Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC February, 2022

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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.

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OLLI Newsletter

February 2022

Zoom General Meeting

February 20, 2022

10:00 AM Zoom Room opens 10:00 Breakout Groups (these are fun) 10:30 Business Meeting 11:00 Lecture

Elephant Seals: Coping with Challenges of Life at Sea and on Land



Burney Le Boeuf, Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCSC

Elephant seals are land mammals modified by natural selection over millions of years to obtain food from the sea, but these changes make life difficult on land where they breed. To meet the challenges of living in two entirely different worlds, requires a dynamic balancing act. At sea, diving deep and long to forage requires anatomical, physiological, and behavioral adaptations for coping with limited oxygen, high hydrostatic pressure, and no light. These changes make their life on land more stressful and dangerous. The sea provides necessary sustenance but at the cost of high mortality.

President's Message

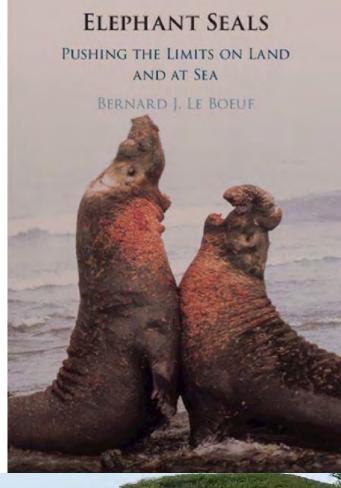
Barry Bowman

Año Neuvo, Elephant Seals, and Burney Le Boeuf

In 1961 the first elephant seal pup was born on Año Nuevo Island, 22 miles north of Santa Cruz. Because of hunting, elephant seals had been nearly exterminated. Governmental protection had allowed a tiny population on Guadalupe Island off Mexico to slowly expand. In 1967 Burney Le Boeuf joined the Biology Department as an assistant professor at the new University of California campus at Santa Cruz. After visiting Año Nuevo Island with a fellow biologist, professor Le Boeuf saw that elephant seals could be ideal subjects for biological research. Not only were they fascinating animals themselves, but they offered the opportunity to explore general questions about animal behavior and ecology.

In the early days he and his colleagues had to develop methods to safely tag and examine animals that can weigh more than 8,000 lbs. The mystery of what the elephant seals did when they left the island for months at a time was solved by attaching high-tech tracking devices to the animals. Año Nuevo has become a major research site for UCSC, involving many students, research assistants and other faculty, including Professor Dan Costa, Director of the Institute for Marine Studies

Fifty-four years later Professor Le Boeuf has completed a book that summarizes much of what he has learned after a long career studying elephant seals. It is our good fortune that Professor Le Boeuf will be the speaker for our OLLI General Meeting in February.





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Courses 2022

MISSIONS TO OUR ORIGINS

Wednesdays, February 16 and 23; 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Zoom online

Instructor: Roger Knacke



This course will review two recently launched space missions. LUCY is a spacecraft traveling to asteroids in Jupiter's orbit, which are believed to be pristine objects from the time when the Earth and Solar System formed. The James Webb Space Telescope will follow the Hubble Space Telescope and will observe the first stars and galaxies to form in the Universe more than 13 billion years ago.

Meetings:

February 16: The LUCY Mission to the Trojan Asteroids

February 23: The James Webb Space Telescope

Dr. Knacke is Emeritus Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Penn State, Erie, where he retired as Director of the School of Science in 2010. His research focussed on interstellar matter and planetary atmosphere. He has taught eight outstanding courses for OLLI.

SANTA CRUZ SHAKESPEARE: THE SEASON'S PLAYS

Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 10 a.m. to Noon

Zoom online

Instructor: Michael Warren



The texts for this series of five lectures will be two great plays that will probably be familiar to local audiences: *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest*.

