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Editor: Nicole Grant

OLLI on LINE

OLLI @ UTEP

On Campus
Miners Hall
Room 209

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Your 2019 OLLI Board Members:

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Crystal Brown
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A Message from the Director

Our OLLI students are amazing! We say that "curiosity never gets old" here at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and recently, shifted our curiosity into "creativity". We witnessed this in our OLLI Visions art exhibit. As the artwork and photography moved through hands and were mounted one by one on the gallery wall, a vision of the true creativity of our members emerged. It was a fantastic picture showing maturity, insight, and diversity on many levels. Our thanks to ALL who participated in this venture- students, instructors, curators, volunteers, gallery browsers, and UTEP partners. Now, let's see what our upcoming sessions will bring us. Let's feed our curiosity and let creativity thrive!

Lynn Provenzano, OLLI@UTEP Executive Director

Goodbye Marie, Hello Janet

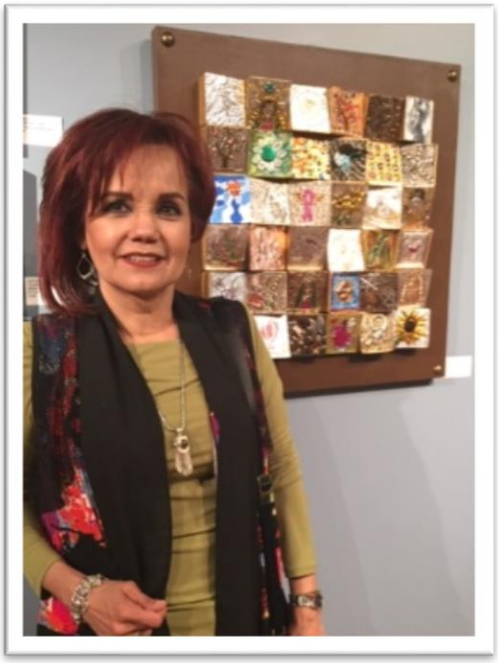
Notes from the Advisory Board: The Board wishes to thank Marie Livingston for her excellent service to Olli and the advisory board. Marie came onto the board in March 2016 and immediately stepped up to the plate as vice chair. She then transitioned to chair in March 2017, continuing her leadership. Effective March 2019, she stepped down from the chair position but remains a member of the board. The advisory board has now selected Janet Dand as the new chair. Janet had been the previous vice chair.

Olli Art Exhibit 'Visions: Creativity Never Gets Old' on Display at Student Union

OLLI@UTEP presents "Visions: Creativity Never Gets Old", an art exhibit with works inspired and created by OLLI members. The exhibit opened Monday, March 25 and runs through April 12 at the UTEP Union Building East-2nd floor. It features artworks in abstract paintings (Davina Miraval, instructor), landscape oils (Rosario Ponte, instructor), photography (Diana Molina, instructor), and repujado (Romy Saenz Hawkins, instructor). The exhibit and receptions are open to the public and are free of charge. The opening reception was March 25, and the exhibit lecture is April 4, 2019 at 6:00PM. This exhibit truly represents OLLI's belief that creativity and curiosity never get old. Check it out! We will publish a separate special edition newsletter of the exhibit with pictures and interviews in the near future.

OLLI Instructor Inducted into El Paso Women's Hall of Fame!

OLLI instructor Romy Saenz Hawkins has been chosen for the 2019 El Paso Commission for Women Hall of Fame in the arts category which consists of creative or performing artists, authors or poets with recognition, or women who have made a significant contribution to the arts in the community. Romy joins illustrious company: past recipients include Rosa Guerrero, Jody Polk Schwartz, Adair Margo, Estela Casas, and Dr. Diana Natalicio. Veronica Escobar was also inducted this year in the public service category.



A successful and enterprising master of the metal embossing art form, Romy studied in Guadalajara and Germany. She holds a BA in Psychology from the University Autonoma of Guadalajara. She earned certification in metal embossing from UAO, and she has been teaching at OLLI since 2004. Her work has been exhibited in juried shows locally, out of town, and in private collections. She has participated in collective exhibits with the Juntos Art Association, the Las Cruces Museum of Art, Chamizal National Memorial, UTEP Centennial Museum, the MexicArte Museum (Austin, TX), Centro de Arte (San Antonio, TX), the Museum of Art (Brownsville, TX), and the Museum of Art (Amarillo, TX). Mrs. Hawkins has been participating in a traveling military exhibit titled "Reflections of generosity" in more than twelve U.S. military bases, including the Pentagon.

