



## **President's Message**

*By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF*

Wow! This is all I can say at the moment. When I mentioned that there would be changes this year,



I didn't realize how true that would be.

We finally have a fully staffed office. Corina Pineda has joined us as our new Office Administrator, and Donna Miranda as our Bookkeeping Analyst.

Our office staff is stronger than ever and here to assist members and volunteers in any way possible.

While our Open House is in the past, I must say, bravo to an amazing effort by everyone involved. I loved every minute of it and appreciate all the work by our fabulous volunteers. As I mentioned in the Open House program, we are an army of volunteers, and I am hoping that many of our new members will be inspired to join our ranks. I had several members reach out to volunteer in the week after the Open House, so we are off to a great start.

Our Programs and Hospitality Committees have planned several fun events in the coming weeks. We will be celebrating our 45th anniversary on Friday, November 1 with a reception and celebration of OLLI's growth at CSUF. University President Dr. Rochon will be sharing this event with us, so please add this date to your calendar.

Every year we have three opportunities to donate to OLLI in support of our various programs. As we move into the fall, it is a time to consider your end of year, tax deductible donations. There will be two opportunities this fall to support OLLI and our financial goals. In addition to the annual end of year campaign, we will be participating in a crowdfunding campaign for the first time. This

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## **Reflections On OLLI:**

### **Barbara Talento**

*By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer*

Barbara Talento is a multi-faceted gem as an



OLLI member. Her participation in the organization goes way, way back—before it was OLLI, before it was CLE—to a time when she was on the faculty of the CSUF School of Nursing.

Focusing on Life Span Involvement there, she was asked to serve on a steering committee through Extended Education to look into an on-campus program for seniors. The program was called Continuing Learning Experience, or CLE.

At about the same time, Barbara felt that her mother needed something to do. The perfect solution was CLE. Her mother became member number 50, and she loved it.

Barbara was still on the nursing school faculty when the Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC) was built in 1988. She had done her dissertation, naturally enough, on Life Satisfaction of Adult Learning: Senior Centers vs. CLE program. She surveyed senior centers and CLE members and found that seniors who have activities and classes handled the aging process better than those who did not have things like that to participate in.

Her nursing students were seeing only one side of aging since they worked mainly in retirement homes and hospitals. Barbara decided that the RGC needed a nursing clinic where the students could see well-elders and get practice taking blood pressure and doing other nursing tasks. St. Jude Hospital cooperated by donating equipment. A

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President . . . . . Vickie Hite  
 Vice President Administration . . . . . Robert Kovacev  
 Vice President Programs . . . . . Sue Batie  
 Vice President Communication . . . . . Jim Di Tota  
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 Mary Sampson, Staff Writers  
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## OLLI Treasurer Ann Sparks

*By Ann Sparks, OLLI Treasurer*



OLLI’s Treasurer serves as the liaison between the Board of Trustees and the OLLI operational staff and works with OLLI management to manage and control the overall finances as required by OLLI and University policy. Daily financial transactions are the responsibility of the OLLI office staff. With the assistance of office management, the Treasurer monitors and reports the overall financial position each month at the Board of Trustees meeting. These monthly reports highlight income, operational expenditures, capital purchases and a summary of the financial reserves. These financial transactions are compared to the budget each month to ensure that the expenses and income are within the budget parameters.

As most of you know, OLLI is self-funded, meaning that we do not depend on state or University funding for our activities. OLLI’s main source of revenue is the member dues. Operating

expenditures primarily paid with membership dues include office staff, office administrative items, campus parking fees, costs related to providing classes, marketing, communications and other member support costs.

Membership revenue is supplemented by earnings distributions from the Osher Endowment Fund. The earnings from the Endowment have been used to pay for facility and technology maintenance and upgrades and other one-time expenditures. Another source of funding is donations from members and other supporters of OLLI. Funds not expended during the fiscal year are retained and used to build operating reserves. Reserves are funds set aside to provide funding for future capital expenditures and renovations, unanticipated one-time expenditures and as an offset if membership fee revenues dip below projections. For example, reserves were available to help absorb the revenue shortfalls due to the steep decline in membership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funds received from member and community donations are carefully managed with the assistance of the University Advancement Foundation (UAF). OLLI partners with UAF on donation campaigns such as CSUF’s Day of Giving.

