



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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Pumpkins, sporting scary faces, sprout up on porches and fences and in the windows. Witches splat into trees and black cats appear everywhere. Ghosts in white sheets dangle from the trees and all manner of creepy crawly things like bats appear to be part of the landscape. Houses fill up with candy and little ones dress as princesses and kings, firefighters and cops, with all kinds of crazy masks or makeup. Halloween is here.

Halloween, or Hallowe'en, also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in a number of countries on October 31st, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints, martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

Evolving from the ancient Celtic holiday of Samhain, modern Halloween has become less about literal ghosts and ghouls and more about costumes and candy. The Celts used the day to mark the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, and also believed that this transition between the seasons was a bridge to the world of the dead. Over the millennia the holiday transitioned from a somber pagan ritual to a day of merriment, costumes, parades and sweet treats for children and adults.

Monsters and skeletons and all kinds of strange flying creatures including bats come out to 'scare' kids and this year, clown costumes are being rejected in many communities because of the recent strange incidents associated with them, probably because of some trick or treaters starting early.

Why are bats so intrinsic to Halloween? It's probably because of their vampire appearance and the myths that surround bats. They represent the only known example of flight in mammals and are mostly nocturnal in their feeding habits and, as such, are scary flying around in the dark. Discover Magazine for October 2016 adds, "something else that's off target: the myth that bats get tangled in long hair. Some scholars trace that notion to an early Christian edict that women must cover their heads because their hair attracted demons. Already associated with devilish things, bats were assumed also to have a thing for hair. One more fiction that makes us batty is the whole vampire thing. Only three of the more than 1200 bat species are sanguivorous (blood suckers.) Any bat you meet is far more likely to eat a mosquito or pollinate fruit than to go for your jugular."

So, OLLI members, watch out for the witches and goblins and monsters and treat them well. Don't worry about the bats. They will be going into hibernation soon, anyway.



OLLI BOOK CLUB

Contact: Nancy Via at nvia@sbcglobal.net

All meetings of the book club will be held in room 102D, UConn, Waterbury at 1:00 PM 3rd Monday

November 21st...The Warmth of Other Suns
by Isabel Wilkerson

Keep away from the small people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

Mark Twain

OLLI Newsletters Go Internet

OLLI newsletters are available on our web page at <http://olli.uconn.edu/weekly-newsletters/>

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."

The Newsletter is always looking for content from our readers. This may be in the form of original work or items you have found interesting and may wish to pass on to others. We always welcome any suggestions you may have to improve the newsletter or criticisms of it. The Newsletter exists to inform and entertain our readers.

Contact **Bob Grady** at yvoorg@aol.com or any presenter or staff member

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

2nd Thurs at John Bale Bookshop –10:00am

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)
for more information

Openings for OLLI Leadership Council

Are you interested in becoming more involved in the internal organization of OLLI? Four positions on the OLLI Leadership Council will be open in 2017.

These positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- 2 Members-at-Large (Members-at-Large are liaisons between the OLLI general membership and the Leadership Council.)

The Nominating Committee is accepting the names of all OLLI members interested in any of these positions. (Self-nominations are also encouraged.)

This is your chance to see how decisions are made in OLLI and to have more input in those decisions.

Please send nominations by e-mail to any Nominating Committee member listed below or place your nomination in the OLLI Suggestion Box on the main information table. When sending by e-mail, please include the word OLLI in the subject line of your e-mail. If using the Suggestion Box, address to the Nominating Committee with the name of your nominee and the position. Please describe in fifty words or less why you believe this nomination should be considered. If nominating someone other than yourself, please add your name and contact information also.

The Deadline to submit nominations is November 4, 2016.

Nominating Committee Members

Ann Rompre (Chairperson) – annrompre@sbcglobal.net

Merle Arcovio – merleka@optonline.net

Gen Delkescamp – gdelkescamp11@comcast.net

Toni Escott – toniescott1@cox.net

**2016 October Food Drive
Sponsored By
OLLI Clubs and Activities
Committee
To Benefit
Greater Waterbury Interfaith
Ministries**

**October 1st thru
October 31st, 2016
Please look for donation boxes at
the Member Table or in the OLLI
office (room 103)
Let us make a great success of this
food drive**



OLLI CAFE

Friday, October 28

Fire Prevention: Stop The Flame Before It Starts

Tony Cofrancesco retired as a Waterbury fire marshal after 26 years. As a training officer, he worked to educate students and adults on methods of fire prevention. Come and listen to his expertise in fire prevention and other related areas. Tony will host a 30 minute Q&A.

