"A Continuing Learning Experience"

November 2024

Volume XLVI Number 3

President's Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF

As we head to into fall and the holiday season I want to let everyone know what a strong member



registration we are having this year. As of September 30, our member base was 1,064, which is slightly ahead of last year's 1016. We have 835 renewing members and 230 new sign-ups this year. Last year we had 814 renewing

members, and 208 new sign-ups. This is a great sign of our strength and resilience. We are gaining momentum.

This month we are also finalizing our slate of candidates for the 2025-2026 year. We have openings for President, VP Programs, VP Membership, VP Facilities, VP Hospitality, Treasurer and five Trustee at Large positions. I hope that any of you who would like to join the team will submit your applications and make your interest known to the Nomination and Election Committee. See the article titled "OLLI Board of Trustees Openings and Application Process" in this ChroniCLE for more details and instructions.

I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know what we have planned in the way of celebrations for OLLI's 45th anniversary. On November 1, 2024, we will host an event along with the CSUF Provost to meet Dr. Rochon, our new University President. The event will include the mayors of our local cities and other dignitaries. It will be a great opportunity to remind the University of our longevity, and introduce others to the best kept secret at the University: OLLI!

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OLLI Board of Trustees Openings and Application Process

By Chris Shaw, Editor

This is your chance to become part of managing OLLI. Each year approximately half of the officers and trustees at large on the Board of Trustees finish their two-year terms of office (one-year for the president), and new members are elected to replace them at the General Meeting and Election in April.

Following are the Board positions that will be up for election in April 2025:

- President—OLLI's chief executive officer presides over meetings of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and other meetings, implements decisions at those meetings and keeps OLLI's membership informed.
- Vice President Programs—Responsible for supervising the Curriculum Committee, Computer Education Committee, Transitions in Retirement Committee, Trips Committee, Performing Arts Committee. Creates the curriculum descriptions for the Blue Book, schedules the classrooms and assures the training of instructors and coordinators.
- Vice President Membership—Responsible for membership registration, membership orientation, demographic studies, member scholarships, volunteer recruitment and recognition, the Friendship Committee (In Memoriam) and OLLI docents.
- Vice President Facilities—Responsible for facilities operation, property management and the kitchen.
- Vice President Hospitality—Responsible for themed Hospitality events each semester and for providing food and refreshments at general member meetings, including

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PresidentVickie 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 TechnologyPaul Herrick
Treasurer Ann Sparks
Secretary Renee Cabrera
Chris Shaw (tashawc01@gmail.com), Editor; Keni Cox,
Assistant Editor; Alice Gresto, Lew Levingston, Elaine
Mitchell, Valerie Orleans and Mary Sampson, Staff
Writers

Photography Coordinator: Jim Di Tota

Desktop Publishing: Celia Reynolds

Celia Reynolds: Retiring But Not Gone

By Valerie Orleans. Staff Writer



Hers is often the first face you see upon entering OLLI's front office. She greets visitors, new and current OLLI members, answers questions and provides information on various OLLI programs. Behind the scenes, she coordinates membership

applications and payments, keeps records on everything from events to ongoing programs, designs OLLI's ChroniCLE newsletter, and works closely with the student assistants.

And after more than 20 years, Celia Reynolds retired from her role at OLLI in October.

"I like everything about working with OLLI," she said. "I like being around people, hearing their stories, learning about all the new classes and trips, working with our OLLI volunteers. It's really been a wonderful opportunity to connect with so many helpful and caring people."

Prior to working at OLLI, Celia worked with

an extended education program that focused on emerging international markets and provided classes in small business administration. She enjoyed the work and Cal State Fullerton but when she learned that OLLI was looking for a membership receptionist, she decided to apply. Needless to say, she got the job. Before too long, she was promoted to administrative assistant.

"I have worked closely with Celia each month since 2013 producing the ChroniCLE. I am so thankful for her dedication and reliability," said Chris Shaw, editor of the OLLI ChroniCLE. "She always planned her vacations so she would be available to work on the ChroniCLE during the critical first week or so of each month. Even when the pandemic shut down the university, she quickly adjusted to working from home, and we never missed even one month's issue. That was important to show members that OLLI was continuing to carry on despite the pandemic"

Celia's path to Cal State Fullerton was circuitous. Born and raised in Bolivia, she taught English and French classes to young students at language school in her native country. When her daughter moved to the United States to attend university (and chose to stay), Celia decided to join her.

"I came to the U.S. in 1994," she recalled. "I lived in Missouri for seven years, and then moved to California. When I started looking for a job, I saw one that looked interesting through the extended education program at Cal State Fullerton. I applied and was hired."

