An article featuring OLLI’s Peer-Learning Activities (PLA)  

Issue 1, November 2013

Charles Fishman brought vividly to life, through his surprising and mind-changing narrative: “water runs our world in a host of awe-inspiring ways, yet we take it completely for granted. But the era of easy water is over.” Fishman spoke of a host of advances from the simplicity of harvesting rainwater to the brilliant innovations devised by companies such as IBM, GE, and Royal Caribbean that are making impressive breakthroughs in water productivity. Knowing what to do is not the problem. Ultimately, the hardest part is changing our water consciousness.

Charles Fishman writes, “Many civilizations have been crippled or destroyed by an inability to understand water or manage it. We have a huge advantage over the generations of people who have come before us, because we can understand water and we can use it smartly.”

Seven members of the PLA Book Club, having chosen as our first read “The Big Thirst, The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water,” attended the Campus Reading lecture with its author Charles Fishman. Mr. Fishman’s enlightening talk spoke to many examples of excellent and successful choices as well as foolish and even destructive choices that have been made in the name of water and water conservation, its reuse and ensuring enough water for sustainability for business, agriculture, and individuals. His manner of presentation and summation was informative on the global scale, innovations of corporations and city governments, advancement in implementation practices and varieties of solutions, and the hope for the future. The most important statement in summation is “water is local,” its problems and availability depends on local dedication to resolution. The Big Thirst will forever change the way we think about water, about our essential relationship to it, and about the creativity we can bring to ensuring that we’ll always have plenty of it.

*Recommended also: Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, by Marc Reisner*
Our next read “Zealot” by Reza Aslan

For more information on the Book Club, please contact Arlene Miro, yodrmom1@verizon.net

PLA Day Tours

Santa Paula Agricultural Museum: Oct 30th 2013

What a wonderful afternoon the OLLI-PLA Day Trippers had at the Santa Paula Agricultural Museum. On October 30, OLLI members visited the museum and found fascinating new information about one of the most valuable agriculture counties in our state, Ventura County.

The docent, Kevin Genovese, a former graduate of CSUCI, was extremely knowledgeable about the farm tools (tractors, etc.) with histories that stretched back to the beginning of the century. Also, we all thought we knew the agricultural past of Ventura County including the families that contributed to our county’s history, but we all learned so much more. We even found out about BEES!

The museum is two years old and located in an old warehouse that has its own story.

Our Day Tours will be offered again March 2014. If you have a site you wish to visit, please contact: Dan Murphy, dannsue@adelphia.net or Arlene Miro, yodrmom1@verizon.net

OLLI Road Trips

LA Times/Federal Reserve/Bradley Road Trip – November 12th 2013

We learned about the history and lives of the LA Times and its founder, the turbulent times it reported on and its precarious future.

Our day docent kept us busy with continuous commentary on the unique aspects of the “City of Angels,” its downtown architecture, the people who contributed to the arts, held political influence, and whose love of the city left their footprint with magnificent buildings, parks, and cultural centers.

Forty-two OLLI members were lined up, scanned, frisked and allowed into the inner sanctum of the heavily guarded Federal Reserve vaults. We literally sampled the “smell of money,” not an aphorism but the actual aroma.

Awestruck by the seemingly plain exterior of the Bradley Building we stepped silently through its doors to be transported into another world, that of early 20th century Art Nuevo magnificently restored.

Voices from the bus:

Our "paper chase" trip yesterday was great.

Kathleen Constantine
CURRENT AND FUTURE OLLI ROAD TRIPS:

NORTON SIMON – December 5th 2013

![Norton Simon Museum](image)

SOLD OUT

HSI LAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE – FEB 6th 2014

![HSI Lai Buddhist Temple](image)

SOLD OUT

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – March 7th 2014

Hosted by Jerry Clifford

![Griffith Observatory](image)

MISSION: Griffith Observatory inspires everyone to observe, ponder, and understand the sky.

Pack a dinner brown bag or dine at Wolfgang Pucks café until 9 p.m. for an exciting afternoon and evening amid the wonders of Griffith Observatory. Enjoy the “Centered in the Universe” show at 5:15 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. with a dozen docents and telescopes on the lawn for the nighttime observation of the heavens.

We will also have access to the large outdoor telescope that is the hallmark of the observatory.

We leave at approximately 1 p.m. and will return around 10 p.m. You will have free time to visit the many exhibits from 3 p.m. until show time. The cost is $55 and reservations begin January 6th 2014 by calling (805) 437-8583. Clearly leave your name and phone number. Someone will return your call within a day with your trip confirmation and reservation number.

COMING SOON

LA SCIENCE MUSEUM – APRIL 2014 - SILK ROAD EXPEDITION

![La Science Museum](image)

This is a chance to experience the Silk Road as it was 1,000 years ago -- oasis cities, night markets, camel caravans, spice merchants, and ancient science tools devised by sailors and scholars

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY III – JUNE 2014

![Jet Propulsion Laboratory](image)

“To infinity and beyond”