



President’s Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF



— John Burroughs, American naturalist, wrote “March is blustery and boisterous. Never quiet nor inert.” I think this describes OLLI at this time. The leadership team and our volunteers are not sitting still this year and I feel as though our pre-COVID momentum is returning, building on the work done by our Past Presidents Ellie Monroe and Mike Stover. We have added 341 new members to our rolls so far this year. That feels so promising, but the work must continue.

Our Titan’s Give Day was held on Wednesday, March 12. While I do not have the results at the time that this message is being written, I want to thank everyone who shared in our vision and donated to OLLI. Thanks to Dennis Wilson, Tom Hut, Mike Stover and Rachel Sheatz for their efforts as Day of Giving Champions to drive us to our goal. Thank you all for your participation.

We have created a new, focused Marketing Team comprised of the following: Vice Presidents of Administration, Communications, External Marketing and Membership Past President, Mike Stover; Fran Colwell, Chair of the Development/Philanthropy Committee; Executive Director, Daisy Thomas and myself. We are focusing on a multi-point attack plan and are excited to try a few old and new campaigns. One project will combine the old and the new. We will be marketing free to the public classes during the weeks of April 7-25. These dates are the last two weeks of the regular spring term and intersession. We are inviting the public to drop into any class being held during that time

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General Meeting/Election And Ice Cream Social

Thursday, April 17 · 1:30-3:00 P.M.

The OLLI Board of Trustees invites all OLLI members to attend the annual General Meeting/Election. Join us for a brief presentation on the status of OLLI and the outlook for future semesters, we will meet and vote to elect nine new officers and trustees to the Board.

After the election in Mackey Auditorium, we will enjoy our traditional Ice Cream Social in the Shapiro Wing, and you will have an opportunity to meet the nominees.

Short biographies and pictures of the four officer nominees and five trustee nominees follow in this ChroniCLE.

Nominees for the Board Election

Vickie Hite, Nominee President

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer

Vickie is a second-generation Californian currently living in Placentia. She is married and has three children in a blended family, plus four grandchildren.



Before there was Costco, there was Price Club, and Vickie worked there. After it became Costco, Vickie was a founding member of the Journeys Program to help develop women in leadership positions. At the time, there were very few women in management at Costco. She worked at the eleventh Price Club in the country, which was in Fountain Valley. She spent thirty years in management at Costco, and had a lot of opportunities to do team building and problem solving.

She is justifiably proud of her more than 75 blood donations to the Red Cross.

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President Vickie Hite
 Vice President Administration Robert Kovacev
 Vice President Programs Sue Batie
 Vice President Communication Jim Di Tota
 Vice President Membership Debbie Maxwell
 Vice President External Relations Bill Sampson
 Vice President Facilities Anthony Gonzalez
 Vice President Hospitality Lisa Sewell
 Vice President Technology Paul Herrick
 Treasurer Ann Sparks
 Secretary Renee Cabrera
 Chris Shaw (tashawc01@gmail.com), Editor; Valerie Orleans Assistant Editor; Keni Cox, Alice Gresto, Lew Livingston, Elaine Mitchell, Mary Sampson,
 Staff Writers

Photography Coordinator: Jim Di Tota
 Desktop Publishing: Corina Pineda & Akemi Tanga

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frame to check out all of the remarkable classes offered at OLLI. We are asking current members to join in our version of “Tell a Friend” Your friends trust you, so if you let them know there is a no-cost opportunity for them to test the waters of OLLI, I am sure we will see a strong reaction to this campaign. Along with the Tell a Friend push, we will advertise this opportunity to the general public as we do with our Open House and Spring Preview. This is a test program and it will give us a chance to test the effectiveness of this program.

I want to offer a hearty “thank you” to Debbie Maxwell, Mike Stover and Mickey La Casa, and her team for a wonderful 45th Anniversary and 90+ Members Celebration event. It was great fun.

Nominee ... Continued from Page 1

At OLLI, Vickie is the instructor for “Ukulele: Symposium” and a coordinator for “Tap-ercise.” She is also a member of the “Snappy Tappers.” She especially enjoys being able to perform with the Snappy Tappers group at various venues around the area.

Vickie was elected Trustee at Large in 2020, Secretary in 2022 and Treasurer in 2023. She is currently serving her first year as President. She is well prepared and well suited to continue in her second year in the President position on the Board of Trustees.



