



# **WHAT OLLI MEANS TO ME**

### **DIANNE ADAMS**

I retired one year ago after 35 years at the same job. It was very hard for me to get used to a quiet, almost lonely daily life after being in an office full of people. I have lived in Anaheim for 41 years and only learned about OLLI by picking up the blue Learn in Retirement booklet at the Yorba Linda Senior Center where I play Bingo every Wednesday.



What a blessing or luck to become a member of this organization. I look forward to every class I attend and I am amazed at the knowledge and intelligence of the people in these classes. I have only been a member for 5 months, but everyone is so friendly and welcoming that I feel like it has been a long time. Now my sister and a good friend have joined and they love it. Thank you, OLLI for giving me a new beginning after retirement.

### **ANONYMOUS**

When I'm at OLLI, I'm not alone and not lonely. I belong.

### **ANONYMOUS**

It means I get to drive the trolley!

### **ANONYMOUS**

I love OLLI. It's the people who make OLLI so special. I've met so many creative, intelligent, thoughtful people, filled with energy, who enjoy ideas and discussion. Especially I enjoy some of the writing classes. The delight of reading and writing poetry and how poetry expands one's view of the world. We have read international poets from India, Spain, France, England, Peru, and many South American poets—So Fascinating! Profound thoughts, history, vivid descriptions abound, all thanks to OLLI.

### **ANONYMOUS**

One thing is to be a long life learner. Another one is to be a perpetual immature student.

**ANONYMOUS** A community that cares and shares!

### **SUZI ATTAL**



I love OLLI like I love my family. I feel that I have many friends here, who appreciate who I am and what I can contribute. I love the varied activities that keep me busier than I really want to be. For example, there are the trips, entertainment, piano concerts, fitness and dance classes, movies and of course the academic classes.

We have some of the most dedicated people willing to give of their time and knowledge. I especially want to thank Marjorie Mota for her extremely well prepared and exemplary Spanish classes, Ed Woodson for his amazing history classes that are some of my favorites, the Judge, who teaches the Byzantine Empire with lots of asides, Ellie Monroe for all the music classes she teaches. Frankly, I could go on and on. It would be hard to imagine life without OLLI.

### **MARJORIE BACH MOTO**

Mother Nature has been extravagant with human beings, the only organisms allowed to live past reproductive age. Why? Because our infants are born helpless and take decades of nurturing to thrive as adults. Elders play a significant part in our species' survival. We provide memory, wisdom, skills and knowledge to the younger members of our tribe. I suspect we have a calming effect and even lower their stress levels with healing words. OLLI is a haven of learning that positions its members to grow with a type of vibrancy we can share with young people in our families, or students who need our tutoring on the university campus. Anthropologically speaking, OLLI ROCKS!

### **KITTY BAIER**

It seems that I have spent most of my life in classes. I worked my way through two years of teacher training in Minnesota. When we moved to California, I had a Provisional Credential that required continuing education.

I was fortunate enough to be a stay-at-home Mom when our first two children came along but our third baby was born with Down syndrome. Extra medical expenses forced me back into substitute teaching. That's a hard job, so I decided to re-enter college to earn a Standard Credential.

As a mature part-time student, I was on CSUF campus so long in the sixties, that people mistook me for part of the faculty! After eight and one-half years, I emerged with my BS in Psychology, an MA in Special Ed, and credentials to counsel, test, and work as a school psychologist.

One professor here was especially inspiring: Dr. James Young, Head of the Drama Department, taught a required Speech Class. He was the best teacher I had ever had, anywhere. Years later, imagine my delight at seeing Jim Young's name in the OLLI catalog. So I joined "Poetry for Pleasure". Being back on campus has been like coming HOME... OLLI for me means friendship and fun!

### **MYRON BANTRELL**

Things keep changing over the years (24 or 25) and for the better.

More courses, more people, and more to learn.

Love it!



### **MARILYN BATES**



O: is for giving me an outstanding choice for my early retirement.

L: is for the laughter and the lighthearted banter that abounds amongst all.

L: is for caring to offer lessons and provide such a variety of interesting pursuits.

I: is for the interesting speakers who generously share their knowledge and time

I am truly indebted to the founding members and the university for working together to provide such a stimulating program for the benefit of all: whether fifty-five or not. However, upon retirement, I had planned to move out of the congestion

of a big city, but because of the program I'm still here, enjoying myself in a way not available in most locales. Is giving up the dream to move worth it? The answer is a resounding YES.

C: bravo to the choices made by a handful of progressive thinking people.

L: is for making me want to linger in the area and to enjoy my days.

E: thanks to everyone who continues to enrich my life

### KARIN BELL

The offerings of classes and activities at OLLI remind me of a well-run summer camp. There's great opportunity for continued learning as well as exercise in a non-threatening atmosphere. I'm also enjoying meeting and getting acquainted with new people. I think, too, that OLLI imitates the old "folk-schools" of Denmark. I love the variety of choices to hear, see, & do!

### GRACE BERTALOT

When I retired in 2009, I knew it would be very easy for me to become a complacent hermit at home. I joined OLLI to keep me socially engaged, and it has done a wonderful job. I've made new friends and met a great many terrific individuals. My favorite classes are the discussion groups (Behind the News and Wisdom Exchange) as well as the vitally important Our World in Change led so capably by Bryce Bardin. OLLI offers far more than I can take advantage of. I am an unceasing advocate for OLLI with all my friends who are approaching retirement.

### JUNE BETZ-OSBORNE

I was here for one fall semester. It was an enjoyable time and there were great instructors. Loved Marty Barry for the Tai Chi Cha, Art Martinez for Spanish I, Marion for Spanish Pronunciation. Stage-Chorale, and loved Meditation class.

### DICK BLAKE



I cannot imagine being retired for more than 18 years without being a member of CLE/OLLI for all of those years. When one retires, there is always that big worry: How can I fill the leisure hours, days, weeks, months, and years that lay ahead in whatever the future brings?

For the past 17 years I have been a member of the Curriculum Committee. During that time I served as the Chair for eight years and Vice President for two years. I must say that the challenge and excitement of personally bringing more than 300 programs to the Mackey Auditorium has been a great joy for me. I look forward to more fulfilling years at CLE/OLLI.

### PREDRAG BRKLJACIC

I have met so many nice people I would not normally meet if it was not for OLLI



### DENISE BRKLJACIC



OLLI has improved the quality of my retirement. It is the people of OLLI who make this possible because of their enthusiasm and generosity. They give of their time and their knowledge.

### MONIKA BROOME



OLLI has brought me warm friendships, laughter, thought-provoking discussions, and the opportunity to get to know many highly talented individuals.

Sharing travel experiences, day trip ventures, honing my limited computer skills, book discussions, music, films, gardening tips, financial advice, and guest lectures on a wide variety of topics are just some of the ways OLLI has enriched my life.

