

GRAY MATTERS

News of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | Sonoma State University

OSHER
LIFELONG
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INSTITUTE

OCTOBER IN SONOMA COUNTY

The last few weeks have brought disruption to our lives with fires, smoke filled skies, and evacuations. No words can convey the feelings and emotions that we have experienced during these times. The OLLI@SSU community is a special community of friends that have seen each other through the challenges that the last four years have brought to us in beautiful Sonoma County. Find comfort through family, friends, and local community. One of the beautiful things that we offer through OLLI@SSU is a way to provide a sense of community, to provide courses and programs that you will enjoy, and sweep you away with music, art, history, movies, the 2020 election, and even into another dimension with virtual reality.



As we move forward, share your ideas on how we can better serve our OLLI community. We will look for ways to keep our community engaged, to socialize with one another, and will assist you in learning Zoom, our virtual class platform. Now that our skies are clear, enjoy the beauty of the fall season in Sonoma County with crisp mornings, sunny days, and the changing scenery that surrounds us. I am providing you with my favorite fall recipe – my great grandmother’s Gingerbread recipe – to enjoy during the fall and winter season. In my family, the smell of fresh baked gingerbread in the home means that fall is finally here. Enjoy!

REST IN POWER RBG!

By: Grace Burroughs, OLLI Program Assistant

We recently lost a shining star for women’s rights, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We hope to honor her life and legacy and take a moment to appreciate her sacrifices that have left us all with great advancements and freedoms. Ruth was brilliant, quick and tough as nails. She set a tone and a stage for lawyers that would come after her. Ruth forged a powerful path for women’s rights and did so with poise and dignity. Ruth devoted her life to the court and fought to preserve the integrity of it.

Serving on the Supreme Court for twenty-seven years, Ruth brought a revolution to America. Her tenacity and strength were proven in her years of service, continuing until the age of eighty seven! Picking up the nickname the Notorious RBG when dissenting in the landmark Supreme Court case *Shelby County v. Holder*, Ruth made it known that women should be anywhere decisions are being made. She was the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Continuing to serve on the court despite cancer speaks volumes of her character and mission. A sincere thank you to Ruth for being a tireless and resolute champion for justice in our nation. She was a true superhero with her robe and signature lace collar, one that will be remembered for generations. Rest in Power RBG!



Photo credit: Supreme Court of the United States

FALL OLLI OFF-SEASON CLASSES

You can still register! Register by phone at 707-664-2691, by emailing burrougg@sonoma.edu, or by visiting www.oli.sonoma.edu.



#3720 Fork in the Road: The Elections of 2020 Amidst the Great Unknowns

Fridays, October 16 – 30 from 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: David McCuan

Online Registration not available after October 12.



#3721 Current Economic Outlook

Fridays, November 6 – 20, 10 – 11:30 am

Instructor: Mike Arnold

Online Registration through November 2 at 5 p.m.

OLLI Off-Season Class descriptions available at www.oli.sonoma.edu.

NEW! OLLI COFFEE HOURS - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



We are trying something new with our OLLI community. Since we can't meet in person, a social hour on Zoom is a great way to connect with one another. Attend the upcoming event and let us know your ideas for future gatherings. The Coffee Hour Zoom links and gathering information will be available on the OLLI website at www.oli.sonoma.edu.

Save the Dates:

OLLI Coffee Hour – November

Thursday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom link available at www.oli.sonoma.edu.

OLLI Coffee Hour – December

Thursday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom link available at www.oli.sonoma.edu.

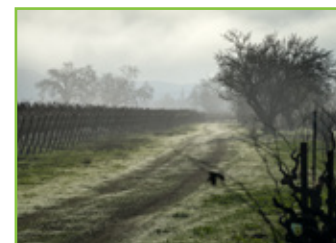
BEAT THE WINTER BLAHS – SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES!

Winter 2021 Virtual Course Preview: January 11, 2021 from 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Winter 2021 OLLI Classes: January 25 – March 5, 2021

Registration for winter 2021 classes opens Wednesday, December 9!

Six- and three-week courses as well as single class offerings



Van Morrison: The Music of the Belfast

Cowboy – Pete Elman

Statesmen and Rogues: The Founding Fathers, From
Washington to Aaron Burr – Mick Chantler

Exploring Opera: The Divas – James Sokol

Foreign Female Hollywood Actors – Barbara Spear

The Global Family – Elaine Leeder

Reading Art: Your GPS for Visual Literacy – Heidi Chretien
& Charlie Goldberg

The Story of Human Communications – Carlos Torres

The Evolution of Global Feminism – Nour Maxwell

Comedians that Changed Society: Moms Mabley, Lenny
Bruce, George Carlin – Martin Marshall

Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas – Linda Reid

Food, As Musical Parody and Social Commentary –
David Sandri

A 1930S VIEW ON MARRIAGE FILMS FOR THE CINEMA HISTORY FAN

By Barbara Spear, OLLI Instructor and OLLI@SSU Cinema Club Coordinator

DODSWORTH (1936), adapted from the novel by Sinclair Lewis, concerns a middle-aged, mid-western couple who, after the husband's retirement, decide to travel through Europe. The husband Sam (played by Walter Huston, father of John, in a very moving performance) and wife Fran (Ruth Chatterton, who gives dimension to a very complex role) have completely opposite reactions while abroad. Sam gets bored and wants to return home, while Fran wants to become a woman of the world. Their longtime romance is threatened with divorce, which is complicated by Sam's meeting a kindly widow (Mary Astor, who equals the achievements of the stars in my personal favorite of her many glorious performances). *The Movie Guide* calls *Dodsworth* "a film of maturity, intelligence, and understanding" and praises William Wyler's direction as he "sensitively plots a tale of marital problems, middle age, and the Ugly American abroad." *Dodsworth* received seven Oscar nominations (including Best Picture, Director, and Actor, with one win for Best Art Direction (Richard Day)). Available for streaming from Amazon Prime (\$3.99) and AppleTV (\$2.99).

