

# OLLI Insider

## Volume 16 (November 2023)



OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

at CSU Channel Islands  
*Curiosity Never Retires*

**SPRING I 2024**

Registration Opens January 8th

Session Dates:  
January 22nd - March 1st



California State  
University

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☎ 805-437-2748

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✉ [OLLI@csuci.edu](mailto:OLLI@csuci.edu)



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A photograph showing a man in a blue shirt speaking at a podium during a presentation. The podium has a sign for OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute. In the foreground, the back of a woman's head and shoulders in a red sweater is visible, looking towards the speaker.

Can you believe we have finished another exciting Fall semester of OLLI courses, events, travel and activities? It has been great fun! What has been your favorite? Was it Bill Garlington's tour of Australia? Or maybe you liked Amy Denton's fascinating paleo epigenetics using ancient DNA. Did you go on the Nethercutt Museum tour of classic automobiles and musical instruments? How about the behind-the-scenes look at the Santa Barbara Zoo? Whatever you did, we thank you for your continued support of OLLI and look forward to seeing you for more in the Spring. We wish you a safe and pleasant holiday season.

Daniel Banyai, Director of OLLI  
Shaina Salin, OLLI Program Coordinator

## More Excitement in Spring I

Many of our favorite instructors will be back in Spring I.

- Michael Baker will discuss American Power and the legacy of the “greatest generation”.
- Cliff Wilcox will show how the cultural innovations of the 1950s shaped the remarkable ‘60s.
- Katherine Zoraster will show us the Parisian cafes and nightclubs of the great Impressionists.
- David Parsons will take us for a ride through the automobile’s fascinating history.
- Scott Jones will unlock the secrets of Ancient Greek vases -- windows into Greek culture.
- Alan Perper will use “real-time” events to explain how our U.S. government actually works!
- Jerry Clifford will look at six critical issues that are currently impacting the future of civilization as we know it.
- Asya Pereltsvaig will take us through the Baltic Countries – Lithuania, Latvia, & Estonia.
- BJ Fan will return with more mental stimulation to help keep our brains younger.
- Sam & Candy Caponegro will put a song in our hearts – actually many songs.

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
<b>Mon</b>	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	American Power and the Legacy of the Greatest Generation (Instructor: Baker)	6	1001
	1 PM to 3 PM	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Precursors to the 1960s: Rebels and Innovators of the 1950s (Instructor: Wilcox)	6	1002
<b>Tues</b>	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	Paris of the Impressionists: The Sites and Locales of the Masterworks of Impressionism (Instructor: Zoraster)	6	1003
	1 PM to 3 PM	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Car Nation: The Automobile in American History (Instructor: Parsons)	6	1004
<b>Wed</b>	10 AM to 12 PM	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Exploring Ancient Greek Vases (Instructor: Jones)	6	1005
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	American Civics 101: A Crash Course (Instructor: Perper)	6	1006
<b>Thurs</b>	10 AM to 12 PM	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	How Will Our Species Survive? (Instructor: Clifford)	6	1007
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	The Baltic Countries: Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia (Instructor: Pereltsvaig)	6	1008
<b>Fri</b>	10 AM to 12 PM	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Brain Training (Instructor: Fan)	6	1009
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	With a Song in my Heart Part 2 (Instructor: Caponegro)	6	1010

Registration for Spring I opens on January 8<sup>th</sup>, and classes begin on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Meet Gerry and Colleen Robertson

Have you been to Colleen and Gerry Robertson's fabulous house in Somis? Many OLLI members visited their wonderful gardens earlier this year when OLLI had its Garden Tour. OLLI also has had two socials on their patios -- with spectacular views across the valley towards Moorpark.

Gerry's family has a long history in Ventura County. His Danish family (great-grandfather, grandfather, and father) came up from Sinaloa, Mexico in 1925 and developed the Sinaloa Ranch in Simi Valley. Gerry followed in his ancestors' footsteps and developed a full career in Ventura County agriculture.



