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.

**OLLI Leadership Council Welcomes New Members**

On Tuesday, March 21st, the OLLI Leadership Council invited and welcomed four new members to an introductory meeting of the OLLI Leadership Council. These four people will assume their official positions as of the May 2017 meeting of the Leadership Council:

- President – Ira Mickenberg
- Vice President – Mila Limson
- Member-At-Large – Joseph Gambini
- Member-At-Large – Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

The new members were chosen from nominations that were open to all members. They bring with them a wide scope of qualifications and experience, but most of all, they have shown a commitment to working to help make OLLI better for all its members. We look forward to working with them.

These new members will be replacing the following current members that are finishing their 2 year terms: President Charles Miceli, Vice President Toni Escott, and Members-At-Large Claudia DePalma and Marion Russo. The Leadership Council would like to wholeheartedly thank these members as they leave for the outstanding ideas and work that they have given during their terms that has resulted in greatly furthering OLLI’s success. OLLI moves forward because of the volunteer efforts of such wonderful people.
Weird Musings

Editor’s note: This post is a Care2 favorite, back by popular demand. It was originally published on March 4, 2015. Enjoy!

Cockroaches get a bad reputation. Although these creepy crawlies are traditionally associated with dirt, disease and squalor, cockroaches actually have a lot to offer the world. At the very least, they are quite interesting. Like spiders, who are often misunderstood too, cockroaches have some remarkable similarities to humans.

After reading these five little-known tidbits about cockroaches, you’ll see that we are not so different from these insects, after all. We are connected — and even dependent on each other!

1. Not all cockroaches are pests.
   In fact, very few cockroach species coexist in human spaces. Out of approximately 4,000 species of cockroaches on the planet, only about 30 of them can be considered pests. Most cockroach species occupy niche habitats that are located in forests, caves, burrows or brush. For that reason, we typically do not come in contact with them. There are thousands of cockroach species that are unknown to most people.

2. Cockroaches like to be touched.
   Cockroaches are thigmotropic, meaning they like to feel solid contact against their bodies, preferably on all sides. They seek out cracks and crevices that will offer them the comfort of a tight fit — so crammed, that the small German cockroach can fit into a crack as thin as a dime. The more sizable, American cockroach, will squeeze into spaces that are no broader than the thickness of a quarter, to seek out the touch that comforts them. Pregnant female cockroaches can even squeeze into a crevice as thin as two stacked nickels, and they’re perfectly fine with it.

3. Cockroaches are good moms.
   A mother cockroach will incubate her eggs in protective sacs or capsules called oothecae. Some cockroach mamas will keep the ootheca attached to their bodies, carrying it with them until the eggs are ready to hatch. In other cases, the female will drop the ootheca or affix it to a substrate for safekeeping.

4. Cockroaches get cravings too.
   Even a little beastie has got to eat, but these tiny critters don’t just consume food, they enjoy it, too. Two Tohoku University Professors, Makoto Mizunami and Hidehiro Watanabe, found out that cockroaches could be conditioned the same way physiologist Ivan Pavlov trained his infamous dogs. The professors introduced the scent of vanilla or peppermint right before giving the cockroaches a sugary treat. Researchers discovered that the reward caused the cockroaches to drool. Later, when the cockroaches’ antennae detected one of the two scents in the air, they would salivate.

5. Cockroaches are environmentalists.
   The disappearance of cockroaches would disrupt something called the nitrogen cycle, which is undoubtedly integral to us all. Since most cockroaches feed on decaying organic matter, they help trap a lot of nitrogen. A feeding cockroach has the effect of releasing that nitrogen in their feces, which then gets deposited into the soil and, in turn, is reused by plants. Consequently, the extinction of cockroaches would have a huge impact on forest health.

These surprising facts about cockroaches are not only informative and entertaining, they are also eye-opening. All living beings, small or large, are trying to survive and find life’s pleasures. We all contribute something to this giant ecosystem. We can all certainly reside among each other in this world. Even if we are not yet ready to have cockroaches as our roommates, there is no denying that these buggers are way cooler than we had formerly imagined.

