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.

The Arts at OLLI

OLLI at UConn is on a mission to infuse the curriculum with active courses in the arts. This mission has been in place from OLLI’s inception on the Waterbury campus at The University of Connecticut.

Individual involvement in the arts is in alignment with OLLI Founder Bernard Osher’s commitment to good health, as many national and international studies confirm that arts participation promotes a healthy outlook on life as well as positive health outcomes.

OLLI at UConn has presented arts courses in recent years in the following areas:

- Film
- Art History
- Instrumental/Vocal Music
- Improvisation
- Poetry
- Acting
- Painting
- Drawing
- Cabaret Performance
- Chinese Brush Painting
- Dancing for the Love of it

Voices and Visions, the annual OLLI flagship publication, provides a meaningful outlet for those who enjoy creating poetry and prose, and for sharing photographed renderings of their artwork. This publication is always very well received by the OLLI and UCONN communities.

So, enjoy a day of Arts at OLLI from 8:30 until 4:30. Begin by visiting the OLLI Art Exhibit in room 102. There are two OLLI classes in 102 whose schedule will not change (at 10:00 and again at 1:15). Paintings and Mandalas will be on exhibit until 2:30 before and after these classes.

If you attend OLLI Café today, you will enjoy the music of the Mountain Dulcimer, an instrument with its historic roots in the Appalachian Mountains.

The OLLI Italian class, led by Nunzio DeFilippis, produced its first volume of stories in Italian. Though their sharing is by invitation due to space constraints, a copy of their story book is available in room 102 for visitor perusal.

New courses in the arts are being developed, such as:
- Quilting – Summer 2015
- Harlem Renaissance – Fall 2015

OLLI members have participated in creative workshops and courses led by UConn professors from several departments over the years, and that tradition continues through Dr. Ruth Glasser, Chair of Urban and Community Studies and Tom Dulack of the UConn English Department.

Since the founding of OLLI at UConn, the arts have been an integral part of its development and potential. Today we celebrate the arts at OLLI. Enjoy!

Aleta E. Staton

OLLI Summer Session begins on June 2!
Pick up a summer brochure at the OLLI member information table!
Register Now!
The OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee once again staged a successful event. Their visit to The Belvedere Restaurant in New Britain on Tuesday, April 28th proved to be a fun and educational outing replete with visits from members of the ‘Little Poland’ community in New Britain and even from one of their counterparts from Massachusetts who drove over two hours to have lunch with OLLI. The lunch and Polish Community greeting was followed by a tour of the Little Poland Community.

Ted Welsh, a retired teacher of History and International Politics is a relative newcomer to the Olli Teaching staff. This spring he offered to teach “Understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict”. The offering proved so popular that he had offer the exact same course in an additional time slot. His presentation using self made slides, of this potentially emotional topic has stressed factual information and classroom questioning. On April 28 forty students from both classes visited the United Nations. After a standard group tour of the chambers of the Security Council, the General Assembly by a tour guide we were shepherded into a private conference room. There a representative of the Israeli and then the Palestinian delegation spoke with us. Rather than review their informative presentations with adequate question and answers, I will relate my interpretation of the essence of their presentations. The Israeli felt that with 120 non aligned countries voting as a bloc, the UN is biased against Israel, although Israel does work with the UN and all of its agencies.

The Palestinian delegate said that just as Israel faced existential threats with earlier Arab-Israeli wars, the Palestinian people face an existential threat now.

The presentations by the two delegations opened our Olli minds to new approaches as to how we might solve this intractable problem.

Ira Mickenberg

Calling all Nurses!

OLLI is developing a managed course on nursing. We are seeking nurses of different discipline, such as Managing Medication, End of Life Decisions, Nursing Home Evaluations, ER Triage, . Nurse presenters would be asked to prepare one class in their discipline area——90 minutes in total.

Contact Sheila at 203.206.4508 (cell).
Leave a message.

OLLI NEWS

OLLI NEWSLETTERS GO INTERNET

OLLI newsletters are available on our web page at http://olli.uconn.edu/weekly-newsletters/
Click on the left-hand index that says “Newsletters.” They are available in PDF format.
The free reader (so you can read a PDF) can be accessed at www.adobe.com. Click on the box that says “READER.”

