



President’s Message

By Joyce Ono, President, OLLI-CSUF

In preparing to write this monthly message I reviewed what I had written last year at this time. How things have changed! While we all have many things to be thankful for, this past year



will be forever seared in our minds as one where traditions had to be revised during the holiday season, and limitations to travel and socializing took a toll on all of us.

Last year, I shared OLLI member Jeanette Reese’s solution against spending holidays alone by forming the OLLI Orphans group, where she collected members who would otherwise spend Thanksgiving alone to get together at her home in a potluck Thanksgiving celebration. This year, with the incidences of COVID-19 infections soaring in Orange County, such celebrations have had to be curtailed. However, Jeanette organized a Zoom session for the OLLI Orphans group and others to share the holiday together! What a great idea for other OLLI members to emulate! Thanksgiving is one holiday where it is difficult to cook for two without advanced planning to snag a smaller turkey or foregoing the big bird altogether, and I know many OLLI members did the latter, so modifying our traditions is in order this year!

OLLI will have a virtual Open House on January 9th that is open to the public instead of our more sedate Spring Preview. This virtual Open House will take advantage of a new feature in Zoom where participants can move freely among breakout rooms. Representatives from OLLI classes will

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Auditing CSUF Courses for Free An Often-Overlooked OLLI Benefit

By Chris Shaw, Editor

One of the most valuable OLLI benefits is the privilege to audit any Cal State Fullerton course, free of any tuition fees, with the instructor’s permission and approval from the OLLI office. OLLI members don’t receive any official, academic credit from the University, but they enjoy the benefit of a world-class education, participating with University students.

Some OLLI members take advantage of this privilege, but many may be a little intimidated to try it. Since only virtual classes are currently available for auditing, new procedures are provided on the OLLI website.

Go to the OLLI website at <http://olli.fullerton.edu> and click on **AUDITING CLASSES** for step-by-step instructions to enroll through OLLI. You will be asked to complete a form, including your email address, and submit it to the OLLI office at olli-info@fullerton.edu. The office will obtain instructor approval to attend your course(s) of choice. If approved, you will receive confirmation from the instructor, and later, information on how to access the class.

The OLLI webpage provides links to the CSUF course catalog and schedule of classes for each semester. The first step is to find courses of interest in the catalog. The next step is to access the schedule of classes to find specific classes and their Zoom meeting times. One important change in procedures due to virtual classes is that OLLI members no longer contact the instructor for approval. That is done before the semester starts by the OLLI office, after members submit their application form to the office.

Using CSUF’s schedule of classes can be

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President Joyce Ono
 Vice President Administration Mike Stover
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OLLI Virtual Town Hall Meeting

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Some 102 OLLI members attended a Town Hall Meeting via Zoom webinar on November 21.

The panel included all the officers of OLLI’s Board of Trustees—Joyce Ono, Mike Stover, Ellie Monroe, Ginger Barnhart, Debbie Maxwell, Susan Mullaly, Pete Saputo, Jim Monroe, Elaine Mitchell, Bob Newcomb, Ann Sparks and Chris Shaw—plus Patsy Burns from the OLLI office. Bob Newcomb, Jim Cename and Bill Reilly served as technical hosts.

Following is the information given during the webinar, including the answers to questions from attendees:

OLLI’s Status—Joyce Ono, President

After the pandemic, we experienced a 48% reduction in OLLI’s membership. Most of the OLLIs around the country experienced losses averaging 34%, and most did not change their membership fees. Our larger loss could have resulted from more programs that are social, which require in-person meetings.

Loss of membership dues will result in an \$85,000 deficit mostly from fixed costs, e.g., parking is a group charge contracted with CSUF.

OLLI has enough reserves to cover expenses through the next fiscal year.

Only 37 new members were recruited this year, down from the usual 200-300. The largest percentage of members who failed to renew are in the youngest age-groups. And we are not retaining our newest members.

