



2001 - 2021

SONOMA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# ED STOLMAN 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL LECTURE

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

Sally Tomatoes Plaza Room at Sonoma Mountain Village  
1100 Valley House Drive, Rohnert Park

## Keynote Address: Chris Smith

A local, favorite columnist with the Press Democrat for over 40 years, Chris will share some of his favorite Sonoma stories of people and the place we call home.



Thanks to the encouragement from a junior-high English teacher, Chris Smith knew at age 15 he aspired to be a journalist. The native of Southern California crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and visited Sonoma State for the first time as a freshman at San Jose State in 1972. He earned a BA in Reporting and Editing, and a little more than a year later began to write for The Press Democrat. Always drawn to people's stories, he hit the sweet spot of his career in 2002 upon succeeding Gaye LeBaron as the PD's full-time news-side columnist. His stock and trade became stories on the sorts of human interactions that are less likely to involve violence or controversy than humor and humanity. Smith met at the PD and in 1987 married Diane Peterson, known best for her coverage of the Santa Rosa Symphony and its home, the Green Music Center and her delectable contributions to the Wednesday food page. Their son, Maxwell, was born in Santa Rosa in 1990 and works in town as a physical therapist. Smith retired in April 2021 after writing for the PD for 42 years.

\* Event includes recognition of the Ed Stolman Volunteer of the Year for OLLI @ SSU

**Doors open at 2:30 p.m.**

**Theater Seating | Light Beverages and Snacks | FREE to OLLI Members**

Masks required. Please fill out the [SSU Online Visitor and Guest Wellness Screening Form](#) before attending event.

Advance Registration (limited seating) by Friday, September 3, 5 p.m. – [Register Here](#)

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