

OFFICE HOURS

Closed Until
Further Notice

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Monthly Newsletter - May 2020 Issue 4

Signs of Spring and New Life

By Susan Riddoch

We've had a busy spring in our backyard bird sanctuary.

First it was a hummingbird in the olive tree with two babies. Then the robin built a nest



in our arbor. There was only one egg, but two babies hatched.

Interestingly, there seem to be two moms--they took turns sitting on the nest, and now they both feed the babies scrumptious worms and bugs. Fascinating! (My husband Steve's photos of the robins are attached.)



Another hummingbird has built a nest in the laurel tree by the front door. She has two eggs. We can't wait for the next hatchlings.

Stay safe, Susan Riddoch



Ideas and OLLI Announcement

From Kathy Addington

Not sure you need ideas but I noticed that OLLI is offering online courses free [see below] and you might want to add that to your newsletter. Mimi undoubtedly gets the emails also but I will send you a link. Everyone except Mimi, I think, are looking for more things to do. Ha ha.

Also, ebooks from the library are saving me, even more than textile arts, and I wonder if other ebook owners (Kindle or whatever) know how to access the free books from the County Libraries and other libraries. Perhaps a tutorial from Dwight in the newsletter could open up doors to free books online for ebook owners (or those who wish to purchase one) now that we cannot simply walk into the library. I don't mean to give you jobs to do but these are just some ideas.

Free OLLI Courses Offered—Via Zoom

Dear OLLI Members and Friends:

Summer is nearly here and with it comes 10 ways to not only learn but also stay connected. Ten new online courses will take place between May 26 and June 25. Each offering is free—our gift to you.

All sessions will meet live via Zoom on the date and time listed. Although these courses will not be videotaped, we do promise video recordings (those you can view at your own pace) will be a big part of our Fall online offering. And, if you haven't yet, take a peek at our [Spring Recorded Lectures](#).

You'll find the summer course selection below with links to more details on each. If you'd like to join us, you can [register here](#). We're so thankful for every moment with you.

Michele Crompton, Director

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Summer 2020

[Missing Baseball? with Chris Hasegawa and Larry Sill](#) Tuesdays, May 26; June 2, 9; 10:00 – 11:00am

[Memoir: Crafting Memory to Story with Jane Edberg](#) (Limited to 14) Wed., May 27; June 3, 10, 17; 12:30 – 3:30pm

[Writing Words with Friends with Renée Farrington](#) (Limited to 10) Thurs., May 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25; 10 – 11:30am

[Chopin in Quarantine with Melinda Coffey Armstead](#) Friday, May 29; 10:00 – 11:15am

[Nature Journaling with Melinda Nakagawa](#) Mondays, June 1, 8, 15; 1:30 – 3:00pm

[Films of Audrey Hepburn – A Discussion with Malcolm Weintraub](#) Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25; 2:00 – 3:00pm

[Poetry of Billy Collins with Dr. Renee Curry](#) Fridays, June 5, 12, 19; 11:00am – noon

[A Midsummer Night's Dream with Allston James](#) Monday/Wednesday, June 8, 10, 15, 17; 10:00am – noon

[Current Issues in Addiction with Bill Brigham](#) Tuesdays, June 9, 16; 2:00 – 3:00pm

[Keeping a Journal — Now More Than Ever with Patrice Vecchione](#) Tuesdays, June 16, 23; 9:30am – noon

