



## **President’s Message**

*By Ellie Monroe, President, OLLI-CSUF*

We have missed you all!



I would like to thank all of you for your diligence in helping us keep our OLLI campus healthy by making sure you are masked while indoors. In doing so, you have assured OLLI will continue to enjoy the privilege of

holding our classes in person.

I am so optimistic about the rate of recovery on the latest pandemic reports. While we remain masked on campus until March 31, the masking requirements appear to be headed toward becoming an option rather than a requirement.

Some of our programs may continue to remain online during parts or all spring semester. This decision is up to the instructor, usually with input from the participants. We are hopeful as spring arrives that more members will be returning to campus and enjoying the beautiful warm weather.

The scheduling for our summer classes is almost complete and the Blue Book will be available near the end of our spring semester.

We are currently enjoying a gradual growth in membership and hopefully many of our former members will be returning soon. We encourage you to invite your friends and family members to try out a single class (free) or join for a semester.

I cannot emphasize how important it is to read the newsletters sent to you by email. They will provide important information needed to keep up with the constant changes around the OLLI campus and at CSUF. Please contact the office if you are not receiving your emails.

I am looking forward to seeing you on campus in the near future. Take care and stay safe. Cheers!!

## **Cross-Cultural Instructor Margie Mota**

*By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer*



Margie Mota is a native Californian, born in Burbank, soon to be transported to a twenty-acre ranch in rustic Fallbrook, where her parents raised bees, hay, alfalfa, chickens, goats, pigs, rabbits,

cows for milk, steers for meat and horses to ride. They had an avocado grove, a peach orchard and blackberries. Their neighbors were strawberry and avocado farmers.

In 1962, during her time at Fallbrook High School, she spent six months as an exchange student in Chile. She attended University of the Pacific and New York University in Spain. While in Spain, she worked as a bilingual secretary for New York University. She received a degree in Spanish from University of California, Santa Barbara.

She married Modesto Mota in 1971. Her large Mexican-American family generally preferred to speak English, but when her mother-in-law came to live in the household, the language switched to Spanish. Her mother-in-law was a joy, and Margie learned to make tamales from her. Margie carried on the Christmas tamale dinner tradition after her mother-in-law passed away.

In 1981, Margie obtained her Bilingual Cross-Cultural Teaching Credential from California State University, Long Beach. She worked as a bilingual, elementary classroom teacher, first at Bellflower Unified School District and later at the Santa Ana Unified School District. She taught second through sixth grades and believed in and worked for “a climate of total inclusion” in her bilingual

*Cross-Cultural ... Continued on Page 3*

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## Lisa Sewell

### Vice President Hospitality

*By Lisa Sewell, Vice President Hospitality*

I was born in Coronado, California and raised in Orange County. I received degrees in History and Curriculum & Instruction from CSUF, and I hold a California teaching credential in Elementary Education. I taught for the Rowland Heights School District at Blandford School for 39 years, 30 years teaching 4th grade.



Friends introduced me to OLLI in 2012, and I began taking classes here in the afternoons even before I retired. I am an avid reader and love working in my garden or cooking up tasty dishes in my kitchen. I currently lead “Kitty’s Book Club” and coordinate “GROW Gardening Club.” I am also a member of the Trips Committee, where I developed and carried out plans for bus trips to the Flower Fields and Leo Carrillo State Park.

I have been a member of the Hospitality Committee for the past seven years, where I have been active in planning and carrying out events,

delighting in the camaraderie involved and the satisfaction of hosting events enjoyed by our OLLI members. I was elected Vice President Hospitality in April 2021.

What is the role and responsibility of OLLI’s Hospitality Committee? We have seven specific events that we are part of. Those events include three OLLI business meetings, the August Open House, the January Spring Preview and the General Meeting/Election in April. Hospitality provides beverages, snacks or a light meal and hosts an Ice Cream Social after the OLLI election meeting. The four OLLI social events hosted by us are the Spring Event, the June Dinner, the October Dinner and the Holiday Luncheon. These events will usually have a deadline, an attendance limit and a cost for the food and/or entertainment. These parties are planned and hosted by the Hospitality Committee. They can be held on or off-campus.