Metal embossing, also known as repujado in Spanish or repousse in French, is an ancient art of manipulating soft metal such as aluminum, copper, pewter or brass entirely by hand using special tools to create unique works of art. Students learn the basic techniques in this art, and she offers beginner, intermediate and advanced classes. The OLLI catalog states that the classes are bilingual.

Rx for Summer Doldrums: Two New OLLI Classes!

The Rio Grande Cancer Foundation will offer a class entitled "Wellness from Within." Students will be guided to discover and explore their own best path to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual healing. The class will be taught by Monica Gomez, who has more than 30 years' experience as a writer, humorist, performer and professional presenter. She has regularly appeared on KVIA-TV and hosted KELP Radio's top-rated live, call-in program Medtalk.

The other class, "Why Does El Paso Need a Food Bank?", will address the many misconceptions about hunger in the United States, and students will learn about the importance of food banks, who the food banks impact, and how the food banks need to grow in order to meet the needs of food insecure individuals living in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties. The class will be led by Susan Goodell and Terri Wyatt, officers of the El Paso Food Bank.

These two dynamic new classes and more will be offered during OLLI's summer session.

The Value of Volunteers

National Volunteer Week, April 7-13, is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to come together to tackle tough challenges, and build stronger, more resilient communities.

OLLI@UTEP has chosen *The Value of Volunteers* as our theme for National Volunteer Week. The following is a brief sampling of the varied volunteer work done by OLLI members:

- *Karen Evans*, KTEP Radio Drives and UTEP's FHAR
- *Callie Weston*, Border Inter-faith network, visits and assists migrants
- *OLLI Registration Committee*
- *Ian Wilson*, donates ongoing time and computer expertise to OLLI
- *Nancy and Jay Heavy*, clean-up at Westside Community Park
- *OLLI@UTEP curriculum committee* recruits instructors and cultivates classes
- *Debra Little,* Annunciation House and Faith & Grief Ministry
- *Tom Prokcopchuk*, Master Angler at Ascarate Park
- *Jamie Ackerman,* Master Naturalist, Native Plant Society and EP Cactus & Rock Club
- *OLLI@UTEP members* who always bring goodies to our parties
- *Lynn Provenzano,* El Paso Society for Musicians of the Future, Lotus Integrative Group for Health and Transformation, EP Border Region Pranic Healers
- *John Groves,* OLLI birding instructor, provides valuable local birding data to various governmental and local agencies
- *Shari Schwartz* and her husband volunteer at El Paso Pro-Musica
- *Susi Edwards*, ushers and trains ushers at El Paso Pro-Musica for 20 years
- *OLLI@UTEP Advisory Board of Directors*
- *Mary Harris,* recruits new OLLI members at EPCC fairs
- *Dr. Bob Jacobs*, meets weekly with OLLI guitar enthusiasts
- *Marianella Milner*, El Paso Museum of Art docent and Master Gardener
- *Ellen Saad*, Master Naturalist
- *Kjell Hansen*, makes yummy rolls and breads and shares with OLLI friends
- *Crystal Brown*, helps build and paint houses and schools in Peru, Guatemala, and Aguascalientes, Mexico
- *Fred Eiland, Scott Cutler, Diana Molina*, and OLLI@UTEP volunteers who worked hard to present the recent "OLLI Visions: Creativity Never Gets Old" art show at the UTEP Union

The value of volunteers hard at work!

Volunteering Dramatically

This newsletter is devoted to volunteerism within OLLI. If you haven't quite found a volunteer activity that interests you, consider this one. Many of you attend the UTEP Dinner Theatre. Perhaps you attend with another OLLI couple, or if you are unattached, perhaps four singles attend and sit together. If you do, please get some OLLI brochures before your performance. During intermission, hand out our brochures to the other tables. It would always be good to zero in on our age group, but as Lynn said recently, the 40 year olds are looking for activities for their parents, so don't overlook them. It is an easy way to promote OLLI while enjoying our excellent UTEP Dinner Theatre.

Ruth A. Bassett, OLLI@Utep Past Chair

Bernard Osher, founder of OLLI, Receives Honorary Degree

Bernard Osher has added another accolade to his illustrious career: Northwestern University will award him an honorary degree this May. Osher Life Long Learning Institutes (OLLI) are part of the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Here are some quick fun-facts about the man behind the name:

- Bernard Osher is 91 years young.
- Bernard Osher got his start in business in his hometown of Biddeford, Maine where he ran his family-owned hardware store.
- He is vice chair of the American Himalayan Foundation
- Osher has been named a Knight of the Polar Star by the King of Sweden and Commendatore by the Italian Republic.
- He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- An avid art lover and collector, he bought the Butterfield & Butterfield fine art auction house in 1970. Under his leadership, it became one of the largest auction houses in the country. He sold Butterfield & Butterfield to eBay in 1999.
- In his spare time, he enjoys opera and fly-fishing.
- His philanthropic nature was instilled in him and his siblings from an early age by his parents.
- The Bernard Osher Foundation was established in 1977 and supports scholarship and fellows programs at over 350 American colleges and universities.