Twelfth Night is the last of Shakespeare's "romantic" comedies. It involves familiar comic elements like a pair of twins, cross-dressing, and mistaken identity. However, it is also a subtle and moving exploration of the complexities of love and desire and of the relation of personal pleasure to social responsibility. And much of it expressed in some of Shakespeare's greatest lyric verse.

The Tempest is one of Shakespeare's last plays, a theatrical work unlike anything that he had created before. Set on an imaginary Mediterranean island, it blends a shipwreck, revenge, political intrigue, magic, young love, low comedy, fantastic beings, and music and dance to create a philosophical extravaganza that explores the nature of humankind. And again, there is great poetry.

For the first class please read *Twelfth Night* to the end of Act 3.

If you wish to purchase editions of the plays that are both responsibly annotated and inexpensive, I recommend either the Pelican or Folger series. One can access the Folger texts online for free at <shakespeare.folger.edu>, but they are without notes.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Commentary by Professor Emerita Ronnie Gruhn

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 continues every other Monday. Watch your inbox for an email from OLLI with a link to the commentary.

Russia Still and Again: Commentary by Prof. Emerita Ronnie Gruhn, 1-24-22 https://youtu.be/0RqIAspnKzk

Nationalism in an Age of Interdependence: Commentary by Prof. Emerita Ronnie Gruhn, 12-20-21 https://youtu.be/2htcDFZrQjw

Recent Course Recordings

Food & Biochemistry #1 2022 https://youtu.be/mouoQcjHd3Q

Food and Biochemistry #2 2022 https://youtu.be/SkI21b5P dc

Subscribe to the OLLI UCSC YouTube channel by going to :https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCU7U1Mly_RuSsk4QjQD4WNw

Click <u>here</u> to see videos of past courses and commentaries on YouTube!

Who's Who

Ginna Holcombe

Joan and Lou Rose, Daring Duo!!

Homeless and living from backpacks enabled Joan and Lou Rose to explore developing nations for most of seven years (1999-2005). For four to ten months each trip, they trekked New Guinea jungles and the mountains of Nepal, hitch-hiked the Kalahari Desert, explored Angkor ruins, travelled the Old Silk Road, tasted snake wine in Vietnam and guinea pig in Ecuador, witnessed an Ethiopian wedding replete with whipping and bull-jumping, ran death-defying rapids on the Zambesi River, and speed-boated with drug



runners on the Amazon. Including pre-retirement trips, this daring duo has experienced 90 countries! According to their website www.ramblingroses.net (and Mark Twain), Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.

Who are these OLLI members? Joan and Lou are OLLI Interest Group leaders extraordinaire. Joan has led the *New Yorker, Aptos* group since 2007 and the *Read It Again, Sam* group, which discusses classics of world literature, since 2013. Lou has led the *Folk Singing* group since 2011. In addition, Joan leads a bimonthly film group that watches and discusses independent and foreign films.

Joan is from a longstanding Watsonville family; her great grandfather ran the Hudson Landing on Elkhorn Slough. With a degree in English Literature, Joan graduated from University of California, Berkeley, where she met and married Lou in 1961. While Lou was a professor of Economics at the University of Hawaii for 30 years, Joan was the art critic for the Honolulu newspaper and wrote a full-page art column for eight years. They have one daughter, a tenured college professor of political economics; she and her husband have two children.

From his childhood in KKK-infested rural Oklahoma, Lou wanted more... and managed it! Following a degree in chemical engineering, he achieved an MA from Berkeley and a PhD at UCLA under a Nobel short-lister, Armen Alchian, in economics. While at the University of Hawaii, Lou and Joan enjoyed four very different sabbaticals. In 1976, they lived in Washington DC where Lou worked with Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 1983, they moved to Cambridge MA where Lou did research at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. In 1990 it was London and the University of Reading. Finally, in 1997 they lived in Manhattan where Lou worked at Barnard College.