The OLLI 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 Clubs and Activities Committee

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

2ND Thursday at John Bale Bookshop—10:00 AM
Contact: Denise Whelan for more information
(deniswhelan@yahoo.com)

OLLI BOOK CLUB

3RD Monday in Room #102D —1:00 PM
Contact: Nancy Via for more information
(nvia@sbcglobal.net)
Introducing the Mountain Dulcimer!
For visitors with dulcimers—tuning will begin at 11:30. You can either join the group or just strum along from your seat. Come early for help with tuning.

Join our OLLI class of Mountain Dulcimer Players led by OLLI Presenter Liz Hanahan!

If you are taking summer courses @ OLLI, make room! OLLI at UConn has listed an unprecedented 14 courses for the summer session, which begins on Tuesday, June 2 until Friday, July 3. Pick up a summer brochure or go online to peruse the selections to make sure you have a well-rounded summer in store.

Save The Dates for OLLI Fall and Winter sessions:

FALL
September 11—November 13, 2015

WINTER
January 22—February 12, 2016

UPCOMING OLLI TRAVEL

5/13/15—Culinary Arts Museum/RISD Art Museum, RI $79pp (sold out)*
6/3/15—Best of Boston /JFK Library and Cruise, MA $86pp (sold out)*
6/7—6/9/15—Ogunquit/Strawberry Banke (overnight) $397pp dbl (sold out)*
9/16/15—NY Botanical Gardens/Frida Kahlo’s Garden &75pp
9/27—9/30/15—Niagara Falls (overnight) $510pp dbl
10/21/15—9/11 Memorial Museum $74 pp
*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

DON’T FORGET TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE!

Just in case you are not taking any summer courses @ OLLI... a gentle reminder to reserve your seat (and bed!) for the Sept. 27-30, 2015 (Sun.—Wed.) trip to NIAGARA FALLSCANADA. OLLI fall classes start on Sept. 11 and by that time someone else will have taken your place. He who hesitates, doesn’t go!

The trip itinerary provides a nice balance of sightseeing, dining, and just enough leisure time built in for shopping and exploring a little on your own.

On day 3 we will be stopping at JOSEPH’S ESTATE WINERY, one of the three original cottage wineries—there are now twenty-five—in the town of Niagara-on-the-lake. The winery was founded in the late ’70’s by environmental engineer, Dr. Joseph Pohorly, whose innovative techniques attracted investors who gave him free reign to create unique wines. In 1983 he produced one of the first icewines to come from the Niagara region. The following year almost every winery in Niagara-on-the-lake began leaving grapes on the vine behind harvest, waiting for the first winter frost. Joseph left the wine industry to design, build, and run The Colonel Butler Inn in Niagara-on-the-lake for several years. He missed the wine-making process and in 1992 he purchased a 20 acre fruit farm that is now Joseph’s Estate Winery.

Joseph’s now produces premium red and white varietal wines, Vidal icewine, unique fruit wines, specialty wines, sherry, and port. All of their wines are fruit-forward and crafted with three decades of winemaking expertise. The winery is family-owned and operated and Dr. Pohorly is often onsite. A wine-tasting is included in our visit.

For the full itinerary, either grab a brochure from the hospitality table, check out OLLI trips online, or call Friendship Tours for information and reservations (1-800-243-1630).
Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of $125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were going camping. They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep.

Sometime in the middle of the night Holmes woke Watson up and said: "Watson, look up at the stars, and tell me what you see."

Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars."

Holmes said: "and what do you deduce from that?"

Watson replied: "Well, if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like earth out there. And if there are a few planets like earth out there, there might also be life."

And Holmes said: "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

“The reason I talk to myself is because I'm the only one whose answers I accept.”
- George Carlin

Son: "Dad, there is someone at the door to collect donations for a community swimming pool."
Father: "Okay, give him a glass of water."

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We’re on the web! www.olicy.uconn.edu
Author Cindy Eastman grew up in a family where writing was a routine occurrence, feeding her feeling that she was a writer at heart.

While neither parent was a professional writer, her mother created commemorative poems for family events and her dad wrote letters with a "very good voice," Cindy says when recalling missives he sent her when she was in college.

Today, her brother is a story producer for television with his credits including the History Channel’s show *Ice Road Truckers* that follows those who transport cargo along dangerous, icy roads in Alaska and Canada.

And Cindy’s first published book *Flip Flops After 50 and Other Thoughts on Aging I Remembered to Write Down* is selling at bookstores across the land and also is available at Amazon. She is thrilled with the positive response to her book after years of honing her craft. Not only is "Flip Flops" selling but it also won a silver medal in the 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards program administered by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA).

