Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC

May 2018

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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

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

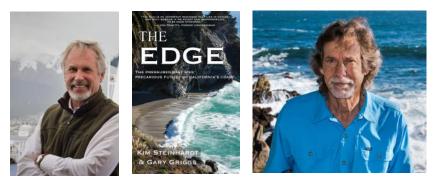
Published September, November, January, March, and May with e-Bulletins published in the intervening months. OLLI at UCSC is a community of men and women from diverse educational, occupational, and geographic backgrounds who are devoted to the pursuit of learning. We enjoy spirited discussion, reading, and exploring new interests. Money raised from our activities is used to fund scholarships for transfer and reentry students at UCSC.

Publisher & Editor: Fred DeJarlais Reporter: Johnna Laird



General Meeting, Sunday, May 20, 2018 Colleges 9 & 10 Multipurpose Room, 10 am University of California Santa Cruz

Kim Steinhardt Conservationist, Retired Administrative Law Judge Gary Griggs Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences UCSC



T he Pacific coast is the most iconic region of California and one of the most fascinating and rapidly changing places in the world. Densely populated, urbanized and industrialized — but also home to wilderness with complex, fragile ecosystems — the coast is the place where humanity and nature coexist in a precarious balance that is never perfectly stable. Kim Steinhardt and Professor Gary Griggs will discuss their new book about *The Edge*, a dramatic snapshot of the California coast's past, present and probable future in a time of climate change and expanding human activity. In this lecture the speakers will touch on personal adventures, science, nature, conservation policy, and history.

Kim Steinhardt is a former state Administrative Law Judge, now environmental writer and marine wildlife photographer. He is currently working with National Geographic Books on a collection of sea otter images and coastal storytelling set for release next year. Gary Griggs is a Distinguished Professor of Earth and Plane-tary Sciences at UCSC. He is the author or co-author of ten books about the coast, and a frequent contact for news media on questions of climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion.

Topic: The Edge - The Pressured Past and Precarious Future of California's Coast



OLLI Year-end Celebration!

First Sunday in June See page 2

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Please come and celebrate with OLLI friends at the end of a wonderful year of learning!

Enjoy a lovely dinner meal with good wine, countless conversations and fun, and a great "adult" band to play for us. There will also be a raffle, and one of the prizes is a signed book from famous Santa Cruz author Laurie R King.

Sunday, June 3, 4-7 pm

Where: Seascape Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos

Music by Burns, Renwick, & Rags Cost: \$25.00 per person

OLLI members encouraged to bring guests – please invite at least one person so they can get to know OLLI and us, and maybe even join!!!

RSVP By May 20

Reservations: Go to OLLI website & look for: "Register for End of Year Event June 3" Register and Pay for Self and Guests

Checks: To **UC Regents** Send to: Bonita Sebastian C/O UCSC STARS 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

President's Musing By Gail Greenwood

I ve been thinking about the old adage, "Birds of a feather flock together." I think it applies to what brings us together in all the different aspects of lifelong learning. I have always thought of our program being like a threelegged stool. We meet together monthly to schmooze and listen to an erudite speaker teach us something about which he/she is an expert. I love it because college was one of my favorite times in life and it's like being back discovering how many things I didn't know I didn't know.

Then there are our interest groups where we meet with folks who share our interests and talk about them or do them. It's a smaller flock, where our participation is required—almost like a mini-seminar or lab. Our brains have to work and we get to delve more deeply and more narrowly into a subject. We get that mental exercise that often got me staying up until three a.m. in the dorm room arguing furiously with fellow students of similar age and excitement about learning. Being a natural "Devil's advocate" I often found myself sparring with another and saying outrageous things I didn't even believe just to winkind of like the cartoon where a couple squirrels squabble up a tree and one ends out on a limb and the other saws it off, sometimes forgetting he's out on the same limb. They fall down together and like us, they bounce and rarely get hurt.

The third leg is taking a course. Classes often combine the first two legs with experts and comradeship, discussions, questions, sometimes even reading assignments, but rarely tests. Who can object to that? It's all the fun and none of the fear of learning. We elders really have it good!