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, income is projected to be \$560,032 including \$362,500 budgeted for membership dues. Membership revenue is projected to increase by \$60,000 based on an increase of the registration fee from \$275 to \$290 and a 150 increase in membership. Operating expenses are projected to increase by approximately \$70,000. Any revenue shortfalls would be covered by the reserve accounts. Financial reports are available for review by OLLI members in the OLLI office.

In the coming years, OLLI will face many of the same challenges that members do in their personal lives, including inflation, facilities and operational costs, and uncertain membership levels. We encourage input and support from members interested in helping maintain and improve the OLLI “lifestyle.”

***Reflection on ... Continued from Page 1***

clinic office was set up in a room in the RGC where CLE members could easily visit and get checked out by student nurses under Barbara's supervision. When the RGC opened, so did the nursing clinic. Barbara made it happen.

After retiring, Barbara naturally joined CLE around 1995. She joined the "Wisdom Exchange" course, which her mother had enjoyed. She also joined "What's Behind the News." Both of those courses became her favorites. She taught and coordinated both. She continued attending them when the pandemic arrived, necessitating learning how to attend on Zoom.

As a retired nurse, Barbara contributed short health advice articles in the ChroniCLE: "Nutrition News" series from 2013 through 2015, "How to Treat the Flu" in 2015, and "Vitamin F" (F for Friends in 2015).

During OLLI's 35th anniversary, she, along with Char Oliva and Warren Wilson, served as a panel of historians in a program, "How We Became the Organization We Are Today," in Mackey Auditorium answering questions about OLLI's history.

She was voted Volunteer of the Year in 1997. In 2001 she was persuaded to become the President of CLE, serving a two-year term. Moreover, Barbara served an unprecedented second term as president from 2007-2009. The second term required a little arm-twisting because, at the time, no one was willing to take on the job. The Board of Trustees approached Barbara to do it "one more time," and she agreed.

A couple of her accomplishments that many OLLI members may not know about were the automatic door openers and the OLLI Trolley.

Being a compassionate as well as a practical-minded person, Barbara noticed that several of the members were having trouble getting through the heavy outer doors in the RGC building, because of walkers, wheelchairs or just lack of strength. She knew the right people in the University to ask to install push-button automatic door openers. After the University did their need analysis, the door openers were finally installed. We have Barbara to thank for that.

The area to the east of the RGC, now a village of student housing buildings and the Gastronome dining hall, was once a student parking lot, available to OLLI members. After the buildings wiped out all but Lot J (which was designated for OLLI members only on weekdays in 2007), parking became problematic. Many members were forced to park in faraway Lots A and G. Again, Barbara knew the right people on campus to contact. With their assistance, she was instrumental in getting one of the University's large electric carts, designating it the OLLI Trolley. That made it possible to shuttle members from a pickup point near the Arboretum to the RGC and back. The cart is maintained by the University but driven by OLLI member volunteers. Once again, we have Barbara to thank for that.

Barbara cherishes the strong relationships that OLLI has always engendered. She feels that the pandemic caused a loss of the "family connection" that we have all enjoyed for so many years. She believes this connection was a very strong part of what OLLI has always been about. "COVID changed us," she said, "and people have found it too easy to stay at home and avoid returning to OLLI in person." She hopes that that family connections can be re-established when members choose to return.

Barbara is the new "Cover Girl" on the OLLI Fall 2024 Blue Book. She said she is a bit embarrassed to be featured there. At the August Open House, she was talking to a new member who asked her about a class she was interested in. Barbara said she should get the Blue Book out of her goodie bag and look it up. The woman pulled it out and looked at the cover, then looked at Barbara and asked how long Barbara had been a member. Barbara told her. Then the woman asked how old she was. Barbara told her, "Ninety-six." The new member was quite impressed. Barbara still laughs about her "notoriety."

When asked how she would like to be remembered, Barbara said she would like to be seen as an ardent fan of adult learning who contributed to OLLI successes. She is appreciative of life and loves to see people who are like family at OLLI.



## Fall Open House Staged

By Chris Shaw, Editor

This year's Fall Open House was held at the Ruby Gerontology Center on August 10.

