



# THE EXCELLERATE

April 2009 Issue

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR OLLI at UNLV

A PROGRAM FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

## President's Message, by Don Silverman

This will be my last President's message, since I will shortly complete my second year as President, and will therefore be ineligible for re-election to that office.

OLLI has made tremendous progress in the past two years. Our membership has approximately doubled, and we have begun classes in three satellite locations. Our Paradise Campus classrooms have received greatly improved equipment, our classrooms on the Campus have been increased, and our class choices are numerous and outstanding.

As I have indicated many times, all of this and much more was accomplished during my terms of office, not due to my efforts, but due to the tremendous joint effort and assistance of your Board Officers and Members, Committee Chairmen and Members, and the Ed Outreach Staff. And, among those, no one deserves more credit than my choice for your second annual...

### OLLI MAN OF THE YEAR

*And the winner is . . . John Hurley.*

During both of my one year terms of office, John Hurley was the OLLI Vice President. Some Vice Presidents are not kept in the loop and don't do much. John was just the opposite. Everything that I accomplished was done with the active advice and assistance of John Hurley.

But more than that, John is a self-starter who did many other things on his own initiative. In addition to his

duties as Vice President, among other things, he was a Co-Chairman of the newly formed Long Range Planning Committee, which has now been added as a permanent standing committee; he taught OLLI computer classes; he is the Coordinator of the **Technology: History and Its Inventors** class; and he almost single-handedly supervised and handled all the technical and electrical problems and upgrades for the entire OLLI program.

It's tough to choose one person as Man (or Woman) of the Year when there are so many hard working, dedicated people who contributed so much. But I'm pleased to report that John, whose current term on the Board is ending, has been nominated to run for the Board again in the upcoming election, and has accepted the nomination.

Of course your next President will be elected by the Members of the next Board. I will be on that Board, since I have one year left in my second two-year Board term. I will have only one vote (there will be nine members), but I can assure you that, assuming he is re-elected, my vote will go for the man who is the most experienced and most eminently qualified to carry on the OLLI growth momentum: your OLLI Man of the Year – John Hurley.

That said, I would like to add that it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you as President. I would also like to encourage each of you to become involved as a volunteer.

Your Committee chairmen and Coordinators all put in a great deal of time and effort on your behalf, and I am

confident that every one of them would tell you that their service to OLLI has been stimulating and rewarding.

**HEADS UP** – The OLLI Spring Luncheon will be held at the Stan Fulton Building (East Flamingo and Swenson) on Saturday, April 18th, from noon to 2 PM. Price is only \$22.95 per person.

There will be excellent food and entertainment from the UNLV Rebel Marimba Band. Mark down April 18th now. Don't miss it.

### Ed. Outreach Requests

To ensure an orderly work flow in Educational Outreach, we ask that all OLLI members request services only from 1 of the 2 co-coordinators:

- Debbie Smatresk (895-1827) or
- Genene Boldt (895-2872)

Debbie or Genene will work with other Ed Outreach staff (Josh, E.G., April, etc.) To obtain whatever service is needed by OLLI members. Thanks for adhering to this work flow.

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## Events Committee

### Springs Preserve Tour

We had a fantastic turnout for the February 27th trip to visit the Springs Preserve. Fifty members attended and enjoyed the guided tour through the various exhibits. Many stayed and enjoyed lunch at Puck's Cafe.

The success of this event was due to the hard work of Lidia Mauer, who chaired this event. Lidia had help from Gene Geller and Mary Ellen Cardenas.

I want to thank the committee for all their efforts this past year. The ladies mentioned and Pauline Greenfield all worked hard and made each event special.

*Arlene Cohen, Events Chair*

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## Technology Upgrades

We have recently upgraded the video equipment in classrooms 400 and 403, installing brand new 52 inch flat screen monitors. We are also installing wall-mounted audio equipment, which should be completed shortly.

During March, 2009, the UNLV campus electricians have worked diligently to identify the source of problems in the 400 building:

1. Loud Audio hum in room 401
2. Dimming lights in room 403
3. Arcing when hooking up equipment cables

As of March 19th, all known audio and electrical problems have been fixed. A very respectful tip of our hat to Earl and Scott, the hard working UNLV campus electricians who displayed a tenacious "can do" attitude in diagnosing the problem causes and effecting suitable solutions.

If any OLLI member notices any further electrical or audio problems, please notify me or Trude Thomson.

