

President's Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF



As many of you know, we have been navigating a period of uncertainty since the University announced its intention to relocate OLLI from our long-time home at the Ruby Gerontology Center. Initially, the limited information available made it challenging for leadership to fully understand the proposal. Fortunately, with the formation of the Advisory Task Force, we now have a productive path forward. I am optimistic that, together with the University, we can identify solutions that meet their needs while supporting the long-term success of OLLI.

Both OLLI and the University have assembled strong teams with the expertise needed to evaluate options thoughtfully and constructively. Our first meeting set a positive tone, and we look forward to continuing productive discussion. The Advisory Task Force is meeting again on December 4, with additional meetings scheduled from January through March.

We are grateful for the thorough and timely information being shared by our members. This allows us to consider every aspect carefully and ensures we are well-informed as we advocate for OLLI's best interests. It is a true reflection of the remarkable depth of experience and skill among our members — one of the qualities that makes OLLI such a strong and vibrant community.

While we continue our conversations with the University, OLLI remains strong, active and forward-moving —

*Thanks to all
of you.*

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How the Blue Book is Produced: Section Editors and Scheduling Resolution Team

By Stephanie Leon, Staff Writer, and Chris Shaw, Editor

Producing OLLI's Blue Book Program Catalog, offering an average of over 100 courses, activities and events (programs) to OLLI members each semester three times a year, is a big job accomplished by many volunteer members, plus OLLI office staff. This article explains how the program descriptions in the Blue Book are done by the Section Editors (which are in short supply right now) and Scheduling Resolution Team, working with the instructors/coordinators of each of the programs.

The Section Editors and Scheduling Resolution Team are led by the Vice President of Programs, Sue Batie. Sue appoints volunteers to be responsible for one (or more, depending on how many volunteers she has) of 10 sections of the Blue Book's curriculum, plus the Committee Meetings section. Currently there are seven section editors: Sue Batie, Renee Cabrera, Joanne Hardy, MaryLouise Hlavac, Debra Kegel, Kathey Schuster and Carol Thurk. Their estimated total time commitment is 12 to 15 hours for each of the three Blue Books published each year.

Renee's reaction is typical of the team's spirit: "It's fun being part of a team that supports OLLI's curriculum, and we enjoy getting to know the instructors and coordinators we work with. There is also a great sense of pride in this accomplishment."

Their first task before producing the program descriptions is to create the Calendar Dates document. This lists all the dates that regularly recurring classes or activities should meet throughout the next semester (or summer session), and following intersession, if applicable, depending on what day of the week they

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choose to meet and how often they choose to meet (e.g., every week or two options for meeting every other week). The document lists the first and last days of the semester and intersession and all holidays and other days the campus and/or OLLI office is closed and classes are not held. The Calendar Dates schedule is approved by President Vickie Hite and Executive Director, Daisy Thomas.

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In preparation for the next semester’s Blue Book each section editor contacts the instructor or coordinator of each program in their assigned section(s), sending them a copy of the program description from the last Blue Book in which it was offered and asking them to update it with any changes, confirm special requirements that note if they will offer virtual meetings. The section editor also gives the instructor/coordinator the proposed class/event meeting dates, times and classroom for the upcoming semester, based as much as possible on the program’s previous meeting schedule.

Each program requires a coordinator to help the instructor with logistics, and those programs that offer classes via Zoom or livestream also require a technical coordinator. The section editor will often help recruit volunteers for that.

New programs that have not been offered before will be assigned a classroom and meeting dates and times based as much as possible on the instructor/coordinator’s program proposal that was submitted to and approved by the Curriculum Committee.