Recently the board has been discussing what some of us consider a fourth leg—scholarships. I guess they suppose we are a chair rather than a stool. A chair has merits. Personally, I much prefer a back on my seat. Stools are hard for me with my wonky spine, and rarely padded enough. I admit I, (the devil's advocate of course) usually argue against scholarships being a major reason for our existence equal to the other three. It's not that I object to giving money away. I'm a committed giver. But I side with Osher, which actually forbids the money they give from being handed out in scholarships. If we as members or Osher as a philanthropist want to give scholarships, there is nothing to stop any of us from giving money to the university. If you have extra money lying around by all means give some for scholarships. But Osher wants the rest of us to keep learning.

On the other hand, (I can never stop jumping from one side of the limb to the other) if I personally am not rich, we in UCSC OLLI are! So far your board has managed to support all the three legs with the earnings from our \$1,000,000 grant from Osher, and has yearly decided to contribute up to \$45,000 to scholarships for transfer and re-entry students. Since they are often older students coming back for more education, in a way they too are life long learners.

We could use the money to reduce dues. It's a choice. The reason we can make such a choice is because anyone who can't afford dues can get a scholarship, and we are exceedingly rich in volunteers. Our board, our interest groups, and our classes are freely given. If time is money, we are rich indeed. And you make us rich with both contributions of time *and* money. We have fabulous plumage in our flock. Thank you; you are beautiful!

2018 Alternative Spring Break Review

by Mark Gordon

We have received a letter from the Director of the Center for Farmworker Families in Watsonville, Dr. Ann Lopez, thanking OLLI for donations to the Farmworker Flea Market that was part of the Alternative Spring Break program.

I also want to add my thanks to so many of our OLLI community who contributed to the Clothing Drive and

Diaper Fund. Our OLLI team had an intense learning experience together with the students as we all worked side by side with Watsonville community members.

OLLI THANK-YOU

And the Oaxacan families just kept coming.....

On March 25, 2018 OLLI participants joined with UCSC students in their Alternative Spring Break at Pinto Lake

Park. Part of the intent of the program is to allow students and OLLI participants to share in events that support local farmworkers.

At least one hundred families lined up at Pinto Lake Park and patiently awaited their turn in line to receive diapers, clothing and the other items. For the first time, we could supply everyone that needed them with at least one bundle of diapers. Even when families continued to arrive later in the day, we were able to supply all the families with literally the hundreds of purchased diapers.

Thank-you, dear OLLI people for the difference you are making with your generosity, compassion and concern for farmworkers; the poorest of the working poor.

> Sincerely, Dr. Ann López, Director Center for Farmworker Families

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Alternative Spring Break – 2018 The Service Seems Obvious, But What About the Learning? By Mary Male

After completing my second year as a participant in the collaborative OLLI-UCSC Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Service Learning program, I continue to reflect on the power of the experience, explaining to others why participating in that program is such an important part of our OLLI program offerings and why I'm such an advocate for others to join the program each year. Led by Mark Gordon of OLLI, Abbey Asher, Service Learning Coordinator of Colleges Nine and Ten, and two very capable student leaders, Dana Padilla and Cynthia Rafael, ASB is a remarkable, multi-faceted learning opportunity, seamlessly integrated with community service experiences. In previous OLLI newsletter articles about ASB, our service opportunities were emphasized (e.g. the community muralpainting, free flea market for Oaxacan families, classroom and garden support at Calabasas Elementary School). This article focuses on the "learning" part of service learning and ASB.

Our first learning opportunity was a team-building experience to get better acquainted with our fellow OLLI ASBers. One of the core beliefs of service learning is the importance of knowing your fellow students and teachers well, and the opportunity we had to dig deep in our "backstory" before jumping into service learning with UCSC students was an important step in our learning. Not only did we share a key story or two from our personal histories, but we were asked to role play being 21 and working with an OLLI well-seasoned adult. What assumptions did we imagine that a 21-year-old might have about us? And us for them? What behaviors might we OLLI members bring to learning situations that might have a dampening or threatening impact on students' learning experiences with us? What strategies did we want to use to make sure UCSC students felt safe asking questions and felt comfortable with us?

Our second learning opportunity was joining the UCSC student group, as they did their own getting-acquainted activity. We observed the end of their inner/outer circle activity of asking and responding to a question before moving to a different partner. We then did an activity together in a large circle, and I was introduced to the class norm for introductions by giving my name, my gender, and my preferred pronouns, before responding to a given prompt.