EVER WONDER

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that doctors and attorneys call what they do 'practice'?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff??

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Contributed by **Shiela Morisette**



Spring 2017 Trip – Walk the High Line and the Whitney Museum

When you first read about the OLLI Travel Committee's spring trip, June 8, 2017 will be a long way off. But if you start planning for this trip today, it could help you get through the inevitable winter forecasts for snowstorms and record breaking cold, etc.

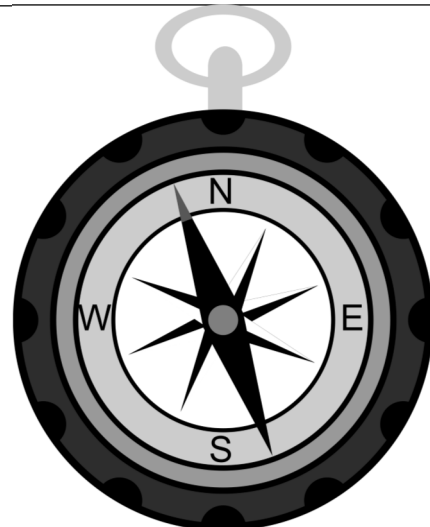
The first part of the trip features a guided walking tour of the High Line Park which was created on a former raised railway. The High Line is two stories above ground and offers a unique view of New York City.

The Chelsea Market, an enclosed urban food court, has many options for lunch and is conveniently located at the south end of the High Line. Remember you can always bring your own lunch. But restaurants like the Doughnuttery, an oyster bar, Thai and Italian restaurants and many others will tempt you. Then it is on to the Whitney Art Museum which boasts that it offers the finest collection of 20th century American art in the world. The Whitney is in its breathtaking new building in New York City's Meat Packing district. Renzo Piano, a world renowned architect, is the designer of the new Whitney Museum which opened in 2015.

Feel free to linger at a favorite painting or two because this is a self-guided tour and you can set your own pace. The Whitney features both modern and contemporary art.

If you speak with fellow OLLI members who have traveled with Friendship Tours, you will quickly learn that once you board the bus at the Chase Parkway Commuter Lot, you can sit back, relax, chat with others on the bus, and drink coffee, read or sleep. There is no worrying about parking in NYC or paying admission fees. Everything, except for lunch, is included in the fee

To sign up for this trip, call Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630 and reserve a seat. The cost for OLLI members is \$78 and non-OLLI members will pay \$88.



HATS OFF TO DANBURY!

By Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

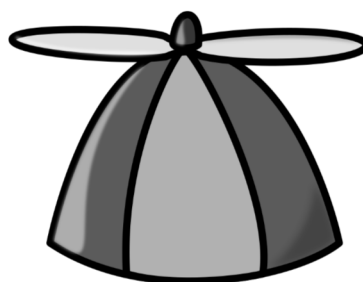
When I was a little girl growing up in New York City my only glimpse of Connecticut life was vicariously through the stories of my grandfather, a traveling salesman. His line was sandpaper and abrasives, and his territory included Danbury and Bethel. You might wonder why people in these small towns needed so much sandpaper. Well, ordinary people didn't, but the dozens of hat factories in the area did. In order to make felt, the most commonly used material for men's hats (and all men wore hats back then!) you needed sandpaper. Thus, my grandfather had steady, if not lucrative work. He loved his trips to Danbury in his beloved Chevrolet, staying at the Hotel Green, and he became a member of the Danbury Men's Club, making many friends there including businessman Cecil Previdi and Mayor John Previdi. I know he missed these visits very much after he retired. Fast forward two decades and I was fortunate to move to New Milford and raise my children there. Of course, we would shop in Danbury, and our doctors were there, but I never took the time during those incredibly busy years to really get to know the city.

I decided to see what 21st century Danbury has to offer in terms of the arts, history and culture, and was amazed at how much there is to see and do. On a recent Saturday a friend and I visited Danbury and had a lot of fun. First, a visit to the *Danbury Railway Museum*. There we enjoyed the railroad memorabilia and took a 20 minute tour of the Danbury Rail Yard which included a ride on a real operating turntable.

