

2020 – 2021



Annual Report



of the



Osher Lifelong



Learning Institute



at UC Berkeley



: Always On



Never Muted

It's amazing what can happen when you  
shrink the world to the size of a postage stamp.





**Suburban Ennui and Dystopia in American Fiction**

Stephanie Wells  
Mondays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
03.29.21 - 05.17.21  
Livestream Only

**The New U.S. Supreme Court: From Bad to Worse**

Dan Sokol with Emily Bazelon, Erwin Chemerinsky, Adam Liptak, Catherine Fisk, Cynthia Gray, Eric Lipton, Robert Ross, James Westcott  
Mondays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
03.29.21 - 05.17.21  
Live Class 04.05.21, 04.19.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Extreme Politics: Radicals, Revolutionaries & Terrorists**

Darren Zook  
Thursdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
01.21.21 - 03.11.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**CONSPIRACY THEORY in modern history**

Tamim Ansary  
6 Pre-Recorded Videos + 2 Livestream Q&A (02.12.21 & 03.12.21)

**Khilana Bridges on Critical Race Theory and current issues**

FRIDAY, OCT 9 10:30-11:30 AM (PT)  
RSVP [olliberkeley.edu](https://olliberkeley.edu)  
free & open to all

**Cooking with Summer Produce**

Linda Carucci  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Mondays, 06.07.21 - 06.28.21  
+ Friday, 06.25.21  
9:30-11 AM (PT)  
Livestream + Recorded

**DIVING INTO THE MOVIES**

Harry Chotiner  
Mondays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
01.25.21 - 03.08.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**EPA: 2021 & BEYOND**

Alexis Strauss Hacker & Dan McGovern  
+ 12 current & former EPA regional managers  
Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
01.21.21 - 03.11.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Art as Agency**

Kenneth Jacoby  
Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
01.21.21 - 03.09.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Post-Colonial Science Fiction**

Devorah Major  
Wednesdays, noon-1:30 (PT)  
01.20.21 - 03.10.21  
Livestream Only

**Writing Legacy Letters**

Sara Orem  
Tuesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
03.30.21 - 05.18.21  
Livestream Only

**China and CO2 Emissions**

Mark Levine  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
06.02.21 - 06.30.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln**

Mick Chantler  
Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
09.24.20 - 11.12.20  
Livestream + Recorded

**Jewish-Muslim Cultural Encounters**

Sarah Levin  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Thursdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
06.23.21 - 07.12.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Native History 1900-Present**

Antonique Lima  
Tuesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
03.30.21 - 05.18.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**California History of Residential Design**

Linda Day  
Tuesdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
03.30.21 - 05.18.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Global lens**

Michael Fox  
Tuesdays, noon-1:30 (PT)  
09.22.20 - 11.10.20  
Livestream + Recorded

**20th Century African-American Women Writers**

Stephanie Wells  
Wednesdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
01.20.21 - 03.10.21  
Livestream Only

**PAIN: Its Causes and Treatments**

Peter Balston  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Mondays, 06.07.21 - 06.28.21  
+ Friday, 06.25.21 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
Livestream + Recorded

**Russia Under Putin**

George Breslauer  
Wednesdays, noon-1:30 PM (PT)  
03.31.21 - 05.19.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Science in the Movies**

Vincent Resh  
Tuesdays, noon-1:30 PM (PT)  
03.30.21 - 05.18.21  
Livestream Only

**Great Symphonies of the 20th Century**

Stephen Schultz  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Tuesdays, noon-1:30 PM (PT)  
06.01.21 - 06.29.21  
Livestream Only

**Before the Storm: America 1815-1850**

Mick Chantler  
Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
03.31.21 - 05.19.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**The Genius of Sondheim**

Bonnie Weiss  
Wednesdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
03.31.21 - 05.18.21  
Livestream Only

**Interior Design: The Beginning of Architecture**

Pierluigi Serrano  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Tuesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
06.01.21 - 06.29.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Sicily: 'The Key to Everything'**

Douglas Kenning  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Wednesdays, noon-1:30 (PT)  
06.02.21 - 06.30.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**New Narratives & James Joyce: PSYCHEDELIC UNRAVELERS**

