

# OLLI Insider

## Volume 23 (February 2025)



Dear OLLI Community,

Soon it will be time for Spring II session registration. The catalog for the Spring II session is available on our [CSUCI OLLI](#) website. [Registration](#) for the Spring II session opens on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am and the session runs from March 24<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Spring II session features 11 OLLI at CSUCI courses taught by a great mix of instructors, some new and some familiar favorites, as well as 3 additional courses through a new partnership with Osher Online! Check out the Spring II calendar below and view the full class descriptions in our catalog! Learn more about Osher Online on the next page!

### Spring II OLLI at CSUCI Courses

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #	Start Date
Mon	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Great Cities of South America (Instructor: Clark)	6	1001	3/24
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	California's Coastal Imaginary: Management of Our Coast in Three Acts (Instructor: Anderson)	3	1002	4/14
Tues	10am-12pm	Zoom	Russian Classical Music I: 19th Century Composers (Instructor: Kendall Bailey)	6	1003	3/25
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Ingenious Empire: The Technology That Built Ancient Rome (Instructor: Jones)	6	1004	3/25
Wed	10am-12pm	CSUCI (In-Person Only)	Edible and Medicinal Plants of the CSUCI Campus (Instructor: Kaufer)	3	1005	3/26
	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Eyewitness to History (Instructor: Davis)	3	1006	4/16
	1-3pm	Zoom	The Modern Middle East After World War II: Fundamentals Everyone Should Know (Instructor: Day)	6	1007	3/26
Thurs	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Classical Greek Philosophy from Socrates to Stoicism (Instructor: Garlington)	6	1008	3/27
	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Stuart Dynasty: Shakespeare's Common Folk (Instructor: O'Rourke)	6	1009	3/27
Fri	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	The Connection between Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes (Instructor: Ridenour)	6	1010	3/28
	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Dance and Somatic Education (Instructor: Lavin Hughes)	6	1011	3/28

## Introducing a new partnership with Osher Online!

OLLI at CSUCI is excited to announce a new partnership with Osher Online, a program of courses run by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC)! Osher Online partners with OLLI programs around the country to provide an exciting selection of online courses to supplement and complement each OLLI's in-house offerings. We are thrilled to expand our curriculum through this partnership, which will provide you with even more opportunities to engage in enriching courses at different times of the day and connect with members from other OLLIs nationwide. In addition to our Spring II OLLI at CSUCI courses, we will be offering 3 Osher Online Zoom courses, which will be managed by Osher NRC staff. Please review the Spring II Catalog for answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding Osher Online.

### Spring 2025 Osher Online Courses

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #	Start Date
Mon	4-5:30pm	Zoom	Bonsai, An Ancient Art in Modern Times (Instructor: Baker)	6	1013	3/31
Tues	8:30-9am	Zoom	Mainstreaming the Margins: A History of LGBTQ+ America (Instructor: Kocurek)	6	1014	4/1
Wed	4-5:30pm	Zoom	Car Crazy: 1950s Onward (Instructor: Paúl)	6	1015	4/9

### Meet Geri Gretan

When OLLI sends out notices to members about our Events, they are always accompanied by beautifully designed flyers. Who creates many of those striking and original designs? It's OLLI member Geri Gretan.

Geri was born in Pontiac, Michigan, and her family relocated to the Los Angeles area in search of better job opportunities. She grew up in the San Fernando valley before moving to Thousand Oaks, where she attended the newly built Camarillo High School, graduating as part of its second class.

She enrolled at UC Santa Barbara with an intention to study Zoology, but she later changed her focus, graduating from Ventura College with a degree in Nursing. While studying, she was raising her two young sons as a single mother.



In her professional nursing career, Geri supervised the emergency room at Westlake Community Hospital, working with an innovative Mobile Intensive Care team. After 30 years of service, she

retired. Geri then turned her attention to art; starting with watercolors and then evolving to collages. Geri has participated in many local art shows.

Geri had met Dr. Fred Gretan during a pre-high school physical exam. Years later, their paths crossed again and eventually they married. Geri and Fred took up skiing, biking and kayaking, while traveling the nation in their RV. There were also cruises and bus trips, including a memorable tour along the Hudson River.

In 2005 Geri and Fred became enthusiastic members of the first classes of the newly established OLLI at CSUCI. While enjoying the diverse and unique subjects that were offered at OLLI, they formed lifelong friendships with fellow OLLI students and teachers. Geri was one of the early volunteers of OLLI as part of the “Recruiting” committee to attract new members to OLLI.

Fred and Geri were happily married for 42 years until Fred’s passing a few years ago. Today, Geri is a proud mother of two sons and has three grandchildren, as well as a stepmother to three stepsons with nine step-grandchildren. She lives in University Village in Thousand Oaks, where she spends time in the art club, assists in hospitality and collaborates with caregivers.

## Upcoming Events

### Haas Automation Inc., Oxnard

On March 4, 2025, the OLLI Events Team arranged a repeat tour of Haas Automation Inc. facility located at 2800 Sturgis Road in Oxnard. This self-driving tour is limited to 11 persons. Haas Automation manufactured their first automated machine tool builder in 1980. Currently, they are the largest manufacturer of automated machines for machine tooling in the United States. Registration for this tour is currently closed. Please email [olli@csuci.edu](mailto:olli@csuci.edu) if you’d like to be added to the waitlist.



### OLLI Spring 2025 Open House



Enjoy a morning of learning and socializing at OLLI's Spring 2025 Open House on Thursday, March 13th from 10am-12pm at Studio Channel Islands Art Center and on Zoom. Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join us for a free one-hour lecture and information session about OLLI! It's a great way to experience what we offer and meet our amazing community. Refreshments will be provided. Please share widely! Registration for Zoom or in-person attendance is available on the [events page of our website](#).

## Zoo at Moorpark College



The Events team has coordinated with Moorpark College to present two tours of the Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College on March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Teaching Zoo serves as the “Living Classroom” for the students of the Animal Care and Training Program. These are drive-yourself tours. Please email [olli@csuci.edu](mailto:olli@csuci.edu) if you’d like to be added to the waitlist.

## Spring Time at Descanso Gardens!

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, OLLI members will have the opportunity to take a bus trip to Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge to see the spring flowers in bloom! Participants will enjoy a self-guided walking tour of the gardens. The tour will be followed by lunch on your own at Porto’s Bakery in Northridge. Registration opens February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.



## Visit to A Hindu Temple and A Mosque



OLLI Events team has arranged a tour of the Hindu Temple in Malibu and the Islamic Center in Thousand Oaks on April 5, 2024. This tour by bus will be accompanied by Dr. Bill Garlington, who will provide background on the Hindu and Islamic religions during the tour. Registration opens on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

