



Contents

The President's Message	2
Keeping Connected	3
Zoom Course	5
OLLI on YouTube	6
Upcoming Courses	7
Interest Groups	9
Promotion Partners	12
Board of Directors	13

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

Published biweekly during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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 discussions, reading and exploring new interests. Money raised from our activities is used to fund scholarships for transfer and re-entry students at UCSC.

Publisher: David Lieby  
Reporter: Johnna Laird

Future OLLI Meeting Dates:  
To Be Determined

# OLLI Newsletter

## Let's keep in Touch!

So many wonderful things are happening in response to the pandemic restrictions.

In addition to news about courses and interest groups, our members are contributing interesting and funny things. See page 3

We are happy to have the community help us all through this time.

An exciting course, **A Survey of Ecology taught by Professor Jim Estes** is starting on June 9. See page 5 to learn more and register.

**Ronnie Gruhn's series of Short Commentaries** continues with bi-weekly installments. See page 6 for details.

Courses are happening online and on YouTube. Interest groups are using Zoom and other apps to get together without physical contact.

We are indeed resilient. That, and it looks like determined also.

We will be back, when it is safe.

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### Interesting News From Barry Bowman

The people in my department at UCSC, Molecular Biology, are very excited this morning. Carol Greider, the Nobel Prize winner who spoke to us this winter is joining our faculty.

I like to think that the OLLI group was a tiny factor in her coming here. She much enjoyed her interaction with us.

Down the road, maybe she could teach a course for us!

Help us stay afloat!

We are drowning in data about the Pandemic.

We need things to help us get a breath of fresh air.

Please send us news about you and what you are doing to keep sane.

## The President's Message

### The Kindness of Others



One of the things that helps us through the current situation is others and their kindnesses. Folks who send you jokes or sentimental/feel good stories, who call to see how you are doing, who you know are there for you to lean on when you need some support. Recently, neighbors have been helping me with getting food and it has felt good- not just for the satisfied feeling of eating something new and fresh, but for the feeling of kindness, neighborliness and community that it shows.

It also feels good to be the “other” who offers those kindnesses to folks- sharing news of a good book or TV show, a joke, a photo, sharing the bounty of your own supplies, lifting someone’s spirits. We all have our ups and downs, but the sense of community that I am seeing and feeling now warms my heart and soul.

What examples of kindness have you experienced – either those coming from you or to you? I would love to hear from you with some of those experiences (I know you have them) and it would be nice to compile some and share them in the next edition of the OLLI Newsletter. It may inspire us all to do more. You can send me your stories and experiences at [BonitaS@ucsc.edu](mailto:BonitaS@ucsc.edu).

Stay safe, stay well,

Bonita

## Responses From Our Members To Keep Us Connected

### *An email from Roger Knacke titled "Sane?"*

You asked what we are doing to stay sane during the outbreak and isolation. Here is a true story why I have a tenuous grip on sanity.

This afternoon my cat would not stop pestering me. Finally in exasperation I yelled, "I'm sorry, it's not time to eat yet so shut up!" Then Siri on my watch, entirely on its own, came on and said, "You don't have to say you're sorry."

Great technology.

### *An email from Pat Lerman titled "What my community is doing to stay sane"*

The latest OLLI newsletter posed the question, "what are you doing to stay sane?"


Here on Rose Avenue in Aromas we have almost daily 4 PM "check-ins" where we gather in one of our gardens or on a porch, sitting 6' apart, wearing beautiful masks that one of the neighbors made for us all. For an hour or so we catch up, share stories, and stay connected. This week's topic was, "how did you meet your first spouse."

Our community has always been close, but sheltering-in-place has given us the opportunity to know each other even better. This crisis has brought beautiful unintended consequences.

### *An email from Lois Widom titled "For Newsletter"*

This is so good. Maybe you could put it in the newsletter.

["Phoenix Chamber Choir sings a musical public service announcement"](#)



More to go,  
Below

*An email from Nan Blair  
titled "These observations are so accurate, they are not funny."*

Some good ones on this list, especially if you are home schooling kids.

Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on 'Wheel of Fortune'. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Still haven't decided where to go for Easter -----  
The Living Room or The Bedroom

PSA: Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog and we laughed a lot.