Here is where the Scheduling Resolution Team (Sue Batie, Renee Cabrera, MaryLouise Hlavac and Carol Thurk) comes in. They maintain a master Scheduling Calendar showing the assigned classrooms and meeting dates and times for all programs, and it is their job to juggle the availability of all classrooms and venues with the needs of all the programs to be offered – no small task. For example,

President	Vickie Hite
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VP External Relations	Bill Sampson
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Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be an exciting year. January will be a full month of “OLLI Experience,” offering classes open to the public to encourage new membership. In addition to four weeks of free classes and new one-time events, please note these important dates:

- ***Saturday, January 17*** – Spring Preview, a great opportunity to welcome potential new members.
- ***Saturday, January 24*** – New Member Orientation.
- ***Saturday, January 31*** – Public reading of “Crickets,” the new musical written by our own Betty Redmon and performed by OLLI members.
- ***Monday, February 2*** – Spring semester begins.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope you enjoy time with family and friends. Stay healthy, stay engaged and stay joyful.

**Happy
Holidays!**



Mackey Auditorium is a prime classroom, especially needed to accommodate OLLI's most popular programs that may draw more than 100 attendees. But OLLI must share the auditorium with CSUF, so it's not available every day of the week. It's often necessary for the team to rent CSUF meeting rooms that may be available in the student housing area, the Kinesiology building etc.

The proposed meeting schedule for a new program may not work for the instructor/coordinator, or the instructor of an existing program may ask for a change to a larger classroom or a different day of the week for their meetings. Schedule adjustments must be worked out by the Scheduling Resolution Team, negotiated with the instructor/coordinator by the section editor and then approved by the Vice President Programs. It can get messy with long email threads and phone calls to arrive at the best possible scheduling fit for both the instructors/coordinator and OLLI members, utilizing the available facilities.

As you might expect, adding new programs exacerbates the scheduling difficulty; but new programs are vital in order to keep OLLI's program offerings fresh and encourage membership retention. A record nine new programs were offered last semester and four more new programs were added this semester. Kudos to the Curriculum Committee for recruiting, vetting and approving these new programs, and kudos to the Section Editors and Scheduling Resolution Team for seamlessly integrating them into OLLI-CSUF's impressive Blue Book offerings to our members.

The team needs more section editors. If you are a detail-oriented people-person, we encourage you to contact Vice President Programs Sue Batie at SueBatie@gmail.com. Sue is prepared to train you, and she points out that, "Most of the work is done at home on your computer." You are also welcome to join the Curriculum Committee. It's meeting dates, time and place are shown in the Blue Book in the Committee Meetings section.

Retirement Housing Choices Workshop and Resource Fair Lively Discussion and Personal Insights Help OLLI Members Gain Insights on Retirement Living Choices

By Alice Gresto and William F. Clark, Staff Writers

Slowly OLLI members and some from the general public began to gather in the OLLI courtyard for early morning coffee and fellowship. Soon the seats began to fill in Mackey Auditorium. Perhaps little more than a few seats remained when Mike Stover began his workshop overview, highlighting the events for the day and sharing with us that "Housing is too darn expensive in California, and it's unlikely to change in our lifespan ... California is twice as expensive as the rest of the nation."

Thus began a very comprehensive workshop and fair, spanning more than five hours, organized by Mike Stover, Don Lake, Judi Marsh and Russ MacKeand featuring a dynamic mix of firsthand experience, practical guidance and thoughtful Q&A as OLLI members explored one of life's most consequential decisions: where and how to live during retirement.

Honorable Don Chaffee, member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, welcomed the crowd of seniors eager to hear about the world of retirement housing. He reflected upon the fact that the state had recently completed a new state-wide plan that looks into housing for seniors today. Chaffee is 81 years old and still going strong because "Curiosity never retires."

William Young of Elder Care Wise spoke about "Aging with intention: Taking Control of Your Future, Your Home and Your Care." The audience was asked for a show of hands of how many intended to move to a senior community, an assisted living community or a remain in place (at home or with family). An estimated 80% of those in attendance had chosen remain in place. He stated that currently 24-hour home care costs \$27,000 a month. William spoke about desired housing and what to look for before signing up. He shared a guide of the "Five Things That Impact Cost of Assisted Living and Memory Care." The issues explored were initial rent, rental increases, move-in fees, levels of care and ancillary services.

