



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

HUMANS vs ROBOTS

I would not like to be looking for a job in this economy. Luckily, I do not have to after teaching for 36 years and receiving a pension for doing so. Many of my fellow OLLI members are in similar situations. But, suppose you were your grand-son or daughter just graduating from college with huge debts and looking for a great job to reduce those commitments as soon as possible so that you could get on with your life. Where are those jobs?

I have just finished a recently-published book entitled *Machines of Loving Grace* written by John Markoff, science writer for the *New York Times*. The subtitle is *The Quest to Find Common Ground Between Humans and Robots*. Mr. Markoff chronicles the journey of the search between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Intelligence Augmentation (IA). Some researchers attempted to replace human beings, AI, while others aimed to extend human capabilities, IA. "Of course, together, their work defined both a dichotomy and a paradox. The paradox is that the same technologies that extend the intellectual power of humans can displace them as well... *Whether we augment or automate is a design decision that will be made by individual human designers,*" says Markoff.

The second chapter starts off with a car in the desert being controlled hands-off by a computer and progresses to the driverless car that Google has driven all over California-still with a driver-for now-just in case. If you are truck driver, or a taxi driver, or a bus driver-should you be concerned?

My uncles worked in Scoville's and American Brass as toolmakers. They made the parts that allowed the operators to run the machines that made the other parts. Today, there are no toolmakers because computers have taken over that job, which also affects the operators because now the computers have made their usefulness obsolete. Remember the ad where the robots fix themselves and continue working? What happens to these people?

Markoff remarks, "We have centuries of experience with machines such as the backhoe and the steam shovel, both of which replace physical labor. Smart machines that displace white-collar workers and intellectual labor, however, are a new phenomenon... Our phones, music players and tablets have more computing power than the supercomputers of just a few decades ago... With the arrival of 'ubiquitous computing' we have entered a new age of smart machines. In the coming years, artificial intelligence and robotics will have an impact on the world more dramatic than the changes personal computing and the Internet have brought in the past decades. Cars will drive themselves and robots will do the work of FedEx employees and, inevitably, doctors and lawyers. The new era offers the promise of great physical and computing power, but it also reframes the question raised more than fifty years ago: Will we control these systems or will they control us?... What will happen if our labor is no longer needed? If jobs for warehouse workers, garbage collectors, doctors, lawyers, and journalists are displaced by technology? It is impossible to know this future," Markoff states," but I suspect society will find that humans are hardwired to work or find an equivalent way to produce something of value in the future. A new economy will create jobs that we are unable to conceive of today."

In the meantime, those jobs that helped grow the middle class are gone. Recent and future graduates are going to have to be more creative in their job-seeking. Markoff writes," The simple answer is that human creativity is limitless, and if our basic needs are looked after by robots and AIs, we will find ways to entertain, educate, and care for one another in new ways. The answers may be murky but the questions are increasingly sharp. Will these intelligent machines that interact with and care for us be our allies or will they enslave us?"

As that great philosopher, Pogo, once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us!." **RJG**

PARKING

Please note the following parking options, until you have received a Parking Services-issued, fall parking decal:

1. Parking on Level 2 & 3 of the UConn Parking Garage (entrance North Elm Street) is available on Fridays—no decal required until official decals are issued. As always, parking space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Parking on Level 5 & 6 of the Scovill Street Municipal Garage is available on all days of the week. **However, you MUST pick-up a temporary parking pass in order to exit the garage for free.** Temporary passes will be available Monday through Thursday, 10AM - 3PM, and Friday 9AM - 4PM at the OLLI Office, Room 103.
3. Parking is often 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.

Please Note: You will be required to obtain an official parking decal. Parking Services will be contacting you over the next few weeks for vehicle information in order to provide a decal. Please respond swiftly to their request.