Our third learning opportunity was attending a panel presentation given by four Watsonville community leaders. Not unlike our own getting acquainted activities, these leaders shared a bit of their own "backstories" and issues facing the Watsonville community. Following the large group panel, each community leader spent time in a small mixed group of UCSC/OLLI members, responding to questions. OLLI members were quick to observe how important it was to give time and space for students to speak, rather than our usual tendency to dominate.

Fourth, all of us (UCSC students and OLLI members alike) had been given four articles to read prior to coming to the first session related to food justice (the theme of the ASB week). Student leaders divided us into four mixed OLLI/UCSC groups, and we discussed one of the articles. Following the small group discussion, each group listed some key points on chart paper, and each group shared with the large group what they had learned from their reading and discussion. (This technique in teaching is called "jigsaw," because each group has a critical part of the learning and assumes responsibility for teaching it to the whole class, a powerful cooperative learning technique.)

Fifth, the themes and key points of the four articles were reinforced by a presentation by Dr. Ann Lopez, Executive Director of the Center for Farmworker Families, who shared her own personal experiences of advocacy for farmworkers with legislators and policy makers at city, county, and state levels.

Sixth, after the community service and experiential community exploration activities were completed, UCSC students each worked on an individual project which they presented at the last session of the ASB. OLLI members were there as audience and fellow learners in the 2018 ASB service learning experiences, and a debriefing and reflection provided everyone with an opportunity to think about what was learned and what was contributed during our shared time together. OLLI members did their own Final Project by writing up their own reflections and gathering for a potluck dinner to share what they learned.

According to Vanderbilt University, service learning is "A form of experiential education where learning occurs through a cycle of action and reflection as students seek to achieve real objectives for the community and deeper understanding and skills for themselves." When done with careful and intentional planning, as with our ASB program, real academic and community benefits are realized by everyone who participates.

•Bandy, J. (Not dated). "What is service learning and community engagement?" Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University.

•Walpert-Gawron, H. (November 7, 2016). "What the heck is service learning?" *Edutopia*, an on-line journal.

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Video highlights the Alternative Spring Break experience

Care to see what the Alternative Spring Break looked like? The students this year produced a 10 minute video that they will use to recruit students for next year's ASB.

Take a look: <u>https://youtu.be/ATXUmDPveaM</u>

You might notice OLLI ASB Team members sprinkled throughout the ASB experiences.

Happy Summer Vacation! Ladies and Gentlemen Mark Your Calendars

Summer is fast approaching. While some OLLI interest groups do continue meeting during our regular June through August break, IT IS THE OFFICIAL END OF OUR CALENDAR YEAR. Much of OLLI goes on vacation as our calendar year mirrors the academic year! But, remember, on June 30 OLLI's year officially ends. And that means your annual OLLI membership will soon expire! Yes, our new year officially begins on July 1.

Historically, when most members relied on mailing their renewal membership forms and checks into our office at STARS, batches of those renewals would collect before being processed. Given that, as well as the fact that we were on summer break, many people felt that renewing in September, or October was the gold standard. Some members, erroneously believing the year ran from January to December, would wait until January to renew. But, actually, our membership year runs from July 1 of the current calendar year until June 30 of the following year.

Membership processing has vastly improved, due in large part to the growing number of members who have discovered how easy it is to renew, or join, online. Today, using our streamlined online enrollment, joining, or renewing generally takes just a day to complete. I encourage you to try our online registration by visiting our website: <u>olli.ucsc.edu</u>. Just remember that if you are enrolling online for the *first* time you will need to wait for UCSC to email you back your identity code before you can return to our website to login to your account.

Now, if we can just spread the word to help people realize that OLLI's new year begins on July 1 we can correct much long-standing confusion!

> Myra Mahoney OLLI Membership Chair

Spring 2018 Courses

1813 — The Holocaust: The Destruction of European Jewry

June 5, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 10:00 am—noon Location: Museum of Art and History 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz Instructors: Peter Kenez, Murray Baumgarten

We are privileged to have a course based on the acclaimed UCSC class that Murray and Peter taught on campus for over three decades. It will trace the destruction of the Jews and Jewish life in Europe by Nazi Germany, drawing on history, literature, and film.

Peter Kenez is a native of Hungary and a Holocaust survivor. He is a professor emeritus at UC Santa Cruz, where he taught Russian and modern European History since 1966. Murray Baumgarten is a distinguished emeritus professor of English & contemporary literature and a founding director of The Dickens Project at UC Santa Cruz. He is the recipient of a campus award for excellence in teaching.

