The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Connecticut is an academic cooperative that provides older adults with opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation, and social interaction.

OLLI CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Announces The

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

In cooperation with

GREATER WATERBURY INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

The event will take place on

FRIDAY, NOV 15, 2013

For our last OLLI session, let us ALL bring non-perishable food items, such as stuffing, canned cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, turkey gravy, canned sweet potatoes, canned pumpkin, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, boxed cereal, etc. These items may be left at the OLLI Information Table from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on November 15th.
TRUE OR FALSE
(don’t look-answers below)

1. The Indy 500 car race is the largest single-day, spectator-attended sporting event.
2. "Give me your tired, your poor / Your huddled masses" reads the plaque at the base of the Statue of Liberty.
3. The African elephant is the largest carnivore on land.
4. Tug-of-war was once an Olympic sport.
5. The tiniest bones in the human body are found in the hand.
6. The deadliest weapon of World War I was the machine gun.
7. In the famous novel of the same name, Frankenstein is a monster constructed from body parts.
8. Dracula was a real-life figure in history.
9. The modern Caesar salad is derived from a recipe dating back to ancient Rome.

TRUE (Medium)
Some 400,000 people routinely attend the event in person. World Cup final matches are usually the largest watched (via television).

2. TRUE (Easier)
The lines come from a poem that Emma Lazarus wrote to raise money for the statue's pedestal.

3. FALSE (Harder)
The elephant isn't a carnivore. The Kodiak bear is the largest carnivore on land.

4. TRUE (Hardest)
It was a team event in every Summer Olympics from 1900-1920.

5. FALSE (Easier)
The tiniest bones, by far, are found in the ear.

6. TRUE (Medium)
The machine gun had a devastating effect against frontal attacks, and changed how wars were fought.

7. FALSE (Medium) A common mistake, "Frankenstein" is the name of the doctor who creates the monster; the monster is unnamed.

8. TRUE (Harder)
Vlad III Dracula, the cruel 15th-century ruler from Transylvania nicknamed "The Impaler," may have inspired Bram Stoker's fictional character of Dracula.

9. FALSE (Harder)
It was reportedly invented in Tijuana, Mexico, in the 1920s by Caesar Cardini, an Italian immigrant restaurateur.

Why the Black Cats?

Halloween, the eve of All Saints’ Day, has pagan origins traced back to the Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated in ancient Ireland and England to mark the beginning of the Celtic new year. The souls of the dead were supposed to visit their homes on Samhain eve, and witches, goblins, and black cats were said to roam abroad. The night was also thought to be the most favorable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health, and death. The pagan observances the Christian festival of All Hallows Eve replaced, were celebrated on the same date. The holiday was gradually secularized and was introduced into the United States by the late nineteenth century. Still associated with evil spirits and the supernatural, it is celebrated by children in costume who gather candy by ringing doorbells and calling out, “trick or treat!”, “trick” referring to the pranks and sometimes vandalism that are also part of the Halloween tradition.

From Merriam-Webster Word Page

OLLI Newsletters Go Internet
OLLI newsletters are available on our web page at www.waterbury.uconn.edu/oshers
Then click on the left-hand index that says “Newsletters”. They are available in PDF format, if you don’t have the free reader, you can get it at www.adobe.com and click on the box that says “READER”.

LOST & FOUND
Small tin pill box left in #119
Anyone find a white umbrella with polka dots?

ANYONE FIND a copy of “Moby Dick”?
If so, please contact the OLLI office, room #103
October 25

The Ear of the Heart: An Actress’ Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows

Dolores Hart began her career as an actress when she was 19, making her screen debut in 1957 as Elvis’ sweetheart in the movie “Loving You” and became an overnight success story. Then at the height of her acting career, she stunned the world with her decision to become a cloistered nun and entered the Abbey of Regina Laudis. Now, 50 years later, Mother Dolores gives a fascinating account of her charmed yet challenging journey toward God, serenity and love in her autobiography, The Ear of the Heart. She will speak about her life, read passages from her book, and sign copies of her book.

Mother Dolores Hart is presently Prioress of the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis. She continues to be a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

November 1

Home from Home: Commemorating Ireland’s Great Hunger in America

Grace Brady is the first Executive Director of Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum

Clubs & Activities Committee – November 15, all day, at OLLI UConn.

We are hosting our first ever FOOD DRIVE to benefit the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries food pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items on November 15 and leave them at the OLLI information table.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 5, 10:30 a.m. in the conference room, UConn library. Contact Nancy Via at: nvia@sbcglobal.net for more information.
Baltimore and Annapolis - May 4 - 6, 2014  
(Sunday - Tuesday)

United States Naval Academy Tour *  
Baltimore City Tour * Fort McHenry *  
Oriole Park Tour @ Camden Yards

Day 1: Travel by deluxe motorcoach to Baltimore! Our 2 nights will be spent at the RADISSON PLAZA LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL - an Art Deco building located in the center of downtown Baltimore, just 3 blocks from the Inner Harbor. Dinner and musical entertainment tonight at TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE - show TBA.

PLEASE NOTE: Breakfasts are NOT included. However, the hotel has an in-house cafe and there are numerous diners, delis and coffee shops nearby. (There are over 100 eateries within one mile of the hotel).