**MaryLouise Hlavac
 Nominee
 Vice President
 Programs**

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

MaryLouise is a Southern California native daughter, born in Lynwood and raised in Compton. She graduated from CSUF in 1980 with a degree from the College of Business and Economics, Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting.

She continued her association with CSUF, serving as President of the Alumni Association. Her desire to serve has led her to other leadership positions at CSUF, including the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center and Alliance for the Performing Arts in support of the College of the Arts.

She joined Deloitte, Haskins + Sells upon graduation. She also held several financial, accounting, and project management positions at Rockwell/Boeing Corporation and was the Executive Director and General Manager of a not-for-profit, BCEF, Inc.

When her husband, Ed, retired, he joined OLLI. He loved the program and invited her to join him. She did. Soon she was helping out with the Hospitality Committee. She began working with Debbie Maxwell on OLLI Membership. She is on the “Cooking Potpourri” team.

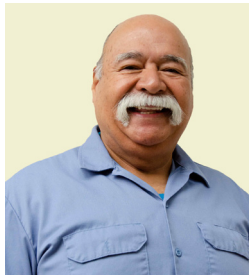
“ MaryLouise is a fan of the programs offered at OLLI by the instructors and students in the CSUF Music Department.”

She was elected to the Board as a Trustee at Large in 2024 and is well-positioned to serve as Vice President Programs.

Nominee... Continued from Page 2

Anthony Gonzalez, Nominee Vice President Facilities

*By Anthony Gonzalez,
OLLI Member*



I was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Santa Fe Springs and Whittier. I received a B.A. at UCLA, then earned a teaching credential and M.A. at Claremont Graduate School. I taught for 36 years, 33 of those years at Frontier High School, a continuation high school in Whittier. Every day there was a good day; there were challenges, but I had a great time with my students.

I was involved with our teacher's association; I was on the Representative Council and Board of Directors for about 20 years. I served a couple of terms as association president. I am currently a Meals on Wheels volunteer for Brea and Fullerton.

I first joined OLLI in 2018, but I took some time off to help take care of my mother. I returned in spring 2020 and have been here ever since. This year at OLLI, I have taken "Introduction to Watercolor Painting," "Watercolor Workshop," "Genealogy Research," "Line Dancing," "Ukulele," and "Mah-Jong Game and Strategy for You" courses. I also attend "Exploratory Discussion Group," "Transitions in Retirement Essentials" and other lectures.

I am a member of the Membership Committee, helping with the OLLI socials during the last 2 1/2 years, and I am currently serving as appointed Vice President Facilities. enjoys being able to perform with the Snappy Tappers group at various venues around the area.



Ann Sparks, Nominee Treasurer

By Denny Bean, Staff Writer

Ann's life began in Des Moines, Iowa where she lived until the age of four. The family then moved to New Jersey where she really experienced a difference

in culture and geography. At 14, they closed the loop by moving back to her beginnings.

In 1976, she moved to Cypress where she attended Cypress College. Then it was off to our very own CSUF, where she graduated with a degree in Business Administration and Accounting, followed by an M.B.A in Finance. She was not done until

she gained a School Business Operations Certificate.

Her career began in the saving and loan industry followed by various positions in education, ending as the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services at Bonita Unified School District.

Ann attended the Saturday "Transition in Retirement Essentials" classes before she retired in 2017 and joined OLLI. Her favorite classes are "What's Behind the News?," "The New Yorker Magazine Discussion Group" and "The Trump Presidency."

Ann served on the Board of Trustees as Trustee at Large and Secretary. In 2020 she was appointed as Treasurer to fill a vacancy and was elected Treasurer in 2021. Her experience as Treasurer makes her an excellent nominee for Treasurer.



Eileen Gomez, Nominee Trustee at Large

*By Valerie Orleans, Assistant
Editor*

When Eileen Gomez retired in 2020, she moved from Los Angeles to Yorba Linda and sought out ways to serve others in a fun and productive environment. She discovered OLLI about a year ago through a friend's recommendation.

"I believe in OLLI's mission of enhancing the lives of retirees," she said. "I'm having a great time in the concert/jazz bands playing percussion. I was warmly welcomed by the all the concert/band members especially Gordon, Rayleen and Coralie. They encouraged me to participate and helped build my confidence as an auxiliary percussionist."

For 32 years, Eileen served in various management positions in Information Technology, serving various IT related roles including Chief Information Officer/Security Officer for the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department, other departments and with State/Federal entities. She was the Project Manager in the implementation of E-Commerce. Prior to this, Eileen worked in aerospace as a computer programmer on the B-1B Program.

