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.

And so ends the Spring Session of OLLL 2014. However, the Summer Session starts on June 3. On this page are two suggestions from the Travel Club to continue the OLLI experience. The Book Club and the Clubs & Activities Committee, as well as the Poetry Club, are ongoing events. The Newsletter Committee continues to ask for suggestions and wishes all a great summer. We will see you in the fall–RJG

**COOPERSTOWN, NORTHERN CATSKILLS**

**OCTOBER 8 and 9, 2014**

Is procrastination your middle name? Do you want to be placed on a "wait list", or have a reserved seat available to you for this excursion to Cooperstown? All that is needed to save your space is to call Friendship Tours (860 243 1630) now!

Your travel committee has worked diligently to ensure a fun-filled, extended two-day excursion. You have seen the flyers on the Cooperstown destination and read about the benefits that are offered. Make your decision now and save the date. Anticipate this trip and look forward to joining your fellow OLLI travelers. The following would be part of your experience:

- A railroad dining experience on the Rip Van Winkle Flyer
- A visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum
- Or, a visit to the Fenimore Art Museum, as an alternative for non-baseball fans
- Lodging is at the Cooperstown Inn, which includes breakfast
- A cruise through the locks on the historic Erie Canal
- Lunch on the waterfront at Rocky’s Grill, overlooking the Erie Canal

All it takes to be part of this experience is to make your reservation with Friendship Tours. The trip cost for members is $307, with a nominal surcharge of $20 for nonmembers. Courteous and friendly staff at Friendship (860 243 1630) will assist with any questions.
**Ancestor's Identity and Inquisition**

You travel to Segovia to find
Diego Arias Davila, converso
child of Carvaja.
Carvaja: a lost place, rejected
missing.

You search and search, find
the guide who will show you
ancestors' transcribed testimonies
of their forced and double lives,
lives targeted, punished for heresy.

And if they never confessed
they were burned at the stake.
And if they did confess they were
strangled, then burned at the stake.

Pope Innocent. He who started
this *edict of grace*.
Will he ever be his name?

But you, who walk the remains, will find
the names of who you were, who you are.
Your wonderment in finding Clara,
your ancestor, who becomes alive again
in Claire, her descendant, your daughter.

Claire: *clear and bright*, and you are
at home, anoranza, home. Found at last.

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**Antepasados la identidad y la Inquisicion**

Viaje a Segovia para encontrar
Diego Arias Davila, converso Hijo de Carvaja.
Carvaja: un lugar perdido, rechazado
Falta.

Buscar y buscar, encontrar
El guia que le mostrara
Antepasados’ transcrito testimonios
De su forzada y doble vida,
Vida dirigida, que se castiga a la herejia.

Y si nunca confesado
Ellos fueron quemados en la hoguera.
Y si lo hicieron confesar que estaban
Estrangulado, quemadas en la hoguera.

Papa Inocente. El que comenzó
Este *edicto de gracia*.
Va a ser su nombre?

Pero, los que andan los restos, se pueden encontrar
Los nombres de quien es usted, quien es usted.
El asombro de encontrar Clara,
Su antepasado, que cobra vida de nuevo
En Claire, su descendiente, su hija.

Claire: *claro y brillante*, y que se
n casa, anoranza, home. En el pasado.

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*Sandra Bishop Ebner*

This entry is a great example of the many exciting intellectual pursuits presented by OLLI. It is also the type of content we constantly seek from our readers. Thanks to all who have participated in and read the Newsletter.
May 16
A Medicine from Spirit!
This self-authored book is an introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine and for those interested in participating in the maintenance of their health. The title represents a form of eastern medicine and its foundation in Spirit. Hear about the principles of TCM, the importance of Spirit and how the individual can use the information to maintain their mental, emotional and physical health. It will also address our current age of life and what is required for those who wish to discover Spirit within them.

OLLI Presenter, William Courtland has taught Traditional Chinese Medicine since the program began. He is a faculty member at the CT Center for Massage Therapy in Westport where he conducts courses on Traditional Chinese Medicine. He has lectured on the topic throughout CT and continues researching eastern forms of medicine.

July 10, 1:00 PM The Clubs & Activities Committee will host a screening of THE MALTESE FALCON
It has already started at Dick’s Sporting Goods.

When I was ready to pay for my purchases of a gun and bullets, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about the gun control whackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed. When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card-reader.

I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to us seniors a little clearer!

CONSIDER THIS:

Your kids are becoming you… but your grandchildren are perfect!

Going out is good.. Coming home is better!

You forget names… But it’s OK because some people forgot they even knew you!!!

You realize you’re never going to be good at anything like golf.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV on than in bed. It’s called ‘pre-sleep.’

You miss the days when everything worked with just an ON and OFF switch.

You tend to use more four letter words like “what” “when.” ???

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Everybody whispers.

You have three sizes of clothes in your closet-two of which you will never wear.

But OLD is good in some things: Old Songs, Old Movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS.
MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Vincent Casanova was being groomed to take over his family’s oil business rather than go to college when his dad suffered a heart attack, which changed everything. The business was sold and Vinnie decided to pursue a college education.

The New Haven native enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in history and also accumulated enough credits in philosophy “to have, in effect, a double major.”

Always having had an interest in religion “but not from a faith-based view,” Vinnie next enrolled at Yale Divinity School where he earned a master of arts in religious studies. He returned to Southern for his master’s in counseling and also earned graduate credits from Teachers College at Columbia University. He worked early in his career in special education, first for the City of New Haven, and later for the state of Connecticut.

When teaching special education students at Platt Technical High School in Milford, he found, many could do math and science well but had trouble with reading. He enjoyed working during that time with Dr. Sally Shaywitz, now co-director of Yale’s Center for Dyslexia and Creativity.

Eventually, Vinnie worked 27 years for vocational education high schools in Connecticut. During part of his career, he was coordinator of counseling for two schools, Platt Technical School (Milford) and Eli Whitney Technical School (New Haven). He loved guidance work, partly because of the wide range of students who come to the counselors. When kids had major problems, he took a team approach if needed, involving the school psychologist, nurse and social worker. “In guidance, you deal both with academic issues and intensely personal issues.” Students “see you as a helping agent.”

Vinnie loved growing up in a close-knit Italian family and community. He, believes today’s students often lack a sense of belonging, due in part to broken homes, the mobility of society and the stresses of society. “All human beings need nurturing: a loving family and friends . . .” He cherishes having grown up in the family he did and still having friends he first knew in childhood.

He feels our current cultural climate has both good and bad aspects. On the good side, he sees young, liberal people as being more accepting of others who are different from them. Regarding religion, he observes that Americans are moving towards a more secular society as Europe already has. But he adds, while young people don’t necessarily want to belong to an organized religion, many are espousing “non-church, spiritual views.” However, he commented that a positive aspect of organized religion is the “sense of community” it provides to practitioners.

Vinnie doesn’t believe people need to be church-goers to have strong ethics. “Ethical codes are universal; even pagan societies have ethical systems.” He observes, “Diversity is our (American) strength,” but some degree of consensus is needed to move forward.

Over the years, Vinnie has coached youth teams in various communities and served as supervisor for seven years at the recreation center in Old Saybrook. He’s also had a lot of fun coaching Kiddie Soccer for boys and girls in grades one to four. “I always liked soccer” and regrets he didn’t play it in high school because his father wanted him home helping out with the oil business instead of playing sports. I was fast,” he recalled, and the gym teacher “told me I was a very good athlete.”

He enjoys the OLLI classes he presents on “Contemporary Cultural and American Religious Tradition” because the people engage in class and are very open to ideas. –Mary Ann Martin
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May 2014