Another great semester of OLLI is coming to a close. I hope we all remembered our veterans for their service and sacrifice this past Tuesday and throughout the years to come. The first snow (very light) came last week in the Litchfield Hills and, unfortunately, is a harbinger of what is to come. The Fall colors seemed to have lasted longer this year. Thanksgiving approaches and the season for friendship and joy will soon be here. In that spirit, I would like to take the time to thank all who enjoyed their time at OLLI this semester and who participated in any way—by being here and/or by volunteering—in making OLLI at Waterbury one of the best experiences for seniors in the area.

Volunteers are the backbone of the OLLI experience. They make up the small army that causes things to run as smoothly as they do. I urge anyone who can to sign up for the various committees because you might be surprised how volunteering can contribute to feeling even better about your OLLI experience.

I would especially like to thank my committee for catching all my minor mistakes before going to print. Again, special thanks to all who contributed material for the Newsletter and for all the comments you made concerning our endeavors. Another request for contributions to *Voices and Visions* is timely, especially for those who completed work in the Fall semester.

Remember to sign up for the extended winter courses and have a great holiday season!

RJG
SOME OLLI FACTS
from the Fall 2014 semester

OLLI Coordinator  Aleta Staton  said that we have about 691 paid members of OLLI at this time. We also have about 50 presenters. She said about 50% used online registration and the new website is wonderful, even though the beginning of online registration did not go as smoothly as was hoped. OLLI Director, Brian Chapman, said they received over 250 phone messages from members about problems but they were all solved.

Some members questioned the earlier start time for the Spring 2015 session. According to Director Chapman, this is to help coordinate with UCONN concerning overlapping of the university schedules. Exams conflict with some courses and rooms. Also, this will better utilize university staff during the overlap period.

OLLI Movie Is January 8th

If you are looking for something to break up the dreariness of January, come join us for a free showing of My Fair Lady. The movie is sponsored by the OLLI Clubs and Activities members.

The musical features Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn and many long enduring songs including, I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face, I Could Have Danced All Night and With A Little Bit of Luck.

With a Little Bit of Luck, the movie will begin at 1 pm on Thursday, January 8, 2015 in the All Purpose Room on the main floor of the UConn branch.

If the Thursday’s weather isn’t favorable, the movie will be shown on Friday afternoon at 1 pm.

Admission to the movie is a can or box of food which will be given to the Food Bank. All OLLI members are invited and refreshment will be free.

Evelyn Marshak

IT’S COMING!

"It is best to keep your troubles pretty much to yourself, 'cause half the people you'd tell 'em to won't give a damn and the other half will be glad you got 'em."

Contributed by LuAnn Cogliser

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
Monday, Nov. 17......Unbroken  Laurel Hillenbrand
All meetings of the book club will be held in room 102D, UConn, Wtby at 1:00 PM 3rd Monday
A Suggestion to our OLLI Travelers ~

When reserving a seat for one of our day trips, it is very important for you to get your reservations in as early as possible. If they have not received an adequate number of people (usually 35 or 40) for a day trip, Friendship Tours is required to start a cancellation process about 2 weeks ahead of the date of that trip. That means that, although we know many of our trips are popular and were planned because many members suggested them, if many people wait until the last two weeks, the trip you are calling for may already be cancelled. So please make sure to reserve trips early to make sure you get the trips you want.

(Just a note – Of course, overnight trips need to be reserved much earlier.)

Ann Rompre, Co-Chairperson of Travel

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OLLI CAFE

Nov 14

ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HYPNOSIS

What is hypnosis? How many minds do you really have? Hear a brief history of hypnosis and the seven myths about hypnosis, along with the value and use for hypnosis — from improved memory to increasing the immune system. Learn the difference between hypnosis, hypnotherapy and stage hypnosis and who the ideal candidates are. Demonstrations included (for those interested in participating).

OLLI Presenter, Salvatore J. Martone is a Hypnotherapist certified by the National Guild of Hypnotists, as well as a certified Instructor. In practice for more than 38 years, he is a member of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis; Licensed Clinical Social Worker as well as a licensed Alcohol and Addictions Counselor with the CT Dept. of Public Health.

OLLI Art Exhibit at 11:30 TODAY in the MPR!!!

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LEAVE YOUR SHOES ON!

3 days and 2 nights away without the hassle of flying! A cruise, a clambake, sightseeing, no driving, no cooking - a true mini-vacation awaits you.

