TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH
A message from the Executive Director

We did it! We surfed a year of change, challenges, waves of emotions, introspection, and restrictions. We have arrived at this very moment.

Take a breath...deeply.

NOW, let’s get to the business of this coming academic year. The UTEP campus is fully operational and OLLI will be back in Miners’ Hall with a new Fall program and offers that accommodate you in a variety of ways.

Our OLLI has been successful because of you, our members! The number of OLLI volunteers has more than doubled this past year. Volunteers have stepped up to make calls, host classes, take attendance, and facilitate clubs along with a variety of other contributions. Instructors also stepped up as volunteers throughout our sessions. So many of you stayed the course, learned new things, and showed up.

You may have observed that - in spite of the new members that jumped on board with us since March 2020 - registrations have not contributed to the revenue that our OLLI has relied on for course expenses. Consequently, you may have participated in a few fundraisers and generously donated to OLLI programming. Thank you! We have found many ways to be more efficient. Yet, we’ve had to step up to the “ask” to stay stable, to continue growing and to invest in our future.

Our OLLI will continue to be successful because of you. Read between the lines in the Advisory Board reports in this newsletter. See the commitment and dedication to keeping our OLLI community alive, thriving, and a safe place to meet with fellow members and friends.

There is a saying in the Osher Network that “If you’ve seen one OLLI, you’ve seen one OLLI.” Each of the 124 OLLIs across the states has its own organizational structure, programming, and culture. Yet, we have learned that we are all the same in our mission to mitigate isolation in an aging community and to be the best in our services to our members and to each other. OLLI is, indeed, special.

The Advisory Board took some time to create a Vision Statement and update the Mission statement to reflect who we are and where we are growing. Congratulate these people who represent you as a member. Each cares for you and this OLLI community.

Stay safe and well.

OLLI on LINE
July 2021  Volume 7, Issue 5  Editor: Lynn Provenzano

OLLI @ UTEP
On Campus
Miners Hall
Room 209
(915) 747-6280

Your 2021 OLLI Board Members:
Leanne von Mittenwald
Chair
Events
Karen Fraser
Vice Chair
Volunteers
Tito Martinez
Finance
Marianela Milner
Secretary
Mary Harris
Membership
Mark Pumphrey
Marketing
Carolyn Awalt
Speakers Bureau
Janet Dand
Past Chair
Sonya Villa-Saenz
EU Advisor
Lynn Provenzano
Executive Director
Interim Curriculum

OUR VISION
The Osher Life-Long Institute (OLLI) at the University of Texas at El Paso aspires to be a premier membership organization for adults over the age of fifty (50) in an aging demographic through continuing education and social integration - with an expanded reach - to positively enhance mature adult lives in the El Paso Border Region.

OUR MISSION
The Osher Life-Long Institute (OLLI) provides opportunities under the umbrella of the University of Texas at El Paso to enhance the enjoyment, meaning, and direction of all adults over the age of fifty (50); to stay connected; and to support their good health and wellness in an aging community through diverse course offerings in continuing education, social activities, volunteerism, intergenerational experiences, and any other special services.
OLLI COVER STORIES

OLLI at UTEP is a community rife with talent, and eyes for simplicity and beauty. Since the summer of 2019, OLLI catalog covers have featured artwork or photos by OLLI members. Members of the Marketing Committee spoke with the artists represented in these unique catalog covers to share their insights on their works.

*It’s an honor to have OLLI represented by artistic talent that has risen through time and OLLI classes.*

### 2019-2020

[Catalog covers images]

### 2020-2021

[Catalog covers images]

The **FALL 2021 CATALOG** launches OLLI’s new academic year with Fred Eiland’s *Racing the Wind* on the catalog cover.
The Artists’ Stories

LORENA RICO
Summer 2019
*Agave* (oil on canvas)

**Interview by Leanne von Mittenwald**

**Leanne:** Why did you choose your art form?
**Lorena:** I visited the Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Az. I was taking pictures and I just felt in love with this Agave; it looked so strong and colorful.