### SHARON K. BROWN

What I like about OLLI is that it is continually evolving. Since it is: of the senior students, for the senior students, and by the senior students, it transforms according to the interests and needs of its members. OLLI helps fill gaps left in earlier learning and personal loss. It provides a place to rekindle paused interests or activities. Or it invites you to try something new that you have always wanted to do. I like being a student of the evolving learning experience.



### JEAN BRYANT



OLLI-CSUF has been a true joy for me. All the diverse members and their colorful experiences and expertise. So many courses offered that have filled my once "empty cup" for human contact and food for my brain. My whole life had been so busy with work and my overseas life that I had no idea that such a place so full of education and fun existed, let alone within a university campus setting. May we all continue to support this wonderful bountiful TREE OF LIFE.

## **GAIL CATES**

When I retired as a social worker with foster children in 1996 I wondered what retirement would hold for me. I knew I would be able to keep busy but wasn't sure I would have the opportunity to make new friends and to be challenged in learning new things. Thanks to OLLI, both of these worries were quickly put to rest. I have made some of the best friends of my life since joining OLLI and participating in the Strategy of Poker class on Friday afternoons. It seems that OLLI attracts only the best and brightest of senior citizens; i.e. people who have had great careers, have a love of learning, and of traveling and experiencing all that life has to offer. Secondly, I have been able to partake of some of the wonderful classes OLLI has to offer and have participated in classes on American presidents, Spanish, Anthropology, Local Politics, History, Finance, Line Dancing, Drumming for Exercise, Yoga, and many others. I even picked up my violin after 50 years and started playing again the OLLI orchestra. Bottom line is that OLLI has made this last chapter of my life one of the most rewarding and fun-filled I have experienced.



## **CINDY CHIKAHISA**

(Daughter of Hank and Patti Chikahisa)

We always know when it's Poker Night at OLLI. My Dad is sitting in the chair and dressed up (wearing anything more fashionable than an old white t-shirt, dirty jeans, and flip flops) and waiting for my Mom to get ready. Whether he is wondering who might win the Charles Shaw bottle of wine or wondering which restaurant the group might invade, I know he is looking forward to a fun night. OLLI Poker Night has also been medicinal. Even if he has been battling a cold, Dad always seems to feel much better when Friday night comes along.



OLLI keeps Mom and Dad busy - attending their classes, planning events, and socializing. They have taken their grandchildren to some events to help out with the set up, or just introduce them. The OLLI group always gushes over the kids and makes them feel special. And when the group is at my folks' house, they even make our cat, Norman, feel like he is part of the party. And finally, OLLI has unknowingly served as a focus group for me as they have shared opinions about samples I've sent or feedback about our stores. OLLI is a great organization for my family, for all of the generations, and even the cat.

## **PATTI CHIKAHISA**

In the 1980's, I became an empty-nester. Then in the early 2000's, I became a retiree. Becoming retirees was a more difficult adjustment than kids leaving home until we saw an ad in the Los Angeles Times for an OLLI Open House. We joined in 2006 and discovered a new path for our journey. Classes to stimulate your mind, physical activities to keep your body in shape, and social events where new friends gather! As we became more familiar with OLLI, we realized it offered opportunities



to volunteer and to work with a purpose. On many days when we leave OLLI, we can honestly say, "This is a good life!"

#### **NANCY CHIRCO**

OLLI means to me: I can attend history lecture classes because I want to, not because I have to.

#### **MARTY COLE**

I started in OLLI in the Fall of 2013. It has been a wonderful experience of learning, growing, and healing. The students, teachers, and volunteers have been very kind and friendly. I am amazed at how open minded the students and teachers have been. I really appreciate others when they have a free spirit and are open to possibilities. OLLI at CSUF has been a perfect match for me. I am very grateful to all of you for that. OLLI inspired me so much that now I am a teacher here teaching my class called Wisdom Healing every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00.

#### **EDITH & LEE CULP**

Just want to say we have been members of CLE/OLLI for 18 years and thoroughly enjoy what it offers. There is so much offered, would there be enough time to sample it all. OLLI is so special and we are so fortunate to be a part of it.

#### **CLAIRE CURRAN**

Learning, Learning, Learning -- So much to choose from and so varied.



#### **MARIETTA DAVIS**

Variety and opportunity are only the beginning of what OLLI means to me. A tremendous THANKS for all the generous folks who volunteer time, knowledge and interests. One special enjoyment has been hearing and watching the varieties of musical presentations offered by Ellie Monroe who has a fantastic library of works, videos, and instructional visual software programs from classical composers and their music to Broadway with its varieties of songs. Thanks also to Jim, who helps with the large tote containers filled with Ellie's resource materials!

#### **MARIETTA DAVIS**

We are very fortunate to be able to hear quality videos presented by enthusiastic and interested people with a love of sharing knowledge. A big thanks to Susan Hanna and Rick Hearn for all we learn from them!

### **CYNDIE DEMBER**



Is it time to retire? It's a hard decision when your job is also your avocation. Is there something I would rather be doing? Finally the answer was a resounding "Yes"! OLLI! The classes are indeed wonderful, but it's the PEOPLE that make it completely fabulous. From the first moment I felt that OLLI was as excited to have me as I was to be there. Feeling immediately welcomed I set about finding my niche. Reaching out to new people isn't easy, but it's a great adventure and worth the reward.

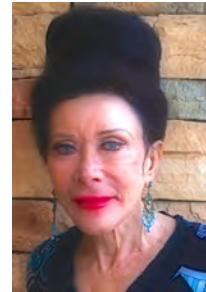
I'm happy to have a new set of very good friends whom I love spending time with. Mental, physical and social stimulation - life is so rich with OLLI. Remember school summer vacations as a kid, hanging out with peers, playing games, tackling projects, laughing, talking, going to movies... OLLI is it! A perpetual summer vacation.

### **ROGER DITTMANN**

OLLI certainly has enlivened the intellectual climate on campus. What we need still is a LL Activism Institute.

### **DOROTHY DODD**

When a person retires and is still active physically and mentally, we need to be with others like us, to be stimulated for our own well-being. When I retired I became depressed until my son introduced me to OLLI. It saved my life!



### **TIM DWYER**

What OLLI means to me: Because five different Spanish classes are taught at OLLI, I have found that attending all five classes I can approximate a "total immersion" course.

### **CAROL ERWIN**

I enjoy the classes and the people. The person who I admire most is Ellie. She got me started with the recorder and now I take flute privately and in a year I hope to play in the orchestra.

### **NED FINKELSTEIN**

I was told about OLLI by chance and enrolled on March 5, 20014. It is a wonderful organization to continue your education with interesting classes. Also many wonderful people.

