Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC January, 2021

Volume 36, Issue 1



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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

Reporter: Johnna Laird

Videographer:

Dean M Gottehrer

# **OLLI Newsletter**

# **Zoom General Meeting**

**January 17th, 2021** 

10:00 AM Zoom Room opens 10:00 Breakout Groups (these are fun) 10:40 Business Meeting 11:00 Rebecca Covarrubias lecture

## You Never Become Fully Independent



U.S. classrooms reflect culture-specific ideas about the "right" way to be a student; specifically, they reward soft independence, such as self-expression and self-motivation. For students who are also guided by norms and practices of interdependence, such as low-income, first-generation students of color, the American educational institution is likely to be experienced as a "mismatch" or as a context that largely renders their culture invisible. In this talk, we examine how privileging soft independence ignores the familial commitments of low-income, first-generation students of color and other ways of enacting independence and, subsequently, undermines

well-being and performance. We then discuss research on inclusive practices that better reflect and serve their values, intersecting identities, needs and strengths. This work calls for a need to address the role that existing dominant cultural norms and practices in higher education play in contributing to educational disparities, and the need to reframe these practices in ways that center the strengths and experiences of a fast-growing student population.

**Rebecca Covarrubias:** Associate professor of psychology at UCSC, has been selected to receive the 2019 Latino Caucus Early Career Award from the <u>Society for Research in Child Development</u>.

A social and cultural psychologist, Covarrubias is interested in the importance of reflecting the cultural strengths and practices of students from diverse backgrounds in educational settings as a way to foster inclusion and equity. With her team of student researchers in the <u>Culture and Achievement Collaborative</u>, she works to translate research findings into practices that can shift the culture of institutions and help students thrive. Covarrubias is the faculty director of the <u>Student Success</u> <u>Evaluation & Research Center</u>, and she co-leads UCSC's first-generation initiative, which produces programming to support first-generation students and raises awareness about their needs and strengths.

Dr. Covarrubias graduated with a Bachelor of Science from The University of Arizona, where she was also a Ronald E. McNair Achievement Scholar. She continued at The University of Arizona to earn a Master's and Ph.D. in Social Psychology.

## President's Message

It has certainly been a crazy year, but now I believe we can see some light ahead for 2021. Thanks for hanging in there with us!

It was great to see so many of you at the Holiday party. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. There were so many wonderful suggestions from members about their favorite movies, TV shows, and books. And the beautiful photos from Piotr Zimniak!

Please stay in touch. We like to hear from you too. Two-way communication is always much better. I invite any of you who may be interested to submit something to the newsletter- it could be a short piece about something interesting you have seen or read, a poem, your thoughts, your suggestions, even your complaints. You may email me at BonitaS@ucsc.edu or David Lieby at dlieby@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

I want to thank my great board & all the interest group leaders for all of the work they have done this year to keep our organization going in these difficult times. It takes a team and all of us working together make it happen.

We do have a couple of updates for the coming year. Please see the articles in this newsletter for more information.

- More courses coming all current members will automatically receive Zoom invitations
- General meetings will continue beginning January 17 via Zoom
- Newsletters will continue
- The updated directory will be online soon

## Happy 2021 to All!

## Bonita Sebastian



Pyramids from a Cairo Street

# **Learning Updates**

# **Continuing Class**



#### The Current Crisis and World Affairs

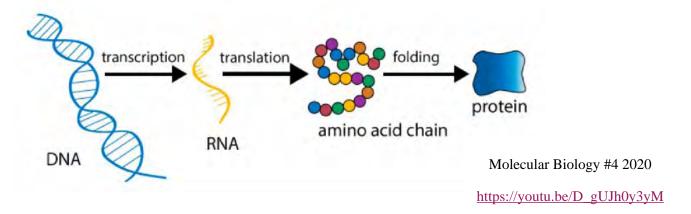
with Professor Emerita Ronnie Gruhn
The "Short Commentaries" series on YouTube continues.
New installments monthly.

