I wonder if the climate deniers are beginning to have some doubt about their beliefs in the wake of the two monster storms which ravaged the Caribbean islands and Florida and Texas these past weeks. Reporter, Lisa Friedman, in the August 7, 2017, edition reported, "The average temperature in the United States has risen rapidly and drastically since 1980, and recent decades have been the warmest of the past 1500 years, according to a sweeping federal climate change report. She further notes that, "the draft report by scientists from 13 federal agencies concludes that Americans are feeling the effects of climate change right now. It directly contradicts claims by President Trump and members of his cabinet who say that the human contribution to climate change is uncertain, and that the ability to predict the effects is limited. But, the authors say, "Evidence for a changing climate abounds, from the top of the atmosphere to the depths of the oceans... Thousands of studies, conducted by tens of thousands of scientists, have documented climate changes on land and in the air... Many lines of evidence demonstrate that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse (heat-trapping) gases, are primarily responsible for recent observed climate change... The report was completed this year and is a special science section of the National Climate Assessment, (Google: National Climate Assessment.gov) which is congressionally mandated every four years."

Most people have heard the statistic that "97% of climate scientists agree" on climate change. That statistic traces back to an infamous study in which researchers built a comprehensive database of peer-reviewed scientific papers on climate change and classified them by whether they challenge the mainstream consensus. Just a little over 2% of the papers did. (Somehow "97% of papers" became "97% of scientists.") That study predictably came under scientific attack and was debunked because of methodology and the inability to replicate the conclusions according to an article in Vox News of September 7, 2017.

Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist and director of Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University, commented in a Facebook post about the inability for anyone in the scientific community to propose an alternate explanation, fearing they would be blackballed and suppressed. She writes, "It's a lot easier for someone to claim that they've been suppressed than to admit that maybe they can't find the scientific evidence to support their political ideology that requires them to reject climate solutions and, to be consistent, 150 years of solid, peer-reviewed science, too. But, over the last 10 years, at least 38 papers were published in peer-reviewed journals, each claiming various reasons why climate wasn't changing, or if it was, it wasn't humans, or wasn't bad. They're out there where anyone can find them. So we took those papers and recalculated all the analysis from scratch and you know what we found? Every single one of those analyses had an error – in their assumptions, methodology, or analysis – that, when corrected, brought the results into line with the scientific consensus." This conclusion corroborates 97.2% of scientists who agreed with the consensus. That means within the scientific community it leaves just 2.9% to express their climate-change denying beliefs.

Now, OLLI members, everyone is entitled to his/her opinion but you can't just ignore an overwhelming fact. Climate change is real and 97% of scientists agree that human activity is probably the cause. 97 to 2 seem to be great odds in favor of the scientists.

There is an old saying:

"There are none so blind as those who will not see".  
Jonathan Swift
**WHO IS QUALIFIED TO SPEAK AT OLLI?**

Speakers and presenters have addressed OLLI audiences at UConn for more than ten years. They come from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, and present on topics that are new to many of us. So the question remains, "Who is qualified to speak at OLLI?"

First the converse question "Who is not qualified to speak at OLLI?" Salesmen or people who aim to promote their product, such as financial advisers or salespersons with a specific product they wish to sell are not invited to present. In fact, this is a direct violation of OLLI's Conflict of Interest Policy. OLLI also does not allow speakers promoting hateful speech in the guise of teaching, into its classrooms.

Presenters with expertise from an advanced degree or a unique experience are invited to speak. Also those persons with a passion which may be unrelated to his or her work experience and with non-academic credentials are frequently presenters. Someone with an unusual hobby or travel destination may have a story to tell. Finally, OLLI encourages people to share humor or their experiences in the arts such as painting, poetry or music.

These latter skills of the OLLI member may not be the most refined but reveal how members are expanding and exploring their abilities and interests. The OLLI community encourages members to share their works.

Presenters must be willing to prepare their presentation, allocate time and share their story. There is little if any monetary remuneration for their efforts. They should expect to accept questions and feedback from an informed and interested audience.

Expanding on what presenters at OLLI should expect, they will be addressing an attentive, appreciative and responsive audience. The audience frequently has had similar interests and experiences. They will ask intelligent questions to amplify the points made by the speaker.

Presenters and speakers are the lifeblood of OLLI. They are the vehicle for how we learn. We encourage and applaud them.

Ira Mickenberg, M.D., President

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**The OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee presents**

**Free Popcorn and a Movie**

**You bring the lunch and beverage**

We’ll be presenting award-winning films along with pre-film and post-film lectures and discussions.

**Wednesday, September 27. Noon, MPR**

Our first film is "Doubt" written by John Patrick Shanley and starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis. All were nominated for Academy Awards for this film.

