



President’s Message

By Ellie Monroe, President, OLLI-CSUF

Summer session will be starting very soon.



We have several classes and activities planned for your pleasure during the summer. It has been great meeting with our members in person. OLLI has new life that has been contagious. Parking has continued to be plentiful.

We are preparing for the change of our members on the Board. This is my final term as President, so in May I will be moving onto a new assignment as the Vice President Programs. My term has been filled with challenges over the past two years, but we have come back stronger and with a new outlook. OLLI today has redefined itself through our ability to evolve into, using my favorite term, our “new normal.” The energy is very exciting with new faces and new outlooks.

We are one of the strongest OLLI’s in the country. I became very aware of this status when I attended an Osher workshop which had 100 participants from OLLIs throughout the U.S. Our recovery, although not up to pre-pandemic status, was further into recovery than the majority of the others. That makes me so proud of all our great members and their ability to assimilate into a different OLLI culture.

I encourage all of you to consider joining us for the many activities coming up during our summer session, such as our Veterans Recognition event in late June.

We are committed to bring new courses to our members in the fall. If you have any suggestions for a course or would like to try teaching a course of your own, please be sure to leave us a suggestion or email us with your ideas.

We encourage you to invite your friends and family members to try out a single class (free) during the summer semester. Send a note to your instructors that you wish to bring in a friend to try out a class they may be interested in. Remember this offer is for one class meeting during the summer and not the entire summer.

Thanks to all of you for your support during my two years as President. It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Take care and stay safe. Cheers!!

Trips Committee: Maintaining a Long and Illustrious Tradition Since 1980

By Marjorie Mota, Trips Committee

An OLLI trip flier is just a piece of paper. OLLI members, however, are frequently seen clutching said piece of paper as they rush to the office to sign up for yet another trip. Over the years, our members have enjoyed and learned from well over one hundred trips. When did this OLLI tradition start? And how are these trips arranged for us?

Continuing Learning Experience, or CLE, our original organization, was chartered by the University in 1979. Hard on the heels of CLE’s founding, the membership enjoyed their first trip, an overnighter to McGee Creek at Mammoth Lakes in 1980. CLE became Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, or OLLI in 2006. By that time, our organization’s Trips Committee tradition was well established.

Thanks to the dedication of this Committee, our members can sign up for a variety of local day trips or travel excursions. In the earliest years of CLE and OLLI, there was keen interest in travel to Alaska, Costa Rica and Shakespeare Festivals in Oregon and Utah. Trips to the American

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President Ellie Monroe
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 Mary Sampson, Staff Writers

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Joyce Ono: Outgoing Immediate Past President

By Elaine Mitchell, Staff Writer

Joyce Ono is completing her term on OLLI’s Board of Trustees as Immediate Past President in May.



Looking back at Joyce’s origins, we see her enthusiasm for knowledge in various arts and sciences, making the practical choice of science,

but always challenging herself to create.

She was born in Oahu, Hawaii and received her B.A. from the University of Hawaii. She went on to study zoology and earned her M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. She did postdoctoral research in the Division of Neurosciences at the City of Hope. In 1986, she became a CSUF associate professor, then a full professor in 1998, and finally retiring in 2003 as a professor emeritus. Joyce’s CSUF career was very successful and studded by her many academic achievements, scientific honors, awards, research and study grants.

OLLI was very fortunate to be close by, right in the path of a retiring professor emeritus eager

for lifelong learning. From the beginning, Joyce has instructed and coordinated many different courses—currently “Drawing for the Fun of It,” “Watercolor Workshop,” “Transitions in Retirement Essentials” and “Google Photos.” Joyce has also been a valuable member of several OLLI committees—Computer Education, Curriculum, Nomination & Election, and Policies & Procedures Committees.

Joyce also brought her talents and experience to the OLLI Board of Trustees. She has been a Trustee-at-Large, and also served as Vice Presidents of Programs, Communications, Administration and Technology before being elected OLLI’s President in 2019, just in time for the upsets, shut-downs and outside-the-box of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joyce was aware of a trend in universities to celebrate and promote diversity on the campus. She was especially interested in the Age-Friendly University Global Network’s list of 10 ways to promote support of older students. She recognized that universities could provide more education to this ever-increasing segment of the population. She encouraged and supported CSUF as an “age friendly” school and promoted OLLI as an on-campus resource that benefited students of all ages.

