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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!

### Free Online Commentaries and Classes

#### Ronnie Gruhn's series of Short Commentaries continues

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. Ronnie is Professor Emerita of Politics at UCSC.

The latest can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/oKlugQpa0do>

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)

#### A Survey of Ecology taught by Professor Jim Estes

This marvelous course started on June 9 but you can still sign up.

Email Bob Bowman [bbowman@ucsc.edu](mailto:bbowman@ucsc.edu)

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.

More information on page 5.

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

### **A Smile**

*Poet: Unknown*

*A smile is cheer to you and me  
The cost is nothing - it's given free  
It comforts the weary - gladdens the sad  
Consoles those in trouble - good or bad  
To rich and poor - beggar or thief  
It's free to all of any belief.  
A natural gesture of young and old  
Cheers on the faint - disarms the bold  
Unlike most blessings for which we pray  
It's one thing we keep when we give it away.*

The times they are a-changin'... If you are wearing a facemask (as we may be going to experience for some time) how can you communicate what a smile would normally do? Or if you see a person wearing a facemask, how can you know if they are smiling or frowning or angry or feeling some other emotion? Can you just assume they are smiling? A smile usually indicates that there is no threat and at this time, we may need just that.

So, perhaps we need to think of new ways of communicating our feelings and greetings. You could nod your head or bend your head and fold your hands together as in Asian countries. You could give a thumbs up sign or a hand-wave or some of the other commonly used friendly hand signal greetings.



For me, I would like you to know that if you encounter me with my mask on and you are in doubt, just assume I am smiling. How about you?

A new member of my cohousing community created a poetry reading group to while away the slogging hours. We each bring a poem to read. Of course, we're reading the greats—Rilke, Mary Oliver, Emily Dickinson. . .

I am so stressed by solitude, I write one myself. As anyone can see, this history teacher is not a poet, but with enough loneliness and isolation, I even venture to read it to the group. I'll do about anything these days to forge a connection even if they hate it. They were very kind. I don't think we usually publish poetry in our newsletter, but nothing is "usual" these days, so here it is.

Covid Madness  
By  
Gail Greenwood

I just don't understand sentient beings.  
A microscopic virus explodes across the world  
People rush out to buy ammo;  
Do they think they can shoot it?

And toilet paper.  
Do they think they will sh\*t it?  
Japanese solved hygiene.  
My bidet toilet washes me clean.  
I'm smug.

Three weeks into solitary confinement  
I get a puppy!  
I'm crazed  
but unique.  
My old dog looks at me with martyred eyes.

The news reports  
the animal shelters are emptying out--  
Dogs, cats, even birds and rabbits  
Others are crazy too;  
Now I'm common!

With my puppy  
Aggravation crowds out loneliness  
And fear of viruses.  
It's hard to worry  
With a 3 second attention span.

I'd like to share my isolation  
With a soul mate.  
But  
Dogs are simpler  
Each *knows* the food is better  
In the other's bowl.

Or maybe we're all the same.

And here (if I can figure out how to insert it) is  
a picture of my granddaughter with the puppy.



## Responses From Our Members To Keep Us Connected

### **An article from Patricia McVeigh of the Horticultural Interest Group**

As are so many of the Interest Groups, the Horticultural Interest Group has not been active. We normally met on Thursday mornings at Cabrillo Horticulture Center, and for the past months were preparing for the annual Mothers' Day sale. This sale serves the entire community, and raises funds to support the work of Cabrillos' Horticulture students. All of us are missing the socialization and the learning which came from working together at a beautiful setting. We miss each other, and we miss the wonderful staff who taught us so much. Speaking with others from our interest group, many of us now have used our love of gardening to update and tend our own gardens. The Farmers Market at Cabrillo which meets on Saturday mornings is active, and plants and produce from

### **Acts of Kindness**

*From Patricia McVeigh*

For me, over the years contact with family members far away has been slim, sporadic. This pandemic, and concerns for my family members have brought a closeness. Having time to check in, just to say "How are you doing?" has been a real pleasure. Keeping up with my sisters and learning more about their children and grandchildren brings a sense of joy.

*From Johanna Bowen*

One morning when I went out, the young mom-of-three kids across the street came to the curb and told me that the previous evening she and her husband almost came over to see if I was well. Apparently, I always drop my blinds at dark but the night before I did not do it until after 10pm and they both noticed and began to worry until I lowered my blinds. This simple act of awareness and caring touched me.

### **Dealing with the DMV**

*From Constantine Lackides*

If you have to renew your driver's license, call the DMV at 800-777-0133 and let them know you are over 65. By answering a few questions, you can be excused from taking the written test this time. A good time to call is right at 8:00 a.m. when they open. You will still have to go to an open office to sign and pay.

## 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.



# ESPRESSIVO

a small, intense orchestra

*From our Promotion Partner, Espressoivo*

June 7, 2020

Friends,

With all the excellent classical music posted online since concerts have been prohibited, our only rationale for adding to it is your possible personal interest.

I am grateful if that is a mark of loyalty, and gratified if it reflects your enjoyment of our playing.

Here are links to our most recent—seems so long ago!—concert this past January. It will be a pleasant memory to some of you and,

I hope, a pleasant discovery to others.

Beethoven Octet, Op. 103

<https://youtu.be/nuQLS8ZHEbY>

Bohuslav Martinu, Nonet

<https://youtu.be/VKi0xt4yZkc>

Judith Weir, “Airs from Another Planet”

<https://youtu.be/mHba-G6f778>

Jean Françaix, “Hommage à l’ami Papageno”

<https://youtu.be/YzOgCh5j9-s>

We are still planning on playing in your presence on January 24th Corelli, Wolf-Ferrari and Mozart. Please stay safe.

