



President’s Message

By Joyce Ono, President, OLLI-CSUF



This is my last ChroniCLE message as OLLI’s President which I’m writing in early April. I’m relieved that my term will soon be over and grateful that I’ve had the opportunity to work and interact with

many dedicated members and staff at OLLI and at CSUF’s Extension and International Programs (EIP). Past OLLI presidents, especially Jim Monroe and Mike Stover, have been invaluable mentors throughout my term. We have been very fortunate to have a Board of Trustees full of dedicated volunteers who bring their expertise and experience to support OLLI’s mission. During this past year, we have all had to stretch and learn new skills, which has been good for keeping our brains nimble!

At this time, there is much going on about the issue of race, equity and inclusion in our country, and as the first Asian to serve as OLLI’s President I feel my race has not been a problem for me. However, some of the instances that have surfaced that are rooted in our past have played a role in how minorities are unconsciously perceived, even among OLLI members. I am often mistaken for other Asian women at OLLI, and while this is a source of amusement, its deeper significance is rooted in our frequent stereotyping of individuals whose appearance differs from what we are familiar with. I grew up in Hawaii, where it is a multiethnic mixing pot and I can usually tell different Asians apart, but I confess I have difficulty telling apart some ethnicities that were not well represented in my life. I hope the conversations that are arising

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Jim Monroe—Outgoing Immediate Past President

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer



Jim Monroe is completing his term as immediate past president of OLLI in May. He has occupied so many OLLI offices and committees that it is difficult to know where to start. Perhaps

knowing how Jim got started at OLLI would be useful.

His educational background began in Michigan. He grew up in a suburb of Detroit and graduated from the Michigan Technological Institute with a degree in physics in 1969. He had a job one summer in Kokomo, Indiana, making transistors. After he moved to California, he was employed at Boeing, first as an engineer and later as a program manager. He thought he should get an advanced degree, so he went to CSUF during evenings for about three and a half years and received his M.B.A. in 1984.

Jim is a member of the Orange County Astronomers, and he visits schools taking telescopes and introducing students to astronomy as a part of the OCA Outreach Program. Of course, that has been put on hold during the pandemic.

How did Jim become acquainted with OLLI? Shortly before Jim retired from Boeing in 2010, his wife Ellie had a friend, Jane Steckler, who was involved with OLLI and suggested that Jim and Ellie check it out. They came to a “Transitions in Retirement Essentials” class. Jim Kashiwada persuaded Jim to become a coordinator for the course. This led to coordinating

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President Joyce Ono
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homeowner can choose to charge less. The student does five hours of work/support, such as light housekeeping, for the senior each week. Perhaps the nicest benefit of all is the mentoring the homeowner can provide. Oh, we don't have to be parents, but we do get to be supportive coaches as these young people work hard to be able to complete their education.

I now have a student living with me. She was three days away from having to leave the temporary housing provided on campus, and she had no place to go. When I heard her story, I was certain she would be a good fit for me.

Both of us were thoroughly interviewed, complete with background checks. We each were determined to be COVID-free. We interviewed each other to determine if we both felt it was a "fit." We signed contracts which can be canceled at will, if desired. The program director follows up with each of us individually and we meet together for a monthly check-in.

That brings me to where we are now. I brought Laura Kraft, Manager of HIS-OC, to speak to OLLI's Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, and the Board officially endorsed the HIS-OC program. Most of our homeowners are already OLLI members, which doesn't surprise me. OLLI members are incredibly committed to students and education.

If you would like to help a student in need as they strive to stay in school, join me in this effort. Contact Laura Kraft at HIS-OC by calling 714-993-5774 or email her at Laura@HIS-OC.org.

Students Living in Cars

Or Students Living With Seniors: Which Would You Choose?

By Jeanette Reese, OLLI Member (pictured)

Imagine being a student, committed to getting an education, but forced to live in your car so you could cover the annual \$7,000 cost of tuition. Well, 19%—yes, that's 1 in 5 students in California—are experiencing housing insecurity, which translates into couch surfing or sleeping in their cars.



Jeanette Reese

Learning this fueled a fire in me intense enough that I knew I had to do something. So, I helped launch a program to address the situation. This became the HomeShare OC Program under the umbrella of a well-respected nonprofit, Homeless Intervention Services of Orange County (HIS-OC). This special program matches seniors with open rooms with students experiencing housing insecurity.

Here's how it works. Each student pays a monthly rent. The highest is \$500, but the

Plans for Returning to Campus

By Chris Shaw, Editor

I want to address some rumors that have surfaced recently regarding expenditures related to OLLI's return to campus.