She is also the mother of two sons. She enjoys playing pickleball, riding her electric mountain bike with friends, gardening and piano lessons and is active in her church.

"I believe my interpersonal, organizational and writing skills would be of benefit to OLLI," she said. "I'm confident I can assist in OLLI's Mission Statement objectives and support the Board members as needed."



**Diana Wright Guerin,
Nominee
Trustee at Large**

By Keni Cox, Staff Writer

Diana Wright Guerin, Professor Emerita, was teaching in CSUF's College of Health and Human Development, in the department of Child and Adolescent Studies when she became aware of OLLI. Phocus Photography Club piqued her interest. Retirement allowed her to explore, and OLLI's Open House and enthusiastic OLLI members broadened her interest. She never expected to enroll in Poker, but she did.

Today, she is "Chef Diana," one of five instructors in the online "Cooking Potpourri" class. She remains active in the Phocus Club and "Digital Photography" classes and volunteers to take photos of OLLI events.

Professor Guerin's leadership roles at CSUF included serving as Department Chair and Academic Senate Chair. She is currently a board member of the Emeriti Association of CSUF.

With mentor Dr. Allen Gotfried and others, she is a lead researcher in a 38-year longitudinal study. The study began in 1978 with 130 one-year-old subjects, all in Fullerton. At its conclusion, 108 remained. Pending publication is "Childhood Temperament as a Predictor of Health and Happiness Based on a Longitudinal Study of

"I have enjoyed my experiences in OLLI," Diana wrote, "and want to learn more about its operations and contribute to its ongoing success."

38 Years." Having come to CSUF as an undergraduate in 1975, this year marks her 50th year of engagement with the university.

**Debbie Kegel, Nominee
Trustee at Large**

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

Debbie Kegel was born in Los Angeles, California. She graduated from CSUF in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She graduated from UCLA School



of Law in 1982. Debbie practiced in financial services for 25+ years. Upon retiring she returned to CSUF, earning a Master's in Gerontology in 2011.

While working on her Master's degree she was given an assignment to visit and assess a community non-profit program serving seniors. She chose OLLI. It was there that she met Barbara Talento. She assured Barbara that after she finished her master's she would return. She certainly did!

In the meantime, she joined CalOptima, the Medi-Cal plan for Orange County as part of a team that focused on bringing up new programs for seniors and persons with disabilities. This included working with CalOptima and community leaders on grants (making and receiving) and program development such as the first Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly OC and local programs addressing homelessness. She retired 10 years later as Director, Strategic Development.

When Debbie returned to OLLI she became a super volunteer and is so ready to be our Trustee at Large.

**Judi Marsh, Nominee
Trustee at Large**

By Lew Livingston, Staff Writer



Judi Marsh grew up in Chicago, where she earned a Registered Medical Technologist degree and worked for a Michigan Avenue physician. She and her husband relocated to Sanford, North Carolina in 1987 and established a company that restored antique telephones and sold cellular service to six cities and Fort Bragg. She served as PTA president, food co-op coordinator, elected school board member and first female president of the Sanford Rotary Club. She has three adult children.

The family moved to California, where Judi started a new career in senior living, eventually retiring from her job as Life Enrichment Director at Walnut Village Senior Retirement Community in Anaheim in 2024. She immediately joined OLLI to make new friends, improve her quality of life and continue making a difference in the lives of seniors. Judi leads an active life and enjoys travel.

Judi volunteers on the Trips Committee and the Collaboration Committee. She participates in the Conversation Partner Program, helping foreign students, volunteers at the Meals on Wheels program, and at the Curtis Theatre in Brea as an usher.

Judi's enthusiasm to make a difference in seniors' lives makes her an excellent choice as a Trustee at Large.



**Britt Wachsman,
Nominee
Trustee at Large**

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer

Britt's family emigrated from Denmark when she was 11. They lived for a while with her father's aunt in Altadena. She spoke no English but had a very kind and helpful teacher who started her with Dick and Jane books. She quickly caught on and became a lifetime lover of libraries and books. Years later her family moved to San Diego. She married and had two children, both of whom still live in San Diego, along with her grandchildren. Britt has been married to a retired attorney for 36 very happy years.

After her children started school, she returned to San Diego State and got a degree in advertising and marketing. She later moved to Orange County where she worked for an advertising agency as an account executive for twelve years. Later, during a recession she left advertising and worked for a few years as a legal assistant, ultimately going to work for the County of Orange and the DA's Department of Child Support Services.