Where: Ogunquit, Maine and Strawberry Banke, New Hampshire

When: June 7 - 9, 2015

What: *2 nights at The Meadowmere Resort (walking distance to Ogunquit Village)
     *Welcome Dinner (choice of Pot Roast or Baked Stuffed Haddock)
     *Nubble Lighthouse Cruise (one of the most photographed houses in the world)
     *Perkins Cove (home to artisans, specialty shops, and seaside eateries)
     *Foster's Downeast Clambake (choice of lobster, BBQ chicken, or eggplant parm and much more)
     *Strawberry Banke (New Hampshire's oldest waterfront neighborhood)

Who: YOU - a person who has earned and deserves some time away.

How: Call Friendship Tours Overnight Dept. @ 860-243-1630

**OVER HALF OF THE SEATS ARE ALREADY SOLD OUT AND IT ISN'T EVEN 2015 YET!!

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What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly

JFK
Heaven and Hell

While walking down the street one day a Corrupt Senator (that may be redundant) was tragically hit by a car and died. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. Welcome to heaven, says St. Peter. Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you. No problem, just let me in, says the Senator. Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from the higher ups. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity. Really?, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven," says the Senator. I'm sorry, but we have our rules. And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him. Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They played a friendly game of golf and then dined on lobster, caviar, and the finest wines and champagne. Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly guy who is having a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are all having such a good time that before the Senator realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a hearty fare-

well and waves while the elevator rises. The elevator goes up, up, and the door reopens in heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him, "Now it's time to visit heaven..." So, 24 hours passed with the Senator joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns. Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity. The Senator reflects for a minute, then he answers: "Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell." So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell... Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls to the ground. The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulders. "I don't understand," stammers the Senator. Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?" The devil smiles at him and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning. Today, you voted!" yvoorg@aol.com
Elizabeth “Liz” Hanahan found her musical match when she learned to play the dulcimer after attending a conference in New Milford.

“I loved it” from the start, she said of the instrument that usually has three strings and was often hand-crafted from available wood by people living in the mountains of Appalachia. Dulcimers now are frequently made of walnut or cherry. She herself has one made from the wood of a butternut tree; sound is affected by the wood the instrument is made from as well as the skill of the player. Dulcimers have varied shapes, including some that look like teardrops and others that resemble hourglasses.

Elizabeth took her first class in 1999 and found her small hands were well-suited to playing a dulcimer. Although she was always interested in music, she felt she “lacked a musical flair.” When in high school, Elizabeth had tried playing the guitar and was “wildly unsuccessful.” She had also taken piano lessons as a child. But the dulcimer, which requires little training to learn, proved to be a perfect fit for Elizabeth.

A folk singer named Jean Ritchie, who grew up in Kentucky, introduced the instrument to New York audiences, and dulcimers often are available today for sale at folk festivals. Ms. Ritchie had a Fulbright grant that allowed her to study the origins of the mountain dulcimer. She was surprised to find it didn’t come from the British Isles as expected but apparently evolved in the mountains of Appalachia. But the dulcimer may have its roots in a German instrument called the scheitholt (a kind of zither), according to Elizabeth.

The retired public school teacher enjoys sharing her knowledge of the dulcimer with people. Many of her OLLI students are thrilled that they can easily learn to play a real musical instrument. She also plays regularly with a friend, Karen Murray, because “she plays in a similar fashion to me.” They like to do duets and now are focusing on baritone dulcimers.

Elizabeth and her husband travel extensively in their small RV and have visited 32 states plus Quebec. She likes learning about the culture and history of places they visit, sometimes finding a difference between her preconceived idea of a place and the reality of it.

Two of her favorite places are the city of St. Augustine, Florida, and Jekyll Island, an island off the coast of Georgia. The former has a strong Spanish flavor and celebrates the heritage of early settlers from Spain as well as that of Native Americans from that area.

Jekyll Island is the site where the U.S (present) monetary system was born, Elizabeth said. Major figures in American finance met secretly to plan a system. she said. Many ideas explored at this meeting eventually were implemented when the Federal Reserve Bank system was created in 1913, per a story “Jekyll Island History” by Tyler E. Bagwell.

Elizabeth also pursues genealogy, which is “a big thing” in her family. She is a former president of the Towne Family Association, a group of descendants of William and Johanna Towne. Three of the daughters of the couple were accused of witchcraft in Salem and two of the three were hanged. The third escaped and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts eventually admitted the hysteria was out of control in Salem and recognized that wrong accusations had been made.

The family association now has about 500 members. Annual meetings are held in various parts of the country with one having been held in England. Every four or five years, the association meets in Salem. Elizabeth earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees plus her sixth year certificate from Southern Connecticut State University. Her career in public education spanned 30 years before her 2002 retirement. She worked primarily with special education students during most of her teaching life and also taught English to middle school pupils. –Mary Ann Martin