



## Upcoming Special Events

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF

### May 26: OLLI's Summer Semester of Programs

The summer semester begins Tuesday, May 26. See the article in this ChroniCLE for descriptions of four new programs added to this summer's curriculum. See the descriptions and meeting schedules of all the classes, trips and events offered this summer in the summer Blue Book and on the OLLI website under "Classes," "Trips & Events" or under "Calendars."

### June 8: Kerckhoff Marine Lab Tour & Newport Harbor Cruise

Register for this day trip through TouchNet on the OLLI website. See the flyer for details.

### June 15: OLLI Today and Tomorrow Forum

Members are invited to join OLLI's new President, Mike Stover, and OLLI's leadership team on Monday, June 15 (Noon-1:00 p.m. in Room 8 or Zoom/stream) for a candid, forward-looking conversation about OLLI's strategic priorities and explore how the organization is responding to unprecedented opportunities and challenges in a changing environment.

### June 19: Juneteenth Holiday

CSUF campus & OLLI office closed, no classes, on Friday, June 19.

### June 27: Happy 250th Birthday, America

A special event is planned for June 27 (noon-2:30 p.m. in the RGB courtyard & Shapiro) to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Registration opens June 1 on TouchNet. See the article in this ChroniCLE for details about this very special event.

### July 4: Independence Day Holiday

CSUF campus closed, no classes, on Saturday, July 4.

### July 13: OLLI Today and Tomorrow Forum

Members are invited to join OLLI's president and leadership team on Monday, July 13 (noon-1:00 p.m. in Room 8 or Zoom/stream) for a candid, forward-looking conversation about OLLI.

### March 28-April 4, 2027: Danube Waltz River Cruise

Bookings through Good Times Travel are now open for this Viking river cruise through Central Europe. See the flyer for details.

## Cheers to Volunteers:

### A Day of Appreciation,

### Leadership and Renewal at OLLI-CSUF

By William F. Clark, Staff Writer

On April 16, about 175 OLLI members gathered for the CSUF Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Cheers for Volunteers Luncheon, followed by the General Meeting and Election and concluding with a spirited Ice Cream Social. Together, the events reflected both appreciation for past contributions and a renewed commitment to the future.

Outgoing President Vickie Hite opened the luncheon with a heartfelt message of gratitude, reminding attendees that "there are a lot of people to thank, but it is our volunteers and dedicated staff that make OLLI special." She highlighted the organization's guiding tradition of the "three R's," Resilient, Resourceful and Relentless, as a reflection of the spirit that continues to define the OLLI community.

Hite also pointed to tangible accomplishments over the past year. In 2025 alone, OLLI members contributed more than 3,805 hours of direct support to CSUF students, helping offset administrative costs and reinforcing the program's value to the broader university. Additionally, the transition to electronic communications saved more than \$4,000 in postage as an example of both efficiency and adaptability.

Looking ahead, Hite encouraged members to "get ready for big changes," including the launch of a new website, continued progress on the "Listen Up" hearing enhancement initiative, and plans for a refreshed Ruby Gerontology Center courtyard,

President .....	Mike Stover
VP Administration .....	Jim DiTota
VP Programs .....	MaryLouise Hlavac
VP Communication .....	Larry Holmes
VP Membership .....	Debbie Maxwell
VP External Relations .....	Bob Kovacev
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*Cheers to Volunteer... Continued from Page 1*

designed to foster more in-person connection.

She also recognized outgoing Board of Trustees members Sue Batie, Vice President Programs; Bill Sampson, Vice President External Relations; Paul Herrick, Vice President Technology; Renee Caberra, Secretary and Fran Colwell, Chris Heaton, Jay Messner and Chris Milord, Trustees at Large, thanking them for their service and dedication.

Sue Batie, serving as Acting Parliamentarian, swore in the new 2026-27 Board members, following a unanimous vote of the membership.

The transition to new leadership was marked by a tone of both gratitude and determination. Incoming President Mike Stover praised Hite for guiding OLLI through a challenging period, noting that her leadership helped foster “a better understanding by the university’s leadership of OLLI’s important role

***“The transition to new leadership was marked by a tone of both gratitude and determination.”***

in the greater campus community.”

