

**Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute at UCSC**

March 2015

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A publication of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC (OLLI), a UCSC Friends Group.

Published September, November, January, March, and May. OLLI at UCSC is a community of men and women from diverse educational, occupational, and geographic backgrounds who are devoted to the pursuit of learning. We enjoy spirited discussion, reading, and exploring new interests. Money raised from our activities is used to fund scholarships for re-entry students at UCSC. Editor: Steve Zaslav, zaslaw@comcast.net.



General Meeting, Sunday, March 15th, 10 a.m.
Stevenson College Event Center, UCSC

Speaker: Jill Steinberg, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist, Professor Emeritus, SJSU,
Founder of MyRetirementWorks.com

When thinking about successful retirement, most people and the research literature focus on financial planning. Although having enough financial resources is generally necessary, it doesn't by itself lead to a successful retirement.

Instead of emphasizing financial preparedness, this presentation deals with the personal and interpersonal factors



in creating a successful retirement. It will:

- identify key factors associated with retirement adjustment & happiness
- discuss how retirement impacts men and women differently
- explore issues affecting couples and some ways to resolve them
- offer insights from retirees who have proven what works.

The Presentation is based on a review of the scholarly research literature, web-based resources, and Jill's research interviewing and doing focus groups with over 65 members of OLLI at UCSC.

2015 Courses

Our courses provide opportunities for our members to delve more deeply into fascinating subjects, hear from outstanding teachers, and have fun as well: no exams, no grades, but ample opportunities to participate in discussions.

The donation we ask for each course is the same — \$20/person/course. Because the lecturers are not compensated (except for the pleasure of having truly interested and interesting students), your contributions are used for scholarships for re-entry and transfer students.

Whether you send in the registration form or register for the course on-line, you will receive an email confirming the registration. Later you will re-

ceive a letter from the university acknowledging your donation.

Some courses have limited enrollment. If you are registering on line, it's not possible to register for a course that's full. If you register with a mail-in form and request enrollment in a course that is full, you will get a phone call or email to discuss or to explain the situation. No-one will be charged for a course she or he is unable to enroll in. If your payment is by check, it will be returned to you.

To register for a course, see page 5 of this newsletter or go to <http://ucsc-osher.wikispaces.com/classes>.

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2015 Courses

(Continued from page 1)

Three courses are starting soon:

1515. Santa Cruz Shakespeare

Prof. Michael Warren
Three Thursdays,
March 5, 19 & 26
MAH, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

1517. History of Writing

Prof. Gildas Hamel
Two Tuesdays, April 14 & 21
MAH, 10 a.m. to noon

1518. Fantastic Fictions

Prof. Helene Moglen
Four Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, & 23
MAH, 2 to 4 p.m.

Course Descriptions

1515) Santa Cruz Shakespeare. Prof. Michael Warren

Professor Michael Warren is emeritus professor of literature at UCSC and has been a consultant to Shakespeare S.C. since its inception.

We are fortunate to again have Prof. Michael Warren, a very knowledgeable and vastly entertaining Shakespeare scholar presenting a course for us. His Shakespeare courses for OLLI for the previous five years have been enthusiastically praised by our members.

The two plays that Santa Cruz Shakespeare will be presenting this year are

“Much Ado About Nothing” and “Macbeth.” These plays will be the focus of Professor Warren’s course.

Thursdays, March 5, 19, and 26, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Please note: no class on March 12.). At the Museum of Art and History.

Professor Warren requests that students read the first four acts of “Much Ado About Nothing” before the first class.

1517) History of Writing. Prof. Gildas Hamel

Professor Gildas Hamel was born in Brittany; he taught high school in Jerusalem in 1966-68 while attending courses at the École Biblique where he fell in love with scholarship. He became an instructor in French at UCSC in 1974, got a Ph.D. in History of Consciousness in 1983, and continued to teach French as well as classical languages and history.

