



## **President's Message**

*By Ellie Monroe, President, OLLI-CSUF*



A year ago, OLLI members were given the option to wear or not-to-wear a mask as we returned to in-person classes on campus. Although it is reported that COVID has become less of a threat to lives, we still urge you all to pay attention to the updated COVID-19 reports in our community for any signs that may suggest taking caution when making your decisions to mask or not mask.

OLLI is still redefining what our "new normal" will look like for the future. Our members are part of that process. Consider yourselves all an important asset in this historic evolution. It will take all of us working together to continue making OLLI the best in the country.

We recently developed our OLLI budget for the coming year. One of the biggest decisions we needed to make was raising the registration fees. OLLI has enjoyed six years without raising the \$260 annual membership fee. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have relied heavily on our members donations and our reserves to cover the ever-increasing cost of running OLLI.

When we had over 1,600 members in 2019, most of our costs were covered by membership fees. With the reduction in membership to 1,000 due to COVID, our membership fees are only covering 70% of our operating costs. In order to maintain a healthy financial position, we found it necessary to raise the annual fee by \$15 to \$275. This is necessary to keep up with the rise of inflation, the increase in service fees paid to the University, and the costs of essential equipment required to assure we maintain the new hybrid and virtual class needs.

We encourage you to invite your friends and family members to try out a single class (free) during the intercession or join OLLI during the summer semester. Send a note to your instructors that you wish to bring in a friend to try out a class they may be interested in.

The scheduling for our summer classes is almost complete and the Blue Book will be available near the end of our spring semester. Be sure to read the article on the Blue Book improvements that will begin in our fall semester.

## **Blue Book Improvements Coming in Fall**

*By Chris Shaw, Vice President Communications and Blue Book Editor*

OLLI's Board of Trustees approved restructuring the Blue Book. The 2023 summer session Blue Book will be produced as usual, without any changes. Starting with the fall 2023 semester, the Blue Book Program Catalog will be produced only once a year showing all the programs that may be offered during the entire academic year, which will include fall 2023, spring 2024 and summer 2024.

The Blue Book Program Catalog will no longer include any class meeting schedule information, e.g., days of the week, dates, times and venues, within the program descriptions, and no longer include the Day of the Week Index. All schedule information on program meetings will appear in a new Blue Book Schedule of Classes and Events that will be distributed to members three times a year about a month before the start of each semester.

Why mess with the Blue Book? There are several reasons, but the most important one has been brewing for at least four years.

By the time last fall's semester was over, 40% of the programs in that semester's Blue Book had

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President . . . . . Ellie Monroe  
 Vice President Administration . . . . . Bill Sampson  
 Vice President Programs . . . . . Renee Cabrera  
 Vice President Communication . . . . . Chris Shaw  
 Vice President Membership . . . . . Shirley Smith  
 Vice President External Relations . . . . Robert Kovacev  
 Vice President Facilities . . . . . Tony Package  
 Vice President Hospitality . . . . . Lisa Sewell  
 Vice President Technology . . . . . Jim Monroe  
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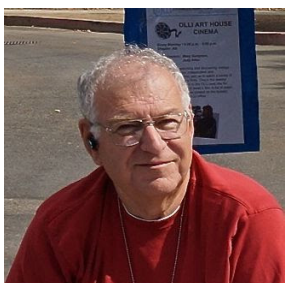
oversees OLLI campus parking and trolley activities, and works with staff and the OLLI Archivist/Historian Joanne Hardy. The Vice President Administration also works with various campus departments such as athletics to negotiate reduced costs for OLLI members to attend campus events.

The organization is governed by written statements of policy and procedures defining steps for carrying out the policies. All policies and procedures must conform to OLLI's Constitution and Bylaws and none shall conflict with those of the University. The Vice President Administration appoints the chair of OLLI Policies and Procedures Committee and serves as an ex officio member of the Committee. Current committee members are Joanne Hardy (Chair), Phil Barnhard, Vickie Hite, Ellie Monroe, Jim Monroe, Joyce Ono, Chris Shaw and Mike Stover.

## Vice President Administration

### Bill Sampson

*By Bill Sampson, Vice President Administration*



Bill Sampson was elected as Vice President Administration in 2022 for a two-year term ending in 2024. Bill previously served on the Board of Trustees as Vice President Membership and Trustee at Large, and he currently volunteers as a

member of the Trips Committee.

Bill was born in Chicago and moved with his family to California in 1960. Graduating from UCLA, Bill began his career as a manufacturer's representative for various home décor companies for the next 38 years, ending with his retirement from Hunter Douglas Window Fashions in 2012. Bill then spent several years doing consulting work for various companies, finally retiring again in 2019. Bill became an OLLI member in 2016.