Samantha Alonso-Asis represented AARP. She indicated that "America's housing stock doesn't fit a rapidly changing and rapidly aging population."

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Samantha gave advice on setting up a house for long-term living at home. She shared ideas on clearing areas or rearranging each room in the house beginning with the entry of the home. She told of easy-to-do changes like making sure that the house has visible-from-the-street address numbers of eight inches or more. The more costly changes such as ramps leading to the home or sink elevations should be done by professionals. The AARP Home Fit Guide is a 33-page booklet giving “smart ways to make a home comfortable, safe and a great fit for older adults.” It is free to the public at <http://www.aarp.org/homefit>.

Jason Killebrew, Brea’s Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director, described how Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) can serve as an affordable housing option. He noted that ADUs make it possible for retirees to age in place near family members, maintain independence and reduce costs. Local planning officials have simplified the permitting process, and several cities now offer pre-approved ADU designs to help homeowners move forward with projects more easily.

The “Life in a Retirement Community” panel consisting of OLLI members Judi Marsh, Joyce Kessler and Barbara Vigano described their decision-making process, the emotional adjustments of leaving long-time homes, and the unexpected social benefits of community living. Common themes included the importance of early planning, transparency in fee structures and prioritizing proximity to family and friends (including OLLI).

OLLI members and vendors, alike, emphasized that retirement housing is not simply a financial decision but a lifestyle choice — a decision that should balance independence, security, and social connection.

A video of the full Mackey Auditorium program can be viewed to get more details at <https://vimeo.com/1122496113?share=copy> (You may be asked for your CSUF student portal login username and password).

Vendors and representatives from nearby cities and retirement facilities remained afterward to provide brochures and one-on-one consultations in the Shapiro Wing, while a light lunch, provided by Mickey La Casa and her crew, encouraged continued conversation well past the scheduled conclusion.

The event’s strong turnout and lively exchanges reflected OLLI’s ongoing commitment to empowering members with real-world knowledge and resources for successful aging.

Retirement Housing Choices

Photos by Jim Di Tota

and Resources Fair Photos



OLLI Vets Share Their Stories at Veterans Recognition Event

By Elaine Mitchell, Staff Writer

OLLI's Veterans Recognition Event was really great. The music and the food were excellent, but I thought the stars of the event were the MC, Jim Ertle, and the vets who shared their stories. Some were serious, some were amusing, but all came straight from their hearts. I was really touched, as were all attendees. Jim's message was particularly beautiful and obviously heartfelt. Here is "A Deeper Meaning: Veterans Day Reflection" by Jim Ertle:

"Good afternoon everyone.

"Every year, when Veterans Day arrives, I find myself doing the same thing: reflecting on how my understanding of this special day has changed over time.

"I was born in December 1947, just a little over two years after the end of World War II. Some of you are older than me and some of you are younger than me and therefore your memories of veterans and their impact on us may be different.

"Growing up in the mid-1950s, the world felt stable and peaceful. We knew veterans, of course. They were the men in our neighborhood — the fathers, the uncles, the teachers — who had returned from Europe and the Pacific, or from Korea. But for us kids, they were simply fixtures of our quiet, suburban lives. There were women veterans, but I didn't know any and therefore wasn't really aware of how they had served as well. Certainly, as the years went on I became aware of their contributions as well.

"I remember playing "army" with my buddies. For us, it was pure, thrilling fun — a game of chase and tactics played out across lawns and through backyards. We didn't realize the gravity of what we were imitating.

"We were playing the game of war in a world of peace, and the only reason we had that peace, and that innocence, was because those same neighbors had faced the reality of war. We saw uniforms, but we didn't see the sacrifice. We didn't realize the profound debt we owed to those young men and women who had protected our country and stabilized the world, allowing us that very freedom to play so carelessly.