First, there has been talk of changing the membership fee, either lowering it to entice new members or increasing it to cover lost revenue due to many members failing to renew their membership last fall because OLLI had to suspend in-person classes during the pandemic. Well,

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neither is happening. On March 11, OLLI's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the 2021-22 fiscal year budget, and specifically keep the same annual membership fee of \$260.

It is true that OLLI's membership level dropped from about 1,600 to 777 members in the fall semester, and our budget took a hit from the loss of their membership revenues. However, some of the budget shortfall was for an open office staff position that was not filled, so it was never spent, and that position remains unfilled.

Our financial situation remains strong due to planning that was set in place over six years ago under then President Mike Stover and Treasurer Ellie Monroe. The Board was wise to start putting our discretionary funds into special reserve funds designed to cover various emergency situations, should we not have enough funds available for our expenses from membership dues.

I'm also happy to report that, due to our aggressive recruiting efforts, membership is back up to 964 as of January 31. Registration will open May 3 for the summer session, from which we expect to receive some new members, and we project our membership level to peak at 1,100 when we return to in-person, on-campus programs in the fall.

You may also wonder how much our aggressive recruiting has cost, which has included advertising in local newspapers and the internet for the first time in more than six years. The total amount approved by the Board for advertising was about what it costs to produce and distribute four issues of this ChroniCLE. The bulk of our recruiting "costs" have been sheer volunteer work by Sue Mullaly, Bill Sampson, Debbie Maxwell and their team.

If you read my monthly ChroniCLE column "What's Happening at the Board," you'll know that a very significant expense that was considered—renovating and enclosing of the patio—was put on hold for a future date. This project had nothing to do with the pandemic, and the expense, if restarted, will be paid from Osher endowment income, donations and other reserves.

Another unfounded rumor is that there would be an astronomical cost to outfitting the RGC classrooms for Zoom and other online streaming capabilities. We are working to enable this

technology to start in the fall semester. \$35,000 was added to the Capital Plan, which is expensed over a number of years and covered principally by donations to our reserve funds for technology maintenance and new equipment, such as this.

We will need to provide a hybrid program delivery that will accommodate both in-person and remote learning, both because pandemic safety protocols may limit class sizes and because a substantial number of OLLI members like having the option to attend class via Zoom. Many members either can't get to campus or don't want to deal with parking issues on campus, and once they learned how to use Zoom they found it to be a convenient way to enjoy OLLI's programs remotely from home.

I encourage you to not listen to rumors and stay tuned to the ChroniCLE and OLLI's newsletters for updates on OLLI's plans. And watch for OLLI Town Hall meetings that will feature more information. Naturally, our plans depend to a degree on the University's plans, and we expect updates to their plans for the fall in late June or early July.

If you have a question, send an email to me (Chris) at tashawc01@gmail.com, and I will get you the truthful answer.

#TitansGive Day of Giving

OLLI participated in Cal State Fullerton's #TitansGive Day of Giving on March 9, 2021. A total of \$4,855 was donated to OLLI from 34 donors.

Gifts to OLLI help us maintain high-quality programming and include new educational opportunities. With OLLI programs currently provided virtually, our focus for the coming year is on returning safely to campus. OLLI will also make the facilities and technology investments to expand OLLI Distance Learning to enable virtual access to selected programs that are simultaneously presented in the traditional in-person format. Your contribution to the OLLI – Today and Tomorrow Fund ensures that we have the necessary resources to meet these challenges and opportunities now and in the future.

It's OLLI Fiesta Time!

What is more fun than a party with a south of the border flair? OLLI Hospitality Committee invites you to share the celebration on Saturday, June 19, 2021, 3-5 p.m.

A mariachi group will provide the live, but virtual, traditional music of Mexico. These professional, but local, folks are amazingly talented musicians.

Some of the more enjoyable attributes with a Zoom party is being able to sing and dance along with the great music; if you are concerned about sharing your dancing skills, you can click off your video or watch and dance along with a real professional, certified dance instructor, Kim Robertson, owner of "Dancing with Kim." She will demonstrate some popular Latin dance steps; and we can all learn the basics or the newest craze together. Or if you are already a very proficient dancer, show us your steps. It's a party, do what is fun.

The Hospitality Committee always misses being able to share a meal at a function, but, of course, we have to be patient until we can meet and eat in person. For a Zoom party, we suggest eating in unison so we will have some of our favorite snacks and beverages on hand. Those of us who have a favorite recipe will share that also; guacamole, salsa and margaritas are sure to be on the list. We hope you will have something on hand so we can raise our glasses together.

So, what do you need to do to have a good time at the OLLI Fiesta? First, save the date, June 19 at 3-5 p.m. Then arrange your party attire, either traditional or new age, and have on hand your favorite snacks and beverages. Finally, RSVP to the OLLI newsletter announcement. By June, you may even feel comfortable having dinner at your favorite Mexican restaurant; the OLLI Fiesta will definitely put you in the mood. Ole!

