

GRAY MATTERS

News of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Sonoma State University

20th
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INSTITUTE

2001 - 2021

SONOMA STATE
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HELLO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

There is plenty of summer ahead, from barbecues with family and friends to music outdoors throughout Sonoma County to farmers' markets full of luscious produce and locally made products. Summer in Sonoma County is a treasure to behold! Although we are not out of the woods yet regarding COVID-19, we are certainly looking forward to better days ahead. Enjoy a summer of good times, good friends, and great adventures. Speaking of adventures, take some OLLI virtual getaways on Tuesday mornings throughout August. Stroll through Venice on August 3, visit Alaska National Parks on August 10, or explore the solar system on August 17. Register at olli.sonoma.edu or call 707-664-2691.

SSU UPDATE ON COVID-19 FOR IN PERSON EVENTS

On June 20, 2021, SSU employees received a letter from Jeff Banks, AVP for Administration and Finance and Human Resources, regarding Cal-OSHA workplace safety standards. The CSU Human Resources Office informed SSU that campuses are to refrain from adopting any changes to face mask and physical distancing requirements until the CSU offers further guidance. The letter states **“all employees, students, and guests continue to wear masks while indoors on campus. Masks also continue to be required outdoors when unable to maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals.”**

For the moment, relevant COVID-related signage and other installations shall remain in place. Sanitation stations (hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes) will continue to be available throughout campus and our custodial teams will continue to provide frequent sanitation of high-touch surfaces throughout the day.

For SSU COVID-19 updates and safety measures, visit <https://covid19.sonoma.edu/>.

SSU mask and wellness check requirements will apply to all OLLI classes and events on the SSU campus and at Sally Tomatoes in Sonoma Mountain Village.

A VISIT WITH JAMES SOKOL – *Opera Instructor Extraordinaire!*

by Grace Burroughs

Did you know James Sokol attended his first opera at the age of six? His love of opera started early and has taken him on many adventures. At the start of his career, he landed a position at the New York City Opera working with Beverly Sills. This position was unexpected but one “you just don’t say no to,” as he put it. James never thought he would end up teaching, although he can look back and see he had the attributes of a teacher from childhood.



James has been a loved OLLI Instructor for many years and describes himself as a full-on arts junkie! His expertise expands beyond opera, to Broadway, jazz, and even classical music. He says that whatever he is talking about in the moment is his favorite form of art.

James attended Kenyon College in Ohio and spent his junior year living in Nantes, France. He is still friends with his host family to this day. He came to the west coast to join the San Francisco Opera. You may know that James has led trips all over the globe. He finds the most fulfillment in taking folks to places that may feel overwhelming and helping them demystify their assumptions, including countries like India, Morocco, and Cambodia. He finds joy in seeing people’s expectations shattered. His trips focus on unique local spots that carry a personal aspect, rather than typical tourist attractions. He spends a significant amount of time researching places to make the experience for his group exquisite – like having dinner in a private home in Paris and behind the scenes meetings with Broadway stars.

There is a long list of trips James has led. Just to name a few, his list includes Vietnam, Amsterdam, Venice, Berlin, Hungary, and Romania.

Join us this fall for another fun class with James Sokol, with *Exploring Opera: The Divos*, a follow up to his winter 2021 class on *The Divas*.

OLLI FALL SNEAK PREVIEW

Registration Opens August 11, 2021

OLLI Fall 2021 Course Preview – Zoom

Date: Monday, August 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

(Must register at olli.sonoma.edu beginning August 11, 2021)

OLLI Fall 2021 Courses – In Person and on Zoom

Dates: September 13 – October 22, 2021

OLLI Off-Season

Dates: October 29 – November 19, 2021

NOTE: Masks are required at SSU in-person classes and events



OLLI FALL COURSES:

September 13 – October 22, 2021

Six Week Classes – \$95

Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | IN PERSON
@ Sally Tomatoes (SOMO)
Bruce Springsteen: America's Rock and Roll
Laureate *with Pete Elman*

Mondays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. | ZOOM
The Anthropology of Food & Wine *with*
Carlos D. Torres

Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | ZOOM
Exploring Opera: The Divos *with James Sokol*

Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | ZOOM
Our Changing Oceans *with Renate Eberl*

Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | ZOOM
Contemporary Comedic Genius Series: Monty
Python *with Martin Marshall*

Wednesdays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. | ZOOM
Geology of National Parks: Evolution of North
America *with Nicole Myers*

Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | ZOOM
The Promiscuous World of Jewish Music *with*
Joshua Horowitz

Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | ZOOM
Ethnomathematics *with Rick Lutterman*

Fridays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | ZOOM
Aging with Grace *with Andy Wallace*

Three Week Classes – \$60

September 17 – October 1, 2021:

Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | IN PERSON
@ Wine Spectator Learning Center – SSU Campus
Politics of Culture: The Struggle to Define America
with Les Adler