From the internet
March 31
Changing Face of Southern China | Edward Cocchiola
Edward Cocchiola will discuss the six weeks he spent living and teaching in southern China. A PowerPoint will complement an interactive presentation on the dynamic and rapidly changing Far Eastern superpower.

April 7
The Art of Daycation | Nina Lesiga

Upcoming OLLI Travel

SPRING TRIPS 2017
5/04/2017 – Doris Duke Estate, Newport RI - member price $85 pp
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 - $463 pp dbl & triple
10/11/2017 – NY Botanical Gardens (Chihuly Exhibit), NYC – member price - $77 pp
11/07-08/2017 – Terracotta Warriors @ Franklin Institute, PA (overnight) – member price $307 pp 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.

**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!
Most times air controllers and pilots are very serious but some actual transmissions break the tension:
Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"
Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

Tower: "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."
TWA 2341: "Centre, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"
Tower: "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked: "What was your last known position?"
Student: "When I was number one for takeoff."

A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down.
San Jose Tower noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able." If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.

Speedbird 206: "Frankfurt, Speedbird 206 clear of active runway."
Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven."
The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.
Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"
Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."
Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"
Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark, and I didn't land."
**OLLI artBeat**

**An April Sampler**

**by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler**

Tomorrow is April 1, which has always felt more like the “real” first day of Spring to me than a date in March! Looking around at the arts scene in Connecticut, I realized that there is a plethora of arts and cultural happenings which we can enjoy while transitioning to a new season. Interestingly, last week’s *New York Times* ran an interview with Norman Podhoretz, well known member of the New York intelligentsia of the 1950’s and 60’s, former editor of *Commentary*, and literary, social and political critic. He asserted that nowadays “Americans are only interested in sports.” I certainly have to disagree heartily with him. In my travels around Connecticut and New York enjoying artistic pursuits, and looking for ideas for this column, I am always thrilled to see crowds of people learning about and enjoying the arts. If he visited OLLI he’d probably change his assessment very quickly. Anyway, here are a few ideas to keep your cultural yearnings satisfied!

**Museum** – *The Mattatuck* currently has a wide range of temporary exhibitions, I believe something for everyone. “First Look/New to the Collection” (until May 14) includes new museum gifts and purchases. “On the Job for Victory” (until April 23) is a fun look at 30 posters from World War I, demonstrating participation at home, new roles of women, new technologies and the breadth of military service during the ‘War to End All Wars.’ “Yankees or Red Sox” (until November 12) Ah, something for sports fans! Explores the great team rivalry. And two sculpture exhibitions, one being “Quedamos En Paz #3” by Federico Uribe, works made from ammunition and inspired by violence in his native Colombia and new home, the U.S. A. The other is “Luminous Garden,” an ephemeral lite installation by Beth Galston. (Both until July 16.)

**Theater** – *Seven Angels* – “Jesus Christ Superstar” – (Until April 23) The original full stage play chronicling events leading up to the death of Christ as seen through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Tickets are only $25. I’ll be going with some OLLI friends on April 6. See you there? [Sevenangelstheatreconnecticut.com](http://www.sevenangelstheatreconnecticut.com).

**Music** *Waterbury Symphony* – “Ode to Joy” Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony program on Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m. The WSO will be joined by a vocal quartet from the Yale Opera, the CT Choral Society and the Naugatuck Valley Community College Choir. A great musical way to celebrate Spring! [Waterburysymphony.org](http://www.waterburysymphony.org).

**Opera** – Just a reminder, Tchaikovsky’s “Eugene Onegin” will be live-streamed from the Metropolitan Opera at both the Warner in Torrington and the Regal Cinema in Waterbury on Saturday, April 22 at 12:55. The showing in Torrington will be preceded at 10:55 a.m. by a talk with OLLI presenter Nunzio DeFilippis.