Besides the role of Vice President of Hospitality as a Board of Trustees member, the function of the VP includes working very closely with the Hospitality Chair, Tina Ernsting, who is instrumental in setting up the agenda and conducting our monthly meetings. Our fantastic committee members, “our team,” are the heart of the Hospitality Committee. They play a very important role planning for an event by deciding on the theme of the event, the menu to serve, which decorations to have and what entertainment to offer. It is definitely a group effort, and we have great satisfaction seeing our OLLI members come together and enjoy each other’s company, usually centered around FOOD.

Our committee would love to have new volunteers who enjoy entertaining and socializing. Come and join the Hospitality Committee, and be a part of our fun-loving team of OLLI members. The Committee meets the first Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. You can get the Zoom meeting link from the weekly OLLI Class Information and Updates Newsletter or the OLLI website.

With these challenging two years behind us, we look forward to seeing you again, perhaps at our monthly meeting or attending a Hospitality event.

*Cross-Cultural ...Continued from Page 1*

classes. She sought to create a pathway for each child to feel a sense of belonging while achieving academically. Modesto passed away in 2006. The next year, Margie retired from teaching.

Always interested in how things happen and where people come from, Margie looked into Genealogy. She met a group of other people with similar interests. From that group, she received an invitation to join a group of bilingual educators for further explorations of Latino culture. One of the “comadres” shared her OLLI Blue Book over a lunch gathering. The curriculum stirred Margie’s curiosity. A few months after joining OLLI, Margie volunteered to keep the “Advanced Spanish” course going while the instructor, Russ Haveman, recovered from an illness. Sadly, it became necessary for Margie to teach the Spanish course full time. She also continued to take “German” and “Poetry for Pleasure.”

Next, we saw her name on the list of nominees for the OLLI Board of Trustees, where she served faithfully from 2011 through 2012. A popular OLLI Spanish teacher, Art Martinez, became ill and, once again, Margie stepped in to keep that course going. When “Salón Español” closed after 10 years of operation on Wednesday nights, Margie picked up the reins and began her “Spanish 4 Conversation” course, which is still going strong today, where native speakers and Spanish learners are made welcome by incorporating the experiences of the learners in the study of vocabulary and language rules in a most comfortable and accepting ambiance including film, lecture and small group sharing.

It is not all work and no play for Margie; she enjoys quilting, the study of linguistics of Indo-European languages, and associated archeology and migration patterns. She loves “words, words, words, and their traveled evolutions.” In non-pandemic times she used to accompany her partner, Ken Luke, to Catalina and spend the weekends on his boat. She says he is the sailor—she “just steers the course.” They have gone on many trips to Hawaii and Europe. While visiting in Germany she has “successfully dug into one of the family lines.” Their last trip was to China with OLLI in

2019. They have not traveled outside of California since the pandemic shut us down. Surely, they will be hitting the road again soon.

## **General Meeting and Election**

**Thursday, April 21**

**1:30-3:00 P.M.**

The OLLI Board of Trustees encourages all OLLI members to attend the annual General Meeting/Election to meet and vote to elect 10 new officers and trustees to the Board.

The nominees are Ellie Monroe for President, Bill Sampson for Vice President Administration, Michele Frankel for Vice President Communications, Robert Kovacev for Vice President External Relations, Jim Monroe for Vice President Technology, Vickie Hite for Secretary and five new Trustees at Large—Kent Morris, Sue Mullaly, Jill Patterson and Shirley A. Smith.

Biographies and pictures of the six officer nominees and five trustee nominees were included in the March ChroniCLE. These nominees submitted applications for open Board of Trustees (Board) positions during the application process last October and November. Applicants were then vetted and nominated by the Nomination and Election Committee, acting independently from the Board.

Please vote to elect all nominees onto the Board of Trustees during the meeting, and then consider applying yourself for positions opening next year. Applications for elected offices on the Board are accepted from mid-October to November 15. In particular, the Board needs new trustees, whose job is to represent the interests of the general OLLI membership in participating in the discussions and voting on the decisions that determine the future of OLLI.

After the election in Mackey Auditorium, we will enjoy our traditional Ice Cream Social in the Shapiro Wing. See you there.