Significant resources are going into analyzing how to retain members and attract new members and implementing solutions.

Returning to Campus—Mike Stover, VP Administration

Our goal is to return as quickly as possible as safely as possible. We are keeping OLLI financially viable, while working closely with University planners for our return to campus.

With pending vaccines, we feel confident we will return to in-person classes in September 2021. Summer 2021 is probably not possible, because the Ruby Gerontology Center must be prepared under safe return guidelines.

Off-site venues may be allowed for some in-person classes, subject to safety standards, etc.

There are no plans to require COVID-19 vaccinations for OLLI members to return to campus.

Recovering Membership Levels—Debbie Maxwell, VP Membership

We are reaching out to former members who did not renew, inviting them to sample OLLI classes and asking them to renew for spring and summer.

We are publicizing the OLLI Open House on January 9.

New Member Marketing—Sue Mullaly, VP External Relations

The Membership Planning Committee is very busy developing marketing initiatives to retain existing members and solicit new ones.

Our most effective outreach has always been by our members, so the Bring a Friend Program was initiated, and we have a new Give a Gift of OLLI Membership program. And we have a new Welcome page on the OLLI website for prospective members.

There is a renewed focus on free audits of any Cal State Fullerton course, a valuable OLLI benefit.

OLLI’s Sunshine Social Callers are keeping in

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touch with members.

We are marketing OLLI in local newspapers, enhancing our Facebook page, and promoting OLLI in emails and websites of campus and community organizations. See our ad on the campus electronic bulletin board.

If you know senior organizations we could use to promote OLLI, contact Sue at olli-vpexternalrelat@fullerton.edu.

Open House and Programs—Ellie Monroe, VP Programs

OLLI's Open House is on January 9 at 10 a.m. featuring virtual tents to meet instructors, and we will meet and honor 90+ Club members.

New classes include comic books and astronomy. Hybrid in-person/Zoom classes may be offered when we return to campus.

Contact Ellie at olli-vpprograms@fullerton.edu if you need a donated computer, or if you have any interest in instructing courses.

A survey is coming, asking about members' interests.

OLLI Office—Patsy Burns, Administrative Director

All office personnel are available at home from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Contact Celia at 657-278-2446 or creynolds@fullerton.edu for general questions. Contact Michelle at 657-278-4270 or olli-info@fullerton.edu for registration questions.

Watch for new virtual office options in the newsletters.

Watch the Video—This Virtual Town Hall Meeting is available on the OLLI website.



Spring Open House

Saturday, January 9

10 a.m. to Noon Via Zoom

In place of the usual, annual Spring Preview, this year's Spring Open House is an opportunity to learn what's in store for the coming semester and to share information about OLLI with your family and friends.

OLLI needs new members, so invite your family and friends to join this Zoom overview of OLLI's organization, programs and benefits. You will meet instructors in virtual Open House tents, who will describe their programs. And you will meet some of our 90+ members as we honor this venerable group.

Retired and semi-retired adults can join OLLI by going to the OLLI website at <http://olli.fullerton.edu> and clicking on Join/Renew on the homepage, or click on the Welcome to OLLI button for more information.

Look for the Zoom link to join this Open House in our weekly OLLI newsletters and on the OLLI website. Just email the Zoom link to your friends and family, and the Open House will be a click away. We will also video the Open House, and it will be available on the OLLI website to view after the event.

Ask the Board

By Chris Shaw, OLLI Secretary and ChroniCLE Editor

Have you ever wondered about some benefit OLLI provides or how to go about taking advantage of it, but you were unsure who to ask about it? Why not just "ask the Board!"

Send an email to Chris at tashawc01@gmail.com with your question. This is your one-stop, easy access to all things OLLI.



I've been a member of OLLI's Board of Trustees for over six years, and if I don't know the answer, I'll know where to find it.

I will find the right person to get the right answer for you, and I'll email you the answer. I'll also share your question and answer in the next ChroniCLE, because if you wondered about something, other OLLI members may have wondered the same thing.

