Letter from the Director

Two weeks left! It does seem a little odd that our Spring semester ends as spring weather and activities are just ramping up elsewhere. My first thought about the many holidays that fall in April this year was of all the wonderful food that will be anticipated and prepared. Whether you observe Ramadan, Passover, Easter, or nothing at all, there are wonderful spring feasts to be enjoyed. I will make my grandmother’s Italian Easter bread, and two weeks later remember Ukrainian Easter traditions I celebrated in Edmonton, Alberta. Maybe we could all send our thoughts to Ukraine whatever and whenever we’re celebrating this month.

Italian Easter Bread
https://tinyurl.com/2p8nr2vs

Ukrainian Easter egg (Pysanka)

Carole Mandyk

Important Dates

CLASS START & KEY APRIL DATES

Apr 7: All About Wine
Apr 12: How to login to Lumens
Apr 13: On Safari
Apr 14: Tropical Exotic Plants Walkabout; Practical Guide to Learning
Apr 15: Good Friday, No Class (Except Book Club)
Apr 18 - 22: Help with Summer membership purchase; registration
Apr 24ish: Summer Catalog available online.

NEXT MONTH: May 1
SUMMER OPEN HOUSE 12:00-2:00 HST
APRIL 2022

Member & Instructor News: In memoriam

A Tribute for Betsy Brandt shared by Helen Slaughter:

Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Brandt passed away at age 78 on March 5th, 2022. Betsy was an enthusiastic member of OLLI-UHM for many years, and encouraged others to join. She was gifted with many friends, a successful career as an educator, and was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She had a very active life in retirement until she contracted ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, last summer, and sadly the disease progressed rapidly despite the best possible medical treatment. I met Betsy when I first moved to Honolulu in 1985 and we have been good friends ever since. I will miss her very much, as will her many friends and family. Mary Elizabeth “Betsy” Hinkle Brandt Obituary: https://tinyurl.com/y67mw7hp

OLLI News

- We've moved back to Krauss! (At least partially) Ninia is there Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm MOST DAYS and Our graduate assistant Teagan is there several mornings as well. We do recommend, however, that you call the office 808-956-2624 rather than stopping by in person, unless you'd like to say hello. :)
- Carole and Teagan will be traveling to the OLLI National Conference in Denver, Colorado at the end of the month!

How to Sign-in to Lumens!

Learn how to sign in to your Lumens account! Training April 12, 12:00 noon. RSVP here. It's wise to master BEFORE the next session!

Why Didn't I get a Zoom Link?

Things you can do if you THINK you did not get a Zoom link for a class you are enrolled in:

- Check your spam folder.
- Look in your past emails for the last time it was sent.
- Keep in mind with classes that meet weekly that THE LINKS ARE THE SAME EVERY WEEK.
- Save class links in a document on your computer for easy access each day.

TIP: Every time you receive an email from one of your instructors via the Lumens website the last sentence reads: "To ensure that future messages from us are delivered properly to your inbox (and not your bulk or junk mail folders), add olliuhm@hawaii.edu to your Address Book or Safe List." Try it! ALSO, note that you will not get a reminder for classes that meet in person. If there is no Zoom link, there is no reminder.

How to Read a Zoom Link: Did you know we provide you with multiple ways to join a meeting? RSVP for invite to attend a brief demonstration & answer session.

Get Ready for Summer Term Registration

Lumens Registration Training sessions. Do you need help? OR are you willing to mentor other members? Sign up here https://forms.gle/jnFjLN3e7sAYz379
After countless requests to feature Tom Sheeran as our instructor of the month, we are finally doing it! Known for his “delightfully dry” sense of humor and an expansive breadth of knowledge, Tom is beloved by his students and his classes are a highlight of the OLLI Catalog. Lauded as the epitome of a modern day renaissance man, knowledgeable in many different areas of interest, such as science, the arts, world travel, and cooking, he readily shares his experiences with his students but remains humble and can comfortably admit when he may not know something. Not only is the content of his classes enjoyable, but Tom organizes his classes in a way that makes the learning process a pleasant experience for all with his adept use of visuals and powerpoint presentations, and a class structure that allows students the freedom to ask questions. (These are just a few of the copious compliments Tom's students relayed to me.)

Tom has been both an instructor and member of our OLLI for 17 years by his estimate, having started around 2005, offering courses of his own while also taking Abe Arkoff's seminar, The Illuminated Life. I asked Tom what his favorite class has been and while he couldn't pick a singular favorite, he said he “certainly enjoyed the Volcanoes in the Sea class that just ended, since [he] lived in Hilo when [he was] young and saw numerous eruptions, then worked on research ships for a dozen years, learning from the scientists and seeing first hand how they gathered their data and what their studies explained about the ocean.” We can agree that OLLI has great value for us all and the same goes for Tom who said the following when I asked about the ways OLLI has positively impacted him: “I have enjoyed teaching with OLLI far more than in formal educational settings – the members are interested or they wouldn't be there, and most are interesting with many valuable life experiences...making it more rewarding for me. I have developed important and lasting friendships with people I've met through OLLI.”

Lastly, I asked Tom what he likes to do in his free time and it will surprise no one to hear that he spends a lot of time cooking and baking on a daily basis, especially during the pandemic. In addition to his efforts in the kitchen, he is also working on a family memoir that details his mother's weekly letters to her parents on the mainland that span the 14 years Tom lived here with his family when he was young. Thank you Tom for being our April Instructor feature and thank you to Tom's students who had so many positive things to say that this article practically wrote itself. If you are interested in taking a class with Tom, his summer course offerings include Culinary Conversations every Wednesday evening at 7pm as well as a new course: Voyages of Scientific Discovery and Exploration will present an overview of important voyages in the 18th and 19th Centuries that helped to establish the modern sciences of oceanography, marine biology, geology, and a host of related fields. Dates: 7 Fridays, July 1 – Aug 12, Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Location: Online via Zoom.