



## **President's Message**

*By Ellie Monroe, President, OLLI-CSUF*



Greetings, I'm hoping you all have enjoyed returning to our spring semester classes. You will notice Shapiro has a new look. We have replaced the carpet flooring with a high-grade vinyl flooring.

The lobby has new black guest chairs to provide a clean comfortable environment for your comfort. Classrooms now have HEPA air filters and the latest audio equipment to offer in-person or online lectures. The movable walls will be refurbished during the spring intersession.

OLLI is enjoying the return of members to campus, attending classes and events in person. We hope you will join us for events on campus and meet friends and welcome new members. We have replaced the old tables and chairs in the courtyard with new upgraded furniture. You will find more space available for those outside gatherings that our members enjoyed prior to the pandemic.

Your Board is currently working on OLLI's budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. OLLI's operations continue to be funded due to past careful planning of our finances by the Board. We are focusing on growing membership back to the engaging, dynamic OLLI that we love.

We hope you will assist us in defining the "new normal" for OLLI and who we are as we move forward post-COVID. Your in-person presence will encourage this process to proceed rapidly. Volunteering at OLLI will be the tool that helps us get through this exciting, historic period, making activities that will define who CSUF-OLLI will be in the near future.

Take care and stay safe. See you soon! Cheers!!

## **OLLI-CSUF Survived the Pandemic Through Technology and Tenacity**

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

There is no reason to celebrate the upcoming third anniversary of the campus shutdown in March of 2020, but it is important to acknowledge OLLI's resilience in successfully keeping our programs going in spite of COVID-19. I have identified key leaders here, but there were many members who contributed to what was a massive group effort.

As COVID-19 began to rage, OLLI's Board of Trustees decided to shut down all in-person activities on campus as of March 16, effectively canceling all programs for the remaining four weeks of the spring 2020 semester and the following intersession, including an extensive celebration planned for OLLI's 40th anniversary.

OLLI President Joyce Ono learned that Cal State Fullerton had contracted with a company called Zoom for an enterprise account enabling all students, faculty and staff to use this app and replace in-person classes with virtual videoconferences.

Some of OLLI's more tech-savvy instructors—Bob Newcomb, Fritz von Coelln, Russ MacKeand, Joyce Ono, Susan Hanna, Mike Stover, Judy Alter, Jim R Monroe, Janet Bratton, Linda Callen, Vickie Hite, Toni Hoffman, Jeanette Reese, Joanne Hardy, Claire Curran, Mary Sampson, Rick Hearn and Ellie Monroe—were early Zoom adopters. They learned how to host Zoom videoconferences, contacted their class members and continued their programs through the spring semester and into the intersession. Their experience would later prove helpful in designing the Zoom training for other instructors.

Effective March 25, 2020, the University shut down the entire campus and OLLI's office staff

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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  
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 Chris Shaw (tashawc01@gmail.com), Editor; Keni Cox, Assistant Editor; Denny Bean, Alice Gresto, Elaine Mitchell and Mary Sampson, Staff Writers

Desktop Publishing: Celia Reynolds

## Parliamentarian Phillip Barnhard

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

President Ellie Monroe appointed Phil Barnhard



as OLLI's Parliamentarian at the May, 2021 Board meeting, but this was nothing new. Phil has been appointed Parliamentarian every year since 2012, serving the last five presidents, which attests to the trust and respect he has earned in that position,

OLLI Bylaw BL-8 provides that a parliamentarian will be appointed by each OLLI president, and ratified by the Board of Trustees, for the length of the president's term of office to advise the president on the orderly conduct of business in accordance with policies and practices and interpret OLLI-CSUF's Policies, Bylaws and Constitution. Phil does a bit more than that.

Phil believes a good Parliamentarian should have a knowledge of OLLI's history and how OLLI and CSUF both work and interact. In making judgements, he considers OLLI's history and its routines of conduct in terms of both expressed

and implied rules. Although OLLI's rules do not prohibit it, Phil believes that the Parliamentarian should not serve in any other Board position so they can maintain neutrality.

In addition to Board meetings, Phil is often invited to participate as Parliamentarian in a non-voting capacity in meetings of other committees. He helps the committee chair keep to the agenda, ensures votes and discussions of motions are in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and opines on procedural and operational rules. Beyond that, Phil regularly receives requests for opinions from officers and other OLLI members outside of official meetings. Actual legal issues must be discussed with the CSUF counsel, but Phil often serves as a sort of unofficial, independent "counsel" when inevitable controversies arise. As he puts it, "I'm Switzerland ... I get involved with an incredible variety of shades of gray."