So, after this quarantine ... will the producers of 'My 600 Pound Life' just find me or do I find them?

Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.

Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.

Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year". I'm offended.

Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.

Also heard in Asia when they ran out of masks they wore ladies underwear, no thongs though.

## Help Us Stay Connected

Send us your thoughts and ideas for inclusion in future biweekly newsletters. We are interested in the well-being of our members and what everyone is doing to cope with the rules created to help us weather the pandemic. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this effort.

Please send your input to: [olliucsc@gmail.com](mailto:olliucsc@gmail.com) with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

## Zoom Course

### A Survey of Ecology

Jim Estes

via Zoom



Originally scheduled for last month, we are fortunate that Jim has agreed to teach this important class.

**Four Tuesdays: June 9, 16, 23, 30      11:00 to 12:45**

To participate in this class, **please email Barry Bowman** at [bbowman@ucsc.edu](mailto:bbowman@ucsc.edu) of your interest. In turn, you will receive an invitation before each Zoom class.

The OLLI Board has decided no fees will be charged for our classes this summer. If you have already paid for this class, you will be credited for a future class.

Scope of the class: The broad goal of ecology is to describe and understand the distribution and abundance of species. In this course we will explore the history and substance of ecology as a scientific discipline. Lectures will build on concepts, embellished extensively with storytelling.

Jim received a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1967 and a doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1974. He worked as a research scientist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Geological Survey. After retiring from federal service in 2007, Jim joined the UCSC faculty in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, from where he retired in 2018.

Jim is an internationally known expert on species interactions, especially those involving predators. He has published more than 200 scientific articles and several books and monographs, including a co-edited volume with John Terborgh (*Trophic Cascades: Predators, Prey and the Changing Dynamics of Nature*, Island Press) and his memoir (*Serendipity: An Ecologist's Quest to Understand Nature*). He has served on editorial boards of various scientific journals. Jim is a Pew Fellow in marine conservation, a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He received the Western Society of Naturalists' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011 and the American Society of Mammalogists' C. Hart Merriam Award for excellence in research in 2012.

## OLLI on YouTube

### Ronnie Gruhn's Classes

Ronnie Gruhn, whose courses have enlightened us on world affairs over the years, has kindly offered to prepare podcasts for OLLI from time to time. She is calling them "Short Commentaries on International Aspects of the Current Crises and Its Impact on World Affairs" and will be released by-weekly. There will be links to them in this newsletter and in announcement emails. **Be sure to watch for and listen to them.** Ronnie is Professor Emerita of Politics at UCSC.

We are coordinating the release of the newsletter with the release of new classes.

The latest can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/7GdA488U8QU>

Use this link for a full list of Ronnie's Short Commentaries:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=ronnie+gruhn](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ronnie+gruhn)

Ronnie is really interested in hearing people's questions and suggestions.

You can contact her at: [ronnie@UCSC.edu](mailto:ronnie@UCSC.edu)



From W. Todd Wipke: If a viewer SUBSCRIBES to the Olli channel AND clicks the bell icon (notify), then every time a new video is uploaded to the channel they automatically receive a notification from YouTube.

### Barry Bowman's Food and Biochemistry Class



Barry's final installment of his wonderful class can be found on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/j8mCnc1ygPE>

## Courses Coming Up

### FALL OLLI COURSES

While we are all washing our hands, obsessing on the news, taking solitary walks, and learning how to use ZOOM, and checking out our online courses and podcasts on the OLLI website, let's also look forward to OLLI courses for next fall. Because of the cancellations, we will be having a very full schedule. We may even have to have classes both morning and afternoon. We will be back to our old college days.

So, here we go--

Two courses to complete

**Fred and Ginger:** one more movie. (By the way, I find watching Fred and Ginger on youtube a real upper.)

**Major Supreme Court Decisions that Changed America:** Arthur Rolston has presented one thought provoking class so far.

Scheduled courses hopefully postponed to the Fall

**Beyond the Binary:** New Ways of Thinking about Sex and Gender Mary Crawford's class already had a substantial enrollment.

