As we begin OLLI at UConn's tenth year, it might be interesting to know what makes us tick. First of all, we began with a grant and a goal from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which encourages the continuation of adult lifelong learning. Coupled with local support from the University of Connecticut - Waterbury campus, Leever Foundation, Connecticut Community Foundation, the Palace Theater, Mattatuck Museum, and several community leaders, UConn's OLLI program was poised for success! When we successfully reached our initial goals, the Osher Foundation granted OLLI at UConn endowment interest and additional equally ambitious goals to reach, which is where we find ourselves now.

Of the 119 Osher Institutes positioned at accredited colleges and universities throughout all 50 states, including the District of Columbia, OLLI at UConn is the only one in Connecticut.

You may be aware that we are a volunteer group and all the activities are member-driven and are carried out by dedicated individuals and groups, so we encourage your participation and/or expertise in the day-to-day running of OLLI. During the course of this semester, we hope to provide in the Newsletter some bios and pictures of those who are on the Leadership Council, which is the principal representative body of the OLLI membership.

The Leadership Council presently consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Immediate Past-President, Co-chairpersons or their designees, two UConn Faculty Liaison, and four Members-at-Large. The Director of OLLI and his/her representatives serve as ex-officio members.

The committees are:

Clubs and Activities
Curriculum
Editorial Review (Voices and Visions)
Membership
Newsletter
Nominating
Travel
OLLI Café

A copy of the Guidelines for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Connecticut with more in-depth descriptions of the above may be obtained from the OLLI offices.

The responsibilities of the Leadership Council shall be to develop, revise, and monitor implementation of the current and future plans of OLLI. They will also be responsible for the assurance that the courses and events reflect members interests and are in compliance with the policies of the campus and the University of Connecticut. The Leadership Council has no financial or liability responsibilities. The meetings of the Leadership Council shall be called by the President when necessary but must be held at least five times a year. Any member in good standing may petition the Nominating committee to be considered for a position. To promote continuity, nominations and appointments for different offices and positions will take place on odd and even years.

We hope this brief introduction to the Leadership Council will help to enlighten old and new members as to how OLLI at UConn functions as well as it has over the past ten years.
An Incredible Experience

With a passion for travel, I recently returned from Peru, South America. Never in a million years did I ever think I’d be hiking the trails of Machu Picchu, nor standing on the same grounds where the ancient Incan civilization once thrived.

It was a spur of the moment decision on my part to pursue a dream of a lifetime. Time spent en route from New York to Lima, Peru’s capital, and then on to Cusco, a small town in the Sacred Valley took about nine hours. Added to that, the final destination was a lodge in the small town of Urubamba, yet another hour away. Transportation to the lodge was by van, on a highway consisting of a single lane in each direction, shared by local residents, farm animals and rocks or speed bumps placed strategically along the way to slow down the sparse traffic in more congested, rural areas.

Although it is considered summertime in the southern hemisphere, the major seasons here are referred to as rainy or dry, and one has to layer to be prepared for any kind of weather. Fortunately, every day was sunny, hot and dry. And then, since Machu Picchu is located high in the snow-capped Andes at an altitude over 8,000 feet, (much lower than Cusco at nearly 12,000 feet) “altitude sickness” may become a major problem. Adjustment to the thin air is primarily by rest and drinking a lot of local herbal tea for at least a day.

Finally, the day arrived for a scheduled one night, two day tour. A van was used to get to the narrow gauge railroad train that traversed through majestic scenery along the riverbank in the Sacred Valley. Then, I had to board a bus, which crisscrossed up a steep, dusty mountain road for yet another 30 minutes before arriving at the entrance to the Machu Picchu ruins, where required passports are scanned before admittance.

It was an awe inspiring sight, similar to viewing a magnificent canvas! Maintained terraces were everywhere and the verdant grass was manicured by Lamas. It was a balance of exhilarating and grueling to ascend and descend steps of such uneven heights. Beside priceless memories, a physical reminder of my visit to this archeological site and proof of my personal achievement is that my passport is now stamped “Machu Picchu.”

Gen Delkescamp

PARKING

Please note the following parking options for OLLI members:

1. Parking on Level 2 & 3 of the UConn Parking Garage (entrance North Elm Street) is available on Fridays—Parking space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

2. Parking on Level 5 & 6 of the Scovill Street Municipal Garage is available Monday through Friday.

3. Parking is often available at the private, street level parking lot between 141 East Main Street and the UConn campus (on the east side of the campus near the bookstore). The lot has reasonable daily rates.