Their odyssey to third-world countries began in 1999, when they retired and sold their home in Hawaii. Since Joan and Lou preferred independent travel, they joined Servas, a nonprofit, international organization promoting peace and mutual understanding via close contact between travelers and locals, usually in the form of two-night stays with host families. These vagabonds visited countries in clusters in order to minimize traveling long distances and maximize their understanding of a region. They took public transportation whenever possible since good systems frequently exist, even in less developed countries, although roads may be poor and driving behavior, erratic. Buses, trains, rickshaws, tuk-tuks, and motos helped them experience local customs and people.

To give back just a little, Joan and Lou both taught English to Cambodian children and young adults in a Buddhist temple school. In Nepal, Joan taught their trekking guide to read English so he could establish his own business. In Kyrgyzstan and Nepal, they met with teachers and students and contributed to a foundation for furthering the education of Nepalese children. Lou met with the officers of a Gurkha veterans organization in Nepal and advised them on the economics and politics of obtaining long-overdue retirement benefits from the British government.



Years of roaming the world changed these nomads' sense of home. According to their webiste, every time they moved, whether to a new campsite or another country, they felt almost immediately *at home*. Nevertheless, in 2006 they did indeed settle in Aptos where they enjoy camping, kayaking, hiking, gardening, and reading.

OLLI is very grateful!

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Where in the World Ginna Holcombe (input from Bijoy Chatterjee)

Timbuktu, Capital of Azawad

In December of 2008, Joya decided to go to Timbuktu, the center of Islamic studies in the Sahel. Since Bijoy doubted the existence of this mythical place, he packed half his suitcase with emergency medical aid. On the airplane we had to vacate our preferred front seats to accommodate the President of Mali, with colorful sash over his agbada (flowing, wide-sleeved robe worn by men in west Africa) and his entourage, including the first lady wrapped in silk. Air Mali landed in the middle of a desert at the crack of dawn amidst tumultuous ululation and drumbeats - Joya reminded Bijoy this reception was for the President (Amadou Toumani) and not for us!













Reception

Amadou Toumani

Friendship

Economy Plus

Five Star

Shopper Mom

Children appear from nowhere (<u>friendship</u>) as our camels (<u>economy plus</u>) arrive in the middle of nowhere. Children 6 years old navigate by stars when the moon sleeps and pitch their (five star) dwellings in an hour amidst the sea of sand.

Azawad demarcates the 60% of Mali that is home to the Tuaregs, a nomadic group that inhabits the Sahara in a vast area stretching from far southwestern Libya to southern Algeria, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. Since the 1400s, Islam in Azawad has been progressive with Sufi leanings. They are a learned people. Undeterred by lack of building materials, they built massive mud mosques (Sankore Mosque) that are replastered with fresh mud after the heavy rains, thus renewing and resealing surfaces for the coming year. Wooden struts protrude from the walls, not for structural reasons, but to provide footholds for resurfacers. Outside the mosque, a marketplace was set up after Friday prayer.













Sankore Mosque

Marketplace

Ancient Manuscripts

Tuarea

We were greeted with open arms at the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research. Ahmad Baba was an Islamic visionary and prolific author in the sixteenth century. We watched local folks carefully catalog, preserve, and digitize precious ancient manuscripts. Most impressive was a portrait of a woman drawn entirely with the verse that describes the Shahada, the Islamic articles of faith.

A few years after our visit, Algerians with extreme views of Islam set fire to the library. Fortunately, most of the precious documents were saved by locals risking their lives. People of Azawad want independence from Mali to benefit from their enormous wealth. Although Azawad has the third largest gold reserve in all of Africa, its precious ores are harvested by large French firms. The Tuaregs (in blue) who work for almost nothing, die of mercury poisoning (gold mining) or radioactivity (uranium mining). Although they repeatedly trust the Malian government and the French, literally burying their guns in concrete (peace monument) in 1966, they find themselves repeatedly betrayed.