**Leanne:** How long did it take you to complete your work?
**Lorena:** I am not sure, but I think it took me almost the full semester.

**Leanne:** How do you feel about being featured on the OLLI catalog cover?
**Lorena:** [It] brings a smile to my face and makes me feel proud of myself. I think it is a good opportunity for all of us, art students, to have a space where we can show our art.

I have always wanted to learn how to paint but never gave me the time to start; I raised two children and when they grew up, they encouraged me to do it. The OLLI program was a great opportunity for me to just do it. I also have had the chance to meet new people, make new dear friends and get inspiration from my instructors. Thank you very much.

FRED EILAND
Fall 2019
*Lavender*
*UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Gardens* (photograph)

**Interview by Monica Gomez**

**Monica:** Why did you choose your art form?
**Fred:** I don’t know that I chose it so much as just grew into it. I’ve had an interest in photography for many years and am mostly self-taught, though I studied it briefly in college, where shooting film and developing my own photos taught me a lot about composition, lighting, and development or editing.

I remember my first juried exhibition in the 70’s at the Community College where the juror was renowned Nobel Laureate poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. With an honorable mention, mine was the only photo in the show to be acknowledged. That inspired me to do more!
**The Artists’ Stories**

**Fred:** When making a living became a priority, photography went to the back burner for many years, although I continued to practice it as a hobby. I owned a travel agency downtown and later started Adobe Realty, where I sold real estate in Texas and New Mexico for about 25 years.

During that time, I’ve attended workshops at the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops and more recently, classes through OLLI that contributed to my getting back into photography and teaching. I worked with Scott Cutler on the successful Visions exhibit at the Union Gallery about three years ago. I also facilitate the Photography Club of El Paso and the OLLI Photography Club, which meets every Wednesday.

**Monica:** How long does it take you to complete a work?

**Fred:** The situation, subject matter, and environment usually determine how I approach a subject. I can sometimes capture a landscape in one shot, but I like to overshoot. If I’m at the bird blind at Tom Mays Park, for example, I can shoot 1,000 frames without knowing what I’ve captured until I get home and look at each shot on my computer. If I’m lucky, I’ll get three or four good ones. I have two digital Nikons and usually carry one with me in the car just in case I find something interesting to shoot.

**Monica:** How do you feel about your artwork being featured on the front cover of an OLLI catalog?

**Fred:** I’m honored, privileged, and appreciative of the recognition and exposure. Hopefully, the photos from the OLLI course catalogs will be an inspiration for anyone interested in the photography courses. I take great pleasure watching my students’ work evolve over the course of a session and am really looking forward to seeing the students’ work, rather than my own, featured in future OLLI publications!

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BEVERLY CLINE
Spring 2020
*Untitled* (bee on blossom photograph)
Interview by Mark Pumphrey

**Mark:** Why did you choose your art form?

**Beverly:** I have been a photographer for quite some time. The natural world inspires me. I think that nothing is more fun than wandering around with camera, because you will always find something beautiful to photograph.

**Mark:** How long did it take you to get this photo?

**Beverly:** This particular photo was taken after I saw the bees on my neighbor’s flowering plum. I grabbed my camera and ran back down the street. I took multiple shots over several minutes and submitted the one that I liked the best.

**Mark:** How do you feel about your artwork being featured on the front cover of an OLLI catalog?

**Beverly:** Of course it was an honor to have one of my photographs featured on the OLLI catalog. I have to credit some of my enthusiasm for photography to Fred Eiland. Taking his OLLI classes has helped me improve my technique, kept me motivated, and enthusiastic about photography. Look through the lens of a camera and it will change your perspective of your world!
The Artists' Stories

STAN DEMING

Fall 2020
Bowl for Stephanie (wood turning)
Interview by Monica Gomez

Monica: Why did you choose your art form?
Stan: I have always enjoyed woodworking but had little experience turning wood on a lathe. Several years ago I took a five-day wood turning class at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. During this class we learned to turn bowls from wet wood. So I didn't exactly choose the art form for the object in question -- the object in question and its art form were chosen for me by the instructors.