Joyce’s term as OLLI President, from 2019 to 2021, was subject to the most challenging changes of any time in OLLI’s 40+ year history when the COVID-19 pandemic swept around the world. The greatest priority for governments, the University and OLLI was the health and safety of all students and staff. The total shut down of CSUF came with very short notice. Joyce and her team of OLLI’s remarkable volunteers saved the day through their hard work, their crash courses and their research and installation of new technology. They made a personal sacrifice to learn how to keep the connections open and offer the support that folks needed more than ever when they were isolated from contact with others. The learning curve was tremendous. Her team had to learn all the new Zoom videoconferencing technology so fast and well that they could teach OLLI members and keep them involved, seemingly without a break—and they did a remarkable job. The majority of our

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programs and members were salvaged and we are continuing to regain the essence of OLLI's core values.

Joyce helped us plan a new future; she was the right leader at the right time ... and have you seen her artwork?

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Southwest were popular, including attendance at the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico. There were excursions to Southeast Asia and Europe. Local icons such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Getty Villa Museum and the Norton Simon Museum were not neglected.

More recently, we have visited Southern California venues such as the Cabrillo Ranch in Carlsbad, Modjeska Canyon and the Reagan and Nixon libraries. We have even trekked to the Prado Dam and back to learn about Orange County's unique water system, how it is stored, treated and distributed. Although it pays to know where our local water comes from, we are also curious about water on Mars. That is why tours of the Jet Propulsion Lab have always been much coveted.

Our membership is composed of people who appreciate out-of-the-ordinary learning experiences. The number of foreign countries visited by OLLI travelers is impressive: England, France, Canada, Mexico, Italy, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Russia, Vietnam, Egypt, Spain, Greece, Cambodia, Thailand and China. For some of these countries, once was not enough!

Our last trip, before the pandemic curbed our wanderlust, was to mainland China. We returned about a month before COVID-19 became a household word. Now that the pandemic is in the rearview mirror and OLLI is reclaiming its usual vitality, the Trips Committee is forging ahead with enthusiasm.

Arranging group trips requires attention to detail. It is a deliberate process that juggles many concerns culminating in approval by our OLLI Board of Trustees and the University. Some of the constraints that must be worked out are educational objectives, transportation, tour company schedules, safety and insurance issues. OLLI is rightly safety-conscious, and the University will not approve

trips to countries that are deemed problematic on U.S. State Department Travel Advisories. Each trip must be arranged well in advance to accommodate approvals and factor in a timely announcement to our members. That's a lot of intricate work, and it all ends up on one little paper invitation, the flyer to sign up!

We are indebted to the Trips Committee for a continuous flow of new learning experiences. At the end of every trip, our members have always expressed heartfelt thanks to acknowledge the Committee's hard work. This article joins that grateful chorus to acknowledge with appreciation the Committee's diligence and expertise. To all who have served in the past, or who are currently serving as members or chairs of this vital group, we thank you!

If you are interested in joining or just want to learn more about the Committee, come to the next Trips Committee meeting on Zoom. The link will be in the newsletters and on the OLLI website. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Ellie Monroe Honored by DAR

By Alice Gresto

For a moment, all she could do was take a deep breath and whisper, "Whoa! That came out



of left field!" when Ellie received the notice of being named Community Service Award winner by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a non-political

women's service organization that supports education, patriotism and historic preservation.

She was invited to attend the annual Helen Daily Smith Memorial Awards Ceremony hosted by the Mojave Chapter, National Society of the DAR honoring winners of the Community Service, Good Citizen and American History Essay Awards on March 25 at the American Legion Hall in Orange, California.

Ellie was presented with a certificate and a pin, and she was informed that chapter members

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contributed to CSUF's Day of Giving for OLLI. Her husband, Jim Monroe, was present and was thanked for his outstanding service to OLLI as well. Patsy Burns, Mike Stover and several other members of OLLI also attended the celebration.

How did this award come about? Ellie was nominated by DAR/OLLI member Sara Clark. Sara has been a member of OLLI since 2012 and states that she was "well aware of the volunteer work Ellie does for OLLI in her capacity as instructor, coordinator and various Board positions."

Sara submitted her name and a summary of Ellie's many qualifications to chairperson of the awards committee, Linda Moore. Linda did further research and obtained support for Sara's recommendation from other groups Ellie works with in the music field. Her nomination was approved at the California state division of DAR.

