Welcome Spring 2016 OLLI Members

From the OLLI President:

Whether you are new to the OLLI program or a veteran returning once again, a hearty welcome to the Spring 2016 semester.

Before telling you about some of the work accomplished by your Leadership Council during this past (very mild) winter, on behalf of all of the OLLI members, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and best wishes to outgoing OLLI Director, Brian Chapman.

Brian has been part of OLLI since its inception and has been instrumental in the program's initiation and growth during these past nine years. I, for one, have benefited greatly from his leadership and mentorship and we have all benefited from the courses and programs he helped make possible. The members of the Leadership Council discussed holding an event to publicly thank Brian for his service but he wanted none of it. He has also asked that, if any members feel compelled to offer him a gift, please make a contribution in his name to the OLLI Sustainability Fund instead.

So Brian, here's wishing you all the best in all of your future endeavors!

During the last several months the OLLI Leadership Council has been hard at work strengthening OLLI's foundation and preparing for the program's future.

The composition and enrollment of OLLI Leadership Council is documented in the OLLI Leadership Council Guidelines. These guidelines which were created in April 2009, however, have not been updated since March, 2010 and their content no longer reflects the current OLLI practices. Also, because of changes in OLLI itself in the last few years, including the composition and operation of several of the OLLI committees, the resulting Leadership Council membership has remained mostly stagnant for some time. This was partially intentional in order to maintain stability in the OLLI program.

Now, UCONN and OLLI are ready to begin moving forward again. Two months ago, in response to this and to address specific concerns voiced by OLLI members, three separate Leadership Council sub-committees were established to review, recommend changes and revise the OLLI Guidelines. They include: the Schedule Revision Committee, the Leadership Council Succession Planning Committee, and the OLLI Guidelines Revision Committee.

The Schedule Revision Committee is looking at the schedule for OLLI course offerings. You, the Olli members, have voiced concern over a reduction in the sense of "community" for OLLI. In particular, you have pointed to the changes in attendance at the OLLI Cafe program which used to bring many OLLI members together for socializing as well as education. You also voiced concern over OLLI courses that began very early in the day or extended late into the afternoon. We on the Leadership have heard your concerns and taken them very seriously. The Schedule Revision Committee is working to establish a dedicated lunchtime where you can socialize together without other competing classes while also addressing your concerns over very early and very late class offerings. While that seems like a daunting task, the committee members have been making great strides in addressing all of these concerns.

The Leadership Council Succession Planning Committee is concerned with establishing and documenting the means by which OLLI members become members of the Leadership Council and the process for replacing Council members over time. The goal of this committee is to bring the OLLI Guidelines into sync with current practices by OLLI and UCONN. The Leadership Council is not the ultimate OLLI policy decision making body, but rather an advisory body that makes recommendations to the UCONN administration, which makes the final policy decisions. The primary function of the Leadership Council is communications and coordination among the various OLLI committees and with the general OLLI membership. For that reason, the chairs of each standing OLLI committee (Clubs and Activities, Travel, Newsletter, OLLI Cafe, etc.) or their designees (usually one of the co-chairs) are automatically members of the Leadership Council and remain in this position as long as they maintain chairmanship of their respective committees.) In addition, the Leadership Council has several (the current recommendation is four) "Members At Large," who represent the general OLLI membership on the Leadership Council.

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OLLI BOOK CLUB

The OLLI Book Club recently celebrated its 5th anniversary at a luncheon on Monday, January 18th, at Sultan’s Turkish Restaurant, Plank Road, Waterbury, CT.

The OLLI book club, the only book club in the University of Connecticut system, began in January, 2011, with its first reading of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s awarding winning book of President Abraham Lincoln’s cabinet members choices, “Team of Rivals”.

Over the past five years OLLI’s Book Club members have read and shared in the discussion of over 55 books, ranging in topics from art, history, novels, music, health, food sustainability, poetry, biographies, etc. The members of the book club, numbering 12 as of this writing, have a wide range of interest in reading selections and keep the book discussions interesting and lively.

The February reading is “The New Jim Crow”, by Michelle Alexander. This book is this year’s UCONN READS listing, and will be discussed on Monday, March 21, in room 102D, at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Warmest Regards,
Chuck Miceli

Eye Halve a Spelling Chequer

Eye halve a spelling chequer, it came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word and weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write; it shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid it nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite; it’s rarely ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it; I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect in it’s weigh—my chequer tolled me sew!

