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

OLLI at UCSC is a community of women and men 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

Videographer:  
Dean M Gottehrer

# OLLI Newsletter

September 2021

## Zoom General Meeting

**September 19, 2021**

**10:00 AM Zoom Room opens**

**10:00 Breakout Groups (these are fun)**

**10:40 Business Meeting**

**11:00 Lecture**

### Landscape of Community



Our speaker for the September General Meeting will be Martin Quigley, Executive Director of the UCSC Arboretum.

How have historical customs and aspirations shaped the way we think about our landscapes? Why do Americans have such an obsession with lawns? And how do we achieve harmony with our surroundings? What is a native plant, anyway?

Martin Quigley attended Deep Springs College in California and then Cornell University where he earned a B.A. in Comparative Literature. At Utah State University he received an M.L.A. in Landscape Architecture, followed by a Ph.D. in Plant Ecology from Louisiana State University.

He has been employed as a nursery laborer, horticulturist, landscape architect, land planner, environmental consultant, field ecologist and researcher, and professor of botany. Before coming to UCSC in 2016 he worked in eight states and ten other countries.



## President's Message

Barry Bowman

The best laid plans of the OLLI board of directors have “gang aft a-gley”. Our hopes for an in-person general meeting in September with our traditional signup for Interest groups must be postponed. As I write this there are some hints that the resurgence of the coronavirus may have reached its peak in Santa Cruz county, but planning for future meetings will have to be done month by month.

On Sunday, September 19, we will still have the OLLI General Meeting via Zoom. We have lined up a great speaker, Martin Quigley, Executive Director of the UCSC Arboretum. His topic will be “The Landscape of Community.” He will address how historical customs and aspirations shaped the way we think about our landscapes. Martin has had a fascinating career as nursery laborer, horticulturist, and landscape architect, among other occupations.

Our OLLI courses will resume, initially via Zoom. We should be able to give you a schedule at the September meeting.

Many of our Interest Groups have maintained activities throughout the pandemic. The friendships and interactions that develop in these groups provide a glue that holds them together. I belong to four. Concepts Exchange is a fancy name for a group founded years ago by Marvin Chester (now deceased), a retired Physics professor from UCLA. Once a month Marvin simply invited somebody who interested him to come to his home and talk. Now led by Peter Marks the group has had a variety of speakers in the last year on topics like electric vehicles, cybersecurity and the history of the environmental protection agency. Virginia Law has been the leader of American History and Literature. The members are history buffs, presenting short (or not so short) summaries of recent reading. We started with the American Revolution, advancing each year with another historical period. The current focus is the decades after the Civil War. One member is methodically working his way through the biographies of US presidents. Digital Photography, led by Cindy Margolin, has been a fun group. Our technical knowledge is, shall we say, variable. A monthly assignment (“spring,” “patterns in nature,” “memorable structures”) inevitably produces wildly different interpretations. Zoom works well for this group because the photos show well on a computer screen. The Future of Capitalism is a group I started with Gary Silberstein. Now in its third year it has had a stable, loyal group of members. Members report on books or articles they have read, but lots of time is allowed for discussions – OLLI members can be generous in sharing opinions. The group easily adjusted to the Zoom format. OLLI Interest Groups have made my life more interesting. Before this calendar year is over we will have our Interest Group signup session. I urge you all to be involved.

## Announcement of Fall Courses 2021

Lois Widom

This picture is a reminder of what our courses used to look like---and will again---but not yet. Your OLLI Board has prudently decided that it would not be wise to have in-person classes this fall. **So, back to Zoom,** We are now all expert Zoom users.



The procedure will be pretty much like last year. We are again not charging for classes, but only OLLI members will receive notifications of classes, so be sure to renew your membership now.

We will open enrollment to all members... via email. First a message will go out informing all members of the upcoming course (title, date, time, instructor, description). Then, a week before the class begins another email will remind members. Finally, on the day before or in the morning before the class begins (depends on timing), another email will go out to members with the actual Zoom link.

Please read the entire description of each class, as some have different enrollment procedures.