When I asked Ellie how she has so much energy to take on her many volunteer activities, she said it was a family trait. She recalled the stories about her grandfather starting out as a water boy on the railroad, working his way up to laying track through Texas, then going to work for Simmon's Masonry and finally becoming a farmer. She remembers him as a kind and generous man who, much like her dad, was quiet, hardworking and supportive of families and immigrants.

Ellie remembered attending fund raisers for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) with her parents and loved the music and the dances. Her parents and extended family members were always involved in helping others. She was sure that hard work and helping people just ran in her genes.

Ellie worked at the UCI Work-Study Office, which assisted the students in finding employment within the university. Her aunt was a community leader in Norwalk and was in charge of Carmenita Community events. She helped Ellie gain employment through LULAC, working for a community-based government program that taught English to Mexican immigrants, send them to trade schools and find them gainful employment.

That help/support idea grew as Ellie became involved with the School of Music at Cal State Fullerton. Soon, CSUF students were leading our

emerging OLLI band classes, classical guitarists were sharing tips with our guitar ensemble and CSUF musicians were doing lunchtime concerts for OLLI. Ellie became the "go-to lady" for CSUF students in need. Ellie and Jim were in constant attendance at the many student performance finals at the end of each semester.

That's how the award came about!

Thank You For Making #TitansGive A Successful OLLI Event!

By Ellie Monroe, OLLI President, on behalf of the OLLI Board of Trustees

OLLI is coming back stronger than ever. We raised \$31,328 from [187 donors](#)!!

- OLLI Member Donations: \$19,580
- Challenges Awarded: \$11,748
- Grand Total: \$31,328

Congratulations to all the OLLI members on your participation in the CSUF Day of Giving on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Thank you for generously donating to ensure that we have the necessary resources to meet challenges, as we build our "new normal" together in this post pandemic period.

We not only surpassed our 2022 donations, but OLLI collected more donations than all of the other participating groups to take first place in total donations. This earned us the PepsiCo Dollar Challenge of \$5,000.

We appreciate Pepsi and all those who funded the challenges, especially the OLLI member challenges. Please join me in thanking Donna Spradlin, Charlotte Oliva, the Stovers, and the Monroes. OLLI won all the OLLI challenges.

The University Advancement Team and OLLI's Development/Philanthropy Committee, led by Mike Stover, did a fantastic job of organizing this event.



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 11 and will be succeeded by new officers and trustees that were elected at the General Meeting and Election on April 20.

Those completing their terms of office are: Joyce Ono, Immediate Past President; Ellie Monroe, President; Renee Cabrera, Vice President Programs; Shirley Smith, Vice President Membership; Tony Package, Vice President Facilities; Lisa Sewell, Vice President Hospitality; Ann Sparks, Treasurer and Trustees at Large Rosalind Charles, Tom La Casa, Pete Saputo and Mike Stover.



Joyce Ono
Past President



Ellie Monroe
President



Renee Cabrera
VP Programs



Shirley Smith
VP Membership



Tony Package
VP Facilities



Lisa Sewell
VP Hospitality



Ann Sparks
Treasurer



Rosalind Charles
Trustee at Large



Tom La Casa
Trustee at Large



Pete Saputo
Trustee at Large



Mike Stover
Trustee at Large

Chris Shaw, Editor, and Then Some!

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

Many of us know of Chris Shaw through his work as Associate Editor, then Editor of our OLLI ChroniCLE, a service he has provided his readers since 2013. But did you know that he has also been our Blue Book Editor since 2015? Have you noticed how much easier it is to find what you want in the Blue Book year after year? Chris works closely with his dedicated support team to make sure that all goes well with our OLLI class catalog and guide. It is no surprise that he took on the position of Vice President Communications (2018-2020). In fact, he is currently serving a second term as VP Communications (2022-2024).

Our OLLI program is based on volunteer support—these are the interested and interesting people who teach classes, coordinate classes and programs, create and support social events and even stay after to help clean up. Chris states, “I am more of a person-in-the-background kind of guy.”

Just check out what our “person-in-the-background kind of guy” has been doing behind the scenes for the past 10 years—Trustee at Large: 2015-2016 and 2021-2022; Secretary: 2016-2018 and 2020-2021; Nomination and Election Committee: Chair 2017 and Chair 2019; Policies and Procedures Committee: 2016-2018 and 2020-present (Chair 2020-2021); Development/Philanthropy Committee: 2016-present; Digital Image Archive (previously OLLI Photo Archive): Co-Founder and Lead 2016-present; Digital Document Archive: Co-Founder 2021-2022; OLLI 35th Anniversary Committee: 2013-2014; OLLI 40th Anniversary Committee: 2019-2020; Osher National Conference 2020: OLLI-CSUF Representative; and OLLI Parking Restrictions Mitigation Subcommittee: 2019.