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“Those quiet veterans weren’t just neighbors; they were the very foundation of the thriving American life we enjoyed in the 1950s. They came home, utilized the GI Bill, built the schools and churches, started businesses and ensured that the stability they fought for overseas was firmly established here on Main Street.

“The innocence of my childhood was, in fact, a direct, beautiful dividend of their duty and sacrifice. They traded their fatigues for business suits and hard hats, continuing their mission not with weapons, but with diligence, purpose and hope for a better future for their kids.

“Today, as an adult, I see it clearly. I see the incredible responsibility placed upon those young shoulders, and I understand that Veterans Day is special because it’s not just a celebration of massive historical victories; it is a profound and conscious recognition of individual commitment.

“Furthermore, our recognition must extend beyond the wars of my childhood. The nature of service has changed dramatically since those days. We now recognize service members who faced jungles in Vietnam, the isolation of the Cold War, the heat of the deserts in the Middle East and the invisible threats of the modern world.

“Veterans Day honors all those who have served, in every branch, in every capacity and in every environment. Our debt is not just historical; it is current and constantly accruing”

“It is a day that we should pause, step out of our comfortable routines and recognize the men and women who chose service over self, not just in the great conflicts of the past, but in every single moment of duty, every deployment and every time they swore an oath to protect the ideals we often take for granted.

“Today, let us consciously hold onto that gratitude. Let us look beyond the parades and the holidays and truly see the veteran in our community, in our family and in our history.

“Thank you. Thank you for the innocence of my childhood. Thank you for our freedom. And thank you, always, for your service.

If you know a veteran, thank them. It means a lot.”

OLLI Veterans Recognition Event

November 11, 2025

Photos by Jim Di Tota



New Programs in the Spring Curriculum

These four, new programs are included in the spring 2026 semester curriculum.

You can find the entire semester's class meeting schedules for these new programs in the spring Blue Book Program Catalog and on the OLLI website (under Classes/Activities and under Calendars). Daily meeting schedules are also available on the video display in the lobby of the Shapiro Wing.

Check the full program descriptions for possible pre-registration or prerequisite requirements and watch the newsletters in case there are last-minute schedule changes or meeting cancellations.

Great Art & Artists

This course will feature lectures from The Great Courses and include excerpts from books about the artists and on-screen motion pictures. Each lecture will be augmented by a variety of special treats such as live presentations of the artist's paintings by the instructor's special hobby of framed glued puzzles for livelier discussions. The spring semester will start with lectures and discussions on the great artist Vincent Van Gogh. The instructor is James Medici and the coordinators are Patricia Mann and Tricia Luse.

Music Appreciation: Four Eras of Classical Music

Do you enjoy listening to classical music? This music appreciation course will go over four eras of classical music and will provide historical background, characteristics, musical examples, musical forms, instruments used and examples of leading composers of the Baroque era (1600-1750), Classical era (1750-1825), Romantic era (1825-1900) and Modern era (1900-current). The instructor/coordinator is Sarah Douglas.

Drum Circle

A drum circle is a way of connecting with others through rhythm, self-expression, creativity and community building. It relieves stress as it exercises the mind, body and spirit. In addition, it develops key musical skills using rhythm, improvisation and

ensemble playing. No prior musical skills are needed. Come join us! You may bring your own drum or use one of the provided drums in class. The instructor/coordinator is Marge Osborn.

Urban Walks and Hikes

The "Urban Walks and Hikes" activity alternates between easy urban walks (estimated length of four miles, modest gain) and somewhat more ambitious hikes (estimated length of four to five miles, 600- to 900-foot gain). The urban walks, which will be offered once a month, can be done with equipment everyone has in their closet and requires only modest levels of physical fitness. For those who want something more ambitious physically, the hikes will be offered on alternate weeks. Adjourning to a restaurant for lunch after the walks is an option. Participants will meet at the OLLI courtyard. The instructor/coordinator is Steven Schuster.



