

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

## A FIRST-EVER INTERGENERATIONAL SEMESTER AT OLLI!

**Dr. Laura Donorfio**, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family studies and longtime OLLI faculty liaison and supporter has designed a unique experience for undergraduate students at UConn Waterbury. This is likely the first project of its kind in the national network of 117 Osher Institutes across the United States. Students enrolled in *HDFS 2200--Adulthood and Aging* will be involved in service learning activities at OLLI at UConn. This means that forty (40) students will be engaged learning about OLLI first hand and participating in small group projects that support the organizational goals of OLLI at UConn and enhance academic learning.

Students have been given the background of OLLI and our unique Waterbury OLLI. **Brian Chapman** has met with them twice and **Aleta Staton** and **Chuck Miceli** once to provide background to develop the scope of our work groups. Students are required to complete 20 hours on their projects (some more interaction with OLLI members than others). They are required to keep journals and write various reflection papers along the way. At the end they will produce a final report with project key findings and recommendations. They will also be required to present a group poster highlighting what their group has done.

Dr. Donorfio's students will examine the processes of individual development and behavior from young adulthood through later life and death, with special attention given to the emotional, family and social aspects/influences. Topics will include (but are not limited to): physical/biological development, personality, motivation, intelligence, learning, memory, sexuality, marriage and divorce, death and dying,

role transitions, interpersonal and intergenerational relationships and current public policy issues as deemed relevant.

This course has been redesigned to be a **service learning course**. Service learning is a method of teaching, learning, and outreach which intentionally links community service to an academic course or program through specific learning activities, structured reflection, and assessment. Service-Learning has been shown to enhance a student's academic and civic development and meet the self-identified needs of the chosen community organization. It will also look great on their resumes by providing them with hands-on opportunities, activities, and experiences a traditional course would and could not offer!

The community organization chosen for this class is UConn's Osher Lifelong Learning Program (OLLI). **OLLI at UConn** is a member-driven, community-responsive program that offers non-credit learning experiences (courses, lectures, and special events) to older adults who want to engage socially and intellectually with their peers as teachers and learners. **Lifelong learning** is an educational philosophy that embraces a comprehensive definition of human inquiry—educational activities can and should be available through all stages of life for the achievement of various personal goals. Lifelong learners are people who choose to engage in life to the fullest and explore learning for enjoyment, fulfillment, intellectual stimulation, peer interaction, mentoring, or other related reasons. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is geared toward helping members, persons age 50+, achieve these goals. UConn's OLLI program presently serves over 800 members

by offering over 150 courses per year, travel events, special lectures and presentations, clubs, and committees. On a national level, there are 117 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes on campuses from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with both UConn's OLLI and the National OLLI Initiative at two websites.

Students will be divided into five groups:

**Group 1 Fundraising**–Develop ways to tell the “OLLI story” to enhance fundraising (inspire giving), spirit, and program identification

**Group 2 Diversity**– The project requires a deep understanding of the capacity and strength of the region in terms of human diversity and how students can help OLLI capture and harness this diversity within the program to help grow the membership.

**Group 3 Website Enhancement**– The broad goal will employ principles associated with aging to improve the OLLI website. The project will have a specific goal of working with the *OLLI Greening of Waterbury Project* to create a new website section

**Group 4 Marketing/Publicity**– Generate ideas to promote OLLI in the community in news and unique ways. Also to create spirit and program identification

**Group 5 Intergenerational Course Assistants**– This project is designed to be a hands-on understanding of Learning in the Classroom. It will require students to work directly with an OLLI teacher (presenter) assisting with class development and implementation

The class will provide students with a chance to be involved with older students while giving them an opportunity to enhance practical skills which may benefit them in future pursuits. This innovative project promises to intellectually challenge students and will help OLLI to continue to grow and allow OLLI members to get to know the student participants and to feel proud to be part of helping them to learn about the older generation (anybody older than 30!)

**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](mailto:yvoorg@aol.com) or any presenter or staff member

### OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

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

Contact Denise Whelan ([denisewhelan@yahoo.com](mailto:denisewhelan@yahoo.com))

For more information

### OLLI BOOK CLUB

Contact: **Nancy Via** at [nvia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nvia@sbcglobal.net)

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

**October 19**      **Olive Kitteridge**      **Elizabeth Sprout**

**November 16**   **When Lions Roar**      **Thomas Maier**

### 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](http://www.adobe.com) and click on the box that says “READER”.

A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children.

Audubon

**Factoids for OLLI Members: "Due to the fact that Parking Services is aware of the need to switch the decal BETWEEN vehicles--they adhered the stickers to hanging tags for your convenience!"**



## OLLI CAFE

Friday, October 2

### **Raising The Curtain On A New Palace Theater**

**Frank Tavera**

Frank Tavera has been the CEO of the Palace Theater since May, 2002, and has been an integral part of the rebirth and renaissance of Waterbury's landmark theater. Come hear Frank discuss the intricacies that went into reopening the Palace Theater.

