

GRAY MATTERS

News of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | Sonoma State University

OLLI INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHTS

The Heidi and Charlie Show

Join us as we take a quick journey with these two OLLI favorites!

Many of you know Charlie Goldberg and Heidi Chretien from the "Reading Art: Your GPS for Visual Literacy" course this winter and from a handful of other courses you have enjoyed over the years. Did you know Charlie and Heidi have been friends for 45 years? They met at an organization called "Experiment International Living" in Buffalo, New York because Heidi asked to interview Charlie about his experience of growing up in Japan.

Heidi and Charlie both bring a vast amount of knowledge from their studies and travels. They are constantly telling each other "I learn so much from you" as their combined expertise covers many types of art.

Before coming to OLLI at SSU, Heidi lived in Florence for 12 years and raised her daughters there. She also spent part of her life in France where she has a quaint little cottage. Some of her favorite countries include Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia. Next on her list to travel to is Morocco.

Heidi has been a faithful OLLI Instructor for 19 years! After years of bringing quality education to our lifelong learners, she mentioned that her best contribution to OLLI at SSU was bringing her dear friend Charlie Goldberg to the OLLI Community.

Charlie has taught OLLI Classes for the past 3 years and intends on continuing with OLLI. His parents went back to college later in life, his mom returning in her late sixties and continuing in college until her nineties. His father also received a degree at eighty-seven years young. Charlie spoke of being inspired by his parent's desire to grow intellectually in their later years. He sees teaching for OLLI as something they would be very proud of him for. Some fun facts about Charlie include that he is a martial artist and teaches self-defense at senior centers. He also owns a home in Montreal. Some of his favorite places include Paris, Barcelona, and Amsterdam. His favorite museums are the Musée d'Orsay, the Louvre, the Mauritshuis and MOMA, to name a few.

Heidi and Charlie both commented on how great the OLLI Community is. They both noted that OLLI students ask such great questions and teaching is a very enjoyable experience for them. "SSU OLLI is a particular breed. They are more engaged, willing to challenge and bring so much knowledge. It is a pure pleasure to teach for OLLI," said Heidi Chretien.

I hope you enjoyed learning a little more about this Dynamic Duo! Look out for more courses team taught by them in the future.

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HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is our nation's way to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of African Americans to the story of America yesterday and today. In a 2016 speech, President Obama said, "It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America. It's about taking an unvarnished look at the past so we can create a better future. It's a reminder of where we as a country have been so that we know where we need to go."

Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard educated historian, was credited with the idea of celebrating African American accomplishments in 1915 after attending a 50th anniversary celebration of the 13th Amendment. During Abraham Lincoln's presidency, slavery was abolished in 1863 and was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865 and ratified on December 6, 1865. It wasn't until June 19 (Juneteenth) that all people considered property were officially free. Woodson formed the organization, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) in order to encourage and recognize African American accomplishments.

February was chosen to align with the birthdays of President Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, whose legacy as an abolitionist and respected orator helped establish recognitions of the black community. Although communities, schools, and organizations took part in week-long celebrations for the next 50 years, it was President Gerald Ford who officially declared February as Black History Month in 1976. We continue to honor great Americans such as Martin Luther King Jr., James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, and those who currently lift the lives and opportunities for all Americans.

Learn more with a virtual visit:

"A Peoples Journey, A Nation's Story" at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

City of Santa Rosa Multicultural Roots Project: *Stories from Santa Rosa's Black, Indigenous, People of Color* at <https://srcity.org/3445/Multicultural-Roots-Project>

CSU AWARD RECOGNITION

Gerald L. Jones, J.D., Sonoma State University's Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, is the recipient of the 2021 Wang Family Excellence Award for outstanding dedication and contributions to teaching, scholarship, and service to California State University students. Read about Dr. Jones contributions at: <http://news.sonoma.edu/article/ssu-staff-member-honored-outstanding-contributions-student-success>.



Does an OLLI interest group intrigue you?

Mystery Book Club, OLLI Wine Tasting Group, I Love History group, Favorite Restaurant To-Go group, Cat or Dog Lovers Group...or whatever sparks enjoyment for you. Email your ideas to olli@sonoma.edu.

SPRING 2021 VIRTUAL OLLI | APRIL 12 - MAY 21, 2021

Six Week Courses

Mondays: Turn, Turn, Turn, Part Two: A Road Trip Through the Golden Age of Rock and Roll, 1965-1975, Pete Elman

Mondays: The Volcanic Cataclysms That Changed the World, Nicole Myers

Tuesdays: Genre Films: How Hollywood Tells Stories, Barbara Spear

Wednesdays: Economics of Contemporary Policy Issues, Jon Haveman

Wednesdays: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties during the Pandemic, Caitlin Henry

Thursdays: Before the Storm: America from 1815-1850, Mick Chantler

Three Week Course (Friday)

BLM, Racial Justice, and the Black Vernacular, Kim Hester-Williams

OLLI A La Carte

Friday: Exploring Jazz, Len Lyons

Friday: The Real and Non-Ionizing Radiation - 5G, Cell Phone, and More, Warren Wiscombe

OLLI Off-Season

Fridays: Play Ball! Is our National Pastime Past It's Time?, Pete Elman

OLLI SPRING 2021 VIRTUAL COURSE PREVIEW

Monday, March 22 @ 10:00 a.m.

Listen to instructors as they present their spring 2021 course offerings.

Zoom link to Course Preview available **March 15** at <http://olli.sonoma.edu/>.

USE THAT SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY CARD

If you love movies and have a Sonoma County Library card, go to the Sonoma County Library website at <https://sonomalibrary.org/library-collection/kanopy>.

There are thousands of documentaries and movies available through Kanopy. Barbara Spear, OLLI Cinema Club Coordinator and instructor, recommends the documentary "These Amazing Shadows."

CHAT IT UP WITH YOUR OLLI FRIENDS!



OLLI Coffee Hour

Friday, March 5 @ 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Link: <http://olli.sonoma.edu/>



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