12-7-20 Commentary — Biden: "We're back."

https://youtu.be/-nE1u-PLRaw

Dr. Gruhn welcomes feedback and questions. You can email her at ronnie@ucsc.edu

## **Class and Event Recording Links since last newsletter**



# Like all these classes?

Be sure to join OLLI for the coming year and we will continue sending links to the classes.

Sign up online at <u>olli.ucsc.edu</u> or use the form at the end of the newsletter.

Send us your thoughts and ideas for inclusion in future monthly 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 with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

## **Zoom Courses**

## The Beauty of Mathematics: Equations

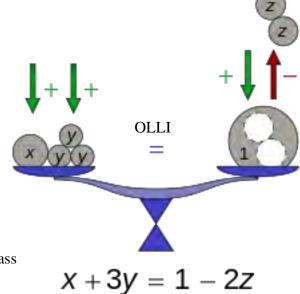
Dates: Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26 10 a.m. to Noon

Location: Zoom online Instructor: Peter Farkas

These lectures will be slightly different from my previous lectures on mathematics: there will be hardly any proofs, and much more history. I will present just enough formalism to be able to state the theorem about solving equations, understand and appreciate it in its context, and appreciate what is involved in proving it.

(some of it unusually dramatic) related to this topic.

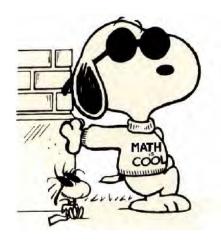
You may remember that in your first algebra (or pre-algebra) class you were taught formulas for solving 1st and 2nd degree equations. (Never mind if you don't remember the formulas or the equations, or even ever having seen them.) In this class we will review such equations, and tell the story of the quest for finding

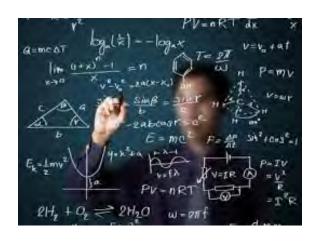


formulas for solving them. Surprisingly no formulas exist for \*some\* equations; it is not that people could not find them; rather, such formulas do not exist! We will take a look at the amazing story of the proof of this fact. We will take frequent detours to see the larger context, and to learn about some of the people and history

The only prerequisite for this class is curiosity about the topic, and a desire to explore the beauty and history of mathematics. There will be moments when I will talk of technical subjects, but I will introduce and explain everything we need. No special knowledge beyond middle school mathematics will be assumed.

Peter started out as a mathematician with a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Bucharest, Romania, and a Ph.D from the University of Chicago. He started an academic career as a mathematician but swerved at some point and became a software engineer. Throughout his software engineering career, his love and awe for mathematics persisted, and now, in retirement, he is returning to it. He had a faithful and absorbed audience for his two earlier courses for OLLI.





## The Ecology of Infectious Disease

Dates: Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 10 a.m. to Noon

Location: Zoom online Instructor: James A. Estes

The Covid pandemic is on everyone's minds these days. How did this disease originate, where did it come from, and how long will it last? These are questions for ecology and evolutionary biology. Moreover the same questions can be asked about numerous other infectious diseases, many of which also impact human societies and human welfare. We will address these and related questions via lectures from four of the world's experts on the ecology of infectious disease.



January 7. Dr. Felicia Keesing, Bard College---Biodiversity and Infectious Disease

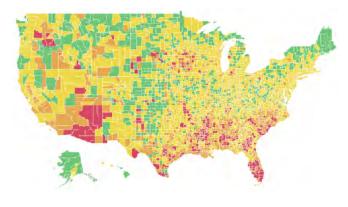
January 14. Dr. Drew Harvell, Cornell University----Disease in the Oceans

January 21. Dr. Richard Outfield, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies--The Ecology of Lyme Disease

January 28. Dr Marm Kilpatrick, University of California, Santa Cruz--The Ecology of Covid-19

Not only are these individuals among the world's best disease ecologists, they are dedicated public servants and gifted public speakers. Please join us for what promises to be a unique and important learning experience. Jim Estes 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 faculty of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California at Santa Cruz. He retired from the University in 2018 although he continues to occasionally teach and work with students. 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 the 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 Naturalist's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011 and the American Society of Mammalogists' C. Hart Merriam Award for excellence in research in 2012.