Richie Kufnerberger  
Thursdays, noon-1:30 (PT)  
01.21.21 - 03.07.21  
Livestream Only

**Tempered Ambition: India's Rise in Global Politics**

Vasundhara Sirate  
Wednesdays, noon-1:30 (PT)  
01.26.21 - 03.09.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Faith in Politics: Religion, Power and Governance**

Darren Zook  
Thursdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
04.01.21 - 05.20.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Photographs and American Land Use 1845-2020**

Sandra Phillips  
Mondays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
09.21.20 - 11.09.20  
Livestream + Recorded

**Bay Area Black Artists: Evolution and Revolution**

Devorah Major  
Amanda Harris, Stephanie Johnson, Wendy Johnson, William Rhodes, Karen Seneff  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
06.02.21 - 06.29.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Writing in Place**

Cecilia O'Leary & Tony Platt  
Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
01.21.21 - 03.11.21  
Livestream Only

**The Use and Misuse of the American Military**

Michael Baker  
Encore Course:  
Pre-Recorded Videos + 2 Livestream Conversations (04.23.21 & 05.14.21)

**COVID-19 and Economic Policy Issues**

Jon Haveman  
Mondays, noon-1:30 PM (PT)  
01.19.21 - 03.09.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**A Country Music Road Trip**

Pete Elman  
Tuesdays, 9:30-11 AM (PT)  
01.19.21 - 03.09.21  
Livestream Only

**Savoring French Opera**

Clifford (W.D.) Cranna  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
06.03.21 - 07.01.21  
Livestream Only

**The Great Documentaries**

Michael Fox  
Tuesdays, 2:30-4 PM (PT)  
01.19.21 - 03.09.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Science Fiction or Fictional Science?**

Gilbert Basri  
Mondays, noon-1:30 PM (PT)  
03.29.21 - 05.17.21  
Livestream + Recorded

**Great Cities: Capitals of Western History**

Bruce Elliott  
6 Pre-Recorded Videos + 2 Livestream Q&A (04.14.21 & 05.14.21)

**THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CHINA 1978-2020**

Doug Lee  
Wednesdays, noon-1:30 PM (PT)  
09.23.20 - 11.18.20  
Livestream + Recorded

**Why Shakespeare Matters in Today's World**

Michael Moran  
Encore Course:  
Pre-Recorded Videos + 2 Livestream Conversations (04.23.21 & 05.14.21)

**The Family in Literature**

John Cheever, William Faulkner, David Michael Kaplan, Julie Otsuka  
Summer Session 1: Live  
Thursdays, noon-1:30 (PT)  
06.03.21 - 07.01.21  
Livestream + Recorded



# Director's Note

What a journey. After transforming our entire program in the spring of 2021, we stepped into a new fiscal year unsure of what lay ahead, but confident in our ability to weather it. Months of running on adrenaline and creative problem-solving can do that to a team.



As you'll see in this report, our community of learners remained strong and engaged throughout 2020-21 despite the tumult swirling all around. I am in awe of our members' resilience, and inspired by it. Every decision we made centered on how best to serve these remarkable individuals.

Our speaker series and special events program expanded in significant ways to address some of the country's (and world's) most vexing problems. It is wonderful to be able to call upon the deep scholarship and expertise of our campus colleagues and community partners.

Our engagement with Cal undergrads through our Words Over Time exchanges had renewed importance for all with the message of resilience and strength. In these forums, mutual empathy reigned, buoying younger and older adults through the worst seas of fear and loneliness.

All of this engagement took place in a fractured world of new platforms and small screens. Our minds and imaginations often were called upon to complete the gesture or the picture. We balanced seeing family and friends at a distance with masks on outside with the chance to see OLLI peers full faced in the Zoom camera in their living rooms.

To our members, donors, friends, colleagues, faculty and team ... thank you for everything you have done to help shine a light on the big picture in a world very much in need of perspective.