Interest Groups

Ginna Holcombe

Hold tight, Everyone! Omicron seems to be peaking. Maybe the pandemic is really slowing? In the meanwhile, get out in nature, reach out to friends, and celebrate the following February holidays:

Black History Month was founded in 1915, 50 years after the abolishment of slavery, by Carter Woodson (historian) and minister Jesse Moorland (minister). It lasts throughout February, when African American achievements are celebrated and their roles in American history are recognized. Black History Month was declared a national observance by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

National Freedom Day is February 1st and celebrates freedom from slavery and recognizes that America is a symbol of liberty. The day honors the signing by Abraham Lincoln of a joint House and Senate resolution that later became the 13th Amendment (outlawing slavery) to the US Constitution.

Chinese New Year (or Spring Festival) this year is February 1st, based on the Chinese lunisolar calendar, which uses sun and moon locations relative to earth to determine dates (in contrast to the Gregorian calendar that uses the sun's location relative to earth). The first day of this 16-day festival begins on the New Moon each year between January 21st and February 20th and lasts from New Year's Eve to the 15th day of the New Year, which is the Lantern Festival.

Groundhog Day is observed February 2nd, when the appearance or not of Punxsutawney Phil in Punxsutawney PA (a groundhog) is said to foretell the end of winter. Since 1887, however, his accuracy is less than 40%. [A groundhog emerges from his burrow primarily depending on the amount of fat stored before hibernation.]

National Wear Red Day, the first Friday of February, promotes women's health awareness of their number one threat - heart disease. The day encourages women to know their blood pressure, HDL and total cholesterol levels, and body mass index (BMI) to better understand their health risk for heart disease.

Lincoln's Birthday is February 12th and commemorates the birthday of one of the most popular presidents in the United States. As president he abolished slavery and preserved the Union from falling apart during the American Civil War. Other celebrated presidential birthdays include George Washington, our first president and Thomas Jefferson, the principle writer of the Declaration of Independence.

Valentine's Day or The Feast of Saint Valentine is celebrated February 14th and originated as a Christian feast honoring Valentinus, an early church saint. Over the years this day has gradually become a day to celebrate romantic love expressed by giving flowers, sweets, and cards.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is February 17th. This holiday was initiated in 1995 in Denver CO by a nonprofit organization. The event spread to New Zealand nine years later, in 2004, and the observance of this holiday is becoming more and more widespread. The Random Act of Kindness Week, which encourages us to put kindness first and share it everywhere we go, began in 2018 and, this year, is February 13th through 19th.

President's Day, once known as Washington's Birthday (originally celebrated February 22nd), is the third Monday in February, this year February 21st. This day not only honors George Washington but all US presidents. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act passed by Congress in 1968 changed several federal holidays to Mondays. Thus, President's Day falls between February 15th and 21st each year and never on Washington's birthday.

Maha Shivaratri, a Hindu festival, is celebrated February 28th and marks "overcoming darkness and ignorance" in life, observed by chanting prayers, fasting, and meditating on virtues such as honesty, non-injury to others, charity, forgiveness, and the discovery of the Lord Shiva god.

https://www.calendardate.com/February holidays.htm https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/black-history-month/

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Promotion Partners



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Johann Sebastian Bach and Franz Schubert Saturday, May 14, 2022 - 8:00pm Sunday, May 15, 2022 - 4:00pm



https://www.santacruzshakespeare.org/



P.O. Box 482 Santa Cruz, CA 95061 contact@santacruzbarcquefestival.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

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*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.

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 **check payable to UC Santa Cruz Foundation**. Mail this form to the address at right. For further information, contact Karen Gamell, 831-905-6636, kgamell@yahoo.com. Your membership established with this coupon and payment will end June 30, 2022.

Name on Card

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute UCSC

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Personal Information. Please print or to save time and postage, use online registration at http://olli.ucsc.edu.

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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 . to discuss alternatives.					
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Additional contribution to the Silvia Miller Scholarship Fund:			Fund: S	\$	
Total Enclosed:			losed:	\$	
*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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