

President's Message

Remember when I said spring was here? Well I blew it. We are still waiting for that beautiful warm weather. This is a busy time. Please prepare for a big marketing program to hit in August. Come, renew your membership and be part of this venture.

When Pat Zimmerman and Shera Annunzio (our University of Nevada, Reno representative) attended the OLLI conference, they found we are blessed with many things some of the other (112) OLLI campuses do not have: space, parking, an already good-sized membership and a member-driven operation. They were proud to be a part of our organization. Watch for new and more mobile furniture, and new *smart classrooms*. Thank you to our own Sherl Landers-Thorman and Margo Daniels for nudging us in the right direction.

I promise all of you we will keep the warm, cozy feeling that makes us so much fun. Please take a moment to thank those on the board and those who serve on committees for their unwavering dedication to this organization. Remember we can always use a little extra help. Thank you all for your attendance and for making it happen. As usual, please call me if you have any questions or concerns. I am available to you.

LaMerne

OLLI National Conference

By Pat Zimmerman

We are back from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI as in olive) National Conference held in Braselton, Ga., tired but excited and ready to face the challenges ahead. It was thrilling to be in the same room with representatives from OLLIs all over the country...112 in all, up from 73 last year. Bernard Osher originally wanted to fund 100 OLLIs, but he went flying by that figure earlier this year and he has revised that plan and now wants at least one OLLI in every state plus the District of Columbia. There are only three states without an OLLI and many states have lots of them.

Mr. Osher's plan for OLLIs includes collaboration with universities or colleges, *seasoned citizen organizations*, and the Osher Foundation. He believes that universities and colleges need to serve older adults and seasoned learners; that organizations need to grow membership for members who assign value to the services rendered and be willing to pay the costs of the organization; and that Osher grants should be provided for these organizations at the rate of \$100,000 a year to grow each membership to 500, at which time a million dollar endowment will be awarded to help defray costs. There have been 19 endowed institutions so far; five more have received an additional million-dollar endowment when they reached a membership of 1,000. He hopes that the network of institutes will be fully endowed in 5-7 years.

The Osher Foundation has provided a national resource center that is being designed to support OLLI members and share information. It is located at the University of Maine in Portland, the first OLLI. Take a look at the website at www.osher.net. The Osher Foundation is interested in member institutes that provide intellectually demanding material and offer diverse programs with strong volunteers, staff, and a robust membership. Shera Alberti-Annunzio, our University of Nevada, Reno Extended Studies liaison, and I were pleased to see that ElderCollege is a good fit with the Osher goals. We are nearing a membership of 300, the University is very supportive by supplying facilities and encouraging active and retired professors to teach classes, we have great parking facilities, we have a terrific volunteer membership, and our area is growing by leaps and bounds, especially with seniors.

There is a lot of work ahead in the next three years and there will be new and exciting changes on the horizon. I know we can count on you to roll up your sleeves and help make this the greatest OLLI ever...**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nevada, Reno.**



This article about one of our members was originally published in the “Reno Gazette Journal,” March 19, 2007, and has been edited substantially to fit in the ElderCollege Newsletter

Artist Leaves her Stamp on the Card-Design World

Beth Larson, 72, has been making cards using rubber stamps for her friends and family for six years. Her work was featured inside and on the cover of the December issue of “Rubber Stamper” magazine.

Larson sent in a series of cards months ago that all featured an African mask stamp and hoped maybe the magazine would use one. In addition to putting a card on the cover, they used three other cards of hers on a two-page spread inside the magazine.

Larson, despite not being able to do some things because of arthritis, works every day in her workshop, filled with about 25 cabinet drawers full of stamps, beads, stickers, fabric, glue, sponges, paint, embossing powder, and hole punchers that cut out a variety of shapes.

“My world is full of the most fascinating

materials,” she said.

Larson was a psychiatric worker for 25 years.