Please Note: You will be required to obtain an official parking permit from Parking Services if you plan to utilize the attached garage or the Scovill Street Garage. Parking Services conducts routine checks and violators will be ticketed. Applications can be submitted online or by paper through mail. For additional parking information please check your registration confirmation email or visit or call the OLLI office, room 103 - 203-236-9924.

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

2nd Thurs at John Bale Bookshop – 10:00am
Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com) for more information

OLLI NEWSLETTERS Go Internet

OLLI newsletters are available on our web page at http://olli.uconn.edu/weekly-newsletters/
Then click on the left-hand index that says “Newsletters.” They are available in PDF format. If you don’t have the free reader, you can get it at www.adobe.com and click on the box that says “READER.”

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 or any presenter or staff member

OLLI BOOK CLUB

Contact: Nancy Via at nvia@sbcglobal.net

All meetings of the book club will be held in room 102D, UConn, Waterbury at 1:00 PM 3rd Monday

Mar 20….People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks
Feb 24  Carrie Welton: A Book Talk
Charley Monagan– Enjoy a book talk presentation from noted author and editor of Connecticut Magazine, Charley Monagan. Monagan returns to OLLI after teaching a course on Connecticut icons last fall, to discuss the captivating story of Carrie Welton, an iconic figure in the Greater Waterbury area, and the subject of his most recent book.

Mar. 3
Black Bears in Connecticut| Paul Coburn

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 - $1487pp 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.

Before the Flood...features Leonardo DeCaprio who examines the effects of climate crisis to learn more about possible ways to prevent catastrophic damage that could make the earth unsustainable for human life.

Time: Sunday, March 10 @ 2:00p.m.
Place: St Mary's Home Auditorium West Hartford...Steele Road entrance
Fee: No charge
On a bitterly cold winter morning a husband and wife in Buffalo were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snow plows get through." So the good wife went out and moved her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snow plows can get through." The good wife went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park..." Then the power went out. The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snow plows can get through?"

Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, the husband replied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage this time."

A recent article in the West Australian newspaper reported that a woman, Mrs. Maynard, has sued a Perth Hospital, saying that after her husband had surgery there, he lost all interest in sex.

A hospital spokesman replied: "Mr. Maynard was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct his eyesight."

(punch line left off due to pub. issue last week)

ONE LINERS

There's no middle ground with this guy-- you either hate him or detest him.

She may be a vegetarian but she's still full of baloney.

A friend never defends a husband who gets his wife an electric skillet for her birthday.

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

All humans are born alike-except Democrats and Republicans.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

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

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS
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or
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The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) programs are centered around classes developed and taught by members who volunteer their time and talents to share their knowledge, life passions, and interest with other members. The OLLI program also sponsors special events featuring noted authors, scholars, and experts in respected professional fields.

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
Warming up with Latin American Art at NBMAA!

By Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

Don’t be fooled by this delicious and delightful warm spell we are enjoying this week! Winter in Connecticut is definitely not over, and I am sure Mother Nature has some “cold stuff” on the way for the month of March! One way, however, to get a sense of warm days and beautiful nights is by visiting the new temporary exhibit at New Britain’s Museum of American Art. Entitled “Vistas del Sur: Traveler Artists’ Landscapes of Latin America,” it is a beautiful collection of over 150 rarely seen paintings, photographs, works on paper and books dating from 1638 to 1887 that trace the evolution of landscapes of Latin America by both European and American artists. Loaned by a private collector, it is an incredible treat for the senses, artistic and historical.

The exhibit includes works by artists such as Frederic Edwin Church, Martin Johnson Heade, Frans Post, Auguste Morisot, Camille Pissarro and Jose Maria Velasco. It displays a wide variety of approaches to what they found when they went to Latin America and how they expressed it in their art. Some give the viewer romanticized scenes based on preconceived Western notions. Others are directly observed illustrations of travel as well as scientific records of plants, animals and the many different types of peoples they encountered there. Many of the artists shown were influenced by the travels of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), a Prussian geographer, naturalist, explorer and influential proponent of Romantic philosophy and science whose expeditions to Latin America influenced many adventurers, artists and scientists to follow in his footsteps. Many historians feel that von Humboldt’s journals also set the path for the American ideal of manifest destiny. Quite a legacy, indeed!