Stover emphasized OLLI’s 47-year legacy of volunteerism and lifelong learning, describing it as “an asset to CSUF across multiple generations

of learners.” He credited the organization’s 1,283 members, particularly those who spoke up during uncertain times, with helping ensure OLLI’s continued presence and impact at an on-campus location. “The hard work of convincing university leadership to allow OLLI to stay in place,” he noted, “was the result of the support and dedication of our members, especially those who asked the university to listen to us and respect our contributions.”

Looking forward, Stover pledged to expand member understanding of key issues, increase transparency in decision-making, and “never be complacent” in preserving OLLI as a beacon of lifelong learning. “We choose to grow our organization,” he said, “using skill, courage and wisdom as our commitment and legacy.”

He concluded with a call to action for all members: “Without your passion and volunteer service, the organizational infrastructure provided by the staff and our membership income will never be enough to meet the challenges ahead, because none of us can do this alone or forever. So, please continue to ask, ‘How can I help?’”

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Following the formal program, members gathered for the Ice Cream Social, where conversation and laughter replaced speeches and structure.

The exchange drew laughter, but it also revealed something essential about the OLLI community: a sense of ease, connection and shared humor that transcends titles and roles.

In the end, the day was more than a celebration of volunteers or a transition in leadership. It was a reminder that OLLI’s strength lies not only in its programs, but in the people who continue to build, sustain and believe in its future.

## President's Message

By Mike Stover, President, OLLI-CSUF



It's a privilege to serve once again as your president and to help represent this extraordinary community of lifelong learners. Over my 18 years with OLLI, the friendships and shared experiences I've found here have meant more to me than I can easily put into words

— and I suspect many of you feel the same.

This month, I want to focus on two simple realities: OLLI runs on volunteer energy, and our future depends on your engagement in solving several challenges.

For 47 years, OLLI has succeeded because members stepped forward to contribute. Communities like ours don't sustain themselves — they are renewed, year after year, by people who care enough to get involved.

So I encourage you to keep asking, "How can I help?"

There are many ways to step up. Some examples: we're looking for more instructors, class coordinators, trolley drivers and members interested in helping university students. We critically need volunteers with such technical or creative skills in publicity writing, flyer and brochure design, spreadsheet management or short-term project leadership.

Whether your contribution is your time or through our fundraising, whether large or small, it matters. No matter how committed our leadership and staff may be, none of us can do this alone or indefinitely.

Looking ahead, your voice is just as important as your time.

We've had more than a dozen formal conversations with the University leadership. Now, we understand the challenges they're facing, and they understand better the contributions we make to the University. I firmly believe they want OLLI to succeed, and let's keep letting them know how they can help.

There are still important issues to work through with the University — particularly related to implementing changes to Mackey Auditorium class scheduling, budgeting for (much) higher university-imposed costs for services and facilities occupancy,

and creatively addressing future parking needs, costs and limitations.

These aren't easy issues, and they won't be resolved overnight. That's why your Board is committed to keeping you informed and creating more opportunities for open, thoughtful discussion before decisions are made. But that only works if you are engaged. Please share your questions, concerns and ideas — we genuinely want to hear from you.

Each generation of OLLI members faces choices about how we move forward. Let's choose not to be complacent about our place at the University. Experience has shown us that silence can mean being overlooked or marginalized.

Instead, let's choose openness, transparency and a willingness to ask for help — from each other and from our partners on campus and in the community.

Most of all, let's choose to meet the challenges ahead with the experience, wisdom and spirit that define OLLI. That's how we'll continue to thrive.

As always, I welcome your help, thoughts and involvement. Feel free to reach out to me whenever you see me or by emailing me at [stovermw@gmail.com](mailto:stovermw@gmail.com).