## **Blast From the Past: Richard Brown and the RGC**

*Editor's Note: This is a reprint of an article by Peg Hall in the January, 1998 ChroniCLE showcasing a bit of OLLI (originally Continuing Learning Experience, or CLE) history. Thanks to Donna Spradlin for unearthing this.*



“If you have to be indoors during an earthquake, pray you are in the Gerontology Center,” advises Richard Brown. “And don’t worry about El Niño either.”

He speaks with the convincing assurance of the man who was project engineer during construction of the Ruby Center a decade ago.

After retiring from a colorful engineering career in the late ‘70s, Dick ran a small company until he “got too busy.” He and Betty were active participants in the early years of CLE. Nobody envisioned it would grow to become more than 800 strong, but when the need for a building became urgent and the fund-raising and planning fell into place, Dick Brown volunteered to be project engineer.

The diversity of his background equipped this talented individual for the job. A native of Illinois, he moved to California and headed for U.C. Berkeley to study Mechanical Engineering. During WWII, he took a hiatus from college to work for Chicago Bridge and Iron at the dry docks in Eureka.

After the war Dick acquired degrees in ten-year intervals. He received his B.S. from Berkeley in ‘46; completed Realtor School in Oakridge, Tennessee in ‘56; and obtained a Master’s at USC in ‘66. His resume includes designing a salt processing plant, building a lab, a pipe mill and work for the Atomic Energy Commission designing heavy handling equipment for the hydrogen bomb. He was Director of Research at Consolidated Steel, a Division of U.S. Steel, spent some years at Hughes in Fullerton and retired from  
***Blast from ...Continued on page 6***

## **Volunteer Recognition Reception & Concert**

**April 3 • 2-5 p.m. • Titan Student Union**

The month of April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and OLLI recognizes our volunteers and their generosity in sharing their talents and time to make OLLI a great community. Volunteers are at the heart of our organization and make OLLI a dynamic and successful part of the university. OLLI members are invited to this event to thank and acknowledge the volunteers.

Join us at this special reception to honor those who have served in various capacities to assist OLLI with its many diverse programs during the past year. They make OLLI at CSUF one of the very best in the country.

A midday meal will be provided during our social hour, followed by a presentation. A special concert designed for OLLI will follow the reception. Additional information will be provided through the OLLI newsletters, the ChroniCLE, the OLLI website and flyers posted around the OLLI facilities.

## **Titan Promenade Tribute Program**

Make your mark at Cal State Fullerton by engraving your name in Titan history! Secure your personalized paver, tree dedication or study nook naming on the Titan Promenade by April 30, 2022. Each paver or plaque can be inscribed with your special message and will be installed along the Promenade, paving the way for future students, families and visitors to campus. Honor an OLLI member, CSUF student, graduate or a Titan sports fan.

**This is the last call to be a part of this special project!** Don’t miss your chance. Place your order by April 30 at <https://give.fullerton.edu/tribute>.



# Tips to Help Your Aging Eyes

## Read this Article More Easily

By Chris Shaw, Editor

If you're like me, you prefer reading this ChroniCLE, the Blue Book and your home-delivered newspaper in printed form, rather than on a computer screen. Over the years, despite ever-thicker reading glasses, it has become harder to read them. To make things worse, most of us develop cataracts, which worsen contrast and create glare.

It turns out there are numerous adjustment options and apps for your computer, cellphone and other mobile devices that can make it much easier to read this article on a screen, and thereby, ease the strain on your eyes.

**Screen Appearance.** Most computer monitors and mobile devices offer adjustments to enable you to adjust the screen's brightness and contrast, among other things. If the monitor has no external adjustments, go to display settings within your computer or mobile device.

**Screen Scaling.** Your display settings also enable you to enlarge the size of the type and images that appear on your screen.

**Screen Zoom.** On a desktop PC in Windows 10 or 11 you can instantly zoom in (most programs and websites) to enlarge the text by holding down Control and hitting the Plus Sign (+) one or more times, and zoom back out with Control, Minus Sign (-) or Control, Zero (0).

On Apple computers, click the menu in the top-left corner of the screen, select System Preferences, and then click the Accessibility icon. On the next screen choose Zoom and see various options. There are also keyboard shortcuts.

On cellphones and other touch screens, you can zoom in by simply reverse-pinch the screen with your thumb and index finger, and zoom out by pinching the screen. Check the display settings on your cellphone for other zooming options.