## **International Affairs Fall 2021**

Commentary by Professor Emerita Ronnie Gruhn

Ronnie begins her fall series of YouTube commentaries on international affairs the week of September 13. Watch your inbox for an email from OLLI with a link to the commentary.

We are again fortunate to have Ronnie Gruhn, Professor Emerita of Politics at UCSC, as one of our teachers. She has a passionate and undiminished interest in reading, writing, and talking about world affairs. Her courses offer powerful insights into what is happening today. Ronnie has been very generous in sharing her knowledge with OLLI members, and her courses have been exceedingly well attended.

Ronnie begins her fall series of YouTube commentaries on international affairs the week of September 13, continuing every other Monday. Watch your inbox for an email from OLLI with a link to the commentary.

Subscribe to the OLLI UCSC YouTube channel by going to :[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU7U1Mly\\_RuSsk4QjQD4W](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU7U1Mly_RuSsk4QjQD4W)

Click [here](#) to see videos of past courses and Ronnie's earlier commentaries on YouTube!



## **Major Supreme Court Decisions and their Effect**

Thursdays, October 21, 28 November 4, 11 10 a.m. - Noon  
Instructor: Arthur Rolston

Some Supreme Court decisions are simply more important than others due to their impact on ordinary Americans' economic, social, cultural, and/or political lives. This is the second in a series that looks at a number of cases decided over the course of American history and places them in historical context as both indicators and agents of cosmic changes in American life.

October 21: *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*: Corporate Personhood, Money, and Free Speech

October 28: *Shelby County Alabama v. Holder*: Deciding Who and How Americans Vote

November 4: Religion and the Constitution and *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*: One Person's Free Exercise is Establishment to Another

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Continued from page 5

November 11: The “Problem” of Crime in a Free Society: The Nationalization of Criminal Procedure in the 1960s.

The first class on October 21 will look at the Citizens United case and issues of corporate “personhood,” free speech, and political power.

October 28 we’ll use Shelby County Alabama v. Holderto focus on the history of voting rights and current trends.

November 4 the topic is religion and the Supreme Court, the conflict between the two religion clauses in the First Amendment, and the Hobby Lobby case among others.

For the final session on November 11 the issue is crime, and how in the 1960s the Warren Court effectively nationalized the basic standards of criminal procedure in a number of cases including Gideon v Wainwright, Mapp v. Ohio, Miranda v Arizona and Furman v. Georgia.

While there’s no assigned reading, Google searches of the cases will lead to numerous links to the Court’s majority and minority opinions.

Arthur Rolston came to Santa Cruz from Los Angeles 2017.

This will be his second time lecturing for OLLI, having taught a four-lecture course on Constitutional history in spring 2020.

He has a JD from (UC) Berkeley Law (1967), and a PhD in History from UCLA (2006). Prior to moving to Santa Cruz Arthur practiced law in Los Angeles for over 30 years and then taught history at UCLA as an adjunct lecturer from 2006-2016.



## Behind the Scenes

Three days in November to be Announced

Instructors: Jill Steinberg, Wendy Harrison and Donna Baldini

"Behind the Scenes" participants will talk about how COVID has affected us, what we did that helped us, what we have learned, what might we take away from our experience, and what might be next. Research/reading will be provided to inform our discussions. For example, did you know that the research shows that people over 60 have done the best going through COVID in terms of well-being?



The class limited to 10 participants.

