

*A program of Santa Monica College for older adults*

## Who We Are: Audrey Roll

Profile of an Emeritus Student *by Ada Hollie*



Audrey Roll is a gifted artist who brings social consciousness to her work. Whatever medium she employs to express her ideas - from paintings of women's rights advocates to Wall Street titans, from polychromed cowgirls on motorcycles to sculptures of famous composers - she

challenges and engages the viewer. Every piece makes a powerful statement.

Her impressive works have attracted many collectors and she has been commissioned by the likes of UNICEF, AMTRAK, and Ford Motors. She has also helped to raise funds for the ACLU with a one-woman show featuring pieces illustrating her signature social and political satire.

Roll developed her contemporary western style using painted wood and humor to "spoof the west". Three of these pieces are currently at the Whitney Gallery and others became a part of a traveling art show that toured the U.S. Other distinctions include: the National Symphony Orchestra of the Kennedy Center commissioned her to create a large bronze sculpture of Mstislav Rostropovich; she has been profiled in the Wall Street Journal and other leading publications; her work has appeared at the Smithsonian Museum, the UN Building, the Lincoln Center, and various U.S. embassies; and, in 1980, Paul Von Blum curated and edited the book *Audrey Preissler*, which is a moving collection of Roll's work from the 1970s.

Roll is currently focusing on small, rapidly executed portraits of seniors at Emeritus. (*Cont'd on Page 3*)

## From the Corner Office

*by Gita Runkle, Acting Associate Dean*

This issue of The Emeritus Voice marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emeritus College!

Throughout the past four decades, Emeritus College has survived, thrived, and become a vital part of life for its students. As many of you know, Emeritus serves the community with a wonderful breadth of courses such as Art, Computer Training, Health & Safety, Literature & Writing, Post-Stroke Recovery, and much more. With its dedication to enhancing the academic and social lives of older adults, Emeritus College has proven to be a meaningful and necessary establishment.

This Spring 2015 term is special as it marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emeritus College! We invite you to help us celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by participating in the activities to be held during the month of May 2015. A committee full of amazing volunteers has been working tirelessly to create a fun-packed and meaningful celebration for this momentous occasion. In a few weeks, we will be communicating more details on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. So be on the lookout for flyers around the Emeritus campus at 1227 Second Street, Santa Monica. You can also check online regularly at [www.smc.edu/emmeritus](http://www.smc.edu/emmeritus).

In addition to participating in the celebratory events, we encourage you to help us commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by donating an additional \$40 above and beyond what you typically donate. If you have not donated to Emeritus before, (*cont'd on Page 4*)



*Portrait by Audrey Roll*

## Schmoozing With Shirl: Come Celebrate 40 Awesome Years! *by Shirl Grayson*

Come one, come all and join in the fun! Emeritus College is having a party and you are invited.

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> is the opening day of the Emeritus 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The Art Gallery will be filled with music, refreshments, and a slide show of Emeritus students.

Come and see how many classmates you recognize; have your portrait done by artist, Audrey Roll, the subject of *Who We Are* in this issue; and receive your anniversary memento. Look for the Welcoming Committee – Marie Dubrow, Rita Friedman, Shirl Grayson, Wally Grayson, Charlotte Horstein, and Sue Raff – who will be there to greet you. Most importantly, come with a smile and be ready to celebrate!

Other activities will take place in successive days throughout the month of May, so there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to participate in the celebrations. The full itinerary of celebratory events will be distributed in March 2015. See you there!



## Jessica Swift and a Harmonious Transition *by Helen Wachs*



This year, Jessica Swift, has taken the baton as leader of the Concert Band at Emeritus College.

Jessica is no stranger to the Band. As a matter of fact, she worked with Michael “Mike” Corrigan, our longtime leader, in the music program at the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District. It was Mike who brought Jessica to the Emeritus ensemble where she worked with the band under his leadership. Upon his retirement, Mike recommended Jessica apply for his newly vacated position and, being both honored and delighted, she applied.