Follow OLLI on Facebook

Follow activities at OLLI on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OLLICalStateFullerton.

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members for Serving OLLI

About half of the members of OLLI's Board of Trustees will complete their terms of office on May 13 and will be succeeded by newly elected officers and trustees at the General Meeting and Election on April 15.

Those leaving their positions are: Joyce Ono, President; Ellie Monroe, Vice President Programs; Debbie Maxwell, Vice President Membership; Pete Saputo, Vice President Facilities; Elaine Mitchell, Vice President Hospitality; Jim Monroe, Immediate Past President and Trustees at Large Kathryn Cozza, Janice Jeng, Tony Package, Arie Passchier and Bill Sampson.

Ellie Monroe, Bill Sampson, Tony Package and Pete Saputo were elected to continue on the Board in other positions.

Thanks to President Joyce Ono and all of these exceptional volunteer Board members for steering OLLI through a particularly difficult time for OLLI. No one could have anticipated the pandemic, and these people worked hard and effectively to keep OLLI's programs afloat and serve its membership. See their pictures on the following page.

And, by the way, thanks to all the instructors, coordinators and other volunteers who also rose to the occasion.

In Memoriam Observed

The presentation honoring OLLI members who passed in the last year is available to view on the OLLI website at In Memoriam under the [OLLI Events](#) section of Classes/Activities on the home page.

Following are those who passed: Judy Avalos, Dick Blake, Estelle Blake, Edith Bockian, Jim Bradsher, Bill Burns, Charles Loren Doll, Lenore Formuzis, Ruben Gonzalez, Royal Howes, Stephen Jordan, Claire Brown Lazerson, Bill Lindstrom, Margaret Lucas, Heloise Lunde, Patricia McGrath, Rosalie McKenzie, Pearl Miller, Jerry Rosen, Joe Scarpulla, George Sherry, Toby Silberfarb, Mike Spies, Kirt Spradlin, Mona Stockdale, Betty Tang, Ed Weil and Brad Woodhull.

Thanks to OLLI's Outgoing Board Members



Joyce Ono
President



Ellie Monroe
Vice President Programs



Debbie Maxwell
Vice President Membership



Pete Saputo
Vice President Facilities



Elaine Mitchell
Vice President Hospitality



Jim Monroe
Immediat Past President



Kathryn Cozza
Trustee at Large



Janice Jeng
Trustee at Large



Tony Package
Trustee at Large



Arie Passchier
Trustee at Large



Bill Sampson
Trustee at Large

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“Boundaries of Science” with Richard McCaman. Jim and Richard’s classes inspired a number of science-related courses at OLLI. Jim also began coordinating “Warren Buffet’s Investment Methodology” course.

Jim joined the OLLI Board as a Trustee at Large, assisting the other Board members on committees, and from there, he moved on to the position of Vice President Programs. This job entails representing the many OLLI volunteers who coordinate and instruct the courses, organizing day trips and numerous other programs, serving on supporting committees, such as the Curriculum Committee, and assisting with any of the numerous OLLI programs. This is a huge responsibility, and Jim rose to the occasion. For a time, Jim acted as the Board Parliamentarian, a non-elective but necessary position.

Jim has also served as a sort-of ex officio member of the Technology Education Committee, occasionally assisting OLLI members with computer issues. His help, along with Ellie’s, has been greatly appreciated by all the members, coordinators and instructors who had to learn Zoom in a hurry a year ago. It is hard to imagine where OLLI would be without the skills and willingness to help that Jim, as well as Ellie, have brought to our members.

Jim’s next challenge was serving as the Treasurer of OLLI. While daily financial transactions are the responsibility of the OLLI office staff, the Treasurer represents the members and the Board of Trustees and works with OLLI management to manage and control the overall finances as required by OLLI and university policies. He monitored and reported OLLI’s overall financial position each month at the Board meetings.

Jim and Ellie were part of the husband-and-wife teams and others who were honored as exemplifying the Spirit of OLLI at the 35th Anniversary celebration in 2014.

As if all those jobs and committees weren’t enough, in 2017 Jim was elected President of OLLI for a two-year term. Then followed another two years as Immediate Past President, advising and counselling the current President.

After all that, will he be able to relax? It is

doubtful since Jim has always been willing to assist OLLI and its members in any way that he can. He does acknowledge that he is looking forward to not having to get up early on Thursdays for the Board meetings. When asked if he had any final words to say about OLLI, he said, “It is a great community of members and volunteers who make it a great organization.”