*John Hurley, OLLI VP & Technology Planner*

## Curriculum Committee and Future Plans

OLLI will be having a summer session. We are planning on Monday to Thursday morning classes, and a Friday afternoon class. At this point, we have a MacDonald Ranch class, as well.

We are still working on more plans, but things are looking good. Notices will be out before classes end. Dates planned are June 8 through August 14. The Summer Schedule was approved at the March 20th Board meeting.

Notices will be going out in April to current coordinators to begin plans for the Fall semester. We seem to plan earlier and earlier, and it's necessary to get out advertising to attain and keep that 500 membership level.

Any member interested in leading a group, please contact **Mary Pace, Curriculum Chair**, at:

- 658-3395
- wmandmarylv@cox.net

Educational Outreach and OLLI are happy to offer support to get you started. Remember that classes could be a whole semester, part of a semester, whatever works for your topic. OLLI offers financial support to its coordinators - up to \$100 to purchase books, videos, make copies, whatever support you need. There are some restrictions, so talk to me or to any Board member.

OLLI has a nice video collection on a variety of topics. I have asked Trude Thomson for a complete list. Perhaps a video course will entice you to volunteer. The list will be posted shortly in the classrooms and e-mailed to OLLI members.

If interested, a member could borrow a video course over the summer to plan his/her outline for a Fall class. Again, I would be happy to assist anyone with their course plans, or with suggestions for topics or ways to improve the OLLI program

Elise Hanseman has been talking with Aliante and they are planning two classes in the Fall. All OLLI members may attend, so long as Aliante residents make up the majority of the class.

The Brown Bag Luncheon series has been very successful. Debbie Smatresk has done the planning this first semester, but OLLI is looking for a member to chair this worthwhile effort next academic year. Debbie is happy to meet with any volunteer and get you started. Maybe team up with a friend to make it easier and more fun!

## Summer Schedule

The summer schedule is still a work in progress, but here is what it looks like as the Excellerate goes to press:

### Paradise Campus

1. **Health is Wealth** - Mon 10 AM  
Fred Greenberg (Room 400)
2. **What's Happ'nin?** - Tues 10 AM  
Dave Dameron (Room 511)
3. **Masterpieces of The Louvre** -  
Wed 10 AM - Martha Wood (Rm. 511)
4. **Great American Musicals** -  
Wed 1 PM - Martha Wood (Room 511)
5. **Bridge Play of the Hand (Beginners)**  
(Student Textbook is **REQUIRED**.)  
Fri 1 PM - Bert Kulic (Room 400)

### Sun City MacDonald Ranch

6. **Great American Musicals**  
Thurs. 10 am - Martha Wood  
[MacDonald Ranch Recreation Center](#)

As soon as the Summer Schedule is finalized, we will circulate a flyer in the classrooms, make announcements by each coordinator, and we will also send the information to everyone who has an e-mail address on OLLI's records.

As the situation looks now, there are no summer classes scheduled at either Las Ventanas or Sun City Aliante.

**Mary Pace, Curriculum Chair**

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## Tutoring Club Needs Volunteers

The Tutoring Club for ESL (English as a Second Language) needs volunteers to help international students with casual American English. No experience required. Only 1-2 hours per week are needed. To volunteer as a tutor, please call **Donna Newsom** at 458-3332.

## New Member Welcome Lunch

Congratulations to **Donna Newsom** and her New Member Committee, for the outstanding job they did running the Spring New Member Lunch on March 10th. Everything went very smoothly, the food was great, all the people were very friendly, and Donna did a great job as “emcee” and organizer.

We gained more than 140 new members during the Spring term. Donna reports that almost 50 new members attended to enjoy the food and to learn more about OLLI programs and benefits.

The new OLLI members seemed very interested in the benefits they could get by obtaining a UNLV Rebel Student ID Card, including:

- Access to the Lied Library, and many other UNLV facilities.
- Discounts to many events held at Judy Bayley Theater, Artemus Ham Hall, Black Box Theater, and Thomas & Mack Center
- Huge discounts on “academic” software which can be purchased online with your Student ID.

Planning, decorations, and food for the luncheon were handled by the OLLI co-coordinators Debbie Smatresk and Gene Boldt, and by Trude Thomson.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the event. Donna received lots of positive comments from new members as they left. Everyone also appreciated the nice prizes that were raffled off to the four lucky winners.

