



Upcoming Events

This year's lunchtime forums are being kicked off by **Professor Sophie Clavier** who receives accolades for her talks at the Commonwealth Club, World Affairs Council and Stanford.

Most events are held at the SFSU Downtown Center at 425 Market Street at Fremont (unless otherwise noted). As you enter the building at 425 Market, check the lobby to confirm the classroom.

Please RSVP: 405-7799.

MARCH 22, TUESDAY, 12-1:30
The Impact of American Popular Culture on France, with *SFSU international law professor, Sophie Clavier*

MARCH 28, MONDAY, 5:30-6:30
Author Gail Collins reads from her new book, America's Women: Four Hundred Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines. SFSU Campus, Jack Adams Hall. Book signing and reception follows.

MARCH 30, WED., 12-1:30
Political, Social, and Ethical Forces Shaping American Abortion Laws, with *UCB professor, journalist and author, Cynthia Gorney*

MARCH 30, WED., 2-3:30
OLLI TEAM MEETING

APRIL 12, TUESDAY, 12-1:30
Medicare on the Brink, with *SFSU professor Dr. Ramon Castellblanch*

APRIL 20, WEDNESDAY, 4-5:00
INFO SESSION
on the OLLI program

MAY 5, THURSDAY, 2-3:30
What if We Brought the Troops Home? with *Interfaith Theologian Dr. Thomas Ambrogio*

MAY 5, THURSDAY, 4-6:00
OLLI SUMMER SESSION OPEN HOUSE

JUNE TBA
Cooking Stories with the Kitchen Sisters, with *radio impresario and founder of NPR's Kitchen Sisters on All Things Considered Davia Nelson*

Additional information about the forum subjects and speakers, please visit OLLI's website at cel.sfsu.edu/olli under Events.

David Weir

OLLI Faculty Profile



David Weir is a visiting professor of journalism at Stanford University, and a veteran journalist who was formerly Editor in Chief of 7x7 magazine in San Francisco; Vice-President of Network Programming and Product Design for Excite@Home; Senior Vice-President for Editorial Operations and Managing Editor for Salon.com; Vice President of Content and Managing Director of Programming for Wired Digital; Executive Vice-President and Acting Radio News Director at KQED; an investigative reporter for Rolling Stone; a senior editor of California magazine; Managing Editor of Mother Jones; an editorial writer for the San Francisco Examiner; and co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR).

He's authored or co-authored three books, including the textbook *Raising Hell: How the Center for Investigative Reporting Gets the Story* (with Dan Noyes, 1983); and over 150 articles for various publications (including the New York Times, the Economist, New York, the LA Weekly, Rolling Stone, New West, The Nation, Mother Jones, HotWired, Salon and many others.)

Editor: David, in the past two decades, you have had thirteen different jobs, with most stints only a year or two. And, these were all high-level, creative positions in major media outlets that are still in business. What were the reasons for this extreme mobility?

David Weir: The past sixteen years have required me to change almost constantly, to always adapt to new situations, people and agendas. People like me, living on a creative edge, have really been whipped around by the underlying structural changes in our economy.

Editor: It appears that you have been involved with several media "start-ups", what is it about launching these new enterprises that appeals to you?

David Weir: I love the spirit of entrepreneurs, believing as they do that they can make it where others have failed. I have been involved with media start-ups since the sixties...much of our original motivation came from a youthful realization that we needed to create alternative media because we did not fit well into the existing media organizations at that time.

Editor: While hearing you lecture about investigative reporting, I sensed in you nostalgia for that role. Would you have liked to remained at it a while longer? If so, why didn't you?

David Weir: I still am involved in investigative reporting on several levels. First, I am actively engaged as a board member at The Center for Investigative Reporting, and also in my role as a member of the editorial board of The Nation. In addition, I edit investigative pieces for the Stanford Social Innovation Review. On a less formal level, reporters working on big stories often consult with me on a back channel basis, so my hand is almost always in on some investigation or another. I am usually sniffing around on some story or another on my own, as well.

Editor: Which leads into my last question, why teach memoir writing? What is it about this subject that engages you?

David Weir: Three years ago, in Michigan, my mother took a class about how to write her life story. Several months later, just after her 87th birthday, she became ill and died. She left behind a short memoir that I now treasure. When Susan Hoffman approached me about teaching memoir, this personal experience was fresh in my mind and I said yes. If I can help any other children and grandchildren find out about their parents' and grandparents' lives by encouraging memoir writing, my work here will have been worthwhile.

Who's Doing What

Fantasy Fiction writing instructor, **Jewelle Gomez** was sworn in Feb. 18 as our city's new appointment on the **San Francisco Public Library Commission**. Jewelle says, "I don't know for certain that I'm the first AfricanAmerican/Wampanoag/Ioway/Cape Verdean/Left-handed/Lesbian/Author to sit on the Commission, but I promise it'll be history in the making as long as I'm sitting there!"

