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.

**SUPERSTITION**

Well, here it is, Friday the Thirteenth, to some the unluckiest day of the year and a superstition that, while many will laugh off this day, others will remain in bed paralyzed by fear and avoid daily tasks, conducting business, or traveling. In the U.S., an estimated 17 to 21 million people suffer from a fear of Friday the 13th, according to a study by the North Carolina Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute. From the dictionary, a superstition is a belief or practice resulting from *ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation*. So this will eliminate most OLLI members because you are rational beings. This phobia is known as Triskaidekaphobia or, if you want a big new word, *paraskevidekatriaphobia*, from the Greek Paraskevi for Friday, Dekatreis for thirteen and phobia for fear. The origin for the phobia is not really known but most superstitions are really irrational beliefs.

For example. My ancestors are mostly Irish. The color green seems to be associated with Ireland—especially around St. Paddy’s Day when everybody wears green for good luck.

So why did my aunts hate the color green? They always associated it with bad luck. I made fun of their superstition many times. In fact, I researched possible reasons for it. One possible explanation that might explain it was that people who slept in green-painted bedrooms during the early 1900’s seemed to get sick more often than others. It was determined after some research that green paint was made of arsenic and as the paint aged and deteriorated, the tiny particles would be found in the air they breathed.

The aunts listened but then they told me the story of my uncle, Francis, who was nicknamed “Tiny”, because he was the youngest. It seems my grandmother took him one Saturday night to get a new suit. Lighting being what it was in stores of that era, it wasn’t until the next day in the sunlight that she realized that the suit had a tinge of green in it. However, it was bought and paid for, so no bringing it back.

Tiny was riding his bike while wearing that suit later. He came down Piedmont Street to South Main where he was struck by a car and killed.

I tried to reason with them about the coincidental connection but to no avail. The color green remained the culprit.

Ironically, when I crashed my airplane some years later, I was wearing my favorite green shirt.

Of course, there is no connection—is there?

rjg
FOOTWEAR

I have friends who wear flip-flops
From season to season;
Through Autumn to Winter,
And, I've found the reason:

Closed shoes are constricting,
They squeeze your poor toes.
They align and enclose them
In socks and in hose.

No freedom is found there
Encased in these tombs
Made of leather or vinyl,
Like small cement rooms.

As long as you're able,
Whatever the scandals,
Embrace the small freedom
Of gels and of sandals.

Carol Ann Laferriere
September 29, 2017

Fear is the main source of
superstition,
and one of the main sources of
cruelty.

To conquer fear is the beginning of
wisdom.

Bertrand Russell

Sponsored by the OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee...

2017 THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
to benefit Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries!

Please drop off non-perishable donations to the Membership Table
or to the OLLI Office (Room 103) from October 20th through
November 20th. All donations are much appreciated!

The Newsletter is always looking for
content from our readers. This may be in
the form of original work or items you
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pass on to others. We always welcome
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Contact Bob Grady at yvoorg@aol.com
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**MADAME BUTTERFLY**

Is enjoying an actual opera at the Met one of the items on your bucket list? Have you thought many times that you would truly enjoy having a seat at the Metropolitan Opera House and maybe enjoy Giacomo Puccini’s Madame Butterfly? But you have never made the trip because driving to New York City is such a hassle and, once there, looking for a parking place would be very tough and expensive?

Yes, you could go online and buy a ticket – but what if you could simply join the OLLI Travel’s group on March 3, 2018 and have the bus drop you off in mid-town Manhattan’s Lincoln Center with your ticket in hand?

Join us before our coach departs from the Chase Parkway Commuter Lot at 9 am on March 3, 2018 and forgo a lot of worrying about traffic, parking, lunch etc.

The opera, Madame Butterfly, is the story of a Japanese geisha girl who clings to her belief that her arrangement with a visiting American naval officer is a loving and permanent marriage.

Our bus will leave you near Lincoln Center in time to be at the Met for the 1 pm performance and grab a bite to eat after the opera. Your seat is in the Orchestra Balance Section which is on the main floor.

The opera runs about 3 ¼ hours.

Cost for OLLI members is $208. Non-OLLI members are welcome and the cost for them is $218. Our bus is expected to return to Waterbury around 8 pm.