This illustrated course will present the extraordinary systems of writing that appeared several thousand years ago in Sumer, Egypt, China, and the Americas. Why did certain societies tend to represent the flow of ideas and objects while others were more disposed to point to the stream of sounds? What were they particularly keen on representing? What were the religious, economic, and political aspects of writing? How did the notion of Scripture develop together with writing? We will pursue the parallel stories of these systems and give particular attention to the long history of alphabetic scripts, from Proto-

Canaanite to our modern computer keyboards.

Tuesdays, April 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Art and History.

1518) Fantastic Fictions. Prof. Helene Moglen

Fantastic fictions expose the illusions of realism through nightmarish representations of middle-class society. Revealing culture’s deep anxiety about families, sexuality, religion, science, and the self, they enact—through character and narrative form—their ambivalence about gender, class and racial identities. Texts are Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, R.L. Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and either Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* or Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.

Professor Emerita Helene Moglen is a literary feminist psychoanalytic critic. At UCSC, she was Professor of Literature and Dean of Humanities. She has published books in literary studies and was selected as the first woman ever to give the UCSC Emeriti Lecture. At our meeting last May, she gave a very well-received talk, “From *Frankenstein* to Facebook.” At that time, many of our members were hoping she would teach a course for us.

The class is limited to 30 students. Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Art and History.

Call for Nominations

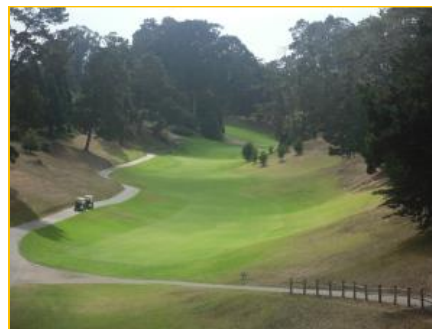
Our organization is run by volunteers. Elections for officers are held at our May general meeting. The OLLI Board will offer a slate of candidates for office but invites nominations from members. If you have questions or wish to nominate some-

one for an office, please contact Robert Franson, rfranson@cruzio.com, Florence Orenstein, santacruzflor@aol.com, or Doree Steinmann, tvdoree@sbcglobal.net

Summer Party: Sunday, June 7

Enjoy good company, great views, music, dancing, good food and wine, and celebrate Lifelong Learners' 30th anniversary at our *Greeting the Summer* party on Sunday, June 7, 2015,

from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Seascap Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos. Registration information in subsequent newsletter and on home page.



Request for Interest-Group Photographs

Enjoy fame and fortune: see yourself or your friends on the big screen!

Have you seen those photos of the Interest Groups up on the screen at our General Meetings? We have many new groups, and they aren't represented. Please send photos of your group doing whatever they do (even if it is sitting around talking) to Cindy Margolin, crmargol@gotsky.com. Make sure to identify your group and what the members are doing.



April 19, 2015
 General Meeting
*“A God That
 Could Be Real”*
 Nancy Ellen Abrams

By Nancy Ellen Abrams

We are living at the dawn of a new picture of the universe. For almost four centuries people have thought that Earth was an average planet of an average star in possibly endless space scattered with stars. But astronomers have discovered that this picture is completely wrong: everything visible with our best telescopes out to the most distant galaxies is less than one percent of what's really happening out there. Our universe is made almost entirely of “dark matter” and “dark energy” – two invisible, dynamic presences whose 13.8 billion year competition with each other has spun the galaxies into being and thus created the only possible homes for evolution and life. Earth is extraordinary. We are not living in the universe we thought we were in, so how could this not change the way we think about God?

I'm a philosopher of science, married to one of the astrophysicists who created the new picture of the cosmos, Joel Primack. For ten years we co-taught “Cosmology and Culture” at UCSC, we coauthored two books, and we gave lectures around the world about the new understanding of the universe and how humans fit in. But it seemed everywhere we

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Interest Group News

Each interest group has its own descriptive webpage. Go to our home page and click on “Interest Groups” at the left on that page, or go directly to <http://ucsc-osher.wikispaces.com/interest-groups>. Then click on the name of the group in which you are interested.

The following interest groups have events that are open to all OLLI members or have a change in status.

Art & Architecture and Advertising Groups: Monday, **March 23**. Trip to Alcatraz. Lois Widom, 423-0184, lowidom@yahoo.com. Must get tickets in advance.