She enjoyed living in Southern California where she finally was able to grow her own garden.

"It's usually cold in Bolivia so I didn't have many opportunities to grow plants," she said. "But here ..."

Although Celia will no longer be working at OLLI, she still plans to be around. In fact, she is already a member of OLLI and is hoping to take piano classes.

"I took piano lessons when I was eight using a neighbor's piano," she said. "It'll be fun to start all over again. It'll be fun to be a participant in OLLI activities."

New ChroniCLE Staff Writer No Stranger to CSUF

By Valerie Orleans, Staff Writer

Valerie Orleans may be a newcomer to OLLI,

but she has strong ties to Cal State Fullerton. She earned her bachelor's degree in communications from the university in 1980, following in her mother's footsteps who graduated with a degree in history, and then watched her daughter carry on the family



tradition when she graduated with a degree in political science and American studies. For more than 20 years, she worked as the editorial director in the CSUF Strategic Communications department before retiring last December.

In that position, Orleans was responsible for writing or editing much of the written content on the university's main website, numerous newsletters, Titan Magazine, brochures, programs and more. She and her team of writers worked closely with members of the media and social media teams, photographers, designers, and multiple campus partners. She also taught classes through the College of Communications for many years.

"I loved my job and all the talented people I worked with," she said. "I always said this was the greatest job because I was constantly learning. One day I'd be interviewing a CSUF alum who was an astronaut on the space shuttle, and the next, I'd be writing about a Shakespeare class. Later in the week, it might be interviewing an alum who was a noted opera star ... or an alum who worked as a Washington D.C. correspondent for PBS. I also loved interviewing students and hearing them describe obstacles they had to overcome and how the university was able to help them.

"The problem was that there were too many wonderful stories to write. People would tell me about their research and different programs and I'd immediately want to write about all of them."

Prior to arriving at Cal State Fullerton, Orleans worked as a writer and marketing director for a combined 18 years at St. Joseph Hospital and St.

Jude Medical Center.

"That was also a fascinating career," she said.
"I don't know too many people who got B's and
C's in high school science and were then able to
join physicians performing surgery in the OR.
They would point out what they were doing and
how this would fix a particular health issue. Other
times, I would interview patients and hear the most
incredible and courageous stories about how they
were dealing with literal life and death situations."

Following her retirement, Valerie knew she would join OLLI.

"I always told people I thought I'd be a great 'professional' student ... and through OLLI, that's what I'm doing," she said. "But I'm encountering the same problems I had during my writing career — there are so many great programs and I want to attend them all!"

President's ... Continued from Page 1

We will also host a special OLLI Sweethearts event in February 2025 to honor our 90+ Club members and past presidents and fully celebrate our 45 years of OLLI. I hope you will make plans to attend.

The final changes in our office staff have happened with the retirement of Celia Reynolds after 20 plus years with us. She will be missed, but we hope to see her at OLLI events, as she is already a member of OLLI. We wish her a happy life in retirement.

Around Thanksgiving, most of us start to review the things we are grateful for — our families, our health and our community. This is also a good time to consider any last-minute giving for year-end tax-deductible donations. If you feel that OLLI has added to your life, it would a good time to make a gift to our great organization.



What Does a Trustee Do On the Board of Trustees?

By Chris Shaw, Editor

There are 11 elected officers on the Board, including the president, eight vice presidents, a treasurer and a secretary. Their responsibilities are fairly obvious from their titles, but the Board also includes nine elected "trustees at large" whose responsibilities are not self-evident and are largely unknown by OLLI members. The most common question I get about OLLI's elected offices is "What does a trustee do?"

To some it could seem like there is a "good ol' boy" network of the same people running the Board of Trustees year-after-year, but if that happens it's only by necessity when not enough new members step forward to apply.

The Board is very eager to get more applications from OLLI members who are new to the Board and new to OLLI. In fact, OLLI's Nomination & Election Policy states: "With due deference to long-time members, OLLI encourages a continuing reservoir of vitality. Experience on the Board is best ensured by considering new and recently retired members after they have become acquainted with OLLI."

Importantly, any OLLI member may apply to be a nominee for trustee at large (or any of the open Board positions, except president) simply by submitting an application from the OLLI website, or getting it from the OLLI office, completing the form and emailing it to Renee Cabrera, OLLI Secretary, at rmcabrer@csu.fullerton.edu.

OLLI at Cal State Fullerton was founded on the idea of community seniors banding together, volunteering their time and contributing their skills and knowledge developed over a lifetime, to provide a low-cost, no-tuition, perpetual college of lifelong learning for seniors. There are numerous opportunities for OLLI members to contribute their time and talent, from teaching courses to support services to managing the organization.

