Welcome to OLLI

The fall season marks the start of the school year. OLLI seniors look forward with anticipation to learn, exercise and participate with others in the OLLI community. During the days when we pursued careers, at home or in the workplace, our motivations were achievement, perfection and recognition. All focused goals which could lead to stress. Once retired we look for productive ways of filling up our days. Boredom itself can be stressful.

Being a member of OLLI is a very positive way of utilizing your free time. You can relax while learning new subjects that interest you regardless of your abilities. You can try exercises that contort your body with techniques that you heard about but never attempted before. When you volunteer at OLLI you improve your own program working with new and old friends. Volunteering at times reveals qualities and abilities of which you were unaware.

By the numbers - OLLI is 40 years old. There are 120 locations of individual OLLIs all affiliated with a university and sharing the OLLI identity. There are 160,000 members with an average of 1000 members per university/college. One half of the members are 65-74 years old. Overall there is an attrition rate of 10-15% and a similar growth rate. Our UConn OLLI is ten years old and has about 750 members in the single location of the Waterbury UConn campus.

At UConn’s OLLI, courses are given in the arts, culture, history, current events, wellness, literature, math, music and philosophy. Nationally, older members prefer history courses and younger members prefer wellness courses. Learning doesn’t stop in the classroom but continues on in committee work, travels with OLLI members and gardening at Fulton Park. In addition to learning in a relaxed atmosphere, sharing an identity with each other and a university, opportunity for volunteering and assuming leadership roles, OLLI members pursue happiness at their own pace and as they choose.

Ira Mickenberg, OLLI at UConn President
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Greetings from the Osher National Resource Center, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

This month marks a milestone for a person we consider the epitome of lifelong learning. Our most ardent supporter, friend, and benefactor, Bernard Osher turns 90 in September. Of course, most of you reading this newsletter are familiar with his extraordinary business and charitable successes. But do you know this fellow was an avid fly fisherman? That he took a surfing lesson to celebrate his 88th birthday? Or that he is a serious student of opera and of mid-19th to mid-20th century American art? His curiosity in the world around us is matched only by his generosity.

Those reading this from the beautiful state of Maine, know well how this native son has given back to his home state in myriad ways. But he extended his strategic and focused philanthropy to the other 49 states by supporting the often underfunded educational interests of adult learners. Through just two of his foundation's primary interests, Osher scholar programs at hundreds of US colleges and universities, and the unparalleled network of the hundred and 20 Osher lifelong learning institutes, his support has literally improved the quality-of-life for hundreds of thousands of people – including each of us.

As you enjoy your fall courses or derive satisfaction from your mission-oriented work, think about this inquisitive fellow. Send out a prayer, a wish, or bit of positive karma, to celebrate this 90th birthday of a man who embodies the phrase, "learning keeps you young."

Sending best wishes for a terrific fall semester from the Osher NRC team,

Steve Thaxton, Executive Director

Know yourself. Don’t accept your dog’s admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.

-Ann Landers

OLLI BOOK 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

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.
OLLI Travels to Coal Country in 2018

The dates June 11th – 12th will mark an OLLI trip to PA to go back in time and experience life in the coal mines of Lackawanna County, PA.

On our way on the first day we will visit **STEAMTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, a railroad museum located on the former yards of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. Here you will see the manner in which coal fueled massive steam trains, and see what the original circular roundhouse and rail yards were like.

On the second day of our trip we will join a miner guide for the **LACKAWANNA COAL MINE TOUR**. He will take us 300 ft. below ground level in an actual mine car to the depths of the mine. Once down below, we will walk through the cavernous tunnels and have all the various aspects of the job of coal mining pointed out by our miner guide. Learn how our forefathers worked to fuel the Industrial Revolution, the fascinating methods used, stories of the mule boys and nippers, and the heroic efforts involved in deep mining history. (Please note that the mine naturally maintains an average temperature between 50-55 degrees. A light jacket is required along with comfortable walking shoes for this part of the trip.)

Our visit to the coal mine will be enhanced by a pre-visit to the **ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM** that morning which tells the story of hard coal mining, its related industries and the immigrant culture of northeastern Pennsylvania. Accommodations will be at the **HOLIDAY INN WILKES-BARRE EAST MOUNTAIN**. Cost of the trip for an OLLI member is $297pp for a double or triple room or $367pp for a single room. Non-members please add a $20 surcharge. The bus departure will be at 8:30am from the Chase Parkway Commuter Park & Ride Lot in Waterbury. A welcome dinner is included at the **ISABELLA RESTAURANT** in Wilkes-Barre, PA upon arrival. To reserve the trip call Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630 and ask for the Overnight Department. Also mention any special needs at the time of reservation. Payments may be made by check or credit card.

### 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

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).

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.

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### Introducing: The OLLI Film Club

The Clubs and Activities Committee has created a new club dedicated to monthly films. This club will replace the films that are shown twice a year.

The purpose of the Film Club is to encourage lively discussions about the films shown. There will be activities both before and after each showing to aid in these discussions. The members of the Film Club committee will present information about the writer, actors and background to each film. At the end of the film, we will suggest questions for discussion for audience participation. We invite OLLI members to attend. All you need to have is a bag lunch, beverage and active participation in discussion. You may also bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food bank.

**The schedule and films:**

- **September 27:** *Doubt*, with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis
- **October 23:** *Shakespeare in Love*, with Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow and Judi Dench
- **November 15:** *La Strada*, (in Italian with Sub-titles) with Richard Baseheart, Anthony Quinn and Giuletta Masina

We’ll be meeting in Room 113 for lunch (bring your own) at noon followed by film and discussion at 12:30.