-- Sauce unknown
February 19:
The Declaration of Independence, with John White

The War for Independence, which founded our nation, is over, but the American Revolution goes on because it is a spiritual revolution of global dimensions. Come listen to internationally known author, John White discuss what he calls “the American Spirit” and show how it arises from the Declaration of Independence, along with the principles, ideals and values which built America.

February 26:
My Journey to Bhutan and Northern India, with Dr. Ira Mickenberg

Dr. Ira Mickenberg is a retired internist who enjoys traveling to third world countries. His most recent adventure was a month-long vacation to Bhutan and Northern India. Dr. Mickenberg will be sharing a cultural and photographic journey through these two countries.

Upcoming OLLI Travel

5/12/16 - The Springfield Museums (4)/Dr. Seuss Sculpture Garden MA - $62pp
6/20-22/2016 – Lancaster PA (Sight & Sound Theatre (overnight) - $427pp dbl
6/29/2016 - Thomas Edison National Historic Park/Montclair Museum - $85 pp

9/07/2016 - Music on the Mountain (Mohonk Mountain) NY - $114pp
11/4-11/2016 – America’s Music Cities-Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans - $289pp twin

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 Travel NOTICE – Effective immediately, all OLLI Trips will no longer depart from St. Anthony Parking Lot. They will depart from and return to the Chase Parkway DOT Commuter Lot, Waterbury. Maps of this new Departure area are available on the OLLI Information Table in the main hall.

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 17TH

The OLLI Clubs & Activities Committee members have been busily planning events for the coming months. Please set aside Thursday, March 17th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., in room 102, to enjoy the second annual GAMES DAY!

Games, including chess, checkers, monopoly, cards, and American History board game fun, will be offered for your playing enjoyment. You are also encouraged to bring your bridge team members, or mah jong group or card playing friends.

Green bagels, with cream cheese, plus other goodies, in addition to soft drinks, coffee and tea will be provided courtesy of the Clubs & Activities committee.

Please feel free to call the OLLI office at 203-236-9924, to let us save a place for you and your friends.
SOME TIPS FOR OLLI TRAVELERS

A new semester is starting and that means new and exciting trips also, both day trips and overnights. We want to make sure you get the most enjoyment out of them. These are some things to keep in mind.

Tip 1: Information on our trips can be found in flyers (on the OLLI Information Table) and on the OLLI Website (olli.uconn.edu). This website has a Link for OLLI Travel. Both of these have the full information on the trip with the phone number of Friendship Tours to call for a reservation. There is also a shorter listing of all trips entitled Upcoming OLLI Travel every week in the OLLI Newsletter and articles will also appear in the Newsletter on occasion.

Tip 2: Get your reservations in as soon as you can. Friendship Tours needs a certain time period in which to cancel a trip that does not attain a minimum number (40) before the date of the actual trip. This does not happen often but and sometimes happens only because people that were interested waited too long to call in reservations. If everyone waits until the last minute to make their reservation, a trip may not seem as if it has enough interest and may need to be cancelled. For day trips, if needed, trips are cancelled a month before the trip actually takes place. For overnight trips, if the number is not high enough by the time of the initial deposit due date listed on the back of the flyer, the trip will be cancelled then. So, if you are interested in a trip, be early with your reservation. An added reason for early reservations is to make sure that you are not put on a waiting list of a trip that fills up more quickly than expected and possibly miss out on it. “The early bird gets the worm.”

Tip 3: Plan on getting to the bus departure area (new area - Chase Parkway DOT Commuter Lot, Waterbury) 15 minutes before the bus leaves. The bus leaves promptly at the departure time so that we can give you the most time at the destination. Make sure you carry your confirmation paper with you in case you are delayed in traffic. It has the telephone number of Friendship Tours on it that you can call and let them know. They will call our Tour Director and inform him/her. (We will no longer have Dunkin Donuts next to our parking lot so, if you want a coffee, either bring it from home or start earlier to make sure you are on time.)

Tip 4: To get the most enjoyment out of your day, wear your most comfortable shoes. Any trip will have more walking than your normal routine. Keep your legs and feet happy so that you will be happy too at the end of the day.