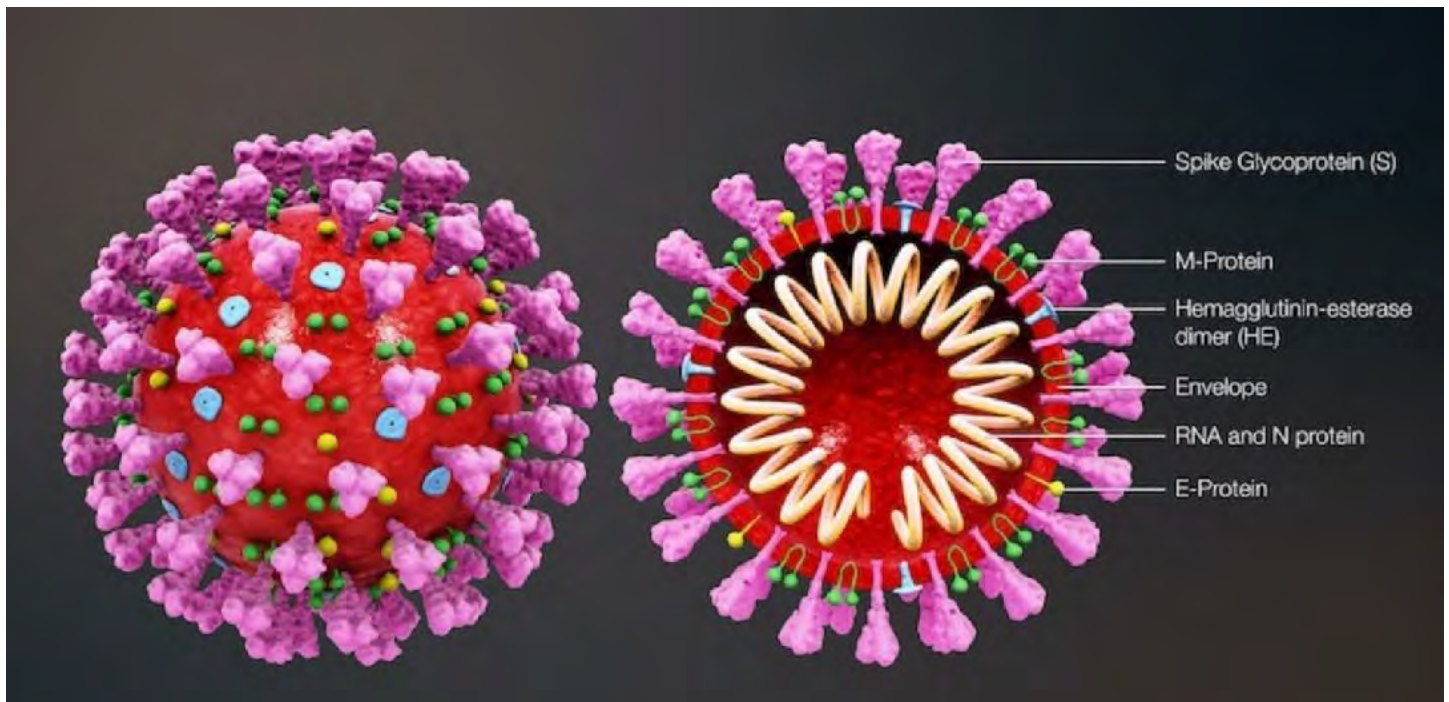
Jill Steinberg, Wendy Harrison and Donna Baldini will co-facilitate the class.



Jill has been facilitating Connection and Community Groups for OLLI and the University of Michigan Ross Business School since COVID began. Jill is a Professor Emeritus, SJSU and founder of MyRetirementWorks.com - From Retiring to Rewiring. Her chapter on retirement was published this year in *The Aging Consumer: Perspectives from Psychology and Marketing*. Edited by Drolet and Yoon, Publisher: Routledge.

Contact Jill by email for questions and/or to sign-up. [jillasteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:jillasteinberg@gmail.com)

## Modern Molecular Biology – 2021



Saturdays November 6, 13, 20 and December 4, 11 10:30 a.m. - Noon,  
Instructor: Barry Bowman

A typical animal cell contains more than 40,000 different kinds of molecules. In the past 25 years great progress has been made in understanding how these molecules combine and interact to form a living creature. UCSC has approximately 50 professors who direct laboratories that investigate some aspect of molecular biology.

As in previous years Professor Emeritus Barry Bowman will organize the course and offer two lectures. Three other professors from UCSC will present lectures covering topics related to their research programs.

These talks are intended for a general audience. A scientific background or knowledge of biology is not expected. Barry Bowman, the course coordinator, will begin with a basic review of genes, proteins and cells.

