



OLLI *News*

UConn
WATERBURY

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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

WELCOME TO OLLI AT UCONN/WATERBURY

Hello and welcome to OLLI, Fall 2016. I am Chuck Miceli, the current president of OLLI at UCONN. To all of you who are taking classes here at OLLI for the first time, welcome and to all of you who are returning again, welcome back as we begin the fall semester.

I started taking OLLI courses shortly after its creation and I've been an active member ever since. During that time I have served on the Voices and Visions editorial committee since its inception, have been that committee's chair for the past three years and have served on the OLLI Leadership Council for several years.

Why do I and many other OLLI members keep coming back year after year? I'd like to share several reasons here, highlight some of the changes I've observed and give a perspective on where we are now and where we are heading in the future.

The first aspect of OLLI's continued attraction for me and other OLLI members is intellectual stimulation. We are consistently impressed by the variety and quality of OLLI courses. OLLI is constantly searching for new topics, presenters and areas of interest and most of our presenters have extensive real-life experience in the areas they teach.

A second aspect is social interaction. OLLI members are not couch potatoes. We are active, energetic and involved in life. Together at OLLI we form an "intentional learning community." We seek out new areas of knowledge, create beautiful art and photography, discuss books, write poetry and prose, grow community gardens, and travel extensively, just to mention a few areas of interest. And learning doesn't stop at the classroom door.

For instance, in past semesters, a group from our Italian language class met weekly at a local book store to continue developing their language skills. At OLLI we are constantly learning and growing together.

The third aspect I'll mention here is value. Many towns offer a host of quality adult education programs. Few, however, can approach OLLI's breadth and depth. With over 60 courses ranging from four to ten weeks in length in more than a dozen tracks, OLLI's program is truly comprehensive and teamed up with UCONN, OLLI offers world-class facilities. Just consider the faculty, classrooms and technology at our disposal and you can appreciate the value of this partnership. In addition to regular OLLI classes, combined courses with UCONN students make OLLI truly unique. Finally, OLLI is extremely cost effective. You can pay for a full year of OLLI membership and take several courses for less than many people pay for one month of cable television.

As you begin this semester, here are some suggestions for getting the most out of OLLI.

1. Check out the library, book store, classrooms, courtyard and other facilities.
2. Get to know other OLLI members. Ask them about their courses, presenters and the other kinds of activities they engage in.
3. Stop at the information desk every week to pick up the latest issue of the OLLI newsletter. Talk to the representatives about clubs, trips, local attraction discounts, volunteer opportunities and many other ways to get involved.
4. Think about OLLI in terms of what you can give as well as get. Do you or someone you know >pg.2

(cont.pg1) have a particular background, skill or avocation that would benefit OLLI members? Then consider teaching a course yourself or recommending other courses and instructors? Are you interested in volunteering on a committee? Then talk to a staff or leadership committee member.

5. Pick up a copy of Voices and Visions and look through it. You'll be amazed at what you see and read and then consider submitting a piece of your own creative work for the upcoming issue.

The OLLI Leadership council is your representative governing body. Over the past year, we have worked very hard at two aspects of OLLI in particular. One is involvement. We have developed a comprehensive succession plan for the Leadership Council with terms of office, expansion of the Members at Large and assignment of a nominating committee for new officers to allow the Leadership Council to grow and evolve with the program. If you would like to be considered for one of the Member at Large positions on the council, contact the OLLI staff or any member of the Leadership Council.

The second area we have worked on is the community aspect of OLLI. As organizations grow larger and more complex, the intimacy they enjoyed at the beginning tends to suffer. During the past year, we have worked hard at trying to recapture that sense of community. In particular, you will notice that our new schedule is designed to leave a thirty minute period in the middle of the day for a dedicated lunchtime. There are no competing classes during this period so that you and your other OLLI members have an opportunity to socialize. The new schedule also accommodates courses varying in length, not only in terms of the number of weeks, but also the number of hours per week, allowing courses to be customized to meet the needs of members and instructors.

