

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

Birth Order Stereotypes May Not Be True

Time Online

Tanya Basu @mstanyabasu

Does when you're born dictate what you're like?

Oldest kids are overachieving bossy types. Youngest kids are spoiled and use charm to get their way. They're oft-repeated stereotypes about birth order and personality, but a study published Monday in the journal *PNAS* reports that there may not be a whole lot of proof to back them up—at least not by the measures assessed by a team of German researchers.

They looked at data sets that include 5,240 Americans, 4,489 British people, and 10,457 Germans because they wanted to compare people not only within their families but also with other sibling sets. Surveys included questions about a person's birth order in addition to their IQ, their self-reported intelligence, and five standard aspects of personality: extroversion, emotional stability, agreeableness, conscientiousness and imagination.

The researchers noticed that, in line with plenty of earlier research, oldest kids scored higher on intelligence tests, with slightly declining IQ as one gets further down sibling ranks. The rest of the data, however, showed weak statistical significance when it came to how birth order influenced those five measures of personality.

This contradicts earlier research; the reason for that may be the fact that this study focused pri-

marily on the big-five personality traits, which is different from how earlier research assessed the effect of birth order on character.

In this study, however, no matter how the team tested the data—there were some theories suggesting age gaps between siblings might accentuate personality differences more, so the researchers tested significant age gaps as well as siblings who were closer in age together—they came up with a similar result. Julia Rohrer, a graduate student in psychology at Germany's University of Leipzig and one of the authors of the paper, says that besides IQ, there were no strong connections between birth order and character. "It was surprising the results are so clear," she says.

One reason firstborns tend to have higher IQs might be because their parents are first-timers and are more prone to paying more attention to their only child and more likely to emphasize the importance of education. Rohrer says there also may be an element of a prophecy being self-fulfilled: a particular child exhibits a personality associated with His/her birth order, and then his/her siblings follow suit.

While this paper does not, on its own, disprove the so-called birth-order effect, it does signal the need for more research.



This is one of the coolest pictures I have ever seen. The men on the right are about to paratroop into France on D-Day. The men on the left are the same men today. More remarkable? It's the same plane. God bless our heroes.



Cont.. by Bob Blake

AMISH AMERICANS

Sight & Sound theatre in Lancaster PA. will unveil its original production of Samson in the spring 2016. OLLI will visit The Lancaster area June 20-22, 2016 to experience this production and other events that make Lancaster so attractive as a place to visit or re-visit.

The story of Samson originates in the Book of Judges and is considered to be a prototypical heroic life story. The production will be spectacular as those of you who have seen past productions realize. For those of you who will see the first Sight & Sound event the show will have a unique and unexpected impact.

This two night and three day excursion is filled with other "sights and sounds". An Amish family will show us their farm and home. We will experience free enterprise "Amish style" at Kitchen Kettle Village. Meals will feature locally sourced food in abundance.

There will be a two night stay in the family owned boutique Cork Factory Hotel. On the last day we will have a guided tour of QVC studios and gift shop.

Register early by calling Friendship Tours at **860-243-1630**. Deposits are not due for some time but can be made conveniently with credit cards over the phone.

Upcoming OLLI Travel

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

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 present-er or staff member

Factoids For OLLI Members

- Sinks in the Campus bathrooms are not built to accommodate solid waste. The Campus cus-todial staff would like to remind you not to throw coffee grounds in them.
- Parking spaces are limited in the attached ramp garage - please be mindful of the way you park.

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 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
November 16 When Lions Roar Thomas Maier



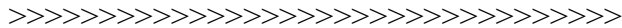
OLLI CAFE

Friday, October 23
Predicting and planning for the future
by examining the past
Wayne Mattox

Wayne Maddox is a noted expert in areas of American furniture, decorative arts and folk art and has broad experience in all areas of western art, antiques and collectibles. Wayne has served as founding president of the Woodbury Antiques Dealers Association and has served as a celebrity auctioneer for many large scale fundraisers. Come listen to his humorous and informative "Antique Talk!"

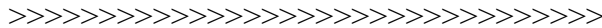
Friday, October 30
Learning meteorology
Sam Kantrow

CAMPUS SPECIAL EVENTS



Ruins Reborn: Revitalizing Postindustrial Cities

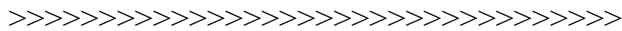
Speaker Hugh Bailey, CT Post Reporter
Wed. 10/28/15 12: 00



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

OLLI TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS

It is hard to imagine the enormity and raw beauty and power of Niagara Falls until you see them up close. Forty OLLItravelers experienced this as well as many other sites in the area during a trip to Niagara Falls on September 27. While most of the first day was taken up with travel, the group got its first view of the falls during dinner at Elements, a restaurant as close to the falls as is possible. At about 8:30 the falls are bathed in colored lights making them even more spectacular. As the group returned to the hotel, they had an excellent view of the eclipse of the moon a great finish to a wonderful day.