Lecture #1. Professor Emeritus Barry Bowman - Introduction to the Basics of Molecular Biology

Information on the following 4 lectures will be in the next newsletter.



I know that there are many OLLI members who could teach an interesting class for us. Remember the fascinating course on American Prisoners of War in Vietnam Returning Home that Dr. Richard Hancey taught last year? How prescient that was.

You could share your special interests and knowledge with us in a course of any length from the comfort of your own home. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Call Lois at: 831- 423-0184

Don't miss out on the coming classes. Subscribe to the OLLI UCSC YouTube channel by going to:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU7U1Mly\\_RuSsk4QjQD4WNw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU7U1Mly_RuSsk4QjQD4WNw)

Click on the red subscribe button and the bell to be notified of each OLLI video. We can help if you have a problem subscribing. Let us know.

### **About Membership Renewals**

We sent out a letter to everyone about signing up for OLLI this year. The letters were sent to the entire membership.

Before renewing, please check to be sure you have not already done so. If you are not sure you can contact Dennis at [dennis@valsys.com](mailto:dennis@valsys.com)

### **A Wonderful article about OLLI**

The Santa Cruz Sentinel ran a wonderful piece about OLLI by Tara Fatemi Walker. It is on the OLLI website at:

[https://olli.ucsc.edu/news-events/young-at-heart-july-2021\\_red.pdf](https://olli.ucsc.edu/news-events/young-at-heart-july-2021_red.pdf)

## Who's Who

Ginna Holcombe

### ***DR. Joya Chatterjee, welcome to the OLLI Board of Directors!***



You may already know Joya as the leader of a popular interest group, *Great Decisions*, a world affairs group that discusses critical global issues facing America, based on an annual Foreign Policy Association briefing booklet. In addition, she co-leads with Gaby Litsky another very popular interest group, *Travel Treasures*, which shares international travel experiences during spring and fall sessions.

Perfectly suited to lead these groups, Joya has, with her husband of 56 years, visited more than 125 countries. Neither with organized groups nor relying on travel agencies or booking sites, they spend 2-3 weeks exploring each area. Furthermore, born in Calcutta, they lived in Kolkata, Berkeley, New Jersey, Bombay, Connecticut, Los Gatos, Bonny Doon, and Santa Cruz – in that order and within the first nine years of marriage!

Graduating with a BA at 18 years old, this overachiever completed two MAs (Education and Special Education) and a PhD (Organizational Behavior) while mothering two sons two years apart. Her first son, Raja, is a Navy Reserve Captain and an MD specializing in Critical Care Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep; her second son, Neel, is a lawyer in Intellectual Property and a founder of the Bay Area Diversity Career Fair.

Having just finished her doctorate, just after the US recognized The People's Republic of China, in 1983 Dr. Chatterjee spent six months in Beijing as a Fulbright Scholar. While living in a mud hut with no running water and sleeping on a metal bunk bed, she attended classes and daily exercises in Chinese with the help of an interpreter. Thereafter, she travelled throughout China, appreciating the cultural discipline and societal benefits of communism.

Joya spent her first career as a public school teacher. Under her leadership in 1993, in the very early days of collaborative computer networks, Joya, school principal, and her husband, computer whiz, enabled a very early intranet for Westwood School in Santa Clara, thus earning it a coveted National Blue Ribbon School award and Joya a visit with President Clinton.

By now it should be clear that Joya Chatterjee takes the road less traveled. Thus, rather than retiring after 22 years of teaching, Joya worked for another 22 years within the high-tech industry. Recruited by Sun Microsystems, within one year she accepted a job with Hewlett Packard, where she spent 10 years. For another 11 years she was with Intel where she worked with governments of Latin America, east Africa, southeast Asia, and east Asia to establish national computer systems for education. For the final four years, Joya was Chief of Staff for the China Platform Engineering team working with China.

Can this talented woman possibly do more than frequent international travel, leading two demanding interest groups, and sitting on the OLLI board? Well, yes! In fact, she manages two houses, one here in west Santa Cruz and another in Los Gatos where her sons were raised, both with flower and vegetable gardens. Joya also knits, paints, draws, and enjoys her three grandchildren. Soon she'll likely run for president!