OLLI's Vice President Administration oversees the implementation of the organization's Policies and Procedures, acts on behalf of the President in their absence, supports OLLI office operations,

## General Meeting and Election

### And Ice Cream Social

**Thursday, April 20 · 1:30-3:00 P.M.**

The OLLI Board of Trustees encourages all OLLI members to attend the annual General Meeting/Election. Join us for a brief presentation on the status of OLLI and the outlook for future semesters and to meet and vote to elect 10 new officers and trustees to the Board.

The nominees are Mike Stover for President; Ellie Monroe for Vice President Programs; Debbie Maxwell for Vice President Membership; Pete Saputo for Vice President Facilities; Vickie Hite for Treasurer and Jim Di Tota, Maggie Giles, Joanne Hardy, Chris Milord and Tony Package for the five Trustees at Large.

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

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### **Blue Book...Continued from Page 1**

changes in their meeting schedules, rendering it almost useless at best and misleadingly wrong at worst. How does this happen? It happens because OLLI's program instructors and coordinators must commit to schedules for their programs four months in advance of the start of the semester. That huge lead time is nobody's fault; it's a function of the time it takes to produce a comprehensive, large (80+ pages), printed book.

During those four months, things change. We lose a classroom in the Ruby Gerontology Center due to mold; Mackey Auditorium or Shapiro ABCD must close for maintenance; the University's classrooms at the dormitories or Kinesiology Center are not available; or, hold everything, there's a pandemic—not to mention that availability or conditions for each instructor or coordinator can change. These things result in changes in program schedules that are too late to get into the Blue Book before it's published.

In order to lessen out-of-date schedule information, we will significantly reduce the lead-time when instructors, coordinators and the scheduling team must commit to meeting schedules by producing a relatively brief Blue Book Schedule of Classes and Events. This schedule will list the day of the week, periodicity, dates, times and venues of each program offered. It will not have the program descriptions or the general, non-curriculum information that appear in the Blue Book Program Catalog.

It will take the production team much less time to produce the brief Schedule of Classes and Events than the full Blue Book Program Catalog of past years. That enables the production process, including when instructors and coordinators commit to their program meeting schedules, to be moved much closer to the start of the semester.

Producing the Blue Book Program Catalog only once a year, instead of three times a year, and reducing its size by eliminating meeting schedule information, including the nine-page Day of the Week Index, will have the added benefit of reducing its layout, printing and mailing costs. These savings will offset the new costs of producing the Blue Book Schedule of Classes and Events.

More important than cost savings will be the

considerable reduction in person-hours contributed by some 25 OLLI volunteers and CSUF staff. These volunteers and staff repeat their work on the cover pages, non-curriculum and curriculum portions of the Blue Book Program Catalog two more times a year. In addition, considerable time is spent by more than 150 instructors and coordinators revising their program descriptions every semester.

Upcoming ChroniCLEs will have more details and answers to questions we have received about the newly designed Blue Book publications.

### **General Meeting ...Continued from Page 2**

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.

## **Volunteer Recognition Reception**

**April 2 • 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

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.

The location is the student housing multi-purpose room. A meal will be provided, followed by entertainment. No-cost reservations are required. See the flyer in the OLLI newsletters, the OLLI website and posted around the RGC.



## **New Class: The Personal is Political** **Tuesday, April 25, 2023 • 10:15 a.m.–Noon** **Mackey Auditorium/Zoom/Stream**

“The Personal is Political: The Evolution of Spain and its Citizens from Dictatorship to Democracy” is offered under the OLLI Special Lecture Series by Isidra Mencos, Ph.D., who has been an instructor at OLLI-UC Berkeley and lecturer at UC Berkeley.

When a country is sick, the population shows the symptoms. In this presentation Isidra Mencos examines the intersection between politics and private lives at a pivotal time in the history of Spain. Mencos grew up under the Franco dictatorship. She was 17 when Franco died in 1975. The transition to democracy took some years, but the cultural and sexual revolution happened fast. It was a time of hope, but also of political and social conflict. With democracy under threat around the world, Mencos reflects on the impact that authoritarianism has in every aspect of a person’s life, and the decades-long shadow it casts.

### **Safety Issues: Stacking Chairs in Shapiro**

*By Tony Package, Vice President Facilities*

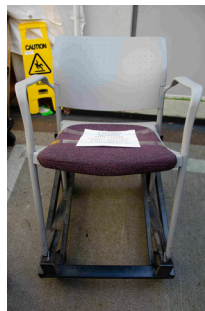
When our founders designed and built the Shapiro Wing, they incorporated unique, sound-reducing room dividers to allow changing the 2,000 square foot space from one to up to four classrooms. In order to easily move chairs between the rooms, they purchased wheeled chair trolleys that handle up to eight chairs each.

