



OLLI Insider

Volume 27 (November 2025)

Season's Greetings OLLI members! We have several exciting program updates to share with you. First, the long-awaited opening of our new Extended University classroom in Shasta Hall is fast approaching! We can't wait to start holding classes and welcome you to this new space starting in Spring I 2026.

Also, as you may have noticed, we have a new, improved, and expanded Spring I 2026 catalog. We are thrilled to be partnering with a publication company that provides ads from reputable, local businesses that are relevant to our OLLI community. The new catalog design also comes with ample page space, allowing us to include information about all our OLLI program offerings in one comprehensive publication. Because of this, Volume 27 will be the final edition of the OLLI Insider newsletter. We wholeheartedly thank our incredible Communication Team Chair, Purna Pai, for his creativity and dedication to producing dozens of informative and inspiring issues of the OLLI Insider over the years.

You can view our new Spring I catalog on our [CSUCI OLLI](https://www.csuci.edu/olli) website. [Registration](#) for Spring I begins on January 12th, 2026, and the session runs from January 26th through March 6th.

In further exciting news, we will be piloting 2 and 4-week courses in addition to 3 and 6-week courses starting in Spring I 2026. We are also thrilled to announce that we will be expanding to two new classroom locations: Dos Vientos Community Center in Newbury Park and Pleasant Valley Senior Center in Camarillo.

As a benefit of your membership with OLLI at CSUCI, you also have the opportunity to register for 17 additional Zoom courses through Osher Online, which begin in March! Check out the Spring I calendar on the next page and view the full class descriptions in our catalog!

OSHER
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at CSU Channel Islands
OLLI is the Joy of Learning

Spring I 2026

Registration Opens:
January 12th

Session Dates:
January 26th - March 6th

California State University
CHANNEL ISLANDS

(805) 437-2748

go.csuci.edu/olli

OLLI@csuci.edu

Scan the QR code to find out more!

CALENDAR OVERVIEW – OLLI AT CSUCI

Day	Start Date	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
Mon	1/26	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Key Controversies in American History: Interpretations, Politics, and Revisionism Part II (Instructor: Wilcox)	3	1001
	2/16	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Clash of the Titans: Greeks, Persians, and Turks (Instructor: Jones & Poyraz)	3	1002
	1/26	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	The Building of a Movement: Narratives of Resistance & Memory in Chicana/o History (Instructor: Luna)	6	1003
Tues	1/27	10am-12pm	Zoom	Russian Composers II: Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, and Stravinsky (Instructor: Kendall Bailey)	6	1004
	1/27	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Quilts: The American Woman's Voice (Instructor: O'Rourke)	4	1005
Wed	1/28	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Crime as a Teaching Tool (Instructor: Redding)	2	1006
	2/11	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	The Monarch's Future: What You Need to Know and Do (Instructor: Amendt)	3	1007
	1/28	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Pictures On Stone: Rock Art in the Paleolithic and Ancient World (Instructor: Curtis)	6	1008
Thurs	2/5	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	The Decorative Arts of Asia: China, Japan, Korea, India, and Indonesia (Instructor: Schrader)	6	1009
	1/29	1-3pm	Zoom	Proud as a Peacock: NBC at 100 (1926-2026) (Instructor: McKairnes)	6	1010
Fri	1/30	10am-12pm	DVC (In-person only)	The Religious Origins of American Identity 1750-1850 (Instructor: Cipkowski)	3	1011
	2/20	10am-12pm	DVC (In-person only)	Berthe Weill: The "Mother Dealer" of the Avant-Garde (Instructor: Maasdam)	2	1012
	1/30	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Where Babies Come From: Ethical and Legal Considerations with Advances in Reproductive Technology (Instructor: Mack)	4	1013
	2/27	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	The Making of Teddy Roosevelt (Instructor: Gooch)	2	1014
	1/30	1-3pm	PVSC (In-Person Only)	Dance Fit (Instructor: Lavin Huges)	6	1015

CSUCI – California State University Channel Islands

COLV – The Colleges of Law, Ventura

SCIART – Studio Channel Islands Art Center

GACC – Goebel Adult Community Center

DVC – Dos Vientos Community Center

PVSC – Pleasant Valley Senior Center

Please see course descriptions for specific course dates.

Meet Elaine Martinez

Elaine Martinez is one of the most enthusiastic OLLI volunteers, who works on the Membership Committee of the OLLI Advisory committee. Elaine's family has been a longtime resident in California. Her ancestors traveled to California from New Mexico along the Old Spanish Trail in 1830's. She was born in Inglewood, CA, in a Mercury station wagon when her mother was on her way to the hospital to give birth! Elaine grew up in Lakewood, CA and enjoyed playing in the Lakewood High School band.



Even though Elaine had the opportunity to attend college she had to join the workforce as a typist to help raise her young family, at times holding more than one job. Eventually, she persevered and rose through the ranks to work as an administrative management professional at McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing). Following that, Elaine worked in the University of California System and finally, with the County of Ventura, from which she retired as the Chief Operating Officer of the Administrative Services Division of the Behavioral Health Department. All through her professional career, Elaine took management courses that would help her advance her career.