### **MARIA FOX**

OLLI has provided me an opportunity to continue learning things that I didn't have time for when I was working. The classes are stimulating and thought provoking. So far the teachers or leaders have been fantastic.

## PAT FOX

As I talk to people in Brea where I have resided for 58 years (same house), and am an active volunteer, I meet lots of old friends and new folks as well. I mention OLLI and suggest they be interested in OLLI programs. Invariably one will look me over then ask, "What does OLLI mean to you?" I doubt I give them the same response over and over, but I answer like this:

Friendship, opportunity to enhance my life through classes and various programs, a good argument about a current event, write my life story to pass on to my family, socials, dancing, yoga, walking, longevity stick exercise, free exchange of books among our members, movies, classic music - - and on it goes. I had no expectation when I made the choice to join OLLI, but it is something that is a treasure to me and I shall keep this treasure and try to be a more contributing member knowing that whatever I'm involved in at OLLI, I will learn something- - even without trying.



## CHARLES GEITNER

### PROGRESS?

How did I reach what I have written  
as a title?

Did I really make progress  
Out of what I started  
A few years ago?

At that time

My writing was a mess

I was only curious

I had not been blessed.

Who can say, today

That I have made progress?

I can say!

Why can I say, my writing is not a mess?

I need only examine

The way I felt in my first few week

In this class

Before I was blessed

With a feeling of confidence

A feeling of acceptance

A feeling of security

A feeling that I was not outside

The fence

I was hesitant

I was quiet

I lacked the ability

(so said I to myself) to create

When I finally wrote something

And it was accepted for what it was

It was not criticized

I WAS NOT told that I had NO talent

I was encouraged

It was just the quiet acceptance

Of the class

That Inspired me to do more

The class accepted

The class encouraged

The class inspired

The class did not realize

What they had done

Now I write!!!

I express my true feelings

I fantasize, in words

I write about beauty

The beauty of a woman

The beauty of nature

The beauty of words

All of this, and more,

Because of inspiration,

Confidence, Acceptance

The feeling that I CAN!

So, have I made progress?

Yes!!! Thanks to Poetry for Pleasure.

## RITA GELLER



When I retired one of the first things I did was to enroll in CLE. Friends raved about the classes they were taking. My first class was Wisdom Exchange. We all squeezed into a small room. I was squeezed somewhere in the middle. The subject for the day was death and dying. I really wanted to get out of there but there was no way I could leave without disrupting half the class. Well, we laughed for two hours about death and dying. I was hooked and have been attending Wisdom Exchange and OLLI ever since.

## MARK & RITA GELLER

We like OLLI so much, as the commercial says, we bought the city! We had planned to move to Seal Beach Leisure World. We bought a small house there and planned to drive back to Fullerton 2 or 3 times a week. We continued enjoying OLLI classes and area activities 6 to 7 days and nights a week. We joyfully realized we had to stay in Fullerton. We sold our house in Seal Beach and enjoy every day at OLLI and the area for many, many more years, with St. Jude's help.



## BETSY GIBBS



OLLI is a spa for the mind!

It's kind of like being back in the small liberal arts college I attended—but without the insecurity and pressure. We're lively, high-achieving, energetic, and enjoy stimulation both socially and in classes.

It's a place where you can be accepted for who you are. It's good to be making new friends and exploring ideas that you didn't have time for in your past life. We are rather homogeneous demographic; we understand one another and are intellectually compatible. On one hand, I miss the diversity of the larger community and workplace. On the other hand, I enjoy the level of compatibility that comes from having had many similar life experiences. Just remember that it's a bit rarified, not a true microcosm of the real world!

## MAGGIE GILES

I joined the Watercolor class this fall . . . . WOW! This is the best find ever. Joyce Ono is a wonderful teacher and gave us the basics. I now enjoy a new hobby that is both therapeutic and fulfilling. Everyone in the class is friendly and willing to explain concepts, techniques, tips/tricks, and other "how to." I now have new friends and retirement is the best ever. Thanks to OLLI.



### **SALLY GOLDMAN**

Congratulations on the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Olli. I have been a member for several years and have enjoyed the lectures and the trips. I especially like the Monday morning Duplicate Bridge session. Because we rotate around the room, we get to know most of the players. We have a common interest, and we all enjoy the game. There must be a good reason to have to get up early on Mondays and subject myself to such a stressful competition. Hooray for the bridges!

### **JANE GOODMAN**



The wealth of information, the abundant choice of classes, OLLI has given me the opportunity to mix and mingle with people my own age, attend classes and lectures of interest to me and yet in many ways has made me feel like an 18 year old again. I'm going to school and I'm learning without the pressure of term papers and final exams. Through OLLI, I have been chosen to be a grammar tutor to students in the nursing school. Through OLLI, I have audited a class in the university. Through OLLI, I have taken day trips to many unique places in Los Angeles. Through OLLI, I have met the wonderful instructor Art Martinez in my Spanish class. All in all, OLLI has opened up a whole new life for me. Thank you.

### **SHARON GRAHAM**

When I joined OLLI, it was known as CLE, and I loved the camaraderie within each group that I interacted. I have always loved school and learning so the idea of going to school without having exams or other deterrents was a compelling reason to become a member. I joined in the late 1990s and became a board member soon after. I was membership chairman first and later became the treasurer. Since I am a retired software engineer, I soon volunteered to teach some computer classes and have served on the Computer Education Committee since then. I was really impressed with how willing CLE, and now OLLI, members are to help, especially when asked.

When I think back, I can't remember how many committees [or which] I have served. One of the most fun volunteer positions, I think, was to usher at the CSUF sports. One evening while ushering a basketball game, the ball came right toward me, and bringing up my experience from playing in high school, I caught the ball and threw it back to the officials. Dave Musante even took a picture of me catching a basketball and posted it in the Chronicle.

Besides the fun of volunteering and going to classes, there are the day trips and even worldwide travel plus special events such as parties. It is even more fun to help with some of these special activities because we work hard to have everything ready on time for our friends and meet new buddies as we go. Some of the best classes in my humble opinion are Wisdom Exchange, Byzantine Empire, Body, Mind, and Spirit, Bridge Lessons, and Duplicate Bridge. Unfortunately we no longer have wonderful History and Supreme Court classes taught by Bob Linn, but there are many others now. These are classes that I have enjoyed very much and have made many friends.

Somehow I have to figure out how to have more time available to sample other classes because then I could do even more at OLLI. What a difference from the first few months of retirement when I didn't do much of anything for my own enjoyment and well-being. Those TIR classes must really help in planning the best retirement ever.

### MARLA GREER

CLE or OLLI as it's known now, was an open door in many ways for me since the year 2000. It was like being introduced to a new world. I've met new friends and enjoyed all my classes, especially watercolor and ceramics. The field trips are wonderful. I've seen so many places I would never have attended on my own. I even saw my first opera and discovered I enjoyed it. I love OLLI and hope to continue.