A Colorado native, Jessica received her Bachelor of Music Education degree at Colorado University, Boulder. She later attended UCLA, where she received a Masters in Music, specializing in conducting and the French horn. Jessica has taken piano lessons since the age of five and her strengths are in the brass instruments. She is particularly interested in classical and jazz music, but comfortable in many genres.

Within the past year, Jessica accepted a position at San Diego County’s Cathedral Catholic High School, a wonderful school oriented toward academics, athletics and the community. Focusing on growing the music program, one of her objectives for the school is to integrate performing arts (dance, art, and theater) into the program. She is also bringing music to other disciplines at the school.

Jessica drives to Santa Monica weekly in order to work with the band. When asked about her commitment to Emeritus, Jessica replied that the band members’ commitment to music and each other is what encourages and inspires her. The band performs three concerts a year and Jessica believes that each performance can benefit from the old wedding mantra: something old (like a standard), something new (innovative musical ideas), something borrowed, and something blue (perhaps a slower, lyrical piece that offers depth). Jessica invites you to attend one or more of their concerts (see this issue *What’s Happening* on page 4) or, if you are so inclined, visit the band class and join them in making beautiful music.

## ECEC: Upcoming Vacancies

There will be three Emeritus College Executive Council (ECEC) member vacancies in June 2015. If you would like to be considered for membership on this advisory council, applications will be available in April on the Emeritus website at [www.smc.edu/emmeritus](http://www.smc.edu/emmeritus). Interviews of potential candidates will take place at the ECEC meeting in May 2015.

## Folk Singing Generates Joy!

by Betty Herman

Bienvenido! Welcome! This certainly is the vibe that a new singer gets when visiting the Emeritus College Spanish Folk Singing class for the first time. The classroom is filled with happy greetings and conversation as songsters



arrive and find a seat. Under the vocal leadership of teacher Jesus "Chuy" Perez, and accompanied by his guitar, this informal class sings a wide variety of Spanish language folk songs. The class, held Tuesday afternoons at Santa Monica's Virginia Avenue Park, also showcases various regional music styles and the meaning of the lyrics. A notebook containing the Spanish lyrics for each song is handed out to all singers.

This bi-lingual class offers singers who are not fluent in Spanish a chance to improve their language skills in a casual and supportive musical environment. Latin American holidays, such as Cinco de Mayo and Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), are also celebrated. Started around 20 years ago with a small group of singers, the class has grown to an enthusiastic group of over 40 regular singers. In 2012, the class recorded a CD of some of their favorite songs.

Perez says he wants class members to leave any troubles behind and enjoy the friendship of the group as well as the joy of making music together. The class members describe the group as friendly, warm, and welcoming with a family atmosphere and say that they leave the class with smiles on their faces. They bring their music to the community with performances at retirement homes and Virginia Avenue Park events.

### Who We Are: Audrey Roll (Cont'd from Page 1)

An example of Roll's work is the portrait of Associate Dean, Gita Runkle, which appears as a part of *From the Corner Office* in the latest issues of *The Emeritus Voice*. The classes Roll enjoys most at Emeritus include theater (play analysis) and yoga.

## Our New Board of Trustees

by Ada Hollie

Did you know that a seven member Board of Trustees governs the Santa Monica Community College District? Following are the results of the election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014:

- Nancy Greenstein, who was first elected to the Board in 2002, was reelected for the third time. Louise Jaffe and Andrew Walzer who were first elected in 2006 were reelected for the second time.
- Barry Snell, who was appointed in February to a vacant seat until the November election, was elected to that vacant seat.
- Other members of the board include Susan Aminoff, Rob Rader, Margaret Quinones-Perez and student member Daniel Kolko.

Louise Jaffe said that the Board has a long-standing commitment to Emeritus College and that it will continue to support the vital role Emeritus plays in the community and in the lives of older adults.