Cordially and respectfully, Michel

## 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.

**You can still sign up for this class.**

**Just email**

**[bbowman@ucsc.edu](mailto:bbowman@ucsc.edu)**



## Interest Groups

### Great Decisions Joya Chatterjee (and village)

Great Decisions is a national, grassroots foreign-policy discussion program provided by the Foreign Policy Association ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)), whose mission for more than 100 years has been to “serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. . . through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications... ”



Co-led by Joya Chatterjee [joya\\_chatterjee@yahoo.com](mailto:joya_chatterjee@yahoo.com) and Gaby Litsky [glitsky@aol.com](mailto:glitsky@aol.com), our Great Decisions OLLI group met Mondays 10:00am. Each meeting addressed one of eight topics determined by the Foreign Policy Association. This year’s topics were Climate Change and the Global Order, India and Pakistan, Red Sea Security, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle, China’s Road into Latin America, The Philippines and the U.S., and Artificial Intelligence and Data.

Group members read the 2020 briefing book, watched topic videos, and volunteered to research, present, and lead a group conversation to bring out diverse points of view. Each week we watch the topic video at the beginning of our meeting and then enjoy lively discussions led by the weekly presenter. Our OLLI group is our Great Decisions village; everyone attends and plays a significant role.

On Presidents’ Day, February 17, we celebrated our agreements and disagreements by completing the Foreign Policy Association opinion forms over a yummy salad lunch.

Our first virtual meeting with Zoom, March 30, was a great success! Presenters and listeners ALL participated. It took us fewer than five minutes for everyone to use, understand, and contribute to the meeting. Our topic was the Philippines. The next meeting discussed artificial intelligence; what better way to discuss that topic than by using video conferencing!



Our 2020 spring session was, to say the least, very dynamic, often passionate, and always educational. We met Monday mornings January 13 to March 16 until everything came to a standstill due to the Covid pandemic, when we quickly adapted to current times and started Zooming our meetings. The group's bond was so close and discussions were so thought provoking, especially given current political and economic times, that we added three topics from past years, and continued until May 18.

Our webmaster, Gary Oing, kept us organized and graciously included the additional topics; check out topics and the outstanding work done by facilitators: [http://eoing.com/gk/olli/great\\_decisions](http://eoing.com/gk/olli/great_decisions). Another shout-out goes to Brian Harrison, without whose Zoom account and techie know-how, we would have been at a total loss.

For this newsletter article, member thoughts were requested and are shared below:

"I thought our meetings were splendid. People in the group had prepared ahead of time and we could all pitch in with our assessments and opinions." (Topsy N)


"The Great Decision group meetings not only have provided us an opportunity to be better informed citizens of the US and the world, but they also have given us a chance to practice respectful communication in these particularly divisive sociopolitical times." (Sandy M)

". . . the meetings were wonderfully informative and often involved participants who had first-hand experiences with the subject issues. The materials were presented usually in an unbiased manner hard to find in today's political atmosphere." (Judy B)

". . . an opportunity for participants to discuss important issues and hot spots in the international arena. Members come from diverse backgrounds and share a variety of views and perspectives. . . . The group dynamic is terrific with everyone respectful of each other's ideas." (John S)

"It is great that there is no pressure to present, as some are not comfortable with that, but that everyone's opinions are heard. Moving to a zoom format went surprisingly well, with most of our regular attendees able to overcome technical hurdles and continue to attend. While in-person meetings are clearly preferable, we were still able to have great discussions during the pandemic." (Brian H)

"I have been very much looking forward to the Monday 10 AM meetings. . . .the lively follow-up discussions dig much deeper thanks to the facilitators who come well prepared with additional information and talking points. We are also lucky having immigrants in our group or members who lived overseas bringing personal perspectives to the topics at hand. I am already looking forward to next year." (Guenter V)



The 2020 Census **shapes our future**. It determines how **federal dollars** are spent for schools, health/emergency services, childcare. It decides the number of **Congress** members and **Electoral College** votes. An accurate count means more people in power who represent and advocate for our communities. The 2020 Census is a **9-question** survey available to complete online in 13 languages; there is no citizenship question. Your responses cannot be shared or used against you in anyway.

Visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to complete your Census today. **Spread the Word!**





## Corny Corner



When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.

I hope we have advance notice before quarantine is lifted. We'll need the time to become ourselves again: lose 10 pounds, cut our hair, and adjust to no 9am drinking.

Pandemic monthly budget: Gas \$0; Entertainment \$0; Clothes \$0; Groceries \$2,799.

Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended, not so much to stop the virus but to stop eating.

When I stepped on my scale this morning, it said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time."

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over six weeks.

It may take a village to raise a child but it may take a vineyard to home-school one.

They can open things up next month, but I'm staying in through July to see what happens to you all first.

Spread of Covid is based on two things: (1) How dense the population is, and (2) How dense the population is.

Analogy: The curve is flattening so we can lift restrictions. The parachute is slowing our descent so we can take it off now.

People keep asking of the coronavirus REALLY all that serious. Churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree, it's probably serious.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I'd go to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

I'm putting a drink in each room of my house today and calling it a pub crawl.

At 7:45am I was in a long line at the grocery store that opened at 8:00 for seniors only. A young man tried to cut in but an old lady beat him back with her cane. He tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the gut. As he approached the third time, he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in."

Enjoy your day; you may have nothing better to do!

## Courses Coming Up

### FALL OLLI COURSES (Hopefully)

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

## 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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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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\*\*Replacing resigned officer