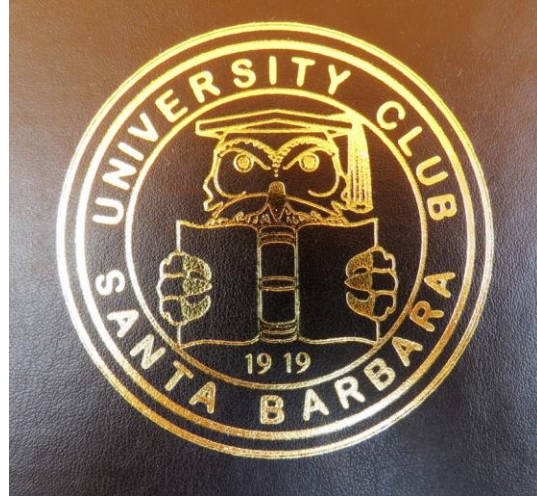


Super Location, Beautiful Building, in a Gorgeous Town

University Club of Santa Barbara

by Lew Toulmin



My wife and I visited the University Club of Santa Barbara (UCSB) and had lunch and a tour in July 2017.

HISTORY AND THE BUILDING: The club was founded in 1919 by a group of eleven men, all with university degrees. They originally rented a small house, but then in 1923 bought what was called “Calkin’s Castle” for \$30,000. This was a beautiful private estate built in the Spanish style in 1880. Bi-weekly dinners were held, costing only \$1.25 per person.



Originally for men only, the club had several “bachelor rooms” upstairs that rented for \$80 per month, including three meals per day. These rooms are now staff offices, with four offices rented out to members for business use. The club now has many women members.

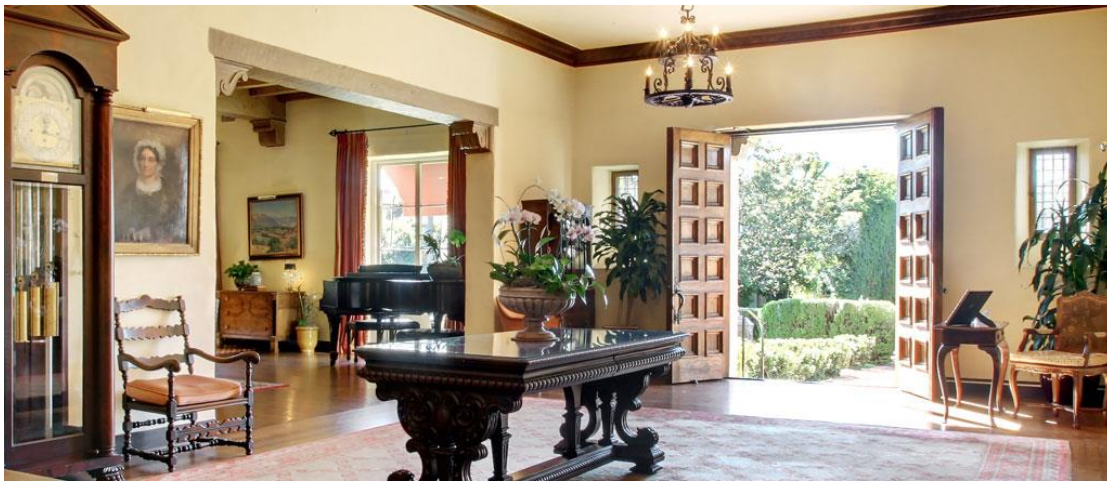
The UCSB is an excellent location, just two blocks from the Courthouse (one of the most beautiful in the country), backing onto Alice Keck Park, and near State Street, the main shopping area. Of course Santa Barbara is a lovely town, with many attractions and a

unified, consistent Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, which came about when the Moorish Revival town center was levelled in a violent 1925 earthquake.

FACILITIES: The club facilities and activities include meeting rooms, dining rooms, patio and outdoor dining, a large lawn for outdoor events (no tents ever needed or used, given the excellent climate!), billiards/pool, a speakers' series, book club, wine tastings, and a remarkably large list of 320 reciprocal clubs.

The club is usually open from 9am to 5 pm, with an honor bar available to members after closing.

Parking is free when dining at the club. High speed Internet access is available throughout the facility. Staffers were very helpful, friendly and knowledgeable.



There is no overnight accommodation, but UCSB has a substantial discount arrangement with the nearby boutique Upham Hotel, which is a very attractive facility (where we stayed for three days and were quite pleased). This hotel discount is available to reciprocal members. There is no gym, but membership in the UCSB allows for joining the Santa Barbara Athletic Club with no initiation fee.