A Suggestion to our OLLI Travelers ~

When reserving a seat for one of our day trips, it is very important for you to get your reservations in as early as possible. If they have not received an adequate number of people (usually 35 or 40) for a day trip, Friendship Tours is required to start a cancellation process about 2 weeks ahead of the date of that trip. That means that, although we know many of our trips are popular and were planned because many members suggested them, if many people wait until the last two weeks, the trip you are calling for may already be cancelled. So please make sure to reserve trips early to make sure you get the trips you want.

(Just a note – Of course, overnight trips need to be reserved much earlier.)

Ann Rompre, Co-Chairperson of Travel

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

Upcoming OLLI Travel

9/27 - 30/2015 – Niagara Falls NY (overnight) - \$510pp dbl
10/21/2015 – 9/11 Museum – NYC - \$74pp (sold out)

6/20-22/2016 – Lancaster PA (Sight & Sound Theatre (overnight) -\$427pp dbl

9/17-19/2016 – Washington DC/ChantillyVA/Mount Vernon – price TBA

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

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 21 The Boys in the Boat Daniel James Brown

October 19 Olive Kitteridge Elizabeth Sprout

November 16 When Lions Roar Thomas Maier



OLLI CAFE

Friday, September 18
Dogs and the Elderly

Tricia Malfitano

Come and listen to Tricia Malfitano talk alongside her two deaf therapy dogs about the children's books she has written and the work they do together.

Sept. 25

THE LONG JOURNEY HOME FOR ALBERT AFRAID OF HAWK

Nick Bellantoni, former State Archeologist

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

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

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

For more information

THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD YET BRAND NEW

Sight & Sound theatre in Lancaster Pa. will unveil its original production of Samson in the spring 2016. OLLI will visit The Lancaster area June 20-22, 2016 to experience this production and other events that make Lancaster so attractive as a place to visit or revisit.

The story of Samson originates in the Book of Judges and is considered to be a prototypical heroic life story. The production will be spectacular as those of you who have seen past productions realize. For those of you who will see the first Sight & Sound event the show will have a unique and unexpected impact.

This two night and three day excursion is filled with other “sights and sounds”. An Amish family will show us their farm and home. We will experience free enterprise “Amish style” at Kitchen Kettle Village. Meals will feature locally sourced food in abundance.

There will be a two night stay in a family owned boutique Cork Factory Hotel. On the last day we will have a guided tour of QVC studios and gift shop.

Register early by calling Friendship Tours at **860-243-1630**. Deposits are not due for some time but can be made conveniently with credit cards over the phone.

"SAMSON" featured at the Sight & Sound Theater Amish Farm and House Tour QVC Studio Lancaster, PA

June 20-22 (Mon.-Wed.) 2016

Did you pick up OLLI's newest, most colorful travel flyer on your first day of class? Highlighted is the initial extended trip for Spring, 2016. It depicts "Samson," shown at the Sight & Sound Theater, deep in the heart of the Amish country in Lancaster, PA, along with other cultural and interesting stops, as explained in the flyer in detail.

Does it not sound inviting that history sets the tone for our two-night stay at the Cork Factory Hotel and that the experience makes your day.

Early reservations made through Friendship Tours (860 243 1630) will allow for ample time for preparation and scheduling in advance, and even though the cost is nominal, to set up a plan to fit your budget. Our overnight tours consistently attract travelers who expect a wonderful, satisfying experience. We, as a committee, strive to achieve success and to accommodate all tastes. It's up to you to create a memory that lasts.

The cost as noted on the flyer is \$427 pp double/triple; \$527 pp single, with a nonmember surcharge of \$20.



WISCONSIN FARM KID JOINS THE MARINES

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing. Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet

and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bullseye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter,

Alice

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

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NEWSLETTER CONTACTS
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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 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 - Chuck Miceli
1st Vice President - Mary Lou Reignier
2nd Vice President - Delma Way
Secretary - Toni Escott
Assistant Secretary - Joyce Conlan



We're on the web! www.oli.uconn.edu

MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

OLLI President Charles “Chuck” Miceli is an author who gains great satisfaction from “helping other people to confront fears and realize they can do things they have convinced themselves they can’t”.