**Susan Hoffman**  
Director, OLLI @Berkeley

# 2020-21 by the numbers

2,799

MEMBERS

3011 in 2019-20

233

MEMBER CITIES

184 in 2019-20

26

SPEAKER EVENTS & TOWN HALLS

18 in 2019-20

63

ONLINE COURSES

93 in person and online in 2019-20

11,323

VIEWS OF EVENTS ON YOUTUBE

3,360

ONLINE EVENT REGISTRANTS

(non-courses)

97%

SATISFIED

according to annual member survey

\$102,065

DONATIONS

from generous members and friends

In a year rife with turmoil and uncertainty,  
we sought to help our community make sense of the world.  
And, in some instances, escape it.



# In the Classroom

Four academic terms filled with history, politics, literature, film, music, art, government, writing, and even seasonal cooking. (Tomato & peach panzanella, anyone?)

## Curated Curriculum

In 2020-21, we curated a roster of 63 live online courses that resonated with relevance in today's world, from an examination of the **rise of political extremism** across the globe to an exploration of pivotal works of **Afrofuturism** — all taught by UC Berkeley faculty or other area scholars and experts.

We also recognized the need to provide some joyful escapism from the here and now. Every term included always popular arts and culture courses, as well as a **delicious addition** to our repertoire — a demonstration cooking course with an award-winning, Oakland-based cookbook author.

## Shorter Classes, Longer Terms

To minimize Zoom fatigue for our members, faculty and staff, we **revamped our traditional schedule** of 2-hour classes

that run for six weeks to 1.5-hour classes spread out over eight weeks.

## Watch Anywhere, Anytime

Along with offering a dynamic interactive online experience that brings members together to learn together in real time, we also **recorded many of our courses** and provided those videos to registrants at no extra cost. Our members found the option of being able to watch classes at their convenience a compelling added benefit and reason to register.

## Encore, Encore!

Inspired by our ever-growing library of pre-recorded courses, we **launched "Encore" courses** — a package of our most popular course videos available for registrants to view and enjoy at their leisure. An "Encore" course also includes the opportunity to participate in a livestream conversation with the faculty.





# Speakers & Town Halls

## America's Unfinished Work: An Ongoing Investigation of Race in America



We launched our America's Unfinished Work series in immediate response to the marches for racial justice in the summer of 2020. This ongoing series features influential figures engaged in the examination and eradication of systemic racism to create a more just and equal society. In 2020-21, we were honored to be joined by UC Berkeley's Dr. Khiara Bridges, Professor of Law at



UC Berkeley School of Law, who spoke about **Critical Race Theory**; Dr. Charles Henry, Professor Emeritus of African American Studies, who made the case for **reparations**; Dr. Linda Rugg, Associate Vice Chancellor, who discussed **Native American repatriation** at UC Berkeley; and Dr. Elliott Currie of UC Irvine on the stunning statistics about the **high cost of living in fear** and our inaction.

## Town Halls: Grappling with Resilience, Progress & Threats to Democracy

We hosted three Town Halls in 2020-21, a new format for us inspired by what we saw as a need for our community to connect in conversation amidst a world roiling outside our doors. We gathered panels of experts to discuss the **January 6 insurrection** of the capitol, what to expect in the Biden-Harris administration, and how to rebuild and **fortify American democracy, social trust and civil society** in light of the country's deep polarization. Hundreds of members attended each of these gatherings.

## The Pandemic: Member Questions, Answered



In 2020-21, we hosted three **COVID-19 Q&A** sessions with Dr. Deborah Gold, a retired infectious disease specialist, who answered member questions about how to navigate the world and assess risk, both pre- and post-vaccination. Hundreds of members attended each event (and the four others that took place both before and after fiscal year 2020-21.)

## Ongoing Speaker Series

Throughout the year, we welcomed many leading scholars and experts to present on timely topics. We were delighted to host Barbro Osher, Swedish Consul General in San Francisco and chair of the Bernard Osher Foundation, and Berkeley's Robert Strand to discuss the **case for Nordic capitalism**; Allison Harvey, Director of the Golden Bear Sleep and Mood Research Clinic, on **how to improve sleep**; Berkeley's Deirdre English, former editor of *Mother Jones*, on **journalism and the #MeToo movement**; George Breslauer, former executive vice chancellor and provost at Cal, on the myths and realities of **Putin's Russia**; and many others.