Tip 5: If you get hungry easily, bag a snack from home. On very long rides, there will be a stop for restrooms and possibly to buy a snack, but for shorter rides, the bus may go straight from the parking lot to the trip destination. You might want to bring some reading material also.

Tip 6: Keep the weather in mind when dressing for the trip. A good rule of thumb is to dress in layers. You may leave sweaters and coats etc. on the bus while on the trip. The bus is always left locked if the bus driver is not with it.

And, of course, remember to bring a camera or something to take pictures. We are sure you will want memories of your travels. As always, Happy Traveling!

Ann Rompre, Co-Chair OLLI Travel Committee

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
The University of Connecticut
99 East Main Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

OLEI 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.olli.uconn.edu
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 4th to 11th, 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 4th--11th. 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!!

I’ll Have The Senior Special!

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the ‘Senior Special’ was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for $2.99. "Sounds good," my wife said, "but I don't want the eggs."
"Then I'll have to charge you $3.49 because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.
"You mean I'd have to pay more for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.
"Yes," said the waitress.
"I'll take the special, then," my wife said. "How do you want your eggs?" the waitress asked.
"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied.
She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.
Don't mess with Seniors!
MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Louis Belloisy, now historian and official photographer for Waterbury’s Palace Theater, was a professional corporate pilot for many years with the bulk of that time spent flying helicopters.

When flying for a charter company out of Wallingford, some of his passengers included Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones and also two former presidents, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. The presidents were out of office when they were Lou’s passengers and he recalls both as being nice men. President Ford was traveling from New Haven to New York and President Carter was a passenger on Lou’s craft from Boston to New York and back.

Lou remembers flying Jagger, who was staying in Washington (Connecticut) in the 1980s while preparing for a concert in Long Island, on four trips. On the first one he asked the legendary performer for an autograph and was refused. On the third excursion, Jagger said, “I owe you an autograph” and gave the pilot one. Jagger, Lou says, clearly is “a brilliant businessman.” (Jagger dropped out of the London School of Economics before becoming a rock and roll superstar.)

Many of Lou’s passengers were businessmen prominent in their worlds. All had an interest in traveling the most convenient and quickest way to their destinations. For a time, Lou parked a helicopter on his lawn in Morris, Connecticut, to the “chagrin of the New Yorkers” living in the Bantam Lake area near his home. But having the craft parked in Morris delighted Lou’s major customer at the time, who had businesses interests in many far-apart locations and was pleased he didn’t have to travel to Wallingford to catch his flight.

Lou himself fell in love with the idea of flying when reading a book as a six-year-old at Silas Bronson Library. Author and artist Eric Sloane’s view of sky and clouds “got me” and the child resolved to become a pilot and be in the air soaring among clouds.

Lou learned to fly in the U.S. Air Force. When his service ended, he attended a dedicated flight school and became licensed to fly single engine planes and earned ratings to fly helicopters, sea planes and multi-engine aircraft. Before becoming a corporate pilot, he began giving flying lessons at Johnnycake Airport, now closed, in Harwinton. While he did fly corporate jets, most of his work was with helicopters.

Connecticut television stations also were among his clients. He flew Chopper 8 for Channel 8; Sky 3 for Channel 3 and Channel 30’s NBC Ship. “It was a fun time in my life. I got to see things other people never saw.” He recalled one difficult incident when “the cops were furious.” Chopper 8’s TV crew was filming a hostage situation and the suspect “could see where the cops were” by watching live coverage.

When he was flying for Timex, Waterbury Hospital called with an emergency request to fly a baby in an incubator to a New Haven hospital. “You might say it was the First Lifestar flight.” The infant could be off the incubator for a maximum of 30 minutes while traveling and the craft made it with child and doctors on board in 17 minutes.

Lou’s interest in photography also began in childhood. He also loved movies. “Way back when, the Palace was a grand movie house.” He worked there before entering the Air Force and “got to see the movies free.” Now retired from flying professionally, Lou has returned to the Palace. “I adore the Palace; the shows are fantastic.” He considers it a privilege to be the official photographer for the theater.

Lou cherishes the opportunity to share his love of the Palace with OLLI students in his five-week course The Magic Behind the Footlights: Backstage Secrets of Waterbury’s Storied Palace Theater, which begins this term on April 1.

-Mary Ann Martin