Monica: How long did it take you to complete your work?
Stan: It took about 30 minutes to make the bowl, but it took a long time to complete the work. After turning the bowl and before finishing it, we moved from Houston to El Paso. Houston is humid, wood soaks up moisture, so it's easy to finish wood in Houston. It cuts easily and sands nicely. In El Paso, things are different. Here the humidity is so low that wood becomes dry, hard, and brittle. It's like iron, in comparison. It takes a lot of effort to cut or sand wood out here. I spent many hours sanding the surface to get rid of most of the tool marks.

Monica: How do you feel about your artwork being featured on the front cover of an OLLI catalog?
Stan: Having my art featured on the front cover of an OLLI catalog was certainly something I didn't expect. My ego being what it is, I was happy to see it featured. But putting my ego aside, I think it turned out to be a beautiful bowl, and I was happy that its image could be shared with others.

Monica: Any other interesting information?
Stan: For those here in El Paso who are interested in learning more about wood turning, the Southwest Association of Turners (swaturners.org) can lead you to the local Borderline Woodturners. It's a good group.

MARIE LIVINGSTON

Spring 2021
Blue Skies and Sunshine (watercolor) by Marie Livingston
Interview by Mark Pumphrey

Mark: Why did you choose your art form?
Marie: I chose watercolors for their spontaneity and the brilliances of the colors.

Mark: How long did it take you to complete your work?
Marie: I work very fast, usually finishing a painting in about 15 minutes. I start a painting with no preconceived notion as to how it will turn out. This is one of the reasons I love working with watercolors.

Mark: How do you feel about your artwork being featured on the front cover of an OLLI catalog?
Marie: I was surprised and pleased that my painting was chosen. It is especially nice to have received lots of compliments on my painting as well.
The Artists’ Stories

BEATRIZ MOLINAR
Summer 2021
Mi Magnolia (oil on canvas)
Interview by Leanne von Mittenwald

Leanne: Why did you choose your art form?
Beatriz: To make this story short is just that I enjoy going outside early in the mornings and walking around my garden. This particular day as I walked by the magnolia tree I noticed how the sunlight was hitting this flower and making it look bright, beautiful... spiritual. So I took a picture.

Leanne: How long did it take you to complete your work?
Beatriz: It took me a semester to finish. I really enjoyed painting it. I had just started taking classes. I think this was my second semester. I have mostly worked with glass doing mosaics, stained glass and fusing glass.

Leanne: How do feel about being featured on the OLLI catalog cover?
Beatriz: I feel extremely happy that this has happened in this stage of my life. I feel that I have accomplished something that I never expected.

RE-FRAMING LIFE

Marie Livingston has been a dedicated OLLI member since 2011, contributing as a former Advisory Board member and Chair, an instructor and lecturer, committee(s) member, club facilitator, resident artist, and more. Her personal passions shine through her extensive accomplishments with OLLI. She has studied art, traveled, captured color and context in her paintings, and explores expression through writing and poetry.

Marie speaks candidly about her creative self.

“I have no boundaries regarding my artwork. If I start out with something and have no expectations, I enjoy the process. So, I more than admire abstract art. I love it...art and artists. This is why I choose my topics, classes. Recently, I taught the Beginnings of Abstract Art and will be giving a lecture on A la Pintura, which is a book of poetry about painting and painters by Spanish poet Rafael Alberti, in the Fall.

Through my volunteer experiences at OLLI, I have learned that volunteer experiences can be enriching. I’ve met many people, made many friends, and enjoyed all my interactions with OLLI members. I’ve taken the OLLI’s writing classes because I love to write and I love to hear other people’s stories.”

HAIKU

Grackle standing on ant hill
having his breakfast
pecking at defending ants

The sun breaking through the clouds
highlighting new green
of rainfed grass and wild vines

Dragonfly water dancing
light rain punctuates
gentle wind rippled surface

“I wrote these this morning (July 6th) while sitting at my drawing table looking out into my back yard.”

6 | P a g e
So, what does this mean for our OLLI @ UTEP?