He learned this lesson when training to be a marine at the famed Parris Island boot camp in South Carolina.

Expected to climb crossbars to the top of an obstacle stretching skyward and then descend, Chuck remembers thinking he couldn’t do that. Then he heard his drill instructor for the Confidence Course informing him you might think you will fall and die, but if you don’t do this, “you will definitely die.”

With the drill instructor’s voice echoing behind him, Chuck “tried and succeeded.” The young recruit began thinking “I will stop lying to myself about things I (think) I can’t do.”

The experience was a life changing event for Chuck. To this day, he encourages people of all ages to stretch and try new things, an attitude that has served him well in his career in criminal justice and his work as a poet and novelist.

He believes OLLI provides an ideal environment for “creative productivity.” OLLI members discover they can write, create poetry and works of art and do other things they never tried before.

Early in his career, Chuck prepared inmates at Cheshire Reformatory, which then was for males 16 – 21 years of age, for gainful employment. Chuck found he loved working with the inmates.

When working in the correctional system in Connecticut, Chuck developed a program on crisis intervention. His reputation grew and he was asked eventually to research the cause of a “rash of fires in prisons across the country.” He worked with Alton Golden, who had a background in fire prevention.

Chuck and Alton co-authored a text *Fire Behind Bars* that became a book focusing on the unique safety requirements within prisons.

The dissemination of the co-authors’ findings and recommendations played a key part in stopping the fires that occurred during the mid-to-late 1970s. “You have to

balance security and fire safety” in correctional institutions that have problems very different from those found in other organizations such as hospitals, Chuck observes.

While working, Chuck took many courses in various fields, earning an associate’s degree in criminal justice from Tunxis College and bachelor’s degree from Holy Apostles College where he majored in philosophy.

“I think I was looking for what life meant to me. Philosophy was a good fit for me, where I was; it’s logical and forces you to think logically when engaged in an issue.”

He also took post-graduate counseling courses at the University of Bridgeport and earned a certificate in “Atkins Life Coping Skills” from Cornell.

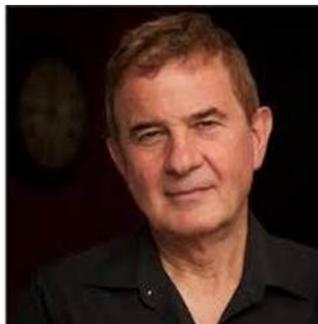
Chuck held a number of positions in the criminal justice field, serving as a training officer for both jails and a maximum security prison. He has served as chief of curriculum for the Connecticut Justice Academy and as a consultant to a number of national organizations.

Chuck’s published novel *Amanda’s Room* that deals with paranormal events draws in part upon his extensive experience working in the criminal justice field.

A true lifelong learner who always dreamed of being a writer, Chuck took courses on marine weather from the U.S. Power Squadron and did other extensive research when he elected to make weather a character rather than background in

Amanda’s Room. He is at work on the third edition of “*Amanda’s Room*,” which will be published by California Times Publishing. Chuck also is working with a screen writer who believes the very “visual” story can become a film. Another novel, *Angels Unaware*, has yet to be published.

Chuck loves reading, writing and sharing poetry. His poem “*Miner’s Lament*,” recently was chosen the third place winner in the Non-rhyming Poetry category for the world-wide Annual *Writer’s Digest* Competition. The poem honors the memory of Chuck’s father, who was a coal miner in Pennsylvania for many years before moving the family to Brooklyn, New York. —**Mary Ann Martin**



On Friday, September 4, **AL Jarus** was featured in the Accent section of the Waterbury Republican newspaper. He was interviewed on campus and gave great reviews of OLLI which are noted in the article. Al is the young 98 year old Waterbury man still driven by the urge to learn and he credits OLLI with keeping him going mentally and physically. The article was written by Tracy O’Shaughnessy and is typical of the scintillating columns by her which appear Sunday in the Waterbury Republican.

