March 2017

On Hard Hill
Corn stalks pierce the new fallen snow
Like a five-day beard.
The day before, the temperature was spring-like,
Melting the ponds,
Allowing early geese respite on their way north.
The deadfall in White’s Woods
Had coverlets of white keeping them warm.
Surely, spring was right around the corner.

And then came yesterday.
Blizzard warnings-copious amounts of the white stuff-
March winds reaching hurricane strength.
And so it was.
-some hyperbole- only 19 inches instead of 24-
But enough to know that March teased us again!
However, next week the weather warms
And April awaits.

There are two kinds of
March Madness.

Bob Grady

The Editorial Committee – which produces the OLLI literary magazine, *Voices and Visions*, is looking for ‘creative submissions’ for the next issue which will be printed sometime late summer. Any OLLI members or presenters interested in submitting creative works for Volume #7 can send their pieces electronically to:  
[UConnOlliReview@gmail.com](mailto:UConnOlliReview@gmail.com) OR drop off or send to the OLLI office – and it will be forwarded to the committee.

We are bringing this to your attention now because the second half of the spring semester is starting and if you have a piece of poetry or prose, or any form of artwork that you have created and think it might be a worthy addition to the next *Voices and Visions* but are still unsure, the committee is prepared to help you polish your pride and joy, if revision might be needed. The committee’s expertise comes from being students, teachers, writers and presenters.

FINAL deadline for submissions is June 15, 2017 – although the committee would welcome submissions any time sooner!
OLLI OCTOBER TRIP—
A RELAXING DAY AT THE
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS’
DALE CHIHULY EXHIBIT

If you look on the internet for Dale Chihuly, within a few minutes you will find some of his incredible, blown glass pieces from previous exhibits. This will be enough to make you want to make a reservation for this OLLI trip on October 11, 2017.

The Dale Chihuly Exhibition will be held in the New York Botanical Garden. Once the Friendship Tour bus drops you off at the gate of NYBG, you are free to wander around the park on your own schedule. The blown glass pieces created by Chihuly are on display throughout the park.

Many visitors take the narrated tram ride for an overall view of the park and then make their first stop at the Conservatory, or the pond filled with a variety of lilies, or the bonsai collection. There are more than 1 million plants growing on 250 acres of land.

If you have been to NYBG on your own or on a previous OLLI trip, you’ll be still be amazed how the gardens change as the seasons rotate.

Things to keep in mind include: the Pine Tree Café or the Hudson Garden Grill is available for lunch or a snack - or bring your own lunch. There are benches throughout the NYBG. You can sit and enjoy the waterfalls, rolling hills, native forest trees and a river.

The cost of this trip is $77 for members and $87 for non-members. The bus leaves from the Chase Parkway Commuter Lot at 8 am and return time is approximately 6:30 pm.

Reservations can be made by calling Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630. If you have any special medical needs (physical, dietary etc.) please advise Friendship Tours when you make your trip reservation.

Also, before the Botanical Garden, keep in mind these other OLLI trips -
May 4 to Newport, RI and the Doris Duke Estate
July 10-16 overnight to the Bay of Fundy
March 24
The Grotesque Side Of The Yale University| Matthew Duman
Matthew Duman will highlight an extensive selection of gargoyles and grotesques found throughout the collegiate Gothic buildings of the Yale University campus. Using original photographs from his book: *Art Education in the Grotesque: the Gargoyles of Yale University*, Matthew explores the artistic, historic, architectural and even humorous significance of these decorative sculptures and their role in communicating the identity of Yale University as a dynamic place of learning and enlightenment.

March 31
Changing Face of Southern China| Edward Cocchiola

Upcoming OLLI Travel

**SPRING TRIPS 2017**
5/04/2017 – Doris Duke Estate, Newport RI - member price $85pp
7/10-16/2017 – Bay of Fundy/New Brunswick -Canada/Campobello,ME (overnight) – member price - $1487/pp dbl and triple

**FALL TRIPS 2017**
9/22-24/2017 - Adirondack Balloon Festival, Lake George, NY (overnight) – member price- $463pp dbl & triple
10/11/2017 – NY Botanical Gardens (Chihuly Exhibit), NYC – member price- $77pp
11/07-08/2017 – Terracotta Warriors@Franklin Institute, PA (overnight) – member price $307pp dbl & triple
Flyers available at the OLLI Information Table. All prices are member prices. Non-members are charged a slight surcharge that is listed on all flyers. Call Friendship Tours for information and reservations. (1-800-243-1630). Mention OLLI Travel.