1816 - Two Works by Melville: Bartleby, The Scrivener and Benito Cereno

May 8, 15, 22, 29 10:00 am—noon Location: Lounge, Peace United Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz Instructor: Forrest Robinson

A close analysis of two classic short tales by the great American master. We'll start with an overview of Melville's life and work, followed by two sessions each on the stories. This should be lots of fun.



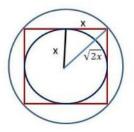
Forrest Robinson is a Distinguished Professor of Humanities Emeritus. He taught at UCSC for 44 years in literature and American Studies. He has written extensively about Melville and has offered both graduate and undergraduate courses on the author and his work. His past courses for OLLI—one on Melville and the other on Mark Twain—were received enthusiastically by OLLI members.

1818 — The Beauty of Mathematics: Square The Circle, Trisect an Angle, Double the Cube

May 2, 9, 16, 23 10:00am—noon Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St., Santa Cruz Instructor: Peter Farkas

We will study a particular type of problem in elementary

geomtry: doing constructions with a straightedge and a compass. This type of problem was first asked and solved in Greece. Some construction problems were stated in antiquity, but mathematicians were unable to solve them for hundreds of years. They were finally



settled in the 19th century. The aim of this class is to familiarize attendees with the problems, and to present the ideas which finally yielded the answers.

We will occasionally give proofs, while being careful not to bore, and not to be too technical. We will often take historical detours.

The only prerequisite for this class is curiosity about these topics. No math knowledge beyond elementary school mathematics will be assumed.

Course Leader: I am a lapsed mathematician with a Masters Degree in Mathematics from the University of Bucharest, Romania, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. I started a bumpy academic career as a mathematician, but swerved at some point and became a software engineer. Throughout my software engineering career, my love for and awe of mathematics has never diminished. Now, in retirement, I am trying to steer back to mathematics a bit, doing what is most pleasant: solving little problems, and talking about subjects in Mathematics.

1820 - Food and Biochemistry

May 5, 12, 19, 26 Saturday mornings, 10:30—noon Physical Sciences Building, Room 240, UCSC campus Note: Free parking is available nearby in the Core West Parking Structure

Instructor: Barry Bowman, Professor Emeritus of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, UCSC.

Our food is composed of thousands of different kinds of chemicals. We use these chemicals to make the parts of our body and to provide the energy to move, to stay warm and to think. In this course we will examine the chemical differences in different types of food. What are vitamins and what do they do in our body? Why does fat have more calories than sugar? What is a calorie? What information can we get from the nutrition labels on packaged food? What is the nature of the "energy" we get from our food? These are some of the questions we will address. A background in science is not expected for this course and the lectures will be aimed at a general audience. (This course will be similar to the course taught in 2017, but will be expanded to four lectures.)



MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The OLLI year runs from July 1 of each year to June 30 of the next year. Your membership expires on June 30; it will be time to renew on July 1.

Course Sign-up Process

Best way to register is online. Go to: olli.ucsc.edu

- 1. Click on "Fall Courses" box part-way down on the home page.
- 2. Select "Click Here to Register for Courses On-line."
- 3. Enter your email address and password.
- 4. Select "Courses" on the "OLLI Transaction Web site."
- 5. Select "Register for OLLI Course."
- 6. Fill out or update your personal information.
- 7. Select "Next."
- 8. Select the course(s) you wish to attend, then select "Next" for payment section.
- 9. If you wish to mail in your application and payment, you can download a form at Step 2. Donation is \$20 per course. Check or credit card is accepted. Do not mail cash.



Another full house at a Ronnie Gruhn lecture

OLLI Images



Art & Architecture at Stanford Photo courtesy of Bill Bishoff



OLLI at Pt. Lobos

The Miriam Ellis INTERNATIONAL PLAYHOUSE 18th Anniversary

The Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics, and Cowell and Stevenson Colleges at UCSC will present the 18th season of the Miriam Ellis International Playhouse (MEIP) from May 17th through May 20th at 8:00 PM at the Stevenson Event Center on campus. In this unique multilingual program, students will be featured in fully-staged excerpts of short works in Punjabi, French. German, and Spanish, with English super-titles. There is no admission charge for the event; nearby parking is \$4.00.