**Roving Magnifier.** There are free apps that create a button that enables you to instantly create a square or circular virtual magnifying glass that can be moved over any part of the screen to magnify the text, etc. Depending on the app, you can scale the level of magnification and even operate your

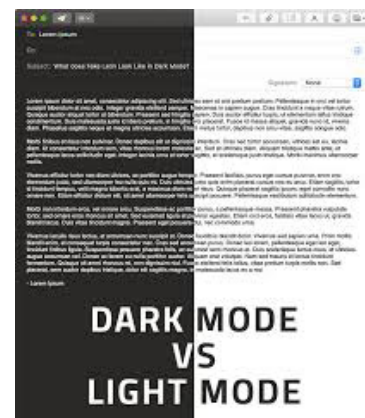
mouse within the magnification area. These apps are available in all app stores, such as Microsoft Store, Apple App Store, Google Play, Chrome Extensions etc., for computers as well as mobile devices.

**Dark Mode.** This is the latest, and possibly greatest, advancement to ease reading text on computer screens—and it's free. On a text page, dark mode turns the background black and the text white, which makes reading text so much easier, especially when you have contrast and glare issues. Newer cellphones have dark mode options in the display settings, and free apps are available for older mobile devices in the app stores.

Browsers have dark mode options for most websites, like Chrome's "Night Eye" extension, that gives you a button so you can click to enable your choice of dark mode, filtered (options for contrast, etc.) and normal on and off within most websites. Most other browsers, like Edge, Safari, etc., also offer these options. Dark modes may invert the colors in pictures, so it is handy to have the button to turn this off and on again.

Dark modes are also available on operating systems. In Windows, right-click on the Windows icon on the taskbar and choose Settings, then find Personalization in the 3-line pulldown and choose Colors. There you can change to dark mode and other options. Word has its own dark mode option. Go to File and under More choose Options. Under General you will see Office Theme and you can choose Black (dark mode) or other variations.

Look for these settings options and apps and use your computer or mobile device for reading, and you'll get a new lease on your ability to enjoy reading the news, books and, yes, the ChroniCLE, Blue Book and OLLI's newsletters.



### *Blast from ...Continued from Page 4*

Bentley Laboratories. No wonder he labels himself a “jack of all trades.”

Reminiscing about the CLE project, Dick recalls the first thing they had to do was tear down a geodesic dome on the site. It had been erected in the Buckminster Fuller era and belonged to the University. A manhole in the middle appeared abandoned, and the first thing they did was excavate, inadvertently tearing up the phone line to the arboretum. A month or so later, preparing for the foundation of the auditorium, they tore up the same phone line a second time. Remembering the twin goof’s still makes Dick chuckle.

He has high praise for the University’s Vice President of Engineering and for the building architect as well. An excellent working rapport existed with each. Since Dick’s work required total involvement during the year of construction, he was on site by 7 a.m. Although a heart attack temporarily interrupted his work midway, fortunately he was able to return to see it to completion. His subsequent honor as “Volunteer of the Year” was very well-deserved.

While electrical engineering was not his forte, he boned up on the subject to design the equipment for Mackey Auditorium. He is justifiably proud of the audio-visual strengths of the unique 230 seat space with its individual response phones for every chair and its many special features. It was designed as a lecture hall rather than as a theater, planned so that the lecturer is visible from any seat. Also, the front wall of the auditorium, sloped and painted white, is usable as a screen.

Throughout the building, a series of conduits with interactive communication capacity connect each room. The technicalities of all these systems is a subject dear to Dick’s heart. To this day when on campus, he heads for the auditorium control room and a visit with Mr. Tang, the audio-visual specialist whom he considers “a gem.”

Regarding the atrium at the heart of the CLE building, Dick smiles and reflects, “Thereby hangs another tale.” It seems a Union Oil pipeline right-of-way was located in the middle of the CLE site. And that’s why there’s an atrium in the middle of the plot, with the building surrounding it.

Would he do it all over again? “Oh, sure,” he laughs quietly. “I had more fun than you can imagine.”

## **In Memoriam Coming April 8**



In Memoriam is a gathering of OLLI members who wish to remember those who have passed away since spring 2021. A silent PowerPoint presentation will show the names and pictures of those OLLI members. All OLLI members and bereaved families are invited to take part in this occasion for conversation and fellowship. This is an in-person event that will also be available via Zoom.

