



OLLI *News*

UConn
WATERBURY

Volume 18, Issue 3

Sept. 25, 2015

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

The Newsletter

NEEDS YOUR INPUT

OLLI at UConn/Waterbury's newsletter is one of the few OLLI newsletters printed weekly. The newsletter publishes ten issues a semester to coincide with the classes OLLI members are attending. The committee tries to include pertinent news about the activities of the University as they apply to the OLLI members. The committee also solicits contributions from the membership and we do receive some jokes (which we try to make printable for this type of publication) and travel articles about some of the trips the group has participated in. We have been very fortunate to have great articles about OLLI presenters and we have had some interesting pieces from classroom exercises of OLLI members. The committee is grateful to all who have contributed. However the committee is small and as such, limited in scope and ability to come up with new ideas. Therefore, we are asking your help in formulating new columns or suggestions for what you would like to see in the newsletter. We would also appreciate any criticisms of the present content. Finally, we need new members of the committee to help us gather any information that may come in. Participation is not as daunting as it may sound. The committee meets about twice a semester and no member would have more than one or two assignments over the ten week period. So, if you think you may be a budding journalist or a great reporter, or even just someone who would like to be a part of the newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Email your suggestions or work or application to Bob Grady (yvoorg@aol.com) labeling them from OLLI, or give them to Aleta Staton in the OLLI office. We thank you again for your comments and contributions and hope to hear from you.

OLLI Newsletter Committee



NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART IS CLOSE BY

It might be hard to imagine that there is a world class art museum as close as New Britain and on Saturday mornings admission is free. Yes, you will save the \$10 admission fee charged to senior citizens if you enter the New Britain Museum of American Art between 10 am and noon. The entry fee is paid by the American Savings Foundation.

Parking is always free at the museum now celebrating its 112th anniversary and showing off a recent, splendid addition to the complex.

If you have never been to NBMAA, now is the time to go. If you have been a patron of this museum, the first museum dedicated to displaying American art since 1903, now is a great time to return to view its new paintings and enjoy its revolving exhibits.

Impressionist paintings are my favorite but modern art is now near the top of my list. The NEW/NOW exhibit which closes on November 1st, helped change my mind. I loved the blown glass items and other pieces, including Nobu Fukui's layered collage, and Rashaod Newsome's "Mary" a 21st century coat of arms.

One new permanent addition is the Shaker furniture

room from the Enfield CT Shaker Village.

The huge Thomas Hart Benton mural has been beautifully rehung as have many pieces by American artists such as Mary Cassatt and Georgia O'Keefe in a new wonderful gallery.

I'm looking forward to the Holiday Tree Tour followed by hot cocoa that will be featured on Saturdays in December at 1 pm.

A new exhibit, Director's Favorites, opens October 17 and runs through January 3, 2016. Other exhibits will be opening throughout the year.

Many libraries in the Greater Waterbury area offer free passes to the NBMAA and other museums in the state.

For more information go to nbmaa.org or call the museum at 860-229-0257.

Oh, remember that the policeman that guards the entry to the galleries looks amazingly real but isn't. Also the museum's gift shop is small but offers some beautiful items.

Evelyn Marshak

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".

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

October 19 Olive Kitteridge Elizabeth Sprout

November 16 When Lions Roar Thomas Maier

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 CAFE

Friday, September 25

THE LONG JOURNEY HOME FOR ALBERT AFRAID OF HAWK

Nick Bellantoni, former State Archeologist

In June 1900, Albert Afraid of Hawk, Oglala Lakota, was performing With Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show when he died of food poisoning in Danbury, Connecticut. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Wooster Cemetery and lay there for 112 years. This presentation tells of the history of the Lakota people and the Afraid of Hawk family; the discovery of the grave by a local historian; the repatriation effort to bring Alfred home; the archaeological removal of his remains; the forensic study to determine identity; and the final reburial at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Friday, October 2

Raising The Curtain On A New Palace Theater Frank Tavera

There is nothing busier than idle rumor.

Herbert V. Prochnow

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



AMISH COUNTRY/QVC LANCASTER, PA

June 20-22, 2016

Don't miss our OLLI Spring trip to Lancaster, PA. If you have never been to the Sight and Sound Theatre you are in for a treat. Their productions are over the top with their large casts, costumes, scenery, live animals and sound effects. They will be performing "Samson". The story of Samson tells how the length of hair gave him enormous strength. He was indeed the most superhero in Bible history. It is also one of the greatest love stories, with a young Philistine woman, Delilah, whom he falls deeply in love with.