There are exciting innovations in the program this year, with the first MEIP presentation of works in Punjabi, including a short play and poetry, directed by Arshinder Kaur, and excerpts from Mozart's opera, *The Magic Flute*, sung in German, directed by Sheila Willey, and performed by students of the University Opera Theater, as a preview of their upcoming production of the opera, which will take place from May 31 to June 3 at the UCSC Music Center Recital Hall.

Students of French will portray scenes from Marcel Pagnol's *Fanny*, one of the plays in his trilogy about a group of serio-comic characters in Marseille, directed by Miriam Ellis and Renée Cailloux. Spanish will offer a contemporary comedy, *Black and White*, by Ignacio Dominis, directed by Carolina Castillo-Trelles, which explores characters who live in two different worlds, separated by a line never to be crossed.

Over the years, our multilingual theater presentations have attracted loyal audiences who look forward to hearing their native or acquired languages in this unusual format, and we cordially invite the community to attend.

For more information, please contact <u>lmhunter@ucsc.edu</u>, (831-459-2054).



Brother ATM, Italian MEIP 2015



Sweet Poison, Japanese MEIP 2015



The Milkmaid, Spanish, MEIP 2017

Interest Group News

American History and Literature

OLLI's American History and Literature Interest Group has found something lost in American society today. This group fans the flames of civil discourse, keeping it alive.

"Everyone has agreed to keep the conversation civil," explains Virginia Law, a retired community college literature and composition professor with a long-time interest in history who established the group two years ago. "We discuss controversial subjects, but we don't end up in a big argument. It's a welcome relief after what so often passes for discussion in the media."

Virginia started this group, and others, because she believes in lifelong learning. "I wanted to continue learning things. I did take a few classes at the University and also some very worthwhile OLLI classes, and I wanted to keep up with things on a regular basis." She believes active participation in researching and then presenting your findings is invaluable—sometimes hard but motivating.

The first group she offered was short-term, during the war in Kosovo. One group led to another, including launching a book club. A routine reader of *The New Yorker*, she started a group to discuss the magazine.

From the American History and Lit group, Virginia says she has learned a lot listening to others. Each member takes on researching a topic, then synthesizing the information at a meeting, and the information becomes a springboard for discussion.

At the April meeting, six out of the nine active members of this group—most with a background in history—likely learned a lot listening to Virginia present her research on the nineteenth century novelist and short story writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne, a dark romantic and a key figure in American literature.

With a relative that served as a judge at the Salem witch trials and another involved with persecuting Quakers, Hawthorne had a horrible, isolated childhood and became a hardworking writer, who may have been working through religious issues with his writings like *The Scarlet Letter*, Virginia says. "It's not clear to me, reading him, how religious he was. He was slightly satiric and admired by others."

This OLLI group has progressed chronologically from its initial study of the American Revolution, incorporating study of the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, and *The Federalist Papers*, a compilation of 85 articles and essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay under the shared pseudonym,"Publius," to encourage ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

Virginia says information about American history today far surpasses information presented when she was a school girl learning history and reading American literature. As the interest group wraps up this year's study, members will have progressed to the Gold Rush.

The group will have space for up to four additional people in the fall.

By Johnna L. Laird



Interest Group Chart — 1

For more information, go to our home page, click on "interest groups" in the left column, or go directly to interest-groups.