*A Catholic school principal questions a priest’s ambiguous relationship with a troubled young student. The lively topics for discussion will include: a Catholic education, the 1960s, and suspicion.*

We will be presenting two more films this semester:

**Monday, October 23. Noon MPR Room**

"*Shakespeare in Love***

**Wednesday, November 15. Noon MPR Room**

"*La Strada***

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**OLLBOOK CLUB**

Contact: **Nancy Via** at nvia@sbcglobal.net

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

**FALL 2017 Meeting Schedule:**

September 18.... *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin

October 16.... *The Marriage of Opposites*, by Alice Hoffman

November 20... *Elizabeth Street*, by Laurie Fabiano

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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 OLLI staff member.
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.

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.)

Upcoming OLLI Travel

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, Philadelphia, PA (overnight) – member price $307pp dbl & triple

SPRING TRIPS 2018

- 3/03/2018 – 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
3 Women, 3 Roads
Nancy Palmento Schuler

3 Women, 3 Roads is a play that includes three monologues about three different women who moved to the Waterbury area during different times in history for different reasons. Teresa, an Italian immigrant who came to Waterbury in 1905; Ruth, a black woman from the south came to Waterbury in 1958; and Junie, a 90-year-old, privileged woman from New York settled in Middlebury. Schuler tells the stories of these brave women, how they faced heartaches and how they managed to handle them.

Heart Healthy Living
Sharon Maxwell and Laurie Figliola

His name was Ollie. He was from Minnesota and he needed a loan. So, he walked into a bank in New York City and asked for a loan officer. He told the loan officer that he was going to Oslo for the All-Scandinavian Summer Festival for two weeks and needed to borrow $5,000 and that he was not a depositor of the bank.

The bank officer told him that the bank would need some form of security for the loan, so Ollie handed over the keys to his new Ferrari. The car was parked on the street in front of the bank. Ollie produced the title and everything checked out. The loan officer agreed to hold the car as collateral for the loan and apologized for having to charge 12% interest.

The loan papers were signed and an employee of the bank then drove the Ferrari into the bank's private underground garage and parked it.

Later, the bank's president and its officers all enjoyed a good laugh at Ollie from Minnesota for using a $250,000 Ferrari as collateral for a $5,000 loan. Two weeks later, Ollie returned, repaid the $5,000 and the interest of $23.07.

The loan officer said, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out on Dunn & Bradstreet and found that you are a Distinguished Alumni from The University of Minnesota, a highly sophisticated investor and multimillionaire with real estate and financial interests all over the world. Your investments include a large number of oil wells around Williston, ND. What puzzles us is why you would bother to borrow $5,000.

Ollie replied, "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only $23.07 and expect it to be there when I return."

Keep an eye on these Minnesota boys! Just because they talk funny does not mean they just got off the lutefisk boat!

OLLI 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: Dr. Ira Mickenberg
Vice President: Mila Limson
Secretary: Pat Fahey
Assistant Secretary: Joyce Conlan

We're on the web!
WWW.OLLI.UCONN.EDU

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UConn, Waterbury

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.
Olli artBeat

by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

Opera Buffs and Newcomers Can Enjoy Live Performances Locally

Whether you are a long-time opera aficionado like my OLLI colleague Richard Albro, or a relative newcomer to the genre like me, you can be very grateful to the New York Metropolitan Opera and many Connecticut theaters for the opportunity to view operas locally which are live streamed. For a fraction of the cost that it would take to travel to New York, you can enjoy the Met’s season in both the Regal Cinemas in Waterbury and the Warner in Torrington. (That said, I am super-excited and looking forward to attending Madame Butterfly with OLLI friends next March and am already signed up for this special bus trip – thank you OLLI Travel Committee!) Here’s my take on at the season’s offerings until we return to OLLI for the Spring Semester. All are on Saturdays and start at 12:55 pm unless otherwise noted:

October 7, Norma by Vincenzo Bellini (1831) – a special treat, as this classic is not revived very often. For those of us of a certain age, we remember that divas Joan Sutherland and Maria Callas were two of the most famous 20th century Normas. Norma, the Druid high priestess, breaks her vows and gets a little too chummy with the Roman Pollione. One thing leads to another, and a love triangle precipitates a call to war, leading to a fiery conclusion! Whew! (At the Warner Theater, join OLLI’s opera presenter Nunzio DeFilippis for a pre-show talk at 10:55 am.)

October 14, Die Zauberflote by Wolfgang Mozart (1791) – better known to us as The Magic Flute, it is an example of a fairy tale opera and employs the technique of singspiel which combined song and spoken dialogue. Does the Queen of the Night represent the anti-Masonic Empress Maria Theresa or even the Roman Catholic Church itself? Do a little research beforehand and you can decide for yourself while enjoying the antics of spirit children, bird people, an “evil” sorcerer and dancing animals who aid in the quest for true love!