For any member who first joined OLLI in the Spring 2009 term, if you were unable to attend the March 10th luncheon, please call **Donna Newsom** at 458-3332 (or e-mail her at [dnewsom21@cox.net](mailto:dnewsom21@cox.net)), so she can invite you to the next scheduled New Member Lunch in the Fall.

New members can also call Donna with any suggestions on how she and her committee can help you feel more welcome and make new friends.

## Publicity Committee

### Sun City Anthem Bucket Expo

A special thanks to all the enthusiastic OLLI volunteers who gave so generously of their time at our Sun City Anthem booth. Volunteers were:

- **FAY CHAN**
- **LEN GROSSMAN**
- **DARLENE JOHNSON**
- **BERT KULIC**
- **HELEN MAZOR**
- **DONNA NEWSOM**
- **TIM O'BRYAN**
- **DEBBIE SMATRESK**

There was so much interest in our program that we gave out over 300 OLLI Catalogs in just four hours. They were a VERY busy crew!

*Elise Hanseman, Publicity Chair*

## Sunshine Report

Warm “Get Well” wishes were sent to OLLI members who were ill or who underwent surgery:

1. **Rachelle Markle**
2. **Fred Lehr**
3. **Dave Dameron**
4. **Perry Pearlstein**
5. **George Vish**

Condolences were sent to:

1. **Jack Stankard**, on the passing of his partner, **Eileen Barron**.
2. The family of **Ira Josephs**, a long-time OLLI coordinator.

For those who may not be familiar with OLLI’s Sunshine Committee, we send cards to people who are ill, or who have lost a close relative.

I’ve been thinking about sharing more news about happy events, such as a **REALLY SPECIAL** anniversary or birthday.

If you have something to share (whether sad or happy), please contact me with your OLLI member news at:

**914-7520, or [papaperry@cox.net](mailto:papaperry@cox.net)**

*Perry Pearlstein, Sunshine Chair*

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## EXCELLERATE EDITORIAL BOARD

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PHONE CALL LIST &  
 NEW MEMBER CHAIR  
 Donna Newsom ..... 458-3332

SUNSHINE, Perry Pearlstein ... 914-7520

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was announced on March 12th, that the Sun City Aliante Board of Directors voted to allow non-Aliante residents to join the OLLI classes held at the Community Center there. The only stipulation is that the number of non-residents cannot exceed the number of Sun City Aliante residents in the class.

## Eyeglasses Needed

If you have used eyeglasses you no longer need, please donate them in room 509, in the box labeled **DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**. Thank you.



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## SENIOR HEALTH SEMINAR - Sat. April 4th (10 AM to Noon)

Don't miss your opportunity to attend a HEALTH SEMINAR that will address questions most seniors ask. Doctors from various specialties, including GYNECOLOGY, PLASTIC SURGERY, INTERNAL MEDICINE, and DENTISTRY, will discuss the latest procedures and medical developments. Call 895-2872, if you need more information.

If you arrive by 9:15 AM, you can also have your blood pressure checked by qualified medical staff. **This is your chance to do a friend or neighbor a huge favor by introducing them to the OLLI program that has meant so much to you.**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING ALONG A NEW POTENTIAL MEMBER on April 4th.**

**Paradise Campus, directly across from Thomas & Mack Center, Auditorium (Room 133)**

## Calendar of Events - April to September 2009

- April 2      **Deadline to Receive Sealed Ballots (2009 Board Election)**
- April 2      **Brown Bag #4 - Financial Climate Impact on Seniors (12:10 PM in room 511)**
- April 4      Senior Health Seminar (10 am to 12) in Paradise Auditorium - BRING A FRIEND**
- April 6-10   **UNLV is on Spring Break - all classes CANCELLED (unless Coordinator tells you.)**
- April 18     **Spring Luncheon at Stan Fulton Building (Noon to 2 PM) - \$22.95 in Advance**
- April 24     **OLLI Spring term ends (some classes may run 1-2 additional weeks)**
- June 8      **Summer session starts - requires Registration (only \$25 for 10-week session)**
- August 14   **Summer session ends (may run longer, if desired by Coordinator & members)**
- August      **OLLI Fall Course Catalog Mailed to 2008-2009 OLLI Members**
- Sept. 12     **Open House for Fall 2009 Term - at Paradise Campus Auditorium (room 133)**
- Sept. 14     **Fall Term begins a 13 week course schedule, ending on Friday, Dec. 11th**

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