Total attendance was 429, of which 189 were guests and potential new members. During the event, 66 people joined OLLI with the help of Joanna Hardy's team of registration experts. More new members completed their registration online from home. As of the Monday following the event, we had a total of 105 new members, and counting.

Information on OLLI's various courses and activities was available at tented exhibit booths in Lot H, plus some classrooms inside the RGC.

Entertainment for attendees was provided by the Flash Mob, Crescendo Chorale, Snappy Tappers and Ukulele Band.

President Vickie Hite kicked off the program in Mackey Auditorium by announcing that we are observing OLLI's 45th anniversary and giving a short history of OLLI, starting in 1979 as Continuing Learning Experience, or "CLE." She noted OLLI's milestones: building the Ruby Gerontology Center, joining the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and recovering from COVID's campus shutdown. Vickie said the most important thing about OLLI is that it is volunteer driven. She explained how volunteers drive our programs and gave examples of our many courses, activities and events.

Vickie introduced OLLI's new Executive Director, Daisy Thomas, and reviewed important information about parking on campus and the OLLI Trolley.

Vice President Administration, Bob Kovacev, addressed the newly retired, or about to retire, attendees about how OLLI can help make this major life change become "exciting, interesting and all-around fascinating ... OLLI is an organization that is dedicated to making people intellectually, physically and socially stimulated." He described how OLLI does this through its social activities, courses, special interest groups and just being a place to enjoy lounging and meeting friends in the courtyard. On top of this, OLLI members are eligible for many CSUF student privileges.

Bob invited the audience to tour the facility, stop at the booths to learn more about our programs, enjoy the entertainment, and especially enjoy the light lunch provided by OLLI's Hospitality Committee. He encouraged guests to stop by Room 19 and join OLLI.

In her closing remarks, Vickie encouraged guests to register, because OLLI is a wonderful place to meet new, lifelong friends. As Vickie put it, "OLLI's sense of community ... will enrich your life."

The video of the Fall Open House program is available to view online anytime. Go to the OLLI webpage at <http://olli.fullerton.edu> and click on Classes/Activities, then Events, or [click here](#).





# Fall Open House Photos Continued

Photos by Fang Chen, Mary Crouch, Diana Guerin, Kathleen Isenberg, Don Lake, Don Lueder, Ana Price and Bonnie Schiebe





## OLLI-CSUF Collaborations:

### Linda Lockwood

*By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer*

Linda Lockwood grew up in the Midwest, earning her undergrad degrees in Psychology and Elementary Education. She started her teaching career in Denver, Colorado. With a couple of years under her belt she moved on to California where



she taught various grade levels in general education in the Fullerton School District.

Eventually, she earned a master's degree in special education/learning handicaps, which allowed her to work with students with special needs—her

dream job, for sure! She felt fortunate to have participated in many special projects while honing her leadership skills. Linda states, “It was a great ride!”

With retirement coming closer she had no retirement plan in mind. A friend gave her an OLLI Blue Book, but she “certainly did not want to hang around with a bunch of old people!” Soon she realized she needed to get involved to avoid becoming a recluse, her greatest fear.

The summer she retired she sent in her application and fee payment to OLLI. However, Linda did not attend a single OLLI class, she took a long-term sub job in a special day class instead. When it was over she felt she was finished with teaching. “Now what?” she thought.

The first course she took at OLLI was “What’s Behind the News,” which has remained her favorite course, in any form. While there she met new people who asked her to go to other classes with them ... go out to lunch, go out for coffee. All these were more ways to learn about many things. Volunteering for the Hospitality Committee, she made more new friends, who in time, coerced her into serving as Vice President Hospitality. Her first big event was OLLI’s 35th Anniversary Celebration, working with a great team of men and women, and it was a great success. Then came Vice

President Membership, another great experience.

Linda finally joined the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Program. She knew she wanted to work with students, and Collaboration was a way to do that. John Blaydes, the “Ultimate Educator,” was a member of Collaboration, and he was mentoring CSUF education students. John was Linda’s model and eventually her advocate. He introduced Linda to OLLI member Caecilia Gomota, who went on to create her own non-profit for first generation students. Ms. Gomota needed a mentor for a computer science student. After a long lunch they became partners for Luis Perez in the spring of 2019, Linda and Luis continued working together on Zoom all through the COVID shutdown. Luis graduated and became a successful engineer.

