Happy Autumn, Fellow OLLI Folks,

It’s finally beginning to feel a little like…winter, although this year’s seasons have been, to say the least, very confusing. Spring was like summer, summer was like summer, and fall felt an awful (and I do mean awful) lot like summer. December 21 is the official date for the winter solstice, which is the shortest day of the year. I’ll be glad to begin the time travel back to longer days, so that I’m not both arising in the dark and getting dinner ready in the early dusk of late afternoon. Can’t blame this one on El Niño.

As you may know, the Taste of OLLI classes were very appealing and registration was fast and furious. The Winter classes are heading in the same direction, but with openings still available in most classes. Catalogs should have been delivered by now by the USPS to all current students. Check your catalog or website and sign up!

If you have not received one, please call: (805) 437-2748. The Marketing and Outreach committee is also delivering these all around the county at libraries, senior centers, and anywhere we think prospective students will see them.

Thursday, January 21 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM is our annual OLLI-Fest at Las Posas Country Club. This year, to keep costs within reason, we are celebrating mid-week in the late afternoon. More information may be seen within this newsletter, and, of course, we’ll be in touch closer to the date.

One more thing. As we enjoy holidays of giving and receiving, let’s not forget to consider giving a little something…or even a lot of something to OLLI. Your contribution is deductible, so it’s win/win.

Here’s to many more happy OLLI years.

Editor, 
Geri Gretan
Greetings OLLI Members!

I hope that all is well for you as we make our way through the holiday season. I don’t know about you, but this time of year makes me think about the things in life that I am grateful for. While it’s difficult to maintain focus on the important things in our lives when the world seems so chaotic, considering what we have gratitude for in life clarifies the picture.

I am most grateful for my family. I am blessed with a beautiful, kind, loving wife and four incredible children. I am grateful for a challenging job that brings me not only a paycheck, but joy as well. I am grateful for the friends and colleagues I get to interact and work with on a daily basis. I am grateful for the roof over my head, the food on my table and the loving hands that prepare it. I am grateful for the city where I live and for what I am able to provide those that depend on me. I am grateful for my health, and the health of my family and friends.

I am grateful for our OLLI program. That may sound like an obvious “go to” in my OLLI holiday newsletter bit - but it’s true! I have personally witnessed the program allow so many people to continue to live enriched lives. Not only the folks to whom continued learning and growth is a given, but also to the people who for one reason or another had simply stopped doing things altogether. Those who had stopped socializing, stopped developing new thoughts and opinions and relationships. I have met countless OLLI members who at some point in their post retirement lives had decided that they didn’t know what else to do, so they parked themselves in front of the TV, read the paper or a book and simply passed time. At some point though... a friend, or a neighbor, or a family member told them about OLLI. Told them about the classes, the people, the relationships that are formed. Piqued their interest to the point they had to know more. These new folks came with an OLLI friend to try a Taste of OLLI class, or snuck into the back of one of Bill Garlington’s lectures with a buddy. However that initial interaction happened, there are a whole host of people among us that were doing nothing in particular and now because of OLLI are no longer stagnant. We have an ever growing number of people that are learning, thinking, sharing, teaching, volunteering and growing in ways they never knew possible. For THAT, I am grateful!

As we approach the end of 2015 and reflect on the year gone by and the one ahead, I urge you to think about the things you are grateful for. If OLLI turns out to be on your list - be of service, pay it forward and bring a friend to class. They will be forever grateful you did.

Take care and warmest wishes for good health, good cheer and a happy holiday!

Nick Fuentes
2016 OLLI-FEST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21st, 2016
3:00PM-6:00PM
Suggested Donation: $10.00
Gourmet Appetizers/Opportunity Drawing
(We cannot call it a raffle.)

Please note: This year’s event is on a Thursday afternoon, and BJ is OK with you leaving a few minutes early from his class at CI that day. Again this year, we’ll have plenty of opportunities to meet and greet folks you have wanted to reach out to in classes. There is a suggested donation of $10.00 Cash, but we won’t make a fuss if you decide to donate more. There will also be an “Opportunity Drawing” for a piece of fine art donated by our fellow student, artist Fran Elson.
Taste of OLLI is Full!