**Dance** - *The Connecticut Ballet*– “Thirty Something” retrospective of the range of styles and genres the company has presented over its past 35 seasons. It will feature dances from the 1909 work *Les Sylphides*, 1999’s *Strays*, and 2008’s *Steam Heat: The Best of Bob Fosse*. Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 at the Bushnell in Hartford and Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 at the Palace in Stamford. [Connecticutballet.org](http://www.connecticutballet.org)

**Movies** – *1984* – Billed as *National Event Day*, the movie about Orwell’s dystopian world starring Richard Burton and John Hurt will be shown in several locations in Connecticut on Tuesday, April 4, the anniversary of the first day of the book’s narrative. As a protest against proposed cuts to the arts both federally and locally, this showing will also serve as a fundraiser for various local charities and arts associations. The theaters are Avon Theater in Hartford, Cinestudio in Hartford, Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton, Madison Art Cinemas in Madison, Real Art Ways in Hartford, the Yale Film Colloquium in New Haven. [unitedstateofcinema.com](http://www.unitedstateofcinema.com). My advice would be to call ahead to reserve tickets before you drive!
Claudia DePalma is a warm, caring woman with great determination and drive. She recalls conducting a highly successful petition campaign to keep the University of Connecticut Waterbury branch in town when UConn trustees were strongly considering closing it in the late 1980s.

Dr. Alphonse Avitabile, then director of the branch, felt Claudia was the perfect choice to organize an effort to collect signatures in support of keeping the campus in the city. At the time she was manager of the UConn Waterbury Co-op bookstore.

Claudia set out on her mission bent on succeeding. She reports 10,000 signatures of voters were collected in 1989 with the help of students, particularly Alan Leon, to support saving the local branch.

She personally secured 2,000 signatures, declaring she was willing “to go down a manhole” if necessary to get the petition signed.

The branch today is flourishing on East Main Street, having moved about 2002 from its location in the Hillside neighborhood. The campus also is host to the only Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program in Connecticut. OLLI is celebrating 10 years in Waterbury this year. Claudia retired in 2013 after 34 years at the bookstore.

Prior to her marriage, she had been employed in the Engineering Department of A. W. Haydon Company, where she met her husband, Richard.

She always enjoyed interacting with faculty and students at the bookstore. She had fun, she said recently, making great displays of UConn products for sale. The limited space at the Hillside location made this very challenging but “did I sell clothing!”

The campus moved downtown and both the men and women’s varsity basketball teams won NCAA championships in 2004 creating a huge demand for anything UConn.

Sales of UConn products were so terrific that Claudia was chosen to go to a special dinner at the Aqua Turf in Southington and meet the players. Claudia is quick to acknowledge she had great assistant managers during her tenure at the store in Sandy Rinaldi and Valerie LeClerc. Claudia is one of four sisters but is the only redhead.

When young, she wanted to wear green to set off her hair. Her mother, who was very proud of the family’s Italian heritage, objected because she felt people would think her red-haired daughter was Irish. Claudia’s mother had no ill-will towards the Irish but wanted people meeting her beautiful redheaded child to know she was Italian.

When Claudia was older and began wearing green, her mother acknowledged she looked very pretty. Neither of Claudia’s two children is a redhead but her daughter married a man of Irish heritage and her two granddaughters are redheads.

Claudia had a happy childhood, growing up in Waterbury’s Hopeville neighborhood. She and her friends rode their bikes and walked everywhere. Until she was old enough to drive. Claudia recalls being scared when her dad had her stop on a hill on Simsbury Street with the car, which had a clutch. But the experience gave her good driving skills and confidence.

She graduated from Wilby High School, where her favorite course was Junior Business Training and her yearbook shows she was voted “Most Sociable” in her class.

But life had its dark moments. In 1983 she learned she had breast cancer. Several doctors told Claudia she would die soon. But she went to Yale New Haven Hospital and after a week there came home and embarked on a rigorous five-day-a-week chemo program for six months. Every day for years, Claudia would look in the mirror and say, “Thank God, I’m alive!” Claudia is a member of the OLLI Leadership Council.

She and her husband enjoy taking OLLI classes and trips. Claudia spends many happy hours with her granddaughters, is active in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, takes walks and gardens. She and Richard were pleased to be honored with a Waterbury Beautification Award for their well-kept home on Anna Avenue, where brightly colored flowers and a thriving garden grow.

–Mary Ann Martin