Treat yourself to a wonderful event, Call Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630 to reserve a seat.

Evelyn Marshak

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**REMINDER**

Voices and Visions 2017, a compendium of contributions by our members, is available in the lobby as you come in and on tables by the MultiPurposeRoom and OLLI offices.

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**OLLI Travel**

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 **do not** call the OLLI Office.)

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**Upcoming OLLI Travel**

**FALL TRIPS 2017**

- 10/11/2017 – NY Botanical Gardens (Chihuly Exhibit), NYC – member price- $77pp
- 11/07-08/2017 – Terracotta Warriors @Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA (overnight) – member price $307pp dbl & triple

**SPRING TRIPS 2018**

- 3/03/18 – Metropolitan Opera House / Madame Butterfly – member price- $208pp
- 5/15/2018 – South Central Park / Circle Line Cruise Tour Landmark & Brooklyn Tour- $98pp
- 6/11-12/2018 – Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour - $297pp dbl & triple
October 13
Healthy Living
Doris Hanley
Please join us to learn about the power of whole foods, the pillars of healthy living, and whole foods versus vitamins. Additionally, come learn about growing your own produce – and how this can be easy and fun using modern technology, like hydroponic and aeroponic gardens.

October 20
Chocolate 101
Carmen Romeo/Fascia's Chocolate

The mother and a daughter are shopping in the mall, when the mother eyes an expensive fur coat.

"This year," she says, "I think that I will buy my present instead of making you and dad shop for me." Daughter nods in agreement. "And I think this fur coat would be perfect too."

The daughter protests, "But Mom, some helpless, poor creature has to suffer so that you can have this."

"Don't worry, honey," says the mother. "Your father won't get the bill for a couple of weeks."

Once upon a time in a land far away, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues on the shores of an unpolluted pond in a verdant meadow near her castle. The frog hopped into the princess' lap and said:

Elegant lady, I was once a handsome prince, until an evil witch cast a spell upon me. One kiss from you, however, and I will turn back into the dapper, young prince that I am and then, my sweet, we can marry and set up housekeeping in your castle with my mother, where you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children, and forever feel grateful and happy doing so.

That night, as the princess dined sumptuously on lightly sautéed frog legs seasoned in a white wine and onion cream sauce, she chuckled and thought to herself: I don't think so.

After buying her kids a pet hamster, after they PROMISED they would take care of it, Mom, as usual, ended up with the responsibility.

One evening, exasperated, she asked them, "How many times do you think that hamster would've died if I had not looked after it?"

After a moment, her youngest son replied quizzically, "Once?"
**OLLI artBeat**  
**A Visit to The Bushnell**  
by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

Okay, I’m embarrassed to admit it. I had never seen the long-running, award-winning, stage adaptation of Victor Hugo’s “Les Miserables.” There, I’ve said it. That is, until last Saturday, when a friend and I drove to The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford. My first time to see it, her fourth! (That says something about the power of this play!) I enjoyed this production so much, and the experience of being in The Bushnell as well, that I have to admit I spent far too much time that day kicking myself for not having gone there often enough. I had been there years ago to see Phantom of the Opera—unfortunately in the really cheap seats, so you needed opera glasses, and I remember trying to find the theater, not being that familiar at the time with Hartford, parking hassle, traffic – I think it was Hartford Marathon day! So I kind of put that aside. I am happy to say that I was very pleasantly surprised by Saturday’s sojourn.

The play, which ended its run on Sunday, tells the saga of Jean Valjean who steals a loaf of bread during the time of the French Revolution to save his sister’s child from starvation. He serves 19 years in prison, and then becomes a prosperous factory owner and mayor, but under a false name, which violates his parole, hence all the police pursuit and intrigue. The story is a tale of honesty, courage, and of course, the search for human dignity for all. (With a love story thrown in, just in case the basics of good versus evil and the French struggle for democracy and equal rights for all social classes aren’t interesting enough.) So, if you are among the few, like me, who had not seen this musical adaptation of the epic novel, put it on your Bucket List for the next time it comes around.

