

### Taking the A train! Travel News @ OLLI

by Barry Bosscher

On March 27, 2025 23 OLLI members and friends boarded the Metro “A Line”, formerly the “Blue Line” in Long Beach for a visit to El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument and Olvera Street. For many of us it was the first time using the Metro so we learned how to purchase tickets and navigate to Union Station for the short walk to Olvera Street.

Upon arrival we were led by docents on a tour of the area telling the history of Los Angeles along with many other interesting facts about the area.

After the tour we had a delicious Mexican lunch at one of the restaurants on Olvera Street and visited some of the shops. We all made it safely back to Long Beach, many filled with confidence to use the Metro system again.



Docent at Olvera St.



### A Taste of OLLI Draws a Crowd!

by MaryKay Toumajian

What do you get when you mix over 250 curious and enthusiastic older adults with lively instructors, free raffle prizes, and a gift bag or two? A highly successful recruiting event called **A Taste of OLLI**, held on Saturday, March 8th at the Duncan Anderson Gallery on the CSULB campus—and what a day it was!

Friendly neighbors who were new to OLLI mingled with former members—many of whom were returning after a pandemic pause—and current members eager to share what they love about the program. The room buzzed with energy and conversation as people connected over shared interests and new possibilities.

OLLI instructors were on hand to showcase our exciting variety of classes—from Health and Fitness, Music, and Arts & Crafts to Technology, Current Events, and History. Whether you were interested in learning to line dance, play the ukulele, explore local history, or demystify your smartphone, there was something for everyone to discover.

Several attendees mentioned that they had belonged to OLLI before COVID and were excited to reengage and take classes again—they missed the lifelong learning part of their lives. That sentiment was felt throughout the room, and it was heartwarming to see familiar faces ready to jump back in. Guests received copies of *The Sun*, a list of upcoming classes, and a fun gift bag to take home. The afternoon wrapped up with smiles as Tom Howak and Mark Holthaus walked away as the lucky winners of raffle prizes!

A huge round of applause goes to the fantastic planning committee who made this event such a hit: Karin Covey, Janet Lipson, Jan Stein, Donna Hawk, Pat Wrenn, Patti LaPlace, and Mary Kay Toumajian. Your creativity and hard work paid off—big time! If **A Taste of OLLI** was any indication, the Spring session is one of our best yet. Stay tuned for the Summer session, and get ready to sign up—because the joy of learning (and connecting) is back in full swing!



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