The Osher Foundation supports 7 integrative medicine programs to promote their work in research, education, and clinical care. The foundation also provides grants and endowments to support the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI). Each Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program is unique but they all offer non-credit courses and other programming for adults age 50 and older.

Bernard Osher embodies the quality of the true volunteer, living proof of the value of volunteers hard at work!

Dawn Patrol

If you should find yourself at the Westside Community Park as the sun is coming up over the mountain, you'll probably encounter a merry band of senior citizens, walking their dogs, and cleaning up the trash from the soccer fields, walking trails, and picnic areas of the large park. And among them are Olli members Nancy and Jay Heavy. The group has been instrumental in having speed bumps installed and improvements made to the three dog park enclosures. Nancy said she and Jay plan to tackle a deep arroyo in the park, cleaning out trash. Jay recently lead the OLLI book club in its monthly discussion of For Whom the Bell Tolls, and Nancy has helped with registration for several years. Oh, and be sure to thank Nancy for the wonderful Madeleine cookies she routinely offers everyone on their way to class!

The value of volunteers hard at work!

Thank you to the volunteers who brought food to the Valentine's Party and extra treats to the Pizza Party celebrating the repair of the water fountain!
We value our volunteers who bring food to our parties!

Olli Members Give (OMG!) to FHAR

Olli members responded generously to requests for donations to FHAR (Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resource), a part of the UTEP Acdemic Advising Center. Olli donated $542 in the form of gift cards from Walmart, Target, CVS, Dollar Store, Walgreens and Walgreens. PHAR assists students who have graduated out of foster care or find themselves homeless, or in need of an emergency boost.
This is an ongoing campaign to provide gift cards to these students to use in case of emergency. Gift cards from the UTEP Bookstore or from fast food places near the campus are also welcomed.
Cards should be in small denominations of $10-$20 dollars and should be given to Crystal in the OLLI office.

The value of volunteers hard at work!

Lunch 'n Books

Immigration is a hot topic today, and the OLLI Book Club engaged in a far ranging discussion of migrants, mass migrations, immigration policies, life in a border town, and more, in reviewing the novel Exit West.

The April selection is The Monk of Mokha (non-fiction). It is the true story of a young Yemeni immigrant who strives to revive the ancient coffee industry of his native Yemen in the midst of war and unrest and his attempts to export high quality coffee to the U.S. Told in a breezy, humorous style, it is an easy read and a fascinating insight into the clash of two worlds--ancient coffee farming techniques and high stakes commercial coffee importing. We will meet April 11 at noon in the OLLI lounge.

Crystal, in traditional Indian kurta and dupatta (dress and scarf)

OLLI travels to Mumbai with Crystal: Where Did You Go and What Did You See?

Olli members found themselves in Mumbai, India last month, with our charming Olli administrative assistant Crystal Brown as tour guide. She opened her presentation with a wonderful quote: "The traveler sees what he sees; the tourist sees what he has come to see." She declares herself to be a traveler! Dressed in traditional Indian dress and scarf, Crystal shared her delightful photos and memories of a city she dearly loves. Here are some of her musings on Mumbai:
Don't ever step in front of a Mumbai bus--it won't stop!
If in trouble, seek help from any man wearing a turban (a Sikh)
She loves having henna designs on her hands
Cows roam freely through Mumbai and are revered
Only foreigners wear shorts in Mumbai in the summer heat
Mumbai residents are extremely welcoming to travelers

April 10 found us in China, led by intrepid traveler Tom Procopchuk. (He's also a Master Angler, so you might want to get some fishing tips from him as well!)

UTEP Mining Books

OLLI members enjoyed attending February Mining Books presentation by UTEP Dean O'Hearn (see photo album) and look forward to Dr. Brian Yothers lead a discussion of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass, in commemoration of Whitman's bicentennial year. Dr. Yothers is currently teaching an OLLI class on Whitman's beloved Leaves of Grass. april 23rd, 6 pm, Blumberg Auditorium of the UTEP Library.