♥ Send Some Cheer to Seniors Experiencing Isolation—Part 2 ♥

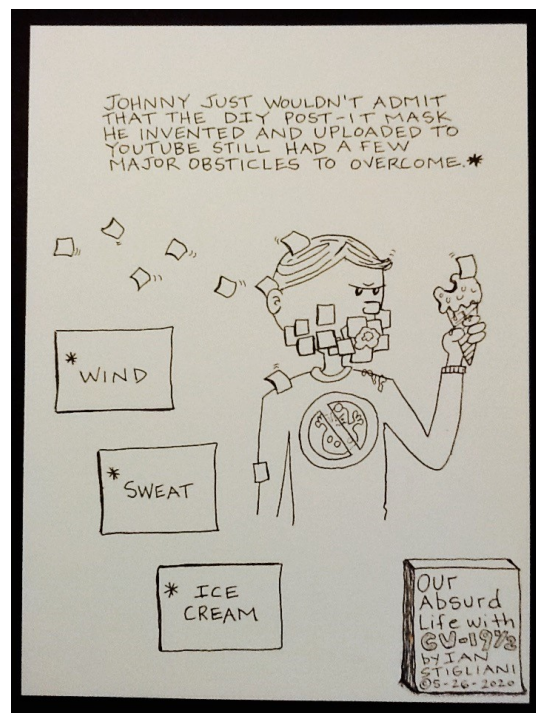
Suzanne du Verrier Comments

I would like to thank all of you who participated in donations of cards. It has been an overwhelming project. More participants and cards we ever dreamed of. Through my efforts with help from you 1,000 cards are going to the Alliance on Aging for our seniors in nursing home. From the comments I received it seems as though it was good therapy for all concerned. Thank you so much.

“To ease the burden that isolation can have on the mind, body, and spirit, the Alliance on Aging ... Ombudsman Program is organizing a campaign to send messages of encouragement to residents of their 48 Assisted Living Facilities and 16 Skilled Nursing Facilities. **Our goal is to send one card to each of our 2,846 residents, that's a lot of love!**”

The card writing project had been going on before the above announcement in last week's ASI newsletter. What happened is that a wonderful host of new card makers put the campaign near or over the 2,846 requested (it's hard to keep track of nearly 3,000 cards).

Don't worry. You can keep making cards if you wish (thank you) and any extras go to Meals on Wheels for distribution to their shut-in and isolated clients.



Dorothy's Place Masks Request Fulfilled

Volunteer mask makers came through in a huge way. In last WEEK's newsletter we asked for mask making help for Dorothy's Place. In less than a week you wonderful volunteers donated more than the 100 masks requested. Again, don't worry, they will all be put to good use. Thank you, thank you.

Information Available on COVID-19 Testing

I wanted to connect with you to share the work we've been doing to help bridge the educational gap on topics that can have a profound effect on many people's lives.

Here at [Testing.com](https://www.testing.com), our goal is to help individuals realize that they have both the power and responsibility to take control of their health and well-being. We have created guides to lessen worries and make it easier to understand when to get tested for coronavirus. You can learn more about it here:

<https://www.testing.com/when-to-get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

<https://www.testing.com/at-home-coronavirus-testing/>

Did you know on the Canary Islands there is not one canary? And on the Virgin Isles? Same thing - not one canary there either!

Looking Ahead to Re-opened Alliance on Aging Tax Preparation Services

Thanks to Thad Evans Who Is a Volunteer with the Program

WHAT IS THE TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM?

The Alliance on Aging's Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program has been serving clients since 1980. Our IRS-certified staff and volunteers operate the program between February 1 and April 15 each tax season **[services will extend until later this year and will include proposed non-contact provisions]**, and help clients with "off-season" inquiries and tax issues.

Eligibility and assistance:

- Aged 60-plus, blind, or disabled
- Low to moderate income
- NO COST tax filing assistance with federal and state tax forms
- Counseling is conducted individually and confidentially
- Services are provided in English and Spanish

Appointments are available at sites throughout the county

What do I bring to my appointment?

- Form W-2 "Wage and Tax Statement"
- Form 1099 for such things as dividends, distributions from pensions, annuities, I.R.A., sale of stocks, etc.
- A photo ID
- Your Social Security Card

Your prior year tax returns

For questions about your taxes, contact Tax Program Coordinator at 831.655.1334.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to make a difference in a senior's life? Become a TAX VOLUNTEER. Each year, AOA partners with the IRS and the CA Franchise Tax Board to provide FREE, no cost tax assistance to hundreds of Monterey County seniors. Interested? Call **(831) 655-1334** or [click here](#) for more information.

Language Learning

Thanks to Sharon Field

You might consider checking out [Duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com). Kids or adults can learn a language for free. If your children or grandchildren are not English dominant, this will help while they are doing distance learning.



Why is This Different from Human Clerks?
If cats worked in shops . . .