### BONNIE HARRINGTON

What OLLI means to me:  
OLLI is joy in living for Today  
Focusing on the Now.  
Positive Attitudes.  
Interaction with peers,  
Being part of the CSUF environment,  
Intellectual abundance!

### EUGENIA HATHAWAY

I have been a member of OLLI since 2006 and have enjoyed the many classes and activities. I always anticipate those special days when my favorite classes are happening, usually Tuesdays and Thursdays: sociology, anthropology, history, government, layman's science, and MUSIC. Ellie Monroe's presentations are wonderful and so appreciated. I have especially enjoyed the Eclectics I & II presentations. It has been great to form friendships with the Friday morning OLLI Tennis Players. We have two hours of friendly competition and often go for a coffee meeting afterwards.

### DR. MARTIN HEBELING

May I take this opportunity to express thanks for the talents of Professor Streitberger, in his teaching of the German conversation class at OLLI. As a German linguist, and teacher of German at the high school and college level, I have had the experience to evaluate many fine instructors of the German language.

Why do I prize Eric Streitberger especially? As a former professor of Chemistry at CSUF, and German linguist himself, he volunteered to teach the German conversation class. What is unique in his method is he teaches by students learning to sing German songs. He has prepared a book of traditional and classical German songs in that he provides every participant in the class, and with the songs in the background, we sing. Also, he asks

every participant in the class to answer some questions, and read some German aloud, while correcting the pronunciation in a gentle way. The class learns grammar and pronunciation in a creative manner. No wonder this is one of the most popular classes of OLLI.

### SIMON "SAYS" JANSON



OLLI to me is like the end of a Flower's Life cycle, it changes Gradually over time until its ultimate beauty shines more colorfully at the end, sprouting seeds for future generations to come. OLLI can do all that for Mental wellness, preserving neuron's plasticity, when we just refuse to stop Learning, Understanding and prolonging well being. On Science, Music, Learning and Understanding Our Universe, "Never say Never".

There are always Discoveries and new Ideas to be made that we didn't know or were simply misinformed on. Even Einstein was wrong when he claimed, nothing in the Universe can travel faster than the Speed of light. After all, God didn't play with Dies.

### SANDY JONES

Let me see. . . .where do I start? As a resident of Brea for 47 years, having raised my sons and grand children here, and having been a professional career person for 52 years, 5 years ago I found myself retired and wondering what was coming down the pipe for me for the next 25-30 years.

Then I discovered OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and what a wonderfully enlightening experience it was. I began my 1<sup>st</sup> semester in Jan. 2009. At that time I was taking 8-11 classes per week. . . . just couldn't get enough of the whole thing. Two language classes, watercolor class, 2 computer classes, and numerous historical, artistic, and scientific lectures were occupying my every day, and cooking classes during the summer semester.



Along with all the classes I was absorbing, then came the social interactions. Our fun Strategy of Poker class came into view. Poker games, Community theatrical performances, dinners out, and so many laughs shared with the friends I had developed on campus. . . just so great! The various field trips offered several times per year offed by OLLI, are so informative and special. By my second year in OLLI I was still taking a large number of classes, but also had become involved in coordinating a class at OLLI for Senior Self Defense. This proved to be a very fulfilling venture for all of us that participated in the class.

I also occupied offices on the OLLI Board of Trustee for 3 years, the last year as vice president of Membership. Yes, I was very busily involved with volunteering for our beloved OLLI, but would not have changed one minute of that time. It felt good to be useful again.

I have been truly amazed at the quality of the classes and the instructors at OLLI. The instructors volunteer all their valuable time in teaching their subjects and many of them have come from highly professional and successful careers. Classes are fabulous and exciting. . . . And the best thing, generally no homework and no tests.

To try to sum up my never-ending accolades for OLLI, I would like to echo some thoughts from some notable persons:

"...having a sense of completion, a circle of life to his career."

Bill Bradley of the Knicks.

"If you keep learning all the time, you have a wonderful advantage." -

Charlie Munger, Berkshire-Hathaway's Vice Chairman

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

Gandhi

These feelings exemplify what OLLI means to me... feelings that I never want to lose, until I am finally gone from this realm of existence. As I often say to others, OLLI has been the very best thing that I have done for myself in the past 10 years

### **WON HEE KIM**

What poetry class means to me. Finally with many courages to learn English bravely I pulled out the iron bar from the OLLI office to get a solid key to open the door for the poetry class

When I switch on to the class many of poet sit along at the long-run table, carrying their strong educational background, deep gravity of the life careers, also thick reading glasses, bulky notebooks, colorful book markers. Sometimes you can taste tasty Sees bar for fundraising too.

Taking turns to lead the class each other. Introduce great classics or current famous author's works. With their good versus. Some are play guitar to bring out sweet melodies. Sing along with guitar player. Send us to the dream west. Once you step in here, you can hardly step back without cruel heavy storm.

Fortunately I am here with waiver, therefore, don't be puzzled why my father went into the suitcase instead of his room at that time. Those happenings tell everything to you.

Nevertheless, every group leader kindly accept me even encourage when I were in the corner of remote backyard and frustrating at the top of language barrier.

I hope not to downgrade the nobility of this class because of me.

As long as hold tight onto the OLLI, the strong umbrella, you will produce each aging processors gracefully as desired. The class of poetry for pleasure is one of the stem cell under the OLLI umbrella.

Every Thursday at high noon in poetryland, the enriched English by each teacher's voice begin overflowing from table to table. It covers fully to the frozen wonderland without heavy hearing aid.

Through loving God my English became more near to me. I will dressing door to door for my barren branches and cures for our dementia as well.

## ANNETTE LAURITZEN

OLLI:

- A place to reinvent myself
- Always learning
- Sharing talents & ideas
- New opportunities & lifetime routes
- People with positive attitudes
- Laughter rings & heals
- Friendships formed with integrity & commonalities
- A community of warmth & openness
- My community



## CLAIRE LAZERSON



OLLI is a place:

to learn with no homework unless you wish to do more  
to expand your brain instead of shrinking it  
to smile and laugh with others instead of complaining about your aches and pains  
to prove that growing older doesn't mean the same as growing old.

## JOAN LEBSACK

**O** - Opportunities to explore new areas, as well as pursue old interests that I never seemed to have enough time for in the past

**L** - Learning from my peers, each an expert in his or her field, without any pressure, homework, or tests, but with a generous dose of encouragement

**L** - Laughter combined with camaraderie

**I** - Inspiration from other OLLI members to boldly move forward in a new phase of my life



## STALKY LEHMAN



**1999 -> present... and beyond**

OLLI means CLE. Not because I live in the past, but because I cherish roots. Our roots lie not in the generosity of a foundation but in the hopes, dreams and energies of local individuals. Those roots have flourished and the trunk has prospered. That trunk is community. A community of immigrants from different times and "traversers" of decades. The trunk of today spreads with branches of curiosity, leaves of wonder and flowers of possibility. A community where even strident differences of opinion mean nothing to the bonds of affection. OLLI is living proof and insistent demonstration that aging happens but being old is a matter of choice.