The UTEP campus is fully operational. Much has changed throughout these past eighteen months and we are discovering the new pathways that have been forged in operations and the delivery of our programs.

OLLI on-boarded quite a few new members/students because we offered an online program. It turns out that active wear is quite comfortable in your own home, transportation is not an issue, and there are no additional parking fees or fuel expenses. Staying online is still an attractive option, yet, we have many who still want to socialize face-to-face. Elbow bumps need to be replaced with a visible smile and a handshake. Therefore, a new format for courses has been developed to accommodate as many OLLI members - old and new - in a variety of ways. The catalog gives you all of the information that you need to know. Here are some of the details that come into play for this new academic year.

The Fall 2021 Program... something for everyone

Fall Sessions hold a full assortment of courses and lectures that will either be hybrid, online or face-to-face.

- Courses with high enrollments (over 35) will remain online.
- A few courses, such as Beginners Folk Guitar, Crochet Therapy and Wellness from Within, will be face-to-face only.
- All other courses will be hybrid (in classrooms and online). The maximum number of students in Miners Hall classrooms will be twenty-five (25). The number of online students will be unlimited (with the exception of art classes). OLLI members must register for either the in-person classroom or online. Members cannot register for both.

It’s appropriate for Fred Eiland’s photograph of a horse to land on the front cover of the Fall 2021 catalog. The symbol of a horse varies across different cultures. Yet, the common threads in the perspectives on this magnificent creature are strength, freedom and vitality. They also speak to a social nature and a connection to those you consider close.

Let’s face it. After months of restrictions in our personal and social lives, we find ourselves stronger, freer to move about, and cherishing the face-to-face moments that we can now have with friends and family. It almost feels like we are ready to be “racing the wind.”
The Fall 2021 Program

- Art classes will remain online (by instructor request) and will continue to be 2 hours long.
- The Rio Grande Cancer Foundation and the El Paso Rehab Specialty Group have offered their sites for face-to-face classes. These are clearly marked in the catalog.
- The Fall 2021 Catalog designates how classes will be held with a key that indicates online, hybrid, or face-to-face.

OLLI will still stay safe.

- The OLLI lounge will be open for appointments and the lending library. The space is only big enough to accommodate a few people safely.
- Masks are not required on campus. Members can use their discretion regarding wearing a mask. However, we are asking for 3-feet social distancing in Miners Hall classrooms. Take note... we are prepared to adapt should pandemic conditions and mandates change. Safety is our priority.

- Register online or by mail. Face-to-face registration is available by appointment only. The office staff will be available to set up 20-minute appointments beginning August 2nd. Registration begins August 10th. Volunteers will be available to assist with these appointments. Members will need to park and pay in the SBG visitors’ lot. ($5 for one hour) during registration.

More...

- SBG Parking (thanks to EUBC) has been negotiated at the previous rate of $250. You may have a credit from last spring. The office will have this information available when you apply for the permit. Multiple cars can be placed against one permit if you would like to share rides.
- Parking permits for the free SB7 lot will be available, but we are not sure how the shuttles will be running. We will have to keep OLLI members updated on this.

Questions? Check out these Catalog Review and Orientations Dates
Zoom links will be emailed prior to each meeting.

VOLUNTEERS
Catalog Review and Orientation
Wednesday
July 28th
1:30PM
Zoom

MEMBERS
Catalog Review Q&A
Tuesday
August 3rd
1:30PM
Zoom

INSTRUCTORS
Fall Orientation Q&A
Thursday
August 12th
11:30AM or 4:30PM
Zoom

Watch the weekly BULLETIN for updates and announcements.
The Osher network has been buzzing over the last eighteen months with support, ideas, sharing, and discussions on how to keep OLLI programs thriving with benefits to members. We’ve learned much from each other in this network of 124 OLLIs. The National Resource Center – located at Northwestern University in Chicago – is the hub of communication and community in this network. Our gratitude, once again, goes to Steve Thaxton, Kevin Connaughton, Stacy Hart-Rivera, and Isabel Jane Bethke for being the beacon of light as we navigate these interesting times. Here is a snapshot of how OLLI @ UTEP fits into big picture.