Day 2: Tour the US NAVAL ACADEMY. The walking tour will include Lejeune Hall, Dahlgren Hall, Bancroft Hall, the main chapel (when available) and the crypt of John Paul Jones. Lunchtime, on your own, will be spent at the ANNAPOLIS CITY DOCK exploring the shops, eating at a restaurant, and watching the watercraft. A local guide will join us in the afternoon for a BALTIMORE CITY TOUR highlighting some of the famous spots in the city: Inner Harbor, the grave of Edgar Allen Poe, Ft. McHenry, and Fells Point. Dinner will be at PHILLIPS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT. The Menu Choices are either: Chesapeake Crab Cakes (not the wimpy ones that Conn. restaurants sell as 'Maryland Crab Cakes'), Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast, or Grilled Salmon.

Day 3: This morning we will take a GUIDED BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF ORIOLE PARK at Camden Yards. See what the ballpark looks like from the club level suites, the press level, and the Orioles dugout. You will have time in BALTIMORE'S INNER HARBOR for lunch on your own before heading home. Harborplace the Gallery, located in the Inner Harbor is a mix of 120 shops, restaurants, and 'diverse' eateries. There are many other eateries located throughout the Inner Harbor. Other points of interest located at the Inner Harbor are the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, and the American Visionary Art Museum.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A MODERATE AMOUNT OF WALKING ON THIS TOUR**

COST: $479.00 pp twin/triple $629 pp single  
Non-member surcharge: +$20 pp

Includes: Deluxe motorcoach, 2 nights hotel, 2 dinners, sightseeing and admissions as per itinerary, Tour Director and all gratuities.

DEPARTURE: 8AM from St. Anthony's Church/D.O.T. lot/Rte. 69, Prospect  
(departure time subject to change based on final documents)

DEPOSIT: $150. pp by Feb. 10. 2014

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Please provide us with your suggestions, submissions and comments praises and/or critiques.

What do you want to read in the Newsletter?  
Contact or send your ideas to:  
Bob Grady 860 274-9389 yvoorg@aol.com
The U.S. Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. **Why was that gauge used?**

Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the U.S. Railroads.

**Why did the English build them like that?**

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

**Why did 'they' use that gauge then?**

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jig and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

**Why did the wagons have that particular Odd wheel spacing?**

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

**So, who built those old rutted roads?**

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since. **And the ruts in the roads?**

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore, the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

In other words, bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification, procedure, or process, and wonder, "What horse's "behind" came up with this?", you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses.

**Now, the twist to the story:**

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, you will notice that there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit larger, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's behind. And you thought being a horse's behind wasn't important! Now you know, Horse's Behinds control almost everything. Explains a whole lot of stuff, doesn't it? **Bob Blake**
BULGARIAN JEWS

Very interesting. I thought I knew all the Holocaust Stories by now.

-- A great many Jews know the story of how the Danes rescued 8,000 Jews from the Nazi's by smuggling them to Sweden in fishing boats.

Very few Jews, know the story of how all 50,000 Bulgarian Jews were saved. Not a single Bulgarian Jew was deported to the death camps, due to the heroism of many Bulgarians of every walk of life, up to and including the King and the Patriarch of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

In 1999, Abraham Foxman, the National Director of the Anti Defamation League flew with a delegation to Sophia to meet the Bulgarian Prime Minister. He gave the Prime Minister the first Bulgarian language copy of a remarkable book, "Beyond Hitler's Grasp," written in 1998, by Michael Bar Oar, a professor at Emory University. (A Bulgarian Jew who had migrated to Israel and then to the USA). This book documents the rescue effort in detail. The ADL paid for and shipped 30,000 copies to Bulgaria, so that the population could partake in the joy of learning about this heroic facet of their history.

This story is clearly the last great secret of the Holocaust era. The story was buried by the Bulgarian Communists, until their downfall in 1991. All records were sealed, since they didn't wish to glorify the King, or the Church, or the non Communist parliamentarians, who at great personal risk, stood up to the Germans. And the Bulgarian Jewish Community, 45,000 of whom went to Israel after the War, were busy building new lives, and somehow the story remained untold.

Bulgaria is a small country and at the outset of the War they had 8 million people. They aligned themselves with the Nazis in hopes of recapturing Macedonia from Yugoslavia and Thrace from Greece.

Both provinces were stripped from them after W.W.I. In late 1942 the Jews of Selonica were shipped north through Bulgaria, on the way to the death camps, in sealed box cars. The news of this inhumanity was a hot topic of conversation. Then, at the beginning of 1943, the pro Nazi Bulgarian government was informed that all 50,000 Bulgarian Jews would be deported in March. The Jews had been made to wear yellow stars and were highly visible. As the date for the deportation got closer, the agitation got greater.

Forty-three ruling party members of Parliament walked out in protest. Newspapers denounced what was about to happen. In addition, the Patriarch of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Krill, threatened to lie down on the railroad tracks. Finally, King Boris III forbade the deportation. Since Bulgaria was an ally of Germany, and the Germans were stretched militarily, they had to wrestle with the problem of how much pressure they could afford to apply. They decided to pass.

Several points are noteworthy. The Bulgarian Jews were relatively unreligious and did not stand apart from the local populace by virtue of garb, or rites.

They were relatively poor by comparison to Jews in other countries, and they lived in integrated neighborhoods. Additionally, the Bulgarians had many minorities, Armenians, Turks, Greeks, and Gypsies, in addition to Jews.

There was no concept of racism in that culture. The bottom line here is that Bulgarians saw Bulgarian Jews as Bulgarians, and not as Jews. And, being a small country, like Denmark, where there was a closeness of community that is often missing in larger countries. So, here was a bright spot that we can point to as example of what should have been.

The most famous of those saved was a young graduate of the Bulgarian Military Academy. When he arrived in Israel, he changed his name to Moshe Dayan....

Robert Blake

From the internet
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