Discovering UCSC. Visit Rachel Deblinger, the new Digital Humanities Specialist at UCSC. Wednesday, **March 25**, 10 a.m. – noon. Sandra Brauner, sanjan@cruzio.com

The **Building Community Interest Group** meets on Fridays, 10 to 11 a.m. for coffee and Conversation at Kelly’s French Bakery, 402 Ingalls St. Contact Leader Cecile Andrews for more information. cecile@cecileandrews.com.

The **Visiting Not for Profits** interest group will visit Senior Services Network on Thursday, **March 12**, at 10 a.m. Please contact Gabrielle Stocker at gstocker2@cruzio.com to reserve a spot.

The **Still Life Drawing** group is now meeting on the second Monday of the month. Contact leader for location and time. Analydia Scoggin, 427-1052, analydia36@yahoo.com

The **Spanish Conversation** group has begun and meets every other Wed. from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at a member’s house.

The focus is conversational Spanish and everyday vocabulary. The leader, Dolores McCabe, first learned Spanish as a child from farm workers and later earned a BA and teaching credentials in Spanish. She retired after 41 years of teaching Spanish and has led many student trips to Mexico and Spain.

The goal is to create an interest group where enthusiasm for Spanish language and Spanish speaking people drive our meetings. Dolores McCabe, dmccabe47@gmail.com.

The West Side Santa Cruz **Non-Fiction Reading Group** is open to new members. Meets at 2 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the leader’s house in West Santa Cruz. Leader Mary Carvalho, marycarvalho@gmail.com.

April Speaker, Nancy Ellen Abrams, continued from p. 3

spoke, someone sooner or later asked, “Do you believe in God?” My answer in my new book is that there’s a much more fruitful question: “Could anything actually exist in this strange new universe that is worthy of being called God?” “God” is a word. The chance to re-define it is actually in our hands, and the way we do it could play a leading role in shaping the future of Earth. I propose a new way of thinking about God that is not only consistent with science but inspired by it. I don’t argue for my version of God; I simply offer it, because it

changed my life. It’s coherent, empowering, comforting, equally true for every person on Earth, and a bond for our species. Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu says, in the foreword to my book, “you will find that your beliefs are enriched by reading Abrams’s book. I am thrilled that we have the creativity and originality that is exhibited in this book, and I recommend it highly to all, religious or secular, believer or atheist who are ready to explore honestly their understanding of the divine in our beautiful, expanding universe.”



Course Registration

The following courses are available. If you have a login at UCSC-OLLI, you can register online. Go to our home page and click on “Sign Up for a Course” on the center left of the page. To register by US mail, use the form below.

If the online registration indicates that the course is full, please contact Lois Widom, lowidom@yahoo.com, 423-0184. It may still be possible to register.

Course descriptions start on page 1 of this newsletter.

Registrants will receive an email confirmation as well as a UCSC donation receipt.

Courses are open to current members of OLLI at UCSC.

2015 OLLI at UCSC Course Registration Form

Course #	Description and Venue	Suggested donation: \$20/course	Donation
1515	<i>Santa Cruz Shakespeare.</i> Prof. Michael Warren. Thursdays, March 5, 19, 26, MAH, 10 to 12:30		\$
1517	<i>History of Writing.</i> Prof. Gildas Hamel. Tuesdays, April 14 & 21, MAH, 10 a.m. to noon		\$
1518	<i>Fantastic Fictions.</i> Prof. Helene Moglen. Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, & 23, MAH, 2 to 4 p.m. Class size is limited.		\$
Total Enclosed			

Course Registration Form. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC

Name: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Payment Information:

Make check to the **UC Santa Cruz Foundation**. Mail to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC, STARS, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. You must be a member of Osher LLI at UCSC to register for courses.

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. UCSC will send you a confirmation that you are registered for the course and a receipt for your donation. *Thank you!*

- Check
 Visa
 MasterCard
 AMEX
 Discover

_____ /

Card Number Card Expiration Date

Name on Card

Signature (for credit card transactions)

193 University of California Santa Cruz
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
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Keep up to date with the latest events at <http://ucsc-osher.wikispaces.com>