



CCIS **NOTES**

March/April 2026

CCIS volunteers continue to serve international graduate students, visiting scholars and their families at Stanford University. Read about some of our programs and events!



"Notes at the Top"

Jeff Greenwald - President of CCIS

It's Magic!

Earlier this month, our **English-in-Action** program invited about 100 Community members and their EIA Partners to come to a Magic Show at the Bechtel Center. A wonderful magician (originally from Saudia Arabia) provided the slight-of-hand magic that involved playing cards, money, soda bottles, pieces of rope, balloon animals, chocolate kisses, and a humorous attitude that kept the children in attendance....quite frankly:spellbound. After each trick, the children exclaimed....." But, how did you do that?!". How really do you do that?



How does this magician make coins disappear, or balloons appear in what were empty containers? Where did the soda bottle go? It was just there in the bag! "I can't believe my eyes!" exclaimed one 6 year old child. "It's magic." responded the Magician.

Those exact words are actually my words too, when it comes to how I describe our CCIS volunteers.

** How do our volunteers like Viv and Liz make 100 matches of community EIA members who are willing to meet each week for an hour or two with students' spouses, to simply talk, or go on a walk, or meet for a coffee.....all for no other reason than to make a friend? How do we find 100 volunteers willing to do just that?*

** How does Ann match 20 Homestay families willing to provide housing for students for a week before school starts...just "because".....not for payment or glamour or recognition...but just to meet an international family. How do we do that?*

** How do we find English teachers willing to work all year teaching English-as-a-second (or third) language for no pay at all? (MaryAnn has helped for over 20 years!) How do we find teachers willing to teach the 100+ students each week?*

** How do we find Cooking class teachers like Banani and Gayathri willing to host dinners cooked by our families, each month during the school year?*

** How do we find people like Steffi, Bernhard and Ana who manage our Loan Closet at EVGR (in Abrams) handing out items to over 100 families for the school year (and longer)... How do we find volunteers like that?*

**And what about the career help programs run by Lisa and Melanie, and our coffee program run by Kumud and our SEF program run by Dolly and a host of other volunteers! How do they do that?*

**Where in the world do young volunteers like Tanya from Thailand and Ilor from Israel and others from Korea and Italy and Brazil and Denmark and so many other countries...where do they find us, or how do we find them?*

How do they do that? I think I know: *It's magic.*

Jeff Greenwald
President, CCIS
650-888-9162

Thanks for being a part of CCIS and supporting our
International Community at Stanford.

president@ccisstanfordu.org

We are searching!

Open CCIS board positions!

If you happen to be one of those magicians, willing to volunteer and work hard, but have a
fun time making friends:

- * **Board development and training coordinator**
 - * **Webmaster**
 - * **Alumni Program Coordinator**
 - * **Board member-at- large (jack of all trades!)**
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INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE COFFEE

Wednesday Morning Fun

The **International Spouse Coffee** is a fun time for spouses and members of CCIS to gather together. In March and April several special theme events added extra fun and provided knowledge about other cultures or holidays. The coffee sessions are scheduled from 10:30-12 on most Wednesday mornings.

An Easter celebration was held on April 8. Participants enjoyed wearing "spring" outfits and decorating Easter eggs.



Earth Day was celebrated on April 22. Upcoming events will celebrate Mother's Day on May 6 and Father's Day on June 10.

The passing of a remarkable woman- Joan Fletcher Lane

Joan Fletcher Lane was a remarkable woman. Although her accomplishments for and connections to Stanford are extensive, it is her vision as one of the founders of CCIS that draws our attention.

Lane's engagement with Stanford began in the early 1950s, when she served as the first president of the Community Committee for International Students.