Recurring Courses

**International Affairs, Fall 2020:** Let's hope Ronnie Gruhn has some good news for us.

**Modern Molecular Biology:** ---always fascinating.

New Fall courses (so far)

**Dante:** Many of you may remember Margaret Brose's class on The Divine Comedy. Margaret is offering us a further look into the work of this fascinating and pivotal writer.

**Frank Capra:** Bill Park will be showing and discussing films by this director of the thirties and forties. Here is a quotation by Capra.

*"Film is one of the three universal languages, the other two: mathematics and music."*

**A Primer on Climate Change:** Roger Knacke, who has kept us informed on all things astronomical, is preparing a course that will give us a deep understanding of climate change.

**The Beauty of Mathematics:** Solving Equations Peter Farkas has been in Princeton this year, thinking about challenging classes for us.

Plus classes by Leta Miller, Dale Johnson, Aimee Zygmanski---subjects to be announced---and probably others I have yet to discover.

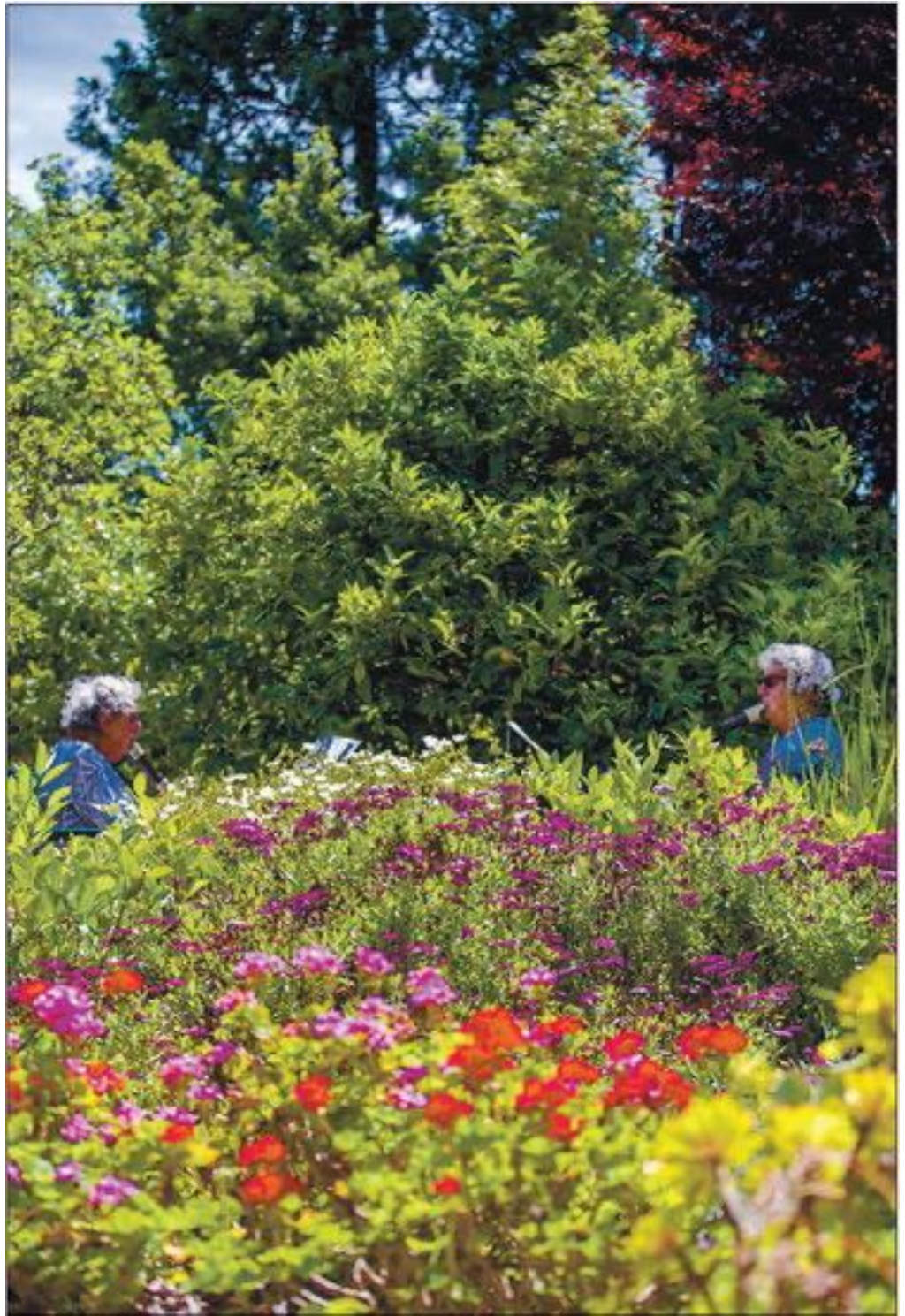
So, see you all in class next fall.

