

# OLLI Insider

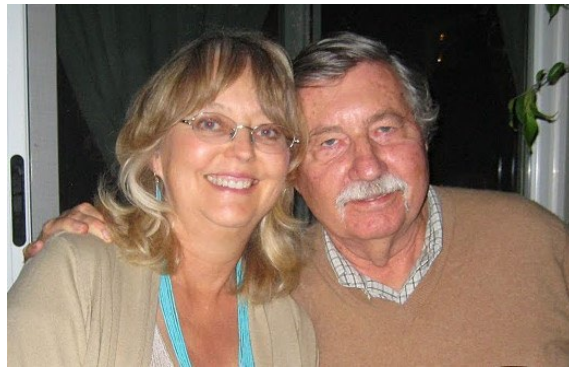
## Volume 18 (March 2024)



Welcome to Spring everyone! We hope you are enjoying the interesting and educational Spring II session. Also, we have assembled a great Taste of Summer program which will be unveiled in April. Registration for Summer Taste opens on May 28<sup>th</sup>, so stay tuned!

### Meet Brent and Marsha Meeker

Brent and Marsha have been involved with the OLLI since 2008. Both as students, but Brent as an instructor as well. Brent grew up in Texas and attended the University of Texas (UT) and graduated with a degree in Physics in 1962. He did further graduate work for 4 years at UT starting in 1972. He also received a master's degree in computer science from UC Santa Barbara in 1989. He came to work at the Point Mugu Naval Base in 1962 as a Physicist and



Engineer and stayed with the Navy for forty years until his retirement in 2002. During his career, Brent and his colleagues developed a method for performing environmental reliability tests on missiles and developed facilities for testing missiles for long durations simulating various flight conditions. This allowed them to look for reliability weaknesses in missile design and manufacture. Later in his career, Brent also worked on a project to determine whether civilian telephone repeaters used by emergency services such as fire department would interfere with a planned warfare simulation at Point Mugu and concluded that there would be no interference.

Marsha grew up in Oregon. She attended Oregon State University (OSU) and graduated with a degree in Engineering Physics and Mechanical Engineering. She was among the first two females receiving such degrees at the OSU in 1972. Upon graduation, Marsha joined the US Navy as a civil servant, where she analyzed the field data for the reliability of the missile systems. Marsha was among the first in the nation to do data mining to determine the health of the weapon systems. Subsequently, she taught other engineers in the Navy nationwide, the method of data mining and analysis to determine the health and reliability of the weapon system. During her career Marsha distinguished herself as an expert in this field, which was a great accomplishment, especially for a woman, since there were very few women involved in this type of work in the Navy.

Marsha and Brent met while working at Point Mugu and were married in 1979. They have two children and six grandchildren. Brent is a long-time motorcycle racing enthusiast and was 2008 Champion in the 2-stroke Production class series. Marsha has her Master Gardener credentials from a program affiliated with UC Davis. She has taught other Master Gardeners in this program about propagation of plants and all about succulents. In addition to gardening, Marsha enjoys home crafts, all kinds of arts and working with clay and babysitting for her granddaughter. Both Brent and Marsha love taking care of their three dogs.

Marsha and Brent continue to be involved with OLLI to keep socially active and expand their knowledge. Brent has taught OLLI classes on subjects including Theory of Relativity, Global Warming, Quantum Mechanics, and Artificial Intelligence. He has indicated that he would be interested in revisiting one of these topics for the newer OLLI audience soon.

## **OLLI members visit Arabian Kingdoms**

In late February and early March, seventeen OLLI members embarked on an enriching journey through Qatar, the UAE, and Oman. In Doha, Qatar, they explored the vibrant blend of modernity and tradition, visiting landmarks like the Qatar National Library and experiencing the bustling Souq Waqif. At the Katara Cultural Village, they delved into Qatari heritage, culminating in a visit to the stunning Museum of Islamic Art.





Transitioning to the UAE, they marveled at the architectural wonders of Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and Dubai's iconic Burj Khalifa. They also engaged in unique experiences such as visiting a falcon hospital and enjoying a desert safari with falconry, camel rides, and a traditional dinner under the stars. Dubai offered them a glimpse into the future at the Museum of the Future, along with unexpected delights like skiing in a mall.



In Oman, they explored historic sites like Nizwa's Jabreen Castle and cattle market, Muscat's Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, and the Royal Opera House. They bargained for treasures at Muttrah Souq and ventured into the lush greenery of Wadi Tiwi. Ending their journey with a visit to Sur's Dhow yard and the National Museum of Oman, they departed with memories of a truly unforgettable adventure.

## OLLI Applebee's 'FUN' Raiser a Success!

### ***Applebee's FUNraiser 2024***



On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the OLLI Events team put on a successful breakfast 'FUN' raiser at Applebee's in Camarillo. We sold 133 tickets, and 70 attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, coffee, and juice, while enjoying a fulfilling morning of social connection. OLLI Volunteers had fun serving as hosts and waitstaff for our guests, and everyone went home with full hearts and bellies. The event raised over \$500 to support future OLLI events! Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a huge success! We are grateful for your support.

## Upcoming Event

### **Santa Barbara Zoo**



The OLLI Events Team has planned a repeat trip to Santa Barbara Zoo on May 29, 2024. The tour of the zoo will include a small group of OLLI members who will get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes operation of the zoo.

Registration opens on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. Please note that there are only a limited number of seats available. This event is open to members who were not able to attend last year.

## **Donating to OLLI**

This year we are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OLLI Program at CSUCI. We are grateful to our students and excited to be celebrating this milestone. If you have enjoyed our classes and the friendships you have made with other lifelong learners, please consider donating to OLLI to enhance the exciting new programs we are considering for the future and keep our program going strong for the next 20 years and beyond. Here are some of the many ways in which your donations can be used to support OLLI at CSU Channel Islands:

- Instructor honorariums
- Accessibility
- Technology
- Classroom support
- Social events
- Free seminars
- Local field trips
- OLLI student scholarship needs

### **How do I give?**

- Online. Donate online by visiting: <https://www.csuci.edu/giving/causes/osher-lifelong-learning-inst.htm>
- Phone. Call 1-805-437-3683 to arrange a secure payment over the phone.
- Mail. Send a check (addressed to "CSUCI Foundation" with "OLLI" noted in memo line) to CSU Channel Islands Foundation, One University Drive, Camarillo, CA 93012.
- Planned Giving. To learn more about planned giving or to set up a legacy gift through your will or trust, call CSUCI Advancement at 1-805-437-3615.