

GRAY MATTERS

News of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | Sonoma State University



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OLLI@SSU!

OLLI at SSU is celebrating its 19th anniversary this month. Sonoma State University was the second Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to be established, with the University of Southern Maine as the first OLLI campus. We can thank the Osher Foundation in San Francisco, Ed Stolman, a successful businessman from Sonoma, and the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco for our beginnings in 2001. Alfred and Hanna Fromm created one of the earliest programs of lifelong learning: the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco. In Fromm's autobiography, he stated there are three things important in daily life: "the importance of learning, strong family bonds, and charity." To this day, the Fromm Institute serves over 1,000 older adults in the San Francisco Bay Area. How does this relate to SSU? Ed Stolman was active at the Fromm Institute, and when he moved to Sonoma, his goal was to start a lifelong learning program at Sonoma State University. Ed Stolman provided initial funding and later involved Bernard Osher and the Bernard Osher Foundation, where the SSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute received an initial grant of \$100,000 in June 2001 and has continued to receive funding from the Foundation.

Over 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes have been established at universities throughout the United States in the last 20 years. California has 25 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes from Humboldt State to the north and from San Diego State University to the south, with 14 located on Cal State University campuses. It is because of the generous funding of the Osher Foundation that SSU campuses throughout the country share the joy of lifelong learning.

As we enter our 20th year at Sonoma State University, we can celebrate the many friends, instructors, staff, and volunteers that have been a part of Sonoma State University's OLLI history. We are excited to plan for our 20th Anniversary year and hope you will join us in our celebration with dynamic courses, inspiring instructors, exciting activities to renew and expand friendships, and more importantly, celebrating each other. You are what make OLLI at SSU. Help make our 20th year spectacular!

Do you have 20th Anniversary ideas for OLLI@SSU? Feel free to share your ideas with Leslie Brutocao, Director, at brutocal@sonoma.edu. Thank you.

NEED A GETAWAY?

Consider getting away on a virtual field trip to one of 400 museums around the world. You can visit the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the British Museum in London, England, or the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. You can even visit NASA's online exhibit on Building a New Future in Space. Go to artsandculture.google.com to get started on your next journey.

OLLI EMAILS

If you know of an OLLI member that isn't receiving their email communications, have them call OLLI at 707-664-2691 or contact Grace Burroughs at burrougg@sonoma.edu so we can update their contact information. This is especially important since we will continue to offer OLLI classes through ZOOM during the winter and spring semesters.

MOVIES THAT TURNED 50 THIS YEAR!

After a little research on the top 50 movies of 1970, here are a few you might remember:

Love Story – with Ali McGraw and Ryan O’Neal

Little Big Man – with Dustin Hoffman

Airport – with Burt Lancaster and Dean Martin (which led to the comedy, *Airplane*)

Cotton Comes to Harlem – with Redd Foxx and Cleavon Little

M*A*S*H – with Donald Sutherland and Elliott Gould

Tora! Tora! Tora! – with Jason Robards, Joseph Cotton, E.G. Marshall, and James Whitmore

Kelly’s Heroes – with Clint Eastwood, Donald Sutherland, Telly Savalas, Don Rickles

Five Easy Pieces – with Jack Nicholson and Karen Black

The Out of Towners – with Jack Lemon and Sandy Dennis

On a Clear Day You Can See Forever – Barbara Streisand

Patton – with George C. Scott

A LOOK AT RACISM IN AMERICA - BOOKS TO READ

Professor of English Literature and American Multicultural Studies at Sonoma State University, Dr. Kim Hester Williams, and Dr. Christina Baker, former SSU professor and currently an Associate Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at UC Merced, are highlighted in an SSU News article on the Sonoma State University website at <http://news.sonoma.edu/>. The article includes a link to an interview in the July issue of *Sonoma Magazine*. Dr. Hester-Williams and Dr. Christina Baker share recommendations for books and movies that will give you a better understanding of black history and how it has led to the Black Lives Matter movement of today. According to Dr. Hester Williams, “Reading good books can help foster empathy in the reader and that empathy is crucial to our survival.” Here are a few book recommendations:

Stamped from the Beginning, by Ibram Z. Kendi

How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram Z. Kendi

White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo

Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Tears We Cannot Stop, by Michael Eric Dyson

Kindred, by Octavia Butler

Race Matters, by Cornel West

The Fire Next Time, by James Baldwin

How Racism Takes Place, by George Lipsitz

Racial Ecologies, co-edited by LeiLani Nishime and Dr. Hester Williams

Works of Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner
Toni Morrison

Learn more about Dr. Hester Williams and Dr. Christina Baker’s July interview with *Sonoma Magazine* by visiting this link: <https://www.sonomamag.com/ssu-professors-recommend-books-and-movies-on-race-and-racism-in-america/?gSlide=1>

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER

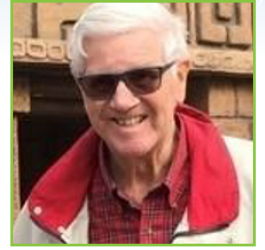
It’s not too late to take a Fall OLLI course. You can register by phone at 707-664-2691 with Grace Burroughs. We will provide you with access to the class recordings that you have missed. Class descriptions available at olli.sonoma.edu.

Don’t miss OLLI Off-Season classes with David McCuan (Oct 16-30), on the 2020 Election, and with Mike Arnold (Nov. 6 –20), on the Current Economic Outlook. OLLI Off-Season registration available at: olli.sonoma.edu or 707-664-2691.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles A. Dunkel

A former resident of Oakmont, California, Charles A. Dunkel, also known as Chuck, passed away on August 19. Chuck grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Chuck graduated with a B.A. degree in economics from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and later received an MBA at the University of Chicago, School of Business. He served in the U.S. Air Force and honorably discharged in 1967. Chuck later earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan, and after graduation, Chuck moved to San Francisco, passed the California State Bar, and worked for two large bank trust departments in the Bay Area, then worked for 22 years with the Federal Reserve Bank trust department. Chuck is survived by his wife and love of 25 years, Suzanne Cassell. Chuck retired in 2005 and he and Suzanne moved to Oakmont where they enjoyed OLLI classes for many years. He and Suzanne loved to travel, attend Santa Rosa Symphony Concerts, and were members of the Episcopalian St. Patrick church in Kenwood.



Sadly, three years ago Chuck was diagnosed with dementia and in October 2017, the wildfires forced Chuck and Suzanne to move to Anaheim near family. Chuck will be remembered for his wonderful smile. Donations in his name may be made to the Alzheimer Association at act.alz.org/donate.

Mary Shilts Boster

Mary Shilts Boster, a native of Ohio and 42-year resident of Rohnert Park, California, passed away in Albany, California on August 15 at the age of 100. Mary was the wife of a diplomat, and lived abroad in seven countries, including Russia, Germany, Poland, and Bangladesh. She and her husband Gene were posted in Moscow twice during the Cold War, first during Stalin's era, and then again in Brezhnev's. She traveled with two young children to Moscow in 1948 and worked in the U.S. Embassy. Mary moved to California in 1976 and made her way to Rohnert Park in 1978 and lived there until recently. Mary majored in English literature with minors in biology and French literature and has always been a lifelong learner and traveled to more than 100 countries into her late 90's. Mary had great many life experiences, including her first flight on a Goodyear Blimp while in her teens, and trekking through the Himalayas in the 1960s. She climbed to 16,000 feet to the Khumbu Glacier on Mount Everest, and barely missed a flood while hiking to Machu Picchu in Peru on her 75th birthday. Mary was an adventurer and was always planning her next trip. Mary is survived by her five children, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. Donations in Mary's name may be made to the Santa Rosa Garden Club, the California Native Plant Society.



ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with sadness that we share with you that Dr. Phil Harriman recently passed away from a brief illness. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jenny Harriman and his family. Phil brought so much to OLLI going back to the early days of OLLI@SSU. He was chair of the OLLI Science Club, was an adjunct instructor at SSU and for OLLI, and served on the OLLI Advisory Board and Curriculum Committee. We will share a full story about Phil and his life in the next *Gray Matters* newsletter.



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