What’s Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

OLLI’s Board of Trustees met on March 11. Following are highlights of the issues from that meeting:

- The Treasurer’s report was little different from last month. Expenditures are up about \$19,000.
- The budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, starting July 1, 2021, was approved. It specifically included an approved motion to retain the annual membership fee at \$250, without change.
- The budget assumes a loss of \$65,000 in operating expenses, but an open office position was not filled so that budget money was unspent and OLLI has sufficient reserve funds to cover any actual loss.
- \$35,000 was added to the multi-year Capital Plan under technology for Distance Learning, Zoom and online class projects.
- Projected income for the year, not including membership fees, is \$110,000, including income from the Osher endowment fund and donations.
- The Board officially endorsed the HIS-OC program that matches CSUF students who need affordable housing with OLLI members willing to share their dwelling for extra income, help with chores and a relationship with a student.
- CSUF assured us that the Ruby Gerontology Center will be cleaned and the ventilation system updated and that the Mackey Auditorium and all of the RGC’s usual classrooms will be available for our use by the start of the fall semester, subject to COVID requirements.
- As of now, CSUF’s rules will not require vaccinations to return to campus, but everyone will

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be required to be tested twice a week at their own expense if they're not vaccinated.

- Ellie Monroe, VP Programs, has met with virtually all instructors to begin planning how to schedule classrooms and/or Zoom sessions for fall semester classes.

- The project to split the class schedules out from the Blue Book into a separate document and publish the the Blue Book annually only has been suspended for at least a year.

- The summer Blue Book is on schedule to be distributed around April 21.

- OLLI's Sunshine Callers report that OLLI members have been able to navigate the internet to successfully get their COVID-19 vaccinations, and the vast majority of members have been vaccinated.

- Members are getting more comfortable with Zoom and computer-use in general. Many have even expressed a preference for keeping some courses available via Zoom in the fall.

- 140 new members have registered since the fall 2020 registration, bringing total membership to 908 as of March 2. Aggressive recruiting will continue for the fall.

- OLLI members are still exempt from CSUF's two-factor authentication requirement even though it may show up on the login page of the CSUF website.

- The newly elected members of the Board of Trustees will be installed on May 13. The outgoing Board members were congratulated for their good work handling the difficulties presented by the pandemic.

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will engender thoughtful consideration of the positive and negative biases that we automatically apply to people with whom we encounter and interact. With Ellie Monroe, who is of Mexican descent, taking over as OLLI's next president, OLLI's leadership roster will have diversified in quick succession in both gender and ethnicity. I believe this is a timely and positive occurrence. One of OLLI's long term goals is to match our membership diversity to those of our surrounding communities, and we have yet to achieve this.

The OLLI Board is planning for our return to campus in fall 2021 in step with the rest of the campus. Based on the online CSUF class schedules for fall, classes that are meeting on campus appear to be doing so without COVID-19 restrictions on occupancy with no overt plans for transitioning to restrictions. As Vice President Programs, Ellie Monroe has done an impressive job of informing and gathering input from current instructors and coordinators about options for how their classes could meet in the fall. OLLI will need to submit provisional plans for approval through EIP, which represents us on campus. How we schedule and conduct our classes is the most important component.

As I look forward to having more time to pursue making art and getting more sleep, I want to publicly thank my supportive spouse, Richard McCaman, who has risen earlier than me each morning to prepare a hearty breakfast! Springtime has arrived in our neighborhood, and we feel like we're emerging from a long hibernation as we slowly resume activities for the first time in over a year: grocery shopping, professional haircut, a visit with two family members and sharing dinner with outsiders. I'm optimistic that OLLI too will emerge from its pandemic-induced "hibernation," stronger and with more options for members.

Mahalo to all who maintained their membership while we were virtual and all the super volunteers who helped to keep OLLI running. We've had to table OLLI's 40th anniversary celebrations and the patio renovations and my pet project for [becoming an Age-Friendly University](#), but I believe these will be achieved in due time. Aloha!





OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

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If you still have trouble receiving emails from OLLI, send an email to ollinewsbytes@hotmail.com and include your name and email address.



How to Get the ChroniCLE by Email - Save Trees and Stamps!

Unless you elected not to receive emails from OLLI, you are currently receiving an email each month announcing the new ChroniCLE and calendar for the upcoming month with links to view or download the publications. You can also access the most recent ChroniCLEs and calendars through links in the weekly OLLI News Bytes and on the OLLI Website.

If you are receiving the ChroniCLE in the mail, but no longer want it mailed to your home, send an email to olli-info@fullerton.edu with **your name and address** stating: "Do **not** send me a ChroniCLE in the mail." If you ever need the printed version, copies are always available in the OLLI office.

If you Need to Contact OLLI

Website: <http://olli.fullerton.edu>

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