Greetings OLLI Members & Friends:

Registration for OLLI’s Fall Session begins on August 23. Current plans are for a combination of online and in-class sessions that will run from September 13 through November 5. There will be both 4-week and 8-week courses.

The OLLI Fall 2021 catalog is out with a list of courses, their schedules, and the costs. There will be two separate charges during registration. One is the annual OLLI Membership fee of $15, good until Fall 2022. The second is the Fall Session registration fee that depends upon the number of courses taken.

Final details of Covid-19 mitigation are not yet available but will be provided once final guidance is released by CSUCI.

Who’s Who in our OLLI Community

Meet Lauraine Effress, New 2021 OLLI Member and Volunteer

I have been asked to explain how I got to be the me I am today and why that “me” has become an Olli volunteer. By birth, I was a New Yorker. 21 birthdays later I was a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa. 24 birthdays, a social worker; 26, director of a mental health center for deaf emotionally disturbed children. By 45, I tired of the cold in wintertime New York while watching the annual Rose Parade. It changed my life. I looked at the parade on TV, the flowers, and the people taking off their sweaters. I said to the TV, “I am leaving.” Luck was with me.
In no time, I was doing similar work for a nonprofit start-up here on the left coast in Ventura County and was swimming in the pool every morning before work. I did important work in social services and mental health, but a family crisis and health problems waylaid my career. In retirement I had the time to develop other interests, which brought me to OLLI.

Being an OLLI student then a volunteer on the Membership Team is a new chapter for me. I hoped that by volunteering on the Membership Team, I might make a difference. (Editor’s note: She has). I wish to help increase the familiarity with OLLI in senior communities of our county that, so far, seem unaware of this opportunity to stimulate the brain and delve into topics for which we never had time in our earlier years. Seniors need to work out to maintain our health. OLLI offers a workout for the brain, so the more seniors that know about it, the smarter we will be.

**Come and Participate in the Open Gallery at Studio Channel Islands**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm for an outdoor social event at the covered parking area behind the Studio Channel Islands Gallery. Come and participate in Open Gallery – visit the area’s best artists in their studios to watch them create sculptures, paintings and multimedia pieces up-close and personal. Then socialize with fellow OLLI members in an outdoor setting with the opportunity for some sweet treats. Studio CI is at 2222 E. Ventura Blvd, Camarillo 93010 – in the middle of Old Town. Watch your email for more information and how to RSVP. Come join us for a face-to-face OLLI get together.

**Are You an OLLI Volunteer Candidate?**

Admit it – you love OLLI. But it takes more than love for OLLI to continue to provide the quality courses you have come to expect. OLLI is what it is because of our volunteers. Without volunteers, you would not have this newsletter or the October 2nd social gatherings at Studio CI. The OLLI Program staff can easily enroll you as a volunteer for whatever time you have available. Just contact Michael Trainor by email at OLLI@csuci.edu.

**OLLI is for Discovery and New Friends**

A group of Ventura County OLLI students formed lifetime memories during a tour of Egypt in January 2020. Some highlights of their private tour are below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At the Pyramids of Gaza</th>
<th>Tour Highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• New Cairo Museum</td>
<td>• Pyramids of Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Saqqara and the Stepped Pyramid of Djoser</td>
<td>• Valley of the Kings – King Tut’s Tomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Karnak Temple and the Red Chapel of Hatshepsut</td>
<td>• Valley of the Queens – Nefertari’s Tomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Valley of the Kings – King Tut’s Tomb</td>
<td>• Tombs of the Nobles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Temple of Hatshepsut</td>
<td>• Temple of Hatshepsut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Amarna Beni Hassan-Middle Kingdom tombs</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inside the Temples at Luxor

In front of the Step Pyramid at Saqqara

Riding a camel in Gaza

Inside Seti’s Tomb in the Valley of the Kings