Phil's background serves him well in this role. He was born in Columbus, Ohio but his family moved to California, and he graduated from Anaheim High School. He went to the University of Arizona, earning a B.S. in Agriculture, and obtained a J.D. law degree while working in the health industry. Although he never practiced law, his education helped him in his role with the California Jaycees and his jobs working for Blue Cross and other medical companies. While at Blue Cross, Phil created the second pre-paid health plan in California, called Communicare, which later became Health Net. He later became Chief Operating Officer of St. Johns Hospital in Santa Monica.

Phil was introduced to OLLI by his daughter, who had been a student at Cal State Fullerton. She paid for his first year's membership in 2009 and convinced him to become an active member to help him through a very difficult time caring for his wife through her final illness. The next year Barbara Talento convinced him to become a trustee on the Board, and he served as such for several years before being appointed Parliamentarian. Some years later, Phil met a new life partner at OLLI, and she renewed a purpose in his life. Phil says that OLLI saved his life—more than once.

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were sent home. Three of OLLI's resident techies, Bob Newcomb, Jim Monroe and Bill Reilly, worked with CSUF IT to gain access to the closed OLLI office and obtain computer equipment for the office staff and arrange access to their CSUF email and voicemail accounts so they could continue to serve OLLI members from their homes.

President Programs Ellie Monroe and Jim Monroe reviewed OLLI's programs to determine which of them could be offered via Zoom. Some programs, like Poker and Tennis, just could not be replicated on Zoom. But most programs could—it would just require the will of their instructors and coordinators to do it. Ellie contacted each program's instructors and coordinators to convince them to learn how to host their programs online using Zoom. Ellie, Jim, Bill Reilly and Susan Hanna developed training materials and scheduled and presented online training of the instructors and coordinators to host Zoom classes.

Ellie noted, "Instructors deserve a lot of credit for the effort and time they put in to learn how to host their programs on Zoom and do it, rather than just giving up." It wasn't easy for them. Eventually Tech Coordinators were designated to control the Zoom system during class meetings, freeing instructors to concentrate on the program rather than the technology.

OLLI members, too, had to be taught how to use Zoom to participate in online classes. Bob Newcomb and Jim Monroe wrote instructions and recorded a video. These were published or promoted in the ChroniCLE, in the newsletters and on the OLLI website. Jim Monroe, Ellie Monroe, Joyce Ono, Richard McCaman, Susan Hanna and Rick Hearn conducted online workshops for OLLI members.

Board meetings resumed via Zoom on April 9. Starting April 18, only a month after the shutdown, intersession programs were offered to all members via Zoom, including five new programs initiated by Ellie Monroe that addressed emergency management and coping with the pandemic. Members were also encouraged to view OLLI's Distance Learning library of class videos of past classes on the OLLI website.

The OLLI General Meeting and Election needed

to go forward on April 16 in order to elect new members to replace half of the outgoing Board of Trustees members. Joyce obtained one of CSUF's few licenses for a Zoom webinar that allowed enough attendees to accommodate OLLI's membership.

The summer session started June 1, 2020 with an impressive 50 programs on Zoom out of the originally-planned 92 programs. Throughout the summer more and more instructors were trained and, as they saw other instructors' success on Zoom, they were inspired to restart their programs. Out of a potential 117 programs, 86 programs were offered on Zoom for the fall 2020 semester.

Joyce said about the whole effort to get online classes up and running, "I'm proud to say we really did a good job in a very, very short amount of time."

Long before the pandemic hit, Vice President Technology Bob Newcomb, with Don Lake, had envisioned livestreaming class presentations through the internet. During the shutdown, Bob and Jim Monroe set about obtaining funding from the Board and working with an outside vendor to purchase and install the specialized equipment and software in OLLI's classrooms. All livestreamed programs are automatically recorded on a Vimeo channel, giving members the choice of live or later viewing.

The Ruby Gerontology Center remained closed to OLLI members and all programs were offered via Zoom until the fall semester of 2021. The first event on campus since the shut-down was the Fall Open House on August 6, 2021, which was also the first hybrid event giving members and guests the option of attending in person or online. Beginning in fall 2021, instructors were given the choice of in-person and/or online (Zoom or livestreamed). Some programs work fine online. Others require in-person interaction, and instructors of those programs were thrilled to get back on campus.