FOOD: The club is oriented toward weekdays-only dining, since weekends are usually devoted to weddings. Lunch is served Monday to Friday from 11:30 to 2:00 pm, with dinner only served on Fridays, often with a different gourmet theme. All diners sit down

and begin eating at the same time on Fridays. Free wine and beer are offered during the Friday lunch. Breakfast is offered on Thursdays only, and this is a complimentary continental breakfast.

Our lunch included an excellent burger (an “A”), chicken picatta over noodles (“A-”), and some local McConnell’s ice cream (“B+”). Prices were a bit higher than at the rival Santa Barbara Club, with UCSB charging about \$12-17 for main dishes.

RULES: The dress code requires a coat but not tie for men at dinner, and business casual dress at lunch. Torn jeans, T-shirts, and shorts are never allowed.



MEMBERSHIP: Members are drawn from local businesspersons, real estate brokers, lawyers, bankers, government officials and academics. The club is an excellent venue for networking with the leadership and society of Santa Barbara.

The club is not affiliated with the University of California at Santa Barbara, but a university degree is required for nomination. Membership is by invitation only, and two existing members must sponsor the nominee. The Membership Committee and the Board then review the nomination. There is a maximum of 300 voting equity members, but current membership levels are somewhat lower.

The cost for a normal resident (within 25 miles of the club) voting equity member is \$3000 for the initiation fee, with \$125 per month for the membership fee and a monthly minimum dining fee of \$75. Non-residents pay no minimum dining fee and the other costs are cut by about half. In an interesting category, ordained ministers, staff of local non-profits, and local government officials are offered an initiation fee of only \$600.

Additional photos of the club are shown below.



Upcoming Events in July

- 3 Independence Day Mixer**
Barber Shop Quartet
5:30pm-9:30pm
\$9.50++ Members
\$17++ Guests
- 6 First Thursday Wine Tasting**
A selection of French wines representing six different regions from France
Includes cheese & fruit plate to cleanse your palate
- 6 Fireside Chat The Flip Side of the Bench Judge Brian Hill**
An entertaining evening featuring stories from his most amusing and unusual weddings and court cases.
- 7 Summer Bistro Dinner on the Sola Patio & Jazz Combo**
Menu will be released
Wednesday, July 6th
5:30pm-10:00pm
\$25++
\$8++ for Children's Menu
- 11 Santa Barbara Village Speaker Series Using Ancient Food Traditions To Heal: The Colors of Your Food**
Kathele Banister, MS, LAc, Chinese Medicine Practitioner, will discuss how to use food as medicine
2:00pm-3:30pm
- 12 U Club Book Group**
Book Group will be discussing *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. Please buy or borrow your copy, the book group will not be providing books.
12:00pm-2:00pm
- 14 Bastille Day Bistro Dinner on the Sola Patio & Piano Bar**
Featuring a Bastille Day themed menu
5:30pm-10:00pm
\$25++
\$8++ for Children's Menu
- 20 Learn Over Lunch Fiesta: A Santa Barbara Tradition**
Join Erin de Graffy, the Fiesta Historian, as she goes over the history and importance of one of Santa Barbara's oldest and most beloved traditions.
12:00pm-2:00pm
\$15++
- 21 Bistro Dinner & Piano Bar**
Menu will be released
Tuesday, July 18th
5:30pm-10:00pm
\$25++
\$8++ for Children's Menu
- 23 Member Family Brunch**
Lawn games and children's activities
10:30am-1:30pm
\$25++
\$12++ Children 3-12
Under 3 Free
- 28 Bistro Dinner, Piano Bar & Wine Sharing**
Menu will be released
Tuesday, July 25th
If participating in Wine Sharing, please bring a bottle of Petite Syrah
5:30pm-10:00pm
\$25++
\$8++ for Children's Menu

Events in August

Save the Date for The Member Family Brunch on August 13th!
\$25++, \$12++ children 3-12, under 3 free 10:30am-1:30pm

3rd	First Thursday Wine Tasting	5:30pm-6:30pm
3rd	Fireside Chat	6:30pm-7:30pm
4th	Bistro Dinner on the Sola Patio	5:30pm-10:00pm
5th	Member Fiesta Party	5:00pm-10:00pm
8th	SB Village Speaker Series	2:00pm-3:30pm
9th	U Club Book Group	12:00pm-2:00pm
11th	Bistro Dinner on the Sola Patio	5:30pm-10:00pm
13th	Member Family Brunch	10:30am-1:30pm
17th	Learn Over Lunch	12:00pm-2:00pm
18th	Bistro Dinner and Jazz Combo	5:30pm-10:00pm
25th	Elvis Dinner	5:30pm-10:00pm



V2; 1 Aug 2017