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.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES?

There is an old saying that asks, “How can you tell if a politician is lying? - If you see his lips moving.” We have entered the season of silliness – the presidential primaries. According to the TV and the press, everybody seems to be lying – then, again, they’re all politicians! So, how can a reasonable, rational person (like OLLI members) determine the truth? Since, according to what they are spouting, everyone is lying, this year seems especially to be more acerbic than usual. -one side says the apocalypse is here and the world is doomed. The other side is more positive but reaching the goals they aspire to seems unreasonable considering the bitterness between the parties. So, how does one decide?

Suppose the candidate says he/she knows how to take care of the ISIS problem. Your immediate reaction might be, “that’s great!” But that is appealing to fear, your emotions, because you might not like what Isis is doing and be concerned about their ability to cause harm over here. The rational next questions might be, “What makes you an expert? How are you going to do it? What resources do you need? Why should you succeed where other experts haven’t?” Answers to these and similar queries may help to determine the next course of action. As the famous TV detective from Dragnet used to say, “Just the facts ma’am.”

Theodore Shick Jr. /Lewis Vaughn write in their book, How to Think About Weird Things:

“It is written in the Scriptures, proclaimed by Francis Bacon, and enshrined in common sense. Knowledge is power. Those in the know are more likely to get their way than those who aren’t, because their views are based on reality – not on illusion, fantasy, or wishful thinking. Their projects have a greater chance of success, because their knowledge gives them the ability to foresee obstacles and devise ways of overcoming those obstacles. Prediction and control are keys to survival and knowledge makes prediction and control possible.

But knowledge is valuable not only for what we can do with it, it is also valuable for its own sake. We all would like to know why things are as they are. Our desire for this knowledge, however, is not motivated by purely practical considerations. We often seek such understanding simply for the sake of understanding – because understanding, like virtue, is its own reward. Solving a mystery, discovering the truth, and acquiring insight are among the most exhilarating experiences we can have.

Since knowledge is needed to help us attain our goals and to make sense of the world, it’s in our best interest to be clear about what knowledge is and how to acquire it.”

Hopefully, this seems to be the goal of OLLI members-and will be the foundation of the casting of their votes this November!

RJG
Welcome to the OLLI Info Table

Welcome to the OLLI Info Table which is located across the hall from the UCONN Bookstore.

Coming in the UCONN front door you can’t miss us. Coming from the UCONN parking garage walk down the hall and there we are ready to help.

Manned on OLLI Friday mornings from 8 to noon by members of the OLLI Membership Committee and assisted by student workers when members are in classes.

Do you need info on upcoming OLLI trips or OLLI activities — Stop by the table for the latest info. Need to know what room your class is in, what time it starts, where the room is — Stop by the table we can help you.

Stop by and pick up the weekly OLLI newsletter.

Need a question answered — if we can’t help you we will find somebody who can.
Have info you want to share with OLLI members, OLLI staff, OLLI committees, or OLLI Leadership Council members - come by; we can refer you to the right person or get your message where it needs to go.

Just need a friendly smile or a friendly hello — Stop by the OLLI Info Table!

New members — Old Members — Stop by and say Hello!!!!

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 Springfield Trip

The Springfield Quadrangle features four museums and the Dr. Seuss Memorial Sculpture Garden. Things to enjoy on this May 12th visit include the largest collection of Currier and Ives paintings, a Smith and Wesson gun display, one of the largest collection of cloisonné objects outside of Asia, Indian motorcycles made in Springfield and… Actually the list of displays is extraordinary.

Please don’t think well I’ve been there before. The special displays will keep your interest for hours. They include Wolf to Woof: The Story of Dogs; Horse Racing Prints; and Better Angels, the 347 Firefighters of 9/11.

When you want a break, go outside and enjoy the park setting which is home to many figures made famous by Springfield native, Dr. Seuss also known as Theodor Geisel.

One special feature of the Springfield Quadrangle museums is there is one admission price and you are free to leave one museum after looking at the Hasbro Games Art Discovery Center and going to another of the museum buildings or sit in the parklike area.

If you and your friend have different interests, both people can be accommodated with minimal walking.

The price of the first OLLI spring trip is $62 for OLLI members and $72 for non-OLLI members. Under new Travel Committee guidelines a member and a non-member can sign up immediately by calling Friendship Tours at 860-243-1630.

The trip price includes transportation, admission to the museums and a tour leader.

Lunch is on your own at the Blake Street Café on the museum grounds or bring your own lunch.

Many people, including me, like the idea of parking their car, climbing aboard the chartered bus and immediately start enjoying themselves without worrying about parking, traffic, and entry fees etc.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Our bus departs from a new location, the parking lot on Chase Parkway which is across from NVCC.