On the last day of our trip we will visit QVC. I am sure most of you have tuned in for their TV shows. You will now get a behind the scene of their state-of-the-art broadcasting facility where we will see what goes on behind the scenes to bring the show to you. We will visit the control room, set and prop center, and get a spectacular view from the Observation Deck where we may be able to see a program in progress. After the tour there will be time to visit their Studio store.

The trip includes a two night stay at the Cork Factory Hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners and a visit to a private Amish Farm.

Cost of trip for Olli members: \$427 double/triple
\$527 single

Non-member surcharge \$20.00/per person

This trip will fill up quickly!! Call Friendship Tours at 860 243-1630 to book your reservation.

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

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

Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)



The following questions were set in last year's GED examination These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)

- Q. Name the four seasons
A.. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar
- Q. How is dew formed
A.. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire
- Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on
A.. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed
- Q. What are steroids
A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs (Shoot yourself now , there is little hope)
- Q... What happens to your body as you age
A.. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental
- Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty
A.. He says goodbye to his boyhood and

looks forward to his adultery (So true)

- Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes
A.. Premature death
- Q. How can you delay milk turning sour
A.. Keep it in the cow (Simple, but brilliant)
- Q. What is the fibula?
A.. A small lie
- Q. What does 'varicose' mean?
A.. Nearby
- Q. What is a seizure?
A.. A Roman Emperor.
(Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)
- Q. What is a terminal illness
A. When you are sick at the airport.
(Irrefutable)
- Q. What is a turbine?
A.. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head. Once a Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.

Bob Blake

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
The University of Connecticut
99 East Main Street
Waterbury, CT 06702



NEWSLETTER CONTACTS
Bob Grady 860 483-2014
Email vyoorg@aol.com
or
nblomstrom@aol.com,

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 PRESENTERS

Bonnie Plourde radiates enthusiasm when speaking of her passion for archaeology. When she began studying anthropology and archaeology, Bonnie found, “I loved learning about the truth of life from the ground.”

Upon graduation from high school, the Southington resident headed for the University of Connecticut to study electrical engineering, possibly because her dad was an electrical engineer and she was good with numbers. She left UConn but continued studying electrical engineering at Naugatuck Valley Community College. But deep down she knew working constantly with numbers was not for her.

In one of her classes, the teacher put up a math problem dealing with electrical circuits on the board and asked “do you know the answer?” Bonnie held up her hand and said, “I know the answer but I don’t care. Is that a problem?”

Her teacher met with her after the class to discuss her response and Bonnie came to realize she liked learning about people too much to continue with engineering studies.

Bonnie, who is married to Matt who had been her “high school prom date”, realized at one point that she wanted to be a full time mom. As their daughter and son, now 10 and 8 grew older, she began thinking about returning to school.

With her husband being “very, very supportive,” Bonnie decided to study interfaith studies to learn about belief systems. She enrolled at Tunxis Community College and took one course in religion and another in anthropology.

While the class in world religions “was amazing,” anthropology “talked about everything in culture.” A professor at Tunxis suggested she continue studies at Central Connecticut State University, where she is majoring in anthropology and minoring in archaeology. She will receive her bachelor’s degree in December 2015. Bonnie explained archeology falls under anthropology at the undergraduate level but that changes in graduate school when you (can) go “full out in archaeology.”

Bonnie soon learned “you don’t need to go all the way to Egypt or to South Africa” to do archaeological excavations. She cited a soapstone quarry in People’s Forest in Barkhamsted.

Artifacts found there include unfinished bowls made of steatite (soapstone). Aboriginal residents living in the area used soapstone to make bowls used for cooking meat and mixtures of fruit and acorns. Professor Ken Feder of the Department of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University has directed work on the site.

In the September/October 2013 issue of *Connecticut Preservation News* he wrote that soapstone was a “highly desired raw material” used in the area and traded to others until about 3,000 years ago when ceramic technology was introduced to people living in southern New England

Bonnie loves that “real people” can be archeologists who learn from the distant – and sometimes not so distant – past. She remains fascinated with how artifacts of people: tools, cooking pots, and furnishings speak volumes about culture. Bonnie is teaching two OLLI classes this term on her favorite subject.

As part of her own college work, she is studying the history of the family that built and owned for three generations the Southington house now known as the Barnes Museum. It was built in 1836. The original owner, Amon Bradley, was a Yankee peddler before serving as postmaster of Southington and a member of the Connecticut General Assembly. His grandson Bradley Henry Barnes bequeathed the house and contents in 1973 to the town of Southington. Artifacts in the museum, “even the crate for the Steinway,” are treasure troves of information.

Bonnie doesn’t know if graduate school is on the horizon but her husband, a network consultant, can work from home anywhere in the world. Perhaps someday Bonnie Plourde will be on an archaeological team working in South Africa or Egypt. –**Mary Ann Martin**

