

# OLLI at Fresno State Monthly

Keynotes | Once A Month | Courses

October 2024

## Crisp Days Ahead: Unveiling the Fall Fun!

### Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Review by Lois Rigsbee

Hairnets and rubber gloves. Accessories I associate with Lucy and Ethel in the chocolate factory on an old TV show.

They and plastic aprons were our wardrobe for our Saturday OLLI adventure to Saint George Greek Orthodox Church. At the church hall about 20 OLLI members appropriately garbed sat at long tables where trays upon trays upon more trays of homemade baklava were delivered to us. Our job was to cut them neatly and evenly and perfectly nestle the correct size pieces ( “does it look like it is worth \$3.00”) into paper wraps on another tray, readying them for sale at the Greek Festival the following weekend. Once in a while a sticky finger would grab a broken piece and pop it into our mouth. After a while we were all on a sugar high, laughing and chatting, making time go by quickly.



*Above: OLLI members gather for a group photo after packing baklava and touring the St. George Greek Orthodox Church.*

Our accessories were removed, and we headed to the church, where Fr. Jim Pappas gave us a wonderful introduction to Greek Orthodoxy and the meaning of the beautifully painted icons throughout the church. Eyes wide, mouths agape, members asked Fr. Pappas many questions. He was very generous with his time.

Then on to lunch, kabobs, pilaf, and salad with a side of pizza. Most of us did not touch the dessert table because we had our fill of the broken pieces of baklava. Our parting gifts were a box of traditional walnut baklava or a box of almond baklava.

I cannot wait for the next OLLI adventure.

# Looking for Memories

## We Need Your Help!



Next year marks a significant milestone for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Fresno State! We'll be celebrating 20 wonderful years on campus! We're excited to share this journey with all of you.

To make our celebration truly special, we'd love your help! If you've participated in OLLI at any point, please send us your photos from classes, adventures, and keynote events. Your memories are what make OLLI vibrant, and we want to showcase the joy we've shared over the years.

Send your photos to [osher@csufresno.edu](mailto:osher@csufresno.edu) by November 1st. Let's create a beautiful tribute to our time together!

## Keynote Speakers

### From the Poem to Happiness by Dr. Juan Felipe Herrera

Thur. | Oct. 10 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Satellite Student Union

Juan Felipe Herrera, our nation's Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017, will share his thoughts and his belief that creative expression leads to a new way of thinking and embracing the world. A Fowler native and former chair of Fresno State's Department of Chicano and Latin-American Studies,



thoughts and his belief that creative expression leads to a new way of thinking and embracing the world. A Fowler native and former chair of Fresno State's Department of Chicano and Latin-American Studies, Herrera has written poetry collections, novels for young adults and children's literature while nurturing the creativity of university students over the decades.

### A Brief History (and Explanation) of How Elections Work in the U.S. by Dr. Lisa Bryant

Tue. | Oct. 29 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Satellite Student Union



Elections are straightforward yet complex, familiar yet foreign. Nearly two-thirds of American citizens have cast a ballot at some point in their lives, but few know how their ballots are processed and counted or how we ended up with the system we have. Fresno State Political Science Professor Lisa Bryant, a nationally recognized expert on election administration and science, will present a brief history of presidential and local elections in the U.S. and discuss the current era of election reforms. Dr. Bryant was recently selected as an Andrew Carnegie Fellow for her research project, *Polarizing the Process: Partisan Effects on Election Officials 2 and Trust in Elections.*"

# Once A Month

## Let's Talk Sports



Wed. | Oct. 4,  
Nov. 6, Dec. 4 | 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
ED 140

### Presenter: Ken Robison

If you like watching, participating in, and talking about sports, join retired Fresno Bee sports writer Ken Robison at a monthly forum and chime in on the latest hot topics. Ken has plenty of stories to share from his lifelong love of athletics and of the people he's gotten to know over the decades. This is an opportunity for OLLI members to share their athletics passions past, present, and future. Be sure to ask Ken about coaching 9-year-old boys' basketball.

