Does it seem that the autumn colors are more vibrant and lasting longer this year?

In an article from the Old Farmers’ Almanac George and Becky Lohmiller ask the questions, “Why do autumn leaves change color? What types of trees and weather produce the most vivid fall foliage? Not all leaves turn vivid colors in the fall. Only a few of our many species of deciduous trees – notably maple, aspen, oak and gum – produce stellar performances for our annual autumn spectacular in North America.”

According to them, “Several factors contribute to fall color (temperature, precipitation, soil moisture), but the main agent is light, or actually the lack of it. The amount of daylight relates to the timing of the autumnal equinox.

As the autumn days grow shorter, the reduced light triggers chemical changes in deciduous plants causing a corky wall to form between the stem and leaf. This layer eventually causes the leaf to drop off in the breeze. As corky cells multiply, they seal off the vessels that supply the leaf with nutrients and water and also block the exit vessels, trapping simple sugars and leaves. The combination of reduced light lack of nutrients and no water add up to the death of the pigment chlorophyll, the “green” in leaves. Once the green is gone, two other pigments show their bright faces. These pigments, carotene (yellow) and anthocyanin (red). Browns in autumn leaves are the result of tannin, a chemical that exists in many leaves, especially oaks.

Sugar trapped in autumn leaves by the ‘abscission’ layer is largely responsible for the vivid color. Some additional abscission layers are also manufactured by sunlight acting on the trapped sugar. This is why foliage is so sparkling after several bright fall days and more pastel during rainy spells. In general, a wet growing season followed by a dry autumn filled with sunny days and cool frostless nights produces the most vibrant palette of fall colors. Of course, if freezing temperatures and a hard frost hits, it can kill the process within the leaf and lead to poor fall color. Also, drought conditions during late summer and early fall can trigger an early shutdown of trees as they prepare for winter, causing leaves to fall early from trees without reaching their full color potential. Some level of autumn foliage changes in many regions in North America. However, it is the northern tier of states, especially New England, that hold the jackpot for leaf peepers. A combination of the right climate, light conditions and an abundance of the tree varieties that hoard colorful pigments come together there. While tradition has it that Columbus Day weekend is when the color peaks in New England, the mythical maximum occurs in northern Maine in mid to late September and travels south, reaching the Connecticut shore by late October.”

That’s the science. Enjoy the beauty!

www.almanac.com
Lancaster, PA June 20-22, 2016 (Mon.-Wed.)
Featuring: Sight & Sound Theater
Amish Farm and House Tour and QVC Studio
Over the past few weeks, OLLI News has included articles written by various travel committee members, which were focused on assorted aspects of our next two-night, three-day extended trip, scheduled in June 2016 to Lancaster, Pa.

Spring of 2016 also happens to mark the unveiling of the original production of SAMSON at Sight and Sound Theater. We’ll be taking our reserved seats on day two to enjoy that production. SAMSON is filled with colorful characters, extraordinary feats of strength and amazing special effects. When Samson actually stands between two colossal columns in a godless temple and starts to push - it will literally bring down the house!

Accommodations for our two nights are at the Cork Factory Hotel, which is described as a luxury boutique hotel located in historic downtown Lancaster and which includes breakfast served daily. There is so much more included in this upcoming excursion. I am certain it will produce many special memories for you, but only when you act and make a reservation. Review the actual itinerary and minute details on the informative flyer and then call Friendship Tours at 860 243 1630 to reserve your space. Your deposit of $150 is not due until the end of March, with the final payment by early May 2016.

By the way, OLLIs most recent overnight excursion to Niagara Falls received a rave review.

We will all be better citizens when voting records of our Congressmen are followed as carefully as scores of pro football games.

-Lou Erickson-in Atlantic Journal

Factoids For OLLI Members
- Sinks in the Campus bathrooms are not built to accommodate solid waste. The Campus custodial staff would like to remind you not to throw coffee grounds in them.
- Parking spaces are limited in the attached ramp garage - please be mindful of the way you park.

Upcoming OLLI Travel

A5/12/16 - The Springfield Museums (4)/Dr. Seuss Sculpture Garden MA- $62pp
6/20-22/2016 – Lancaster PA (Sight & Sound Theatre (overnight) -$427pp dbl


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 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

November 16 When Lions Roar Thomas Maier

Irish Masculinity, Fatherhood, and Cinematic Representations of “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland
Speaker: Nicole McClure, Asst Prof of English at University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown
Thurs. 11/12 6:30– 7:45
RSVP by 11/05

The Harlem Renaissance Revisited
Speaker Dr. Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar, UConn Professor of History/Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Popular Music
Fri. 11/20 1-2pm
RSVP by 11/13
OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE
2nd Thurs at John Bale Bookshop – 10:00am
Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)
For more information

OLLI CAFE
Friday, October 30
Learning meteorology
Sam Kantrow

Sam Kantrow has been a meteorologist for six years, including four at WTNH in New Haven. Come listen to him discuss the ins and outs of meteorology, including the tools, the tricks, and what it’s like to be on television.