OLLI is not charging for these zoom classes, but we hope many of you will appreciate these classes so
much that you will choose to make a contribution to our scholarship fund. At this time, there are many
UCSC re-entry students needing our help.

## American Prisoners of War in Vietnam: The joy of release and the challenges of returning home, a first hand account by the physician in charge

Dates: Tuesdays, February 16, 23 10 a.m. to Noon

Location: Zoom online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Hancey

Throughout the Vietnam conflict, our ground troops were usually killed, not captured. As Air Force and Navy fighters and bombers ioined the combat and were shot down, the aircrews who survived were captured and held as "war criminals" in North Vietnamese prisons. As a group they were in no way similar to "average" POWs from any prior war. When the men were released in February, 1973, most had been in captivity an average of 6 years. They had summoned remarkable coping techniques to sustain themselves through years of torture, months in solitary confinement, near-starvation food portions, tropical diseases, and other lifethreatening challenges. Their first joyous hours of freedom were aboard USAF cargo planes specially configured for their comfort, and staffed with flight surgeons and nurses trained by our speaker.



#### February 16, 2021

Dr. Hancey will describe his first hand involvement in the emotionally charged mission of receiving the repatriated POWs in Hanoi, then accompanying them to their American home bases and (for some) reunion with their family. He has photos and videos of the mission.

#### February 23, 2021

This class will focus on the extraordinary circumstances endured by the wives of flyers listed as Missing In Action (MIA). In the mid-1960s the now-unaccompanied wives were often considered an inconvenience by military commanders. Politically, the wives were strongly cautioned to remain silent about their husband's status, to not organize or contact elected representatives nor talk to the press, and to basically "not make waves." Personally, they had to decide how to start their lives over, earn their own living, and raise their children "not knowing if I'm a wife or a widow." They, too, had to develop remarkable coping techniques.

Richard Hancey obtained his M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine in 1962, then entered the USAF as a Flight Surgeon. After assignments in Nevada and Germany he was assigned to the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) in San Antonio as a resident in Aerospace Medicine. While there, he became the only Air Force officer involved in the early planning for evacuating and medically evaluating American POWs once they were released. In February, 1973, he was the senior Flight Surgeon on flights bringing our men out of Hanoi. After his involvement with the returning POWs Dr. Hancey went on to become board certified in Psychiatry, retiring from the USAF in 1981 as Chief of the psychiatric service at Travis Air Force Base in California. Following his Air Force retirement he worked for civilian organizations, for the Veteran's Association, and, finally, for a major corporation, before retiring again in 1996. He now resides in Scotts Valley with his wife Susan.

## OLLI Happy Hour Entertainment Ideas

At our OLLI Happy Hour on December 20th we spent some time exchanging suggestions for books, movies, performances, that we particularly liked during our pandemic shutdown. Here is the list.

#### **Books**

All We Can Save -- a collection of 40 essays about climate change, all written by women

The Ministry of the Future -- by science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson, a vision of climate change over the coming decades

*The Season of the Witch* -- by David Talbot, chronicles of the cultural history of San Francisco from the late 1960s to the early 1980s

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz -- by Erik Larson

Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories -- by Lucia Berlin, a collection of 43 stories about women in all kinds of demanding jobs

Born a Crime -- by Trevor Noah of The Daily Show, a memoir of growing up under Apartheid in South Africa as the son of a white father and a black mother

Our Time is Now -- by Stacey Abrams, part memoir and part political manifesto

Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs -- by Camilla Townsend, documents the story of the Aztecs from an entirely new perspective, from the Aztecs themselves

The Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War -- by Drew Gilpin Faust, about the enormous loss of human life in the Civil War

The Discomfort Zone -- a 2006 memoir by Santa Cruz resident Jonathan Franzen

Becoming -- by Michelle Obama. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, *Michelle Obama* has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era.