If you already paid for a course or paid for one you cannot attend, we will be flexible about fees.

Lois Widom

## As seen on page A3 of the Santa Cruz Sentinel on May 21

Marilyn Rigler, 94, and Sandy Cohen, 73, practice playing their recorders while maintaining a social distance. The two are members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and have been participating in a weekly recorder ensemble with four other members and a volunteer teacher for the last six years. Here, Rigler plays alto and Cohen plays the tenor recorder. The group tried playing via the Zoom video conferencing platform, but the audio delay made that challenging. “We’ve since managed a workaround on Zoom, but “the loss of the weekly sessions has been difficult,” Cohen said. “We would play for one and a half hours each weekly session, and when we successfully make music as an ensemble, it gives us a sense of accomplishment.” “We are still meeting weekly to check in on Zoom and chat briefly, but we are all looking forward to resuming our playing sessions. Practicing alone is necessary, but does not offer any sense of camaraderie,” Rigler said. “Not having had the opportunity to play an instrument when I was younger, I am now exhilarated and joyous to be playing music, and the self-esteem boost derived from the ensemble experience is a natural high.”



ALLISON GARCIA — CONTRIBUTED



## Interest Groups

*I hope you and yours are healthy, getting lots of fresh air, and appreciating how lucky we are in Santa Cruz county. If you want ideas for those slow days, below are OLLI members' online recommendations. Stay well, Ginna*



<https://santacruzlocal.org>

**Santa Cruz Local** is a non-partisan, independent, online local news podcast, newsletter, and website about public policy in Santa Cruz County, aimed to produce fair and accurate local journalism that holds power to account and whose stated vision is “When we are all watching and engaged in our public institutions, our needs are addressed, democracy works better and our community is stronger.



<https://cb.today/siliconvalley/2020/projectideas>

**Home Improvement:** plant an edible garden, build a fire pit, propagate a plant, set up a projector screen, create a stone garden path, make a compost bin, begin an herb garden, replace old doorknobs and drawer handles, hang new art or curtains, reorganize kitchen spices with a homemade spice rack.

**Brain Games:** attend an online class, learn cocktail recipes, hone cooking skills, start a journal, take time to meditate, study a new language, start a new workout regimen.



<https://www.newyorker.com/humor/daily-shouts/netflix-documentaries-we-watched-while-under-quarantine>

**Netflix Documentaries** watched by The New Yorker staff under quarantine. From *Unlikely Animal Friends with Benefits* to *Charles Manson: The Hamburg Years*.



<https://covia.org/services/well-connected>

**Well Connected** is a community of participants, staff, facilitators, and presenters who value being connected. All groups are accessible by phone from wherever you are at no cost. Whether you like art or zoology, music or meditation, there is a program for you. And *Well Connected* meets 365 days a year, so there's always a chance to connect.



<https://thi.ucsc.edu/signature-events>

**The Humanities Institute** is a hub for new directions in research and teaching, cross-discipline collaboration, and public engagement. Our work focuses on engaging the public, incubating research, cultivating critical thinkers, and rethinking graduate education. We aim to connect the Santa Cruz community with thinkers and doers on the leading edge of Humanities research and scholarship.