She retired in 2010 and enjoys gardening and travel, and being with her family. She belongs to the Red Hat Society and has a circle of good friends with whom she enjoys going to plays, movies and the symphony.

“Britt enjoys the people and classes at OLLI.”

She loves the feeling of belonging and learning. COVID was a challenge and she was quite happy to be able to attend again in person. She learned about OLLI from a friend of hers who lives in North Carolina who shared about the fantastic classes she was taking through her local OLLI. Not familiar with OLLI, Britt googled it here in Orange County, dropped into our OLLI office the following week and signed up right away. She said that North Carolina has a very different OLLI and that we are lucky to have ours.

What got her interested in joining the Board as a trustee was being a coordinator working with Barbara Rosen on brainstorming subjects for “Eclectics” and also realized the importance of volunteering to keep OLLI thriving.

If elected, Britt hopes to learn more about the internal workings of OLLI and assisting the Board with

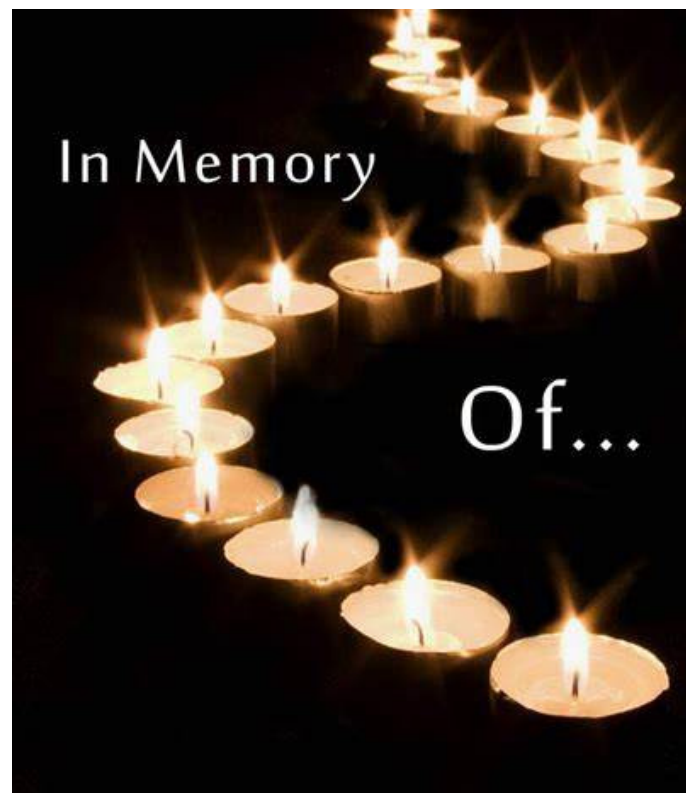
recruiting new members. She'd like to make it easier and more encouraging for potential members to learn how to navigate the Blue Book and OLLI in general. She'd like to see groups of members become mentors to new students so that they feel more connected to OLLI sooner.

It's hard to imagine anyone being a more enthusiastic nominee for Trustee at Large than Britt Wachsman is.

In Memoriam Coming

April 25 • 3:00-5:00 p.m. • Shapiro ABCD

In Memoriam is a gathering of OLLI members who wish to remember those who have passed away since last spring. A PowerPoint presentation will show the names and pictures of those OLLI members we have lost throughout this past year. A reception of light refreshments will follow. All OLLI members and bereaved families are invited to take part in this occasion for conversation and fellowship.



Forty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration



By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer

OLLI celebrated its 45th Anniversary in the afternoon of February 14, 2025, Valentine’s Day. There was a lot of love at this event. Approximately 200 plus members attended. This was the largest crowd seen in Mackey Auditorium in a very long time. Attendees were treated to a splendid program starting with the recognition of our 90+ members announced by Debbie Maxwell. We have forty-one age 90+ members, several of whom were in attendance.

Two members who had passed on remembered OLLI in their wills. Pat Duffy gave \$25,000 and Len Leventhal, \$2,500. Debbie Maxwell presented two giant checks representing these gifts. OLLI is very grateful to those wonderful members.

The winner of the OLLI scholarship, known as The Betty Robinson Award, was announced, and Azam Dini received her giant check.