Day Two began with a tour of the surrounding area guided by Don Robinson, a local guide who was very knowledgeable and entertaining. Some of his best stories were about the people who have gone over the Falls. The rest of the day was free time. Some travelers took a cruise on the Hornblower (Canadas Maid of the Mist) others went on a walk Behind the Falls. Still others visited the Botanical Gardens or the IMAX movie of the Falls. Three stalwart souls walked across the bridge to the United States Falls.

Day Three started with a visit to the Welland Canal with Don Robinson. As if by design, a ship was passing thru Lock 7. Then the bus headed for Niagara by the Lake, a small town filled with interesting shops and restaurants, followed by a visit to a winery. That evening the group went to the restaurant atop the Skylon Tower. The restaurant rotates and throughout dinner, each had a 360 degree view of the area.

Before starting for home on Day Four, we made a few more stops. The Butterfly Conservatory was a wonderful experience-any number of species were flying around, landing on peoples hands, backs and heads. The last stop was the Duty Free Shop.

As with many OLLI trips, Friendship Tours provided the accommodations and Bob, OLLI's favorite tour guide, made sure the trip went smoothly. My husband and I had never been on a bus trip before and were somewhat apprehensive. If this trip was any indication, OLLItrips are top notch.

Ellen Gambini

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

2nd Thurs at John Bale Bookshop -10:00am
Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)
For more information

MEET YOUR MEMBERS



Marian Marcelynas Pelletier, a retired elementary school teacher, is finding writing songs is a way that allows her to express her feelings and stretch her life experiences.

Her musical efforts began with singing choral music in school and college. She also has sung many years in the choir at Waterbury's St. Joseph's Church that has long served Catholics of Lithuanian ethnicity.

Often, the natural soprano sings a Lithuanian hymn *Jezau, Ateinu Tave (Jesus, I am coming to You)* at Communion time in her church. Now she alternates singing the verses of the hymn in English and Lithuanian with one verse in Lithuanian and the next in English.

She explained the congregation no longer is comprised solely of people who are ethnically Lithuanians but includes people of Hispanic and other ethnic groups.

Marian has a CD, *Songs from My Heart* recorded at The Shed Sound Studio in New Fairfield, which features her singing and accompanying herself on the guitar. The songs have, in her words, a "folksy" feeling.

Her first tune, *U.S.A.*, was inspired by the events of 9/11/2001. It concludes: "Now, love and patriotism abound in the U.S.A. again. U.S.A. U.S.A, U.S.A."

Marian's CD features her singing six of her songs, including *U.S.A.* A self-taught guitarist who accompanies herself, Marian now is determined to see how much more she can do with music. At the suggestion of an advisor, Marian pitched her voice lower for the CD to match the character of the music.

She wants to turn one of her songs, *The Garden*, into a book that would illustrate all of the things you might find in a garden, such as herbs and vegetables,

worms and bees. Marian was inspired to write this song by an experience she had when substituting in a Waterbury school after retiring.

During a fire drill students had to go outside in the rain and stand on a grassy place where earth worms showed up. Some feared the creatures because they didn't know what they were. Thus, she wrote the song that celebrates gardening and the planet earth "where many things grow."

Another of her songs, *Right Now*, speaks of a new boy being made fun of when seeking to fit into a new group. She would like to work with an anti-bullying group to help address bullying.

Marian believes in learning new things. "The best way to keep the brain young is to learn something new." Currently, she is working on learning new chords for the guitar. She studies with Lucinda Rowe of Flying Key Entertainment, New Fairfield.

When growing up, Marian said more English than Lithuanian was spoken at home so she took lessons in the Lithuanian language because of her heritage.

The second oldest of seven children, she often baby sat her younger siblings, paving the way for a career in elementary education. Marian observed that young women at the time (often) had a choice of two careers: nursing or teaching. "I didn't like (seeing) blood so that was out," she said.

Marian attended Waterbury Catholic High for two years, and then finished her secondary education at Sacred Heart, Waterbury. She then earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in elementary education with a concentration of mathematics from Central Connecticut State University.

After college, she taught one year at Black Rock School in Thomaston before going to Pomperaug Region 15, where she taught third and fourth graders for 36 years. She is proud of having begun a math club. She focused on getting girls more interested in that subject.

She has taken a number of OLLI classes. The first one was taught by the talented musician Julie Cook, who encourages students to have confidence in developing their own musical talent. Currently, Marian is taking "Chinese Medicine: The Evil We Do to Ourselves." -**Mary Ann Martin**

OLLI THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Today, October 23, starts the first day of the month-long OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee Thanksgiving food drive. It is anticipated that this year's donations will surpass last year's 700+ total.

Non-perishable bottled and canned food items, including cereal, crackers, assorted canned vegetables and soups, boxed stuffing mix, coffee, peanut butter, jellies and jams, pasta sauces, etc. are needed to fill the pantry at the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. From there, all OLLI donations will be boxed and given to needy families in the Waterbury area.

All food donations can be brought to the OLLI members' table located on the first floor, concourse area, opposite the UConn book store. On behalf of the Clubs and Activities Committee a very sincere thank you is extended to all OLLI folks who support this community endeavor.