These trolleys have served their purpose over many years by enabling easy and quick movement of chairs inside and outside Shapiro. However, the trolleys themselves presented some safety issues to members because they are made of heavy metal.

- To prevent tripping on trolleys and bruises from trolleys, leave at least one chair on all trolleys.
- To make the stacked chairs easier to remove and unstack, do not stack more than eight chairs per trolley.
- Never stack chairs without a trolley. Chairs stacked on the floor, not on trolleys, can easily fall forward.

Another unique feature of the Shapiro chairs is

that some have arms and some do not. The armless chairs are better suited for instrument playing and dealing cards.



- Stack chairs with arms separately from chairs without arms. If you stack both types of chairs together, when you remove a chair you may unintentionally unstack two or more heavy chairs at once.

Using a little careful planning can eliminate safety issues.

## **Natural History Museum of L A Trip** **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

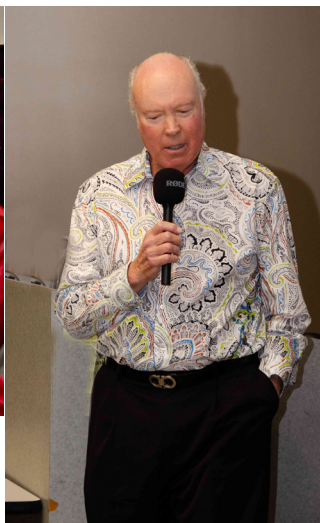
Join other OLLI members in visiting this outstanding museum! The NHM experience is nature and culture from the inside out. We will explore mind blowing exhibitions such as the only display of its kind in the world, the stunning T.rex Growth Serie which captures a baby, juvenile and sub-adult alongside other prehistoric predators. Enter Dinosaur Hall, with over 300 fossils and 20 mounted skeletons on display, including a pregnant plesiosaur, the only pregnant plesiosaur fossil ever discovered. Take a trip back through 65 million years of the evolution of life as told through the Award-winning Exhibition, the Age of Mammals, including more than 240 specimens, animal dioramas and skeletons of mammoths and whales, including the Otis Boot Pavilion which showcases a real fin whale swimming through the air. For a more hands-on experience head to the Nature Lab, where visitors can check out a collection of native L.A. creatures or wander through the native plant specimens in the Nature Gardens. Learn about our history at the Becoming Los Angeles and new P-22 exhibits. You can even see a different side of “glittering” Hollywood by visiting the museum’s huge Gem and Mineral Hall, home to more than 2,000 diamond, ruby, sapphire and gemstone specimens.

The newly added South L.A. Café within the NHM campus, provides casual concept dining featuring sustainable sourced fare and spotlighting grab and go options and other culinary favorites.

**Natural History ...Continued on page 6**

## Spring Preview: January 14, 2023

Photos by Jim Di Tota



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### Let's Go Places

Traveling with OLLI members is such a pleasure. We plan diverse destinations, so you don't have to drive or purchase tickets on you own. Just sign up for the trips we frequently offer.

Do you have a special place you want to visit? Just join the Trips Committee and present your idea and you can be part of the team.

Come to the next Trips Committee meeting on Zoom. The link will be in the newsletters and on the OLLI website. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Let's go!



## Juanita Driskell

### Poetry for Pleasure Coordinator

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer

Juanita has been an OLLI member since 1998. When I asked how she had heard about OLLI, she said that other teachers in her district who had retired came back to her school and talked about OLLI. When she retired in 1998, after a long career teaching grades four, five and six, she immediately joined OLLI.



Juanita participated in several classes. One of them was “Creative Writing.” There, she met Veta Atchley who encouraged her to join “Poetry for Pleasure” in 2006. At the time, Peggy Francis was the class coordinator, followed by Jane Moon. Later, Jane left the class and Juanita took over for the summer. When Jane did not return, Juanita continued handling the class.

According to Juanita, “Poetry for Pleasure” functions in a participatory way for all class members. She recruits class members to take over each week as leaders. That person chooses a topic which may be either a particular poet or a specific theme to feature. Juanita likes to line up volunteers for the entire semester so that everyone knows what is on tap for each week. She sends out the list by email. If there is no one to volunteer for one or two of the weeks, she schedules the topic of “pot pourri” or sometimes items from “Writers’ Almanac.” In that case, class members may bring any poem they wish to share with the class. Sometimes, though, someone will decide to jump in and choose a topic to replace pot pourri. Juanita then adjusts the list and lets everyone know.

Prior to the pandemic, classes functioned a bit differently. The first hour was the chosen poet or theme and the second hour was available for poems found by class members that they wished to share or poems that they, themselves, had written. Currently, the course is hybrid with some people on Zoom and some in Room 21 and usually is shorter than when everyone was there in person in Room 21.