Departure time for this trip is 8:45 am. ETA is 6pm.

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
OLLI CAFE

February 26: My Journey to Bhutan and Northern India, with Dr. Ira Mickenberg

Dr. Ira Mickenberg is a retired internist who enjoys traveling to third world countries. His most recent adventure was a month-long vacation to Bhutan and Northern India. Dr. Mickenberg will be sharing a cultural and photographic journey through these two countries.

March 3: Personal Emergency Preparedness, with Barbara Ripps

Disasters can happen any time and any place. Individuals who are prepared tend to cope better and get back to normal routines sooner than those who are unprepared. The program will focus on the specifics of getting a kit, making a plan and being informed.

Upcoming OLLI Travel

5/12/16 - The Springfield Museums (4)/Dr. Seuss Sculpture Garden MA - $62pp
6/20-22/2016 – Lancaster PA (Sight & Sound Theatre (overnight) - $427pp dbl
6/29/2016 - Thomas Edison National Historic Park/Montclair Museum - $85pp

9/07/2016 - Music on the Mountain (Mohonk Mountain) NY - $114pp
11/4-11/2016 – America’s Music Cities-Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans - $2899pp twin

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

OLLITravel NOTICE – Effective immediately, all OLLI Trips will no longer depart from St. Anthony Parking Lot. They will depart from and return to the Chase Parkway DOT Commuter Lot, Waterbury. Maps of this new Departure area are available on the OLLI Information Table in the main hall.

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 17TH

The OLLI Clubs & Activities Committee members have been busily planning events for the coming months. Please set aside Thursday, March 17th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., in room 102, to enjoy the second annual GAMES DAY!

Games, including chess, checkers, monopoly, cards, and American History board game fun, will be offered for your playing enjoyment. You are also encouraged to bring your bridge team members, or mah jong group or card playing friends.

Green bagels, with cream cheese, plus other goodies, in addition to soft drinks, coffee and tea will be provided courtesy of the Clubs & Activities committee.

Please feel free to call the OLLI office at 203-236-9924, to let us save a place for you and your friends.
So the pope is SUPER early for his flight. He asks his driver on his way to the airport if he could drive around for a while because they have time to kill and he hasn't driven a car since becoming the pope. Naturally he's a bit rusty so he's driving poorly when suddenly he sees police lights behind him. He pulls over and when the officer comes up to the window his eyes go wide.

He says to the pope "Hold on for a minute" and he goes back to his car to radio the chief.

Cop: Chief we have a situation. I've pulled over an important figure.
Chief: How important? A governor or something?
Cop: No sir. He's bigger.
Chief: So, what? a celebrity or something?
Cop: More important, sir.
Chief: A major politician? Cop: No sir, he's much more important.
Chief: WELL WHO IS IT?!
Cop: Well actually I'm not sure. But the pope's his driver

A game warden catches an unlicensed fisherman in the act. "You're going to pay a big fine for all those fish in your bucket"
"But, officer, I didn't catch these -- they are my pet fish and I just bring them here to swim. When they're done they jump back into the bucket."

"Oh really? This I've got to see. If you can prove it, I'll let you go."
The fisherman empties the bucket into the lake and waits patiently. A few minutes go by and nothing happens.

Game warden: So where are the fish?
Fisherman: What fish?

During a visit to the mental asylum, I asked the director how do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," said the director, "a normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"
HERE AND THERE

UCONN RECTORY RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Both OLLI members and UCONN students are somewhat amazed when they see signs in the main hallway that point to the Rectory now a new classroom building across the street.

After 10 years of UCONN Waterbury’s classes being held in only one building, six more classrooms, offices and a meeting room are open in what is called The Rectory but was never used as such.

For 10 years the Richardsonian-Romanesque building next to the Palace Theatre was a mere shell, the results of a fire. There were thoughts to knock the building down but the growing UCONN enrollment needed more classroom space and The Rectory was only across the street.

The Rectory’s architecture is connected to the Romanesque style popular in Europe as far back as 1206. Architect Henry Hobart Richardson drew from a long history of stone buildings with semi-circular windows when he designed the building in 1889.

The face of the Rectory features ornate granite and brownstone materials. Richardsonian – Romanesque buildings are relatively rare because Richardson died at age 48.

The Rectory is a partnership between UCONN, the city of Waterbury and Waterbury Development Corp. and cost nearly 9 million dollars to complete.

The building will be rented by the University for the next 20 years.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, held on January 5, 2016, brought out a large crowd and several speakers including Waterbury mayor, Neil O’Leary, UCONN Waterbury director, William Pizzuto, UCONN president, Susan Herbst, and state representative, Joan Hartley.