**OLLI@UTEP**

service the El Paso Border Region with **reach** as far east as Horizon City and far west as Las Cruces and Santa Fe, NM.

**124 OLLIs**

379 cities/towns

**167,130 Members**

Membership hit the **700** mark during the pandemic through the *Each One Reach* campaign. Fall 2021 relies on maintaining this number with membership renewals. **We can grow!**

**24,106 Total Volunteers**

The number of VOLUNTEERS has doubled over the last year to **68** members who have generously committed time and effort to keeping the OLLI community connected and thriving.

**80% of OLLIs print and mail catalogs** (pre-pandemic)

Pandemic: Online catalogs are replacing print with increased viewings.

**Fee Structures**

*All-Inclusive* 22%

*Membership & A La Carte Class Fee* 61%

*Other* 17%

OLLI@UTEP continues to offer **extraordinary value** with a modest annual membership fee and all-inclusive registration fees keeping the programming affordable.

**Financial support has increased over the last year to help cover the shift in expenses. Memberships were up yet registrations were down. You’ll see more fundraising efforts. Donations are welcome and appreciated.**

**Charitable Contributions Received**

- **$150,000 - $500,000**: 2%
- **$100,000 - $149,999**: 2%
- **$75,000 - $99,999**: 4%
- **$50,000 - $74,999**: 12%
- **$25,000 - $49,999**: 29%
- **$10,000 - $24,999**: 27%
- **$5,000 - $9,999**: 10%
- **$0 - $4,999**: 14%
**A SHOUT OUT TO OLLI VOLUNTEERS**

*Thank you!*  

*It has taken many hands, minds, and effort to keep our OLLI thriving. OLLI’s success is due to the services and support of our volunteers!* 

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**Active OLLI Volunteers, March to July, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jamie Ackerman</th>
<th>Monica Gomez</th>
<th>Brad Roe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Atwood</td>
<td>Nicole Grant</td>
<td>Aurelia Samaniego</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Awalt</td>
<td>Mary Harris</td>
<td>Laurie Sayward</td>
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<td>Ruth Bassett</td>
<td>Nancy Heavey</td>
<td>Helen Schmid</td>
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<td>Karen Benuska</td>
<td>Servi Hernandez</td>
<td>Shari Schwartz</td>
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<td>Karen Bouilly</td>
<td>Elizabeth Highsmith</td>
<td>Linda Shubeck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Boyea</td>
<td>Tom Highsmith</td>
<td>Don Smelser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alda Briones</td>
<td>Suzanne Hunter</td>
<td>Susan Sobin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dottie Carter</td>
<td>Maggie Jackson</td>
<td>Waynene Spradlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luis Castillo</td>
<td>Betty Kennedy</td>
<td>Greg Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Chavez</td>
<td>Kathleen Key</td>
<td>Wally Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genevieve Chavez</td>
<td>Lori Leach</td>
<td>Lourdes Tinajero</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cille d’Ascenzo</td>
<td>Jean-Claude Linossi</td>
<td>Leanne von Mittenwald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trudy D’Souza</td>
<td>Marie Livingston</td>
<td>Tonya von Mittenwald</td>
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<td>Janet Dand</td>
<td>Gabby Lopez</td>
<td>Devon Wall</td>
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<td>Richard Dand</td>
<td>Tito Martinez</td>
<td>John Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stan Deming</td>
<td>Adria Menchaca</td>
<td>Ian Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Dickason</td>
<td>Marianela Milner</td>
<td>And our newest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Eiland</td>
<td>Carol Molloy</td>
<td>volunteers:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oscar Estrada</td>
<td>Donna Munch</td>
<td>John Eger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Farrelly</td>
<td>Lori Olivas</td>
<td>Tom Harding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Faulkner</td>
<td>Julieta Paez</td>
<td>Steve Jerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Floyd</td>
<td>Janet Pardygraft</td>
<td>Maureen Keton</td>
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<td>Karen Fraser</td>
<td>Tom Prokopchuk</td>
<td>Debra Little</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Gemoets</td>
<td>Mark Pumphrey</td>
<td>Jim Rolph</td>
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OLLI VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS & GUEST SPEAKERS

Thank you!