Interest Group	Leader(s)	Email	
Adventuring	Kathryn Nance	momokat13@gmail.com	
American History & Lit	Virginia Law	veelaw29@gmail.com	
Aptos Non-Fiction	Judy McNeely	judybookdoc@collegepathfinders.com	
Aptos Reading Group	Judy McNeely	judybookdoc@collegepathfinders.com	
Art — Painting	Gayla Pius	gaylapius@gmail.com	
Art & Architecture	Lois Widom	lowidom@yahoo.com	
Baroque Festival	David Copp	dhcopp@yahoo.com	
Biographies	Peter Poriss	petermartin408@gmail.com	
Biographical Fiction	Jan Mintz	musicmintz@gmail.com	
Bridge	Jo Anne Dlott	jjdlott@gmail.com	
Colleges 9 and 10	Mark Gordon	mgordon@cruzio.com	
Community Media	Mathilde Rand	randomsantacruz@gmail.com	
Concept Exchange Society	Peter Marks	peter@designinsight.com	
Creative Writing	Dee Takemoto	dtakit@gmail.com	
Current Affairs I	Mark Gordon	mgordon@cruzio.com	
Current Affairs II	Constantine Lackides	cnlackides@gmail.com	
Dickens	Cathy Cress	cressgcm@got.net	
Digital Photography	Cindy Margolin	crmargol@gmail.com	
Dining Out	Diane Zacher	dianezacher@gmail.com	
Dining Out	Kathy Hatfield	b40mom@gmail.com	
Discovering UCSC	Sandy Brauner	sanjan@cruzio.com	
Ears in Action	Flo Orenstein	santacruzflos@aol.com	
English in Action	Karin Grobe	kgrobe@wormdoctor.org	
Evening Book Discussion	Dusty Miller	hndmiller@hotmail.com	
	Kathryn Nance	kathrynn@cruzio.com	
Explore Santa Cruz County	Sue Myers	suemyers85@gmail.com	
	Peter Nurkse	nurkse@gmail.com	
Financial Education	Steve Edmonds	steve2rr@gmail.com	
Folk Songs	Lou Rose	ramblingroses@yahoo.com	
French for French Speakers	Richard Zakarian	rzakarian@csun.edu	
Great Books I	Irene Lennox	scotirene@yahoo.com	
Great Books II	Susan Gorsky	sgorsky@sbcglobal.net	
Great Decisions	Mary Caravalho	marycaravalho@gmail.com	
Horticulture	Pat McVeigh	pmcveigh@baymoon.com	
Lunchtime Dining Out	Irene Lennox	scotirene@yahoo.com	

Interest Group Chart — 2

Interest Group	Leader(s)	Email	
Making of an Elder Culture	Mary McKane	mmckane9@me.com	
Memoir Writing I	Joyce Burt	sandplay@ix.netcom.com	
Memoir Writing II	Joyce Burt	sandplay@ix.netcom.com	
Navigating Retirement	Katrina Cope	katrina.cope@gmail.com	
New Yorker Aptos	Joan Rose	ramblingroses@yahoo.com	
New Yorker Capitola	Faye Alexander	qtpie95010@gmail.com	
New Yorker Live Oak	Cathy Cress	cressgcm@got.net	
New Yorker Santa Cruz I	Peggy Williams	pegwil.atty@gmail.com	
New Yorker Santa Cruz II	Helen Jones	helenjones815@gmail.com	
New Yorker Poetry	Pegatha Hughes	pegathahughes@gmail.com	
Newcomers	Mary Caravalho	marycaravalho@gmail.com	
Non-Fiction West Side	Mary Caravalho	marycaravalho@gmail.com	
Philosophy	Paul Seever	pseever@prodigy.net	
Play Reading	Shirley Forsyth	shirlclu@gmail.com	
Read & Socialize	Edna Elkins	ednautah@msn.com	
Precolumbian A&C	Rhea Giroux	rrmg@aol.com	
Duonto Project	Richard Bruce	richard.bruce@gmail.com	
Puente Project	Sesario Escoto	sesarioescoto@gmail.com	
Read It Again, Sam	Joan Rose	ramblingroses@yahoo.com	
Reading Circle	Irene Lennox	scotirene@yahoo.com	
Recorder Playing	Mary Ann Franson	mfranson@cruzio.com	
Santa Cruz History	Vickie Bridsall	vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com	
Science	New Leader needed		
Short Stories	Kathryn Cowan	kathycowan43@yahoo.com	
Social Science Discussion	Dusty Miller	hndmiller@hotmail.com	
Spanish Conversation	Dolores McCabe	dmccabe47@gmail.com	
Still Life Drawing	Analydia Scoggin	analydia36@yahoo.com	
Tennis (doubles)	David Brick	dbrick@cruzio.com	
Visiting Not-For-Profits	Gabrielle Stocker	gstocker2@cruzio.com	
Walking	Alice Tarail	alicet@cruzio.com	
What If	Phil Lynch	what.if.alternative.history@gmail.com	
Wine Tasting	Margie Lafia	mlafia56@gmail.com	
Women's Basketball	Mary Caravalho	marycaravalho@gmail.com	
Writing Concelection History	Pamela Roby	roby@ucsc.edu	
Writing Genealogical History	Cynthia Solem	cysole@yahoo.com	

MEMBER PROFILE

Elena Cohen: Interest Group Inspires Action

by Johnna Laird

Elena Cohen, a semi-retired attorney, joined OLLI in the fall of 2016 and credits her participation in an interest group with giving her a nudge to launch an initiative that raised \$150,000 for nonprofit investigative journalists.