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populate breakout rooms labeled with their class name that you'll be able to visit. [Please register for this Zoom event!](#)

The decision to market OLLI through the spring Open House was brought on by the loss of almost half of our membership this fall, with the resulting decrease in revenue. OLLI will operate with a predicted \$85,000 deficit for the coming fiscal year. Numerous OLLI Board members have been busy in tasks to re-engage former members, especially those who had volunteered in a multitude of capacities, and to recruit new members. The number of new members this fall is almost ten times lower than in years past, which is troubling. Word-of-mouth has always been OLLI's most effective marketing tool, and I hope all of you will pitch in to recruit your age-eligible friends and family so OLLI's membership base is stabilized again.

While CSUF's classes are virtual, we invite you and those you recruit to take advantage of an underused benefit of OLLI membership: [auditing any of the thousands of CSUF classes](#) with the instructor's permission. We plan to conduct workshops on how to maneuver the auditing process with the help of seasoned OLLI members who have audited CSUF classes this fall. Many of CSUF's faculty have been featured in our "Eclectics" program, so you get a sampling of these engaging faculty members and their areas of expertise. Most of you are now very comfortable in zooming to OLLI classes and events. Zooming into CSUF classes isn't that much different, and instructors won't deny your participation because there isn't a seat for you in a virtual classroom!

As we soon look back at all the shared hardships of 2020, we'll feel fortunate to have successfully overcome many through our resourcefulness. I'm sure that we all look forward to 2021 with some trepidation in the face of so many unknowns. Nevertheless, we will try to update OLLI's Long Range Plan for 2022-2027 with your help.

Best wishes for a happy, resourceful and safe holiday season as we welcome vaccinations to end our isolation.

New Course Offered

Comic Books Past and Present

By Dr. Barbara Glaeser and Chris Shaw, Editor

Beginning January 14, "Comic Books Past and Present" will be offered on alternate Thursdays (including through the intersession) from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. See the OLLI newsletters or the OLLI website for the Zoom link.



Did you read comics as a kid? Comics have grown beyond the pages to film and television and are more popular than ever.

At each class meeting, a short presentation will be given, followed by an open discussion with class

participants. Presentations will cover such topics as the history of comics and graphic novels, the Comics Code Authority, comics as fiction and non-fiction, comics in film and other media, and other hot topics. After each presentation there will be discussion and sharing. If the group is interested, a classic or current comic series will be chosen, such as Superman or Batman and an auto-biographic graphic novel such as "March" by Representative John Lewis or "They Called Us Enemy" by George Takai, to read and discuss.

The instructor is Dr. Barbara Glaeser. Dr. Glaeser is a retired Professor Emeritus at Cal State Fullerton's Department of Special Education, where she coordinated the Education Specialist Program to train teachers to work with students with mild to moderate disabilities. She taught Collaboration and Reading and Language Arts Instruction in the Preliminary Teaching program and Research Methods and Mild/Moderate Seminar in the Graduate Program. Her rather unconventional method is using comics and graphic novels to help the learning process for both children and adults.

"I have been a fan of comics since childhood, beginning with Superman in 1963 and now my favorite is Dr. Strange," said Dr. Glaeser. "I'm currently reading the comic version of the oldest story ever written, 'Gilgamesh.' I watched the first episode of 'Star Trek' and saw the first 'Star

Wars' when no one knew what it was. I still love all things ST and SW, but also watch Orville, Archer, 'Agents of SHIELD,' 'The Expanse,' and the Marvel Universe. Now I write graphic novels for children to help them understand disabilities. I have presented my work at the Comic Arts Conference for the past seven years."

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daunting, so the OLLI website gives detailed instructions on how to navigate through it, and a virtual workshop is also planned to help members with this.