It is this last function, managing OLLI, that the Board of Trustees fulfills.

Trustees need no prior experience of any kind, making that position the easiest entry onto the Board. To apply for some officer positions, like

treasurer, it's helpful to have accounting or other similar experience in your pre-retirement life. For vice president positions, it's helpful to have experience on committees that are supervised by that officer. All candidates for officer positions benefit from experience on the Board as a trustee.

Trustees learn by experience, learning how the OLLI organization functions and how the various officers manage their areas of responsibility. Specifically, OLLI's Bylaws direct the Board to promote the training of trustees at large for greater future responsibilities by assigning them to work with and assist officers on the Board. In this way, the trustee may become a potential candidate for an officer position in a future election. Trustees may also be asked to join operational analysis and planning committees.

Perhaps the trustee's most important job is to represent the interests of all OLLI members in Board meeting discussions and decisions on issues that determine OLLI's direction and how its resources are used to best serve OLLI's members. The title "Trustee at Large" means each trustee represents all of the OLLI membership, as opposed to any one person or group.

The Board of Trustees is the decision-making body of OLLI. As such, it is vital that it be regularly refreshed with new members joining in the process of discussing and deciding the myriad issues faced by the Board, like how to navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, as a recent example. New trustees are the principal source of new perspectives and ideas for the Board, often representing the interests and needs of incoming, younger generation members.

As are all officers, approximately half of the nine trustees' two-year terms of office end each year and are replaced by other members, who are elected by the OLLI membership each April. Applications for nomination for next April's election are being accepted now (see "Board of Trustees Openings" in this ChroniCLE).

So, help the Board refresh itself and help lead OLLI into the future by applying for a position on OLLI's Board of Trustees **no later than November 15**.

Annual OLLI Welcoming Social: September 13, 2024

Photos by Jim Di Tota





















The Leo Shapiro Connection

By Chris Shaw, Editor

In 1978 David Walkington and
Betty Robertson of CSUF's Extended
Education Department proposed
the establishment of an outreach program for
senior citizens to access lifelong learning, which
became CLE, the predecessor of OLLI at Cal
State Fullerton. Betty Robertson first recruited
Leo Shapiro, and the three of them recruited
community leaders and CSUF faculty members,



who became the founding committee. Those founding members were Florence Arnold, Russell Ball, Ernest Lake, Lucien Miner, E. Ray Nichols, Charles Ruby and Leo Shapiro, along with ex-officio members Betty Robertson

and David Walkington.

Of this group of founders, Leo Shapiro stood out as the principal driver of the new enterprise and the building of the Ruby Gerontology Center. Leo is often referred to as CLE's founding father.

Betty told Leo about a program she learned about at the University of California, San Diego, which was called The Institute of Continued Learning, one of the few such programs in existence at that time. They went to San Diego to learn about it, which resulted in the committee deciding to emulate UCSD's program design.

The committee debated what to name their new organization, and Continuing Learning Experience won out. Then Leo's wife pointed out that the acronym "CLE" is the word for "key" in the French language. So, the initial logo for CLE was the image of a key, representing the key to a fulfilling retirement.

"CLE" was also incorporated into the title of the newsletter, the ChroniCLE, by capitalizing "CLE" in the title. This was never changed in order to honor OLLI's roots.

In an interview for CSUF's Oral History Program in 1988, Leo stated that CLE obtained a written agreement from the university that "As long as CLE is a viable organization it will be operating on this campus." Since this statement seemed a little vague, Leo went on to explain that "We just hope that our activity will be sufficiently attractive to the university, and we think it has been to date, to make it worth their effort to want to keep us here and make us happy."

Initially, the university granted CLE the use of Mahr House (now Golleher Alumni House), but their burgeoning membership soon outgrew the fire codes for that facility. Leo and other CLE leaders decided that, rather than limiting membership, they would request some land on the campus where they could build a new facility for CLE. There were two turning points early on that gave that project the momentum to succeed. First, Charles Ruby and his wife, Rachael, told Leo they would pledge \$100,000 to the project. With that backing Leo convinced Dr. L. Donald Shields (then president of CSUF) that the CLE facility could also be used for a gerontology program, a first in Orange County and only the second such program in all of California. The university granted CLE the use of 2.3 acres just to the south of the Arboretum for the facility, where the Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC now sits.