# Community Engagement

## Words Over Time Intergenerational Dialogues



Our Words Over Time intergenerational dialogues seamlessly transitioned in 2020-21 from in-person to virtual gatherings of OLLI members and Berkeley undergraduates discussing topics of critical importance to all. This year's civil and reflective exchanges explored **mental health and emotional well-being**, as well as **how to build trust and find a path to unity**.

## Mind the Gap: Staying Connected Between Terms

We worked to keep our members engaged with one another and with us during what can sometimes feel like sprawling pauses between terms. From mid-November through mid-January, we organized a number of events, including a lively exchange about **online streaming** (which resulted in two pages of recommended shows and films); a discussion about the **future of the EPA**; a cooking demonstration; and, of course, a holiday gathering of members, faculty and staff filled with good cheer and BYO beverages.

## National Science Foundation Grant: The Research Continued

We continued work on our National Science Foundation research study which was awarded to us and two campus partners, the Fung Fellowship and the Lawrence Hall of Science, in the fall of 2019. The study involves **developing and validating measures of engagement in informal STEM learning and in STEM advocacy** in older adults, and working to understand what motivates (or not) that engagement.

Due to the pandemic, an in-person informal STEM learning experience was delayed by a year from fall of 2020 to fall of 2021. This additional time allowed the research team to dive more deeply into developing the educational measures. A second round of interviews, focus groups and pilot surveys were conducted for the measures, along with rigorous statistical analysis and the input of the study's expert Advisory Council.

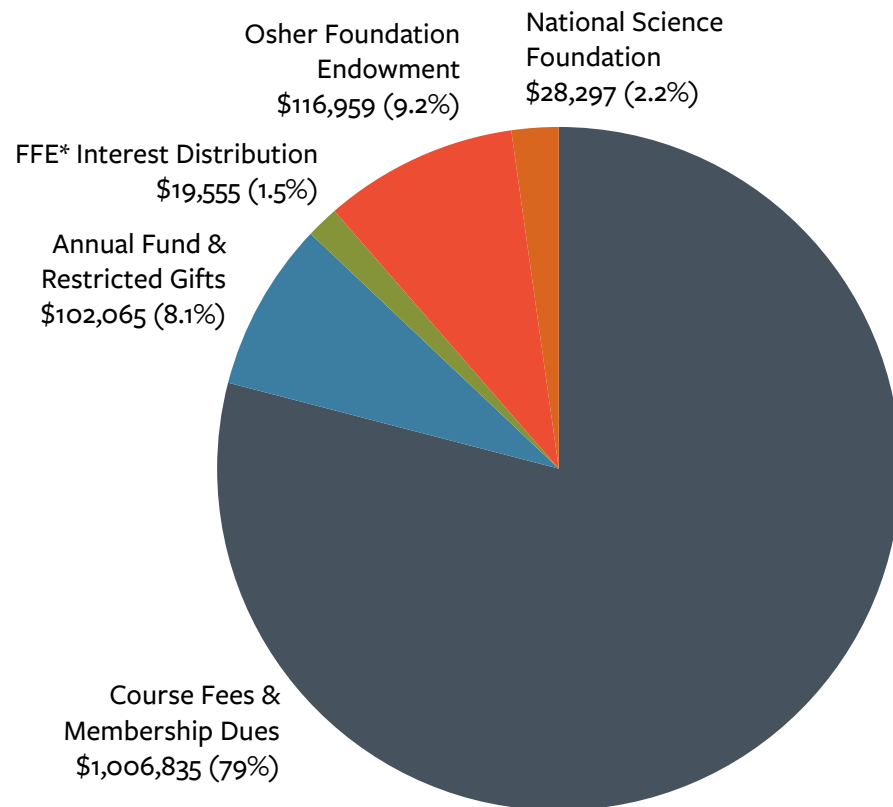
One pilot survey for the advocacy measure involved member participation from 18 other Osher Institutes across the country in order to expand regional diversity.