Ten Lessons for a Post Pandemic World -- by Fareed Zakaria

#### **Movies**

"A Life on Our Planet" -- David Attenborough's documentary memoir about the changing wild parts of the world

"My Octopus Teacher" -- documents a year filmmaker <u>Craig Foster</u> spent forging a relationship with a wild <u>common octopus</u> in a South African <u>kelp forest</u>

"The Social Dilemma" -- a documentary from Jeff Orlowski, explores how addiction and privacy breaches are features, not bugs, of social media platforms

"Unnatural Selection" -- a TV documentary series that presents an overview of genetic engineering and particularly, the DNA-editing technology of CRISPR

"The Prom" -- a comic modern musical with Meryl Streep, James Corden and Nicole Kidman, silly and fun, with a social message.

"Words and Pictures" -- a comedy of ideas couched in the format of a Spencer Tracy-Katharine Hepburn movie

"The Bishop's Wife" -- a 1947 Samuel Goldwyn romantic comedy feature film directed by Henry Koster and starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven.

"Christmas in Connecticut" -- a 1945 American Christmas romantic comedy film about an unmarried city magazine writer who pretends to be a farm wife and mother and then falls in love with a returning war hero

#### **Theater**

"Moliere in the Park" is dedicated to bringing yearly, free, and inclusive productions of Molière's masterpieces to Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

#### **Video and Netflix streaming:**

Midnight Diner

Tokyo Stories

The Prom

Queen's Gambit



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#### **Items Sent In From Our Members**

Sustainable Santa Cruz

Will the Boardwalk be washed away by 2043? Will you be able to walk on West Cliff in 2038? What should we do with all the people who live in Beach Flats when the water rises to wash away their homes? Do we care for the city trees properly?

The city of Santa Cruz, under the direction of UCSC graduate Tiffany Wise-West, PhD, Sustainability + Climate Action Manager is building on the city's 2020 Climate Action Plan to develop the 2030 Action Plan. Part of the effort is to reach out to as many people as possible - old, young, new residents, long timers, people of all different backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures and economic levels to share ideas and to gather information. She has won various grants and other funding to hire people, do community outreach, conduct research and develop appropriate plans for this work.

To gather community ideas, the city has posted the Climate Action Plan survey online for everyone to complete. The survey is open through January 31, 2021. You can find the Climate Action Plan survey on the City's web page at:

#### https://tinyurl.com/y2dp8dp2

The city and Tiffany would truly like to hear from everyone in Santa Cruz about needs, wants, desires and opinions. All things that Olli members have in abundance. This is your chance to make your opinions be heard. As a member of the Sustainability Committee I hope you will take the time to give your input though this tool.

David Mintz 319 Younglove Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

..... originally cared for by the Uypi Tribe of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

Guenther Vorlop sent these interesting links about the Neuralink from Elon Musk.

July 2019: Watch Elon Musk's original Neuralink presentation - YouTube

August 2020: Neuralink: Elon Musk's entire brain chip presentation in 14 minutes (supercut) - YouTube

(The August one shows a real application with a pig as demo.)

Our OLLI Reporter, Johnna, sent me the following: I would also be interested in people's pandemic tips, kind of a round-robin article with snippets from about 30 different people of how they keep their spirits up and themselves growing in meaningful ways.

This would be very helpful to all of us. Please email her directly at aleena 12 teacher @yahoo.com

Thanks for helping us.

## **Interest Groups**

## Newsflash: Great Decisions begins 22 Feb – sign up now!

See the IG Directory below for group leader contact information and read more here: <a href="www.fpa.org/great\_decisions/index.cfm?act=show\_material&product\_id=16868">www.fpa.org/great\_decisions/index.cfm?act=show\_material&product\_id=16868</a>.