OLLI also relies on the generosity of our instructors. Many of our instructors volunteer on a regular basis or in our summer sessions.

VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS

Jesus Burciaga
Jackie Cordova
Nicholas Dahl
Catherine Dickason
Monica Gomez
Terrence Johnson
Lin Bentley Keeling
Kathleen Key
John Kuberka
Stephen Ledesma
Jean-Claude Linossi
Marie Livingston
Neal Locke
John Kuberka
Charles Martin
Phyllis Price
Sylvia Portillo Koch
Linda Shubeck
Patty Tiscareno
& Rio Grande Cancer Foundation
Beatriz Vera
Viridiana Vidana
Leanne von Mittenwald
Ian Wilson

Guest speakers have been a greater part of our recent Spring and Summer programs, giving our OLLI members access to places and projects across the country.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Donna Snyder/Raquel Mejia/Kit Wren
Alice Carruth/Chris Lopez/Dr. Bill Gutman/Spaceport America
Marianela Milner
Melissa Warak/Chinati Foundation
Tshering Yangzom/Bhutan Foundation
Adair Margo/Holly Cobb/Tom Lea Institute
Marie Livingston
Jim Eckles/White Sands
Laura M. Urizarri/UTEP
Grace Haddock
Tom Schmid/UTEP
Angelina Martinez/UTEP
Art Corral/Master Gardeners
Marie Svoboda/Getty Museum
Terri Bergstrom/SPAM® Museum
Mike Epp/War Eagles Museum
CJ Whitmore/Border Patrol Museum
Jeff Harris/Magoffin House
Prince McKenzie/El Paso Railroad and Transportation Museum
Carmen Ramos/Claudia Zapata/Smithsonian American Art Museum
Julieta Paez
Laura Jurado
Elke Lewis
Stan Deming
Michelle Cromer
Angel Lady Terrie Marie

THANKS TO THE NRC AND THE Osher Network, OLLI members have had opportunities to attend shared courses and lectures with other OLLIs.

OLLI SHARED COURSE HOSTS

OLLI@University of Arizona
OLLI@Berkshire Community College
OLLI@University of Southern Oregon
OLLI@University of Hawai’i at Mānoa
OLLI@University of Michigan
OLLI@California State University Dominguez Hills
“We kept our minds sharp, our bodies in shape, and our friendships intact...”

Leanne von Mittenwald
Advisory Board Chair
Events Committee Chair

The summer of 2021 is almost at an end, but the New Normal brought on by events of 2020 is just beginning. As we ease ourselves back into face-to-face meetings, gatherings, and classes, we realize what a gift technology has been to all of us. We were able to continue meeting in online classes, clubs, and events. We kept our minds sharp, our bodies in shape, and our friendships intact – thanks to all of our members and the administrators and instructors at OLLI.

This fall we will use what we have learned from our members, instructors, and administrators to offer something for everyone. For the first time, we will offer several options for OLLI classes – some will be online, some will be face-to-face, and others will be a hybrid of both face-to-face and online. It will be an exciting challenge for everyone, and we hope you will be there to help make it a wonderful year!

I want to thank Lynn Provenzano and her wonderful staff for their tireless efforts to make sure our program remained vital and exciting during the challenges of the past year. OLLI kept us all connected and gave us a place to escape, or discuss our concerns, or to relax and breathe.

There are opportunities for all of you to be a part of this new OLLI. We welcome your input and expertise as a volunteer, an instructor, a committee member, or as a board member. We are always looking for new ideas to improve the quality of our program and hope you will join us this year as we continue to learn and grow together.

Event Highlights
Our OLLI events keep us engaged and connected. We stay connected through online events and face-to-face events like OLLI at the Movies:

- 08/19 Trivia Game Tournament - Six teams combined their skills to compete for OLLI prizes
- 10/23 OLLI at the Movies – Socially-distanced OLLI members attended a screening of 42.
- 06/02 OLLI at the Movies – Sixty guests watched Triumph, celebrated our volunteers, and purchased “sleeves of tickets” for amazing prizes.