Join Us for OLLI's Spring Preview **Saturday, January 17, 9 a.m.-Noon**

This annual event expands to a new member recruitment opportunity, as well as a preview of spring semester courses and activities. Members and guests may meet instructors and ask questions of each of our eight major curriculum areas.

After the 10 a.m. auditorium presentation, complimentary light refreshments will be served in the Shapiro Wing. On-site registration will be offered throughout the event. Free parking is provided, with shuttle service from the State College Parking Structure (enter on Gym Drive, off State College Boulevard).

For more information about OLLI, call 657-278-2446, email olli-info@fullerton.edu or visit our website's "Welcome to OLLI" page: Welcome to OLLI - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | CSUF: <https://olli.fullerton.edu/aboutollisuf/Welcome.php>.

‘Crickets’ Staged Reading

January 31 at 2 p.m. in Mackey

By Betty Redman

Staged readings are often the final step before a full production. A narrator sets the scene and describes the action. Actors read from scripts with limited stage movement and with suggested costumes and props. Audience members are asked to imagine the wild athletic dance that opens our show, to follow that imaginary spotlight as it takes you from scene to scene, and to accept that some OLLI members are portraying high school girls and a seven-year-old boy. Your responses and feedback are invaluable. My sincere thanks to OLLI and to you for this opportunity. Come and help us celebrate the fact that we’re never too old to try something new. Get more information and RSVP at olli.fullerton.edu.

OLLI in the News: More Relocation Articles

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The possible relocation of OLLI out of the Ruby Gerontology Center to another space on campus (across State College Blvd.) was the subject of more recent articles in the Fullerton Observer and Cal State Fullerton’s student newspaper, the Daily Titan.

OLLI’s Board of Trustees, led by President Vickie Hite, is concerned that the University’s proposed new location facility may present issues for our members that require additional evaluation and planning, in particular if members, many of whom have mobility issues, are faced with having to cross on foot the very wide and highly trafficked State College Blvd. from the campus parking facilities on foot lots to get to the proposed new facility.

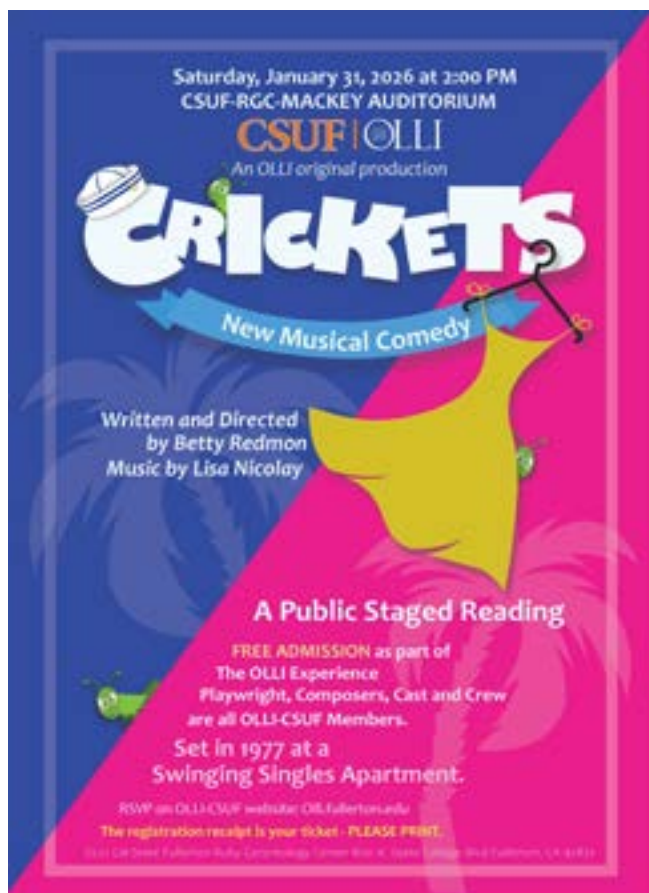
You can read the October 25 article in the Fullerton Observer, titled “OLLI Members Voice Senior Safety Concerns at Fullerton City Council Meeting” at <https://fullertonobserver.com/2025/10/25/olli-members-voice-senior-safety-concerns-at-fullerton-city-council-meeting/> and the October 27 article in the Daily Titan, titled “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to Face Relocation,” at https://dailytitan.com/news/osher-lifelong-learning-institute-to-face-relocation/article_f0ec9900-348b-41df-be6d-0813ca01f49e.html.



