



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

EARTH DAY 2015

The second edition of the Fall Newsletter asked, "CLIMATE CHANGE-FACT OR FICTION?" The world celebrated the 45th anniversary of Earth Day this past Wednesday, April 22. I was teaching at Watertown High School that first Earth Day in 1970 and I remember the interaction of the students and faculty at the time. We had seminars and small class discussions about the environment and what we could do to change it-and many students left their trash around the school afterwards. I had many discussions in class about responsibility and where it starts. Most everyone seems to blame someone else for the problem. But maybe times are starting to change. People complain about regulations but those same rules have cleaned up the Naugatuck River and the yellow pall does not hang over Waterbury any more.

April 22, 1970 marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement. 1970, the height of hippie and flower-child culture in the United States, and..."Protest was the order of the day, but saving the planet was not the cause. War raged in Vietnam, and students nationwide increasingly opposed it...At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. *Environment* was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries and, up to that moment, more than any other person, Ms. Carson raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health." **Earth Day 2015,Google.com**

"Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns front and center... The idea came to Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin, after witnessing a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda... As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized that they shared common values." **Earth Day 2015,Google.com.**

These movements eventually made people aware of what they were doing to the only planet they could live on. And, while there were costs to industry, the nation rallied and changes started to take place. Autos are much more fuel efficient and smoke no longer hangs over the landscape. Our water is cleaner and dumps no longer blot the scenery. People are beginning to listen to the scientists as they point out what may happen in the future if we do nothing. Climate change is happening. Perhaps now is the time to take responsibility to find out what you can do about it. As the saying goes, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with that first step." As OLLI members, are you ready to take that first step?

RJG

*See page 3 for more information on this topic **

OLLI CONGRATULATES THE NATIONAL CHAMPS

At the May meeting of the OLLI Leadership Council, it was decided that a note be sent to Coach Geno Auriemma, his staff, and of course, the best women's basketball team in the nation, congratulating them on their 10th National Championship.

A handwritten note of congratulations was sent on behalf of the OLLI at UCONN staff, Leadership Council and you, the OLLI members. We are all so proud of the team's dedication and work ethics that brought about this historic reign. We look forward to their defending this championship in 2015--2016 and perhaps bringing home a staggering, never before, "4-peat". Go Huskies!!

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

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.

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."

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, Waterbury at
1:00 PM 3rd Monday

May 18
June 15

Underground Girls of Kabul
Tomlinson Hill

Jenny Nordberg
Chris Tomlinson



OLLI CAFE

April 24 HISTORY OF WATERBURY WITH PHIL BENEVENTO

Enjoy a history of the city of Waterbury presented by Olli member Phil Benevento. Waterbury, aka "the Brass city," is located on the Naugatuck River. Noted for the manufacture of watches and clocks, the industrial history of the city is well-documented and is even mentioned in the 1907 play, *Major Barbara*, written by George Bernard Shaw. As the 5th largest city in Connecticut, Waterbury certainly has an economical, political, and social influence on the state.

May 1

INTRODUCING THE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER

If you have a dulcimer, bring it along! You can either join the group or just strum along from your seat. Come early for help with tuning.



What is traveling? Changing your place?
By no means! Traveling is changing your
opinions and your prejudices.

Anatole France

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*Editor's note on Earth Day and Climate change:
For interesting reading on this topic, I suggest two
very interesting books out of the many articles, doc-
umentaries and articles that cover it.*

The first is, The Sixth Extinction, by Elizabeth Kolbert. Available everywhere. She makes the case for awareness by pointing out what causes massive extinctions and asks are we at the beginning of the sixth major extinction.

The second by Edward Wilson, The Meaning of Human Existence, describes the necessity for both the humanities and science to work together. With the growing push for students to study science, Wilson shows that science grew from the questions posed by the philosophers of the past.— RJG

Upcoming OLLI Travel

5/13/15-Culinary Arts Museum/RISD Art Museum, RI - \$79pp (sold out)*

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

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

10/21/2015 – 9/11 Memorial Museum - \$74pp

*You may still put yourself on a wait-list for sold out trips
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



LOVE THOSE CHURCH LADIES AND THEIR BULLETINS

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick in our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies' Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. Is done.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

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The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) 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

Music has been at the core of **Julie Cook**'s life since she sat at the piano at age 5 with her dad who let her "play along" while he played beloved tunes such as those written by George and Ira Gershwin.

"I loved it," Julie says of her early experience playing piano with her dad at home. The New Britain native soon was taking piano lessons and continued to do so for many years. She also studied music composition. Among her private teachers was famed Lauren Keiser.

Julie likes to read, both novels and poetry. The latter sometimes inspires her music. "I'll open a book, pick out a poem and sing it," Julie says. When asked, she cited as favorite poets, the ancient Persian (Jalal a-Dim Muhammad) Rumi, who was born in 1207, and contemporary poet Billy Collins, who was the American poet laureate 2001-2003. The ecstatic poetry of Rumi appeals to her and she appreciates Collins' "imaginative use of language. *Questions about Angels* is among his many books.

Jane Smiley novels are among her favorites; particularly *Some Luck*, the first in a planned trilogy about an Iowa farm family.

During her student years at New Britain High School, Julie played piano in the school orchestra and accompanied the chorus. After graduation, Julie studied for a time at Hartt School of Music before her marriage. She soon began teaching piano at her Woodbury home; she eventually opened a studio, Julie's Piano Workshop, in Newtown in 1984.

After teaching a number of years, Julie began to feel the need to expand her abilities. She turned to the Music for People program, based in Goshen. Music for People was co-founded in 1986 by cellist David Darling and flautist Bonnie Insull. This organization is dedicated to revitalizing music-making and promoting music improvisation as a means of self-expression, per its website: <http://musicforpeople.org/wp/>

Through improvisation, "You create in the moment; at first it is a very scary thing to do but you learn how to trust in yourself. As you learn to improvise music, you learn how to trust life."

Participating in Music for People brought a fresh outlook to her own performance of music and she brought this to her piano teaching. Her students are encouraged to "explore the keyboard" but still must learn the basics.

Singing is an important part of Julie's life. In addition to teaching, she currently sings with a group in Bantam. She is working on vocal improvisation and is guiding her OLLI students in her *Singing in the Shower* class in de-

veloping this ability. Students also learn ostinato, which is singing in a repeated pattern. Ostinato can serve as a background accompaniment to a performer who is singing a conventional song.

She is asking her students to develop a new language for singing, not words but sounds. To introduce the idea of improvised vocalizations, Julie brought a Sarah Vaughan recording to the first session to demonstrate scat singing that uses sounds that aren't actual words. Jazz singers Ella Fitzgerald and Vaughn were both known for their creative use of scat singing.

In her OLLI class, Julie encourages people to make up their own music, to be free "Just let it loose." People should feel free and enjoy singing in the shower or the car. When you learn to improvise music, you may find yourself singing something one time, enjoying it and never repeating the same thing. "People in the class were a little hesitant but then jumped right in."

When speaking of the satisfaction derived from teaching music, Julie says, "The most joyful thing I do is connecting people with the joy of music-making and getting to participate with them." —**Mary Ann Martin**