Friday, November 6
Bravo Waterbury
Calida Jones

OLLI’s Trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum
It was a beautiful clear day with blue sky overhead as we started our trip to the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in NYC – almost as if to invoke a vision of the strikingly blue sky on the actual 9/11/2001 and the ironic contrast between its beauty and all the horrors of that day, indelibly seared in our memories. On our way down, our Friendship Tour guide, Eve Magoon, gave us a good overview of how much care was given to all the planning of the museum to honor the memories of all those who lost lives that day and all who were injured, in addition to all who served in saving lives, and the people that were closely involved. We were happy to go at a time when we got to see the first of the new Trade Towers completed as well as the museum and Memorial Pools outside.

On arriving in NYC we first stopped to have lunch. On disembarking the bus, by chance we ran into a Chinese celebration in the street which afforded us a very colorful show complete with a large colorful Chinese dragon. Then we walked a little further for lunch in Little Italy with some shopping on the way. With so many Italian restaurants on the street, the hardest choice was choosing which one, as all were great and had “A” ratings by the city.

After our lunch our driver brought us to the locality of the 9/11 Museum. On our short walk in we admired a large bronze plaque on the side of a building dedicated to fallen firefighters of 9/11 and firefighters who still serve NYC – definitely impressive. On reaching the Memorial Plaza, and entering the museum, we noticed the dignified, somber impression of the layout. Everything was displayed in simplicity against concrete walls and many times afforded you viewing angles from different heights as you looked over balconies and escalators going down different levels below street level giving you the chance to see the tops and bottoms of large pieces. One such piece was a girder that was painted with all the different departments of first responders that day and the number of how many died from each department. Another impressive piece was a massive wall constructed of squares of different colors of blue that bring to mind the color of the blue sky that day with the large words in the center “No day shall erase you from the memory of time.” (Virgil). A section of the museum was devoted to portraits of all who perished in the Trade Centers and at the Pentagon, Shanksville, and on the four planes that day as well as those who had perished in the previous bombing of the Twin Towers in 1993. Another whole section was dedicated solely to the timetable and events of that day. This section brought back memories of just how long that day seemed to us all, event by event. Obviously this is just a sampling of all the different displays that we took in as there were many more having to do with that day.

As we exited, we came upon the Memorial Pools set at the exact square footprint of the original two Twin Towers. Engraved on flat surfaces surrounding these are all the names of those who perished. It is truly moving to stand next to all these names while watching the water falling into the interior while also noticing flowers left on individual names here and there. New tree plantings enhanced this area, including one tree, a callery pear, that was saved from the grounds that day now called the “Survivor Tree”.

For those of you who did not get the chance to take this wonderful trip, try to make the trip someday on your own. It is a very well done museum, designed with a lot of thought, dignity, and creativity that connects you to all who perished or served that day and preserves their sacrifice in our nation’s history. Also, the visual stimulation of taking in NYC itself is an added bonus.

Ann Rompre
According to a news report, a certain private charter school in San Antonio was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of twelve-year-old girls who were beginning to use lipstick would put it on in the bathroom.

That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror, leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night the maintenance man, an old retired army master sergeant, would remove them, and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally the principal, who also was a former army chief warrant officer, decided that something had to be done. He called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. He explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the old sergeant who had to clean the mirrors every night. To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, he asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers ...

and then there are educators.

Gary wants a job as a signalman on the railways. He is told to meet the inspector at the signal box.

The inspector puts this question to him: "What would you do if you realized that 2 trains were heading for each other on the same track?" Gary says, "I would switch the points for one of the trains."

"What if the lever broke?" asked the inspector. "Then I'd dash down out of the signal box," said Gary, "and I'd use the manual lever over there."

"What if that had been struck by lightning?" "Then," Gary continues, "I'd run back into the signal box and phone the next signal box."

"What if the phone was engaged?" "Well in that case," persevered Gary, "I'd rush down out of the box and use the public emergency phone at the level crossing up there."

"What if that was vandalized?" "Oh well then I'd run into town and get my uncle Bill."

This puzzles the inspector, so he asks, "Why would you do that?" Came the answer, "Because he's never seen a train crash."

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.