## 2014 Fund Raising: Drumroll Please

Thank you so much for donating to our fund raising program in 2014. Students donated \$175,897 during the calendar year. This is an increase of \$21,120 over 2013. The percentage of students donating was 40.68%, an increase of 2.94% over 2013.

We would like to see an increase to \$200,000 in 2015 (our 40th anniversary year!) and, ideally, have at least 50% student participation. We need your help, so, please, step up and donate!

As a reminder, Sandra Barsoum from the SMC Foundation is available to meet with you every Thursday from 9am to 2:30pm in room 404.

Thank you again for your support!



## From the Corner Office (Cont'd from Page 1)

... then what better time to start than our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Your donations help provide supplies, equipment, classroom rentals, activities, and more that we would, otherwise, have to do without.

Thankfully, the future of Emeritus looks promising with continued strong support from students, faculty, staff, volunteers, SMC administration, SMC Board of Trustees, and the State of California.

We look forward to celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with you!

## What's Happening: Emeritus Events

### Kot Concert Series

*(Held at Emeritus Campus Rm 107, 3-5 pm)*

- 19-Feb Damon Zick: Clarinet, Sax and Piano
- 5-Mar Susan Norman: Flute, Harp, Viola and Bassoon
- 26-Mar Mary Au, Accompanist: Soloist TBD
- 23-Apr Susan Norman: Flute, Oboe, Piano, Clarinet
- 7-May Mary Au, Accompanist: Soloist TBD
- 21-May Junko and David Garrett: Piano & Cello Duo
- 4-Jun Jim Mooy: Trumpet

### The Emeritus College Acting Troupe

*(Held at SMC Performance Arts Center, 1310 11th Street)*

- 1-Mar 1pm at The Edye Second Space
- 25-Jul 1pm at The Edye Second Space

### Emeritus Art Gallery Exhibits:

- Mar 5-Apr 22 Emeritus Student Photo Group Exhibit  
Opening Reception: March 5, 5-6:30pm
- May 12-Jun 16 Emeritus College's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit  
Opening Reception: May 12, 5-6:30pm

### Emeritus College Concert Band

*(Held at SMC Performance Arts Center, 1310 11th Street)*

- 15-Mar 3pm at The Broad Stage
- 21-Jun 3pm at The Broad Stage

## T e s t y T r i v i a & B r a i n t e a s e r s

1. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
  2. A farmer has five haystacks in one field and four haystacks in another. How many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in one field?
  3. What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it you'll die?
  4. What grows down while it grows up?
  5. Which beverage was named after its resemblance to the dark brown clothing worn by 16th century Italian monks?
  6. You may enter, but you may not come in; I have space, but no room; I have keys, but open no lock. What am I?
- (See answers below)*

*And a few fun facts...*

- 🕒 Your eyes have a pretty large blind spot that your brain is just filling with what it "thinks" you should be seeing.
- 🕒 About the number 40: Forty is the only number with its letters in alphabetical order; -40 degrees Celsius is equal to -40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 🕒 40 years ago: Gerald Ford was President; Nelson Rockefeller was VP; the U.S. population was 215,973,199; John N. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman were found guilty of Watergate cover-up; Jimmy Hoffa, ex-teamsters boss, disappeared, never to be seen again; and Saturday Night Live debuted on NBC.

## SANTA MONICA COLLEGE



1227 SECOND ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90401  
310.434.4306 | www.smc.edu/emmeritus

Emeritus College is committed to life-long learning for older adults. From art and literature to health and safety, personal finance, and digital technologies, Emeritus College students connect, discover, renew, and reinvent. Classes are held at the Emeritus headquarters at 1227 Second Street, Santa Monica, as well as at community sites located throughout the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

*Brainteaser & Trivia Answers: 1) There is no dirt in a hole; 2) One. If he combines all his haystacks, they all become one big stack; 3) Nothing; 4) A Goose; 5) Cappuccino after Capuchin monks; 6) A computer keyboard.*