In Navigating Retirement, an OLLI interest group led by Katrina Cope and Nancy Calvin, Elena says, "We often talked about identifying the types of experiences that make each of us happy and gives us meaning."

"I realized that what mattered most to me—whether retired or not—was feeling like I was a valued team member working for a common good and doing my part well."

It was that insight that moved her into action after the 2016 U.S. presidential election, which stunned her. To work for the common good, Elena decided that she needed to find a way to support probing, investigative journalists to "hold our leaders accountable and protect our nation's fundamental values that thoughtful people everywhere on the political spectrum should support."

Her 35th college reunion had generated a strong sense of community and a hefty donation to

her alma mater, Harvard University. She thought of classmates who founded Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative nonprofits and immediately focused on bringing the Class of 1979 together to support these organizations. Her brainchild, later named Harvard/ Radcliffe Class of '79 Initiative for Investigative Journalism (IIJ), began to take shape.

Elena contacted her best friend from college to help identify classmates with different types of expertise to serve on the IIJ steering committee. Some members chosen were journalists; others were involved in politics, law, business, or fundraising. Elena envisioned a fundraising model that relied on committee members individually contacting classmates with whom they had a personal connection. Ultimately the steering committee reached about 400 people.

During the five-month solicitation, the IIJ raised more than \$150,000 for five organizations of investigative journalism led by '79ers: InsideClimate News, the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, The Marshall Project, The National Security Archive, and ProPublica.

More than 160 donors contributed directly to the five nonprofits, almost all of whom were new donors. The IIJ generated more than 250 gifts, since many gave to more

> than one organization. Fundraising experts told Elena, schooled in health law and policy and not fundraising, that the 35 percent response from classmates was "eyepopping" and "off-the-charts successful."

One donating classmate shared his appreciation for the IIJ effort, noting, "It is inspiring to see the difference our classmates are making in so many kinds of journalism.... To me, they are Jedi Knights. Against tough odds and everdecreasing funding, they are keeping

alive a sense of justice through investigation and revelation. They're our last defense in an era that threatens clear thinking, respect, kindness, and constructive public dialog. I'm grateful for their work and proud of them."

The Marshall Project board members, so inspired by the IIJ effort, decided to fundraise with their college classes.

Reflecting on the IIJ's success and energized by enthusiastic, supportive responses that she and her committee received, Elena says the project offered her experiences that the OLLI Navigating Retirement sessions helped her identify as most personally rewarding: working toward a common good, being a valued team member, and doing her own part well.



20200 22			1100 - 12 M
Select	Course #	Description and Venue. Suggested donation: \$20/course:	Donation
	1809	2017 World Affairs Sprin COMPLETED 23, Feb 20, April 24: 10 am - 12 Fellowship Hall, Peace U	\$
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	1811	Espressivo — Michel Sin COMPLETED am—12 pm	\$
	1812	Cosmology — Roger Kna Museum of Art and History, COMPLETED	\$
	1813	The Holocaust — Peter Kenez, M. BaumgartenJune 5, 12, 14, 19, 21 and 2610 am—12 pmMuseum of Art and History, 705 Front Street	\$
	1814	Santa Cruz Shakespeare COMPLETED 27, April 3,10,17 10:00 am-12 pm 05 Front Street	\$
	1815	Genesis Stories —Gildas COMPLETED am—12 pm	\$
	1816	<i>Two Works by Melville</i> — Forrest Robinson May 8,15,22 and 29 10 am—12 pm Lounge, Peace United Church, 900 High Street	\$
	1817	Tom Jones & the Origins COMPLETED Mar 12, 19, 26, Apr 2 10 am—12 pm Mu Front Street	\$
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	1819	Introduction to Wagner's COMPLETED r. 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 10 am-12 pm Mu COMPLETED Front Street	\$
	1820	<i>Food and BioChemistry</i> — Barry Bowman May 5, 12, 19, 26 10:30 am—12 pm Physical Sciences Building, Room 240, UCSC Campus	\$
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Spring 2018 Course Registration Form

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Contribution Information:

We ask a donation of \$60. Please consider an additional donation to the Silvia Miller scholarship program.

If funds are limited, in confidence you may contact OLLI president Gail Greenwood, msaspasia@gmail.com to discuss alternatives.

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*Some interest groups have limited membership. You may ask a group's leader to be placed on a waiting list or get help from our interest-group coordinator to form a new group. See our website for more information.

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