President’s Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF

It is 2024 and OLLI is celebrating 45 years of Lifelong Learning. During those 45 years we were able to make the adjustments necessary to move our organization forward with creativity and amazing vitality. This is a great time to take stock of all that we have accomplished and to look toward the future and the continued success of OLLI at CSUF.

As we continue to move forward, we have some unique opportunities to create a stronger version of ourselves. Patsy Burns served OLLI well during her long tenure here, and now we look toward spending quality retirement time with her. We are fortunate to have found in Daisy Thomas, our new Executive Director, a leader with a rich background and amazing energy. We also have the opportunity to tap into a Board of Trustees that has more new members than we have experienced in several years.

We can expect to see forward-moving changes this year as we continue to work on our goals of long-term growth, member retention and an updated business model to attract the next generation of OLLI members.

While I envision change and growth within our organization, I feel it is important to ensure that our culture and mission of lifelong learning is respected and upheld.

As your new president, I am looking forward to a year of great personal growth for myself and the opportunity to work with our new Board and Executive Director as we all move toward OLLI’s next 20 years.

OLLI Welcomes Daisy Thomas

Our New Executive Director

By Chris Shaw, Editor

A nationwide search was conducted for a new Executive Director and Chief of Staff for the OLLI Board of Trustees, which involved extensive interviews by University management, staff, OLLI’s search committee and the officers of the Board of Trustees. After reviewing the top three candidates’ public presentations and visions for OLLI’s future, the University made the decision to hire Daisy Thomas, who previously held positions in various university capacities for more than 12 years: Administrator, Faculty and Auxiliary Staff.

Daisy began her new role on April 8, replacing retired Administrative Manager, Patsy Burns.

By her second day on campus, Daisy was already deeply immersed in meetings with each officer of OLLI’s Board, developing working relationships and learning her role at OLLI. As Executive Director and Chief of Staff, Daisy will be responsible for the administrative, operational and financial management of OLLI in compliance with university policies, working with the Board and all OLLI’s volunteers on member enrollment, volunteer recruitment, University and community outreach, fundraising, grants and much more. She is now an ex-officio member of OLLI’s Board of Trustees.

An alumna of both California State University, San Bernardino (B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Communications) and Chapman University (M.S. in Health and Strategic Communication), Daisy’s professional background includes working internationally in government, media, public
Ellie Monroe: Outgoing Immediate Past President

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Ellie Monroe completed her term of office on OLLI’s Board of Trustees as Immediate Past President on May 9. That also marked the end of an extraordinary run of service on the Board in many capacities: Trustee at Large, Treasurer (2013-2015), Vice President Membership (2017-2019), Vice President Programs (2019-2021 & 2023-2024) and President (2021-2023).

OLLI was fortunate to have had Ellie in the role of Vice President Programs in 2020 when the pandemic closed the campus and the Ruby Gerontology Center to in-person classes. She worked tirelessly to convince OLLI’s program instructors and coordinators to continue their classes via Zoom and to train them how to host their programs virtually to minimize the loss of programs and retain as many members as possible.

In order to encourage lost members to return to OLLI, she recruited instructors and coordinators to offer virtual-friendly programs, such as “Cooking Potpourri,” “The Crafty Social” and “Happy Hour.” During the first two years of the pandemic, she recruited Dr. Cesario to provide a series of presentations giving up-to-date information on each phase of COVID-19 as they occurred and how to keep ourselves healthy and safe.

When she was elected President in 2021, she worked to provide a safe environment on campus to encourage members to return to campus for in-person programs that would once-again provide the much-needed socialization factor that OLLI at Cal State Fullerton had always, so-famously provided for its members.

A California native, Ellie graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a degree in Finance and Marketing and was employed in that field for over 30 years. Ellie brought her background in business finance and marketing to OLLI when she joined with her husband, Jim, in 2010. Soon they were volunteering as an OLLI-CSUF Collaboration team in the CSUF School of Business assisting students with entrepreneurship.

Ellie went on to become OLLI’s most prolific program instructor and coordinator. She is best known for her music classes, such as “CSUF Faculty/Student Performances,” “Musical Performances,” “Noontime Student Piano Performances,” “Recorders/Guitars & More Workshop,” “Strings & Things Music Jam,” “Piano Keyboard,” “Learn to Read Music” and “The History of American Music” series, including History of Broadway, Rock ‘n’ Roll and currently Hollywood Musicals.

She works closely with the CSUF School of Music as an OLLI Collaborator and often invites students to perform at the OLLI Socials. She coordinates the music and entertainment for the Socials, including such annual themed favorites as the Sock Hop, Cinco de Mayo and OLLI Welcoming socials.