***"No matter how committed our leadership and staff may be, none of us can do this alone or indefinitely."***

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## OLLI in the News: Mike Stover's Election as OLLI President

By Chris Shaw, Editor

On April 25, the Chino Valley Champion newspaper reported that Mike Stover, a resident of Chino Hills and member of the Chino Hills Planning Commission, was elected president of OLLI-CSUF. You can read the full story at [Chino Valley People | Community News | championnewspapers.com](http://ChinoValleyPeopleCommunityNews|championnewspapers.com).

# Congratulations and Welcome to the Newly Elected Members of the Board of Trustees



**Mike Stover**  
President



**Jim Di Tota**  
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Administration



**Larry Holmes**  
VP  
Communications



**Bob Kovacev**  
VP External  
Relations



**Danny Torres**  
VP Technology



**Debbie Kegel**  
Secretary



**Jim Appel**  
Trustee at Large



**Timothy Holmes**  
Trustee at Large



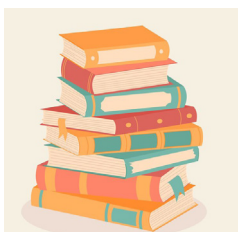
**Bozena Morton**  
Trustee at Large



**Eileen Walsh**  
Trustee at Large

## New Programs in the Summer Curriculum

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*



Four new programs are included in the 2026 summer semester.

You can find the meeting schedules for these and all the classes, trips and events in the summer Blue Book and on the OLLI website (under “Classes” and “Trips & Events” or under “Calendars”). Daily meeting schedules are also available on the display in the Shapiro Wing lobby.

Check the full program descriptions in the Blue Book or OLLI website for possible pre-registration, prerequisites or other special requirements, and watch the weekly Announcements & Events Newsletters in case there are last-minute meeting changes or cancellations.

### American Sign Language 2

“American Sign Language 2” will focus on increased word vocabulary while learning to converse. Students will continue to utilize their receptive skills to manually express their thoughts. Songs will become a weekly part of each class, where students will prepare to sign songs they have selected to perform and teach the class. “American Sign Language 2” students will also collaborate with

CSUF Nursing, Department of Speech and Language and the Child Care Center to teach American Sign Language. The instructor is Dawn Wilson, and the coordinator is Linda Callen.

### Cardio Dance

This is a fun exercise course which incorporates dance movements and cardio activity to music. The classes will incorporate different genres of music from the last five decades, from oldies to contemporary music. There will be routines that combine elements of aerobic dance steps, jazz, hip-hop and disco. Each one-hour class will incorporate a warmup period, 3-5 routines and a cool down period. The degree of aerobic activity can be leveled up or down according to the student’s abilities. All participants will be encouraged to go at their own pace. The instructors/coordinators are Vickie Hite and Patricia Lui.

### Introduction to Local Hikes

This presentation will provide an introduction to hiking on local trails. It will cover all the elements needed to choose a hike, plan the route and run the hike for your family or friends. On-line tools that assist in trail selection and mapping will be demonstrated as well as transferring that route to your phone. Use of a trail table to increase navigation reliability and trip safety will be included. Equipment selection options will be explored. Recognizing and dealing

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*New Programs... Continued from Page 4*

with minor first aid issues will be discussed. The instructor is Steven Schuster and the tech coordinator is Kathy Schuster.

**Magic: Folklore at the Bible's Core**

Elijah vanishing a drought, Jesus raising the dead, a threshing floor evolving into Solomon's temple: biblical "wonderworks" constitute phenomena rooted in folkloric magic. Classes will apply a pragmatic definition to magic: the manifestation of the extraordinary in the realm of the ordinary. Drawing on the social sciences, the course will uncover a diverse domain, from Genesis to Revelation, to understand its mechanics, transformations, outcomes and its compelling longevity. 'The course will explore its incongruities and thematics in order to illustrate magic as the Bible's core motivation for belief as well as the significance of that motivation. Bring a Bible (your choice), your ideas and respect for the views of others. The instructor is Dr. Craig Miller, and the coordinator is Dr. Ben Hubbard.

proudly and loudly. The lunch menu includes grilled hamburgers and veggie burgers with all the fixings, potato salad and baked beans, followed by watermelon and individual birthday cupcakes dressed with flags and sprinkles.