## **What’s Happening at the Board**

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

OLLI’s Board of Trustees met on February 10. Following are highlights from that meeting:

- OLLI returned to campus for the spring semester, offering 96 programs—24 are in person, 39 are Zoom only and 33 are hybrid (both in-person and Zoom).
- Work has begun on the summer session curriculum and Blue Book.
- VP External Relations Sue Mullaly is recruiting volunteers for a new writing skills assistance program for OLL-CSUF Collaboration to aid CSUF graduate students with thesis writing.
- The Nomination and Election Committee presented the slate of nominees for the April election to the Board (see bios and photos in the March ChroniCLE). The newly elected Board members will be installed at the May Board meeting.
- Total OLLI membership is now 1,021, including 120 new members.

*What’s Happening ...Continued on Page 7*



### What's Happening ...Continued from Page 6

- The Board is working on a plan for membership growth to maintain a 1,000+ membership, as required by the Osher endowment.

- Final budget for fiscal year 2022-23 is to be approved at the March Board meeting.

- The Board approved the purchase of 10 new round, metal patio tables for the RGC courtyard.

- Revised and new policies were proposed by the Policies and Procedures Committee for new Collaboration programs with CSUF and external, third-party organizations. Formal approval is to be decided at the March Board meeting.

- CSUF is interviewing candidates for dean of Extension and International Programs, who will succeed Dr. Joe Shapiro in leading CSUF's oversight of OLLI-CSUF starting in April.

- OLLI is giving input to CSUF regarding planned upgrades to Mackey Auditorium.

- The Hospitality Committee's spring event will be virtual with a St. Patrick's Day theme.

- President Ellie Monroe will attend the National Osher Conference in April, 2022.

The Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of each month. All OLLI members are welcome to attend Board meetings as guests. These meetings currently start at 8:30 a.m. and are via Zoom. You can obtain the Zoom link from the OLLI Class Information and Updates Newsletter emailed to members each weekend or get it on the OLLI website.

## **Ask the Board**

*By Chris Shaw, Trustee at Large and ChroniCLE Editor*

Marilyn asked "Does OLLI receive enough scholarship donations to meet the requests of those in need? How many members apply for the funding? What is the amount of donations received from our OLLI members?"

Jim Monroe, Chair of OLLI's Development/Philanthropy Committee, responded as follows:

As you probably know, the OLLI-CSUF Membership Aid Fund is used to provide 'scholarships' in the form of OLLI memberships for those in need. Donation may be made at <https://give.fullerton.edu/olli>, by selecting the

Membership Aid Fund in the 'GIVE TO' box.

The balance in this fund is presently a little over \$12,000, representing about 45 full year scholarships. A few years prior to the pandemic this balance had dropped much lower, and this fund was included as a recommendation in the OLLI annual donation appeal. Of course, OLLI members responded generously.

During the pandemic, OLLI has seen fewer applications for scholarships, but also fewer donations to this account, and the fund has grown only slightly. We expect this to change as we return fully to campus, and work to increase OLLI membership across all groups.

In a typical year, OLLI receives a dozen or more applications for scholarships. As I mentioned that number has dwindled during the pandemic.

OLLI member donations to this account in a typical year would fund half a dozen scholarships and, of course, we hope to increase that in the coming years. This is a probably a very long way of saying that, at the moment, the account is adequately funded, but if we are successful in the next year, it will need additional donations soon. These scholarships also provide direct benefit to OLLI as the recipients are required to volunteer in some capacity.

We hope you will consider a donation to this account to allow us to share OLLI with more of those not financially able. It is truly an excellent gift. ... We very much appreciate your donation in any amount.

If you have a question, send an email to Chris at [tashawc01@gmail.com](mailto:tashawc01@gmail.com) with your question. I will find the right person to get the right answer for you. 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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### **Not Receiving OLLI Emails?**

If you have unsubscribed in response to **any** OLLI email, you have unsubscribed from **all** OLLI emails. If, for any reason, you are **not** already receiving OLLI emails about upcoming classes, events and special notices, you can subscribe (or re-subscribe) by going to <http://tinyurl.com/olliEmailSignUp> 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 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](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)