After that we were off to the 700 acre *Tarrywile Park*, for a picnic and a walk on the hiking trails. Also at Tarrywile is the beautifully restored mansion of Dr. William Wile, prominent 19th century physician and later to Charles Darling Parks, a mogul in the hatting industry. This facility is open to the public to rent for social events, and hosts many community and civic meetings.

Next stop was the *Danbury Museum and Historical Society*. Open since 1941, this museum has recently completed a major expansion. Its buildings include two old schoolhouses, the Charles Ives Birthplace, the John Dodd Hat Shop (c. 1790) and Marian Anderson's studio with a collection of her concert clothing ensembles. We arrived at the main building in time for a one-woman show entitled "A Sudden Chill: Ghost Ballads," a recital of songs, poems and ancient ballads of the supernatural designed to put the audience in a Halloween mood. The Hat Shop was especially interesting to me as I thought of my "Pop" probably visiting many of the same places we saw in the video about the hatting industry. I learned a lot about the history of Danbury and about how dangerous, painstaking and time consuming the hatmaking process was.

We finished our Danbury day with a trip to *JK's*, a local establishment operated by several generations of the same family since 1924. The specialty is Texas Weiners, but other casual fare is available. It is a family friendly neighborhood spot with a welcoming staff and good food. As I sat there I wondered if my grandfather had ever eaten his lunch at the original JK's! So, for a day, I was once again that little girl from Queens, reliving a bit of the history and culture of the "*Hat City*" on an overcast, but beautiful, day in historic Danbury.



MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

An inveterate student of history and lover of travel, **Diane Stone** has experienced the beauty of the Palace of Versailles and witnessed the wonders of Antarctica.

But she doesn't cite any particular experience as the best. Many excursions are magical and another adventure always looms on the horizon.

Her interest in exploring the world with the stories behind different locales and people began when she was a small child growing up in a working class family living in the Bronx.

Her parents took her to museums, art galleries and ballet performances. She attended the New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts then conducted by famed Leonard Bernstein.

During that time, "All of the museums were free. You could enjoy the richness the city had to offer without being rich yourself. It was wonderful."

She laments that isn't true today but happily acknowledges that it's possible to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Fifth Avenue without paying the posted "suggested prices." Patrons may get a ticket by contributing what they can afford.

She firmly believes in the importance of young people going to centers of culture and finds it very acceptable for them to give an admission fee of a dollar if that's what they can afford.

Diane was fascinated by history from childhood. She attended what then was known as the High School for Music and Art in New York where teachers emphasized the social and cultural aspects of different topics when teaching. Diane laments that history often has been a "maligned subject" but believes there is a new understanding that it should be taught as the story of people.

She majored in history at Queens College in New York. She received her master's degree in European History and began a doctoral program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

As a student, Louis XIV and the building of Versailles drew her attention. To learn more about the

king and his master plan, she contacted the curators at Versailles resulting in two and a half months in France doing research. This included archival research at the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, where "you (can) get cartons of documents signed by the king."

Her professional career in trade show production began with a series of odd jobs, mostly in sales, which offered opportunities for women based on their ability to sell. When she got a job with a trade show company selling exhibit space, she found she liked the business and wanted to learn more.

Eventually, she began producing trade shows on an international basis, opening the door to extensive travel. "I found it to be a very creative field" and she dealt with "an incredibly diverse market." She did shows for the furniture business as well as for shoe retailers among many others.

Having retired, Diane enjoys going on challenging National Geographic trips, including ones to African sub-Saharan, Vietnam and Antarctica. Her most recent trip took her sailing on the Dalmatian Coast.

These are expeditions that offer amazing experiences with some light moments. She recalled being astonished at the vastness of Antarctica with its towering icebergs and being delighted but puzzled by the antics of fun-loving penguins she and her shipmates saw sliding down icebergs.

Since the penguins can't fly, how did they get up the side of an iceberg for the gleeful slide down? Eventually, the travelers saw the penguins swimming very fast, one might say flying, in the icy ocean until they had enough momentum to fling themselves up high enough to get a good trip down the iceberg.

At OLLI this semester, Diane is presenting *European History for Travelers: "Western Europe's Greatest Hits"* and *"Bucket List" Travel: Is Exploring the Ends of the Earth for You?*

-Mary Ann Martin