

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

IS IT TRUE?

Believe it or not spring starts today at 6:45 PM. The weather forecasters are calling for two to 4 inches of snow today. However, one must remember this is New England. As Mark Twain once noted, "If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes." This might not be true but this past winter just never seems too end.

THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC (online edition) says, "**Astronomically speaking**, the March equinox occurs when the sun crosses the celestial equator on its way north along the ecliptic. But in the northern hemisphere, the March equinox is known as the vernal, or spring, equinox, and marks the start of the spring season.

In the southern hemisphere, the equinox is known as the autumnal equinox and marks the start of the fall season. The vernal equinox for the southern hemisphere occurs in September.

Meteorologically speaking, however, in the northern hemisphere the official spring season always begins on March 1 continues through May 31. Summer begins on June 1; fall, September 1; and winter, December 1.

Weather scientists divide the year into quarters this way to make it easier to compare seasonal and monthly statistics from one year to the next. The meteorological seasons are based on annual temperature cycles rather than on the position of the earth's relation to the Sun, and more closely follow the Gregorian calendar. Using the dates of the astronomical equinoxes and solstices for the seasons would present a statistical problem because these dates vary slightly each year.

The word *equinox* is derived from Latin words meaning "equal night." All over the world, the days and nights are approximately equal. Today, the sun rises exactly in the east and sets exactly in the west.

At the equinoxes, the tilt of the Earth relative to the sun is zero, which means that Earth's axis neither points toward nor away from the sun. (However, that tilt of Earth relative to its plane of orbit, called the ecliptic, is always about 23.5 degrees.)"

Take heart, OLLI members, Spring has sprung!



New Senior's Exam, you only need 4 correct out of 10 questions to pass.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal ?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass.

Answers on pg. 3

Voices and Visions asks that submissions for the publication be sent in to the committee as soon as possible for two reasons. One, so that you will make the deadline (June 31) and not forget. And two, it gives the committee much more time to edit and make suggestions for an even better publication this year.

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 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".

Save the Date!

If it's potato pancakes, stuffed cabbage, pierogi, kielbasa and other Polish culinary delights that whet your appetite, then set aside Tuesday, April 28, from 12 noon to 2:00 to join the OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee folks as they bring you the second annual ethnic food venture to the Belvedere Café and Restaurant, 82 Broad Street, New Britain, CT.

Cost of the dining experience is \$20 per person and includes the Polish buffet, a visit to a Polish bakery and a short walking tour of the Broad Street Polish area. OLLI presenter, Lisa Wisniewski, will be our guide along with members of the Clubs and Activities Committee.

Reservations can be made to Nancy Via, nvia@sbcglobal.net, telephone (203) 758-6359 or to Delma Way, delvilway@aol.com, telephone (860) 274-8621 by April 22 at the latest.

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

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

April 20
May 18
June 15

Being Mortal
Underground Girls of Kabul
Tomlinson Hill

Atul Gawande
Jenny Nordberg
Chris Tomlinson



OLLI CAFE

MARCH 20-WATR radio with Tom ChuteWATR Radio's morning host and general manager is celebrating his 30th year at the station! Here is your chance to learn a bit about WATR radio in Waterbury and take part in a great OLLI audience question and answer!

March 27

FLIP FLOPS AFTER 50: AND OTHER THOUGHTS ON AGING WITH AUTHOR CINDY EASTMAN

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? 116 years
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut? Sheep and Horses
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? November
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? Squirrel fur
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? Albert
- 8) What color is a purple finch? Crimson
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zealand
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane? Orange (of course)

What do you mean, you failed?

Me, too!

Blame Chuck Miceli for this one!!!!

OLLI -- LEAVING THE U.S.

Yes, that's correct. The OLLI Travel Committee invites you to join us as we leave the U.S. and journey north to Canada. Our Canadian neighbors will welcome us to one of the most beautiful and mystifying wonders one could ever hope to experience.

The world renowned Niagara Falls is a sight to behold. Think mighty, thunderous falls that never cease to amaze, in fact, never do cease! If you saw pictures of Niagara Falls in the news this past winter, they appear to be completely frozen and certainly majestic in appearance. Because the forceful waters never stop flowing, the Falls, itself, were never completely frozen over and as such, the spectacles (on both the U.S. and Canadian sides) were certainly camera-worthy winter attractions.

But fear not! Our trip is scheduled for September 27-30 so the ice and cold of this past winter will be long gone and the early fall temps should be just perfect for viewing this natural treasure.

In addition to these falls that entice thousands and thousands of visitors year round, our trip will also include a viewing of the Floral Clock, a huge working clock that contains over 20,000 small plants, a guided tour of the City of Niagara Falls, a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake, a quaint, upscale village offering numerous restaurants and shopping opportunities, a wine tasting tour and a visit to the Butterfly Conservatory. An added attraction is dinner at the Skylon Tower, high above the Falls, with breathtaking views as the restaurant revolves 360 degrees. Get those cameras ready!!

