



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

OLLI at UConn: Lifelong Learners for the 21st Century

In early 2013, OLLI at UConn was among 10 OLLIs, of the 117 nationally, selected to participate in the *Demographics Survey* for the National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute network. The results for OLLI at UConn were remarkable in that the response rate was 66%--an extraordinary rate for any survey. Here are some statistics about the OLLI at UConn family:

- 79% Female and 21% Male
- 61% Married or partnered
- 39% Single or Widow(er)
- 93% are age 60 and over
- 53% are age 70 and over
- 10% are age 80 and over
- Over 60% have attended Graduate School
- 21% work part-time and 4% work full-time
- 61% have been retired 5 or more years
- Nearly 40% use an iPad
- 48% use a smart phone
- 87% use Facebook and 23% use a video sharing site

The survey administrators asked members about primary areas of interest in OLLI courses. The topical areas getting the most votes were Fine Arts, History, and Health and Wellness; other top choices were Health and Wellness, Religion and Philosophy, and Literature. We may be sharing other interesting and informative statistics from this survey in the future. Congratulations to each of you who participated and thank you for your contribution to this effort to better understand OLLI members locally and nationally.

By Brian G. Chapman, Director of OLLI at UConn

OLLI at UConn: Communicating in the 21st Century

By Aleta E. Staton, Coordinator of OLLI at UConn

OLLI at UConn uses email to notify its members about upcoming events, special announcements, and other related news. The OLLI at UConn Membership has an e-mail participation rate of 86% which means that a significant majority of members have provided us with their e-mail address. We are hoping to see that number rise to close to 100% over the next year. If you have an email address and haven't shared it with us, please email us at osher@uconn.edu with your name, address, and email address. If you reported your email address to us and you haven't been receiving emails from us, please contact us, as we might have recorded your e-mail address incorrect-

ly. If you would like to obtain a free e-mail account (non UConn), please contact us as we can possibly connect you with some personal assistance.

Over the next few months OLLI at UConn registration will go online making it easier for OLLI members to register from their homes, second homes, vacations, and here on campus. Paper registrations are not going away, but this is another good reason to be linked to OLLI at UConn through the internet. More information will be made available by summer 2014. Additionally, OLLI at UConn will soon be stepping in sync with the University by implementing an online course feedback system. This will free up time in the classroom, improve administrative processes for everyone, and provide the University and presenters with good information. Early alert forms and alternative feedback processes will be provided as appropriate. Look for more details soon!

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

The Special Transportation Fund (STF) was established by the Connecticut General Assembly on July 1, 1984, to provide a dedicated fund for the financing of investment in the State's transportation system and to cover the cost of operating the Department of Transportation and all the services it provides.

The primary revenue source for the Special Transportation Fund comes from taxes imposed on gasoline, and most everyone in CT believes the billions of dollars collected since its inception is dedicated for transportation services and programs.

How wrong we all are!

In a story researched and written by CT Mirror's Keith Phaneuf, he reported that "Between 2005 and 2013, about \$1.27 billion raised by the state's wholesale gas tax has been spent on non-transportation programs."

He discovered that this "dedicated transportation fund" had been raided for over \$1 billion, and used for non-transportation purposes, such as helping pay off deficits in the state budget.

Furthermore, over the past 2 years, almost \$200 million was taken from the Special Transportation Fund and put into the General Fund to help balance our state budget.

These recent decisions were made despite several reports citing the poor conditions of our neglected roads, rails, and bridges, and in spite of the DOT Commissioner's report indicating that our state needed approximately \$3 billion in road and bridge repairs in our state.

We now know the reason why our roads, rails, and bridges repair program has fallen so far behind in its maintenance schedule. It's because billions of dollars had been taken out of this dedicated fund created to avoid another Mianus Bridge collapse.

Many, if not all, of the members of the Transportation Committee members share the common conviction that revenue put into the Special Transportation Fund should be restricted to its original purpose of supporting transportation programs and services in CT. If you agree, contact your state representative and senators

Whit Betts email: whit.betts@housegop.ct.gov.

Turkish Delight Dining

If you have always wanted to sample the delicious array of foods from the intriguing country of Turkey, then set aside Monday, April 28, 12 noon, to join our OLLI folks at Sultans Turkish Restaurant, 586 Plank Road, Waterbury.

Our dining menu will offer an assortment of hot and cold appetizers, hot entrees, flavorful rice, salad, tea, and a dessert treat of baklava pastry. The staff at Sultans Restaurant will be on hand to introduce the various food samplings and spices used in Turkish cooking.

OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee members are hosting this luncheon and ask that you make your \$ 15.00 per person luncheon reservation by Friday, April 18, to Delma Way: email delvilway@aol.com or Nancy Via: email nvia@sbcglobal.net. For those without email access please call Delma (860-274-8621) or Nancy (203-758-6359).

Payment for the \$15.00 luncheon includes tax and gratuity and can be made at Sultans Restaurant the day of the April 28 event. Seating is by advance reservation to Delma or Nancy. Please join us for this unique dining experience.

OLLI Newsletters on the Internet

OLLI newsletters are available on our web page at www.waterbury.uconn.edu/osher

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".

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

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

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

For more information

OLLI BOOK CLUB

Contact: Nancy Via at nvia@sbcglobal.net

April 21 **The Moons of Jupiter** by Alice Munro
May 19 **The Light Between Oceans**
by M. L. Stedman

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



OLLI CAFE

March 28, 2014
Waterbury's Own Fulton Park Restoring Waterbury's historic Fulton Park has been a three-year effort and involved more than 300 volunteers. Come hear how the restoration evolved, grew and how it transformed the park today.

Michael Salvio is President of the Historic Overlook Community Club (HOCC) and Vice President of the Fulton Park Conservancy. The HOCC has been reclaiming land in Fulton Park for over three years, working in partnership with the Waterbury Parks Department currently restoring historic structures in the park.

April 4, 2014
Exploring the Hillstead Museum of Farmington
Rosemary Pribilia is a docent and educator at the Hillstead Museum

PLEASE HELP US FIND THIS PERSON!!!

This person is a future OLLI presenter - someone who has a passion for a topic that he/she might be willing to share with OLLI members. This person may be your neighbor, a friend, a relative, a former colleague, someone you heard at a conference, or even yourself! Put your thinking caps on !!!

When you find this person call or email Aleta Staton at 203-236-9808 or aleta.staton@uconn.edu.

TRIVIA

Long Exceptional Words

Squirrelled: 11 letters, the longest monosyllabic English word

Abstentious: 11 letters, the longest word to use all five vowels in order, exactly once

Rotavator: 9 letters; the longest non-coined palindrome (reads the same backward and forward)

Readers Digest, Sept,2013

TEXAS-SIZED TELESCOPE

A full-sized model of the James Webb Space Telescope was on display in Austin, Texas, in March of 2013. The real telescope, now under construction at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, will be Hubble's successor and is scheduled to launch later this decade, With a mirror 21.3 ft. in diameter (more than 2.5 times the size of Hubble's) composed 18 hexagonal segments, Webb will be the largest telescope in space. It will reside much farther than Hubble, too, (about 932000 miles from Earth) and will be 'parked' in a gravitationally stable area constantly opposite the sun. Because Webb will b away from the shade of near-Earth orbit, it's been designed with a multilayered sunshade the size of a tennis court to protect it from the continuous glare of the sun. Webb's instruments will view the universe primarily through infrared radiation, allowing it to see farther and thus further back in the universe's history.

Ernie Mastroianni-Discover, June, 2013

Someone who makes you laugh is a comedian.
 Someone who makes you think and then laugh is a humorist.

George Burns

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

COOPERSTOWN/ ERIE CANAL

October 8, 9, 2014



If you haven't made your reservation, it is not too late. There are still a few seats left.

After arriving, you will take a leisurely rail cruise on the Rip Van Winkle Flyer, a restored steamliner to enjoy the spectacular picturesque mountain views, and then enjoy a delicious lunch and experience the elegance of yesteryear.

Your next stop will be to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, one of Cooperstown's most popular attractions. The museum tells the story of baseball through its many displays, pictures, books, documents, and the Plaque Gallery where 295 Hall of Fame members' bronze plaques are on display.

If you do not wish to see the Baseball Hall of Fame you will have the option of going to the Fenimore Art Museum for an additional \$10.50 fee, payable at the museum. The Fenimore Art Museum is a premier art institution which displays some of the nation's finest examples of American landscape art and American Indian art.

Overnight accommodations and dinner this evening will be at the Cooperstown Inn.

The second day of your trip starts out with breakfast at your hotel. You will then cruise the historic Erie Canal and discover America's most famous and significant man-made waterway that connects the Hudson River to Lake Erie. While on the boat you will ride in a liquid elevator known as a "lift lock", rais-

ing and lowering boats 20 feet. An experience you will remember. Lunch will follow at Rocky's Quick Grill.

Call Friendship Tours at (860) 243-1630.

Cost \$307.00 (members) and \$20.00 surcharge (non-member surcharge), which include all gratuities.





These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters .

>>> ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

>>> WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

>>> ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

>>> WITNESS: My name is Susan!

>>> ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

>>> WITNESS: July 18th.

>>> ATTORNEY: What year?