The Bushnell opened in 1930. It was built by Dotha Bushnell Hillyer as a memorial to her father, Horace Bushnell, a renowned clergyman, theologian, scientist and inventor, and pastor of the Hartford North Congregational Church. He was regarded as one of the founders of modern Protestantism, and was a pioneer in the creation of urban green space. As I said, the theater was a delight, an architectural gem. Finding it from the Capitol Avenue exit was a breeze, and there is free parking directly across the street in an open (read: not scary) parking lot. We got there early and on a beautifully warm autumn day sat outside for 45 minutes before the doors opened, enjoying a beverage, a free sidewalk trumpet concert, and the Hartford ambience. Staff and volunteers were helpful and friendly – all in all a really great afternoon. There are, of course, dozens of restaurants in the area – go online to find something new you might want to try. My only caveat is that it is a big venue (900 seats). Though our upper mezzanine seats were okay, next time I go I will definitely spring for a seat closer to the stage.

The Bushnell offers a wide variety of entertainment. Upcoming is “School of Rock,” a musical by Andrew Lloyd Weber, a conversation with Michelle Obama, a showing of the movie “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” with the Hartford Symphony playing John Williams’ score, classical music concerts, comedy nights (Jay Leno is there tonight!) and much more. Looks like something for everyone. Take a look – bushnell.org.
Fran McIntyre “was singing before she was talking.” That was how her dad, Rev. Dewey McIntyre, described the child who became a well-regarded singer of Gospel, Jazz and Blues with a little Pop in the mix.

Fran is still singing today after a long history of performing in major music venues and successfully pursuing a career involving environmental and other safety issues in New York and Waterbury.

The multitalented Waterbury native grew up in a musical family, whose members played in the local Salvation Army’s Band, city churches and national venues. Her dad was a Pentecostal preacher, whose calling required him to travel frequently to various places as part of his evangelical mission.

She remembers well her Italian babysitter from whom she learned to speak Italian at an early age. Fran also developed a fondness for the cuisine of that culture that persists today.

Fran’s extended family included musicians who played many different instruments. Her mother played piano. One uncle introduced her to the music of jazz clarinetist and band leader Benny Goodman. Another uncle played cornet, piano, guitar and trumpet. Just about everyone sang Gospel.

In Waterbury, Fran took voice lessons from an early age, sang in five different church choirs and also the Waterbury Glee Club. The latter drew young musicians from all schools in the city and met at Kennedy High School to rehearse. The club then put on shows and concerts in the Greater Waterbury area. She was a member of the Connecticut Choral Society for several years.

In addition to singing, Fran plays various instruments. “Daddy,” she recalled, “started me out on the harmonica and we played duets.” She also plays percussion, primarily the conga drum.

Over the years Fran sang in many famed venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Montreal Jazz Festival and Las Vegas casino lounges. She even performed with the New York Pops with orchestra leader Skitch Henderson conducting. She has been a soloist, member of the choir and a background singer.

When growing up in Waterbury, her musical talents were encouraged by the late Bob Mobilio, a music educator who taught many years in the Waterbury Schools and who himself performed with celebrities such as Victor Borge, Leroy Anderson and others.

With a vocal range that spans four octaves allowing her to sing second soprano, first/second alto and tenor, Fran’s voice was much in demand over the years. She has worked with voice coaches for many years, starting with her youth in Waterbury and continuing until the present day.

She did a CD titled Lucky in Love in 2007 that contains such tunes as the jazz number “Midnight at the Oasis” and also a Gospel song, “Who Threw the Whiskey, We’ll Try to Understand It,” according to a JAZZ NEWS article online published in 2007.

Prominent musicians have always enjoyed playing with Fran. Those participating in her 2007 CD included James Weidman, musical director; Dick Katz, piano; Gary Smulyan, baritone sax; Bill Saxton, tenor and soprano saxes; Ross Konikoff, trumpet and flugelhorn; Marcus McLaurine, upright and electric bass guitar; Warren Smith, Bernice Brooks and Michael Dawson, drums and percussion.

Of her many ventures, Fran observes simply, “I love life.” Fran earned a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences from the State University of New York (SUNY), Old Westbury, and a master’s in Real Estate Development and Investment, New York University.

She has worked in various areas of environmental health concerns in construction, including services as a supervisor of a De-lead Unit, New York City, to monitor and verify contractor compliance with lead prevention and abatement regulations. She has served as a quality standards inspector for the Waterbury Housing Authority. –Mary Ann Martin