What’s Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The following are highlights from OLLI’s Board of Trustees meetings on October 7 and November 13, 2025:



October 7

- President Hite thanked Mike Stover, Judi Marsh and Don Lake for the wonderful and successful Retirement Housing Choices Workshop and Resources Fair, which had 200 attendees.
- Executive Director, Daisy Thomas introduced the new OLLI office member, Dinora Cardenas.
- CSUF President Rochon and his team met with OLLI's Executive Committee, requesting OLLI to move to Titan Hall by January 2026 due to needing the need for more space for increased student enrollments. OLLI presented their points of concern.
- President Hite planned a Town Hall meeting for OLLI members and the public on October 9 to discuss the proposed relocation to inform members, answer questions and receive feedback.
- A meeting of OLLI's past presidents identified issues and developed strategies for dealing with CSUF negotiations on the relocation.
- Trustee Fran Colwell drafted a letter from OLLI's Board stating our lengthy list of relocation issues and requesting an official response from President Rochon, which was amended and approved by the Board.
- VP of Programs Sue Batie informed the Board that the Curriculum Committee approved an 8-day Viking Cruise down the Danube River in Europe.

November 13

- Inventories are being conducted by Past President Jim Monroe of OLLI's Computer Lab, Distance Learning and audio-visual equipment and by VP Facilities Anthony Gonzalez of OLLI's tables, chairs and other furniture.
- Current membership totals 1,202 (not counting 90+ members), which is up from last year's 1,094.
- The OLLI Experience will be offered to non-members again this year during the intersession.
- The following members were appointed to OLLI's Advisory Group to discuss the proposed relocation of OLLI with CSUF: President Vickie Hite, Past President Mike Stover, Ray Young, Giulio Ongaro and Susan Snell. CSUF's Advisory Group members are Risk Management Director John Beisner, Deputy Provost Sean Walker, Advancement Officer Bob Purcell, Director of Planning Laura Rigler and Assistant VP Logistical Services Kristen Jasko. Meetings are planned in November and December.

- All funds in the President's Advisory Council Fund were transferred to the OLLI Operations Fund for better use of the assets.
- Purchase of a laptop computer to replace one of the two used for Distance Learning (that is no longer functional) was approved.
- Purchase of a laptop computer to replace the one used by the OLLI office (that is no longer functional) was approved.
- Executive Director, Daisy Thomas submitted an annual, fiscal-year report required by the Osher Foundation which included information on OLLI's financial, membership, staffing and activities, events and curriculum. Additional information:
 - o OLLI's many programs in partnership with the University, which are coordinated by OLLI-CSUF Collaboration.
 - o Current office staff – three full-time staff, two part-time staff, two student workers and one student intern.
 - o OLLI member volunteers — 225 (conservative estimate).
 - o Description of opportunities for volunteering.
 - o Major developments, including training new staff, testing new technology systems, reorganizing records and streamlining processes.
 - o Fundraising drives.
- OLLI's communications standards will be reviewed and compared with CSUF standards.
- Trustee Debbie Kegel thanked all donors to the Crowdfunding Campaign, which raised \$2,875 for "Crickets" and \$1,980 for "Tuffy's Career Closet: Outfit a Scholar." In addition, clothing items donated to Tuffy's Closet tripled.
- VP Hospitality Lisa Sewell reported that the Veterans Day Event went very well.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

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How to Get the ChroniCLE

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 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.

Other Sources of Information About OLLI

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