

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

## Lest We Forget

Veterans' Day November 11

### *Omaha Beach, October 11, 2015*

Standing on that same beach  
With the English guide, Julian, describing the chaos, confusion  
And pure terror facing those youths emerging from the landing craft  
On June 6, 1944, it was easy to visualize on this peaceful sunny day.  
Julian's words, as we stood on those hard sands,  
Describing the cliffs with that massive firepower raining down,  
And how much open beach they had to cross  
Must have been horrendous to those young boys becoming men-or not.  
Imagining the confusion among the machine gun bullets,  
And mortar explosions and cannon fire,  
The dead and wounded, and the loss of leadership,  
Was beyond belief.  
Julian's descriptions brought it all back to life.

The American Cemetery overlooks that beach  
Some seventy-one years later.  
Nine thousand of those boys and men  
Remain there under lines of crosses  
Stretching to the cliffs lining the coast.  
They finally made it off the chaotic sands  
And rest now in hallowed ground.  
We cannot help feeling sadness and gratitude  
As we gaze out over the white crosses  
Symbolizing the ultimate sacrifice given that day  
By the youth of the Greatest Generation.

However, as we contemplate that picture,  
We have to think, regarding this present world,  
Of Pete Seeger's protest song that ends:

"When *will* we ever learn?"

-RJG-



## THE JOY OF TOM SWIFTIES

Funny and Exuberant Puns That Turn Adverbs into Punchlines

A Tom Swifty is a play on words taking the form of a quotation ascribed to Tom and followed by an adverb. Here's a good example

"The thermostat is set too high," said Tom heatedly.

The term was coined by [Willard Espy](#) (1911–99), one of the masters of word play, who compiled two wonderful collections of poems, essays, quizzes, and other writings about language: *An Almanac of Words at Play* (1975) and *Another Almanac of Words at Play* (1980). Merriam-Webster was fortunate to acquire the rights to these books and published excerpts from them in a collection entitled *The Best of an Almanac of Words at Play* in 1999.

Droll humor is a feature of much of the material Espy collected, as is apparent in the *Almanac* entry for Tom Swifties. The form takes its name from the main character in a series of adventure books published by Edward Stratemeyer beginning in 1910. (Although the books were all credited to "Victor Appleton," he was imaginary – the books were actually written by several different authors.) In the series, which had titles that included *Tom Swift in the City of Gold*, *Tom Swift and His Wizard Camera*, and *Tom Swift and His Great Searchlight*, the authors supposedly revealed a weakness for adverbs, attaching an excess of them to dialogue in order to add color and variety to the narration.

**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

Sometimes the puns are simple:

"Let's gather up the rope," said Tom coyly.

"Welcome to my tomb," said Tom cryptically.

"I can't find the oranges," said Tom fruitlessly.

Sometimes they require a little more thought to get:

"Don't you love sleeping outdoors," Tom said intently.

"Let's trap that sick bird," Tom said illegally.

"I lost my trousers," said Tom expansively.

And some are inspired:

"I just ran over my father," Tom said transparently.

And the all-time best Tom Swifty:

"I just dropped the toothpaste," said Tom crestfallenly.

Tom Swifties seem to have fallen into disuse in recent years – they're overdue for a revival. If nothing else, they're fun and they'll help keep your mind sharp. That's what we say, pointedly.

Try your creative minds with your own Tom Swifties

*Merriman-Webster On-line Word Play*

### 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

**November 16 When Lions Roar Thomas Maier**





## ATTENTION OLLI TRAVELERS: THE SOUTH BECKONS

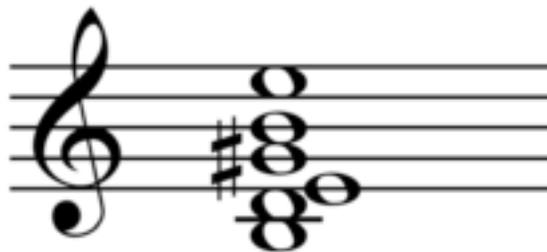
Your OLLI Travel Committee has just added a new and exciting trip to its Fall, 2016 schedule. Join us next November 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, as we fly from Bradley Airport to Nashville. There we will meet our “southern tour guide” who will lead us on an extraordinary tour of the “Music City”--including a historic RCA Studio where Elvis, Dolly Parton, Charlie Pride, and countless country legends recorded their hits. We will also visit historic Ryman Auditorium and finally the Grand Ole Opry, including a backstage tour of this iconic venue. Before departing for our next “music city”, we will visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and attempt to absorb or at least relive the music and artists that are so identified with this part of our country.

On Day 3 we are off to Memphis where Graceland, home of Elvis, awaits us. Here in the city of Blues, Rock ‘n Roll, and Soul, we will savor the city’s essence along famous Beale Street. Dinner at the #1 BBQ in Memphis is also on the agenda.

Day 5 takes us to none other than the “Jazz Capital of the World” New Orleans. Rich in history, Cajun and Creole cuisine, as well, New Orleans offers a grand stay as we walk the French Quarter, motor through the city, and boat tour through the famous Louisiana swamp region. For all our gourmet travelers, a cooking demo and dinner Louisiana Style) will be presented at the New Orleans School of Cooking.

Yes, America’s Music Cities -- Nashville, Memphis, and New Orleans await us next November 4<sup>th</sup>--11<sup>th</sup>. Look for flyers on the Membership table on the main concourse here at UCONN or call Barbara at Friendship Tours (860-243-1630) to reserve your seat. It’s important to reserve early as seats will be held until April 2, 2016 and then released back to the tour company down South.

Price for this fabulous trip is \$2,899. With final payment due August 2, 2016, there is plenty of time to budget accordingly, but reserve now and don’t miss out on a great getaway!!



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## OLLI THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

It's an all too frequent item in the newspaper and other media. For example, ESPN is laying off 200 employees. Or x company is closing its plant which will add 348 people to the unemployment rolls.

So? For many of us, more fortunate than the soon to be unemployed, these figures mean nothing. We still don't face personal hunger.

We still can go out to the pizza shop for our Friday meal. We can afford a car and its needed gas. Concert tickets are affordable and we are preparing for a big holiday shopping binge.

If you see yourself in this group, then please consider donating food items to the Clubs and Activities' 2015 Thanksgiving Food Drive. The drive will continue through November 13<sup>th</sup> which is the last day of OLLI's fall semester.

Needed items include canned fruits and vegetables, soup, coffee and tea. Other needs are rice, pasta and pasta sauces, peanut butter and jelly, stuffing mixes, cereal and crackers.

Please bring your contributions to the OLLI members' table which is across from the university's bookstore.

Items will be boxed and donated to the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries which will be given to needy families in the Waterbury area.



**Save the date – November 13 – 2:15–3:45 pm!** Do you attend an OLLI afternoon class from 2:15 to 3:45 pm? If not, please plan to join your fellow OLLI members in the Multi-purpose room at that time for a special presentation. As part of OLLI's Arts Celebration Day on the last day of Classes, several OLLI members will be presenting dramatic readings of brief new, original plays written by them. OLLI poets whose poetry has appeared in a recent issue of Voices and Visions will accompany these OLLI playwrights. Save the date and become part of this outstanding cultural and artistic event.