The OLLI Ukuleles will lead a sing-along of patriotic and American songs so we can raise and share our voices, to celebrate our 250th birthday.

Registration will be open June 1-19 in TouchNet on the OLLI website at <https://olli.fullerton.edu/>

(no tickets at the door). The cost is \$10 and a QR code is on the flyer. If you need some help to register, the OLLI office will help.

Join the fun as we share our patriotism!

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**MaryLouise Hlavac,  
Vice President Programs**

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*



MaryLouise is a Southern California native daughter, born in Lynwood and raised in Compton. She graduated from Cal State Fullerton in 1980 with a degree in Business Administration from the College of Business and Economics with an emphasis in

accounting. She held several financial, accounting and project management positions during her career, becoming Executive Director and General Manager of a not-for-profit company.

She continued her association with CSUF, serving as President of the Alumni Association. Her desire to serve led her to other leadership positions at CSUF, including supporting the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center and the Alliance for the Performing Arts in support of the College of the Arts.

As a member of OLLI, MaryLouise has volunteered with the Hospitality Committee, and she has worked with Debbie Maxwell on OLLI Membership. She is also an instructor and coordinator for the "Cooking Potpourri" class.

MaryLouise was first elected to the Board of Trustees as a Trustee at Large in 2024 and then elected to Vice President Programs in 2025.

*MaryLouise Hlavac... Continued on Page 8*

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**Happy 250th Birthday, America  
Let's Celebrate on Saturday, June 27**

*By Elaine Mitchell Staff Writer*



Happy Birthday, America!!!  
What an amazing opportunity we have as Americans to help celebrate our country still going strong at 250 years. We've had our ups and downs but our

Founding Fathers set up a unique system of checks and balances that can continue this grand experiment for many, many more birthdays.

The Hospitality Committee invites all OLLI members to join in a loud and colorful party to celebrate our special birthday on June 27, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Let's all wear our colors, the red, white and blue, proudly, loudly and excessively. Why not wear a costume that represents your favorite American person, group, place or time? If you don't want to be specific, wrap yourself head-to-toe in every piece of red, white and blue clothing you can find, and throw in something shiny and sparkling. Let's make some visual noise as we parade around the Ruby Gerontology Center courtyard two times to share our patriotism.

The event will open with a color guard to honor our flag and the singing of the national anthem,

**Cheers to Volunteers Luncheon, General Meeting/  
Election and Ice Cream Social: April 16, 2026**

*Photos by Jim DiTota*



# OLLI Music Recital: March 28, 2026

*Photos by Hsien chen, Jim DiTota & Eileen Halcrow*



Her principal responsibility as Vice President Programs is generating and delivering OLLI's curriculum of courses, events and activities—or programs. She oversees: the Curriculum Committee, co-chaired by Sue Batie and Renee Cabrera; the Musical Performance Committee, chaired by Renee Cabrera and Rayleen Williams; the Technology Education Committee (TEC), chaired by Rosalind Charles and Paul Herrick; the Transitions in Retirement (TiR) Committee, chaired by Russ MacKeand; and the Trips Committee, chaired by Ken Luke. All of these committees contribute new programs to be offered to OLLI members.

The Vice President Programs' most time-consuming responsibility is probably as the Blue Book Development Lead. She leads two teams: the Section Editors, comprised of herself, Sue Batie, Renee Cabrera, Joanne Hardy, Debra Kegel, Kathey Schuster and Carol Thurk; and the Scheduling Resolution Team, comprised of herself, Sue Batie, Renee Cabrera and Carol Thurk. The development of each Blue Book's curriculum starts with the Section Editors and Scheduling Resolution Team working directly with all instructors and coordinators to create write-ups and meeting schedules for new programs, or update the information for ongoing programs as needed each semester.

Classroom space is the Scheduling Resolution Team's number one challenge; coordinating the dates and times the instructor is available with an appropriate, available classroom in the Ruby Gerontology Center. OLLI shares classrooms in the RGC with the University, so there is often a need to rent space elsewhere on campus, such as the student housing meeting rooms or classrooms in the Kinesiology Building or Langsford Hall.