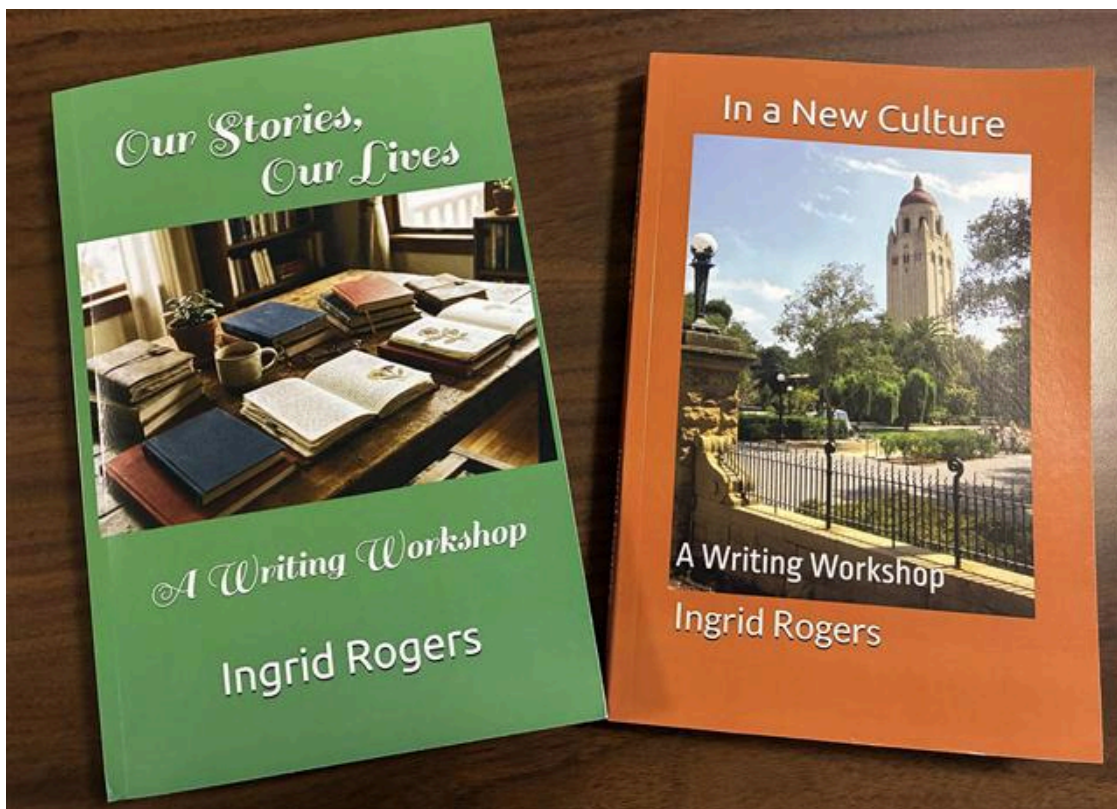
Donna Shoemaker and Carolyn Gannon of CCIS taped a wonderful interview with Joan in which she reminisces about how CCIS came to be. It is a delight to read, and can be found on the CCIS website under Communiqué of June 2018. Here is the link-
https://ccisstanfordu.org/communique_issues-2017_onward/newsletter-jun2018.pdf

Lane was awarded the university's highest annual honor for volunteer service, the Gold Spike Award, in 2005. She passed away February 19 at the age of 97.

photo credit- L.A. Cicero



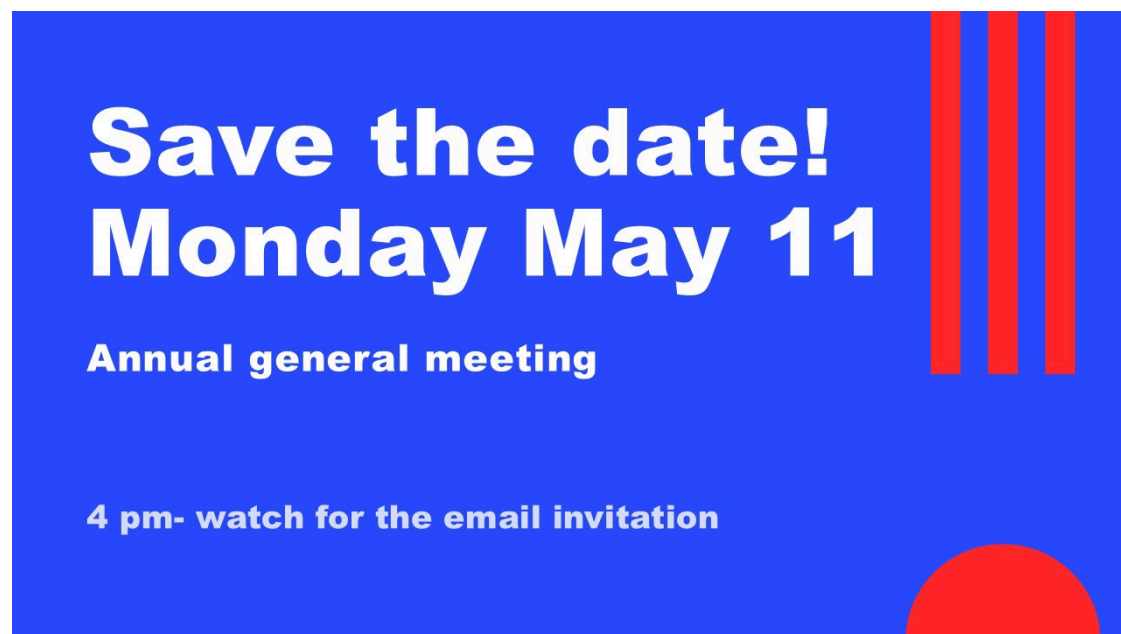
Annual General Meeting



The upcoming Annual General Meeting will feature a real treat for those attending.

English class instructor Ingrid Rogers offered a writing course, "English Through Writing", in the fall of 2025 and winter 2026. The workshop focused on cross cultural adjustment. About two dozen students from ten different countries wrote weekly essays. At the end of the course the participants wished to publish their work. The books shown above are the result.

There are two books with interviews of CCIS ESL students: **In a New Culture** and **Our Stories, Our Lives**. Students from both the fall 2025 and winter 2026 classes will be presenting their stories as part of the program at the May 11 Annual Meeting. The event will be held in the Assembly Room at the Bechtel International Center.



A word from the editor

As the newsletter editor, I hope you will enjoy learning more about what's happening at CCIS. Your feedback is welcome--send an email to notes@ccisstanfordu.org.

Pamela Baird

CCIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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*For more information contact-
info@ccisstanfordu.org*