Upcoming events
Make sure to read the OLLI bulletins for more information about our upcoming events:

- 10/22 Fall Backyard Event – Food, music, and friends at Karen Frazer’s home.
- 11/?? Online Auction – Bid on items just in time for holiday gift-giving.
- 12/?? OLLI at the Movies – Spielberg’s West Side Story and a celebration.”
“Sixty-eight (68) member volunteers have, over the past four months, helped host classes, take class attendance, and provide technical support as needed. Activity also included making “staying connected” calls and a few follow-up emails to all members before the Summer 2021 session began; engaging in interviews as ambassadors for OLLI; recruiting new members; and participating in committees for curriculum, marketing, membership, and volunteering.

In lieu of a luncheon, a Zoom meeting was held April 26, 2021 to recognize our volunteers, discuss issues affecting them and to select from all volunteers’ names, six names for OLLI “prizes.” Thirty members participated. And Volunteers were honored at the Cinemark West fundraiser on June 2, 2021.

In late June, a new Volunteers Committee was formed to continue discussing issues and needs confronting volunteer efforts for our UTEP OLLI. The committee will meet monthly and in August and November invite all volunteers to join in.

New volunteer members are always needed as we evaluate new opportunities to serve. We welcome your support and hope you will join our admirable volunteer team.”

**Current Volunteers Committee members:**
Jill Boyea, Tom Harding, Liz Highsmith, Steve Jerman, Julieta Paez, Jim Rolph, Don Smelser, Karen Fraser (chair), Mary Harris (membership liaison)

**Marianela Milner**
Secretary

“My role is to provide clerical and administrative support during our monthly Advisory Board Meetings and Strategic Planning Meetings. Occasionally I help post something interesting, funny, or inspirational on our UTEP-Olli Facebook page.

I have found it interesting to take the minutes while we have our Zoom Meetings. I never realized how much I rely on actually needing to see a person talking face-to-face to capture all that a person says while I take down my notes. While on the computer I do not seem to catch all that a person has to say, at times. Maybe I need to get my hearing checked!

I have been helping out our Volunteer "Staying Connected" Team, our communication system with our OLLI Members. I have thoroughly enjoyed calling up our members and asking them how they are doing during this Zoom/Social Distancing time of our lives. I have enjoyed my brief chats with our members so much! Everyone has been so kind and truly appreciative of everyone on the Volunteer "Staying Connected" Team.”
“The OLLI program finds itself in good financial health. However, COVID created several barriers limiting the financial resources of the program. We now need to work harder to replenish those funds lost. The committee will address the deficit by various methods. First, the classes and instructor composition have been designed to provide the same variety and quality of classes at a cost-savings to the program. Secondly, a number of fundraising activities are scheduled for the public. Lastly, grants are scheduled to be submitted to local agencies for funds to assist and expand the program. Please note that we have a safety net in our OLLI endowment funds but we must also note that it is a safety net and we must continue to raise funds to improve and expand the program.”

Current Finance Committee members: Sonya Villa Saenz, Lynn Provenzano, Tito Martinez (chair)

Mary Harris
Membership Committee Chair

“Members were very active in distributing catalogs and fliers during the Spring and Summer Sessions to various El Paso and Las Cruces locations. Sue Sobin reached out to various media outlets. We are all looking forward to disseminating Fall Session catalogs in person with Covid Restrictions slowly being lifted.

One member, Oscar Estrada took leave for summer but we assume he will join the committee again in the Fall. We have a new member, Michael Faulkner, who will be joining our committee when we resume our monthly meetings starting again Tuesday, August 10th.”

Current committee members: Karen Fraser, Sue Sobin, Waynene Spradlin, Betty Kennedy, Janet Pendergraft, Jaime Ackerman and, Mary Harris (Chair)

Mark Pumphrey
Marketing Committee Chair

“The OLLI Marketing Committee would like to thank OLLI Instructor and member Greg Thompson of the UTEP Theater Department (and ActorSpace Studio) for coordinating the production of interviews conducted by UTEP students with four OLLI students (Julieta Paez, Don Smelser, Marianela Milner, and Tom Prokopchuk) and three OLLI instructors (Lynn Provenzano, Greg Thompson, and Monica Gomez). These videos will be used to market OLLI to potential students and instructors.