“Frankly,” Chris tells us, “I spend so much time on OLLI’s communication venues and administration that I rarely attend classes anymore.” He joined OLLI in 2008 and, back when he was attending classes, his favorite courses were Rick Hearn and Susan Hanna’s “Science for You,” Bonnie Shirley’s “Archaeology,” Dr. Joe Lawton’s “Medical Series” and the late, great Ed Woodson’s “Dynasties, Wars, and Nations.”

He does try to keep up with technology. He always believed it to be important in his career as a business manager to keep current on the technology that could benefit his employees. He was the second department manager in his company (Transamerica) to purchase IBM personal computers for his staff and have them trained in using Windows and Microsoft Word back in the mid-1980s.

Chris states, “The same holds true in my work now at OLLI. I’ve learned how to use Adobe Acrobat and Google Drive/Docs, and I have helped my volunteer Blue Book copy editors to learn them so we can work better together as a team in creating documents.”

Outside OLLI his interests turn to movies and popular music. He collects movies in digital format so he can view his favorites again whenever he wants. By having his own library of songs and music videos on his desktop computer, he can copy them to his cell phone and can watch his movies and videos on his TV through an app called Plex.

He lives with Linda, his wife of 48 years, in Chino Hills. and he has a married daughter living in Anaheim. His daughter is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton, has a master’s in music from UCI and is a talented singer. She performed for many years with the Pacific Chorale and the John Alexander Singers, often singing solos, and she currently sings with the Choral Arts Initiative and directs her church choir. She is a celebrated secondary school music teacher and choir director in Anaheim.

Restructuring the Blue Book: How Will New Programs be Announced?

By Chris Shaw, Blue Book Editor

Since the new annual Blue Book program catalog will only be published once a year starting with the 2023-2024 academic year in September, how will new programs introduced after that throughout the year be announced? Won’t new programs be left out of the Blue Book?

Currently, new programs are occasionally introduced in the middle of a semester or just before the start of a semester but after the semester’s Blue Book is published. When that happens, we announce it in the OLLI newsletters

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and in the ChroniCLE with its full program description.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, we will continue this practice in the newsletters and the ChroniCLE for all new programs introduced throughout the year, plus we will email a standalone announcement to all members prior to the start of each semester showing the full descriptions and meeting schedules of all new programs commencing that semester.

In addition, we will highlight new programs in the new Blue Book Schedule of Classes and Events, which will be published prior to each semester. The list of programs in the Schedule of Classes and Events will indicate “(New)” after the title of all new programs commencing that semester and the Day of the Week Index section will show the full program description in addition to the meeting schedule for each new program.

Heads-Up: OLLI members who are planning to start a new program in the fall 2023, spring 2024 or summer 2024 semesters and want their program in the annual 2023-24 Blue Book program catalog will need to obtain approval from the Curriculum Committee during their meeting on May 1.

The May 1 Zoom meeting will be the last opportunity for a new program to be approved before the Blue Book program catalog for the 2023-2024 academic year goes to press. A course proposal form must be submitted in advance of the meeting. Go to : <http://olli.fullerton.edu/resources/pdfs/CourseProposalForm.pdf>, download and complete the form and email it to Ollicurriculumcsuf@gmail.com.

Although it's ideal for all programs offered during the academic year to be shown in the Blue Book program catalog, it's just not logistically possible for new programs that are proposed throughout the year. We don't want to discourage members from generating exciting, new learning ideas and activities, and we don't want to delay offering them for members to enjoy.

The good news is, as described above, that new programs introduced after the Blue Book program catalog is published will enjoy a wider range of promotion to our members than ever before through our many member communication outlets, including the Blue Book's new Schedule of Classes

and Events publication, and they will be augmented by other specialized promotional materials such as Transitions in Retirements' Open to the Public gatefold brochure.

OLLI Member Vaccination Exemptions

By Ellie Monroe, OLLI President

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) has recently approved a Vaccination Exemption status for qualifying OLLI members. To be excused from the vaccine requirement set up by the campus, you must qualify for a medical or religious exemption as described below.

1) Medical Exemption: due to a medical (including mental health) condition for which an approved vaccine presents a significant risk of a serious adverse reaction. Any medical exemption must be verified by a certified or licensed healthcare professional and submitted to the university.