<https://www.folger.edu/performances-events>

*The Folger Theatre* is the performing arts centerpiece of the world's largest Shakespeare collection. Watch *Macbeth* online for free through July 1, Shakespeare's chilling Scottish tragedy realized by Emmy-winning magician Teller (of Penn & Teller) and award-winning director Aaron Posner as a startling, supernatural show brimming with magic, mayhem, and madness.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/12/movies/hamilton-movie-disney-plus.html?referringSource=articleShare>

*Hamilton* movie will stream on Disney Plus. It will be a while before anyone sees *Hamilton* onstage again. But there's now another option: Disney plans to stream a filmed version of the stage production beginning July 3. In a pandemic-prompted shift, the company moved the release date up 15 months in light of cancellation of all live performances, as well as the uncertain appeal of movie theaters.



<https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2020/05/summer-books-quarantine-hex-catherine-house-dawn/611626>


*Culture Desk* recommendations from *The Atlantic* culture writers and editors, with an eye toward stories that will resonate during a summer of continued social distancing, loosely grouped according to literary cravings. Picks are immersive, escapist, or nostalgic reading—wherever you are.



<https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2020/04/20-under-sung-crime-shows-to-watch-in-quarantine/610387>

*Undersung Crime Shows* identifies 20 superlative crime-drama binges from the past decade available to stream. Propulsive thrillers, slow-burn procedurals, and more for your every quarantine mood. Maybe it begins with a body, half-buried under bracken in the woods... or a glimmering shot of a city skyline... or a furtive deal at dusk before an untimely end.

**YOUR CAPTIONS:**



- Rapt by another rare bird – oh, it's a stick.
- Who's behind those Foster Grants?
- Isn't today our Interest Group meeting?
- Is that Waldo?
- Scalpel...
- Does she carry a silver bullet?
- Is that the virus coming?



## 100 Years Ago 1920



- ◆ The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- ◆ Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only; maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- ◆ Only 14% of homes had a bathtub; only 8% had a telephone.
- ◆ The average US wage in 1919 was 22¢/hour; the average US worker made \$200-\$400/y.
- ◆ Accountants earned \$2,000/y; dentists, \$2,500/y; mechanical engineers, \$5,000/y.
- ◆ Physicians had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! They attended so-called medical schools, often condemned by the press and government as "substandard."
- ◆ Sugar cost 4¢/lb; eggs, 14¢/dozen; coffee, 15¢/lb.
- ◆ Most women washed their hair monthly and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- ◆ Canada prohibited poor people from entering their country for any reason.
- ◆ Leading causes of death: #1 pneumonia and influenza, #2 tuberculosis, #3 diarrhea, #4 heart disease, #5 stroke
- ◆ The American flag had 45 stars.
- ◆ The population of Las Vegas was 30.
- ◆ More than 95% of births took place at home.
- ◆ There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.
- ◆ Two of 10 adults could not read or write; 6% of Americans graduated from high school.
- ◆ Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local drug stores. Pharmacists claimed that heroin cleared the complexion, gave buoyancy to the mind, regulated the stomach and bowels, and was a perfect guardian of health!
- ◆ 18% of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- ◆ Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea had not been invented.



## Promotion Partners

**Santa Cruz Chorale  
2020**

**Guest Concert: New Choir**  
Sunday, March 22, 4pm  
**CANCELLED**

**JS Bach and Franz Schubert**  
(postponed from May)  
Saturday, October 17, 8pm  
Sunday, October 18, 4pm

**Christmas with the Chorale**  
Saturday, December 19, 8pm  
Sunday, December 4pm

All concerts at Holy Cross Church  
Santa Cruz

Info and tickets:  
[www.santachoralechorale.org](http://www.santachoralechorale.org)  
(831) 427 8023




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P.O. Box 482 Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
[contact@santacruzbaroquefestival.org](mailto:contact@santacruzbaroquefestival.org)  
[scbaroque.org](http://scbaroque.org) • 831.457.9693

OLLIwood Squares



Bonita Sebastian, Cindy Margolin, Janis Bolt, Dennis Morris  
 Bill Patterson, Lois Widom, Mark Gordon, Ginna Holcombe  
 Barry Bowman, Guenter Vorlop, Karen Gammell, , Sara Radoff  
 DeShonne Keller, David Lieby, Kate Erstein, Gail Greenwood  
 ~not shown. Chris Le Maistre

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\*Elected office

\*\*Replacing resigned officer