In his speech, Mayor O’Neil got a laugh when he mentioned that Governor Malloy was supposed to be at the ceremony but had been called to Washington D.C. by President Obama.

Starbucks eventually will open a coffee shop on the main floor of the Rectory.

Evelyn Marshak

OLLI PARKING

OLLI members and presenters, if you plan to utilize either UConn affiliated parking options this semester (UConn ramp garage and/or Scovill Street garage), you must obtain an up-to-date UConn parking decal from Parking Services, Storrs, CT. (If you were issued one for the Fall 2015 semester, that decal is valid through August, 2016 and you will not need to obtain a new one this Spring). If you need to submit a request for a UConn parking decal, and have not done so yet, you may quickly submit your request online, by completing the online form, found at: http://park.uconn.edu/olli-parking-permit-application/ *Paper submission forms are also available for you to mail directly to Parking Services, Storrs, CT.

Parking Services has begun enforcement of parking rules and regulations at the attached UConn Waterbury ramp garage. Failure to properly display a valid UConn parking decal and/or parking in restricted zones (such as the 1st floor, which is reserved for UConn faculty/staff) will be subject to ticketing. To prevent being ticketed, you must not park in the attached UConn ramp garage unless you have a valid up-to-date parking decal. OLLI and UConn Waterbury campus administration are not involved in the administration or processing of parking decals and/or tickets. All concerns and/or grievances should be sent directly to Parking Services, Storrs, CT.

Email: parkingservices@uconn.edu OR Phone: (860) 486-4930

Alternative options: Levels 5 or 6 of the Scovill Street Municipal garage, (pick up a temporary day pass from the OLLI office, Room 103). This will allow you to park in the garage for free. You need not display the pass while parked, but will be required to present it to the parking attendant when exiting the garage. You may also choose to park in the private, street-level lot directly east of the UConn Waterbury campus’s main entrance. This lot currently provides reasonable daily rates.
Jonathan “Jon” Draper brings high energy and enthusiasm for interacting with people to his new role as interim director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Connecticut, Waterbury.

He also brings solid academic achievement to the position, having graduated Magna Cum Laude from UConn where he pursued a double major in psychology and also urban and community studies. He is pursuing a master’s degree in communication with the focus on organizational communication at Central Connecticut State University.

But Jon credits much of his discipline, focus, work ethic and ability to develop strategies to wrestling, a sport Jon played at Terryville High School. “That was where I got into fitness,” he says, because maintaining weight is important in the sport. Jon wrestled in the 189 pound class.

In wrestling “you have to work your tail off and develop strategies to cope with each individual opponent by learning his strengths and weaknesses.” Jon believes the lessons learned in wrestling are serving him well as he pursues a career path.

In his senior year at Terryville, Jon placed fifth in the State Open. “That was a shock,” he recalls. He missed going to the All State competition by 1 point. Jon was unable to pursue the sport in college because he didn’t attend the Storrs campus where it is a club sport. He spent two years fulltime at Waterbury, then “bounced” among the Waterbury, Torrington and West Hartford campuses the last two years of his undergraduate studies.

But coming to UConn “was the best decision I ever made.” Jon now helps out with the Terryville wrestling program on a time available basis.

At the Waterbury campus, Jon was offered the opportunity to become a student worker in the OLLI program. Upon graduating in 2014, he became the assistant coordinator of the program and recently was named interim director, succeeding Brian Chapman.

Jon has developed a taste for international travel, having flown for the first time in May 2015 when he enrolled in a Spanish language immersion course taught in Costa Rica. He was toying with the idea of a career in law enforcement and felt it would be helpful to be bilingual. He stayed with a local family who spoke only Spanish. The trip “really opened my eyes to the whole big world outside of my experience.”

In January of this year, Jon headed to New Zealand to take a public health communication course through CCSU. “I am a homebody,” he says, ‘but it was painful to board a plane and come home.” He was amazed at the beauty of the landscape, the mountains, farms, lakes and rivers. The traveler took advantage of many opportunities to go hiking, kayaking and canoeing.

Back on the UConn campus, Jon was surprised but pleased that he was offered the position of interim director and is relishing every moment.

He loves the mix of interesting and accomplished people, presenters and members alike, who participate. He reflected on the diverse backgrounds represented: doctors, teachers, artists, pilots, war veterans, artists and many others.

His priorities include expanding the course offerings in each academic category since the members of OLLI have so many different interests. Jon emphasizes the importance of bringing more history and current events to the program because he feels strongly it is so important to keep up on the world and understand how situations evolve. He also hopes to augment fundraising on behalf of OLLI.

“I love it here,” the interim director says. And his favorite day of the week now is Friday when most OLLI courses are taught and the place buzzes with conversation, activities, and most of all, learning.