I asked if class members are required to write poems? Juanita says no, but they are encouraged to try and then share their work with the class.

Juanita told me about the books the course has had published. She said that there have been seven anthologies of poems by class members. They go back to the first one published in 2003, titled “Refractions of Life.” The most recent one is “Grey Matters: Poetic Synapses.” The course also contributed to the OLLI-wide anthology of COVID-related poetry, prose and art “From Masks to Sculpture.” All books are available for sale on Amazon. There is no set time for when anthologies get published. Juanita said that it’s whenever Fritz von Coelln says, “Let’s do another book.” Poems included in the books are limited to work by people who are in the course and also must not have been published elsewhere.

The course often has a great variety of poets and periods of poetry. Some, Juanita says, are wordy poems from the 19th century. Although some in the course love those, she is not as fond of those as she likes more modern poetry “that has a point and gets to it.”

I asked Juanita what she enjoys most about working with “Poetry for Pleasure.” She said, “We care about each other—like a family. In the past five years, we’ve lost about six or eight people who aren’t there anymore and we miss them, not only as people, but also their contributions to the class. There is a closeness in the class that cannot be duplicated.”

#### Natural History ...Continued from Page 4

This is a great place for lunch on your own. You may also bring your lunch if you prefer. Whatever your passion, you’re sure to find something to help you learn, inspire and educate at this amazing L.A. attraction.

The cost is \$50 for admission to the museum, snacks and water, and the bus including tip for the bus driver, but does not include lunch. **Signups begin on March 20** and are limited to 56 people. **Special note: Tickets purchased before April 3** will include admission to the spring Butterfly Pavilion. Get the flyer and registration form on the OLLI website webpage under Classes/Activities.

## What's Happening at the Board

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on February 9, 2023.

- Thirty new members joined OLLI in January. 26 new members attended the New Member Orientation.
- Attendance at the Spring Preview was between 140 and 150 members.
- Planning has begun for the April 20 General Meeting/Election.
- Amendments to OLLI Policies were approved to conform to current operating practices. Joanne Hardy was recognized for her exceptional work as Chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee.
- Restructure of the Blue Book was approved. Constructive feedback was obtained from members, instructors and coordinators. Beginning with the fall semester, one annual Blue Book course catalog will be produced with program descriptions, but without meeting schedules. A new Blue Book Schedule of Classes and Events will be distributed for each semester showing the schedules of meeting dates, times and venues for that semester. This should reduce corrections in published meeting dates, times and venues, save an estimated \$3,000 in printing and mailing expenses and significantly reduce the person-hours required to produce the Blue Book.
- The budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 was approved with an increase in the annual membership fee from \$260 to \$275.
- Purchase of a replacement camera for hybrid classes in Room 21 was approved.
- Funds to print and mail a postcard to members to promote OLLI's March 8 Day of Giving were approved.
- Board is considering training for OLLI's leadership on utilizing social media for new member recruiting.
- The University is searching for a new associate dean of EIP, which oversees OLLI.
- Sue Mullaly was thanked by EIP's Karen McKinley for her presentation on conversational English at CSUF's International Student Orientation.

## Project Rebound Mentor Awards To OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Members

*By Sue Mullaly, Chair, Collaboration Committee*

California State Senator Josh Newman presented State of California Senate Recognition Certificates "In Recognition of Exceptional Service" to twelve OLLI members on the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration



team at the Project Rebound Celebration on December 17, 2022.

In the picture, Senator Newman is presenting certificates to OLLI members Dr.

Jerry Hunter and Sue Mullaly. The other OLLI members who received certificates were Edwin Batson, Renee Cabrera, Rosi Cayuela, Vickie Hite, Julie Horn, Janice Jeng, Roberta Jimenez, Linda Lockwood, Susan Snell, Warren Wilson and Marc Wynne.

These OLLI members served as mentors to Cal State Fullerton students through Project Rebound, a program that was started by the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration volunteer group in 2017 to provide non-traditional-age, formerly incarcerated university students with the resources and guidance to successfully reintegrate and achieve their academic and professional aspirations.

OLLI congratulates them for their contribution to CSUF student success.

## In Memoriam Coming April 14 • 3:30-4:30 p.m. • Shapiro & Zoom

In Memoriam is a gathering of OLLI



members who wish to remember those who have passed away since spring 2022.

A silent PowerPoint presentation will

show the names and pictures of those OLLI members. A reception of light refreshments will follow. All OLLI members and bereaved families are invited to take part in this occasion for conversation and fellowship.



## OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

*"A Continuing Learning Experience"*

1979 - 2022: 43 Years of Excellence

*Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7*

*P.O. Box 6870*

*Fullerton, California 92834-6870*

*(657) 278-2446*

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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)