Two years ago Andre McAfee, a research scientist at MIT and co-author with Eric Brynjolfsson, wrote in a book called, Race Against the Machine, “about the possibility of robots and algorithms (a set of rules for solving a problem in a finite number of steps) getting so good at solving our problems that they may soon not need humans to do the job at all.” They have a new book out entitled, The Second Machine Age, in which they are surprised to find that the pace of technological improvement has increased exponentially. More so than they thought possible three years ago. They make reference to a law called Moore's law. Gordon Moore is best known for a prediction he made in a 1965 article. Essentially this meant that computing power would double each year. As it turned out however, Moore's biggest mistake was in being too conservative. "His 'law' has held up astonishingly well for over four decades and has been true for digital progress in areas other than integrated circuits. In 1975 Moore revised his estimate from one year to two, and today it's common to use 18 months as the doubling for general computing power." This is because of something called exponential growth.

Our brains are not well equipped to understand sustained exponential growth. In particular, we severely underestimate how big the numbers can get. To make this clearer they use a story out of India about the inventor of chess who presented his brainchild to the Emperor. The Emperor was so impressed that he offered the inventor a reward. The inventor praised him for his generosity and said, "All I desire is some rice to feed my family." And suggested that they use the chessboard to determine the amount of rice he would be given. "Place one single grain of rice on the first square of the board, two on the second, four on the third, and so on," the inventor proposed, "so that each square receives twice as many grains as the previous." The Emperor replied, impressed by the inventor's apparent modesty, "Make it so."

"Moore's law allows us to see what the Emperor did not: 63 instances of doubling yields a fantastically big number, even when starting with a single unit. If his request were fully honored, the inventor would wind up with 18 quintillion grains of rice-more rice than has been produced in the history of the world. After 32 squares, the Emperor had given the inventor about 4 billion grains of rice." It was as they headed into the second half of the chessboard that the trouble began. In the first half of the chessboard, we still come across numbers in the real world-Congressional budgets, for instance. In the second half of the chessboard as the numbers mountain to trillions, quadrillions, etc. we cannot even conceive of them.

The ballooning computer revolution is happening at speeds no other technical innovations have reached. It took decades before the steam engine became efficient enough to change society. The tractor gradually replaced the horse. But the digital information age is barely fifty years old and look what has happened in just the past few years. What will it be like twenty years from now? Computers will take over the jobs that can be robotized but they have one drawback-they at this point in time anyway, are not innovative. Working in teams with the machine, man can overcome many of the problems of the past but technology can cause problems-the NSA, perhaps? It is time for social and educational change and the authors offer some suggestions. However, these will require some fortitude in our political leaders.

The authors' words put us at the at the edge of a new machine age. Technology can help us tremendously but it also can be used for evil. "In the second machine age we need to think much more deeply about what it is we would really want and what we value, both as individuals and as a society. Our generation has inherited more opportunities to transform the world than any other. That's a cause for optimism, but only if we are mindful of our choices. Technology is not destiny. We shape our destiny."

RJG
The Second Machine Age, Brynjolfsson, McAfee 2014
COME ONE, COME ALL!!

The next event of the OLLI Clubs & Activities Committee is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us for a Spring afternoon of nostalgia at the Barker Museum at 1188 Highland Ave. in Cheshire 06410, for a small fee of $5.00. The museum houses one of the country’s largest collections of character toys & artifacts, spanning fifteen decades of American history. Come and reminisce about the good ole’ days.

The RSVP date of May 14 and other details will be outlined in the flyers at the information table and the OLLI Café tables.

Read, read, read. Read everything—
Trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it.
Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write.
If it is good, you’ll find out.
If not, throw it out the window.”

WILLIAM FAULKNER
Contributed by Delma Way

FALL FOLIAGE IN COOPERSTOWN AND THE ERIE CANAL
October 8 and 9, 2014

Don’t forget to make your reservation for the fabulous trip to Cooperstown and the Erie Canal. It is a perfect time to visit in the Fall to see the beautiful foliage.

Day One
- Ride the Rip Van Winkle Flyer refurbished steamliner train and have lunch in the elegant dining car.
- A visit to Cooperstown’s National Baseball Hall of Fame, or if you prefer, you will have the option of visiting the Fenimore Museum of Art to see the vast collection of American Folk art and American Indian art, for an additional $10.50, payable at the museum.

Hotel accommodations and dinner at the Cooperstown Inn.