In the fall of 2019, Collaboration Committee Chair, Sue Mullaly, introduced Linda to CSUF student Ryan Nadler. Linda was his mentor through his last two undergrad years and on through his Master’s program in Speech Therapy. They have become very good friends.

Linda got along well with Sue Mullaly almost immediately. She saw Sue as an amazing woman: warm, smart, skilled and a lot of fun ... and with great ideas. As Sue shared her ideas, Linda wanted to act on them. Sue continues to encourage Linda as they work together with other members on the Collaboration Team.

As an educator, working with CSUF students to achieve their goals on the Collaboration Team has been Linda’s personal passion. Of all the volunteer jobs she has had at OLLI, this one is a definite favorite.



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event will take place during the last two weeks of October. We would like to be able to fund a technology advancement that would allow our members with hearing aids to connect, by blue tooth, to a system that will amplify sound in our classrooms. This is similar technology that is found in some theaters and lecture halls. This program was recommended by a member, and we feel there is great value to this program.

The third opportunity to donate is the Titans Give program in March. This campaign provides matching dollars to your donations to OLLI, and has been extremely effective the past two years. Fran Colwell, our committee chair for the Development/Philanthropy Committee, and I have a goal this year. We would love to double down on our 45th anniversary celebration, and we have set a goal of \$90,000 in donations for the academic year. It sounds a little daunting, but last year our amazing donors gave \$71,000 to OLLI. We would love to offer more student scholarships, and your donations make that possible. It is recommended that donations to OLLI be designated for the Today and Tomorrow Fund.

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

## Japanese American National Museum Tour

**Friday, November 22**

The Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, downtown Los Angeles, is part of the Smithsonian Affiliations Program and features more than 130 years of Japanese American history. See more details on the flyer or the OLLI newsletters.

Sign-ups begin Monday, October 14 in the OLLI office. Complete the coupon from the flyer and submit it with your payment via credit or debit card.



## Poetry for Pleasure

*By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer*

The “Poetry for Pleasure” classes meet Thursday afternoons from noon to 2 p.m. throughout OLLI’s full academic year. Poetry written by the class poets are published in Poetry for Pleasure anthologies and are available on Amazon. Royalties are donated to OLLI. Selected poems from these anthologies will appear in the ChroniCLE periodically.

### Grounded

Ducks of the back bay carom  
above the sluggish channels  
like flying bowling pins  
interrupting pelicans and terns  
diving for fish.

Directly beneath the pattern of jets  
from John Wayne,  
I watch spell bound, shorebound:  
a bump on driftwood  
eating dates and sunflower seeds  
by a blue canoe.

Jumbos roar above, winking  
silver at the sludge, confetti of trash.

Sitting, stalled,  
I dream the art of suspended flight.

*By Marilyn Schultz*



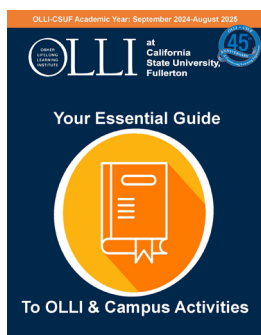
Marilyn Schultz-Davis works with her therapy dog, Pickle, and teaches writing at California State University at Fullerton when she is not staring into space, thinking about words and their

richness. She is a lucky woman because each member of her family is a friend, and every one of her friends is as precious as family.

As Marilyn poetically put it, “Hope is not just a thing with feathers. It drifts through my poetry as friendship, family, poetry, trees, trails, music, choice and sunlight.”

## Introducing OLLI's New Guidebook: Your Essential Guide To OLLI & Campus Activities

By Kathy Gilroy, Editor, *Your Essential Guide to OLLI & Campus Activities*



OLLI members have a new guidebook, *Your Essential Guide to OLLI & Campus Activities*, that does what its name implies. Use it to make the most of your OLLI privileges, not only within the OLLI community at the Ruby Gerontology Center, but in everything that the Cal State Fullerton campus has to offer you.

The first part of *Your Essential Guide to OLLI & Campus Activities* focuses on OLLI's community of lifelong learners, acquainting you with all that is OLLI and telling you how you can become an active participant in OLLI's classes, activities, events and leadership.