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Starting with this issue, this section of the newsletter will introduce an OLLI member. To begin with, board members will be interviewed. Thereafter, we'll see!

# Interest Groups

Ginna Holcombe



**Foiled again!** We were so looking forward to our annual September sign-up and seeing old friends again *in the flesh*. But new data regarding corona virus variants indicate that in-person meetings may be risky. Unless CDC advises otherwise, our in-person sign-up is postponed until October.

Therefore, in lieu of an in-person September meeting, we will Zoom our usual short business meeting followed by an expert speaker. Toward that end, leaders recruiting new members will give very brief introductions to their groups. Additionally a special newsletter devoted to interest groups will be issued soon to all members to enable direct group enrollment via telephone or email with leaders.

In the meanwhile, don't miss out on the following updates:

**NEWCOMERS** *Come one, come all! SPREAD THE WORD!* Invite friends and neighbors to join this Newcomers group aimed at introducing OLLI and its benefits. Scheduled for new members, anyone interested is welcome.. For now, meetings are outside in small groups of fully vaccinated attendees. Contact Kate Erstein at [kate.erstein@gmail.com](mailto:kate.erstein@gmail.com).



**SUSTAINABILITY** This **NEW GROUP**, led by Mark Folsom, will meet monthly at a time and day determined by group members to discuss topics such as food production, migration, energy saving, overfishing, or economic growth. It is envisioned that members will volunteer to present a topic each month. Please contact Mark if interested at (831) 601 3770 or [mffolsom@gmail.com](mailto:mffolsom@gmail.com).

**MIXED DOUBLES** Intermediate tennis **PLAYERS WANTED!** No partner needed! Friendly, spirited warm-up and match 1:00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays at University Terrace Park (aka Meder St Park). Contact Luke Lafia at (626) 513 6677 or just show up!



**RECORDER PLAYING** Soprano, alto, tenor, bass **PLAYERS WANTED!** Led by Marilyn, this group meets Tuesdays at 2:30 to play medieval, folk, Renaissance, and other music. Players must read music. Contact Marilyn at (831) 423 2505 or [mprigler@gmail.com](mailto:mprigler@gmail.com)



**EARS IN ACTION** After many years of leading this valuable group, Florence Orenstein **NEEDS A CLONE!** Kudos to Florence for providing such an important service to students. Each group member *listens* to a UCSC student... perhaps read aloud... perhaps share a dilemma. We all need sounding boards, especially young students just starting out. Please volunteer at [santacruzflor@aol.com](mailto:santacruzflor@aol.com).

**TRAVEL TREASURES**

Led by Joya Chatterjee and Gaby Litsky, this popular group meets Thursdays 1:00pm at London Nelson Community Center. Their fall schedule includes *Great Lakes* (14 Oct, Joya/Bijoy Chatterjee), *Helping Countries at War: A librarian's virtual experience* (21 Oct, Topsy Smalley), *Morocco and Southern Spain* (28 Oct, Gaby Litsky), and *Scottish Highlands and Islands* (04 Nov, Bill/Leda Bishoff). Contact Joya: [Joya\\_Chatterjee@yahoo.com](mailto:Joya_Chatterjee@yahoo.com), (831) 458 9008 or Gaby at [gliitsky@aol.com](mailto:gliitsky@aol.com), (831) 462 9023.

## Derivations from the 1500s

**BATHS:** Hence the custom today. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of nice clean water; next were sons, then women, and finally children. Last of all were babies. By then the water was so dirty that the saying arose: ***Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!*** *People often married in June because yearly baths were in May. Otherwise, body odor was hidden by the bride carrying a flower bouquet.*

**ROOFS:** Cats and small animals lived in the thatched roofs of houses (piles of straw with no base), sometimes falling off the roof when it became slippery with rain. Hence the saying, ***It's raining cats and dogs.*** *Nothing prevented things from falling into the house, which posed a problem in the bedroom where bugs and droppings could mess up clean bedding. Affording some protection was a bed with big posts with a sheet over the top: a canopy bed.*