The committee would also like to thank Shari Schwartz for her service on the Marketing Committee in addition to her role as Chair of the Publicity Committee. We are seeking one or two additional committee members to fill the gap left by Shari’s departure as she rotates off of both the Publicity and Marketing Committees.”

Current committee members: Monica Gomez, Leanne von Mittenwald, Lynn Provenzano, Mark Pumphrey (Chair), Greg Thompson (guest)
“The Curriculum Committee meets monthly to review current courses, discuss options for future course proposals, prep work and delivery, to explore resources for guest speakers, and to work with timelines for each new term.

Recently, the curriculum committee delved into the process of building the curriculum, a process that goes far beyond course approvals. Topics included:

- the development of new and unique lecture series.
- the diversity and value of the content in proposals.
- the scheduling, coding and changes in curricula to address new ways of course delivery (online, in-person, and hybrid) in line with the OLLI budget
- the balance of course categories and available instructors.
- the relationship between course content and the catalog.

The committee is working toward engaging course offerings and lectures for OLLI members that vary from session to session. The program comes together as a “page-turner” presentation in each semester’s catalog.”

Current Curriculum Committee members:
Ruth Bassett, Suzanne Hunter, Servando Hernandez, Ian Wilson, Marie Livingston, Leanne von Mittenwald, Carolyn Awalt, Lynn Provenzano (Chair), Mark Pumphrey (Marketing liaison).

Janet Dand
Past Chair Advisor

“IT’s mid-summer and we have just completed a fun-filled and informative session of OLLI classes. Despite a year and a half of COVID restrictions, we have kept our OLLI community together through strong leadership, active volunteers, weekly bulletins, newsletters, classes, clubs, and fundraiser activities. In fact, during this difficult time, we have actually grown the membership, welcoming newcomers to our “family”.

Now, as we anticipate fall, changes are once again on the horizon. Miners Hall will reopen on a limited basis and some classes will be available face-to-face and hybrid (mixed face to face with some online). Once again, we will be able to greet each other in person enjoying the smiles on our friends’ faces.

The fall catalog reveals a great selection of classes in the three modalities, face-to-face, hybrid, and online. So, there is something for everyone! Don’t forget to renew your membership and spread the word to family and friends about our community! Hope to see you in a fall class!”
Sonya Villa-Saenz
Extended University Advisor

“The last couple of months has certainly been one for the books when it comes to facilitating collaborative stewardship of both financial and human resources needs through the virtual platform for the university. The Extended University Business Center has worked diligently with the OLLI program to ensure that services related to financial management, asset management, purchasing and payroll needs are processed timely and accurately given the continual changing environment and the unknowns of what to expect next.

The key components of successfully meeting the needs of the Extended University have certainly been the flexibility and willingness from all the staff, volunteers, and instructors to keep in mind the purpose as to the why we do it in the first place, regardless of the circumstances surrounding us - YOU, the students we serve! THANK YOU for your patience you afforded us and continue to provide during this transitional period, we truly are blessed!“

Tanya von Mittenwald
OLLI’s Facebook Guru

"We’re ramping up our social media so we can spread the word about OLLI! Follow "Olli- utep" on facebook to keep up to date on classes, deadlines, and fun events! Our most recent boost reached over 700 new viewers, but we need your help too. Please share posts & invite your friends to "like" the page, so they can learn about all OLLI has to offer. It’s easy, quick, & free but a little bit of effort goes a long way. For questions or to submit photos for the page, contact Tanya at nvmfund@gmail.com "

OLLI is on social media! If you are a Facebooker, check out our page. Post your photos. Share your experiences and special moments. Thanks to Tanya von Mittenwald for being the Olli- UTEP Facebook guru and keeping our connections alive in the OLLI community.