2) Religious Exemption: due to either (i) a person's sincerely held religious belief, observance, or practice, which includes any traditionally recognized religion, or (ii) beliefs, observances, or practices which an individual sincerely holds and that occupy a place of importance in that individual's life, comparable to that of traditionally recognized religions. Anyone seeking a religious exemption must provide a statement to the university that describes the applicable religious or other comparable belief that is the basis for their exemption.

3) Be sure that you have the necessary documentation in hand in the event you are requested by the campus to submit a copy of your Vaccination Exemption status.

Procedures for new OLLI members and members returning after a break in membership are on the OLLI website under COVID Protocols.

What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on March 9, 2023.

- CSUF Provost Carolyn Thomas resigned. Su Swarat will serve as interim Provost. Whoever is

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Taco/Taco Salad Thursday Social—March 23, 2023

Photos by Bonita Schiebe



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hired as the new president of CSUF will name the new provost.

- Current OLLI enrollment is at 1,086 members.
- Day of Giving raised \$31,000 for OLLI from 178 donors, compared to \$22,080 last year. OLLI ranked 3rd place in donations on campus behind the Arboretum and CSUF Water Polo.
- OLLI's Long Range Plan are: 1. Prepare for OLLI-CSUF long-term growth and survival; 2. Broaden the reach of OLLI-CUSF programs into younger generations and additional geographical areas while expanding membership and on-campus participation; and 3. Transform the OLLI-CSUF organization structure, roles and scopes into an efficient externally-focused organization to execute our growth mission. Diversity will be part of our marketing focus. Planning committees are being formed.
- President Ellie Monroe is working with ASC-CSUF to assure prompt reimbursement for expenses.
- The April 20 General Meeting/Election & Ice Cream Social will be held in the most convenient location within the RGC depending on the status of the Shapiro wall repair.
- VP External Relations Bob Kovacev and his Speakers Bureau are planning up to five community engagements, including Morningside Retirement Community, to promote OLLI membership.
- Christopher Kondo will be interviewing 90+ Club members for a documentary exploring retirees' plans for extended healthy living.
- OLLI may be involved with the University MSTEM program utilizing a diverse group of future faculty and Ph.D. students to train for teaching and research in aging studies.
- CSUF's Robust Aging Program will present a Zoom session about Alzheimer's and dementia for all CSUF students, including OLLI members, on April 25. An additional Zoom evening class for OLLI is planned for May 9.
- A new OLLI program in the summer session on Alzheimer's and dementia will include the topics Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body, Effective Communication and 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Ask the Board

By Chris Shaw, Vice President Communications

Bonnie asked, "UCI OLLI runs FB items regularly. I haven't seen anything from our CSUF OLLI. Can we do this?"

I responded: I assume you mean Facebook posts like the one you copied from UCI that specifically solicits new members. We post weekly about OLLI programs that are open to the public, because our Facebook page targets the non-member public.

We did a Facebook post about our Spring Preview event last January that solicited new members when spring semester registration was open. I agree we could do more such advertising on our Facebook page during our registration periods.

The next registration period for the upcoming summer session will be in May, but our big effort comes in July when we begin advertising for new members for the fall semester, which is the beginning of our academic year. That is when we advertise our annual Fall Open House on August 5, which is our big, on-campus solicitation for new members.

If you have a question, send an email to Chris Shaw at tashawc01@gmail.com. I will find the right person to get the right answer for you. I'll also share your question and answer in the next ChroniCLE, because if you wondered about something, other OLLI members may have wondered the same thing.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Coming

Thursday, May 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Ruby Gerontology Center

Come join the fun in celebration of Cinco de



Mayo. There will be entertainment, provided by Folklorico dancers, a Mariachi group and the CSUF Latin Ensemble, and a full

dinner. For more information, including the cost and a registration coupon, see the flyer and OLLI newsletters.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

1979 - 2022: 43 Years of Excellence

Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7

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Not Receiving OLLI Emails?

If you have unsubscribed in response to **any** OLLI email, you have unsubscribed from **all** OLLI emails, including the ChroniCLE emails. If, for any reason, you are **not** already receiving OLLI emails about upcoming classes, events, the ChroniCLE and special notices, you can subscribe (or re-subscribe) by going to <http://bit.ly/OLLISubscription> and entering your email address, first name and last name.

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 for the upcoming month with links to view or download the publications. You can also access the most recent ChroniCLEs through links in the weekly OLLI newsletters 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>

Email: olli-info@fullerton.edu