November 18, The Exterminating Angel by Thomas Ade (2016) – a new inventive opera inspired by the classic Luis Bunuel film of the same name, it is a surreal fantasy about a dinner party from which the guests can’t escape. It sounds a little like one I attended a couple of weeks ago in a Litchfield County town which shall remain nameless! Seriously, this sounds like an intriguing plot and one I would love to see!

January 27, Tosca by Giacomo Puccini (1899) – this opera, set during Napoleonic times, has been described as “one of the most lethal of operas.” It is a tale of romance over politics, featuring a heroic painter, a despicable ruler and an opera superstar, Tosca herself! If you’re in the mood for an afternoon of passion, jealousy, torture, suicide, death and even drowning in a well, Tosca may just be the ticket!

February 10, L’Elisir D’Amore by Gaetano Donizetti (1832) *(BEGINS AT NOON) one of the most performed operas worldwide, it was written in the style of comic opera (opera buffa) – we’d probably classify it in contemporary terms as a “rom com.” Written in a mere six weeks, it reflects the story of Donizetti’s own life – his military service was bought by a rich woman so he didn’t have to serve in the Army. (Good going, Gaetano!) Characters include Dr. Dulcamara, a traveling quack, who gives our hero Nemorino a love potion (hence L’Elisir D’Amore) which makes him very popular indeed. Featured is the well known aria “Una Furtiva Lagrima” (a furtive tear), one of Pavarotti’s favorites. Sounds like some lighthearted fun!

Bravo, brava! Lift your heart in song and escape from the real world for an afternoon of opera!
MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Donna Obarowski has been making beautiful music all of her life, often with her husband David.

Donna grew up in Wolcott and always had a “deep interest in music. I was a “chorus nerd in high school,” who sang alto.

Another favored activity was going camping with the Girl Scouts, “who were always singing and crafting.”

She met David, who attended Crosby High School in Waterbury, when they were taking private lessons from the same teacher, he in piano and she in voice.

Both enrolled at the University of Connecticut. During their shared years at UConn, David was her accompanist when she sang. (Which he still does, Donna observes.) Today, David is an attorney who also serves as co-director of music with Donna at the Woodbury United Methodist Church. “He is a very fine classical organist,” she confides.

Donna majored in music with a concentration in voice at UConn. At UConn, she became “fascinated by early music.” She loved learning about the medieval period and also delved with enthusiasm into the history of Renaissance and baroque music.

“Not a lot of material” was provided for musicians to follow when performing early music that was evolving in the West. Information was often found in oral traditions.

“Music really takes you out of yourself for that hour,” when you (practice) or perform Donna reflects, commenting on the number of people who pursue music as an avocation.

For a number of years, David and Donna performed early music with a group called Everyman Guild that appeared at Yale and in a number of other area venues. They also perform at weddings.

Donna weaves background information about classical music and its impact on history and culture into her OLLI classes. She taught one course titled More to Messiah than Meets the Ear that discussed the outsized influence that German-born composer George Friedrich Handel had on English history and culture when he settled in England.

On a lighter note, Donna continues to teach a class, Name That Tune!, in which she asks the students to listen closely to identify the classical music used as background in cartoons, commercials, and films. The class soon learns about the history of the music and its creators.

Some of the most popular works found in commercial work include the 1812 Overture by Russian Peter Tchaikovsky and Gioachino Rossini’s The Barber of Seville. This year she has revised the examples of tunes used in various productions to give a new flavor to the class.

Donna and David are parents of four children who explored many activities when growing up, including music. Donna found that the crafting she did back in Girl Scouts proved helpful. “Anything they were interested in, we’ve got stuff” to do it. “My house is like a crafts store. If you would like to make a puppet or any number of other things,” the material is on hand, she laughs “You can make anything you want in my house!” Donna also enjoys doing decorative painting of furniture as well as needlepoint.

Growing a vegetable garden is a pleasure because, “I’m just really interested in seeing things grow.” Not to mention the harvest and consumption of fresh vegetables. Gardening was something she like doing with her children because they could see and grasp “the wonder” of plants growing. One child is assistant manager of an organic farm in Massachusetts.

She likes everything about OLLI. Donna says she had enjoyed so many classes, it is hard to choose favorites but she is always impressed by the “grasp of the material” demonstrated in classes like those of astronomer Arnold Heiser and of Douglas Welsh, who is teaching T.S. Eliot: Father of Modern Poetry this term. Currently, she is taking three classes in addition to teaching one. Fridays are definitely OLLI Day for Donna.

–Mary Ann Martin