



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

HOW COLD IS IT?

This February is well on the way to becoming the coldest month ever according Channel 3's forecaster. We have been besieged by snow storm after snow storm for the past five weekends. Frigid temperatures greet us every morning and hardly modify by the evening. Icy winds turn noses red and earlobes frosty. There seems to be no end to this vicious weather. Whatever happened to global warming?

Remember last winter when the 'polar vortex' caused the frigid air over the North Pole to head south allowing a giant cold spell to drop as far south as the Gulf Coast. It seems that the same thing is taking place again this year. So is global warming dead?

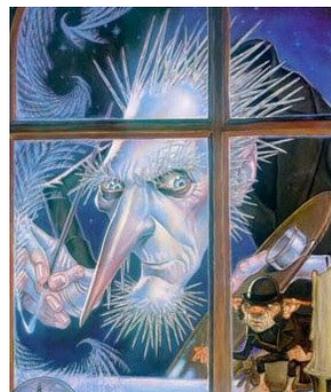
Tom Yulsman, writing in the January/February 2014 issue of Discover Magazine, reminds us that what we are experiencing is weather-which is part of climate. " While the Arctic blanket got all the attention, it didn't tell the whole story...The same contortions of the polar vortex that blasted more than half of the U.S. allowed unusual warmth to spread north to Alaska, which was 14 degrees F warmer in January than the long-term average. In California, above normal temperatures exacerbated a drought that reached historic proportions by summer. And in Finland, warm and wet conditions forced bears out of winter hibernation."

"However unusual they may have been, the hot spells here and the cold snaps there were examples of weather, the day-to-day variations in the state of the atmosphere. It's how those variations add up over several decades that gives you climate. And when you look at global averages over decades, it's clear that climate change has not gone into hibernation."

Yulsman, quoting Gerald Meehl, a scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who says, " Climate change is real. Humans are causing most of it, we can measure it better than before, we have the good tools to measure it in the future, and it's going to be ongoing. Each one of the last three decades has been successively warmer at Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1860."

"According to a major 2014 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in recent decades, changes in climate have caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans, the report states."

Global warming is real. It is the result of major weather changes caused mostly by humans ,according to the IPCC. So, OLLI members, button up for this frigid winter weather, but, remember we may be in for a real hot summer-or not. It is New England. As Mark Twain said, " If you don't like the weather-just wait a minute."



PARKING

UConn Police Officers conduct routine parking enforcement in the attached campus parking garage and all cars will be ticketed for parking violations. These violations include, but are not limited to:

Failure to display a UConn parking decal, parking in an unauthorized area –

NO PARKING ON LEVEL ONE, fire lanes, handicap and reserved spaces.

Parking fines can be as high as \$250 for parking in handicap spaces or misuse of a handicap permit. The fine for not displaying a University decal is \$30.

Reminder of the importance of parking your vehicles correctly while in the UCONN parking garage. As everyone knows, parking is limited and every parking space is needed. So please, once you park your vehicle in a space, make sure it's within the space provided

ALL REPLACEMENT PARKING STICKERS – including newly purchased vehicle stickers: \$10

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 Newsletters Go 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".

The true story of the Chicken Gun. Sometimes it does take a rocket scientist!

Scientists at NASA built a gun specifically to launch standard 4 pound Dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space Shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of The windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the Windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and A gun was sent to the British engineers.

WHEN THE GUN WAS FIRED, THE ENGINEERS STOOD SHOCKED AS THE CHICKEN

HURLED OUT OF THE BARREL, CRASHED INTO THE SHATTERPROOF SHIELD, SMASHED IT TO SMITHEREENS, BLASTED THROUGH THE CONTROL CONSOLE, SNAPPED THE ENGINEER'S BACK-REST IN TWO, AND EMBEDDED ITSELF IN THE BACK WALL OF THE CABIN, LIKE AN ARROW SHOT FROM A BOW.

THE HORRIFIED BRITS SENT NASA THE DISASTROUS RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENT, ALONG WITH THE DESIGNS OF THE WINDSHIELD AND BEGGED THE U.S SCIENTISTS FOR SUGGESTIONS. NASA RESPONDED WITH A ONE-LINE MEMO – "DEFROST THE CHICKEN."

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

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

March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15

The Omnivore's Dilemma
Being Mortal
Underground Girls of Kabul
Tomlinson Hill

Michael Pollan
Atul Gawande
Jenny Nordberg
Chris Tomlinson



OLLI CAFE



Canada Oh Canada

Feb 27 MILLIONS OF PENGUINS, ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA, AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WITH BETSY AND PAUL MCELVANE

Antarctica, the coldest, driest, and windiest continent of this world has the highest average elevation of all continents. Even though 98% is covered by 2 kilometer thick ice, Antarctica is considered a desert due to its annual precipitation of only 200 millimeters. With temperatures reaching -129 degrees Fahrenheit, there are certainly no permanent residents, but an abundance of people who reside at research stations throughout the year. Penguins, a unique animal of the South Pole, are one of the few creatures able to survive the harsh climate. The presentation will include the route of the Shackleton Expedition, the first mission to reach latitude of 88 degrees south, just 97 miles from the South Pole.

March 6 Music & Story-telling with Jeremy Driscoll and Isabel Carrington

Soon the OLLI travel committee will fill the bus with registrants for our first Canadian overnight trip. Friendship tours will provide the mature bus driver, Wi-Fi bus, and knowledgeable tour director.

