. You can contribute to either the annual fund or to the endowment fund, a fund that has been growing over the years.

Carolyn Gannon chairs the Spouse Fund Committee and can be emailed at spousefund@ccisStanfordU.org.

Friday Morning Coffee (Spouses only)

A drop-in social at the I-Center for spouses and their young children. 10:00 to 12:00 on Friday. It's a great opportunity to meet other people. Several CCIS volunteers support Friday Morning Coffee including Gwyn Dukes and Chula Morel-Seytoux.

Events

This includes the traditional CCIS Pot Luck Music Night in which both volunteers and internationals come to the I-Center for a social evening. For the potluck everyone brings a salad, an entree, or a dessert. After we share dinner, some of the more talented folks entertain us with music, song, and dance. Potluck/Music nights take place several times a year on a Sunday evening. The role of the committee has been expanded to include other social events through the year.

Annie Nunan, who is the chair, can be reached at events@ccisStanfordU.org.

CCIS *Volunteer Activities*

Welcoming new students

Orientation, Community Advisors and the Loan Closet

Nothing distinguishes the work of the I-Center staff from that of the CCIS volunteers better than their focus in welcoming new students. Both have been providing this service for a long time. The staff calls it Orientation and CCIS calls it Community Advisors, and it takes place at the same time in the same building.



Adam Smith, England

John Pearson says that concern with whom international students were and what they were doing began at least during the Iranian Revolution in the 1970s. At that time when we sensed trouble in Iran and were still supporting the Shah's government, a group of Iranian students held a vigorous demonstration in Washington D.C. supporting the Ayatollah Khomeini. President Carter asked who these people were, and he was told that no one knew.

One of the check boxes on a visa application is labeled "student"—in addition to tourist, business, and diplomat. With



Jessica de Campo, Australia

the visa you could study anywhere you were accepted: in a community college, a university, or a flight school for jet aircraft. Or nowhere. Student visas, limited in years, were one way people could get into the U.S. and disappear into the population. There was no easy way to check.

9/11 ramped up our apprehension

more than a couple of notches. Monitoring student visas became the concern of the new Department of Homeland Security. After getting its paperwork in order, the DHS informed all colleges that their international students had to register with DHS, which would then check the data against visas. At least we would know who was where—if they actually enrolled in a college. Those who didn't? The DHS could start looking for them beginning with whether they had passed through customs at the airport.

Anyway, to make sure that every international registered with Homeland Security Stanford put a hold on incoming international. Until the hold was cleared they couldn't register for classes, get housing, or go to the fabulous Stanford libraries. That was a sure incentive, and students began coming to the I-Center earlier.

Consequently, visa registration and Community Advisors opened a week earlier than usual. As it was, the beginning of the week was jammed. 147 came the first day which was exhausting for the half dozen CCIA volunteers. A somewhat smaller number the second day, and by the end of two weeks about 550 had been interviewed by CCIS Community Advisors.

During the two week Orientation period the I-Center staff holds mandatory workshops called Maintaining Your Status to cover immigration regulations, health insurance, drivers licenses, Social Security, and income tax. Yes, internationals are required to file federal income tax forms even if they make no money. Some grad students, post docs, and scholars do receive an income, however, from grants or by being a teaching or research assistant.

There is some overlap between what the I-Center staff and the volunteers of CCIS tell students and their spouses. Both talk about health insurance and driver's licenses, for example. The difference is in the level of expertise. Where the staff is trained in the intricacies of the law, the volunteers are likely to remind internationals of the importance and location of the offices that provide licenses and insurance.

The staff also has responsibility for the 550 undergraduate internationals, a group

that the CCIS doesn't serve at present. There were 140 to 150 incoming international freshmen this year, and like American freshmen they are increasingly bringing their parents to the opening of school. Five years ago that meant less than ten parents, but at an evening reception facilitated by the I-Center and organized by undergraduate students, there were close to 150 parents.

The other half to welcoming interna-



Loan Closet before the onslaught

tionals is to provide information known to long time residents: how do you actually deal with the DMV, how can you get to



Signing in at the Loan Closet

San Francisco without a car, where are good places to shop for clothing, bicycles, and groceries—especially ethnic groceries. What



Chula Morel-Seytoux helping Dinesh Bharadia, India

is the value of the AAA if you're driving or planning a trip? The answers include information about CCIS. For example, the English classes are where you can practice perfecting your English. EIA is where you can get weekly practice with a warm human being who knows America and its language.

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Sumita Ghosh

A new spouse at Stanford

I met Sumita at the Loan Closet where I had gone to take pictures for a potential story. She is bright and cheerful and was definitely interested in tableware. As we talked about her first few weeks at Stanford it became apparent that the Loan Closet story was morphing into a story about how one young woman's life was being transformed from an educated, professional woman in India to a spouse of a graduate



Sumita Ghosh picking out stemware

student at Stanford.

She grew up in Lucknow. Now if you're like me, Lucknow is a small dot on the map of northern India. Prompted by meeting someone who actually lived in that small place, I went to Wikipedia.

At five million people, Lucknow, one of India's fastest growing cities, has a rich multi-ethnic population of which about 70 percent are Hindus, 26 percent Muslim, and smaller groups of Sikhs, Jains, Christians, and Buddhists. These are people who have lived side-by-side for centuries and have developed a refined life-style of warmth, sophistication, courtesy, and a love for gracious living. The people of Lucknow are known nationwide for their etiquette, *Pahle-Asp* (after you) as it is said.

Sumita was an only child. Her father taught at the Indian Institute of Management. The family spoke Bengali at home, and she began learning English in preschool at the age of three. She and her husband speak Bengali at home.