Leo and his project committee solicited donations and grants from many individuals, corporations, foundations and municipalities. Leo was very proud of the fact that \$700,000 of the money they raised was donated by CLE members. Despite this, it took a long, hard seven years to raise the \$2 million needed for the construction of the RGC. Leo used an office at Langsdorf Hall, where he worked full time for over four years on the project. Although no money came from the university or the state, Dr. Cobb (who succeeded Dr. Shields as CSUF president) helped Leo and his committee members with presentations to potential donors.

The Ruby Gerontology Center was completed and opened in 1988. An Honor Board, listing the benefactors, now hangs on the wall of the foyer of RGC's Shapiro Wing, which was named after Leo Shapiro.

In 2005 OLLI threw a big 100th birthday celebration for Leo, commissioning his bust, which is located in the hallway to the kitchen in the Shapiro Wing. It is reported that Leo, who was a bit of a curmudgeon, took one look and announced that *The Leo ... Continued on Page 7*

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it didn't look like him. Someone put black-rimmed glasses on the bust, and everyone agreed — now it looks like Leo. To this day, the glasses remain part of the bust.

New Programs Added to Fall Semester 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.

Instructor Tom Nichols and coordinators Elaine Mitchell, Pete Saputo offer classes every Monday [September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, (11 no class), 18, (25 no class), December 2, 9, (16, 23, 30 no class), January 6, and 13] at 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Shapiro AB.

Mah Jong Game and Strategy for You (Cantonese Version)

Mah-Jong is a game of both skill and luck that originated in China many centuries ago. It was brought to the West in the 1920s and is played with four players seated around a table. Tiles are shuffled, die are cast, and rituals involving the allocation of tiles and then the exchange of tiles begin. The first person to gather a hand of 17 tiles with 6 combinations and call "Mah-Jong" ends the game, whereupon tiles are scored and a winner is declared. This course introduces the beginner to the basic rules and simple strategies. Learn to play this enjoyable, social and thought-provoking game that improves cognitive performance, develops pattern recognition, enhances memorization and improves concentration. Most importantly it's fun!

Instructor Glenn Lee and coordinator Jill Rodriquez offer classes on selected Fridays [October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 22, (29 no class), December 13, (20 & 27 no class), January (3 no class), 10 and 17] at 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in Shapiro ABCD.

How to Play Violin for Beginners

Are you an adult beginner who has been hesitant to try the violin due to its perceived difficulty?

Have you dreamed about learning to play the violin? Do you crave a learning environment that offers encouragement and positive feedback? This course is designed to make learning the violin an enjoyable experience, even if you have no prior knowledge of reading sheet music. All you need is a violin (which you can purchase, rent or borrow and a music stand for an enhanced learning experience. A violin and music stand are required. Instructor Linda Parato and coordinator Mickey La Casa offer classes every Monday [September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, (11 no class), 18, (25 no class) and December 2] at 11 a.m.—noon in Room 18.

OLLI Board...Continued from Page 1

- the election, open house and other social meetings and activities.
- Treasurer—Approves the receipt and disbursements of fund and ensures that records are kept. Chairs the Budget Committee, prepares the annual budget, reports the financial statements and monitors and reports the endowment fund to the Board
- Trustees at Large (five positions)—Learn how OLLI functions and about Board officers' areas of responsibilities. Trustees back up officers, serve on various committees and represent OLLI members' interests on the Board.

All OLLI members are encouraged to communicate their interest in being nominated for any of these positions by completing a short and confidential application form and submitting it to the OLLI Secretary, Renee Cabrera. Download the fillable application form at http://olli.fullerton.edu/resources/pdfs/NominationApplication.pdf, complete the form and email it to Renee at mcabrer@csu.fullerton.edu. All applications must be received no later than November 15, 2024.

All applications received will be considered by the Nomination and Election Committee for nomination. Applicants will receive further notification from the Nomination and Election Committee. Any applicants who are not nominated by the Committee may submit a petition to the Committee to be added to the election ballot.

Meet Donna Miranda New OLLI Office Staff Member

Executive Director
Daisy Thomas hired Donna
Miranda, who is the new parttime Bookkeeping Analyst in
the OLLI office. Her position
is both a bookkeeper and
general office assistant. Donna
recently retired from her job

at CSUF as an administrator with 40 years of experience.



Donna is also joining OLLI, becoming a new member starting in the fall semester.

Daisy announced, "The OLLI office is now fully staffed, efficient and operational."

OLLI Basic Needs Initiative for CSUF Students

Your donations can assist CSUF students with basic needs. November's focus is a drive for non-perishable items for The Pantry.