Sandra Sutherland is helping with the military beat on **KALW's new News Department** as an extension of Holly Kernan's course last session on how to be a public radio reporter. Stay tuned.

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OLLI-SFSU is supported by the Bernard Osher Foundation,
the College of Extended Learning, and by participant fees.

OLLI-SFSU is a membership program for people over 50 who want to be a part of a learning community of peers who seek greater creative and self expression and political dialogue on current events and the future, to be ahead of the curve on health, wellness, and opportunities for people over 50.

Insightful Learning for Ageless Minds



CLASSROOM NUGGETS

San Francisco Mime Troupe veteran, **Dan Chumley** is guiding “**Geezer Theater**”, a new ensemble of folks from SF State’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute who “roughed out” two skits on Friday at the JCC. One was a spoof called *Extreme Takeover* with Secretaries Rumsfeld and Rice “operating” on a woman/country named Syria. The other was about Grandpa who everyone ignores, but whose presence on the internet as Mr. Know-it-all makes him famous.

In Detective and Society’s first class, one of the class members remarked that the instructor (**Sandra Sutherland**, partner in the Palladino and Sutherland detective agency) reminded her of the BBC series Prime Suspect’s Jane Tennyson (played by Helen Mirren). Sutherland, always modest, accepted the compliment. Truth is, the Jane Tennyson character was modeled in part after Sutherland! Sutherland’s course uses two detective novels about Shanghai to reveal how much the detective and detective fiction writer must understand about a place, its culture and its underclass. The beauty is in the details.



CHICAGO LEGACIES AND INNOVATIONS TRIP:

April 1st Deadline

This fall OLLI has organized an exciting and affordable trip to Chicago. The trip will feature the past and future of Chicago’s many contributions to the world of the arts, architecture, urban design, jazz, and theatre. Known as a city of legacies and innovations, the trip will help our travelers appreciate more deeply what makes a world class city, from its ethnic neighborhoods to its Millenium parks. **Contact Orinda Travel at 925.254.3715 for a flyer or download the PDF file on the OLLI website.**



Judith Sandoval

OLLI Member Profile

Editor: You have worked in many communities in San Francisco as a community organizer; can you tell us what a community organizer does?

Judith Sandoval: I connect people, things and ideas, in the hope of building a community where people can celebrate the cultures of others and be safe from violence. The role really consists of a team, who together try to revitalize neighborhoods.

Editor: What have been your best and worst experiences in community organizing?

Judith Sandoval: My worst experience was organizing a teen dance in the Mission District at which some youths shot each other and ended at San Francisco General Hospital.

My favorite was working with the Geneva Towers residents for 10 years. Originally, I supervised a youth program, but ultimately worked with families. I was there through the implosion of their home, their five-year wait to occupy the replacement housing, and their move to the new townhouses. Their future is still problematical though and may not have a happy ending.

Editor: What got you started on writing your memoirs?

Judith Sandoval: I made pilgrimages to sites troubling to me, Tule Lake and Selma, Alabama. But, understanding eludes me. Maybe writing will help. Current priority is my son, Tacho, whom I assumed understood my world-view, my politics and me but apparently not. My memoirs might help him to know and respect my story: A Celtic Myth of Magic and Protest.

Editor: What question would you ask other OLLI members?

Judith Sandoval: I would like to organize a group against President Bush’s new Social Security and Medicare proposals.

Other Lifelong Learning Membership Programs

Continued Learning in Retirement (CLIR) is located on the eighth floor of 425 Market Street, housed by UC Berkeley Extension. CLIR offers an educational membership program for people who are retired. To learn more about them, visit their website www.clirsf.org

Sixty-Plus is based on the SFSU campus and works in conjunction with the Gerontology Program. They offer seniors continuing learning and personal growth in a campus setting along with opportunities for friendship, leisure, and recreational activities. Sixty-Plus is self-governing with a membership of more than 500 people.

EDITORS’ NOTE:

We need everyone’s help in submitting items for the newsletter columns; Overheard at OLLI, Classroom Nuggets, Who is Doing What. The next newsletter will be printed the week of April 4; submissions should arrive by April 1 to my email: charlesfrancis@sbcglobal.net We are aiming to produce a newsletter once a month for the membership.



OLLI Team

If you are interested in getting involved with the building of the OLLI organization, join us for a meeting on **March 30, Wednesday, from 2-3:30** at the downtown center (following Cynthia Gorney’s lunch-time forum). We need help with outreach, organizational development, and fundraising and more.



OVERHEARD AT OLLI

Next Four Years Forum on January 28, 2005.

“US torture in Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib has fueled terrorism against the US.”

“The war in Iraq is a fight over oil. We must chip away at our dependency on oil.”

“Why do we mute ourselves? We must have an authentic anti-war movement.”

“We are hooked on popular culture rather than education.”

“US unilateral moves (we’re like a bull in a china shop where everyone is helping to clean up the mess) our invasions, our approach to environmentalism.”

“The developed world consumes 35 times more per capita than the underdeveloped world.”

“We accept too many lies in public life.”