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.

**OLLI GAME DAY**

At first, we thought attendance might be low, as there were few registrations, even up to March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day, which OLLI has typically joined with the new tradition of hosting table games in room 102. OLLI members who want to relax and have a fun but challenging day converge on campus for Backgammon, Bridge, Dominos, Majong, Trivial Pursuit, and others. The games are brought in by members of the OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee, which hosts the annual event.

At 1:00 PM, like clockwork, OLLI members arrived and made their way to room 102, the comfortable UConn student assembly and activity room, where they enjoyed Irish-themed refreshments – green grapes, green M&M's, green bagels, etc. At least 25 people attended this year’s OLLI Game Day.

For the second year in a row, Presenter and retired psychiatrist Avi Isseroff, designer of a presidential history game called “Who Said What In T he White House,” attended to teach his game and to guide OLLI members around the board to the winning central block. Divided into American historical ‘eras’ such as The Cold War, and Jacksonian Age, players learn about the political and personal proclivities of each American President, from Washington to Obama. Avi has donated two complete versions of his presidential game to the OLLI office for reference as well as future OLLI Game Day events.

*I SEE COLOR* is a book that deals directly with the issue of race relations between Blacks and whites. It chronicles the white author’s journey to educating himself on the issue of race through personal relationships, experiences and studies. It provides a blueprint needed for America to reach its final goal of equality between the races. It details common issues with white liberal thinking and provides both analysis and solutions to reduce the hidden, and often unconscious, racism therein.

Join The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, The UConn Urban and Community Studies Department and The UConn Human Development and Family Services Department as they present a book talk on race, featuring attorneys Robert Pellegrino and Michael Jefferson, on Tuesday April 26, 2016 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM in MPR rooms 113 and 116. The event is free and open to the public. You can register online at www.oli.uconn.edu, or call the OLLI office at 203.236.9924/9925, or email osher@uconn.edu. Light refreshments will be served.
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.

The Travel Committee would like your opinion on these 4 questions –

What new destination would you like to see as one of our next Day Trips?

What new destination would you like to be for one of our next Overnight Trips?

What destination that has already been taken as a Day Trip would you like to see repeated?

What destination that has already been taken as an Overnighter would you like to see repeated?

(After answering, tear off on the dotted line above, and place your answers in the TRAVEL SUGGESTION BOX at the information table.

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

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
April 22: Mozart’s Effect on Us: Inquiries into Music, the Brain, and the Mind, with Vincent de Luise

Music surrounds us. It is part of who we are as humans. In this presentation, Dr. de Luise will provide deep insight into music, and attempt to answer questions, such as: How foundational is music? Did it precede language? What does music do to us neurologically and psychologically? What is the “Mozart effect”? Can it make us smarter? Where does music go in the brain and in the mind? Can music be used as a healing art? How does music help people with Alzheimer Disease, Parkinson Disease, or stroke?

April 29: Shakesperience Presents: “Waterbury Interactive: Our City, Our Neighborhoods”, with Emily Mattina

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

 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OLLI TRAVEL...

OLLI TRAVEL COMMITTEE WORKS HARD TO ORGANIZE, PLAN AND EXECUTE GROUP TRAVEL.

Many times people think that if they wait until close to the time of the trip to sign up it will be alright but, unfortunately, that is not so. If a trip has to be cancelled because of lack of interest, Friendship Tours needs a certain amount of time to cancel all the components of the trip in order not to lose money. The more that is involved in a trip, the more time is needed to cancel it if it does not fill.

If you would enjoy travelling with OLLI, please note that all trips need a certain number of people to sign on early to avoid cancellation. If you are interested in specific trips but need further information, feel free to contact Friendship Tours at 860-243-1630.

Happy Travelling!!
Why we should feel sorry for tech support people

A woman called the help desk with a problem with her printer. The tech asked her if she was "running it under Windows." The woman then responded, "No, my desk is next to the door. But that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his is working fine.

BIG Trouble!

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons were probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed, but asked to see them individually.

So the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon.

The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

They boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open, wide-eyed.

So the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?"

Again the boy made no attempt to answer.

So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD!?"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time, dude... God is missing--and they think WE did it!"

Let me through!

A car was involved in an accident in a street. As expected, a large crowd gathered.

A newspaper reporter anxious to get his story could not get near the car. Being a clever sort, he started shouting loudly, "Let me through! Let me through! I am the son of the victim."

The crowd made way for him.

Lying in front of the car was a donkey.