**FLOORS:** But for the wealthy, people had dirt floors, ie were ***dirt poor.*** *The wealthy had slate floors that got slippery when wet. To keep their footing in winter, they spread thresh (straw) on the floor. Throughout the winter, more thresh was added until, when the door opened, it would slip outside. To prevent this, wood was placed in the entranceway: a threshold.*

**FOOD:** A big kettle always hung over the fire. Every morning a fire was lit and food, mostly vegetables since little meat was had, were added. This stew was eaten for dinner and leftovers were left in the pot overnight. Hence the rhyme: ***Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.*** *It was quite rare when pork was obtained and a sign of wealth when a man could bring home the bacon. Little pieces of bacon were shared with visitors so they sat around and chewed the fat. Folks with money had pewter plates, which resulted in lead leaching from acidic foods and death. Since this happened most often with tomatoes, they were regarded poisonous for the next 400 years. Bread was divided according to status: workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, the upper crust.*

**DRINK:** Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky, which sometimes knocked out imbibers for quite a while. Mistaken for dead, often they were prepared for burial and laid out on the kitchen table for a couple days. The family would eat and drink around them, waiting to see if they woke up. Hence the custom of ***holding a wake*** began.

**RECYCLING:** Because urine was used to tan animal skins, families all went in the same pot. Full pots were sold to a tannery. Folks surviving this way were ***piss poor.*** *Even poorer folks didn't have a pot to piss in.*

### Promotion Partners



Espressivo is delighted to announce our 6th Season of exciting new concerts.

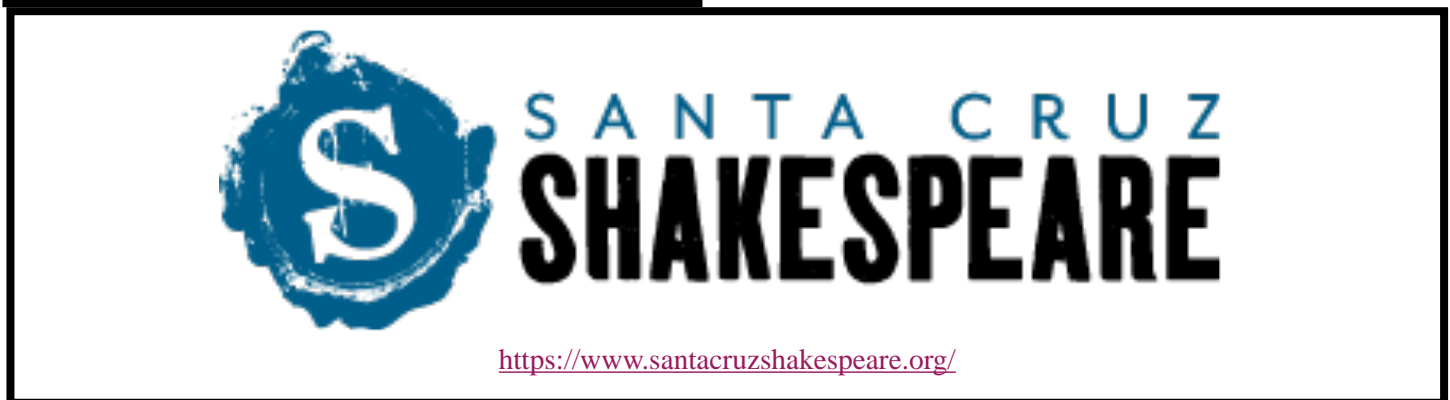
September 19, 2021, January 23, 2022 and April 9, 2022

See our concerts page for more information and to purchase tickets.