I hope that you will find this coming semester at OLLI to be an exciting and fruitful one. I look forward to receiving your ideas and suggestions as we grow and learn together.

Warmest Regards,
Chuck Miceli

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 POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

2nd Thurs at John Bale Bookshop –10:00am

Contact Denise Whelan
(denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

For more information

Commemorating 12 Years as Waterbury Historian

Phil Benevento Presents

Once More with Feeling

Nearly 25 years ago, Waterbury's City Historian, Phil Benevento, presented a two part slide show on Waterbury at the Matt. This is a reprisal of those presentations which focused on Waterbury's golden age from 1880 to 1920. History, colorful stories, streetscapes, industry, recreation, religion, education all get a nod as we take a virtual walk around the city through rare photos and colorful post-cards from the turn of the last century. This presentation, like the one 25 years ago, will be shown in two parts 90 minutes in length.

The first half is Sunday, Sept. 11 from 3 to 5 and the second half is the following Sunday, Sept. 18 from 3 to 5.

MacDermid's is providing a reception after each showing.

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

September 19th...The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean

October 17th...The Family by David Laskin

November 21...The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson.



OLLI CAFE

Friday, September 9

Modern Ruins: Looking at Our Recent Past in a Different Light

Robert C. Marsala

A talk with accompanying photographs on finding the inherent beauty of decaying structures through the work of a modern-day urban explorer. Under discussion are the buildings and their architectural significance in the context of when they were built, and the reasons for their abandonment—as well as methods for capturing these structures in both the visible light and infrared spectrum.

Friday, September 16

What Jewish Humor says About Jews

Rabbi Jon Haddon



Picture



WHERE TO NEXT?
OLLI TRAVEL

A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.

George Moore



Upcoming OLLI Travel

9/28/2016 – Walkway Over the Hudson/Lunch & Tour of Culinary Inst., Hyde Park, NY - \$107pp

11/4-11/2016 – America’s Music Cities-Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans - \$2899pp twin

6/08/2017 – Whitney Museum of American Art/High Line Walking Tour/Chelsea Market, NYC – member price -\$78pp

All prices are member prices. Non-members are charged a slight surcharge. 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.

Waterbury Symphony Begins New Season By “Creating Community”

By *Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler*

On the heels of its extremely successful closing concert last spring, which featured *Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Art Exhibition”* and showcased an incredible slide show of Waterbury and Naugatuck Valley memorabilia, the *Waterbury Symphony Orchestra* will open its new season, its seventy-ninth. The theme of this year’s season is “*Creating Community*,” beginning with a concert entitled “*Made in the USA.*” Next *Saturday, September 17, at 8 p.m.*, the audience at *Naugatuck Valley Community College*, will be treated to favorites from Copland, Bernstein and Gershwin.

The featured soloist artist will be violinist *Bella Hristova* who will perform *Barber’s “Violin Concerto.”* Ms. Hristova is acclaimed for her passionate, powerful performances, beautiful and compelling command of her instrument. The Washington Post has called her “a player of impressive power and control.” She is a young musician with a growing international career.

The orchestra, led by music director and conductor, *Leif Bjaland*, will perform 20th century American music, including *Aaron Copland’s “Rodeo”*, *Bernstein’s “West Side Story”* dances, and selections from *Gershwin’s “An American in Paris”* which were in fact inspired by his boyhood bicycle trips to Harlem to listen to jazz.

Dr. Vincent DeLuise, a local ophthalmologist, friend of OLLI, and Community Ambassador for the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, invites OLLI students and friends to take advantage of the opportunity to help create community through the arts. Dr. DeLuise, a dedicated clarinetist himself and lover of all the cultural arts, in a recent interview said, “The theme of this season’s Waterbury Symphony Orchestra season is Community. What a perfect metaphor for music – Community. One of the essential and foundational roles that music plays in society is that it brings us closer together. It is likely that we humans sang before we spoke, and likely that we sang in harmony, creating community and togetherness. Music concerts still bring hundreds, if not thousands, of people together, all listening and watching and feeling something very special together. This is the power of music - to bring us closer and to uplift and transform our lives.”