## MARIAN LOCKWOOD



Two things come to mind when I think about how OLLI has changed my life. The first was my favorite art history class when we studied Paris in the mid-to-late 1800's and the painters who broke from the Academy and the Salon, becoming known as the Impressionists. I had always enjoyed the work of some of the Impressionists, but the class exposed me to a few of the less famous artists while broadening my knowledge of the famous ones.

Imagine my delight when I was in Paris at the Musee Marmottan viewing Monet's private collection of his contemporaries work and saw one of the Caillebotte's paintings that we had studied. What a thrill to discover it there—like finding gold!

That excitement was soon eclipsed when we learned that there was a showing of Berthe Morisot's paintings downstairs. The gallery was full of her light, bright plein-aire paintings - more than I had ever seen of her brilliant work.

Morisot often painted her daughter, Julia. A few of the artist's paintings showed her attempt to introduce movement into her compositions--Julia moving her leg while swinging and then moving her hand in a basin of water as she and her little friend played with a floating toy. What a delight! What a memory!

The other class that means so much to me is Lee Ann's tap dance class. I had always wanted to take tap and ballet as a child, but my parents had other ideas. Now I'm tapping away—not always correctly—but with a big smile because I have an opportunity to do something that I've always wanted to do.

Has OLLI changed my life? Not really—more important decisions have, but OLLI has definitely enhanced my life!

Thank you, most sincerely, for all the opportunities which OLLI offers to enrich our lives.

## MAUREEN MC CONAGHY

OLLI is a place where our brains are challenged and we get to express our thoughts and discuss ideas with friends.

## JAN MENDEZ

OLLI rounds me out, helps me to live out my dreams.

Ever expanding, OLLI helps me to see that life and learning to on. Unending journey.

Living out my dreams, sharing passions with new friends. Village, classroom home.



## JAN MENDEZ

Take:

---A generous portion of the life-long friends

Add:

---A pinch of poetry

---A dash of music

---A good measure of dance

Spice it with:

---New ideas and a love of learning

Simmer Slowly:

---Until all flavors are combined into a savory satisfying soup.

## JUDY MERRY



OLLI adds positive Possibility to my life. Because members design the "classes" can suggest new topics and formats it is a participatory experience. Because CSUF treats it with respect and supports us as a community and as students, my appreciation of the State system and the students is informed and enhanced/Coming to OLLI is, for me in all ways a WIN WIN.

## ELIZABETH MIMROD

OLLI means the world to me. Its lively members bring out the best in me. The classes I choose are never a disappointment. I love to sit and have a chat or laugh with Ethel, Phil, or Barbara.

## ELAINE MITCHELL

Cathy Liska came to OLLI with a bubbly personality and a gift for encouraging people to explore their abilities and share them with others. Cathy was experienced in singing and also directing and producing musical performances. She put together the concept of OLLI Kats where OLLI members were encouraged to sing with the group or develop themselves as a solo or join an ensemble.



She had an eye, or an ear, for putting music and people together. She always appreciated someone's attempts at new experiences. She gave you the impression that you were a star and that she really believed it. OLLI Kats performed several time at OLLI functions but the best and I think most appreciated performances were at retirement homes. She was one of the most upbeat and loving people I have ever known, and I always smile when I remember her, which is often. Thank you Cathy.

## ELAINE MITCHELL

Being a lover of trivia, I was intrigued by the Blue Book description of "Professor Be-A-Know-It-All. The class consisted of several questions or scenarios from history, science,

literature, nature, personalities or almost any topic. These scenarios were presented by the Head Professor and then explained or answered by a different presentation from four different "Professors". The catch was that only one explanation was true; the other three were total fiction. Then the class got to vote on which "professor" was telling the real story; and the most correct answers in a class won a small prize for the class member. Because I was new to CLE, it wasn't until I had attended several classes before I learned that the "Head Professor", Ed Shambaris, had found all the topics and written all the scripts for all four professors. The professors were free to build on the script they were given (and they often did, hilariously) but Ed's various scripts would each stand alone and were all always believable. What a remarkable and intelligent person who can first find so many diverse topics and then research them and then write the three false, but believable, stories to accompany the truth.

Each class was a unique experience. I even "dined out" on Ed's stories. My friends and family came to expect at least one trivia question with four completely different stories they would try to guess the correct answer. After a while they began to ask for them. I wish I would have discovered CLE earlier so I could have enjoyed Ed Shambaris with his sense of humor and fascinating stories a little longer.

#### ELAINE MITCHELL

How I Found OLLI, & Why it Wasn't What I Thought it Would Be  
Several years ago while talking to my neighbor, Bev Oliver, she mentioned an activity she was doing with CLE. I asked her to explain CLE because she had mentioned it often. She gave me an old Blue Book so I could get a full description. I read it, amazed, from cover to cover; I shared it with my husband. How could we have been unaware of an organization that so fit our interests! The next day we went to the CLE office and signed up. I attended several classes and enjoyed them tremendously; CLE made it simple and convenient to continue a favorite "hobby", lifelong learning. Slowly I began to see another component to CLE that I had not anticipated. It was the people of CLE - the members including teachers, coordinators, coffee makers, fellow students and all who made CLE a unique organization. As I began to meet more and more members and heard their stories, I found so many fascinating folks willing to share their time and talents as volunteers, and they in turn made the organization. A group that provided not only the joy of learning but also the comfort and support of friends in which I could continue to grow. For me, my enjoyment has continued as CLE has grown into OLLI.



## JANE MOON



I came to OLLI in January 2007 because a former co-worker told me about Anita Reyes' Life Story class. We both took her very first class with 5 people total, but by the end of that first semester, I was helping Anita organize her materials and plan for the next semester. In the Fall of 2007 I became a group leader and started creating new handouts. I was also writing my own stories. Then Anita asked if I would teach Life Story 2 while she continued leading Life Story 1, but I also led a Life Story 1 group and started training new group leaders. It was all so fun and the stories written by so many OLLI members were wonderful. By 2009, I took over the Life Story classes while Anita moved on. Here we are in 2014 with a whole new curriculum and many books already printed. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with so many interesting people, to continue developing and teaching these classes each semester. What a way this is to celebrate retirement and feel the thrill of mentoring and enjoy friendships... and help people complete their books.

## ELIZABETH V. MORROW

In the almost 7 months that I have attended OLLI I have found myself as I was in my early years of youth. Learning new subjects was/is exciting and socializing with others at the same level/similar interests has been peaceful and relaxing. Having the TIME to come here is the main important factor, chance and opportunity to attend the classes. A good way of spending life while getting old.

