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## Status Update: Virtual town hall Tuesday will discuss California's 'inequality crisis'

Also in the news: Auto club opens new branch in Rancho Mission Viejo. CBD merchant joins Gelson's.



Chapman University will host a virtual town hall Tuesday, July 14 to discuss "California's inequality crisis" in a Zoom session available to the public. Speakers include Joel Kotkin, Marshall Toplansky, Lucy Dunn, Jennifer Hernandez and Steve Pontell.

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By **STAFF REPORT** |

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Chapman University will host a virtual town hall Tuesday to discuss “California’s inequality crisis” in a Zoom session available to the public.

The panel will be led by Tom Piechota, vice president of research at the university, and also will include faculty experts and local business executives.

The virtual town hall is the ninth installment of Ask the Experts. Speakers include Joel Kotkin, Marshall Toplansky, Lucy Dunn, Jennifer Hernandez and Steve Pontell. The group will discuss the research brief “Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California’s Middle Class,” which explores how “a change in state policy could restore our state’s dream.”

The Zoom session will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. Use this link:

[chapman.zoom.us/j/98100304440](https://chapman.zoom.us/j/98100304440)

## **Giving Day is July 16**

The Orange County Community Foundation is looking to raise \$70,000 for seven local organizations during its third annual Empowering Possibilities, a Giving Day for residents with disabilities.

The 24-hour online effort takes place Thursday, July 16.

All seven nonprofits had to cancel in-person fundraising events and meetings in March due to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis. They include Blind Children’s Learning Center of OC; Down Syndrome Association of OC; Family Support Network; Hope Center for the Arts; Project Independence; Special Olympics Southern California and Vocational Visions.

To give online, go to [empowering-possibilities-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org](https://empowering-possibilities-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org). For more information, go to [oc-cf.org/iheartoc](https://oc-cf.org/iheartoc).

## **Shopping incentives**

MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana is hoping to lure back shoppers with some cash.

Shoppers who spend \$100 or more in single-day purchases at any MainPlace Mall store or restaurant will get a voucher to spend with mall retailers.

Vouchers run from \$20 to \$130, depending on how much is spent.

There are some rules: Home furnishings and appliance purchases do not qualify. And all purchases must be made during the weekends of July 17-19 and July 24-26.

To claim vouchers, shoppers bring qualifying receipts to brand ambassadors in center court Friday and Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m., choosing a store from a list of participating retailers.

Vouchers must be redeemed Aug. 1-8.



## **New auto club branch**

The Automobile Club of Southern California has opened a branch in south Mission Viejo. The 5,079 -square-foot office at 27525 Puerta Real offers insurance, travel and automotive services, including most vehicle-related DMV transactions.

Branch hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the branch phone number is (949) 575-8467.

## **CBD at Gelson's**

HempMeds has launched a retail partnership with Gelson's Market to sell the company's cannabidiol (CBD) topical and beauty products throughout Southern California. Products include salves, sunscreen, shampoo, body oil and more.

## **On the move**

Richard A. Raffetto has been named president of City National Bank, effective Aug. 31. He will be elected to City National's board of directors and will report directly to CEO Kelly Coffey. Raffetto has 30 years of experience in corporate and commercial banking, most recently at U.S. Bancorp in New York, and before that at the Bank of New York Mellon. He replaces President Chris Warmuth who is retiring after 18 years with the bank.

Margita Labhard Blattner has joined The Orange County Community Foundation as senior director of philanthropic strategy. Blattner will lead the foundation's outreach efforts and serve as a resource and partner for local philanthropists and their advisers. Most recently, she served as senior director of business development at EDUCAUSE, a nonprofit that advances higher education through technology.

William E. Sawin Sr. is the new director of development at YMCA of Orange County. He will help the organization by expanding its programs and services, establishing new relationships, and increasing the visibility of YMCAOC in Southern California. Sawin brings over 40 years of management experience and has raised more than \$250 million in the last 10 years for nonprofits across Southern California.

## **On board**

Waymakers, a nonprofit organization that helps at-risk people through conflict and crisis, has added Eileen McCoy, James Pike, Brenda Balsiger and Rich Brakke to its board.



- McCoy has experience in corporate marketing, communications, corporate branding and business development experience.
- Pike serves as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Huntington Beach.
- Balsiger serves as the national sales manager for the Orange County Business Journal.
- Brakke is the vice president of sales for Brakke-Schafnitz Insurance Brokers.

## 1 million diapers

Community Action Partnership of Orange County is celebrating its 1-millionth diaper distributed. In 2018, only four Food Banks in California successfully received state funding to establish diaper banks in their communities.

CAP OC partnered with Assemblymember Tom Daly and state Sen. Tom Umberg to submit a budget request. In July 2019, the request was officially signed into the California state budget, creating California's fifth diaper bank.

To support CAP OC programs, go to [capoc.org/donate](https://capoc.org/donate).

## Cottages change hands

Alzheimer's Orange County has officially taken ownership of the Irvine Cottages residential memory care business, which was donated to the nonprofit by Founder Dr. Jacqueline DuPont, Gerontologist.

"We're delighted to announce that Irvine Cottages Memory Care has officially joined Alzheimer's Orange County," said AlzOC's CEO and President Jim McAleer. "We thank Dr. DuPont for her generous donation and for trusting us to continue to improve the lives of older adults through compassionate memory care."

## Grants

Irvine-based Mad Engine has donated \$10,000 to Human Options during its Drive-Up Mask Giveaway event. This donation will help support Human Options services to help victims of relationship violence.

*Status Update is compiled from press releases by contributing writer Karen Levin and edited by Business Editor Samantha Gowen. Submit items and high-resolution photos to [sgowen@scng.com](mailto:sgowen@scng.com). Allow at least one week for publication. Items are edited for length and clarity.*



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