## Book Club

Fri. | Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 |  
9:30 - 11 a.m.  
ED 140 and Zoom



### Presenter: Kay Davies

OLLI members have been reading a book a month since 2012 and discussing each title in a lively, informative session led by avid reader and educator Kay Davies. This time the list – which is selected by OLLI Book Club participants from fiction and nonfiction books they nominate – offers insights into the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; a little-heralded mid20th-century woman who had major influence over American policies; pre-Civil War America; and

the Vietnam War's impact on American life.

**October 4:** The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolán details the long friendship between a Palestinian and an Israeli that endured despite the many historic twists and turns in the fraught history of the Middle East that resonate today.

## Current Events

Thur. | Oct. 10, Dec. 12  
10 - 11:30 a.m. | ED 140 and Zoom

### Presenter: Lanny Larson

This monthly discussion about what's happening comes as we are in the midst of a divisive, history-making presidential campaign; Supreme Court integrity is in question; Congress is paralyzed by partisan politics; and border security, inflation, media credibility, law and order, climate change, and more are in the news. OLLI participants discuss what's happening locally and around the world and learn as they listen respectfully to classmates sharing views that may be different. Retired journalist Lanny Larson moderates the sessions.

## Games You'll Love to Play

Fri. | Oct. 11, Nov. 8,  
Dec. 13 | 1 - 3:00 p.m. | ED 140



### Presenter: Cathy Self

OLLI members requested a fall replay of our summer session class on card games to play and share with family

and friends. OLLI aims to please, so the second Friday each month, player and coach Cathy Self returns to teach us about Phase 10; Five Crowns; Left, Right, Center; Thirty-One; 7-Up; and Ninety-Nine. Deal yourself in and take a break from devices and chores for a couple of hours of fun social interaction. You'll also get a copy of each game's rules to take home.

## Short Courses

### The Magic of Motown: Music, History, and Timeless Legacy

Tues. | Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5  
10 - 11:30 a.m. | Zoom



**Presenter: Michael Agron**

Motown's golden era (the 1960s to 1970s) featured breakthrough songwriting, iconic artists, and profound social influence. The focus of Michael Agron's latest OLLI class is on Motown's innovative processes that crafted timeless sounds, navigated racial barriers, adapted to cultural shifts and achieved global acclaim. Michael shines a spotlight on more than two dozen artists and groups through stories and more than 70 seminal tracks and videos from 1957 to 1983. We'll also reflect on Motown's enduring and broad impact on music and culture.

### Unveiling the Bestiary: Exploring Myth, Morality, and Medieval Imagination

Tue. | Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22  
1 - 2:30 p.m. | Zoom

**Presenter: Dr. Ilya Dines**

Bestiaries held a place of prominence as one of the beloved literary genres during the Middle Ages, captivating hearts and minds across all levels of society. As richly illustrated, indispensable educational aids, these manuscripts guided Christian learners through the labyrinthine mysteries of the world and intricacies of the Latin language. Presenter Dr. Ilya Dines, who has written extensively on the subject for decades, says bestiaries were cultural commentaries and sources of artistic inspiration that resonate today in art, illustrated novels, and popular culture – even Harry Potter.

### Advance Care Planning

Wed. | Oct. 2 | 10 - 11:30 a.m.  
ED 140

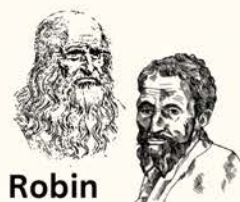


**Presenter: Carolyn Jameson**

Carrie Jameson, a nurse practitioner certified in adult primary care and hospice and palliative, will lead our discussion about planning far enough ahead to receive health care aligned with our values and understand our choices and where those choices can lead. She'll also guide us in how and when to share our care plans with family members and explain what our advance care planning will mean for them.