# 2020-21 Financials

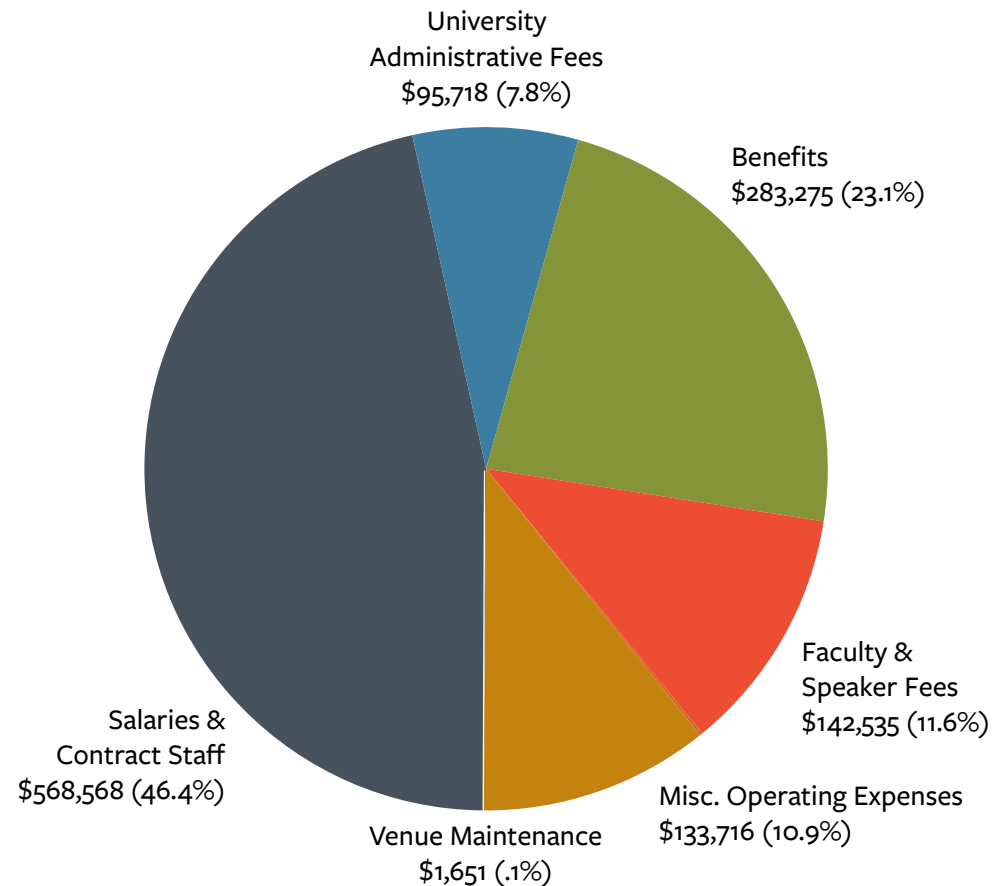
## Revenue

\$1,273,711



## Expenses

\$1,225,463



Along with being buoyed by the generosity of our donors, we made a number of strategic decisions that enabled us to balance our budget. We maintained our membership dues and course fee levels, actively pursued and expanded alumni and community outreach, and, thanks to the abundance of virtual seats available on Zoom, expanded the number of members who could register for each course. We also

received a distribution from our National Science Foundation grant. Operating expenses included investments in essential technology and in the printing and mailing of our quarterly brochure.

\*FFE = Fund Functioning as an Endowment

# Thank You to Our Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the many members and friends who generously supported our program between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Because of their belief in the work we do —and their desire to help us navigate through and beyond these difficult times — we raised a record \$102,065.