Cindy started writing “as soon as I could pick up a pen.” She wrote poems, plays, and blogs and journaled about her day to day experiences. She had a stint as a columnist for the *Waterbury Observer*, an independent paper published monthly. Not surprisingly, her book is a collection of essays of observations about such topics as pets, spring cleaning (she doesn’t), and holidays.

Cindy’s life has taken many unexpected turns. She was born in Bridgeport and lived for a time in Derby but the family soon moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where she grew up. Her family re-located in the 1980s to Connecticut and Cindy followed.

When growing up, she enjoyed riding in Louisville and rode her horse around the area during her childhood. Cindy also acted in Louisville’s community theater but never performed in high school plays or wrote for the school newspaper. “I wasn’t one of the popular kids” who did those things in school, she explained. She entered St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, before going to the University of Texas. Years later, she entered Cambridge College of Springfield, MA without a bachelor’s degree and left the proud recipient of a master’s degree in education.

She has served as a specialist for Education Connection, Litchfield, where she ran an interdistrict student grant program funded through the State of Connecticut. Cindy worked with four middle schools on a writing project. From 2008-2012 she taught a basic course in Developmental English and Writing at Naugatuck Community College.

For the past seven years, Cindy has served as a monitor in a grant-funded program titled Access and Visitation. Her husband, who has a therapy practice, applied for the grant and Cindy oversees visits in an office setting between non-custodial parents and their children. Families are referred by the Family Relations offices of Waterbury, Litchfield and Danbury.

She began presenting at OLLI in 2009 and encourages students to develop and hear their own writing voices and strive to submit pieces to the annual *Voices and Visions* publication comprised of creative written and artistic work.

Always writing herself, Cindy decided to submit her collection of essays in *Flip Flops after 50* to She Writes Press. The Press wrote back to say her work was publishable but “they said ‘you need editing.’ I said: What!” Cindy wrote Hartford Courant columnist Gina Barreca, who has had a number of books published, for advice. Gina said to remember “they are willing to take you on; you have to trust them.”

The edited book was published April 2014 and Ingram Publishing Services distributed it to book stores, libraries and other outlets. While promoting the book, it’s hard to find writing time but Cindy is working on a second book of essays and also on a book about co-parenting that has grown out of her work with families.

—Mary Ann Martin
Bus trips are a great way to really enjoy your time at the final destination. You don’t have to deal with the driving, tolls, finding a place to park, or worrying about getting your car towed if the parking meter runs out. You can spend the ride reading, snoozing, listening to music, talking with old or new friends, or just daydreaming while watching the world pass by your window. You arrive relaxed and ready to investigate what you came to see.

I have noticed that there are two divergent paths that bus trip travelers seem to take before they ‘get on the bus.’ If you are the type that wants to just enjoy the day from the time you get on the bus @ 7:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 16, at St. Anthony Church/ DOT Lot, Rte. 69, in Prospect until you get back @ approximately 6 P.M. all you have to do is call Friendship Tours at 860-243-1630 and reserve your seat. YOU may stop reading now and make that call. However, if you are the other type...the one that researches where you are going and what you are going to see...you had better get busy.

The Connecticut library system has dozens of books and movies about Ms. Kahlo that can be delivered to your hometown library. You have plenty of time to read “Frida, a Biography of Frida Kahlo” by Hayden Herrera. It’s over 700 pages long but you still have plenty of time. Or, you could watch the 2002 movie, ‘Frida’, based on Herrera’s book. It was nominated for six Academy Awards and is only two hours long. It was directed by Julie Taymor (Lion King, Titus) in her usual attention-to-detail lavish style. She effectively includes an incredible amount of information about Frida’s life, her work, and the alternating torture and support that she received from her husband, artist Diego Rivera, resulting in a flowing tale. The movie begins with the trolley accident that almost took her life, kept her bed ridden for two years, and sentenced her to a lifetime of pain and numerous ‘corrective’ surgeries.

So...whether you are interested in gardens, art, history, politics, or culture...this is the trip for you. The botanical garden trips always sell out quickly. The cost is $75.00 for OLLI members and $85.00 for non-members. That’s only about $7.14 per hour (OLLI members) for your time away. That’s less than minimum wage in Ct. Call and reserve your seat.

Linda Lane