She is the instructor and/or coordinator for “Transitions in Retirement Essentials,” “Line Dancing,” “Estate Planning & Charitable Giving,” “OLLI Today & Tomorrow Forum,” “Alzheimer’s & Dementia Series” and “Happy Hour.”

Ellie Monroe ...Continued on Page 3
Fourth of July Celebration and Veterans Recognition (Open to the Public)
Friday, June 28 • 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Mackey Auditorium/Shapiro ABCD

Join us in celebrating the Fourth of July. This annual event will feature a presentation of our proud OLLI Veterans. Join in honoring the OLLI men and women who served during WWII, Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

Our OLLI Veterans’ photos will be shown accompanied by patriotic music. Stay to enjoy socializing and the great refreshments following the presentation.

Members wishing to have their personal photo included in this presentation may send a .jpeg of their military photo to ellie.monroe@mindspring.com. You may take your photo to one of your local stationery stores to have them scan your photo and give you a .jpeg copy on your flash drive.

This summer we will include a pinning ceremony by the Daughters of the American Revolution for those who served on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. This national commemoration is a Secretary of Defense initiative, authorized by Congress and launched by President Obama in 2012. Living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the aforementioned time period are eligible to receive a lapel pin. Widows and widowers of Vietnam veterans are eligible to receive a “Blue Star Pin” in honor of their spouse’s service.

OLLI members view a “forest” of Joshua trees during an overnight Joshua Tree and San Andreas Fault Trip to the desert. The photo was taken by trip coordinator Fran Dobley.

OLLI Welcomes ...Continued from Page 1
relations, business finance and other private industries, developing and acquiring funding for programs that utilize scientific knowledge in applied settings. Daisy served on the Housing Administration Management Team at the University of California, Riverside for almost eight years, providing leadership, guidance and streamlined technology solutions for a diverse university student population of more than 23,000 students and their families, as well as generating more than $64 million dollars annually for the department.

She later worked at Chapman University Property Management for three years, overseeing operations and financial processes for more than one hundred residential and commercial buildings. Most recently, Daisy has been teaching undergraduate courses in Business and Professional Communication at Chapman University, as well as serving as a Business Change Management Consultant for several organizations that promote educational advancement opportunities for underserved populations and Indigenous people of color. Her focused area of study is “Intergenerational and Intercultural Communication in the Workplace,” training professionals from various backgrounds and ages in the real-life application of updated communication research.

Many OLLI members had a chance to meet Daisy at the Ice Cream Social after the annual General Meeting/Election on April 18. She said, “Thank you for hiring me. It is an honor to serve the members of OLLI. I am beyond impressed by the knowledge, experience and expertise that this organization of overachievers possesses. I am looking forward to working with you and for you.”

Ellie Monroe ... Continued from page 2
Ellie also coordinates the “Fourth of July Celebration and Veterans Recognition,” “OLLI Volunteer Recognition” and “In Memoriam” events each year. She is Co-chair of the Friendship/In Memoriam Committee, Lead in Coordinator/Instructor Training and Blue Book Section Editor.

Fortunately for OLLI, Ellie is continuing her generous volunteering and sponsorship of classes and events, ensuring OLLI’s exceptional wealth and breadth of programming for its members.
General Meeting/Election and
Ice Cream Social Held April 18

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The annual General Meeting and Election was held April 18 in Mackey Auditorium with an option to view it livestreamed online.

OLLI’s President Mike Stover opened the meeting by introducing Dr. Irene Walsh, Associate Vice President of Academic Programs, who replaced CSUF’s dean of EIP in oversight of OLLI. Dr. Walsh explained why OLLI was transferred from Extension to Academic Programs and how she anticipates supporting OLLI going forward. She introduced OLLI’s new Executive Director, Daisy Thomas, who expressed how impressed she is with OLLI’s organization and members and how much she is looking forward to working with us.

Mike thanked OLLI’s Board of Trustees, all volunteers, OLLI’s office staff and CSUF partners for their work for OLLI over the preceding year. Mike reported on the state of OLLI, highlighted by a growing membership, 50% increase in donations and newly hired office staff, and he talked about OLLI’s future challenges. OLLI’s Treasurer and President-elect Vickie Hite reported OLLI’s expenditures and income.

The Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee, Joanne Hardy, explained the nomination and election process, and she introduced the nominees. Parliamentarian Phil Barnhard conducted the election, and the slate of nominees was approved by acclamation by the OLLI members in attendance in the auditorium. The newly elected Board members will be officially installed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 9.

Vickie Hite addressed the audience as OLLI’s new President Elect with her vision for the future.