The event concluded with an amazing OLLI Jeopardy game featuring Mike Stover as our quizmaster. There were three teams of two members, all of whom were past OLLI presidents. Barbara Talento and Ellie Monroe were one team. Barry Escoc and Chuck Ritz were a second team and Jim Monroe and Dave Musante, the third team. There were no buzzers, but each team answered by holding up a paddle with their team number and color on it to “ring in” with their answers. Since this was all about OLLI, the categories were CLE, RGC. Curriculum, People, Trips & Activities, and University. Points were

given for correct answers in the form of a question, and points were deducted for incorrect answers. The competition concluded with Final OLLI Jeopardy. The category was Curriculum. The clue was “One-time major party nominee who was once an OLLI guest speaker.” The answer was “Who was Dukakis.” The winning team was Jim Monroe and Dave Musante who were awarded trophies. No expense was spared on this day. Because of the splendid performance of all the teams, all three teams were given fabulous trophies. They deserved it for being such good sports and agreeing to play Jeopardy for the members. Afterward, the festivities continued with lunch

“Who was Dukakis.

***The winning team was
Jim Monroe and Dave Musante”***

in Shapiro ABCD. The menu included food from Panda Express: Orange Chicken, Broccoli Beef, Honey Shrimp, fried rice, chow mein, soft drinks and dessert. There were so many OLLI members present that ABCD soon ran out of space and Rooms 8, 9 and 21 were used to provide everyone with a place to sit down and enjoy their lunch. A few even dined out on the patio, even though it was a bit chilly out there. Entertainment during lunch was provided by Pete Saputo’s Barbershop Quartet.

To say that this was a memorable event would be a huge understatement.

San Antonio Winery Trip Coming May 7

Join us for lunch at the Maddalena Restaurant and optional wine tasting with cheese plate, tour and gift shop at the iconic San Antonio Winery in downtown Los Angeles.

Sign-ups begin April 14. See the weekly newsletters and flyer for further details.



45th Anniversary and 90 Plus Members Celebration

Photos by Hsien Chen, Mary Crouch, Jim Di Tota & Diana Guerin





Motion Picture Academy Museum - OLLI Trip

What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on February 13, 2025:

- CSUF College of the Arts has opportunities for OLLI members to become docents for new art galleries.
- Funds were approved for President Hite and Executive Director Thomas to go to the Osher National Convention in Chantilly, Virginia.
- CSUF Deputy Provost Sean Walker was introduced and is looking forward to working with OLLI on the Board.
- Remediation is being done in Room 16 and the Green Monitor area in back of Mackey Auditorium.
- Planning has begun with CSUF to paint both the interiors and exteriors of the Ruby Gerontology Center.
- OLLI's philanthropic fund information on the OLLI website, member guidebook and marketing brochures is being updated and simplified.
- Current member count is 1,173 as of February 8, 2025, which includes 92 new members joining for the spring semester.
- A new Marketing Committee was appointed, consisting of President Hite, Executive Director Daisy Thomas, Debbie Maxwell, Past President Mike Stover, VP Communications Jim Di Tota, VP External Relations Bill Sampson, VP Administration Bob Kovacev and Fran Colwell, Chair of the Development/Philanthropy Committee. Current and long-range marketing plans are being reviewed, and teams are being developed.
- The Nomination and Election Committee happily reported that they received 13 applications from OLLI members for the five trustee at large positions, an unprecedented number of applications. The committee provided an hour-long seminar in five different sessions to educate, provide history, discuss challenges and the leadership role of the trustee at large position, and they plan to do similar training for officer positions. The nominations for the April election are: President - Vickie Hite; Vice President Facilities - Anthony Gonzalez; Vice President Programs - MaryLouise Hlavac; Treasurer - Ann Sparks; and Trustees at Large - Eileen Gomez, Diana Wright Guerin, Debra L Kegel, Judi Marsh and Britt Wachsmann.



Bill Sampson sizes up the Oscar at the Motion Picture Academy Museum during OLLI's trip on February 12.

Photo by Mary Sampson.

Cheers to Volunteers Lunch Coming April 17

All OLLI members are invited to a casual volunteer recognition event for lunch and to raise a glass to "toast" OLLI's volunteers.

There will be sandwiches, salads, chips and drinks in the RGC courtyard on April 17th. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., before the General Meeting/Election, which starts at 1:30 p.m. in Mackey Auditorium. A sign-up sheet for the lunch will be in the Shapiro Lobby a couple of weeks prior to the event.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

“A Continuing Learning Experience”

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Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7

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