October 8 – October 22, 2021:

Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | IN PERSON
@ Wine Spectator Learning Center – SSU Campus
Is There a Conflict between Economics and
Environmental Preservation? *with Mike Arnold*

OLLI OFF-SEASON:

October 29 – November 19, 2021

OLLI À La Carte – \$25

Friday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ZOOM
Writing a Legacy Letter *with Jay Sherwin*

Friday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
IN PERSON @ Wine Spectator Learning Center –
SSU Campus
Leonardo da Vinci's Hidden Message: Leonardo's
Knot *with Caroline Cocciardi*

Friday, November 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
IN PERSON @ Wine Spectator Learning Center –
SSU Campus
Japanese American Incarceration during WWII and
Its Relevance Today *with Jodi Hottel*

Friday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
IN PERSON @ Wine Spectator Learning Center –
SSU Campus
A Charlie Brown Christmas: How an Unconventional
Approach Created a Holiday Classic *with*
David Sandri

Note: Fall 2021 class prices, class bundle prices, and member registration fees will be provided in the Fall 2021 Catalog and on the OLLI website in August.

Registration for fall 2021 classes opens on Wednesday, August 11 at olli.sonoma.edu.



SAVE THE DATE!

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ED STOLMAN 20TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE

Friday, September 10 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

IN PERSON @ the Plaza Room, Sally Tomatoes, Sonoma Mountain Village (SOMO), Rohnert Park

Keynote Address: Chris Smith, local favorite columnist with the *Press Democrat*

Chris has written hundreds of local heartwarming stories for over 30 years and will share a few of his favorites with OLLI!

Registration available starting August 13 at olli.sonoma.edu. Limited seating available.

Masks and wellness checks are required for SSU indoor events.

Details available at olli.sonoma.edu in August.



OLLI ART CLUB

Judy Chicago: A Retrospective

A Zoom Lecture by Linda L. Reid on the Art of Judy Chicago

Tuesday, August 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Lecture is FREE to all OLLI students from the OLLI Art Club.

[Click here to register in advance.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A Field Trip to the de Young Museum

Tuesday, September 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Important: Buy your ticket ahead from the museum for 11:00 a.m. entry. Meet inside the museum at the entrance of the exhibit at 10:45 a.m.

RSVP to Linda Reid at LindaLReid100@gmail.com.

It was the 1970s. Social change was in the air and Judy Chicago was leading the pack for women's rights. Her first act was to re-design a whole house, each room done by a different woman artist – a huge statement about gender issues.

She went from there to the making of her famous Dinner Party, a 40-foot ceramic installation representing hundreds of female artists. She also works with smoke, represented by her amazing piece shown in photo.

Linda L. Reid lectures for SSU and Dominican Universities through the OLLI programs. Linda is a theater director and figurative/abstract painter. She serves on the OLLI@SSU Advisory Board.

A Zoom link for the August 31, 2021 10:00 a.m. lecture event will be emailed to you on August 30th.



OLLI CINEMA CLUB

The **OLLI Cinema Club** is an extracurricular club that focuses on viewing and discussing classic films in a group setting. The club meets at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Library, located at 6250 Lynne Condé Way, Rohnert Park. The club is open to OLLI students and patrons of the library. Meetings are usually held about once a month on a Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., but only when OLLI classes are not in session. Currently, because of the pandemic, the library is not able to accommodate group meetings, but we've been advised that we will be cleared to hold them again sometime in the **Fall of 2021**.

The OLLI Cinema Club has been meeting since November of 2017. We've spent some meetings concentrating on *films noirs*, viewing and discussing such movies as *Laura*, *Out of the Past*, and *Key Largo*. Other films concentrated on include *Funny Face*, *Some Like it Hot*, *The Manchurian Candidate (1962)*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In November of 2019, we collaborated with the OLLI Art Club to see *Russian Ark*, [Aleksandr Sokurov's](#) 2002 masterpiece that explores the art and history contained in the Russian State Hermitage Museum.

Topics and films to be screened are decided by OLLI Cinema Club members. Barbara Spear organizes and moderates the meetings. To join the OLLI Cinema Club and to receive information about meetings, contact Barbara by email (spearb@sonoma.edu) or phone (707-227-5942).

LIFELONG FRIENDS OF FILM is an extracurricular club in which members view and discuss independent and foreign contemporary films at the Rialto Cinemas Sebastopol at a matinee on the last Friday of each month. It is open to all who love movies and wish to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, July 30**.

Barbara Spear organizes and moderates the meetings. To join Lifelong Friends of Film and to receive notices about the monthly meetings, contact Barbara by email (spearb@sonoma.edu) or phone (707-227-5942).

Get up to date information on OLLI Art Club and OLLI Cinema Club meetings and activities at <http://olli.sonoma.edu/> and go to the **OLLI Activities and Events** page.

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