### Renaissance Rivalry: Leonardo vs. Michelangelo

Thur. | Oct. 3  
10 - 11:30 a.m. | Zoom



**Presenter: Dr. Deborah Robin**

Michelangelo vs. Leonardo -- Renaissance titans Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo vied for artistic supremacy in Florence. Discover the dynamics of their rivalry in a head-to-head painting contest organized by the mayor and learn the fascinating stories behind their iconic masterpieces, such as Leonardo's enigmatic Mona Lisa and Michelangelo's powerful David. Arizona-based ceramic artist Deborah Robin, a retired art history professor, leads our immersive journey through Renaissance art history, culminating in the ultimate challenge of making an impossible choice between two unparalleled geniuses.

**Framing the 'Sublime' in Philosophy and Art Theory**

Thur. | Oct. 3  
1 - 2:30 p.m. | ED 140

**Presenter:**  
**Dr. Hazel Hofman**



We'll travel from our contemporary vernacular understanding of what is meant by the "sublime" to its antecedents in the romanticism of Gothic art. The writings of Longinus, Immanuel Kant and Edmund Burke and works by such Romantic artists as Casper David Frederich and J.M.W. Turner will provide a foundation for our study as we move through time toward 20th-century post-structuralist philosopher Jean-François Lyotard and artist Barnett Newman. Our guide is Hazel Antaramian Hofman, an artist, PhD

candidate in visual arts, adjunct art instructor, and Fresno State alumna.

**Opera Appreciation**

Mon. and Wed. | Oct. 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 | 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
ED 140



**Presenter: Terry Lewis**

Do you love opera? Do you know nothing about it, but you'd like to experience more? Come listen to, watch, and learn about this beautiful art form. Fresno State music and media librarian Terry Lewis leads our exploration as we trace the history of opera from the Baroque to today. Along our journey, you'll enjoy listening to some of the world's greatest singers in their greatest operatic roles.

**Notes of Legacy: Revisiting Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn's Marvelous Musical Journey**

Tue. | Oct. 8 | 3:30 - 5 p.m. | Zoom

**Presenter: Anette Isaacs**

German historian Anette Isaacs, a Fresno State OLLI fave, leads our exploration of the extraordinary lives of Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn, the 19th-century German siblings and prolific composers, as we unravel their family's rich legacy. Fanny's talents as a pianist and composer faced societal constraints, while Felix's innovative compositions earned him widespread acclaim. Their family played a pivotal role in cultural and Jewish heritage, leaving an indelible mark on classical music and intellectual pursuits.

## How to Write a Poem Before You Know It



Mon. | Oct. 14, 21, 28,  
Nov. 4 | 10 - 11:30 a.m. | ED 140

### Presenter: Dr. Juan Felipe Herrera

You're likely already a poet and don't know it. All kidding aside, join former United States Poet Laureate and Fresno State department chair Juan Felipe Herrera to explore, experiment, and share works from familiar and new artists. You'll have the opportunity to create your own journal, conversations, upside down poems, group poems and unexpected poems with guidance from a renowned practitioner and educator.

## The Colorful History and Complex Future of California Water



Tue. and Thur. | Oct. 15, 17  
3 - 4:30 p.m. | ED 140

### Presenter: Ben Ewell

In California, it's been said, "Whiskey is for drinkin' and water is for fightin'." A lot of today's water conflict plays out in court, but it didn't always. Fresno author and attorney Ben Ewell, a water law specialist, will guide us on an exploration and discussion of California's water history and some colorful characters who've been involved. The course will also tackle contemporary water issues and look into the complex future of what is arguably the state's most valuable asset.

## Breath and Health



Thurs. | Oct. 17  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Zoom

### Presenter: Dr. Ting-fen Lin

Have you ever experienced how altering your breathing pattern improves your state of mind? Experience the intimate link between our breath and our emotions, led by Tin-Fen Lin, a professor of communications at Fresno State. OLLI class members will do some light, gentle stretches, breath work, and guided meditation. You'll leave this virtual session refreshed from anywhere you are!