## JOYCE ONO



OLLI has provided me with new friends, an opportunity to learn things I always wanted to learn (e.g. reading music & playing an instrument, pursuing an early interest in painting and drawing) and opportunities to share my expertise. One of my new friends is Ellie Monroe. We met one day in the Shapiro lobby where I was waiting to check out Mike Shelton's new guitar class. I told her I didn't know how to read music so a guitar class might be ok for me. (I learned to play a ukulele while in grade school without being able to read music.) Ellie said she could teach me to read music; at that time I was involved in OLLI curriculum planning so instead of monopolizing her efforts, I thought we might offer a class for other musical illiterates like me. Ellie Monroe's combination of dedication, ability to communicate and her extensive collection of resources and technical know how has transformed OLLI's musical offerings.

## MARGE OSBORN

Joining OLLI has helped me stay young and feel invigorated! Our instructors are inspiring, patient and so dedicated to their classes. Meeting new people and developing new friendships has been exciting! Bringing music to OLLI has brought so much joy to my life! Most of all I am amazed while watching and listening to my students. Their



improvement and enthusiasm toward the music they are making is such a thrill to experience. Seeing their shining faces while making them laugh fills me with such satisfaction.

#### PATRICK OSWALD

OLLI provides me with a special association for my retirement years. It's a place where I have met new and interesting and affectionate people as I explore studies and endeavors I didn't have time for before. Some of these things I didn't think I had the skills or abilities to accomplish. Here I can do as much or as little as I choose, doing what I want to do, or not. It's a place where people accept each other as they are, and not by what they might have been in their working careers.

OLLI is reading and listening to "Shakespeare Aloud"; it is writing, listening, and reading "Poetry for Pleasure". There is an opportunity for learning to play the guitar, and chances to perform by singing solos and within choral groups. And, there are classes to learn different languages without any pressure and at whatever pace I choose.

#### LESLYE PRUM

I joined OLLI at the urging of a friend. She told me about the wonderful drawing and painting classes that require no talent or previous experience so I came, tried it, and emerged as an artist. I watched and learned and began to feel comfortable. I borrowed ideas and techniques from more experienced OLLI classmates and my attempts evolved into art. Others shared their projects in class and told of the adventures in showing and selling their work. Sheepishly I decided to try that too. To my surprise, my pieces are now regularly displayed at several galleries and some have even sold thanks to OLLI.



#### JOSEPH QUICK

1. Continues to keep my brain working!
2. Gets me out of the house.
3. Wonderful info and no tests.
4. Very nice people to meet and also the ones who teach.

#### BETTY REDMOND



In 2007 at the age of 95, my mother Gulah Daron moved from her home and friends in Oklahoma City to come live with me. She immediately joined OLLI and sat in on my watercolor and ceramics classes. My wonderful classmates always engaged her in conversation and made her feel welcome. The following semester (spring 2008) we both enrolled in Life Storybook with the combined project of telling her story- Gulah's memories, my words.



She loved listening to everyone's stories and sharing her own. Like the day she flew in a barnstormer plane or when she had to ask her father if she

could bob her hair. The two books we completed have become family treasures in the homes of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, for they reveal a multifaceted, multi-talented woman we would never have known otherwise. The bond created between us remains one of my most tender memories. More importantly, OLLI gave Gulah a sense of belonging, of usefulness and purpose, of respect, and truly of love.

#### **KAY RESSLER**

OLLI provides a variety of experiences for me. I choose to attend classes I find interesting and informative. OLLI provides a stimulating environment with intelligent and friendly folks in every class. I have added friends and have more pleasant experiences. I can also volunteer to help as needed.

#### **BEV RISSE**

I've been a member of OLLI for the last 5+ years, and I'm always so impressed with the programs and the people. I live a fair distance from CSUF, so my time at OLLI is limited. I've been blessed to have learned to play bridge at OLLI. There are bridge groups in every city, but I'm not aware of many "learn to play" programs. Bridge isn't an easy game and I'm not a particularly quick learner, but Angie and Sandy made it a fun learning experience. For the past couple of years I've played with the intermediate group and it's great that Jack Wheatly is there to provide guidance when questions arise as well as a lesson on some aspect of bridge.

Bridge is on Friday and that's been great as my husband and I often stick around after bridge, have lunch, and then go to the PC lab for computer assistance. Richard, Jeff, Warren, and Joe have been so helpful as we've battled our "older" computers. They patiently help us get rid of unwanted viruses and problems we've encountered. They've surely lessen our frustration level each time we've had an issue we couldn't solve on our own.

Overall, I'm truly amazed at the number of people who spend so much volunteer time to make OLLI what it is today and enrich the lives of so many retirees.

#### **PEDRO ROMAN**

Keeps me off the streets.

#### **VICTOR & DOROTHY SAM**



What OLLI has meant to us - injecting new life in all of us. "Falling leaves always return to their roots" - a powerful idiom from ancient China. No matter where in this world you find yourself, there is always the urge to trace back your ancestry and give homage and thanks for being a part of your personal development in life. To forget one's ancestors is like a brook without a source, a

tree without its roots. The world's largest mass migration of humans in China during the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival exemplifies the culture of filial piety and returning home to family as we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in China. A perchance meeting with coordinators of Family History Club led to a 2 year research tracing our ancestral village in China. With no positive information of the presence of family, we ventured despite a negative out in our endeavor. We were blessed in having 80 family members at our reception, family members whom we never knew in our lifetime and to reconnect with a missing niece whom we befriended 35 years ago. Thanks to OLLI for starting us on this journey of success!!! OLLI has opened new opportunities, stimulated our body and brain and facilitating shared responsibilities and networking with friends.



### MARY SAMPSON

After retiring from teaching at the same high school for 36 years, I felt a bit at loose ends. I no longer had my "school family" to see every day. Once I joined OLLI, I had more "family" than I knew what to do with. I feel as though I have known some of them all my life. In addition to friendship, OLLI gives me a purpose. I feel valued there. I can use my teaching skills with people who, like me, still want to learn.

### CHRIS SHAW

OLLI means legacy and family to me. I'm a second-generation member of OLLI. I was introduced to CLE in the late 80s by my father, Gordon Shaw, who was the third president of CLE, and my stepmother, Dixie Shaw, who also was (and still is) active in CLE and OLLI. They instilled in me an interest in and a respect for the institution for "continuing learning experience" for seniors at CSUF. More than that, due to Gordon and Dixie's not insignificant part in building and nurturing it. OLLI is part of my family's legacy to me.