The Writer's Corner: A Most Eloquent Farewell

Nancy Natalicio teaches the class, Writing Your Memoir. This is one of our most popular classes and it has had a tremendous impact on those who have taken it. Jim Richardson, a class member, sent this message:

"Robert King is the brother of OLLI Member Jean Mary Johnston who came to visit her this spring from his home in England. I was fortunate enough to have answered the phone during registration to speak with Jean Mary when she asked if she could also register her brother for Nancy Natalicio's "Writing Memoirs" class. Robert is a delightful gentleman with a pleasant word and ready smile for everyone. He was an avid participant in the class with great stories of their growing up in England during WW II. We thoroughly enjoyed his company and pleaded with him to stay but... We sincerely hope he will return to us again soon. Thanks so much Jean Mary.

Please include his final memoir - a farewell letter to the class and to Nancy - in an upcoming newsletter. I believe it would be a great contribution and inspiration to all OLLI members."

This what Robert wrote to the class:

Robert King's Farewell to OLLI Memoir Class, March 2019

"I was born into a working class family in England and left school at 16 years of age with no hope of going to University. In the 1950's very few people of my standing were able, or could afford, to go to University. Then in 2019 I came to El Paso and my sister had arranged for me to attend classes at UTEP. Hello! Hello! After waiting over 60 years this certainly was a great feeling to become a MINER. Thank you UTEP.
Now a BIG THANK YOU to all my classmates. You have been so generous with your reminiscences of your lives and shared them so willingly and I have enjoyed so much your sincerity, laughter and general giving of yourselves. It has truly been a great experience being with you all. I will never forget our Monday meetings. It has been a joy to be in the same room with you.
Finally, NANCY, of whom we have all, over the series of classes, become very fond. She has guided us in many ways to produce our memories but has allowed us to express ourselves in our own way. She connects so easily with us all then enables us to dig into our past memories and produce some remarkable stories.
NANCY, on behalf of myself and the class, my sincere thanks and fondest love to you for all you have done for us and our very best wishes to you for the future.
Hasta Luego.
GO MINERS!"

FloraFEST in bloom this April

The UTEP Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens present the FloraFEST 2019, the annual plant sale FloraFest is the only fundraiser for the maintenance and operation of the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. Shoppers can visit with local Master Gardeners, horticulturists and other plant experts for advice on how to care for their plants at home. Many of the plants sold at FloraFEST are not available at local nurseries or retailers.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of FloraFEST.
Don't be surprised if you meet some of our OLLI Master Gardeners there!

Saturday/Sunday April 27 and April 28 / 9 am - 4 pm
Corner of University Avenue and Wiggins Way.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 23 Mining Books, 6 pm Blumberg Auditorium of UTEP Library
April 27-28 FloraFest, 9am-4m, UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Gardens
May 7, Registration for Summer Session and Fall Parking Renewal starts – Miners Hall 209
May 9, Lunch 'n Books, 12 pm, OLLI Lounge

OLLI IN ACTION PHOTO ALBUM

OLLI members enjoyed Dean O'Hearn's presentation at Mining Books. This pic is on the facebook page of Mining Books!

Creativity expressed through movement- OLLI style.

And the winners are… awarded prizes for guessing Academy Awards in the Suspense of Thriller Class

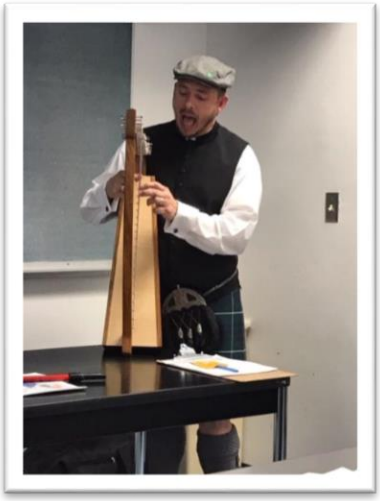
Having fun belting out a song in Steve Schiller's class

Steve Ledesma getting creative in the Drawing is Learning Class

Singing and Strumming… Dr. Bob Jacobs gives pointers to OLLI guitar enthusiasts

OLLI IN ACTION PHOTO ALBUM

Dr. John Crossen and instructor, John Groves, enjoy wearing



Neal Locke, in his kilt, during his Celtic Spirituality Class

Shellby McCue (seated) leads a discussion with the Lunch 'n Book group.

Instructor Raafat Maximos critiques a painting during his Portrait Painting class

"Creativity Never Gets Old"
Student Union East Gallery
March 25 – April 12

Curious Redford School students curious and amazed at OLLI artwork

OLLI artists posing for the gallery picture with Diana Molina and Fred Eiland