**Please Note** – All OLLI Trips will depart from and return to the Chase Parkway DOT Commuter Lot, Waterbury. Maps of this Departure Area are available on the OLLI Information Table in the main hall.

“"You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.””
- James Allen

**TRAVEL ANNOUNCEMENT**
OLLI Members interested in the Bay of Fundy overnight trip (July 10-16, 2017) should get their reservations in *SOON*. The deadline for the initial deposit is April 7th. Don’t miss out because of being late!
A circus owner walked into a bar to see everyone crowded for about a table watching a little shell. On the table was an upside down pot and a duck tap dancing on it. The circus owner was so impressed that he offered to buy the duck from its owner. After some wheeling and dealing, they settled for $10,000 for the duck and the pot.

Three days later the circus owner runs back to the bar in anger, “your duck is a rip-off! I put him on the pot before a whole audience, and he didn’t dance a single step!”

“So?” Asked the duck’s former owner, “did you remember to light the candle under the pot?”

A woman is out looking for a pet, and so she’s trying the local pet shops. She walks into a small pet shop and explains her need to the attendant. He thinks for a moment and then says, “I’ve got just the thing for you Madam. I’ll just get him.”

With that, he disappears into the back of the shop, and returns a few seconds later with a cute little puppy. “This dog is a special dog,” he tells her. “It is able to fly,” he explains, and throws the dog into the air. It immediately begins to float gracefully around the shop. “There is one problem with him, however. Whenever you say “my”, he’ll eat whatever you’ve mentioned. Watch.”

“My apple!” The lady watches in astonishment as the dog zooms over to the shop attendant and furiously devours an apple he has produced from his pocket.

“He’s cute, and so unusual. I’ll take him,” she says, and a few minutes later she is on her way back home with the dog to show her husband. “Darling, look what a clever pet I bought home!” She exclaims when she gets back home. “He can fly!”

Husband peers at the dog, and then remarks, “Fly!.. ha!.. My foot!”

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the OLLI Newsletter committee, we sincerely apologize for any distasteful or misrepresentative content in the jokes presented in the OLLI newsletter last week. It has never been the intent of the OLLI newsletter to offend or stereotype any individuals or groups of people, based on race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, or the like. We recognize that important boundaries have been crossed and apologize for any discomfort this may have caused.

Kind regards,
Your OLLI friends
The year was 1977. I was 25 years old and expecting my second child when the mini-series of Alex Haley’s bestselling book “Roots” was broadcast. Americans were starting a “Find Your Roots” frenzy that is still going strong. I remember watching this inspiring show and thinking that a great gift to my children would be to search their roots and put it all down on paper. However, genealogy was not that easy back then. It was before the internet, and you needed both time and money (both of which were in short supply around my house.) Fast forward another 25 years to 2002, and I finally got started on my quest. And what a fun journey it has been! I am here to inform you that the time is now. Remember before you retired you told yourself that you would or- ganize your family photos, research your genealogy, and get your story written to pass on to your progeny? Now you’re enjoying classes at OLLI, expanding your social life, exercising, learning and reaching out, and you’re busy, right? Well, guess what? You still need to write your history and that of your family!

Crafting your history as literature can be a fun and satisfying endeavor. Genealogy itself is fascinating, but turning it into “a living history” is even more worthwhile. While compiling lists of your ancestors through research is important – e.g., grandpa was born in Cork, died in Brooklyn in 1899, left twelve children, etc., it’s not that interesting. Really, it isn’t. You want to make your story and that of your ancestors exactly that, a story! Literature!

So, where do you begin? It begins, of course, with YOU! At first, don’t worry about the computer, websites, etc. Just start with you – write down your name, where you were born, where and if baptized, schools attended, degrees attained, job/career history, spouse(s), children’s names, etc. Then work backwards – parents, same info, dates and places. Most of us are not in the fortunate position of being able to interview our parents anymore, so rely on your memory for family stories, and collaborate with living relatives to acquire more family information. Use any family documents – birth certificates, letters, Bibles, diaries, etc., to learn more. Many of us go back two or more generations in the United States, and that is where basic Ancestry.com comes in. Other user-friendly sites like heritagequest, familysearch (LDS Mormon Church) and Cindy’s list.com can be enor- mously helpful. And of course, when you’re ready, you can test your DNA through laboratory tests.

