



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

“WHATEVER STARTS IN OLLI DOES NOT STAY IN OLLI”

This is a new slogan for OLLI proposed by Chuck Micelli, President of the Leadership Council. Brian Chapman, Director of the program has stressed that the classes at OLLI open up additional venues for stimulating activities for members.

I want to take this opportunity to report on some of these OLLI initiated activities which take place outside of the formal classroom that I am aware of.

First there is the OLLI sponsored Garden Project which takes place at Fulton Park from March to October initiated and supervised by Nunzio Defillipis. This project is in its third year. There have been reports in previous Newsletters about the program. The project has grown substantially. There are more participants, about 30, who work longer hours and usually for a couple of days a week. They manage more raised beds and so harvest more food than prior years. The produce goes to the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry, Naugatuck and Wolcott soup kitchens and to Burmese refugees who work in the garden and bring home fresh vegetables. Some of these people also volunteer to help to cook the produce on summer Sundays at the St Vincent de Paul soup kitchen.

Last year we did get a grant which was used for topsoil and manure. This year the two year old compost pile of leaves and branches had decomposed to pure enriched soil. This pile was mixed with donated cow manure so that the hoped for future grant money can be used for other needs of which there are many. The compost mixture is being spread on the almost 100 beds to enrich the soil. The beds will then be covered

with black plastic to prevent weeds from growing over the winter and next spring.

In addition to our usual crops of lettuce, kale, collards, string beans, broccoli, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, squash, herbs and flowers we had a successful crop this year of strawberries, eggplants, cabbage, beets, long Italian string beans, a few figs, pumpkins and one very large Italian zucchini.

We have conquered the woodchucks by catching them early before the mating season and fight plant disease with organic sprays. Crops are rotated and are successive, maximizing our yield from the raised beds that we have.

Nunzio is now assisted in managing the garden by Valerie Stolfi which gives some flexibility to the program. Suggestions for new crops and new ways of growing old crops are always encouraged and volunteers participate at a pace that is comfortable for them.

As an outgrowth of this gardening program, Ralph Famiglietti has started distributing digitally The Gazette to all participants of the program. This weekly much anticipated pictorial newsletter contains photos and stories of past work sessions and information for future plans. It keeps everyone aware of what and why things are happening and gives us a chance, if we consent, to see ourselves in dirty work clothes.

This garden group has had a couple of well attended social gatherings at one of our homes, shared recipes and prepared dishes. Support is offered through this network when someone develops health issues. New people join each year and are welcomed, accepted, appreciated and needed.

There is the Poetry Cafe sponsored by Denise Whelan as an outgrowth of a course at Olli. Five to ten people meet monthly at the John Bale cafe in Waterbury and read poems that they have written. There is critiquing only if requested.

This year Harriet Fotter started a Poetry Workshop. Five people distribute their poetry in advance and meet to critique the poems. This is a work in progress so that the meeting place is varying. This format follows OLLI courses given by Peter Mulholland.

Penny O'Connell meets with about 30 people in the Woodbury Library on Wednesdays from noon to two to discuss current events. Discussions by this group are always active and stimulating. The group has met on and off in various

venues and is also welcoming to anyone who wishes to participate.

Finally Paul Marino, who teaches film at OLLI also sponsors a movie program with several other OLLI teachers and members every couple of months. There is a discussion about the setting, background and execution of the movie. This is done at a local restaurant where dinner is enjoyed and attracts Olli and non OLLI members.

Joining OLLI means joining a community in which there are opportunities to participate as intensively and enthusiastically as you wish. I have presented several examples of off campus activities and am sure there are others.

Ira Mickenberg

ATTENTION! There is still time to register for Fall 2015 OLLI courses!

The following courses start as early as next week!

Tuesdays (October 13 – November 10)

MS-426 The Holistic Lifestyle: Contemporary Science Discovers Ancient Wisdom

Instructor: James T. Prado, DC, Chiropractic Physician

Thursdays (October 15 – November 12)

PD-435 Handwriting Analysis: Venture in Self-Discovery

Instructor: David Dewitt

Fridays (October 16 – November 13)

SP-402 How the Game is Played

Instructor: Ed Conlan

HS-478 How to do Archaeology Without Ever Lifting a Trowel

Instructor: Bonnie Plourde

HW-446 Alexander Technique: The Next Steps

Instructor: Peter Anderhegan

HW-445B When in Doubt - Breathe Out

Instructor: Michaela Hauser-Wagner

TR-401 Bucket List Travel: Is Exploring To The Ends Of The Earth For You?

Instructor: Diane Stone

HS-482 Connecticut in the 20th Century

Instructor: Dr. Jon E. Purmont

CL-428 Lost in Translation: A short Story of Words That Got Away

Instructor: Gabriella Brand

MU-416 Bump Diddy Strum - Intro to the Mountain Dulcimer

Instructor: Elizabeth Hanahan

MU-439 Come Pick and Strum!

Instructor: Elizabeth Hanahan

Sign up in the OLLI office or online TODAY!