The itinerary is varied and paced for many energy levels. The hotel is the Country Inn and Suites, a chain that has hosted us very well in the past. Besides spacious rooms, the hotel has an indoor pool and hot tub. The second day includes touring the falls and other must see attractions with a step-on- guide. The third day tour includes the lovely Niagara-On-The-Lake village, a wine tasting vineyard, and the towering Skylon restaurant for a farewell dinner with panoramic views. The fourth day takes us to the most unusual tropical interlude at the Butterfly Conservatory before we return home.

The second day includes an afternoon of free time for relaxation, adventure on your own, or a close up experience behind the falls. The second evening offers the optional trip to the Fallsview Casino for dinner, on your own, and wagering if you desire.

The weather should be great in September, and the ride up and back will be punctuated with evenly paced rest stops and on the bus games and DVDs. We expect to have Bob Read repeat as our tour director.

The dates are September 27-30, 2015 a Sunday through Wednesday. The member price of \$510 dollars includes transportation, baggage handling, three nights in a fine hotel, three breakfasts, two dinners, and all admissions and gratuities. There is a small \$20 surcharge for nonmembers. The \$200 deposit is not due until July 6, 2015.

For early registration, questions, or special requests call **860-243-1630**. Come visit with our northern neighbors with your friends and families for your first or repeat trip to the spectacle of the falls and the tranquility of Niagara-On-The-Lake.

A valid passport is required for this trip.



“Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential. ”

— **Winston Churchill**

Upcoming OLLI Travel

5/13/15-Culinary Arts Museum/RISD Art Museum-\$79pp

5/22 - 5/31/15 – Best of London & Paris (see flyer for pricing)

6/3/2015- Best of Boston (JFK Library & Cruise) - \$86pp

6/7 - 6/9/2015 – Ogunquit/Strawbery Banke (overnight)- \$397pp dbl

9/16/2015 – NY Botanical Gardens (Frida Kahlo’s Garden) - \$75pp

9/27 - 30/2015 – Niagara Falls (overnight) - \$510pp dbl

MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Alan Bisbort was an Army brat born in Tokyo whose family traveled the world before his father, a colonel, returned to the United States for his last assignment in New Mexico.

Upon his dad's retirement, the family moved to St. Simons Island, Georgia, where the 11-year-old Alan felt "cultural shock" when he entered a school very different from schools on Army bases. Before he reached his teens, the Bisborts moved to Atlanta, where Alan attended high school.

But the wide-ranging reading of the future author and editor wasn't based on the school curriculum. His teachers considered him bright and "always gave me great grades," apparently thinking "just shove him along," he says. At his high school, Alan began an environmental club; he had a growing interest in civil rights and wrote for his school newspaper.

"My real education came from immersing myself" in art museums, reading *MAD* magazine and various underground publications. When growing up, Alan read books by Joseph Heller, Kurt Vonnegut, Terry Southern, Jack Kerouac, and Allen Ginsberg.

Alan was heavily influenced by his older brother who would "probably be considered a hippie" with his long hair and enthusiasm for rock music. "I was too old to be a punk and too young to be a hippie," Alan recalls, but he read his brother's books and listened to his music.

Alan's brother finished college and went to Afghanistan with the Peace Corps. He wrote often to his kid brother and Alan treasured those letters from his now deceased sibling. "In some ways, I feel my brother is in class (at OLLI) with me, helping me teach."

Looking back at his early life, Alan recalls participating in protests. "I loved the demonstrations" and dreamed of the day, "I would be an agent of change." A significant event in his life was working on Andrew Young's first congressional campaign, which was unsuccessful. That was "an eye-opening experience" particularly when "we went to the ghetto."

Upon graduating from high school, Alan earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1976. He had an idea that he was going to be a writer, perhaps a poet or author of the "Great American Novel." (He has completed "seven or eight" novels that haven't been published and is working on another. "Nothing daunted me," he says

of the rejections.)

The new graduate stayed in Chapel Hill, living with a group of college friends and working as a restaurant cook. Gradually his friends left for jobs elsewhere and Alan eventually went to Washington, D.C. He became a writer and editor for the Library of Congress Publishing Office. He calls the library "the greatest place in the world" and continues to serve it as a consultant on some publishing projects.

Over his career, Alan has written books focusing on history and culture. Among his published works are: *Beatniks: A Guide to an American Subculture*; *The White Rabbit and Other Delights*; and *The Nation's Library: The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

A successful and prolific freelancer, Alan's articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Hartford Courant*, various university alumni magazines and numerous other publications. Alan also is an editor for *iMediaEthics.org*, an advocate for accurate and ethical reporting.

He is a copy editor (part-time) at the *Waterbury Republican-American*, where his wife Tracey O'Shaughnessy is associate features editor. She also is a columnist for the *Sunday Republican*.

At OLLI, Alan teaches *Beatniks VS Hippies? No Contest!* During Winter Term he also taught a second course, *Give Peace a Chance: History of the Modern Anti-war Movement*. He plans to continue both courses.

New to teaching, Alan is delighted with the enthusiastic response of his OLLI students and their participation in the classes. "I challenge myself; it is not natural to me to teach but OLLI allowed me to apprentice myself." -

Mary Ann Martin