Many instructors use CSUF's online learning management system, either Titanium or Canvas, to post handouts and assignments and communicate with their students. This system is also used to provide links to the virtual classes. See OLLI's Auditing Classes webpage for more details.

OLLI members have found that when auditing CSUF courses you really need to buy the books. Most, but not all, instructors will let you slide on homework and exams, but you may want to do the work in order to fully participate and gauge how well you are learning the material.

OLLI members also have found that they were encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions. This is good news—we all know OLLI members like to ask questions and offer their thoughts in class. And I believe that seniors bring a wisdom from their life experiences that can add significantly to class discussions and benefit the younger CSUF students.

The books may not be cheap, but the value of this level of instruction goes way beyond that cost, especially when you consider you pay no tuition. Our members have found CSUF instructors to be insightful and their courses to be challenging. One OLLI member commented that you learn "new terms and concepts for old subjects. This will put your mind to work."

New Course Offered Our Night Sky

By Ellie Monroe, VP Programs and Chris Shaw, Editor



Beginning January 19, "Our Night Sky" will be offered on alternate Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m. via Zoom.

This course is designed as a survey of the night sky, the constellations and other objects we see each season of the year.

Learn of the exciting stories about the mythological figures and how to locate them in the heavens.

The sun, moon and stars were used for timekeeping and navigation in our ancient past. This course explains how to explore the skies using your eyes, binoculars and a small telescope. This course will prepare you to become that "Backyard Astronomer" that is hiding inside you. This is an exploration of the science, culture, technology and pleasure of stargazing. The focus will be the view from the Northern Hemisphere.

Each week, two 30-minute lectures will be presented, followed by a question and answer period. A Stargazing Party will be arranged in the latter part of the spring intersession, pending CSUF policies on COVID-19 in-person meetings at that time.

These Great Courses video lectures are presented by Professor Edward M. Murphy, Ph.D., and the Zoom classes are instructed and coordinated by OLLI members Dennis Hudson and Ellie Monroe.

Dr. Murphy is Associate Professor, General Faculty at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Astronomy from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and his Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Virginia in 1996. Professor Murphy was a postdoctoral fellow and an associate research scientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he worked with NASA.

Dr. Murphy states "My goal is to introduce you to the beauty and the wonder of the night sky, and to give you a basic knowledge needed to feel more comfortable navigating the sky."

What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

OLLI's Board of Trustees met on October 8 and November 12. Following are highlights of the issues from those meetings:

- Estimated shortfall of revenue due to reduced membership is \$207,000. After budget cuts, about \$120,000 of OLLI's reserves will be used to cover expenses for the next fiscal year.

- Nomination and Election Committee was formed for the 2021 election of Board members. Committee members are Janice Jeng (Chair), Jim Monroe, Phil Barnhard, Debbie Maxwell, Vickie Hite, Ken Luke and Rayleen Williams.

- Member Retention Subcommittee was formed develop initiatives to retain members who did not renew. Committee members are Mike Stover (Chair), Susan Snell, Ed Batson, Debbie Maxwell, Joanne Hardy, Ellie Monroe and Jim Cename.

- VP External Relations Sue Mullaly and VP Membership Debbie Maxwell and their team are working on initiatives to retain old members and recruit new members: OLLI website welcome page, newspaper ads, CSUF electronic billboard, campus and community outreach, social media, Zoom buddy program, memberships with 30-day money back guarantee, retention and recruiting letters, virtual socials, interest groups and promoting OLLI's free CSUF course auditing.

- Usual Spring Preview on January 9 will be converted to Spring Open House to focus on member retention and new member recruitment.

- Sunshine Social Callers are keeping OLLI in touch with members and providing help when asked.

- VP Administration Mike Stover is working with CSUF on strategies and protocols for OLLI to return to campus, most probably in fall 2021. OLLI office staff may return before then, but the Ruby Gerontology Center will require fitting for new protocols. Off-site venues conforming to regulations and protocols may be approved for some programs.

- New virtual OLLI office program to enhance service to members is coming.