The Film Club showings are **free to OLLI members.**
Laughter promotes physical health and energy by strengthening the immune system and increasing oxygen to the brain. It supports mental health and increases socialization. Studies have shown that laughter and deep breathing promote positive attitudes. As we age, we laugh less – and let's face it, "Laughter is the best medicine."

September 15 | A Symphony of Sound: intro to Classical Music, with Dr. Vincent deLuise

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

Money talks ...but all mine ever says is good-bye.

The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk.

I Rest My Case....

Contributed by Sheila Morisette
Welcome Back!

Summer 2017 was lots of fun, including a first time trip in June to the home of some of my ancestors, Scotland, but I am very happy to be back at OLLI, learning and growing and reporting on some of our Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts cultural, art and music happenings.

This semester I’ll be writing about what’s going on at the New Britain Museum of American Art (one of my favorite places), the Wadsworth which is the oldest art museum in the United States, Yale University’s marvelous collection and latest temporary exhibitions, and of course our beloved Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury’s jewel. I’ll be interviewing both the new executive director of the Waterbury Symphony and the new conductor of Naugatuck College’s Connecticut Pops. I’ll also give you the scoop, with the help of OLLI opera aficionado Richard Albro, on which New York Metropolitan Opera’s presentations we can enjoy locally streaming at the Warner in Torrington and the Regal Cinemas in Waterbury.

Most importantly, I hope you will let me know of any arts events you would like previewed or covered, by they visual art, music, dance, or a community event, including upcoming local theater. In the past I have reviewed retreat houses, talked about beginning your genealogy quest, and visiting tourist features of small towns and big cities alike. I’d love to hear from you – what are your likes and interests? I would really appreciate your input and ideas for columns this Fall Semester. Local events are also of interest, as are favorite and new restaurants!

Contact me at berryfitzp@gmail.com or at 203 686-1334.

A Message from “Chucky”

Hi Everyone,

My name is Charles Woodchuck better known as “Chucky”. I live at the OLLI garden surrounded by my family and friends. Over the past several months this place has become a bee hive of activity. There are eighty plus boxes with special dirt in each one. I hear the workers calling them “raised beds”. In the early spring, after the first thaw, the activity started with the removal of tarps, the raking of the “beds” and the planting of many seeds and young plants.

As my family and I began to recover from our winter rest we were very hungry so we started to explore the “beds”. Man what a feast. Onions, radishes, kale, lettuce, collard greens, carrots and many other early plants were in the ground waiting to grow. However several of my family members found fully developed vegetables inside these things that looked like little hotel rooms.

One person seems to be in charge of the bi weekly crew of workers that show up. Currently he is directing the moving of much “fresh” cow manure and top soil to a pile that they call compost. This stuff sure does smell but it will aid in the growing of the crops in the spring.

Twice a week the in-charge guy, Nunzio is his name, has the workers pick the mature crops for delivery to various soup kitchens, food pantries and churches for distribution to the folks in the community to enjoy. I heard last year they delivered almost seven tons of food! Wow——this is an amazing group. I’ve also heard that, if my family and I are careful, we may have potatoes, tomatoes, and eggplant to enjoy as the growing season continues.

I have taken a break from writing this short little essay because I spent most of the month of July working my way back to the garden. I was not very careful. Now that I am back the saga continues. The big time crops are becoming mature. My family and I really like the red-skinned potatoes and the cherry tomatoes. I hope we have some cherry peppers but I don’t think this is a popular crop. Well I have to run for now. I hear the group coming to do their appointed jobs. It’s back to the hole and a morning of watching the garden channel.

- Ray Lynch
MEMORIES OF THE 1955 FLOOD IN WATERBURY

While we in Connecticut are 100s of miles from Houston and Corpus Christi, Texas, longtime residents of our state are likely to be having flashbacks to another date in August.

It was August 19, 1955 when a horrible hurricane hit our state. While some Texas cities are offering bus transportation for residents and their dogs, Waterbury area residents were not offered a bus to take them to higher grounds.

In reality many who lived near the Naugatuck River and were told to leave their homes refused to, feeling they had survived flood situations before.

Some history of Black Friday for those who were born after the event 62 years ago. The first 17 days of August saw 6 inches of rain fall. By noon on August 18th, another 8 inches fell.

The massive amount of rainfall meant more than 500 people were rescued by helicopters. My dad amazed his family when he said he saw people rescued in the Brooklyn section by helicopters.

Only two of the city’s bridges survived and homes in the Riverside Street area were washed away. Wreckage from the city was found in Long Island Sound, which is 50 miles away.

Twenty-four people died, five were listed as missing and 115 were injured. There was $150 million in damage including 85 buildings that were destroyed.

It took a week to restore power and it was into September when the gas lines were restored and the water was safe to drink.

I admit that we really hoped the hurricane would delay the opening of school which was always the Tuesday after Labor Day. But it did open on time and my siblings and I walked back to Kingsbury School for another year of learning.

If you are too young to have lived through the 1955 Flood, pay a visit to the Mattatuck Museum which has scenes from the event on the walls that line the staircases.

- Evelyn Marshak

PARKING

Where to Park - with OLLI/UConn Parking Permit:
1. Friday: Level 2 & 3 of the UConn Parking Garage (entrance North Elm Street). Parking space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Monday - Friday: Level 5 & 6 of the Scovill Street Municipal Garage (entrance Scovill Street).

Where to Park - without OLLI/UConn Parking Permit:
3. Parking is 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.

Need to purchase an OLLI/UConn parking permit?
If you have not done so already, you must submit an application for a parking permit at: park.uconn.edu/olli-parking-permit-application/

Payment can be made online or by check to:

Parking Services, 3 Discovery Drive, Storrs, CT 06269

Questions? Call (860) 486-4930