Friday, October 9

**Aphasia**

**Blanche S. Feero**

### CAMPUS SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **The Wall and Settlements in Israel-Palestine**

Speakers– Gideon Levy, Suhail Khalilleh, Aleen Murad Masoud Wed 10/21 /15 12:00

RSVP by Wed 10/14

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#### **Ruins Reborn: Revitalizing Postindustrial Cities**

Speaker Hugh Bailey, CT Post Reporter

Wed. 10/28/15 12: 00

RSVP by 10/21

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#### **Irish Masculinity, Fatherhood, and Cinematic Representations of "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland**

Speaker: Nicole McClure, Asst Prof of English at University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown

Thurs. 11/12 6:30– 7:45

RSVP by 11/05

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#### **The Harlem Renaissance Revisited**

Speaker Dr. Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar, UConn Professor of History/Founding Director of the Center for the study of Popular Music

Fri. 11/20 1-2pm RSVP by 11/13



### **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**

### **Upcoming OLLI Travel**

**10/21/2015** – 9/11 Museum – NYC - \$74pp (sold out)

**6/20-22/2016** – Lancaster PA (Sight & Sound Theatre (overnight) -\$427pp dbl

**9/17-19/2016** – Washington DC/ChantillyVA/Mount Vernon – price TBA

**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**

### **OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE**

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

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

For more information

## Sheila Morisette

[illegible]

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.' The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there were a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Congressman came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.' The Congressman was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

**And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.**

As Ronald Reagan said:

**BOTH POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS  
NEED TO BE CHANGED OFTEN AND  
FOR THE SAME REASON!**

## Bob Blake

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
The University of Connecticut  
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or  
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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 - Chuck Miceli  
1st Vice President –Toni Escott  
2nd Vice President - Delma Way  
Secretary –Pat Fahey  
Assistant Secretary - Joyce Conlan



**We're on the web! [www.oli.uconn.edu](http://www.oli.uconn.edu)**

## MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

**Dr. Jon Purmont's** life took an unexpected turn in 1979 when he represented the mayor of West Haven at a luncheon for senior citizens at a posh New Haven hotel. Governor Ella Grasso, whom he had met before but didn't know well, asked him to join her on the dais.

As the representative of Mayor Robert Johnson of West Haven, Jon was asked to say a few words. He told a story about President Lyndon Johnson and India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Noticing Mrs. Gandhi had a white streak in her hair, the president said. "'Oh, you have gray hair.'" "The prime minister responded: "'Each one reflects one year of wisdom.'" "

Jon's remarks, including the anecdote, caught the governor's attention and she asked if Jon had written his own remarks, which he had. About a month later, he was asked to come the following day to meet with the governor. Ella offered him the position of executive assistant because she wanted him to "observe the pageantry of the next four years" of Connecticut life from the catbird seat of her office.

At the time, Jon was working as executive secretary to West Haven Mayor Robert Johnson. His interest in local politics had been fostered by his parents who were active politically and Jon had worked on Johnson's campaign.

Jon accepted the position with the governor but Ella didn't live to finish her second term. She died of cancer on February 5, 1981, having resigned from office December 31, 1980, because of her failing health. Lieutenant Gov. William O'Neill became governor and Jon worked for the new governor until O'Neill left office. Subsequently, Jon worked for a time with the Department of Consumer Protection.

Working for Ella, "who was tough but fair," gave Jon a unique view into state-wide politics and government. That experience eventually became the basis of a biography he was to write: *Ella Grasso: Connecticut's Pioneering Governor*, published by Wesleyan University Press in 2012. Recently, he reflected on how the governor, the first woman to be elected governor in her own



right in the United States, connected so well and personally with people that constituents simply called her "Ella."

Jon is a man who loves teaching, learning and writing about history. Before going to the governor's office, he taught at Notre Dame High School, West Haven, and at Andrew Warde High School, Fairfield.

He spent two years in Italy, teaching high school boys at a boarding and day school in Rome run by the Brothers of Holy Cross. When teaching World and Ancient History classes, he was able to take students to the historic Roman Forum, once the center of public life in Rome. During that "memorable" time, he also

traveled to Egypt and Greece with student groups.

Most of the school's students were American, children of military personnel and also of people working for the oil companies working in Saudi Arabia. Jon, who didn't speak Italian upon arrival, lived with an Italian family who spoke no English, forcing him to learn the language.

While he enjoyed his many experiences over the years, Jon never lost his love of sharing his knowledge with students in the classroom. When he had the opportunity to join the history faculty at Southern Connecticut State University in 1992, he took it. He retired in 2009 as Professor Emeritus of History.

He earned his bachelor's degree in history and government from Georgetown University; master's in education from Southern Connecticut State University and doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

He spends his days writing and serving as president of the West Haven Historical Society, "which keeps me involved at the local level." He still lives in West Haven and has many fond memories of spending carefree days on the beach and playing baseball when growing up. He speaks before various groups about his book on Ella Grasso and also is engaged in presenting at OLLI. This term he is teaching "Connecticut in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". –

**Mary Ann Martin**