After the program, Hospitality Committee Chair Lisa Sewell and her Hospitality team hosted the traditional Ice Cream Social in the Shapiro Wing.

To view the program recording, click on Livestream/Recordings on the home page of the OLLI website, then click on Annual OLLI Meeting.

Photos by Donna Spradlin
Newly Elected Members of the Board of Trustees

Vickie Hite
President

Bob Kovacev
VP Administration

Jim Di Tota
VP Communications

Bill Sampson
VP External Relations

Paul Herrick
VP Technology

Renee Cabrera
Secretary

FranColwell
Trustee at Large

Chris Heaton
Trustee at Large

MaryLouise Hlavac
Trustee at Large

Jay Messner
Trustee at Large

Next ChroniCLE: August

The next issue of the ChroniCLE will be a combined July/August issue, and it will be distributed around July 20.
In Memoriam Observed

The silent In Memoriam presentation, shown on campus on Friday, April 12, 2024, honored OLLI members who passed in the last year and is available to view on the OLLI website under the Events section of Classes/Activities on the home page.

Those who have passed: Judy Brazell, Jean Bryant, Henry “Hank” Chikahisa, Marty Cole, Wallace Craig, Lee Culp, Ethel Kamber, Joanna Lawton, Judith Merry, Bev Simmons, Mary Sambrano, Elisabeth Strauss and Ardath Wightman.
What’s Happening at the Board
By Chris Shaw, Editor
Following are highlights from OLLI’s Board of Trustees meeting on April 11, 2024:
• OLLI’s new reporting hierarchy within CSUF: OLLI is a legal entity of CSUF’s Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC), under the supervision of the provost, through the division of Academic Programs, headed by Associate Vice President Eileen Walsh.
• AVP Eileen Walsh introduced OLLI’s new Executive Director, Daisy Thomas. Daisy expressed her thanks and that she is looking forward to working for OLLI.
• OLLI’s summer session of classes begins May 28 and registrations of new members for the summer session begins April 29.
• Fran Colwell was thanked for work he has done for OLLI and the Arboretum, as featured in the OC Register.
• Jim Di Tota was appointed lead of the Digital Image Archive and Jill Patterson was appointed Blue Book Editor.
• Leadership transition meetings are being held with new, incoming Board members, who will be officially installed on May 9.
• The Board is working with CSUF’s Risk Management to get new OLLI Trolley drivers trained and certified.
• Current Board projects: 1) Improve financial reporting to Osher National Resources Center; 2) Improve workflow partnerships with ASC senior staff; 3) How OLLI will fit into CSUF’s new strategic plan; and 4) Utilizing CSUF students’ service-learning projects to improve OLLI processes.
• A new member incentive was approved to provide CSUF emeriti a $15 credit toward their membership fee. The Emeriti of CSUF organization will match this incentive.
• OLLI Policy changes to scholarships and refunds were approved.
• Support of CSUF’s planned analysis of existing transportation systems was approved.
• In it’s first three months, the Basic Needs Program received 350 pounds of food, 400 articles of clothing and over 100 hygiene products donated by OLLI members.
• Purchase of a replacement computer in the OLLI office was approved.
• Kitchen coffee service will be budgeted and member donations will be solicited.

New Courses Offered in Summer
The ABC’s of Medicare
This is an educational event via Zoom, highlighting the importance of knowing when you can sign up for Medicare in order to get the most out of your Medicare benefits and avoid late enrollment penalties. It’s also important to know that you can change or amend your existing plan to better meet your specific needs.
There will be three Medicare-related sessions covering what you need to know when you turn 65. The ABC’s of Medicare: Part A-Hospital Care, Part B-Medical Care, Part C-Medicare Advantage and Part D-Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Plans. Questions to consider: What monthly plan premium can you afford? Does the plan cover the services you need? Can you see the doctors you want? How do you decide what type of a policy you want ... HMO, PPO, Supplements, and what are the differences? Do you pay a bill from your doctor or does the insurance company pay it? What do you need to know to decipher medical bills?
Instructor Diana Dillman, from Live Well Insurance, and Tech Coordinator Sue Batie will present three classes on Wednesdays, May 29, June 5 and June 12 at 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Zoom only.

Let’s Play Cribbage Club
Cribbage is a fun and challenging card game that provides good mental exercise and the satisfaction of continual skill development. It also offers opportunities for meeting new people and making conversation.
This class will give experienced cribbage players a chance to play and teach beginners how to play the game. Class members might continue playing after class in the courtyard in good weather.
Instructor Tom Nichols and Coordinators Elaine Mitchell and Pete Saputo will offer classes every Wednesday on May 29, June 5, 12, (19 no class) & 26, and July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 9.
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

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