### PATRICIA SILVESTRI



"What could be happening at the Gerontology Center?" Curious, I attended Open House in August 2008 and was hooked. The friendly welcome, classes and events showcased, and surprising reconnections with former colleagues opened my heart to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State Fullerton. I enrolled and have not looked back.  
To sum it up:

What Olli Means to Me is

Friendship, camaraderie

Classes, lectures, special events and more

Many options to explore

Spanish, Oral History, Writing to name a few

It's not possible to have "nothing to do".

OLLI leaders, teachers, coordinators are multi-talented peers

Graciously giving back as enthusiastic volunteers

### **HANK SMITH**

OLLI means that Cal State Fullerton serves the whole community in its role as the main center of higher learning in North Orange County.

Senior citizens represent a significantly rising sector of the population, and their need for the enjoyment and usefulness of university exposure is extremely important - to them and also to younger people who will receive the seniors' legacies of knowledge, art, skills, respect, civility, and peace.



OLLI also means that the American tradition of open discussion (appreciation of various opinions, interpretations, and beliefs), and the respect for each others' freedom of speech, is alive and well. A quite meaningful program at OLLI is the eclectic series of presentations. But the spirit of eclectic offering and listening pervades every one of the 160 classes and activities at the Ruby Center.

In short, OLLI is a great place to be, where friendship abounds and the mind is free.

### **ANGELA FRIEDMAN SOKOLOFF**

Fifteen years ago, my husband, who was on the curriculum committee, decided CLE needed a beginning bridge class. Of course he knew the perfect person to teach it. They laughed at him. Fifteen years later we're still going strong. I can't imagine being anywhere else but OLLI every Friday morning. Hope we'll be going for another 15 years.

### **HERB STEWART**

There [OLLI}] is a mill where I can find  
Grist to feed my hungry mind  
A pub, a tavern by the road  
A place to rest, to ease my load  
Respite from the daily grind  
A look ahead and not behind  
A place to share what's in my head  
Which otherwise might go unsaid  
By now I'm sure you can see  
I speak of course about OLLI.



### **MARIE STIEGLER**



When I retired in 2009, I did not know what I would do with myself. I retired earlier than I wanted, and I had thoughts of not being wanted and all used up, at my young age of 62. I was introduced to OLLI by a workmate. When I joined in August, I was still working so only was able to attend the TIR classes and anything in the evenings. When November came around, I was able to attend more classes. At my age, I am still a shy person, but when I became a member of OLLI, that is slowly disappearing and I am now thriving. I took Life Storybook, which made me write and read my stories in class. I attended poker, and became a person

to introduce more games to the class. I took up percussion, the drum, and became a part of the orchestra where I had to perform in front of huge audiences. I even became a line dancer, and did some TAL performances. All of these I never thought I would do, but I grew up.

### **MICHAEL SULTAN**

OLLI has replaced "the old neighborhood" of the past that lives on inside of ourselves and feeds that unmet need for new friends, social interaction, laughter and breaking bread together at lunchtime. Once more we experience what was "the Saturday movie" of the past with pals. The difference of course is that it's Friday morning or Monday night and six decades later. Every stage of life has opportunities for growth and learning and here we advantage ourselves of this privilege at OLLI.



### **SAM SUMANTH**



From being very sure I would return to India after retirement, I am now sure I will stay on in the U.S. for the rest of my life thanks to OLLI

When I first arrived in America forty years ago at age 24, I felt separated from my culture, my friends and relatives, and all my ties. All my bonds were back in India. I was abroad and alone, with a vast body of water (twelve thousand miles!) between me and the people I loved. I had bad culture shock like most immigrants, especially those from the East. I found the American lifestyle rather too individualistic and aggressive with a fend-for-yourself and a look-out for number-one mentality. It was a lonely lifestyle for me compared to a very social Indian culture, with which I kept in touch with my yearly visits.

I was thus 99% sure I would return to India when I retired. But on my way to the airport I stopped at OLLI. And I never made it to the airport! Instead, suddenly I was—and still am—99% sure of staying back in the U.S. for good, thanks to OLLI's wonderful and stimulating atmosphere and its marvelous people. The place is so warm and social and keeps one's mind busy and challenged and alive. After forty years of being quite reserved and introverted in a new and different culture, I seem to have finally blossomed back to my extroverted personality.

I can easily say that OLLI is perhaps the best thing that happened to me in my life, even more than my hostel life at the wild age of sixteen at the IIT, a pretty good college in India. And even more than the first two years of my retirement here when I played tennis and golf every day. The mind—and your social life—is a terrible thing to lose.

I will now tell you some more reasons I love OLLI as much as I do:

The People: This is by far the best batch of Americans I have ever met. Friendly and encouraging, polite and kind and not selfish or aggressive at all without exception.

(Perhaps retirement has made them more so.) Even the new people who walk into OLLI aggressive and self-centered seem to change their personality and pick up these good qualities immediately. I have never met a single arrogant or rude or unfriendly person here. That seems to be the true advantage of being very polite, friendly and welcoming.

OLLI members come from all walks of life - doctors, scientists, judges, lawyers, politicians, and a large number of terrific teachers, all with seemingly extraordinary credentials and personalities. They warmly welcome everyone, embracing each individual's uniqueness. They support you in everything you do and encourage you to try things you never attempted before but wanted to from creative writing, poetry and the arts and sciences. I am learning about Broadway and about jazz, about history and different cultures -- and a million other things. I am finding my arty side, trying drawing and painting, music and acting, and even ceramics. All for the first time at age 64. You are never too old here to have fun and to try absolutely anything in life.

The classes: The classes and discussions at OLLI are stimulating and lively. The facilitators and teachers of these seminar type discussion classes are an incredibly dedicated bunch of member volunteers. Their commitment and the hard work they put in are amazing. They present new developments and strive to keep the classes lively and interesting. It is quite exhilarating to be exposed to these intellectually challenging and stimulating courses. The class participants, with their knowledge, unique experiences, and wisdom, and their different worldly perspectives add to this incredible class experience.

I can talk about the social functions, the interesting learning trips, and the interesting places we visit; the unique movies shown and discussed by some movie buffs, and even the fun and intellectually lively lunch crowd - and the million other activities at OLLI; all initiated by wonderful volunteers.

The Volunteers: The passion and the hard work put in by all OLLI members is amazing especially the office bearers, the instructors, and the party crew who take a lot of trouble to organize fun parties for no reason other than to get the members together to socialize and to know each other even better. Everything, just everything, comes down to the quality, intelligent, smart, and marvelous people at OLLI who are the foremost reason that OLLI is so wonderful.

There are a million other things I could write about OLLI's positive effect on me, but I still could not praise it enough. Instead, let me tell you that today is only the second time I missed a day at OLLI in my two years here, and then too, I am spending it writing this OLLI essay. That should tell you how much I love OLLI.