>>> WITNESS: Every year.

>>> ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

>>> WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

>>> ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

>>> WITNESS: Forty-five years.

>>> ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

>>> WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

>>> _____

>>> ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

>>> WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

>>> ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

>>> WITNESS: By death..

>>> ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

>>> WITNESS: Take a guess.

>>> ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

>>> WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

>>> ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

>>> WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

>>> ATTORNEY: Doctor , how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

>>> WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

>>> ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

>>> WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

>>> ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

>>> WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
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Waterbury, CT 06702



NEWSLETTER CONTACTS
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nblomstrom@aol.com,

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. Our 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 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 - Richard Fogg
1st Vice President - Mary Lou Reignier
2nd Vice President - Delma Way
Secretary - Toni Escott
Assistant Secretary - Joyce Conlan



We're on the web! www.waterbury.uconn.edu/osher

MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Kyle Turoczi has an abiding love for the land and the importance of environmentally sound practices.

His passions are shared by his wife Lisa, a landscape architect, with whom he co-owns *Earth Tones*, a nursery that grows plants native to New England.

A search for swamp azalea that ended in New Jersey where eight plants were found in a small nursery prompted Kyle and Lisa to think about starting their own nursery that would offer native plants.

The couple couldn't believe how hard in 1995 it was to find the azaleas, plants native to Connecticut, for a wetlands restoration project. They were shocked. They had to travel to New Jersey to purchase them from a small nursery. None were to be found in area nurseries. Other species needed for the project also were hard to find.

Now *Earth Tones* offers more than 400 species native to New England for sale, including Maidenhair Ferns, Oak Ferns and Ostrich Ferns. Among perennials are White Snakeroot that is easy to grow in dry soil and produce white flowers in the summer and Agrimony that has yellow flowers and likes partial sun in dry to moist soil. Trees, shrubs and vines also are listed in their online catalog. It took awhile to establish the nursery as they grow their plants from seed.

Kyle points out that native plants flourish without synthetic pesticides; rarely need to be watered once established; provide food and habitat for wildlife; contribute to biodiversity; teach people about nature and are beautiful. He enjoys checking out the creatures that show up in the wetlands on the 68 acres that comprise *Earth Tones*. Among those seen are bobcats, a pileated woodpecker, barred owls, and fishers (a kind of weasel) and a spotted salamander.

Preservation of wetlands, he believes, is important to the public health because they help clean waterways and reduce flooding. They also provide habitat for birds, fish, amphibians, mammals and insects. Kyle objects to the widespread use of pesticides, adding that native plants must have healthy soil. "Soil is alive, a living unit. We need healthy soil for clean water." He spoke of the unintended consequences of farmers using pesticides as an "instant cure" for destroying insects that eat crops. Nature has its own checks and balances and should be respected.

He recalled a state inspector who came to *Earth Tones* questioning whether they really didn't use pesticides. At that moment, a parasitic wasp flew by carrying a caterpillar, causing the inspector to comment, "You train them?", to control pests.

Kyle and Lisa shared an interest in environmental topics when they met. She earned a degree in landscape architecture from State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry.

Kyle grew up in a rural area of Newtown enjoying hiking and observing the wildlife that lived in wetlands and the plants that grew in them. A post-high school job as an equipment operator made him start thinking about the importance of finding better ways to protect the environment. He then earned a degree from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and, in 2012, a master's degree in resource management and conservation from Antioch University New England. He also is a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England.

Earth Tones also offers landscape design services, usually for people interested in enhancing their backyards with native plants. Sometimes they do work for land trusts, including a plan for a forest for the Farmington Land Trust. Kyle also teaches and lectures about wetlands in various educational venues, including Nonnewaug High School's vo-ag program. He discusses water erosion at Woodbury Middle School. At OLLI, he has taught and plans to teach again "Forest Community Ecology – Understanding Our Landscapes." -**Mary Ann Martin**

March 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 _{OLLI}	8
9	10	11	12	13 <i>Poetry Club</i> 10:00 John Bale Bookstore	14 _{OLLI}	15
16	17 <i>Book Club</i> 1:00 rm 113	18	19	20	21 _{OLLI}	22
23	24	25 <i>Early Native Communities</i> 12:30 rm 333	26	27 <i>Newsletter</i> 10:30	28 _{OLLI}	29
30	31					

April 2014

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

*1 Clubs and
Activities
10:30*

*2 Persepolis
12:30 pm
MPR*

3

4 OLLI

5

6

7

*8 The Greening
of Waterbury
Organizational
meeting*

9

10

11 OLLI

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

no OLLI

20

*21 Book Club
1:00 pm 102D*

22

23

24

25 OLLI

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