

# OLLI bits & bytes!

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU, Chico

## OLLI GALLERY OPEN FOR VIEWING ON THURSDAYS

Stop by the Bradley 2 classroom on Thursdays at lunchtime to view

Need to lift your spirits? The OLLI Gallery is happy to announce that **Bradley 2, aka The OLLI Gallery**, will be hosting an open classroom every Thursday from Noon to 12:45. Hosted by volunteer Nancy McCartney, this is your chance to appreciate the art and talent of your fellow OLLI Members. Join us on Thursdays in the Gallery!

**Pictured:** Jack Lee's painting, "Constellation," is one of more than 60 entries on display.



## EXCLUSIVE MEDICARE WORKSHOP FOR OLLI MEMBERS

**What's New with Medicare in 2020?** FREE Workshops this fall!

The Annual Enrollment Period for Part D drug plans and Part C Medicare Advantage plans begins October 15 and will end December 7. PASSAGES Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) is providing several community workshops to help Medicare beneficiaries make the best choice possible for their health care needs in the coming year. **These workshops will explain changes in Medicare, plus information about drug plans.** There will also be time for **Q&A about Medicare Advantage plans.**

**November 5 from 3—4pm, Gordon 1 at The Social Chico (OLLI Members ONLY!)**

**November 14 from 10am to 12pm at the Lakeside Pavilion**

**December 2 from 9:30am to 1:30pm at the Enloe Conference Center**

Are you or a loved one struggling to pay your Medicare costs?

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

- ▶ Extra help for Medicare Part D
- ▶ Medicare Savings Programs
- ▶ Medicare Preventative Services
- ▶ Part D Plan Comparison & Medicare Counseling
- ▶ Enrollment Assistance

For more information, call HICAP (530) 898-6716

UPCOMING EVENT FOR OLLI MEMBERS ONLY

**WHAT'S NEW WITH MEDICARE**

**November 5**  
3:00 - 4:30 PM  
GORDON 1  
CRAIG HALL

Registration Required THROUGH OLLI WEBSITE

## OLLI COMMUNITY SPEAKER SERIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Topic of elder abuse brings community agencies together**

While OLLI is perhaps best known for its classes and activities, one of the things we take pride in is **bringing campus and community partners together to share resources.** There was no better example of OLLI's collaborative spirit than at last week's Community Speaker Series, where the subject of **"How to Protect Yourself & the Ones You Love"** featured a panel of experts and agency professionals on the topic of elder abuse.

"It is unfortunately an ongoing issue, with about one in 10 older adults suffering some form of abuse," explained OLLI volunteer Margaret Swick, who moderated the October 9 event. Fellow committee member and OLLI member Louise Cummins echoed these concerns, **hoping that by bringing key resources together under one roof OLLI,**



Three panelists fielded questions from moderator Margaret Swick at last week's community event

members could better recognize the often hard-to-read signs of elder abuse and be able to reach out for help—for themselves or for people they know.

Margaret, Louise, and member Nancy Leverette coordinated this event in the absence of the event creator **Mary Brashears, a long-time member of the OLLI Advisory Council, former peer leader, and extraordinary friend, who passed suddenly in August.** Mary, who for her entire adult life was an advocate for the underdog and a guardian of victims' rights, came forward a year ago with this idea and set the wheels in motion. Her can-do attitude and desire to position OLLI as a community resource were realized last Wednesday, and **OLLI plans to continue to find innovative ways to educate members and the surrounding community on topics, like elder abuse, for which OLLI is in a strong position to raise awareness and build bridges.**

Learn more about available resources on Elder Abuse [online](#) or call these numbers:

**PASSAGES:** (530) 898-5923

**Butte County Adult Protective Services:** (530) 538-6709

**District Attorney's Fraud Line:** (866) 323-7283



Mary Brashears  
Was the originator of this  
special program

## IN MEMORIAM

### Mourning the recent loss of two remarkable friends

By Ann Nikolai

OLLI recently lost two extraordinary volunteers, Mary Brashears and April Pryor. Both women were OLLI heroes on multiple levels—building schedules, leading classes, running committees, hosting events—helping this lifelong learning program run smoothly; making others feel appreciated. I saw both Mary and April at least once a week, and I was always lifted by their positivity; inspired to do more—just to keep up! In the wake of their passing, it sometimes feels as if the curtains are shut, blocking out the sun.

A few weeks ago, Mary's article for North State Voices, "[Growing Up with Cars](#)" was published posthumously, with a note from the Editor that she'd written several columns in advance. Seeing it was unexpectedly comforting, her familiar voice recounting a story from her past. With her family's blessing, the ER will print more of Mary's stories as part of its regular rotation. I'm not a particularly religious or superstitious person, but I felt something when I saw Mary's story last month, and I now find myself scanning the paper, seeking to reconnect with her. And while the publication of her column will eventually end, I am reminded that her words, and my memories of her stories and life adventures, live on and inspire me, just like they did when she was here.

My friendship with April went beyond OLLI, and her passing has affected my entire family. Whether it was a weekend visit, when April would stop by to join us at our kitchen table for tea and a game of cribbage; or a special occasion, when April would arrive with a bag full of crafting supplies and lead my girls in a festive decorating activity. She brought joy wherever she went and accepted nothing in return.

I can hardly imagine a holiday without April's presence or a class schedule without Mary's tact and hard work. Perhaps, though, the whole point of living such a purposeful life, as both did, is that we all carry their magic forward when they're gone.



Mary shines as a  
happy face emoji  
in the 2018  
OLLI Play Festival



April helps new members  
register for classes  
at the OLLI Office

## GOT A LITTLE EXTRA TIME?

If you're looking for a fun way to support OLLI, I've got the answer!

By Paul Coots, Volunteer

The OLLI Annex has a few afternoon slots open at its all-volunteer Member Services Desk next to the Bradley 2 classroom. I'm delighted to report that the morning shifts are all filled. (Thank you, volunteers!) **Shifts are generally 2-3 hours, once a week.**

**Interested?** If so, please email the OLLI Office at [olli@csuchico.edu](mailto:olli@csuchico.edu). I hope to hear from you!



## FALL 2019 CALENDAR

Mark your calendars!

November 11 .....Veterans Day (no classes)

November 25 – 29 ....Thanksgiving Break

December 11 .....Holiday Luncheon

December 13 .....Last Day of Fall Classes



## HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have something to say, a photo to share, or a question to pose to the editor, you can submit information using our new "[OLLI Newsletter Submission](#)" form.



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