Here are some pointers for donations to The Pantry box located in the Shapiro Wing lobby:

- Please place your non-perishable food donations in plastic or cloth bags with handles.
- The Pantry suggests:
 - *canned fruit, meat, soup, vegetables
 - *bottled jelly, peanut butter, spices, tomato sauce
 - *boxed cereal, crackers, granola bars, mac and cheese, rice, oatmeal *packaged pasta, ramen noodles
- Food must not be past its "Best By" or "Expiration" date.
- OLLI cannot accept perishable foods (including your home-grown fruits and vegetables) as they may spoil. Instead, please donate these items directly to the Pantry in the Titan Student Union, Room 129; call 657-278-8756 for hours and to arrange large deliveries.

Thank you for supporting the OLLI Basic Needs Initiative for CSUF Students.

Hospitality's Holiday Luncheon Coming Wednesday, December 11

"Reach for the Stars with Harmony" is the theme for this year's Holiday Luncheon, sponsored by OLLI's Hospitality Committee, which will be held at the Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

The popular, annual event will include a full lunch, entertainment and raffles for valuable baskets of goodies. This year's attendees are encouraged to bring donated items for CSUF students.

Registration begins in the OLLI office on October 21, and only 167 seats are available.

See the flyer with more details and the registration coupon included with the electronic distribution of this ChroniCLE. The flyer is also available to download on the OLLI website and linked through the newsletters, or get a printed copy in the OLLI office.

Membership Scholarship Application

By Debbie Maxwell, Chair, Scholarship Committee
Scholarships for OLLI membership are available
for those having financial hardships. Applications
can be requested through the OLLI office by phone
or sending an email to olli-info@fullerton.edu.
Completed applications must be returned to the
OLLI office no later than Friday, December 6,
2024 for the spring 2025 semester. Each applicant
will be contacted to set up an interview with the
committee shortly after the application due date.

Wear Your OLLI Name Tag

Security is a worldwide issue and it is no different for you or me. All members are requested to wear their OLLI-CSUF name tag on campus.



If you bring a guest one to three times, please pick up a guest pass/name tag in the OLLI office in Room 7.

What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on September 12, 2024:

- OLLI & CSUF will jointly host a 45th anniversary celebration meet & greet at the Arboretum at 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on November 1 with CSUF President Rochon, OLLI members, students, faculty and community leaders.
- Additional funding was approved for the November 1 anniversary event at the Arboretum.
- OLLI Sweethearts 45th Celebration in February 2025 will laud our 90+ Club members and past presidents in celebrating OLLI's 45th anniversary.
- OLLI's fundraising this academic year will include: 1. Crowdfunding in October to purchase hearing impaired technology for the Shapiro Wing; 2. The President's end of year tax deductible giving; and 3. Titans Give in March.
- Celia Reynolds, OLLI's long-time office administrative assistant, is retiring effective October 11, 2024.
- Touch Net, a new online system for members to pay fees for classes, events and trips, will have a soft (limited) test during the fall semester and be fully implemented in the spring semester.
- The Board is discussing how we will support and utilize Zoom and livestream in future for the Distance Learning program.
- Anthony Gonzalez was appointed VP Facilities.
- Current OLLI membership is now 1,082.
- CSUF's Student Entrepreneur Research
 Project will research two issues for OLLI:
 membership attrition and office staff
 operations.
- The Nomination and Election Committee is forming to begin accepting applications for the 2025 Board member elections.
- A new committee is forming to reorganize special events, socials and musical performances under the umbrella of VP

- Hospitality.
- OLLI's missing trolleys were found and are being repaired to go back in service. Corina Pineda is now coordinating OLLI Trolley driver training & certification and service schedules.

Anthony Gonzalez Appointed VP Facilities

On September 12, the Board of Trustees appointed Anthony Gonzalez as Vice President Facilities to complete Pete Saputo's remaining



term, ending May 2025. Pete announced his resignation at the July Board meeting.

President Hite is encouraging younger members to be a part of OLLI leadership and the Board. Anthony Gonzalez

joined OLLI pre-COVID, and now that we are back on campus Anthony is a helpful volunteer. You will find him at many of the events. His character and positive qualities will be a great addition to the board.

President Hite and the Board want to thank Trustee Tony Package for all his efforts to assist with the facilities for the Open House and more while an appointee was being sought.

Next ChroniCLE: January Issue

As usual, the ChroniCLE is skipping December. The next issue of the ChroniCLE will be a combined December/January issue, and it will be distributed around December 20.





OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton
"A Continuing Learning Experience"

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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 <u>ollinewsbytes@hotmail.com</u> 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 <u>olli-info@fullerton.edu</u> 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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