L'ATALANTE (1934, in French with English subtitles) tells the story of capricious small-town girl Juliette and barge captain Jean who marry after a whirlwind courtship, and she joins him to live aboard his boat, *L'Atalante*. As they make their way down the Seine, Jean becomes upset with Juliette's flirtations with his all-male crew, and Juliette wants to escape the monotony of the boat and experience the excitement of the big city. When she steals away to Paris by herself, her husband begins to think their marriage was a mistake. Jay Carr, in an article for the Turner Classic Movies website, says, "Poetry and anarchy are seldom thought of as traveling companions, much less bedfellows. But they are both in [director] Jean Vigo's masterpiece, *L'Atalante*. ... it's constantly being rediscovered and necessarily restored, since its original distributor chopped part of it away. Its last missing piece, unearthed in the vaults of Italy's state broadcast archive in 1990, cements its stature as a film that leaves you wonderstruck." *L'Atalante* is the only full-length feature film directed by Vigo, who died of tuberculosis in 1934, before the final cut of the film was completed. It is available for streaming from Amazon Prime (\$3.99).

Are you a Cinema Fan?

Join the OLLI@SSU Cinema Club with Barbara Spear. For information on upcoming film events discussions, contact Barbara at spearb@sonoma.edu.

Do You Love Art?

Join the OLLI@SSU Art Club with Linda Reid. Email Linda at lindalreid100@gmail.com and you will receive Art Club notices.

Watch the Stolman Memorial Lecture with David McCuan

If you missed the Stolman Memorial Lecture on September 18, 2020, you can now enjoy the Zoom recording at <http://olli.sonoma.edu/ed-stolman-memorial-lecture>. Listen to the keynote address by Dr. David McCuan, on **The 2020 General Election as a Rolling Crisis**.

DID YOU MISS A CLASS YOU REGISTERED FOR THIS FALL?

Contact OLLI Program Assistant, Grace Burroughs burrougg@sonoma.edu and she will send you the Zoom recording of your missed class to enjoy at your convenience.

IN MEMORY OF PHILIP D. HARRIMAN

Phillip D. Harriman, Ph.D. passed away from natural causes, peacefully in his sleep, on September 3rd, 2020 at age 82 years. Phil was born November 24, 1937 to Luciel Muller and Theodore Darling Harriman in Marin County, and raised in Corte Madera and Larkspur, where he played the French horn, and exhibited an enduring curiosity and passion for further knowledge. He graduated from Drake High School in San Anselmo in 1955. Phil attended CalTech, majoring in physics. He married Jenny Flack between their graduations at CalTech and Pomona College, and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in biophysics from UC Berkeley in 1964 and did post-doctorate work in microbiology at University of Cologne, Germany. Phil conducted research in genetics and virology at the Pasteur Institute in France and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory before joining the faculty of Duke University School of Medicine.



Phil worked for 25+ years at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington D.C., serving as NSF's Program Director of Genetics and on the White House Ethics and Genetics Committee. Phil loved traveling, with Antarctica as his favorite destination, and where he joined an NSF project conducting research into microbial life in extreme environments at the McMurdo Research Base in 2000. Retiring to Sonoma County in 2001, the Harrimans became active members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa.

Phil joined OLLI@SSU in 2002, and Advisory Board member, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, and Chair of the OLLI Science Club. He was also co-founder of the North Bay Science Café. He approached every new endeavor with a "beginner's mind," including Aikido training in his early 70s and earning a black belt at age 80. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Jenny; son Marc Harriman and grandson Paul Harriman; sister, Lynn Moody; brother-in-law Henry Moody; nephew Myles Moody; niece Erica Moody; aunt Beverly Estes; and many caring cousins. Phil's humble presence will be greatly missed, and kindnesses fondly remembered by his family and friends. A celebration of life will be held in the future. The OLLI community will greatly miss Phil Harriman and all that he brought to OLLI@SSU.

GREAT GRANDMA BECKETT'S GINGERBREAD!

There's nothing like the smell and taste of fresh baked gingerbread cake during the fall and winter months.

Family recipe compliments of Leslie Brutocao

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| 3 eggs | 1 t ginger (heaping) |
| 1 cup Molasses (<i>full flavor or mild – depending on preference</i>) | ½ t nutmeg |
| 1 cup vegetable oil | ½ t salt |
| 1 ¼ cups sugar | 2 t baking soda dissolved in 1 cup of boiling water |
| 1 t cinnamon | 3 cups flour – sifted |

In mixing bowl, add eggs, vegetable oil, molasses, sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt. Mix at low speed. Alternately, add flour and the baking soda dissolved in the 1 cup of boiling water. Mix thoroughly. Pour batter into 9"x13"x2" (or similar size) pan that was greased with shortening and a little flour. Bake at 275 – 300 degrees for approximately 1 hour. Check for doneness with toothpick. Do not overbake. Dust cake with a little powdered sugar when cool. Serve with whipped cream, ice cream, or lemon curd.



CONTACTS – Leslie Brutocao, Director: brutocal@sonoma.edu | Grace Burroughs, Program Assistant: burrougg@sonoma.edu



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