- Mike Stover and Administrative Manager

Patsy Burns are working with Parking & Transportation on a new parking agreement to start in 2021.

- CSUF instituted a two-factor authentication procedure for the University website login, but OLLI members are exempt and their login procedure will not change.

- Spring Blue Book was electronically distributed, and printed copies mailed to all members.

- Board is working on a new long-range plan for 2022-2027.

- Board Trustee Benson Chin resigned, and Rosalind Charles was appointed to replace him.

- Collaboration Committee's goals for 2020-21 are: increase OLLI's visibility within CSUF and the community, increase projects and mentoring, increase volunteers, develop Diversity Program and assist with Age Friendly University accreditation.

- Facebook Lead Janice Jeng recruited CSUF School of Communication students to help improve OLLI Facebook page to better promote OLLI to the public and enhance the experience for members.

- Chris Shaw appointed to chair Policies and Procedures Committee, which will work on updates to policies, including sanction procedures for complaints under OLLI's civility standards.

- Patio renovation project put on hold due to recent, significant increase in estimated cost, now totaling \$440,000. Other options will be studied before proceeding.

- VP Communications Ginger Barnhart will develop recommendations for possibly requiring CSUF login procedure to view Distance Learning videos on OLLI website, considering whether OLLI class videos, other than those open to the public, should require proof of OLLI membership to view.

- OLLI Secretary Chris Shaw and Administrative Manager Patsy Burns attended the Virtual Osher Institutes National Conference held via online webinar in October. 124 OLLIs around the country shared their experiences with adapting to the pandemic and shared problems, like reduced membership and Zoom training.

- A second Virtual OLLI Town Hall webinar, attended by 105 members, was held November 21 to share information and enable members to ask questions.

OLLI in the News

By Chris Shaw, Editor

OLLI member, Ron Baesler, who is the instructor of OLLI's "Kick Starting Your Writing," was interviewed, along with other OLLI members, for an article in the OC Register. Member Stephanie Leon, who published "The Answer is



Armadillos: How to Save a Species" and who learned much from Ron's class, was also interviewed. Stephanie was instrumental in getting this complimentary article about our OLLI, titled "OLLI-CSUF keeps seniors

connected during pandemic," printed in the newspaper at a time when we need to attract new members.

The article appeared Thursday, October 22, 2020 on [Page 2 of the Cal State Fullerton](#) section of the OC Register.

Ron was quoted as saying, "What you don't need as a retiree is to hear, 'You can't do this.' We might be retired, but we're not dead." Stephanie went on to say, "[OLLI has] returned the joy of learning to me. I can't tell you how invaluable they've been in my life."



The article describes how OLLI met the challenge of the pandemic by quickly and successfully converting most of its programs from in-person classes to videoconference classes using Zoom.



Bob Newcomb, OLLI's Vice President Technology, who has been the principal technician in this Zoom conversion effort, was quoted as saying, "It's been an interesting struggle, but we're showing some real

success."

OLLI's Vice President Programs, Ellie Monroe, and her team worked tirelessly to convince OLLI's instructors to continue their programs and helped

them get the training needed to host Zoom videoconferences.

Ellie summed it up by saying, "We are continually gaining back [members] as they are learning how to use Zoom. I can't begin to tell you how proud we are of all of our instructors and technicians. They all hung in there ... to make sure that we got up and going again."



OLLI in the News



OLLI-CSUF's president, Joyce Ono, was interviewed by Cal State Fullerton's Daily Titan recently about how OLLI quickly pivoted in response to the pandemic in order to continue providing many of its continuing learning programs to its senior members.

The article appeared in the Daily Titan's November 1 issue. You can read the article at <https://tinyurl.com/Nov1TitanArticle>.





OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

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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 and calendar for the upcoming month with links to view or download the publications. You can also access the most recent ChroniCLEs and calendars through links in the weekly OLLI News Bytes 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

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