After retirement, about seven years ago, Elaine came upon an advertisement, which attracted her to OLLI. She has always been interested in the constructive interaction of classroom experience, which OLLI has given her. Initially, she enjoyed being a member and taking classes, but eventually wanted to be more involved and thus became a volunteer with the Membership Committee. Some of the classes Elaine has enjoyed include, Roman Technology, Russian Music, The Brain, and Qi Gong.

Elaine currently lives in Ventura with her husband John, with whom she enjoys playing golf at Saticoy Club. In her spare time, she also enjoys playing piano, gardening with native plants, birdwatching, weekend wine trips with friends, and hiking in Sierra Nevada mountains. In addition to volunteering on the Membership committee, Elaine volunteers with Old Spanish Trail Association and Ventura Botanical Gardens. She says, "My interest in lifelong learning will likely keep me involved with OLLI for many years to come".

OLLI Members Visit Portugal



OLLI members embarked on a rich journey through Portugal, beginning in Lisbon with its historic Alfama district and the grand Jerónimos Monastery. In Belem, they discovered the nation's maritime legacy at iconic monuments and scenic riverside walks. The culinary adventure included sampling traditional pastéis de Belem at renowned local bakeries. The group explored Evora's Roman Temple and Chapel of Bones, delving into the city's layered history. Coastal Nazare offered stunning Atlantic vistas and tales of local fishermen. Sintra's vibrant palaces and lush gardens inspired awe,

while Queluz highlighted the elegant Queluz National Palace. In Porto, members toured the lively Ribeira, Livraria Lello, and renowned wine cellars. Guimaraes, the "cradle of Portugal," impressed with its medieval castle and workshops on national origins. In Braga, the Bom Jesus do Monte sanctuary and ancient squares reflected religious and cultural diversity. The adventure ended in Aveiro, where picturesque



canals and ovos moles pastries provided a sweet finale. Each destination offered unique insights into the country's past and present, leaving members with lasting

memories and a greater appreciation for Portuguese culture.



Upcoming Events

Free OLLI Open House at Dos Vientos Community Center – December 12th, 2025



OLLI is expanding to Newbury Park! Invite a friend, family member or neighbor to join us for a morning of learning and socializing at our new classroom location in Dos Vientos Community Center! Enjoy an information session about the OLLI program and a one-hour lecture with Scott Jones, *The Ancient Clash of Titans That Still Shapes Today's World*! This is a free event and parking is free. Breakfast pastries will be provided. [Register on our Events Page!](#)

Free OLLI Open House at CSUCI – January 13th, 2026



Join us on Tuesday, January 13th for a grand opening of our new Extended University classroom in Shasta Hall! Stacey Hart Rivera, Manager of Operations for the National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, will be giving a guest talk Osher National, Osher Online, and highlight where OLLI at CSUCI fits into the bigger OLLI picture. You'll also have the opportunity to tour the new classroom and purchase a CSUCI Student ID card! There will be free parking available. Registration information will be provided as the date approaches.

Forest Lawn Museum Tour – January 15th, 2026



On January 15, 2026, OLLI members will have the opportunity to join Eleanor Schrader at Forest Lawn Museum for a special guided tour, including some areas that are not open to the public and one of the largest collections of stained glass. Members will visit two Judson Studios, viewing their work, restorations, and Tiffany glass. This Museum in the Los Angeles area is famed for its stunning blend of art, architecture, and serene landscape. Its chapels and mausoleums feature world-class stained-glass windows that rival those of Europe's great cathedrals.

This event is currently sold out.

Shared Interest Groups

We are thrilled to have launched Shared Interest Groups (SIGs), a new program initiative that provides more opportunities for OLLI members to connect and learn together outside of classes! SIGs are member organized and led groups formed around a common interest or hobby. These groups are informal, social, and fun. They're a wonderful way to meet people who share your passions and create new connections in our OLLI community, and they are free to join with OLLI membership. [Please visit our website](#) to learn more about SIGs, propose a new group, or join a group!

Current SIGs available to join:

- Channel Islands Interest Group
- Beer Research Group (waitlist only)
- Silver Lotus Yoga
- International Traditions Collaborative: Skills, Crafts and Stories from Around the World
- Community Singing for Social Activation and Personal Healing
- Mah Jong Group
- Laughter Wellness Group
- Qigong Breathwork
- Women's Group
- Explorations in Wine

You can learn more about these SIGs and join them on our [SIG Directory](#)!

Call for Volunteers - Make your mark on OLLI at CSUCI!

Do you have great ideas for local day trips or a knack for event planning? Do you want to be a part of growing our volunteer base? Our volunteer support directly contributes to the strength and vitality of our program. Volunteering with OLLI not only makes a positive impact on our program and community – it is also a meaningful way to stay socially connected outside of the classroom and develop long lasting friendships.

You can learn more about our Volunteer Teams and Leadership positions on our [Volunteer page](#) and connect with our current Volunteer Team Chair by filling out the [Volunteer Interest form](#) on our website. We'd love to help you find a role that aligns with your skills, strengths, and interests!