She received her primary and secondary

education in a school named after its founder, a Frenchman, for until the Seven Years War ended in 1763, France had trading centers in many parts of India. (It's interesting to watch places that have been relatively obscure to me slowly acquire a history.) As most people know, the English won the war, and so the language of instruction is primarily in English—not French or Bengali or Hindi or anything else. At university in Lucknow she studied economics and literature and then earned an MBA in Delhi. Between graduation and coming to Stanford

she worked for six years in market research. During that time Sumita traveled many times to Europe, and she has spent time in Malaysia and Singapore.

Indian traditions are in transition. Her marriage was arranged by a friend of her aunt. Although she did not know her future husband she had seen him before. Her parents, by contrast, met each other for the first time at their wedding. She and her

husband moved from northern India to Bangalore.

The transition to Stanford was smooth. They were assigned their apartment when they arrived. It had some furniture, the utilities were turned on, and a phone had been installed. Pots and pans, dishes, and glasses were found at the Loan Closet. Without a car, she bicycles which she didn't do in India. As she says, "The public transportation system in India is good. Here, the Marguerite is fantastic but other public transportation is not as good." Her major adjustment has been a change in her daily life. In Bangalore she often worked from 9 A.M. until after 7 P.M. and then took work home, but she had a cook. Now she has no professional work to do and is having to learn how to cook, clean house, and do laundry. We joked about her early success in boiling eggs. When I asked what she had learned from the change, she said that she had learned to appreciate her mother. I asked if she had told her mother that, and she laughed, said "yes," and said that her mother had laughed

when she told her.

She did not hear about the Community Advisors workshops, but perhaps her husband had come. She had heard something about the Friday Morning Coffee, and someone had told her about the Loan Closet.

What will she do with all the new found time? She is taking a business class in the Continuing Studies program this fall, and with only one year here at Stanford she wants to take advantage of every opportunity. Her hope for other new spouses is that they will discover what a hotbed of opportunity is here for them in America. There are so many things that you can do.

~John Heron

Letter from a volunteer

Dear Marianne Dieckmann,

In 2007/2008, while my husband and I enjoyed a sabbatical year at Stanford, I participated in the English in Action program and was paired with a young woman from Japan whose husband was a scholar in the business school. We had a lovely year of meeting together. We ascended Hoover Tower, walked around Lake Lag, shopped at Crate and Barrel, and made Christmas cookies, as well as sitting at the Old Union and talking on many afternoons. I enjoyed her friendship. We now live in San Francisco, and yesterday, during their brief vacation visit to the Bay Area, we hosted my conversation partner and her husband for an afternoon of sightseeing and catching up. It was a joy for my husband and me, and I think for them as well.

This is such an important program. Trailing spouses are so very lonely, and when lack of language prevents them from simply dropping into the cultural and academic life around them, they are lonelier still. I know. I've been a trailing spouse. Thank you for what you do and what you enable volunteers to do so that a Stanford year can be happy and fulfilling for these lonely young women and for the volunteers who become their friends. I know my Stanford year was happier because of my friendship with Miho.

Yours truly,
Fran Rounds

Address Service Requested



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EIA, was matched by Marianne Dieckmann with two students from China and has been active in CCIS programs for six years: EIA, Community Advisors, Hospitality, Homestay, and has taught in the English classes. He took early retirement from NASA and this year is his first on the CCIS Board. As treasurer he believes that the organization should review its goals and have its budget meet its primary mission. He is concerned that contributions to the general fund have been declining over the last few years, and is excited to be a part of CCIS. He wants to meet new people—volunteers as well as internationals.

Our secretary, third generation Japanese-

American, Karen Imatani was born and raised in a Maryland suburb of Washington D.C. Her father was an engineer, her mother an economist, and her younger sister who loved music went to Japan to study the Japanese culture. Her sister liked Japan so much she stayed there. Karen majored in Asian Studies at Wheaton, a small liberal arts college in Massachusetts, and then earned an MA at the University of Michigan. She was then offered a scholarship by the Japanese government to study at Hiroshima University. Back in the U.S. she began her career as a tech writer and later a programmer. She got a job at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. After retirement in 2005, she and her husband moved into the Hyatt across

from the Stanford Shopping Center, and it was there that she saw a CCIS ad in the Stanford Daily. Inspired by her own experience and reminded by her son who was very well treated as an international university student in Japan, she contacted Martha Enthoven. Karen attended the CCIS Volunteer Luncheon last December and came to several of the teas that Martha held to entice new members. A couple of EIA partnerships followed, and now she has begun her first year on the Board. It seems that Karen is the perfect model of how CCIS successfully recruits new volunteers and leaders. Not surprisingly Karen's goal for CCIS is to recruit more volunteers for EIA.

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Hospitality is where you can enjoy the holidays and spend time with people who care about you. And so on through all of our programs. Let's not forget Professional Liaison where you can meet a professional who does the same work that you do, or the Spouse Education fund that will help spouses take courses through small scholarships. Of immediate concern to many is the Loan Closet that has a supply of pots and

pans, dishes, and towels and sometimes toasters and microwaves.

Oh, there is one more group ready to help during the year. That's the spouses themselves. They teach foreign languages including Mandarin, Spanish, Japanese, Italian, French, and German—actually any language that has a spouse willing to do some planning and teach a class. Even though some are not professional teachers, they're very good, and we know that they've

got native pronunciation and the latest slang to share in a fun and informal class. You can make mistakes without being embarrassed.

It all comes together with Friday Morning Coffee that is hosted by all three groups: the I-Center staff, spouses, and CCIS. Open to all spouses: women and men, mothers with babies...nearly anyone who wants to get acquainted with people from other countries.