<https://espressorch.org/concerts.php>



<https://www.nextstagesantacruz.org/>



<https://www.santacruzshakespeare.org/>



P.O. Box 482 Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
 contact@santacruzbaroquefestival.org  
 scbaroque.org • 831.457.9693



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

**President\***

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

**Secretary\***

Guenter Vorlop, (831) 464-2973  
[gvorlop@comcast.net](mailto:gvorlop@comcast.net)

**Treasurer\***

Cindy Margolin, 688-8129  
[crmargol@gmail.com](mailto:crmargol@gmail.com)

**Vice President\***

Ginna Holcombe  
[ggogetter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggogetter@sbcglobal.net)

**Immediate Past President**

Bonita Sebastian, 476-1796  
[bonitas@ucsc.edu](mailto:bonitas@ucsc.edu)

**Website, Calendar**

Dennis Morris, 462-8827 (408) 497-4674  
[dennis@morrismed.com](mailto:dennis@morrismed.com)

**Program Coordinator**

Barry Bowman

**Course Coordinator**

Lois Widom, 423-0184  
[lowidom@yahoo.com](mailto:lowidom@yahoo.com)

**Membership and Events**

Karen Gamell, 905-6636  
[kgamell@yahoo.com](mailto:kgamell@yahoo.com)

**Interest Groups**

Ginna Holcombe  
[ggogetter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggogetter@sbcglobal.net)

**Facilities and Hospitality**

Mark Gordon, (408) 314-4802  
[mgordon@cruzio.com](mailto:mgordon@cruzio.com)

**Newsletter/Publicity**

David Lieby, 332-4303  
[dlieby@gmail.com](mailto:dlieby@gmail.com)

**Scholarships**

Bill Patterson, 459-3729  
[wilderwill@comcast.net](mailto:wilderwill@comcast.net)

**STARS**

Sara Radoff, 459-4968  
[saradoff@ucsc.edu](mailto:saradoff@ucsc.edu)

DeShonne Keller, 459-4063

[dkeller1@ucsc.edu](mailto:dkeller1@ucsc.edu)

**At Large Members:**

Kate Erstein, 454-8578  
[kate.erstein@gmail.com](mailto:kate.erstein@gmail.com)

Joya Chatterjee, 458-9008  
[joya\\_chatterjee@yahoo.com](mailto:joya_chatterjee@yahoo.com)

Gail Greenwood, 556-4276  
[msaspasia@gmail.com](mailto:msaspasia@gmail.com)

Chris Le Maistre, 471-2396  
[christopherlemaistre21@gmail.com](mailto:christopherlemaistre21@gmail.com)

\*Elected office

**Join or Renew Membership. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC, Period Ending June 30, 2022**

Please consider registering online at our website, <http://olli.ucsc.edu>. It's faster for you, saves us time and money, and helps ensure accuracy.

<p>To join or renew your membership, which includes unlimited participation in our peer-led interest-group program*; enter personal information. Enter credit card information or include your <b>check payable to UC Santa Cruz Foundation</b>. Mail this form to the address at right. For further information, contact Karen Gamell, 831-905-6636, <a href="mailto:kgamell@yahoo.com">kgamell@yahoo.com</a>. Your membership established with this coupon and payment will end June 30, 2022.</p>	<p><b>Osher Lifelong Learning Institute UCSC</b>                  1840 41st Avenue                  Ste. 102-350                  Capitola, CA 95010</p>
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**Personal Information.** Please print or to save time and postage, use online registration at <http://olli.ucsc.edu>.

Name	Address	Phone	E-Mail Address
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..... Name to appear on ID badge if different:	..... .....		

Check small boxes (☐) above for information you *do not* want published in the OLLI at UCSC member directory. All names are published. We need your email address to send you our periodic email newsletters.

**All members will be sent an email link to a monthly OLLI newsletter.**

**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 Barry Bowman, [bbowman@ucsc.edu](mailto:bbowman@ucsc.edu), to discuss alternatives.

Membership	Donations	Amount
Membership, OLLI at UCSC	\$60. Membership includes unlimited Interest Group participation*	\$
	Additional contribution to the Silvia Miller Scholarship Fund:	\$
	<b>Total Enclosed:</b>	\$

\*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.

Contributions to the **UC Santa Cruz Foundation** are tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive an acknowledgement of your contributions from the University. *Thank you for your generosity!*

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If you are having trouble with typing in the links, go to [olli.ucsc.edu](http://<u>olli.ucsc.edu</u>) and open the newsletter on your device. All the links are live and tested.