Four Fascinating Favors Snapped Up! Early registration is imperative! Look for classes like these in the Winter Session and sign up ASAP

Comparison of Healthcare Systems Between US & Europe

Anatomy Of A Murder  
Cuba 101

Marcus Aurelius at Google
Goldstone Deep Space Network Communications Complex was the culmination of our previous triad of OLLI space tours. We have seen the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) where space communications start and end, and we have seen Vandenberg AFB where satellites are launched. We also have seen the space shuttle Endeavor at the California Science Center.

After lunch and a root-beer float at Peggy Sue’s Diner, we drove 40 miles north of Barstow to Fort Irwin Army base in the Mojave Desert, where Goldstone is situated in a series of valleys in the remote Calico Mountains. The bowl-shaped depressions shield the sensitive antennas from radio interference. It was a delightful, sunny day with no wind, which is rare.

Following our exuberant guide Leslie, our first stop was the Apollo site with three 112-ft diameter antennas, looking like giant satellite TV dishes on steroids. Some of us got to see one of the dishes come alive and begin slewing from upright resting position to face the SOHO satellite gathering Sun data. The two other antennas were arrayed together listening to Voyager 1 which, at the edge of our solar system, has a signal less than a billionth of a billionth of a watt.

Next we went to the big daddy of antenna at the Mars site, a 230-ft diameter dish – taller than a 24 story building. Leslie explained that the 8.5-million pound dish floats on a thin film of hydraulic fluid. After Leslie described the two high-power transmission horns and the cryo-cooled receivers, most people were more interested in the raptor nest wedged into the dish’s erector-set-like super-structure.

At the Mars site we also saw the signal processing center where 4 persons work 24-7 sending commands from JPL to the satellites and then receiving the data and transferring it back to JPL. Most of the work is automated so it looked like a good place to work on crossword puzzles or check e-mail. Goldstone is one of three DSN complexes, along with Madrid, Spain, and Canberra, Australia, to provide continuous communications “As the World Turns”.

Our third stop was at an outdoor museum with pieces from old antenna and an indoor museum with photos showing the history of Goldstone. Leaving Fort Irwin, some Goldstone burros made a photo appearance. Our long drive home was filed with ZZZs, interrupted by Ann’s Halloween treats and Stephanie’s Toll House cookies. We may try

Contributed by Dr. Jerry Clifford
"As we left Goldstone, we saw rocks near Fort Irwin’s entrance painted with the insignias of the many companies of soldiers who have come to the National Training Center since 1980. The NTC replicates conditions of combat areas where the troops will be sent. The Army’s 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the Blackhorse Cavalry, provide the mock enemy forces, complete with uniforms and equipment. For Afghanistan and Iraq, mock towns with mosques, hotels and traffic circles are filled with Arabic-speaking actors in native garb playing villagers, street vendors and insurgents. It was moving to see the number and beauty of the painted rocks, signifying lives on the line for our country. We memorialized our visit to Goldstone here."
“When conflict between rich and emerging economies threatened to derail UN climate talks in Lima last month, one six-word phrase put them back on track.
It was the same words used by the US and China in November’s historic joint pact to cut emissions: “In light of different national circumstances.”
The author of this formula, Susan Biniaz, keeps a low profile. But as lead climate change lawyer for the US State Department, she will play a critical role securing a global deal in Paris this December.
Biniaz spoke to RTCC about the ups and downs of more than 25 years working on the legal puzzles of climate change.” By Megan Darby

What an honor it was to have Celina and Binny’s daughter, Susan, speak to OLLI students about the challenges of dealing with varied cultures on international issues, including climate change.
Geri Gretan and Carol Evans (above, obviously) are retiring and replaced by Jerry Clifford and Dan Murphy (below) as Members At Large on the Steering Committee. Their commitment for three years, promises to provide lots of original ideas and fresh input into our growing OLLI program.
You probably thought you knew the identity of Carol Evans. I certainly did. The fact of the matter is that OLLI CI has two students with the same name. This is news you can use. As for me, this is one less name to remember. Every little bit helps.

OLLI’s ubiquitous Marketing and Outreach Committee introduced numerous local seniors to our program at the annual Senior Expo held on the CSUCI campus. We handed out brochures and took names and contact numbers for folks who expressed interest in receiving our winter catalogs.
“Passport To Art” classes at Studio Channel Islands Art Center.
Be The Person
Your Dog
Thinks You Are.

Herbie the Therapy Dog