## The Mussel Slough Tragedy and Sontag and Evans



Thur. | Oct. 17  
1 - 2:30 p.m. | ED 140

### Presenter: Prof. Dan Carrion

Fresno State Professor Emeritus Dan Carrion, is our OLLI guide to the Mussel Slough Tragedy in 1880 near Hanford. Homesteaders battled the hired guns of railroads gobbling up huge expanses of Valley land, granted by the state to encourage railroad construction. Chris Evans and John Sontag are the best-known characters involved in the confrontation, but it can be hard to distinguish the facts of their stories from the mythology that abounds after decades of retelling this historic event.

## Under the Spell of Succulent Pumpkins



Wed. | Oct. 23  
10 - 11:30 a.m. | ED 140

**Presenter: Roz Tampone**

Learn how to create a succulent pumpkin you can use to decorate for Halloween, Thanksgiving, or the holiday season. Roz Tampone will show you how to make this exciting succulent craft. Succulents are among the easiest plants to grow and she'll teach you the tips for succulents' success in your garden.

**The Herschels - The First Family of Astronomy**

Thur. | Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7  
1 - 2:30 p.m. | ED 140 and Zoom

**Presenter: Larry Parmeter**

William Herschel is most famous for the discovery of the planet Uranus, but during his long career as a musician and astronomer, he accomplished far more. Although they are less-recognized, his sister, Caroline Herschel, and his son, John Herschel, were equally accomplished astronomers. OLLI member and frequent presenter Larry Parmeter, an amateur astronomer and retired high school English teacher, will talk about the legacy of the entire extraordinary Herschel family.

**Three Mountains: Simplicity, Compassion, and Hope**

Thur. | Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 21  
3 - 4:30 a.m. | ED 140

**Presenter: Dr. Andrew Fiala**

Fresno State philosophy professor Andrew Fiala, a popular OLLI presenter and prolific author, will provide an

overview of his "Three Mountains" -- a three-volume series of books of photographs, philosophy, and nature writing. Dr. Fiala names the three mountains Simplicity, Compassion, and Hope. The class will explore these ideas along with the wonders of the Sierra Nevada, and the religious and philosophical traditions that inspire his work.

**The History and Mystery of the Color Yellow**

Wed. | Oct. 30  
1 - 2:30 p.m. | Zoom

**Presenter: Eleanor Schrader**

The color yellow can be seen as happy and optimistic or as a warning sign intended to make us cautious. Popular Southern California OLLI presenter Eleanor Schrader, will lead our exploration of yellow, which first showed up in cave paintings created more than 17,000 years ago. The color has come to be associated with gold, generosity, divinity and power. We'll also examine yellow in art history, including the creation of the pigment and how artists used the color to convey an array of meanings.

**The Man Who Would (Not) Be King**

Wed. | Oct. 30  
3 - 4:30 p.m. | ED 140

**Presenter: Micheline Golden**

British history is filled with men who were born to be king but not all of them made it to the throne. Illness, death, politics, religion and bad choices

in women all ended the regal careers of would-be kings before they could be crowned. British history enthusiast Micheline Golden leads this study of the men who almost ruled a country and learn which might have been a famous murderer, which skipped out on his own invasion, and which one Hitler wanted to put back on the throne.

**Great Discoveries**

Thur. | Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21  
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Zoom



**Presenter: Dr. Kjir Hendrickson**

In modern science, a biologist might offhandedly mention Gregor Mendel and his pea plants or a chemist casually toss a nod to Ernest Rutherford and his gold foil. We take for granted these fundamentals of science, once considered groundbreaking. Arizona State University molecular sciences professor Kjir Hendrickson, who has a gift for explaining complex science in understandable terms, leads this discussion of some of the greatest scientific discoveries of yesteryear, complete with contextualization that helps us better appreciate the evolution of science.