Day Two
After breakfast at the hotel come and experience the nostalgia of the Erie Canal. Construction began in 1817 and opened in 1825. You will then cruise the historic Erie Canal and discover America’s most famous and significant man-made waterway that connects the Hudson River to Lake Erie. While on the boat you will ride in a liquid elevator known as a “lift lock”, raising and lowering boats 20 feet. Lunch will follow at Rocky’s Quick Grill.

On Friday mornings at OLLI you will notice the women sitting at the Information Table – our version of “The View”. One of them mentioned the song “Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal” written back in 1905 by Thomas S. Allen after the Erie Canal barge traffic was converted from mule power to engine power, which raised the speed of traffic, and made boomtowns out of the towns along the river and changed New York into the Empire State. Do you remember the song?

Erie Canal Song

I’ve got a mule, and her name is Sal,
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal,
She’s a good old worker and a good old pal,
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal,
We’ve hauled some barges in our day,
Filled with lumber, coal and hay,
And every inch of the way we know
From Albany to Buffalo

- Call Friendship Tours for your reservations at (860) 243-1630.
- Cost $307.00 (members) and $20.00 surcharge (non members).
OLLI CAFE

May 2, 2014
From Frustration to Freedom:
Overcoming Obstacles & Adversity
This interactive presentation will offer a sense of hope and inspiration, teaching participants how to create a vision of success. Based on personal experience, the presenter will cover the steps to get past the ‘problem’ and focus on solutions – showing how to remove blocks in our lives, develop a vision of success with clarity, and fulfill our true purpose.

Charlie Collins has been legally blind since the age of 13 from juvenile macular degeneration. Throughout his early life, he struggled to accept his vision loss and now uses his personal experiences and proven steps to help others. Charlie is the founder and CEO of Vision Dynamics and a motivational speaker and certified professional success coach. His book, Tripping Into the Light, will be released this winter.

May 9, 2014
Creating Your Bucket List by Identifying Your Passion

Sue Matsuki is the Cabaret OLLI presenter and a professional singer in NYC

Worry is like a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won’t get you anywhere.

The United Church Observer

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

OLLI BOOK CLUB
Contact: Nancy Via at nvia@sbcglobal.net
May 19
The Light Between Oceans
by M. L. Stedman
All meetings of the book club will be held in room 102D, UConn, Wtby at 1:00 PM 3rd Monday

The Pursuit of Heart and Mind:
a Waterbury Story

Waterbury historian, Philip Benevento, will present a talk on the bumpy history of Waterbury’s struggle in establishing its notable charities and public school system. From its 18th century Puritan roots to the early 20th century, Waterbury’s denizens, like those in most New England towns and cities, made the leap from the Calvinistic emphasis on Good Works to a growing social consciousness that emerged in the 19th century. The talk will be enhanced by a white board presentation of rare views of the Brass City. Mattatuck Museum Thur, May 8 5:30 pm

Talk free with admission to the museum:
BRASS members are free

Come to Ayer Mansion
Wed. May 21, 2014
$71 pp Member
Boston, MA
Call Friendship Tours 860-243-1630
On his first day, the new CEO takes a tour of the main factory where the company's products are made - commenting periodically to his assistants on possible changes. The most common thing he notices is that most of the employees could be working harder than they are. Finally, he spots one guy who's literally just leaning against the wall, twiddling his thumbs. The CEO is ticked off and decides to send a message. He walks up to the guy, who doesn't seem bothered in the slightest. "Hey, you," the CEO says. "What are you doing?" "Just, sitting around waiting to get paid," the man said. Now the CEO is really furious. "Okay, well tell you what. How much do you make in a week?" The man shrugs, "I don't know, $200." The CEO pulls out his personal checkbook, writes a check for $400, and hands it to the man. "Two weeks notice. Now get out." The man pauses, thinks for a moment, and then leaves. Feeling satisfied, the CEO turns around to everyone, hoping the message has been received. "Well? Can anyone tell me what just happened?" "Well," said one of his employees, "You just tipped the pizza guy a whole lot of money."

GREAT ONE LINERS
Never go to bed angry. Stay up and fight!
Marriage means commitment. Of course, so does insanity.