Details: What: Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

When: Saturday, September 17 at 8 pm

Where: Naugatuck Valley Community College Fine Arts Center

How: For tickets see website www.waterburysymphony.org or call 203 574-4283

Fellow OLLI students: If you have a museum, theater, performing arts group, chorus, or anything relating to the cultural arts about which you would like me write or review, please send your ideas to me, Mary Peitler, at berryfitzp@gmail.com. Thank you!!



MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Growing up in a household of “voracious readers” and imbued with curiosity about politics, religion, humor in everyday life and just about everything else that affects people, **Tom Dulack** began writing at an early age. He wrote his first play at age nine, an indicator of what was to come.

The man from Whiting, Indiana on the south shore of Lake Michigan, became a successful novelist and playwright. He is a professor of English at the University of Connecticut and his plays have appeared off and on Broadway as well as in regional theaters and abroad.

Growing up, Tom said, he played football, basketball and baseball as well as some golf. “Golf became a lifelong passion.” He attended a Catholic school and “religion played a part of my childhood” as did piano lessons. Over time, his varied experiences, interests and reading provided springboards for the creativity that turned into both dramas and comedies.

Tom attended Indiana University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English. He decided he would have to leave Indiana for graduate school because “I knew if I stayed, I would never leave.” He debated whether to go the University of Washington in Seattle or UConn in Storrs. He says he chose UConn “because I wanted to get to Europe and I figured the East Coast was closer to Europe than the West Coast.”

After earning his master’s degree in English, Tom decided he didn’t want to pursue a doctorate but wanted to write. He was offered a position teaching English on the Waterbury campus with the understanding that if he had work published that would count as a scholarly publication. In addition to his regular classes, Tom also loves working with aspiring writers in the UConn Waterbury Creativity Workshop that he does with his daughter Livi, an actress and filmmaker. The non-credit workshop is open to OLLI members as well as UConn students.

In recent years, Tom did scripts for the Young People’s Concerts that enlivened the performances of classical music for children performed by the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center in New York. Attendance to the series of four concerts a year had eroded and the philharmonic wanted to renew enthusiasm and build up audiences.

This was done by introducing unpredictable happenings into the performances. One time, Tom had an actor in costume running down the aisles yelling in a heavy accent that he would explain the background of the piece while loudly providing incorrect information. The conductor stopped the performance to provide correct information while the young audience sat amazed and entranced at the turn of events.

A lover of classical music himself, Tom was pleased his scripts were wildly successful in gaining audience growth and appreciation for the music. “I wanted to break down the wall between the kids and musicians,” and succeeded.

His plays include dramas about significant political and religious issues as well as comedies. His agent once told him that, “unlike other clients, when you call, I have no idea what you are going to be writing about.”

Among Tom’s many plays are *The Road to Damascus* and *Solomon’s Child*, both serious topics, and the comedy *Breaking Legs* that ran a year off-Broadway and is often performed in regional theaters.

Damascus revolves around characters representing the first black Pope and a U.S diplomat with differing views on invading Syria. The real-life Syrian crisis developed as the play was being completed in a situation of life imitating art. *Solomon’s Child*, which had a short run on Broadway, deals with the issue of deprogramming cult members.

In 1967 Tom wrote a book, *Pork or the Day I Lost the Master’s*, a story about the misadventures of a golfer named Pork. Tom’s writing career got a boost when sportswriter, author and broadcaster Dick Schaap found the book hilarious and spread the word.

Another of his books, this one with roots in religion, titled *The Stigmata of Dr. Constantine* did very well financially. Tom likes writing and finding new endeavors. “I get bored easily,” he explained.

-Mary Ann Martin