The second part of the guide provides an overview of Cal State Fullerton's university community at large, acquainting you with campus activities and services and bringing you up-to-speed on your campus privileges so that you can take full advantage of them.

A digital copy of *Your Essential Guide to OLLI & Campus Activities* has been sent to OLLI members via email, and is also available on the OLLI website and in the weekly *Announcements & Events Newsletter*.

OLLI's Board of Trustees and the editors of *Your Essential Guide to OLLI & Campus Activities* trust that you will find the guide to be an informative and useful tool that will enhance your OLLI experience.



## Members' Generosity Exemplifies OLLI's Commitment to Student Success

By Debbie Kegel, OLLI-CSUF Basic Needs Initiative  
OLLI-CSUF Basic Needs Initiative, launched



in January 2024, made it easy for OLLI members to help students improve their well-being and, in turn, their academic performance. Members contribute non-perishable food, lightly used clothes, hygiene products and

school supplies for pre-kindergarten children.

In the first six months of the program, OLLI members donated more than 500 pounds of food for The Panty, 900 articles of clothing for Tuffy's Closet (professional and business casual clothes) and the LGBTQ Resource Center combined, and nearly 350 hygiene products for the CSUF Basic Needs Program, as well as art and other supplies for The Children's Center.

These donations make a big difference to students who are hungry, are about to start their professional careers, or have other needs.

The following notes of gratitude have been received:

- Cristina Medina Truong, Assistant Director of Titan Student Union Services and Food Pantry, Associated Students Inc., wrote, "ASI is deeply grateful for the incredible support shown by our OLLI members through their generous contributions to The Pantry. The donation of over 360 food items, totaling more than 500 pounds, exemplifies the spirit of generosity and community that defines CSUF. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of students in need. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this success, and we look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming year."

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### Members' Generosity ...Continued from Page 8

- Victoria Ajemian, Director of Basic Needs Services, wrote, "Thank you to the OLLI donors who generously donated hygiene products and/or gently worn professional attire to Basic Needs Services this year! As Tuffy's Career Closet and hygiene products are our most utilized services by CSUF students and rely on donations, your contributions have allowed students to continue accessing these services. Your generosity and support of our CSUF is beyond appreciated!"

Pictured are OLLI volunteers, Debbie Maxwell (left) and Debbie Kegel.

Donations may be dropped in the bin located in the Shapiro lobby. Thank you for your generosity.

## **What's Happening at the Board**

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meetings on August 8, 2024:

- Dr. Ronald S. Rochon was appointed Cal State Fullerton's new president on July 22.
- CSUF's Center of Entrepreneurship students will help OLLI develop a plan for new member retention.
- Executive Director Daisy Thomas is streamlining the liability waiver process for events and trips.
- New office administrator, Corina Pineda, started working in the OLLI office on August 19. Donna Miranda has been hired as a part time bookkeeping analyst, and CSUF student Akemi Tenga is working part time in the OLLI office.
- Daisy Thomas is working on a new OLLI office manual with all job responsibilities, functions and descriptions, and all employees will be cross trained.
- More OLLI Trolley drivers are needed and being recruited.
- The purchase of new, needed storage units for the kitchen patio was approved.
- The Development/Philanthropy Committee

plans more promotions for donations to OLLI at the annual Day of Giving, crowdfunding etc.

- There will be a 45th anniversary celebration event; timing and details are coming.

## **Meet the New OLLI Office Staff**



OLLI President Vickie Hite announced that Executive Director Daisy Thomas hired Corina Pineda, (shown above) to be our Office Administrator. She will assist Daisy with all of our operational procedures. Corina is a steal from the world of Disney. She will bring a tremendous amount of creative and design experience with her.



Daisy also hired two part-time CSUF student employees to round out our team. Rishitha Bathini (left, above) and Akemi Tenga (right, above). Rishitha is a grad student and is our Data Systems Engineer. Akemi is a junior in the CSUF Business program.



## OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

*“A Continuing Learning Experience”*

1979 - 2024: 45 Years of Excellence

*Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7*

*P.O. Box 6870*

*Fullerton, California 92834-6870*

*(657) 278-2446*

**Address Service  
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Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Permit No. 487 Fullerton, Calif
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:olli-info@fullerton.edu)

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