Back to my original point: You want to make your story interesting, and believe me, everyone’s is! As a child, I was told that I was 100% Irish, of post-famine poor immigrants. My parents were from Brooklyn and were lower middle class, Irish, Catholic, white. Sound familiar? So I decided to dig deeper into my roots. I learned through online research that while I was mostly Irish, I also had other ethnic ancestry. I had run into a wall on my maternal side with a great-great grandfather, David Jervey. All I really knew was his name, and that my mother’s family disparagingly referred to him as “the Southerner.” Through ancestry.com, a woman from Florida who researches the Jervey family answered my on-line query and led me to him. He was not Irish, nor Catholic, but descended from a prominent family of Scottish, French and Dutch who had settled in Charleston around 1700. (And, gasp! they were Episcopalians and Huguenots!) My six times grandfather, Pierre Jean Changuion, had been the Dutch Governor of Aruba from 1803 to 1807. Another direct ancestor had been a prominent member of Charleston society and government, the first postmaster general of Charleston, and another was a great naval hero of the Barbary wars. Another direct ancestor was the muster master to Francis Marion, the famous “Swamp Fox” during the Revolutionary War! But, alas, my James David Henry Jervey, their scion, was definitely a black sheep. Apparently he was a serial marrier, drinker, perhaps a bigamist, a defector to the Union Side in the Civil War, and most likely (according to the online Brooklyn Eagle of 1879) responsible for the accidental manslaughter of his wife, my great-great grandmother! What a story! No need to worry about making my genealogy interesting! I have even begun to write a mini-series script about the family.

I am sure that if you start this fascinating journey, you will find the sheep and the goats in your family, too! Take some time to bequeath this gift to your family. You may become just as addicted to genealogy as I did, and write a great piece of literature!
Ira Mickenberg practiced internal medicine in Southbury for 37 years, including making house calls. He remembers in the pre-cell phone, GPS era, sometimes looking for the house with the light on in the middle of the night in rural Southbury where his patient was waiting.

Today, the incoming president of OLLI delights in expanding his knowledge in fields other than science. He’s found OLLI provides an outstanding environment for learning.

He retired from private practice, Ira says, because he was getting tired. He wanted to have the time to learn about things other than medicine, travel the world, and spend more time with family.

Among many OLLI classes Ira has taken are those on Islam, opera, gender and, a special favorite, the Harlem Renaissance. He finds time to help with the garden project at Fulton Park Farm and contributes poems to *Voices and Visions*, the literary and arts review produced annually by OLLI.

“My vocabulary is a little different from others,” Ira acknowledges, because of his scientific background.

While very proud of honors earned for excellence in providing patient care, Ira rarely puts M.D. after his name when not in a medical setting. People tend to react to knowing he is a doctor and that changes the conversation, according to Ira, although most OLLI people he has met now know he is a (retired) physician.

Well-respected by his medical peers, Ira was extremely pleased to be chosen in 1972 as a Fellow of the American College of the American College of Physicians. The award given to a limited number of physicians recognizes the level of research and patient care provided. In 2007, the FACP named Ira Physician Laureate of Connecticut. Doctors chosen for that honor personify exemplary care to patients.

Ira interned at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, and did residencies at Stanford University and Yale New Haven Hospital. He loved research but recognized himself was better suited to working directly with patients. Waterbury Hospital’s affiliation with Yale drew him to Southbury, which had no doctor of internal medicine at the time.

Over his career, Ira focused on three specific areas of interest: (1) Infectious Diseases; (2) Geriatrics; (3) Holistic Medicine. He is fascinated by the relationship of the mind and body.

At OLLI, Ira would like to see additional diversity, including varied ethnic and racial backgrounds and more young college graduates among presenters. “The more exposure you can get, the better” your learning experience. Beyond OLLI, Ira and his wife Pat Fahey travel extensively. –Mary Ann Martin