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN, Waterbury**

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

**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 - Toni Escott
2nd Vice President - Delma Way
Secretary - Pat Fahey
Assistant Secretary - Joyce Conlan

**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.
**MEET YOUR PRESENTERS**

**Gabriella Brand** was pursuing her Doctor of Modern Languages degree at Middlebury College when she decided, quite literally, to be a clown.

She joined with a friend to become part of the French Buffoons, an experience she has never regretted. She and the friend swapped roles regularly with one playing the clown who spoke and the other portraying a French mime who never spoke but expressed ideas without verbalizing.

“The clown would explain or tease or interact with the audience” while the mute mime would act out expressions, such as an idiom. The purpose was to show a humorous aspect of French language learning. “We toured to enliven the teaching of foreign languages” through the use of skits and other activities.

A lover of words, Gabriella drily observes it’s not easy to convey meaning with your face in clown makeup. Beyond being a performer, Gabriella felt she learned a lot with the French Buffoons. They had to learn about budgets, scheduling and other business functions.

The pair presented shows from Montreal to Washington, D. C. to students in middle school up through graduate school. Gabriella had an epiphany. “I fell in love with middle schoolers, their vision and spirit; and I fell out of love with teaching college age students.”

Recognizing that she didn’t want to be a higher education academic, Gabriella stopped working on her dissertation, “the best thing I ever did.” She knew then that, “I am not a straight line person. That hasn’t been my life.” Her life’s journey has taken her on pilgrimages and has seen her succeed as a prize winning writer as well as become a Unitarian lay minister, who preaches and ministers to parishioners in the Virgin Islands for four to six weeks annually.

After being one of the French Buffoons, Gabriella’s focus changed to teaching middle school students. During her career, she has taught many languages, including French, Spanish, Latin, Italian and English. Over time, Gabriella has served as Middle School Head, Cheshire Academy, and Middle School Head at Foote School. She also was Acting Principal of Ezra Academy, which served kindergarten through eighth grade students. She herself has a diploma from the University of Neu-Chatel, Switzerland, a bachelor’s degree from Antioch College and a master’s from Middlebury College.

Gabriella’s life changed sharply yet again in 2005 when her sister-in-law died, which “had a big impact on me.” She decided to make time to pursue long-term goals, including going on pilgrimages. She began with the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James), walking about 500 miles from St. Jean Pied de Port near Biarritz in France, to Fisterra, Spain. Going on pilgrimage allows the pilgrim to think, to meditate and appreciate the local culture, according to Gabriella. Another major pilgrimage was the Shikoku 88 temple pilgrimage on the Japanese island of Shikoku, where Gabriella walked 900 miles.

Gabriella, who now works as a consultant on curriculum and teaching methods, is a prize winning writer who says, “I’ve been very lucky.” Her work has appeared in such publications as *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Room Magazine*, *Step Away*, the *Citron Review* and many other venues. One of her pieces, “Burning My Boots at Cabo Fisterra” that grew out of her experiences on her first pilgrimage, won second prize in the “I Must be Off 2015 Travel Essay” contest where her work faced international competition. She also was nominated in 2014 for a prestigious Pushcart Prize, an American literary prize sponsored by Pushcart Press.

**At OLLI Gabriella loves sharing language and culture with interested adults at OLLI.** She has taught many OLLI courses. The current one is “Lost in Translation: A Short Story of Words that Got Away.” She was very excited to learn two of her OLLI students who took her course on pilgrimage have since done the Camino de Santiago. –**Mary Ann Martin**
The month-long OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee Thanksgiving food drive is continuing. It is anticipated that this year’s donations will surpass last year’s 700+ total.

Non-perishable bottled and canned food items, including cereal, crackers, assorted canned vegetables and soups, boxed stuffing mix, coffee, peanut butter, jellies and jams, pasta sauces, etc. are needed to fill the pantry at the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. From there, all OLLI donations will be boxed and given to needy families in the Waterbury area.

All food donations can be brought to the OLLI members’ table located on the first floor, concourse area, opposite the UConn book store. On behalf of the Clubs and Activities Committee a very sincere thank you is extended to all OLLI folks who support this community endeavor.

Save the date – November 13 – 2:15–3:45 pm! Do you attend an OLLI afternoon class from 2:15 to 3:45 pm? If not, please plan to join your fellow OLLI members in the Multi-purpose room at that time for a special presentation. As part of OLLI’s Arts Celebration Day on the last day of Classes, several OLLI members will be presenting dramatic readings of brief new, original plays written by them. OLLI poets whose poetry has appeared in a recent issue of Voices and Visions will accompany these OLLI playwrights. Save the date and become part of this outstanding cultural and artistic event.