*Great Decisions* is a nationwide discussion program on world affairs and is based on eight very timely topics chosen annually by the Foreign Policy Association. Of note is that the National War College participates in these discussions with notable scholars in each area!

Our interest group reads the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watches the DVD, and meets to consider the most critical global issues facing America today. Each briefing book costs ~\$32 and is purchased by each interest group member. Group members co-present and lead conversations weekly. Thought-provoking topics and our current state of world affairs enable extremely lively discussions, often passionate and always educational! Following are the 2021 topics for discussion; each will have a corresponding episode of GDTV broadcast on PBS and available on DVD or Vimeo streaming.

- 1. International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
- 2. Global Supply Chains and National Security
- 3. China and Africa
- 4. Korean Peninsula
- 5. Persian Gulf Security
- 6. Brexit and the European Union
- 7. Fight Over the Melting Arctic
- 8. End of Globalization?

**Try a new interest group.** Especially now that many groups are meeting virtually, why not join a meeting to see what you're missing?!

\*full \*\*delayed virtual meeting

Interest Group	Leader	Phone (831)	Email
Adventuring	Kathryn Nance	332 8051	momokat13@gmail.com
All Things Classical	Jay Stoffer	(310) 923 3099	jaystoffer8@gmail.com
American History & Literature	Virginia Law	425 5453	veelaw29@gmail.com
American History & Literature	Mark Ordway	295 2542	meordway@gmail.com
Art-Joy of Painting	Gayla Pius	464 6559	gaylapius@gmail.com
Art & Architecture	Lois Widom	423 0184	lowidom@yahoo.com
Bagel Ladies	Mary McKane	400 8799	omforest9@gmail.com
Baroque Festival	David Copp	708 2206	dhcopp@yahoo.com
Basketball Women	Mary Caravalho	332 2361	marycaravalho@gmai.com
Biographical Fiction	Jan Mintz	(714) 719 0694	musicmintz@gmail.com
Bridge	Jo Anne Dlott	688-1607	jjdlott@gmail.com
Campus Caravan **	Mary Caravalho	332 2361	marycaravalho@gmail.com
Concept Exchange *	Peter Marks	464 8300	peter@designinsight.com
Current Affairs I	Mark Gordon	(408) 314 4802	mgordon@cruzio.com
Digital Photography	Cindy Margolin	688 8129	crmargol@gmail.com
Dining Out	Diane Zacher	786 9550	dianezacher@gmail.com
, and the second	Kathy Hatfield	426 6399	b40mom@gmail.com
Ears in Action	Florence Orenstein	427-2380	santacruzflos@aol.com
English in Action	Karin Grobe	427 0984	karingrobe@gmail.com

Evening Book Group Explore Santa Cruz County Explore Santa Cruz County Favorite Flicks Bill Patterson Fiction Writing Leader needed Financial Education Folk Singing Lou Rose French for French Speakers Future of Capitalism Great Books I* Great Decisions 22Feb-19Apr Horticulture Lunchtime Dining Out Memoir Writing I Sathyn Cowan Natural History Navigating Retirement New Yorker Aptos New Yorker SC I* New Yorker Sc I I Susan Bill Patters Susan Mary Caravalho Billie Harris Gove Brown State Attor Sc I Sc	
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How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

An artist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

When chemists die, they barium.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

The cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

Broken pencils are pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.

All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

I got a job in a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Velcro - what a rip off!

Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.

#### **Promotion Partners**



Dear Friends,

From our hibernation, we reach out to you with this sidebar, the first of a proposed series of chats with our cherished musicians or about our music. We hope it will remind you that you like us, and that it will keep you attuned to our expectations. At present, we have pencilled in concerts, outdoors, in June and September. More when we all know more.

We look forward to seeing you then. So please stay healthy!

Michel

P.S. Click on the link. https://youtu.be/bhiOTJo4k1I







https://www.santacruzshakespeare.org/



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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, <a href="kgamell@yahoo.com">kgamell@yahoo.com</a>. Your membership established with this coupon and payment will end June 30, 2021.

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