

OLLI Insider

Volume 22 (December 2024)



Dear OLLI Community,

We wish you a wonderful holiday season. As we approach the New Year, we thank you for being part of our OLLI program through the celebrations and challenges of 2024. We are committed to supporting our community of lifelong learners and look forward to another fruitful and fulfilling year of growth, discovery, and connection.

With 2025 just around the corner, so is registration for our Spring I session! The catalog for the Spring I session is available on our [CSUCI OLLI](#) website. [Registration](#) for the Spring I session opens on January 6th at 8:30 am and the session runs from January 21st – March 7th. The Spring I session features 12 courses taught by a great mix of instructors, some new and some familiar favorites. Check out the Spring I calendar below and view the full class descriptions in our catalog!

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #	Start Date
Mon	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Unpacking the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Context and History (Instructor: Wilcox)	6	1001	1/27
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Music Education: De-Mystifying Music Theory (Instructor: Moyer)	6	1002	1/27
Tues	10am-12pm	CSUCI (In-Person Only)	The Language of Rocks (Instructor: French)	6	1003	1/21
	10am-12pm	Zoom	Introduction to the Humanities of the Middle East (Instructor: Purath)	6	1004	1/21
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Natural Products in Human Health (Instructor: Awad)	3	1005	1/21
	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Protect Yourself from Marketing by Understanding How Marketing Works (Instructor: Norris)	3	1006	2/11
Wed	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Polymers, Plastics, Petroleum, oh my! (Instructor: Ferguson)	6	1007	1/29
	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Turkey at the Crossroads of Civilization (Instructor: HageI)	6	1008	1/29
Thurs	10am-12pm	Zoom	Architecture and Design in the Reign of 16th-19th Century Rulers (Instructor: Schrader)	6	1009	1/23
	1-3pm	Zoom	The Spread of Western Genocidal Colonialism (Instructor: Hensley)	6	1010	1/23
Fri	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Qigong for Self-Healing (Instructor: Fan)	6	1011	1/31
	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Escape From Berlin! (The Nazis' Gift to Hollywood) (Instructor: Weisman)	6	1012	1/24

Meet David Rensin

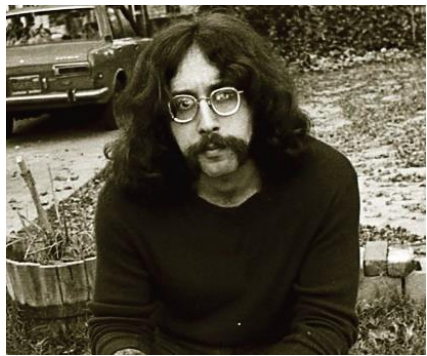
Perhaps you've noticed a student at OLLI classes in Ventura or Camarillo who resembles Albert Einstein?

"Yeah, I get that a lot," says David Rensin, a widely published author, coauthor, and interviewer who has been with OLLI for over eight years. "The closest I come is my middle name: Albert. Still, I've heard it from flight attendants, shoppers at Trader Joe's, and strangers who think I might not have heard it before. It's fun."

David was born in New York City and raised in Teaneck, New Jersey, until his family moved to Northridge, California, when he was 14. "We left the East Coast on February 7, 1964, the same day the Beatles arrived for their first American tour." After high school he went to Cal State Northridge, hoping to become a surgeon, until the idea of scalpels, blood, and 8am biology class proved unappealing. Instead, he graduated in 1972 with a degree in Political Science.



David also took Journalism classes, and hung out at the school newspaper, doing music reviews and features, and his own music column. By the time he left, David was freelancing for Rolling Stone and many other music magazines. The reward: free concert tickets, records, and dating opportunities. Throughout the 1970s he profiled major rock bands, interviewed singers and songwriters both famous or just starting out, industry types, and loved going on the road. By then he was usually told he bore a passing resemblance to John Lennon, which, he says, "came in handy."



Eschewing a traditional office job, David committed to the writer's life. In the early 1980s he became a Contributing Editor of Playboy, specializing in the widely regarded Playboy Interview. He also contributed to Esquire, TV Guide, California Magazine, Coast Magazine, Crawdaddy, the Los Angeles Times, Vanity Fair, Premiere, and other outlets he's long forgotten.

In 1991, he and his friend, the late and esteemed Bill Zehme, co-wrote "The Bob Book," a best-selling, humorous celebration of the ultimate okay guy. He has since authored or co-authored 16 books, with seven appearing on the New York Times bestseller list. They include books with comedians such as Tim Allen, Chris Rock, Garry Shandling, as well as show business super-manager, Bernie Brillstein. Other notable works include coauthoring WWII hero Louis Zamperini's extraordinary autobiography "Devil at My Heels," -- years before "Unbroken" -- and Zamperini's life-lessons book, "Don't Give Up, Don't Give In." He also collaborated on "The Men on My Couch," Dr. Brandy Engler's fly-on-wall memoir of her first year as a psychotherapist counselling only men

about sex and love. On his own, David wrote “All for a Few Perfect Waves,” a widely lauded oral biography of legendary surfer Miki Dora, and “The Mailroom,” an oral history about generations of entertainment industry players who started at the bottom in Hollywood, dreaming of the top—and often succeeding.

Although he surfed at “C Street” and “Surfers Point” ages ago, David and his wife, Suzie, forsook the Valley traffic 12 years ago and moved to “paradise, meaning Ventura.” Their son, Emmett, is also a writer and author, now completing a doctorate in English literature at CUNY. In his spare time, David enjoys sentimental memories of surfing, dreaming about an uncluttered home, and fantasizing about who he might resemble next. Meanwhile, David looks forward to continuing with OLLI, where, he says, “the great classes, multi-talented instructors, and fellow students with their own fascinating stories, are a perfect fit.” For more on his writings, visit www.tellmeeverything.com.

Upcoming Events

Camarillo Ranch House



On December 18th, OLLI members will have an opportunity to visit the Camarillo Ranch House for a Docent-led tour. The house will be fully decorated for the Holidays at this time. This self-drive tour will cost \$12 and include a lunch on the Ranch House grounds. The Camarillo Ranch House Tour is currently sold out.

Getty Villa Tour

On January 9, 2025, the OLLI members will have the opportunity to visit the Getty Villa to view their latest exhibit: “Ancient Thrace and the Classical World: Treasures from Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece”. The exhibit displays superb gold, silver, and bronze works used in aristocratic pursuits, such as warfare, horsemanship, and banqueting by a tribal culture from ancient Thrace circa 300 BCE. In preparation for the tour, Scott Jones will give a free Zoom lecture on January 7th, 2025. Registration for the Getty tour opens on December 4th. Registration for the free seminar opens on December 6th.



Ventura County Forensic Laboratory



On January 15, 2025, OLLI Events team has organized a tour of Ventura County Forensic Sciences Laboratory. The Ventura County Crime Lab tour is currently sold out. There will be a free seminar on Forensic Science on January 14th. Registration for the free seminar on Forensic Science opens on December 10th.

Be a Spring I Session Ambassador – It’s Fun! It’s Easy!

We need 12 ambassadors for the Spring I session. As an ambassador, you will have the opportunity to welcome your fellow OLLI students in person or on Zoom and get to know them better. You will also introduce the instructor at the beginning of class. OLLI staff will let you know if there are any announcements. That’s it for being an ambassador! Please contact OLLI@csuci.edu to join the fun!

*Wishing you all an incredibly
Happy Holiday Season!*