## Adventures

**Celebrate a Local Treasure's  
Diamond Jubilee**

Fri. | Oct. 4 | 1 p.m.  
2233 N. First St., Fresno, CA 93703



**ONLY 15 SPOTS LEFT**

One of our community's cultural arts treasures is the Fresno Art Museum, which has been showcasing local, national and international artistry since its incorporation 75 years ago. Whether you're already a museum patron or this is your first visit, OLLI adventurers will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum and its extensive permanent collection, plus an opportunity to peruse the four exhibits currently on display. You'll see artful wood sculpture; the artistry of a children's and young adult literature illustrator; Byzantine icons; and conceptual art by former Fresno State professor Charles Gaines focusing on the early part of his half-century career.

**Madera Sugar Pine Lumber  
Company History**

Fri. | Oct. 25 | 18 - 4:30 p.m.

**Presenter: Prof. Dan Carrion**

Fresno State Emeriti Professor Dan Carrion, whose hobby is local history, will lead this daylong adventure, which begins with an illustrated lecture about the history of the Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company. We'll travel by bus to the Sierras, home of the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad, which operates steam train tours on some of the old lumber company's narrow-gauge right of way. OLLI adventurers will ride the train, have lunch, tour the town of Sugar Pine, get a guided tour of the stream shop and visit the museum before returning to campus.





# Calendar

## October

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	10 a.m. The Magic of Motown	10 a.m. Advance Care Planning	10 a.m. Renaissance Rivalry: Leonardo vs. Michelangelo	9:30 a.m. Book Club
	1 p.m. Unveiling the Bestiary	1 p.m. Let's talk sports	1 p.m. Framing the "Sublime" in Philosophy and Art Theory	1 p.m. Celebrate a Local Treasure's Diamond Jubilee
	3 p.m. Online Safety		3 p.m. Play Seminar for Fresno State's Production of "Dracula"	
	7 p.m. Play Seminar Viewing of "Dracula"			
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
	10 a.m. The Magic of Motown		10 a.m. Current Events	
1 p.m. Opera Appreciation	1 p.m. Unveiling the Bestiary	1 p.m. Opera Appreciation		1 p.m. Games You'll Love to Play
3 p.m. Religious Architecture and Design	3:30 p.m. Notes of Legacy: Revisiting Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn's Marvelous Musical Journey	3 p.m. Adapting Your Life Story	3 p.m. From the Poem to Happiness	
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
10 a.m. How to Write a Poem	10 a.m. The Magic of Motown		9:30 a.m. Breath and Health	
1 p.m. Opera Appreciation	1 p.m. Unveiling the Bestiary	1 p.m. Opera Appreciation	1 p.m. The Mussel Slough Tragedy and Sontag and Evans	
3 p.m. Religious Architecture and Design	3 p.m. The Colorful History and Complex Future of California Water		3 p.m. The Colorful History and Complex Future of California Water	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
10 a.m. How to Write a Poem	10 a.m. The Magic of Motown	10 a.m. Under The Spell of Succulent Pumpkins		8 a.m. Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company History
1 p.m. Opera Appreciation	1 p.m. Unveiling the Bestiary	1 p.m. Opera Appreciation	1 p.m. The Herschels - The First Family of Astronomy	
3 p.m. Religious Architecture and Design		3 p.m. Adapting Your Life Story	3 p.m. Three Mountains: Simplicity, Compassion, and Hope	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
10 a.m. How to Write a Poem	10 a.m. The Magic of Motown		11 a.m. Great Discoveries	
		1 p.m. The History and Mystery of the Color Yellow	1 p.m. The Herschels - The First Family of Astronomy	
3 p.m. Religious Architecture and Design	3 p.m. A Brief History (and Explanation) of How Elections Work in the US	3 p.m. The Man Who Would (Not) Be King	3 p.m. Three Mountains: Simplicity, Compassion, and Hope	