

OLLI Insider

Volume 12 (March 2023)



Hello everyone, welcome to spring! OLLI Spring II session is almost upon us, and we are extremely excited to offer Spring II classes via zoom and in person at SCIART in Camarillo, Broome Library on campus, and at two new locations, the College of Law in Ventura (COLV) and the Greater Canejo Valley Chamber of Commerce in Thousand Oaks (GCVOC). Spring II session has diverse offerings to illuminate curious minds.

Spring II Session Schedule

We hope you are ready for an exciting lineup of classes for Spring II. Here are some highlights of the courses.

- Clifford Wilcox will explore contributions of Jewish women in America from colonial times to the present.
- Charlene O’Rourke will present the 17th century Stuart dynasty in England with soap opera lives -- courageous or cowardly, bawdy, or priggish, but always fascinating.
- Closer to home, Theresa Avila will investigate the history of Ventura County through the lens of agrarian labor.
- Bill Garlington will trace the history of ten major psychoanalysts from Freud to the development of existential analysis.

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
Mon	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	What About Fascism? Lessons from the 20th Century (Instructor: Jared Day)	6	1001
	1 PM to 3 PM	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Jewish Women and the Shaping of America (Instructor: Clifford Wilcox)	6	1002
Tues	10 AM to 12 PM	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	From Freud to Yalom: Ten Major Psychoanalysts (Instructor: Bill Garlington)	6	1003
	1 PM to 3 PM	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	The Stuart Dynasty Soap Opera (Instructor: Charlene O’Rourke)	6	1004
Wed	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	Exotic Revival Architecture (Instructor: Eleanor Schrader)	6	1005
	1 PM to 3 PM	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Ventura County Agrarian Labor History (Instructor: Theresa Avila)	6	1006
Thurs	10 AM to 12 PM	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Energy to Medicine - Our Nuclear Age (Instructor: Jerry Clifford)	6	1007
	1 PM to 3 PM	GCVOC/ In-Person Only	Billy Wilder and Preston Sturgis: Writers Changing Hollywood (Instructor: Matthew Weisman)	6	1008
Fri	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	Everything to Know About Musicals (Instructor: Sam and Candy Caponegro)	6	1009
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	History of the Civil Rights Movement (Instructor: Jason Hensley)	6	1010

Registration for Spring II session begins on March 6th. The Spring II Catalog and registration information is available at [CSUCI OLLI](https://www.csuci.edu/olli).

Meet Patricia Distad – An Enthusiastic OLLI Volunteer

Have you been on the OLLI Garden tour last Spring and wondered who organized these tours? It is the events committee including Patricia Distad, a long-time OLLI student and a volunteer from Camarillo.



Pat is a native Californian. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Cultural Anthropology and went on to receive elementary and secondary teaching credentials. She taught Special Education at Somis School for 6 years.

After her marriage to John, a Navy Pilot at the time at Point Mugu, they settled in Somis, where Pat developed a small Arabian horse breeding program and was elected President of the Conejo Valley Arabian Horse Association. She then had an opportunity to work for David Murdock's Ventura Farms for 17 years in their Arabian Horse Division managing various programs.

It was the tragic death of a horse trainer friend, which got Pat involved in the activities of Camarillo Hospice where she became a board member in

1996. It was here, Pat and her associate, Anita McDermott, co-chaired the first garden tour and this year marks the tour's 25 Year celebration! Pat continues to assist in finding gardens for the tour and writes the brochure descriptions.

Pat has always been interested in historic buildings. In 1998, when the City of Camarillo acquired Adolfo Camarillo's Victorian ranch home and formed the Camarillo Ranch Foundation, Pat served for 7 years as a Board member. During this period, she was involved in the renovation project to recapture the heyday of the ranch at the turn of the 20th century. For her vision and leadership during this project, Pat was honored as the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year in 2002. The ranch is currently used as a museum, for youth education, and for rented events.



An ardent art lover, Pat is also a proud author of a teen novel called *Island Girl*, which was inspired by her granddaughters, and illustrated by her son Dodge. As a result of this novel, Pat developed an art program for students at Somis School called "Art Tuesdays", which she taught for 5 years along with a group of volunteers, until the beginning of the pandemic.

Pat has been an OLLI student for 17 years. Along the way she has formed a circle of close friends about whom she says, “We are like so many OLLI students. We share our journeys, lend our support when needed, meet for events, travel to far off places, and take classes in our specialties as well as in things we know nothing about, yet”.

OLLI Members visit the Huntington Gardens and the Getty Villa

On January 9th, OLLI members visited Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens



in San Marino. The visitors enjoyed an extensive docent guided tour of the beautiful gardens with their large collection of flora from around the globe. They also enjoyed early 20th century architecture, especially the residential, library and museum buildings designed by Myron Hunt. In the library the collections of ancient handwritten manuscripts and early books printed around the time of the invention of the printing press were awe-inspiring.

On January 18th, a small group of OLLI members were given a docent guided tour of the exhibit “Jewels of Ancient Sudan” at the Getty Villa. These jewels were excavated in early 20th century and belonged to three different kingdoms along the Nile river in ancient Sudan namely, Kerma, Napata and Meroe, dating back to 2400 BCE. Most of the pieces came from royal and aristocratic burials and all vividly displayed the splendor of ancient Nubian society. The design and intricacy of the jewelry were astonishing.



Upcoming Events

Museum of Tolerance: On Thursday, March 9th, OLLI members will be visiting the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Holocaust survivor and OLLI member, Celina Biniaz will accompany the group and will talk about her experience and answer questions. The registration email to the members was sent on February 6th.

President Nixon Library: OLLI events team has planned a trip to the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda on Saturday, April 1st. The information regarding registration will be emailed closer to the date.

Trip to Arabian Kingdoms: OLLI members can go on a trip to three Arabian Kingdoms, namely, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman in February 2024. A flyer will be emailed with detailed information in the coming weeks.



Become an active OLLI Volunteer

The OLLI program is largely driven by its volunteers who perform activities that include selecting courses for each session, helping OLLI staff manage finance and fundraising activities, identifying and coordinating enrich events and trips, recruiting and retention of members, communicating OLLI activities such as through this newsletter, and coordinating OLLI volunteers. All of these activities, and more, are performed by OLLI volunteers, without whom it would be difficult for the OLLI program at CSUCI to exist.

Currently, OLLI needs your help to fill the multiple team positions that are vacant. For more information or to become a team member please contact Michael Trainor via email at OLLI@csuci.edu. If you are unable to be a team member, you can also volunteer for whatever amount of time you are willing to donate. If volunteering is not your thing, please consider making a cash donation to OLLI. It is as simple as clicking the following link. [Donate to OLLI](#)