## Dean's Circle

### Gifts of \$1,000 and above

Michael S. Baker, M.D.  
Helen Haymore Cagampang M.P.P. '84, Ph.D. '92  
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'86

### Gifts of \$250-\$999

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'02  
Phillip L. Zimmerman & Kathryn J.  
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P = parent of Cal graduate



## Gifts up to \$249

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 Françoise J. Cohen & Norman R. Cohen  
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 Marcia Flannery  
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 Stephanie Long  
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 Lucia Matzger P '91  
 Charlotte McCaffrey  
 Mary L. McDonald M.B.A. '85  
 Rima Miller  
 Gregory N. Mix & Sara Allison Mix B.A. '91  
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 Sherman E. Nelson & Denise Nelson  
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 Kristi Panik & David E. Presti  
 Ann Peden  
 Peggy Poole  
 Steve P. Pezzola B.S. '78, J.D. '81 & Twila L. Foster B.A. '77  
 Carol E. Picciotto B.A. '62, C.Esing '65 &

P = parent of Cal graduate

## Gifts up to \$249 *(continued)*

Armando E. Picciotto B.A. '65  
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Helga Recke & Peter Ewell  
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Nicholas S. Robins B.A. '76 & Tracy Freedman  
B.A. '80  
Deborah E. Ross  
Sara Rowe  
Rogelio C. Salcido M.A. '78  
Allyn Saroyan  
Elizabeth G. Sawi P '18 & Paul D. Sawi M.S.W.  
M.S.W. '76, P '18  
Laura E. Schlichtmann B.A. '71, J.D. '93, P '07  
Robin Seeley  
Peter E. Sheehan J.D. '71, P '10 & Patricia C.  
Sheehan B.A. '71, P '10  
Warren Siegel  
Betty K. Smith  
Lucy A. Sponsler P '97 & Thomas H. Sponsler  
P '97  
Michael G. Sullivan & Patricia N. Sullivan  
Ph.D. '96  
Richard Sutcliffe & Barbara N. Sutcliffe  
Martha S. Swartz  
Stuart Swiedler & Judith B. Weiss B.A. '79  
Susan T. Taylor J.D. '83  
Debra Thal  
Marie Thompson  
Cathryn Thurow  
Rita F. Tidwell  
Revan A. Tranter & Elsa H. Tranter  
Malcolm Trifon & Selma S. Meyerowitz B.A.  
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Peter Van Arsdale & Joanna M. Beam

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B.Arch. '62  
Margaret L. Webster  
Judith Wehlau  
Nancy Wen B.A. '10  
Ann M. Whalley  
Linda C. Wing C.Esing '71, Ph.D. '89  
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Patricia A. Wool M.A. '77, C.EAS '86, C.EASP '90  
Margaret Fuller Wooster B.A. '66  
Linda Martin Wroth M.L.S. '67  
Richard L. Yoder & Barbara W. Yoder  
Alice I. Youmans  
Victoria Bleiberg Zatzkin B.A. '75 & Steven R.  
Zatzkin B.A. '67, M.A. '69

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at [ogp@berkeley.edu](mailto:ogp@berkeley.edu).

P = parent of Cal graduate

# Thank You to Our Volunteers

We count on the energy and enthusiasm of our members to help make our program the best it can be. We are grateful to the committee members noted here for their ongoing support and counsel throughout 2020-21.

## Advisory Research Team (ART)

Research Associate: Cheryl Brewster  
Members: Lorraine Midanik, Sara Orem, David Presti, Peter Ralston  
Staff: Susan Hoffman

ART identifies UC-based research opportunities for OLLI member participation, conducts inquiry projects focused on teaching and learning, and explores ideas and issues to inform the curriculum or membership.

## Curriculum Committee

Co-chairs: Susan Chamberlain, Gary Evans & Ann Peden  
Members: Amy Chung, John Daws, Ilene Gordon, Bill Neilson, Lucille Poskanzer, Nancy Spaeth, Jake Warner, Linda Wing, Hugh Winig  
Staff: Susan Hoffman & Matt Shears

The Curriculum Committee reviews course proposals, meets with prospective faculty and advises OLLI staff on the curation of future academic terms.

## Development Committee

Co-chairs: Mark Medress & Wendy Willrich  
Members: Terri Hearsh, Richard Hornberger, Gerry Kaminski, Mike Maidenberger, Eileen Savel, Murray Schlusell  
Staff: Susan Hoffman & Nancy Murr

Development Committee members set fundraising goals, plan the annual fund campaign, and organize volunteer fundraising outreach efforts.