Gerry was an adventurer! After high school, with only a backpack, he took off for Europe to see all the art he had read about in school -- and to meet his relatives in Denmark. Upon returning, Gerry helped his father manage ag fields in Oxnard and eventually went to work for the Reiter Affiliated Companies in 1983. The Reiters grow berries worldwide for their Driscoll's label, and Gerry had a fulfilling 35-year career in many different aspects of the berry business.

Colleen's father was in the Navy so she moved a lot. In fact, she attended 10 schools by the time she was 12 years old! Between the Hueneme and Somis School Districts, she enjoyed a 33-year career in education. She served as a teacher, New Teacher Support Provider, Principal, and Superintendent. Colleen was also an adjunct professor for California Lutheran University, in their teacher preparation program.

She retired in 2020 and stays busy with the Ventura County Library Foundation, Somis Thursday Club, Somis Town and Country, Book Club, Ladies Think Tank, OLLI, travel, and zoom calls with her 6 siblings. She says she is thankful every day to live in paradise with the most wonderful man in the world.

Gerry began taking OLLI courses after retiring from Reiter in 2018. He was on the OLLI Curriculum Team for several years. Now he and Colleen are helping the Events Team plan and go on local tours, like the Nethercutt Museum, SOFI Stadium, the Camarillo Desalter, and the Motion Picture Academy of Arts. They hope to see you on their next OLLI adventure to wherever!

## Be an Ambassador to Upcoming Spring I session – It's Fun! It's Easy!

When Spring I session begins in January 2024, we will need 10 ambassadors for the session. As an ambassador, you will welcome your fellow OLLI students in person or on Zoom and get to know them better. The OLLI staff will let you know if there are any announcements. You will ask if there are any questions and introduce the instructor. That's it for being an ambassador! Please contact [OLLI@csuci.edu](mailto:OLLI@csuci.edu) to join the fun before the session starts.

## Upcoming Events

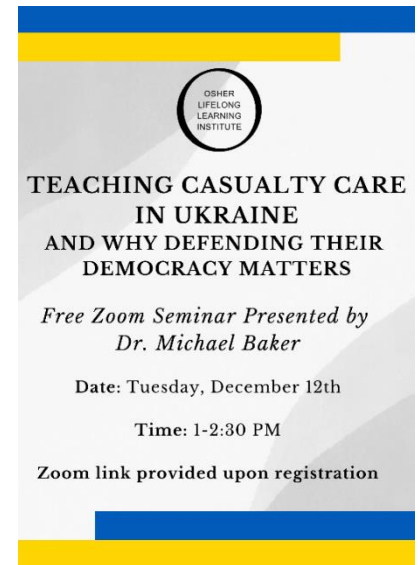


### Volunteer with Food Share!

Join your fellow OLLI Members to volunteer with Food Share on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 AM. Plan to stay after for an included lunch and tour! Please note that this is a drive yourself event and there is a limit of 15 participants. Registration is currently sold out.

### Teaching Casualty Care in Ukraine and Why Defending Their Democracy Matters: Free Seminar with Dr. Michael Baker on Zoom

You won't want to miss this program! Join us on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 pm on Zoom for a 1-year update on conditions and morale in Ukraine with Dr. Michael Baker. Dr. Baker is a retired general and trauma surgeon, World Affairs Board of Trustees member and OLLI at CSUCI faculty member who just returned from his third tour in Ukraine, where he taught Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) to Ukrainian physicians. He will review some history and geography, and give his insight into morale and conditions in Ukraine during this conflict. The link to the attack on Israel by Hamas - supported by Iran and Russia will be explored. Registration is available on the [OLLI Events page](#).



### A Tour of Three Arab Kingdoms": Free Seminar with Dr. Bill Garlington on Zoom

Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 12 pm for a free Zoom seminar on Three Arab Kingdoms: United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman, with Dr. Bill Garlington. Registration opens on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am!