Today, hybrid works. For many of our larger, more popular classes, about one-third of attendees attend in person and two-thirds attend online. For most committees, Zoom works very well and is the mode of choice. The new normal is being driven by OLLI members' ability to choose. Online attendance is the only choice for non-ambulatory

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## Charitable Gift Annuity Rates Increase for 2023

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA) have always been a great idea. The gift annuity provides a fixed rate of return on your gift during your lifetime and the remainder benefits the charity of your choice, like OLLI-CSUF. Many donors create gift annuities to increase their retirement income *and* support their favorite charities.

When you fund a gift annuity today, your payments will be at higher rates than in recent years.

On January 1, 2023, the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) increased rates, and we follow the ACGA's rates. Here is an example of how current rates have increased for one life annuities:

AGE	RATE BEFORE INCREASE	RATE AFTER INCREASE
70	5.30%	5.90%
75	6.00%	6.60%
80	7.00%	7.60%
85	8.10%	8.70%
90+	9.10%	9.70%

Once you fund a gift annuity, your rate and your payments never change. Your payments will last as long as you live, no matter what the economy does. For more options and even higher payments, ask us about a deferred gift annuity. By waiting a few years for your first payment, you can receive an even higher payment rate.

No matter what type of gift annuity you fund, in addition to the tax benefits, you will have the unparalleled satisfaction of knowing the benefits you receive also help others. After a lifetime of payments to you, any funds remaining in the gift annuity support OLLI-CSUF.

When you start your gift annuity with the new, higher rates, you will have peace of mind from your fixed payments. With higher rates and potential tax benefits you will be putting more money in your pocket.

**TAX BENEFITS:** Higher interest rates means the charitable deduction available for funding a CGA is higher as well. When you call us to find out your rate, we will also let you know about your income tax deduction and possible capital gains benefits. There is no guesswork. What you start today, gives back to you for life.

**PAYMENTS FOR TWO:** When you fund a gift annuity for two people, such as you and your spouse, payments will continue at the same rate, in the same amount, for as long as either of you live. Rates are different than for one-life annuities but are still attractive.

**BIG IMPACT:** When you fund your gift annuity, you receive the fixed payments and tax benefits, but you also do something more. After a lifetime of payments to you (or you and your spouse), all funds remaining in your gift annuity support OLLI-CSUF.

As always, this information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult your professional advisors for legal and tax guidance.

Planned Gifts to support OLLI-CSUF are coordinated through University Advancement. Please visit [www.csufplannedgift.org](http://www.csufplannedgift.org) or contact us to learn about all of the benefits of making a charitable bequest and how it can help OLLI-CSUF continue our important work. If you're interested in establishing your legacy and making a lasting impact at OLLI-CSUF through membership in the [Ontiveros Legacy Society](#), please contact our Office of Planned Giving at (657) 278-3947 or [CSUFPlannedGift@fullerton.edu](mailto:CSUFPlannedGift@fullerton.edu).



# Holiday Mingle and Jingle Luncheon—December 7, 2022

*Photos by Jim DiTota and Donna Spradlin*





**Estate Planning and Charitable Giving  
Webinars (Open to the Public)  
February 16, March 16 or April 13**

Choose one of these three identical Zoom webinar presentations of “Creating Certainty In An Uncertain World” from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays February 16, March 16 or April 13.

Registration for the webinars will start a month before each webinar. Watch for announcements in the OLLI newsletters.

Grab your lunch, pull up a chair and please plan to join us for this information session on estate planning. This is a no-cost lunch-time webinar! No one wants to think about getting seriously ill or dying, but these are scenarios we must prepare for to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our money, especially during the pandemic. With courts having limited access and hospitals restricting loved ones from sitting by your bedside, we will show you step by step how to legally formalize your wishes and ensure they will be followed, bringing you total protection and peace of mind!

Workshops are provided by Laura Meier, an estate planning attorney and owner of the Meier Law Firm (<https://www.meierfirm.com/>). Should you have any questions, please reach out to Hart Roussel at [csufplannedgift@fullerton.edu](mailto:csufplannedgift@fullerton.edu).