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."

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 POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

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

For more information:

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

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

October 19 Olive Kitteridge Elizabeth Sprout

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 9
Aphasia
Blanche S. Feero

Blanche S. Feero presently teaches as an adjunct instructor of English at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury. Nearly 10 years ago Blanche suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm and developed Aphasia. In this presentation, she will explain how it develops, various ways it presents itself in people, how to communicate with the person with Aphasia, the differing activities that help a person to overcome it to various degrees, and the work of the Aphasia Support Group she started in Waterbury.

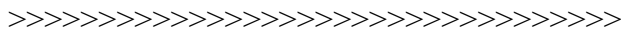
Friday, October 16
The role of the patient advocate
Liza Lavado Kaye

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

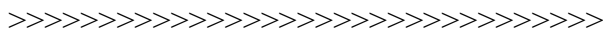


Ruins Reborn: Revitalizing Postindustrial Cities

Speaker Hugh Bailey, CT Post Reporter

Wed. 10/28/15 12: 00

RSVP by 10/21

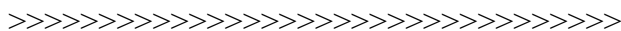


Irish Masculinity, Fatherhood, and Cinematic Representations of “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland

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

Thurs. 11/12 6:30– 7:45

RSVP by 11/05



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

<u>Upcoming OLLI Travel</u>
<u>10/21/2015</u> – 9/11 Museum – NYC - \$74pp (sold out)

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

<u>9/17-19/2016</u> – Washington DC/ChantillyVA/Mount Vernon – price TBA
All prices are member prices. Non-members are charged a slight surcharge. Call <u>Friendship Tours</u> for information and reservations. (1-800-243-1630). Mention OLLI Travel

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE
2nd Thursday at John Bale Bookshop –10:00am
Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)
For more information

LET'S PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER 2016!

Yes, it's now fall with winter soon to follow. However, right now let's turn our attention to summer, 2016. How about ushering summer in by traveling with OLLI Travel on June 20-22 to Lancaster, PA?

Travel to the heart of Amish Country and visit a private Amish farm and home where our Amish host will give us a firsthand look at their way of life. Tour their home, farm, workshop and visit with their miniature horses. Kitchel Kettle Village is also on the agenda. Here one can shop and/or dine among 42 shops and restaurants all with Lancaster County ambience.

Also synonymous with Lancaster is the Sight and Sound Theatre, noted for its extravagant stage productions. We will view the brand new show, **SAMPSON**, showcasing the deeds and heroics of one of the Bible's most famous characters as only the Sight and Sound Theatre can — in a powerful, extravagant presentation.

So, why not plan your first summer, 2016 getaway and join us on our Lancaster trip, June 20-22? Total cost is \$427.00 and you can reserve your seat NOW by calling Friendship Tours at 860-243-1630. Don't wait! Do it today and be assured of your seat as our summertime travel gets underway.



Breaking New Ground at OLLI at UConn: An Invitation to OLLI Members

Monday, November 2, 2015—9:30 AM to 10:45 AM, Multipurpose Room

Light refreshments will be served.

OLLI at the University of Connecticut is engaged in an important, intergenerational service learning course. This means that UConn undergraduate student who are enrolled in **HDFS 2200: Adulthood and Aging** (taught by Dr. Laura Donorfio) are engaged in several projects and activities related directly to learning about and assisting OLLI at UConn. As part of the project, on Monday, November 2, 2015 interviews will be conducted with OLLI members related to positive aging, enrichment, and specifically engagement in lifelong learning activities. If you have been touched in a meaningful way by lifelong learning within OLLI and beyond please consider volunteering for this activity. This outcome of these interviews could contribute to the way OLLI at UConn “tells its story” and it could even contribute to national discussions on the topic of lifelong learning and enrichment in the lives of seasoned adults in the United States. Even if you are new to OLLI, we want to hear from you!

OLLI at UConn has led many intergenerational activities since its inception in 2007. Individuals such as Rosalie Griffin and Aleta Staton have led intergenerational OLLI courses, Drs. Laura Donorfio and Ruth Glasser have led intergenerational UConn courses and activities, and the OLLI gardens and the OLLI office has always engaged people of multiple generations. OLLI has been recognized for its intergenerational activities since inception in 2007 by being asked to present nationally on this topic. This project, is likely “the first of its kind” as it engages 40 UConn undergraduate students in OLLI at UConn all at the same time!

If you would like to submit your name for potential selection for participation, please email osher@uconn.edu or call 203-236-9924/9925 as soon as possible and by **Monday, October 19, 2015 at 12 Noon**. Please include your full name and indicate that you are willing to participate on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 9:30 AM. You must be a current OLLI member in order to be considered for participation.

Thank you!

Laura Donorfio, Ph.D., Associate Professor,
Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Brian G. Chapman, Ed.D., Instructor,
Human Development and Family Studies and
Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute(OLLI)
at the University of Connecticut