For more information refer to our flyers on the information tables and/or call Friendship Tours (860-243-1630) to reserve your spot for what is sure to be a most memorable experience.

The specifics: Date: September 27-30, 2015 (Sun - Wed)

Cost: \$510 p.p.

******and remember, you WILL need your passport!!!**

Upcoming OLLI Travel

5/13/15-Culinary Arts Museum/RISD Art Museum-\$79pp

6/3/2015- Best of Boston (JFK Library & Cruise) - \$86pp

6/7 - 6/9/2015 - Ogunquit/Strawbery Banke (overnight)- \$397pp dbl (sold out)

9/16/2015 - NY Botanical Gardens (Frida Kahlo's Garden) - \$75pp

9/27 - 30/2015 - Niagara Falls (overnight) - \$510pp dbl

All prices are member prices. Non-members are charged a slight surcharge. Call Friendship Tours for information and reservations. (1-800-243-1630). Mention OLLI Travel



GROANERS

1. King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world.

Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan.

Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested.

"Don't you know who I am? I am the king!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

2. Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss League records were destroyed in a fire, and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

3. A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

4. An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it

to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

5. A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

6. There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deer skin, one slept on an elk skin, and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant. The first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys. This just goes to prove that... the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides. (Some of you non-math-brains may need help with this one).

7. A skeptical anthropologist was cataloging South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal elder who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation. When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the elder looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, you don't need enemas." **Bob Blake**

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 860 483-2014
Email vyoorg@aol.com
or
nblomstrom@aol.com,

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.

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



We're on the web! www.oli.uconn.edu

MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Dr. Walter Brooks, whose speech is flavored with a strong Boston accent, has a strong sense of his Irish heritage. He grew up in Dorchester, a neighborhood in Boston with a major Irish presence, before his family moved to the suburb of Newton.

Feeling himself to be Irish, he eventually applied for Irish citizenship and now holds passports from both Ireland and the United States. Over the years, he traveled many times in the summers to Ireland, to teach at Trinity College, Dublin. When going to Ireland, he used the Irish passport; upon returning, he used his American passport. Traveling this way expedited travel, he said, observing a customs officer once said, "You've returned many times but never left."

When a senior in high school and continuing through his undergraduate years, Walter worked at the former Norumbega Park in Newton, where he ran the Merry Go Round. "The best job in the park; all the girls were on the Merry Go Round." He also worked as a bouncer at a ball room associated with the park. A large Marriott Hotel now is on the site.

Walter's first degree was from Boston College in economics, a field chosen for its job opportunities. "It's hard to explain but I was interested in the Great Questions," he says when electing to pursue religious studies. . . "not in the confessional sense but rather more in an analytical sense." Consequently, he applied to and was accepted into a program at Fordham University and earned both his master's and doctoral degrees there. Later, he did post-doctoral work, also in religious studies, at Harvard University.

He began teaching at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, "sort of by accident." Tired of being a poor graduate student and with his dissertation still to write, Walter was with a friend when they drove by Sacred Heart University, which was founded in 1963 and had recently opened. "Why don't you try to get a job there?" his friend asked.

Walter applied and began teaching at Sacred Heart while completing requirements for his Ph.D. at Fordham. Forty years later, he retired from Sacred Heart.

At Sacred Heart, he was pleased to be allowed freedom to teach the classes he wanted to do. Some of the classes



he taught were the study of the Greek language, another about death and also about women on a religious quest. Among women authors studied were Emily Dickinson and Anne Sexton. His Greek language classes drew students interested in doing something with the New Testament who wanted to read in the language in which it was written. "There were quite a few of them over the years."

Of the Irish language, Walter said he never spoke it but could read it at one time. Much of his ability to read Irish has diminished as he no longer uses it.

During the course of 16 summers, he taught Pre-Christian Literature at Trinity College, Dublin. He remains "amazed at students' interest in the history of ancient, Pre-Christian traditions."

While having a wide appreciation of music, Walter "loves Rock and Roll; I always have." He plays the guitar but only for himself and friends but never had any interest in playing in a band.

"I think Rock and Roll has contributed greatly to peoples' self-understanding; it has changed a lot of people's lives." When it began, he says, people were interested in the beat and dancing. This Rock and Roll fan firmly believes the genre's lyrics have "a great deal of depth in them. Lyrics now make a great deal of sense" and are informative about lives, relationships and alienation. He enjoys teaching *Rock and Roll and the Human Condition* at OLLI to a receptive class of lifelong learners, who are "bright and interested." -**Mary Ann Martin**