Which is correct, "Whom did you see" or "Who did you see"? If you are a linguist, it doesn't matter because they both mean the same. Linguists study languages. As John McWhorter says in an introduction to a course entitled, Understanding Linguistics, "Linguistics is the study of human language...A great many things about language that seem apparent in fact are quite otherwise upon examination, and this is what makes linguistics a fascinating field." Most people are unaware that language is an ever changing entity because it takes place over a long period of time. Take English, for example. It began as a form of Indo-European thousands of years ago probably in what is now the Middle East or the steppes of Russia. Linguists are able to trace the morphing of different dialects to what has become what we call the modern languages of French, German, Spanish, etc. Modern English derives from the Germanic tribes who conquered the peoples who lived in the British Islands in 436 CE. Old English would be unintelligible to us today because of the way it has evolved over the centuries but thanks to modern scientific methods we can see how it has changed over the last 1500 years. The dialect that we call Standard English became that because it was the dialect spoken and eventually written by the people who held the power in southeastern Angle Londe (which over the years became England). In his book, Word On the Street, Debunking the Myth of a Pure Standard English, McWhorter says,"Any language is always and forever on its way to changing into a new one, with many of the sounds, word meanings, and sentence patterns we process as "sloppy" and "incorrect" being the very things that will constitute the "proper" language of the future. Because the language changes in different random directions among different groups, and language is actually a bundle of dialects, none of which can logically be seen as "degraded" language because they all arise from the same process of gradual, unstoppable change. Because there are so many languages in the world and so many bilingual people, language mixture is a natural and inevitable part of how our languages have changed, now change, and will change, and not just today with words but deep in the past at its very origins. No languages ever changed in a way that contravened basic logic, and what looks "illogical" in one language or dialect inevitably turns up as par for the course in the most elevated speech in some other language." This means that there must be rules but we must recognize that speech is oral and writing is different in that it tends to try to keep things the same. John Wallis' tome Grammatica, written in1688 remains a classic in English grammar, although it was written in Latin. We, obviously, have changed much since then.

So, as a former English teacher, I have learned to grit my teeth and take deep breaths when I see reporters and newspapers printing "gonna" for "going to." I guess that's just the way it's at.
THANK YOU!
The Clubs & Activities Committee wishes to thank the many guests who joined us to enjoy a marvelous luncheon at The Sultan’s Restaurant Monday, April 28. There was a total of 69 registered diners.

In addition to the delicious food, diners were able to view information regarding the special menu and a list of some of the favorite Turkish spices, as well as some photographs, a travel book, and some beautiful shawls.

By coincidence, the Sunday, April 27 issue of the New York Times featured an article regarding The Sultan’s Restaurant.

Our second movie and popcorn event will take place Thursday, July 10, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 113. Please mark your calendars and be on the look-out for further information to follow.

NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

The effects of human induced climate change are being felt in every corner of the United States, scientists reported Tuesday, with water growing scarcer in dry regions, torrential rains increasing in wet regions, heat waves becoming more common and more severe, wild fires growing worse and forests dying under assault from heat-loving insects.

Such sweeping changes have been caused by an average warming of less than 2°F over most land areas of the country in the past century, the scientists found. If greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane continue to escalate at a rapid pace, they said, the warming could conceivably exceed 10°F by the end of this century.

“Climate change, once considered an issue for the distant future, has moved firmly into the present,” the scientists declared in a major new report assessing the situation in the United States.

Summers are longer and hotter, and extended periods of unusual heat last longer than any living American has ever experienced,” the report continued. “Winters are generally shorter and warmer. Rain comes in heavier downpours, people are seeing changes in the length and severity of seasonal allergies, the plant varieties that survive in their gardens, and the kinds of birds they see in any particular months in their neighborhoods.

The report, the National Climate Assessment, was prepared by a large scientific panel overseen by the government and received final approval at a meeting Tuesday morning in Washington.

Should we begin to take note? (rjg)
From Huffington Post 5/6/14

NO MORE EXCUSES

When people quit smoking, they tend to gain a little weight. Researchers set out to test whether improvements in heart health from quitting are offset by the effects of weight gain. They monitored the weight, smoking status, and health of 3200 people who didn’t have heart disease at the study’s start. After 25 years, the results were good news for quitters. The people who gained weight after quitting smoking still had a much lower risk of heart attacks and strokes than those who kept smoking. So, stopping smoking is a boon for heart health, even if some excess pounds add up.

The only limits to the possibilities in your life tomorrow are the buts you use today.

The Journal of the American Medical Association 3/13/13
OLLI Newsletters on the Internet

OLLI newsletters are available on our web page at www.waterbury.uconn.edu/osher

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”.

Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.

Albert Einstein

OLLI CAFE

May 9, 2014

Creating Your Bucket List by Identifying Your Passion

Join in to take a fun, quick test that will help identify the 10 important things you want to do and/or the 10 things you want to be or have in your life. The lists will then be pared down to the top 3 in each, combining both lists to identify the top six things you are passionate about and help you direct your energy to fulfill those bucket list items.

Sue Matsuki is the Cabaret OLLI presenter and a professional singer in NYC. She is an advocate and supporter of the actual “passion test” and “the artist’s way” which helped her create this exercise for classes she teaches.

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

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

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

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

For more information

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

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STUDENT WHO OBTAINED 0% ON AN EXAM

I would have given him 100% for his wit!!!

Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die? * his last battle

Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? * at the bottom of the page

Q3. River Ravi flows in which state? * liquid

Q4. What is the main reason for divorce? * marriage

Q5. What is the main reason for failure? * exams

Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast? * Lunch & dinner

Q7. What looks like half an apple? * The other half

Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become? * It will simply become wet

Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping? * No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand? * You will never find an elephant that has only one hand.

Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have? * Very large hands

Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? * No time at all, the wall is already built.

Q13. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? * Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.

We’re on the web! www.waterbury.uconn.edu/osopher
MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Children’s literature offers insights into life for all age groups, Christine Guiditta believes.

A retired Region 15 teacher who was honored as Teacher of the Year, Christine says one of her favorite characters is the spider Charlotte, a major figure in E. B. White’s classic *Charlotte’s Web*. Observing the world from Charlotte’s viewpoint, the reader will learn about wisdom, kindness and understanding of the life cycle - lessons for children and adults alike.

Christine is “moved to tears, every time I read it.” The book tells how Charlotte puts messages in her web designed to keep Wilbur, a pig, from being slaughtered. The story “has withheld the test of time.”

In addition to using the book to teach elementary pupils, Christine required graduate students in her classes at the University of Bridgeport to read *Charlotte’s Web*. In 15 years as adjunct faculty at Bridgeport, “I never heard anyone say they didn’t like *Charlotte’s Web*; everyone saw something special in it.”

Christine grew up in Waterbury’s Town Plot neighborhood and often went to the Silas Bronson Library branch in the Brooklyn section of the city. “I always loved reading” finding it both informative and entertaining. “It was special to take a book out.”

The bulk of Christine’s teaching career was at Region 15’s Gainfield Elementary School in Southbury where she taught young children for 35 years using children’s literature as her curriculum.

For Christine, the best moments in the elementary classroom come when “you see a spark in the child’s eye; that teaching moment when they get it.” That moment, she says, “happens to all children” regardless of inherent ability. “A bond develops in the classroom. You develop a family in the classroom.”

She was thrilled to see the book *Spaghetti Eddie* written by her former fourth grade pupil Ryan SanAngelo published and find a big audience. The book, Ryan’s first, tells of a boy who eats spaghetti everyday – except for Sunday when he chooses ravioli - and the unusual uses Eddie finds for the pasta. *Spaghetti Eddie* was illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic.

More recently, Ryan has written *Bye, Bye Balloon*, illustrated by Sean Boyce, which tells about famous places and events throughout the world that the balloon floats over, a travel story children can share with adults.

One thing Christine resents is actors and actresses using their celebrity to write children’s books with some notable exceptions of talented writers sharing their gifts. She delights in tales written by Actor John Lithgow. Among them is *Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo*. The story tells how the animals break out of the zoo to play the instruments in the nearby orchestra. An accompanying CD can be purchased, making the tale ever more hilarious.

When choosing books for her personal enjoyment, Christine tends to select historical novels where the reader learns new things. She liked *The Shoemaker’s Wife* that follows the experiences of a family of Italian immigrants over several generations. The story follows family members from the Italian Alps to various settings in the United States where they flourished despite hardships. Author Adriana Trigiani drew upon experiences of her grandparents’ romance to develop the story. Another author favored by Christine is novelist Anne Tyler, who has written many books, including *The Accidental Tourist*.

A graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Christine completed the two-year program offered at the University of Connecticut’s Hillside Avenue campus before going to Western Connecticut State University to finish her bachelor’s degree. She earned her master’s in remedial reading and language arts from Central Connecticut State University.

Christine is active with the Friends of the Watertown Library and the Retired Teachers Association of Litchfield County. She plans to again present “For the Love of Children’s Literature” at OLLI in the fall of 2014.

–Mary Ann Martin
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May 2014

Last Day
Spring