### **JOANNE SYRJA**

As a member of OLLI, I have found friends, intellectual stimulation, lifestyle enhancements, and volunteer opportunities. I enjoy the resources of Cal State Fullerton including dramas, dance, music, and lectures. OLLI courses offer so many choices each semester that it is an embarrassment of riches. There are times when it's hard to choose which courses to attend from the time available. However, it's great that there is always something interesting to do at OLLI. It's fun to belong and be involved in an organization like OLLI.



Congratulations on 35 years of service and dedication to lifelong learning from CLE to OLLI! Many thanks to the OLLI volunteers and staff who have made this organization work through the years, now and into the future. I'm proud to be a member and a volunteer.

### **BARBARA TALENTO**



When my mother suffered a stroke and was wheelchair bound, she did not want to return to classes. Sheryl Svensson persuaded her to try it just one time. When she arrived the whole class greeted her on walkers, canes, wheelchairs and crutches. That is the humanity and caring at OLLI to me.



### **BETTY TANG**

OLLI is my second home. It doesn't matter that it's not in Big Bear. I already have a huge family, but it increased ten fold when I joined OLLI. Because I am in three writing groups, I got to know those members so well - as they did me. We reveal so much about ourselves when we write - even if we don't intend to! In OLLI we grow to feel secure enough to share so much: a child's illness, a health problem, an emotional issue. It turns out to be great unintended group therapy.

We are so different in many ways, but alike in the important ones. When we are on vacation I miss "my second family"! Plus I don't get any writing done. That's when I decide I MUST clean my house! What can I say? OLLI is my collective Muse. Without OLLI, I tend to procrastinate. Before I joined I had to wait for an internal, emotional push before I wrote anything. Now I don't.

But most of all, I love the people in OLLI; they are wonderful.

### **ANNE THORWARD**

Over 4 years ago I taught a couple of classes at OLLI while I was still working full time. As soon as I retired from my work load, I joined OLLI. My life has changed tremendously ever since. I noticed a listing for string players & walked in to find 2 others. Now there are 9 of us - sometimes rehearsing together 2 times a week. What a joy to get back to performing after more than a 50 years hiatus. I'm in chorale too. Thank you OLLI for bringing such joy & new friends to my life.

### **KIPP VEDEN**

I am new but I really enjoy the friendly positive attitude of everyone I meet. I'm looking forward to continuing learning through my golden years (I'm not there yet).

### **BARBARA VIGANO**

I lost my husband and felt lonesome, alone in life and lost in a big house. OLLI, where I teach two classes and attend one or two classes every day of the week, saved me from isolation and depression. It provides me with renewed "joie de vivre".



### **SHERI WANG**

I signed up for OLLI after friends encouraged me. The first semester I sampled some classes and lectures I liked. Now into 2nd semester, I do feel more at home, and I definitely will encourage anyone semiretired to attend OLLI. Not only does it provide a variety of classes and interests, it also entertains with live music performances and film classes. Its scope covers history of past, current concerns, updated archaeology class, and so on. My favorite classes are Dutch Masters Rembrandt, Art House movies, Book Club discussions, and live classical piano performances.

### **JACK AND GAYLE WHEATLEY**

What OLLI Means To Us - It's been said that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, we



think it takes a different kind of village to keep us Seasoned Citizens growing. And Olli is a great, nurturing village that provides a well-balanced blend of compost, moisture and fertilizer, as well as the motivation to keep us interacting, learning and contributing our small talents. Even as our learning curves are outdistanced by our forgetting curves. So thanks to all of you villagers that provide the contributions to our intellectual and social stew, as well as the unheralded efforts that you organizers do to make it all possible. We are busier, more enlightened and happier people due to our Olli Village.

### **MAUREEN WILLIAMS**

OLLI has, in an important way, changed my life. I'm currently in my fourth semester of the Life Storybook class. What started as curiosity - Is my life interesting enough to fill a book? - to a meaningful therapy. I have come to realize that my childhood, which I always considered terribly unhappy and dysfunctional, was not as bad as I'd recalled. Thanks, OLLI, for a new perspective on my life and wonderful new friends!



### **CAROL WILSON**



I never imagined that I would enjoy retirement so much. Part has to do with joining OLLI. I have been able to accomplish some of the wishes on my bucket list. They are: taking up watercolor painting, learning Tai Chi, learning line-dancing, brushing up on my Spanish and much more. I have met some wonderful people that are energetic and full of life. They have a positive attitude and contribute so much to the success of OLLI. I feel very fortunate that I found this great organization.

### **DENNIS WILSON**

OLLI gives me a reason to get up in the morning.  
OLLI represents more freedom to choose new options in life.



### **WARREN WILSON**

OLLI for me is the good life after retirement, a chance to grow my knowledge base in a friendly learning environment. My first class was in room 11. The subject was Picasa, being presented by Sharon Graham, Dorothy Lathrop, and Richard McCaman. The class was informative and well presented. I was invited to be a member of the Computer Education Committee and soon found myself presenting the Picasa Class. Tai Chi led by Diane Globerman and Coordinated by Charlotte Oliva got me hooked. I always know what I will be doing on Monday at 8:30 AM. Wednesday at 8:30 is Longevity Stick exercise led by Mary Hori and Nancy Bauerly. My wife Carol also enjoys Tai Chi and the Longevity Stick classes. The only frustrating thing about OLLI is there are too many fantastic offering in the same time slot, and we can only be in one place at a time. Well, we can switch next section.

One of the neat classes I took last year was drawing for the fun of it presented by Jean Casucci and Coordinated by Carmine Casucci. I have reached 70 years with no attempt at trying to draw. OLLI has many accomplished artists in the class. However, myself and other beginners were made to feel welcome and encouraged by our classmates and instructor. I have a long way to go but will be back. From this class I learned for the

first time to really look at things in a new way. The other big thing OLLI offers is a chance to give back by stepping up and serving on committees or as an instructor or coordinator or on the Board of Trustees.

### **EVELYNN WOLF**

This is my second time to go to OLLI. I love it. I'm from Kenmore's suburb of Buffalo. I'm visiting my daughter, Susan Petrella and Tony Theliborren. This time I'm in the chorale. We sang at a nursing home for Christmas. I'm a soprano soloist in my choir at home I took lessons when I was 20 and I'm singing since then. I took the catalog to the President of the University of Buffalo but it was ignored. We have a new president so I may try again.

I have met so many nice people. The classes are excellent. Yesterday we had a policeman come to talk about identity theft. We had the OLLI Follies in the auditorium and a get together in the big room downstairs with music and refreshments. I'm going home to sing in my choir for Easter, but I'll be back next year.



### **JANANN ZECHMEISTER**

OLLI for me has gone far beyond my expectations. It has stimulated my interests, broaden my views, and it has brought about many new friendships. It is not only conducive to learning [but] it is fun, it is laughter, it is enlightening, it is enrichment.