I married Miss Right. I just didn’t know her first name was Always.
Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria. Socks can eat any place they want.
I’m on a 30 day diet. So far, I’ve lost 15 days.
She ran after the garbage truck yelling, “Am I too late for the garbage?” The driver said, “No, jump in.”
I haven’t spoken to my wife in 12 months. I don’t like to interrupt her.
My church welcomes all denominations...tens, twenties fifties...
A visitor to Dallas asks how to get to the hospital. “Say something bad about Texas!”
In my hometown, the Art Museum is a painted turtle.
If only the good die young what does that say about our senior citizens?
If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you haven’t done before.
The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the minute you’re born and doesn’t stop until you stand up to speak in public.
At every party there are two kinds of people: those who want to go home and those who don’t. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other.

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. Our programs are centered around classes developed and taught by members who volunteer their time and talents to share their knowledge, life passions, and interest with other members. The OLLI program also sponsors special events featuring noted authors, scholars, and experts in respected professional fields.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
The University of Connecticut
99 East Main Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS
Bob Grady  860 274-9389
Email yvoorg@aol.com
or
nblomstrom@aol.com,

We’re on the web!  www.waterbury.uconn.edu/oshер

OLLI Leadership Council

Council Members
OLLI officers are part of the Leadership Council, which is the principal representative body of the OLLI membership.

Council Officers
President - Richard Fogg
1st Vice President - Mary Lou Reignier
2nd Vice President - Delma Way
Secretary - Toni Escott
Assistant Secretary - Joyce Conlan
Early in life Carolyn Finch became a keen observer of people and the passing scene. She tackled obstacles – her dyslexia and double vision – with a fierce determination, hyper-energy and full support of her parents. Carolyn, who offers an OLLI class titled “Oops! Your Body Language is Showing,” grew up on Long Island, a self-described “tomboy” who liked to build tree huts and play outdoors.

She attended Mineola High School where her ability to memorize scripts served her well in theater. To help with her academic efforts, Carolyn worked with a tutor in reading, math and science “from third grade on. If not for the tutors, I would never have gone anywhere.”

Carolyn found reading plays easier than reading books because “everything in a play is in reference” to other parts of the work. This helps in figuring out and understanding the language and meaning of the play. One technique Carolyn found helpful in improving reading skills was to draw boxes “in the shapes of different words” and write out words “that fit” into the box.

Her visual problems were addressed in a special eye training program in Stamford, Connecticut, she said, adding she was “able to throw away my glasses 40 years ago.” In high school, Carolyn began working with a reading system developed by educator Evelyn Wood, who was known for developing a technique for increasing speed of reading and retention of content.

Always ambitious, Carolyn liked working to earn money. She laughs today when recalling some of her early jobs. Babysitting, which didn’t pay well, didn’t last long when she was growing up. She moved on to setting pins at a bowling alley and for three summers washed cars. Eventually, Carolyn worked as a store model in Mineola, where she walked around the display area in fashions the store was promoting.

A cousin, who worked in the speech department of Smith College, encouraged Carolyn to pursue higher education. So off Carolyn went to Geneseo to enroll. But she attended many colleges before she earned a bachelor’s degree in speech pathology from Elmira.

She then served as a faculty assistant and worked in support of speech classes for a year before leaving to earn her master’s degree. She earned a master’s from Western Connecticut State University in speech and communications. That university hired her to work in the Speech and Theater Department where she taught non-verbal communications, voice and diction and public speaking.

Over time, she also learned about kinesiology, the study of movement of the muscles of the body. “All movements of the body have meaning.” Research shows that “seven percent of communication is verbal; 38% is vocal, including the tone of voice and sounds we make, such as coughing and sneezing.” Fifty-five percent of communication is “visual, what we see, the colors people wear” that reflect personality.

Gradually, her high energy, people skills and record of success with students led Carolyn to become a motivational speaker who shows clients, particularly those in business, the relationship of body language to achieving success. Being aware of the information your body language is sharing with others helps people improve their relationships, both personal and professional. Carolyn’s presentations aim to empower people to gain confidence and improve their lives. She urges clients to be mindful of how their listeners are responding to them. Gestures made by the “audience” may indicate people or the individual you are addressing aren’t listening and you should adapt your approach.

She likes the feeling of empowering people to look and feel their best – to be positive and happy. Her company’s name, Electrific Solutions, Inc. reflects Carolyn’s philosophy. She believes you are “electrific” when your body feels electric and makes you feel terrific. –Mary Ann Martin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>OLLI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 18  | **19** OLLI Book Club  
     | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

*Last Day Spring*