“I believe creativity itself has almost a healing power,” she said. “It takes you away. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and start worrying about something and, instead, I’ll design a card in my head and then I’m asleep and not worrying anymore.”

She didn’t have a lot of time for crafts while working and raising her three children Jacqueline, Kathleen and Doug.

Larson has made cards that have secret compartments, pop-up elements when you open them, folded boxes that hold paper treasures and cards that play music.

The cards that were featured in the magazine are special because their glittering eyes seem to follow you.

If anyone is interested in learning the craft, you can look for classes at craft stores.

(Edited by E. Louise Smith)



EDITORIAL
By Louise Lang

As some of you know, I have been an advocate of alternative energy for years, and have a solar panel on my house to assist heating water. The following was in a "Readers Digest":

"Your home can be solar energized and look great too. Atlantis Energy Systems of Sacramento, Calif., has created Sunslates, thin photovoltaic tiles embedded with semi-conducting cells that blend almost seamlessly into asphalt, clay and other roofs. Current cost (tiles and converter) is \$45,000, but that's before state rebates and tax credits. Plus, monthly electricity bills can drop by as much as \$50. That can lighten up your day."

Scholarships covering tuition at ElderCollege are available for the 2007-2008 academic year. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from such assistance, please contact the Scholarship Chair, Margo Daniels, at 322-1469 or call and leave a message at ElderCollege and your call will be returned. The scholarships are good for one year only and do not include parking.

Facilitators and class monitors: We know emergencies arise. Zane Nelson, 348-8683, LaMerne Kozlowski, 358-1746 or 750-6290, and Pat Zimmerman, 322-3949, are your emergency call people that can be at ElderCollege the quickest. Please give them as much advance notice as you can. Remember they may not be able to stay to lock up, so they will ask someone to attend to that duty.

Stay in Touch

Don't forget to let ElderCollege know when you change your address: house, email or telephone number. We want to be sure you get your newsletters in a timely manner as well as invitations and special announcements. You can put a note in the suggestion box at the sign-in table, call the ElderCollege office at 784-8053 and leave a message, notify Bev Harvey, membership chairman, at 829-1485, or warren@hardingmech.com, or send the information directly to Shera Alberti-Annunzio at Extended Studies, 784-1676, or shera@unr.edu. Just stay in touch; we miss you when you're gone.

Our wonderful newsletter "interviewer-at-large" Louise Smith would like to hear from you if you have someone in mind to be interviewed for our newsletter. Email her at byline@pyramid.net or phone her at 624-0721.

HISTORIAN

Our new board historian will assemble and organize the records and photos of the past, and chronicle events of the future. Now is a particularly good time to start this function as ElderCollege evolves into a new and exciting phase.

Our association with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will change many things. It will be significant at this juncture to record events as they unfold.

If you have stories or pictures, etc. that would be of interest, please pass them on to us. We will be looking for ideas as we define this job.

Jane Sunday and Bette Jensen

ElderCollege Board of Trustees

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ElderCollege Office		784-8053
ElderCollege Fax Number		784-8054
UNR Extended Studies (Shera)		784-1676

To use the **University of Nevada, Reno library** phone Shera at (775) 784-1676 first. The rules have changed.

CALENDAR

Plan to attend the following events in addition to our many interesting classes:

June 5, 2007	<u>Board of Directors</u> at 1 p.m.
3rd Wednesdays beginning in July	
Every Tuesday	Cracker Barrel at 2 p.m.
1st and 3rd Mondays	Coop Group at noon
2nd Mondays	Mystery Readers Group at 10 a.m.
Watch for dates for	Brown Bag Lunch at noon

Please be in class on time!

Arriving late disrupts because of the noise of the buzzer, then by someone having to go and press the button to let you in, and then your late arrival also distracts attention from the presenter. It is inconsiderate to be late for classes.

All classes are held at ElderCollege, 401 W. Second St., Room 235 unless otherwise noted.



Get Involved With ElderCollege
You'll be glad you did!
Invite a friend

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