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members or those who live out of the area (unexpectedly, we now have a considerable number of out-of-state members). The choice of online attendance is a new luxury for those members who just can't make that early morning or late afternoon meeting or class, those who missed a conflicting class that was livestreamed and those who dread parking on the University campus. In fact, online attendance may be a lure that helps us to regain our membership levels and retain existing members.

**Donna Judd  
Award-Winning Photographer**

*By Donna Judd, Coordinator, Phocus Photography Club*



I hope this photo, “Cuban Grandmother,” shows the joy that I felt in taking it. Early on my first day in Cuba I was walking through Old Havana and saw her setting up to pose. Spotting my camera she grinned, waving her hands wildly, one holding cigars, the other dollar bills. We chatted in my basic Spanish and her love of life just shined through!

Cuban Grandmother was one of 17 photos chosen from over 13,000 entries in a LA Times contest and



put on the front page of the travel section in 2015. The photo was also featured in the Photographic Society of America's International Journal and exhibited at the Bowers Museum as part of a Council on Aging show.

I joined OLLI in 2010 and enjoy helping out as a coordinator for OLLI's Phocus Photography Club. Club meetings usually start with a guest speaker, who is often a professional photographer or a highly skilled amateur. Then members share images they've taken on a recent Club outing or their own exotic photo trip. See meeting details in the Blue Book.

The Club also enables members to enter photo contests. The Club holds its own annual photo competitions and members may enter local and

**Donna Judd... Continued on page 7**

## What's Happening at the Board

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on December 8, 2022.

- Ann Sparks resigned as Treasurer for personal reasons.
- Current membership stands at 944.
- New member registration for the spring semester started December 12.
- The Long Range Plan research by CSUF School of Business and Finance students is finished and the final report is pending. The research was in six areas: 1. Member interviews and surveys; 2. Member retention; 3. New member recruitment; 4. Website design; 5. Social media design and 6. Focus group interviews.
- OLLI's fundraising "Day of Giving" in conjunction with CSUF on March 8, 2023 is being planned by OLLI's Development/Philanthropy Committee. Last year this event resulted in \$22,000 in donations for OLLI-CSUF.
- The Nomination and Election Committee has received applications for all Board positions up for election except VP Facilities and VP Hospitality. Candidate search continues. The full election nominee slate is due January 15, and bios of all nominees will appear in the March ChroniCLE.
- Budget planning for fiscal year 2023-2024 is underway by Board officers. Final budgets will be approved on February 9.
- The Capital Plan is also underway and will be finalized by January 15.
- Revisions of OLLI Policy 6.1 on Programs and related Policy 4.1.3 on Communications to conform with current procedures were approved.
- The spring Blue Book was electronically distributed to all members on December 6. The printed version was expected to be mailed to members who requested it the week of December 12.
- A proposal to restructure the Blue Book into one Blue Book per year instead of one per semester, but extracting the class scheduling information into a separate "Schedule of Classes and Events" to be published for each semester was proposed by VP Communications Chris Shaw. A working team will address the details and obtain feedback from

instructors and coordinators. The proposal will be voted on in the February Board meeting after details and prototype documents are submitted to the Board members.

- New flooring will be installed in Shapiro ABCD from December 14 to January 12. Intersession classes scheduled in Shapiro ABCD during the intersession will be cancelled or relocated.
- Repairs to the Shapiro ABCD operable walls are planned for the spring break.

## California Science Center Trip Coming

*By Ken Luke, Trips Committee Chair*

The Trips Committee's next day trip is to the California Science Center at Exposition Park in Los Angeles on March 15.

We will travel to Los Angeles on a luxurious motor coach for a close-up view of the Space Shuttle Endeavour and other spacecraft and equipment and learn about the experiences and memories of the astronauts who flew them into space and back. There is an excellent exhibit on the earth's ecosystems and many other detailed informative and interactive attractions, including a visit to the IMAX center.

Lunch can be purchased at the Center's cafeteria, offering a variety of tasty bites to enjoy while socializing with other OLLI members.

We have planned this outing for you, hoping it will provide an interesting event and an opportunity to reconnect with friends at OLLI after the years of staying at home due to COVID restrictions and concerns.

**Signups begin February 1.** Look for more details and the signup coupon in the flyer and OLLI's weekly newsletters.

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international competitions as a member of the Southern California Council of Camera Clubs (S4C), which belongs to the Photographic Society of America.



## OLLI

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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)