I made sure to check out the Pissarro contribution. It is a beautiful graphite on paper depiction of Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands (ca. 1852.) I had no idea that the Danish-French impressionist Pissarro was born in St. Thomas. Two other paintings that caught my eye were hung side by side. One was by the American Charles de Wolf Brownell entitled “Havana Bay” (1856-66), an idealized portrayal of the bay. The other is by an unidentified artist entitled “View of Havana.” It is a similarly beautiful oil of Havana port showing the Spanish flag flying, a reminder that Cuba was one of the last countries to win independence from Spain. The paintings are exquisite in their detail. You think to yourself that some of them must have been painted with the tiniest of brushes and the utmost of patience! The painting by Frederick Edwin Church, best known as a member of the Hudson River School, is of the Cotopaxi volcano in Ecuador, 1853. A cross in the foreground not only serves as a compositional device, but a reminder of the Spanish colonization of the Americas.

There is also a terrific exhibit of Ansel Adams photographs of Yosemite Valley which celebrates the National Park Service’s 100th year. Truly not to be missed! If you spend too much time in Latin America (which you very well may!), come back another day before April 16 to enjoy these works of art as well!

The exhibit closes on April 16. On Sundays, March 5 and March 19 at 10 a.m. there will be special lectures by Latin American art experts. Up Close Tours will be held on Sundays at 10 a.m. on February 26, March 12, March 26, April 2 and April 9. Register at www.nbmaa.org. New Britain Museum of American Art, 156 Lexington Street, New Britain, CT.
Kathryn “Kathy” Houlihan was a joyous woman who delighted in sharing life’s adventures with her cherished family and countless friends.

Many men and women joined OLLI at UConn because of Kathy’s efforts to inform them of the many opportunities for and benefits of lifelong learning offered in the program.

“She was a treasure, a beloved friend to so many,” Kathy’s daughter Kate Houlihan said recently of her mother who died unexpectedly on December 23, 2016, at her Southbury home. “She had lots and lots of friends and made time for all of them. And her grandkids were her joy.”

Kate recalled how much her mother loved skiing. Kate and her brother Brian “had so much fun” on many ski weekends in Vermont when they were growing up. Their childhood also included excursions to places like New York.

Kathy’s passion for travel, domestic and international, continued throughout her life and eventually took her to East Asia to visit and learn more about China shortly before she became ill.

A woman who valued books and reading, Kathy belonged both to the OLLI book club and one other. She imbued her children with a love of reading. Kate remembers that her mother “read to me every night” when Kate was little. Learning new things was important to her mother. Becoming involved with OLLI in its early days was a natural progression for a woman with a passion for lifelong learning.

“She was always talking about OLLI,” her daughter recalls. Many members of OLLI joined the organization because of Kathy’s outreach on behalf of the program. She was an early member of the Leadership Council and co-chaired the Membership Committee, a role Kathy took very seriously.

“Kathy was really gung-ho” when it came to seeking new members for OLLI, said Merle Arcovio, who served with her as co-chair of membership. “She would deliver (OLLI) catalogs personally” to ensure as many people as possible knew about the program. Merle described her friend as having a “bubbly” personality who was good at getting volunteers to come and help set-up for events.

“She loved taking classes,” remembers Joan Terry who also served on the Membership Committee with Kathy. “I took classes with Kathy and saw an enthusiastic student who enjoyed learning, was clearly very bright and brought good questions and interesting viewpoints to our discussions.”

Many of those who knew her recalled Kathy’s sense of humor. In addition to being efficient and reliable Kathy “was funny and had an infectious laugh that would always brighten up the mood,” Joan remembered.

Rita Quinn, former program assistant for OLLI, recalled Kathy commenting drily, “And she was using her happy voice” after hearing Rita speaking at length on the phone to a challenging person with many questions. Kathy worked well with others and always wanted to learn as much as possible about other OLLI programs in order to find ways to enhance the local one.

A graduate of Brown University, Kathy served as financial aid adviser at Fairfield University and later was assistant director of financial aid at Housatonic Community College from which she retired.

Kate Houlihan observed, “Her departure leaves a gaping hole in a lot of places and in a lot of people . . She was always laughing.” -Mary Ann Martin