Finally, the Vice President Programs along with OLLI's Executive Director Daisy Thomas, coordinate the training of instructors and coordinators, principally through a series of Coordinators and Instructors Training Workshops in August and September. The workshops include OLLI's tech team that provides training of instructors and tech coordinators on how to host their class meetings on Zoom and through livestreaming.

## Cooking Potpourri Class Field Trip

*By Jill Patterson, Co-Instructor*

The Cooking Potpourri chefs (Jodi Christin, Diana Guerin, Wei-Ling Louie & Jill Patterson) and participants (Lydia Candice, Meade DeKlotz, Sue DeVaney, Lorelee Page-Ortiz & Ruth Salisbury) enjoyed our annual field trip to a specialty restaurant in April. This semester's field trip was to DiMassi's Mediterranean restaurant in Anaheim, where we enjoyed an expansive buffet, great conversation and tremendous camaraderie.



## In Memoriam Observed

The silent In Memoriam presentation, shown on campus on Friday, April 24, 2026, honoring OLLI members who passed in the last year is available to view on the OLLI website under MORE INFO: Classes & Recordings.

The passed members who were honored were: Patsy Burns, Collin Chan, Nancy Chirco, Barbara DeBeer, Wendell Hanks, Aileen Hollowell, Karen Katz, Dr Joseph Lawton, Gordon Levine, MaryLou Markling, John Pantle, Deanne Passchier and Marci Taylor Stewart.



## What's Happening at the Board

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

The following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on April 9, 2026:

- President Hite reported that the membership numbers for this year obliterated all our expectations. Pre-COVID, OLLI had a membership of approximately 1,800 members. After COVID, our membership numbered well under 1,000. Since then we have begun a slow but steady climb to our current membership of 1,324

- Over the last year, OLLI's other successes included implementing TouchNet and the new OLLI website, attracting new members through the OLLI Experience, receiving generous donations on the Day of Giving, and avoiding the challenges of office turnover, cost recovery charges and potential relocation.

- Announcements & Events Newsletters are not intended as vehicles for event flyer advertising. Jim Di Tota and the Communications Team will work on the best vehicles for flyers. Work is also proceeding on the process for CSUF's new accessibility testing and remediation of publications uploaded to the OLLI website and distributed to members.

- Mackey Auditorium refurbishments will start around June 1 and be completed by August 8. CSUF will have priority usage on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in the fall semester.

- Contract negotiations with CSUF for OLLI's campus parking have begun for renewal by next June.

- OLLI is working on trip collaborations with UCI and Cal State Long Beach OLLIs.

- Dr. Sean Walker and Daisy Thomas, OLLI Executive Director are working with CSUF ASC to speed purchase order payments, which has suffered from ASC staff turnovers.

- President Hite thanked Corina Pineda in the OLLI Office for successfully taking over the Blue Book layout process from CSUF.

- Newly elected President Mike Stover is coordinating training of new Board officers by outgoing officers. Mike and Daisy Thomas thanked and saluted Vickie Hite for her work as OLLI President over the last two years, especially the last nine "roller coaster" months.

## Next ChroniCLE: August

The next issue of the ChroniCLE will be a combined July/August issue, and it will be distributed around July 20.

## Words of Wisdom

**Leadership is not about  
being in charge.  
Leadership is about taking care  
of those in your charge.**



## OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

*"A Continuing Learning Experience"*

*1979 - 2025: 46 Years of Excellence*

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### **How to Get the ChroniCLE**

Unless you elected not to receive emails from OLLI, you are currently receiving an email each month announcing the new ChroniCLE for the upcoming month with links to view or download the publications.

You can also access the most recent ChroniCLEs through links on the OLLI website.

If you are receiving the ChroniCLE in the mail, but no longer want it mailed to your home, send an email to [olli-info@fullerton.edu](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.

### **Other Sources of Information About OLLI**

Website: <http://olli.fullerton.edu>

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.Facebook.com/OLLICalStateFullerton> and

Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/ollicsuf/>