## Lafayette Planning Committee

Co-chairs: Judy Kirkpatrick & Nikki Maziasz  
Members: Marty Aufhauser, John Daws, Tom Francis, Christina Janssen, Howard Janssen, Kathy Merchant, Hugh Winig  
Staff: Susan Hoffman & Matt Shears

The Lafayette Planning Committee provides important insights and outreach into Lafayette and neighboring communities.

## Member Services Committee

Co-chairs: Joan Greer & Jerry Kaminski  
Members: Susan Boyle, Valerie Knepper, Nikki Maziasz, Susan Sperber  
Staff: Nancy Murr

The Member Services Committee works to build a strong sense of community and belonging through member-led activities, clubs and events.



# Faculty & Speakers

We are grateful to the nearly 100 instructors and guest speakers who shared their expertise and scholarship with our community in 2020-21.

Ken Alex  
Alexandra Amati  
Geeta Anand  
Tamim Ansary  
Michael Baker  
Gibor Basri  
Sandra Bass  
George Breslauer  
Khiara Bridges  
Eliah Bures  
Dave Calkins  
Linda Carucci  
Mick Chantler  
Erwin Chemerinsky  
Harry Chotiner  
Greg Choy  
Adam Cohen  
Elliott Currie  
Clifford (Kip) Cranna  
Linda Day  
Veronika Dolar  
Laura Ebbert  
Maurice Elbaz  
Bruce Elliott  
Pete Elman  
Catherine Fisk  
Michael Fox  
Barry Friedman

Deborah Gold  
Cynthia Gorney  
Alexis Strauss Hacker  
Amana Harris  
Jon Haveman  
Allison Harvey  
Charles Henry  
David Hollinger  
Mary Hughes  
Annice Jacoby  
Susan Jakes  
Kamal Jethwani  
Lin Jiang  
Stephanie Johnson  
Woody Johnson  
Joel Jones  
Dan Kammen  
Jessica Kao  
Sherry Keith  
Douglas Kenning  
Ira Kurzban  
Doug Lee  
Sarah Levin  
Mark Levine  
Deborah Lichtman  
Enrique Lima  
Hongyou Lu  
Devorah Major

Lewis Maldonado  
Yoni Mayeri  
Dan McGovern  
Amy Miller-Bowen  
Ami Molinelli  
Michael Moran  
Louise Nayer  
Cecilia O'Leary  
Christopher Ohman  
Sara Orem  
Barbro Osher  
Erik Peper  
Sandra Phillips  
Tony Platt  
Lynn Price  
Mallika Pung  
Peter Ralston  
Dan Reich  
Vincent Resh  
William Rhodes  
Rachel Richardson  
Bertrall Ross  
Linda Rugg  
Stephen Schultz  
Karen Seneferu  
Pierluigi Serraino  
Elena Sheygal-Placzek  
Jonathan Simon

Vasundhara Sirnate  
Dashka Slater  
Bill Smoot  
Bill Sokol  
Matthew Specter  
Claudia Stevens  
Robert Strand  
Patti TenBroek  
Oana Tocoian  
Richie Unterberger  
Lauren Vanett  
Bonnie Weiss  
James Wheaton  
Stephanie Wells  
Nan Zhou  
Mary Ziegler  
Darren Zook



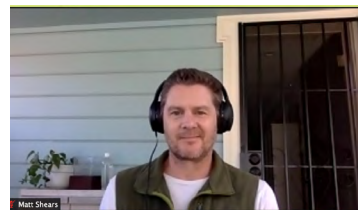
# Our Team



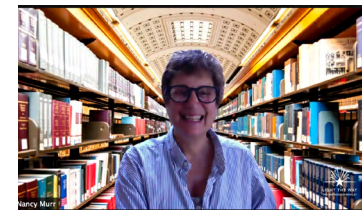
Susan Hoffman  
Director



Lisa Hardy  
Business & Operations Manager



Matt Shears  
Curriculum Coordinator



Nancy Murr  
Communications & Marketing  
Coordinator



Max & Callie Godino  
Classroom & Facilities Coordinator



LaeCharles Lawrence Jr.  
Classroom Coordinator



Rob Chew  
Classroom Coordinator



Cheryl Brewster  
Research Associate

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