---

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 yvoorg@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

Council Officers

President - Chuck Miceli
1st Vice President – Toni Escott
2nd Vice President - Delma Way
Secretary – Pat Fahey

We're on the web!  www.oolli.uconn.edu
I am very happy to say that I was introduced to the Mattatuck Museum by OLLI. I’d lived in Connecticut for forty years, but am a bit embarrassed to admit that I never visited. I decided to take the five-week OLLI course which highlighted not only current exhibitions but also included a tour of the museum permanent collection. I am so glad that I did! I not only got to know what a cultural gem this institution is, but was introduced to contemporary sculpture – which I thought I had no interest in (wrong, again) via the work of Don Gummer, and also was able to learn about classical engraving and lithography with an excellent show of Durer and Rembrandt prints.

Right now there are two interesting temporary exhibitions on display. “Thomas Moser: Legacy in Wood” (until May 22) is a fascinating display of the craftsmanship of a contemporary furniture and designer and builder. Over the course of the past 45 years Moser has committed himself to creating what he wishes to be “the finest, most durable, most beautiful and timeless furniture.” And he has done just that. He credits Frank Lloyd Wright, Mission, Bauhaus, and Arts and Crafts movements as his major influences in creating a simple style, reminiscent of Shaker furniture, in which function becomes far more important than superfluous ornamentation. Along with the furniture itself, there is a display of beautiful old hand tools, which was impressive in the array of uses and the condition of the implements. Visitors can also enjoy a video which tells the story of his life, family and devotion to his art. In a very touching statement he credits his wife Mary with encouraging him to leave a university teaching career to pursue his dream. In his words, “Mary was and remains one of the most sympathetic and supportive people I have ever known.” Behind every successful man! My favorite piece in the exhibition is a unique one entitled “Alienation Bench” which is a beautiful long bench with two seats facing in opposite directions, separated by a curved row of spindles. It made me smile.

Another temporary exhibition (through May 29) is the delightful small show entitled “What! Not White? The Victorian Bride” which showcases six wedding dresses from Connecticut spanning the years from 1841 to 1895. Definitely not white, and definitely not simple. In the Victorian era less was not more, instead more was more, and the more the better. Dark, rich colors festooned with flowers, fringe and flounces were the order of the day. One that particularly caught my eye was made of black velvet worn by Bertha Buckingham Averill of New Preston in 1881. The Averill family still lives in New Preston, and I know the farm as a particularly good place to buy apples, so it was fun for me to see this dress still in lovely condition and being beautifully preserved for 135 years!

I’m sure that most Waterbury natives and residents have been to the Mattatuck. But if you haven’t visited in a while you are in for a treat. It has undergone significant renovations and the new director, Bob Burns, is an energetic and delightful gentleman who is devoted to keeping things current, educational, relevant and interesting. You can learn more about upcoming shows at mattatuckmuseum.org. Take an afternoon, not far from home, and immerse yourself in some wonderful art.
ALETA’S NEXT CHAPTER...

To OLLI at UCONN Members, Presenters, Staff and Associates:

It is with a measure of breathless anticipation, mixed with the satisfaction of completion, that I bid you, my OLLI colleagues, adieu. As I complete my sixth and final session as Coordinator of OLLI, it does not escape my memory that I spent as much time here as an OLLI presenter between 2007 and 2010. The time has come, once more, to step away and allow OLLI to sprout new wings and fly.

As many of you know, due to the professional lives that you put to rest prior to your enrollment at OLLI, the life of an educator is one that does not cease with the closing of a door of opportunity or with the graduation of your students. Generations of ‘students,’ either those who have formally crossed the threshold of your classroom, or informally that of your home or workplace will know you, and remember you, and refer to you as teacher. Overwhelmingly, my memories of OLLI will resound through that portal of honor, for you have so honored me.

At the same time, I am honored to have been a student of OLLI, learning from each presenter that I have interviewed and hired or whose classes I sat in on, or with whom I had only a conversation. I have learned so much during these years from members with whom I consulted for one reason or another. ‘Learning Environment’ does not begin to describe the passionate embrace of information that is the life and focus of OLLI.

OLLI is a place where teaching and learning happen safely and at a personally developed trajectory. It is a place where teaching and learning are possible in areas that meet and challenge the intellect as well as in areas that help us all to navigate through the junctures of significant life events, through the sometimes challenging waters of growing older and wiser.

I have met people here that I will remember and hold dear for a lifetime. I will remember that my transition, though joyfully anticipated, is also your transition. I will remember that everyone has a story to tell. I will remember how important it is to spend time with people while I, and they, are able. I will remember how much fun it can be to share experiences such as museum trips and foreign films and lunch with groups of friends. I will remember that I too am still learning. I will remember not to wear white pants to the garden. And I will remember you - all of you.

As for my next chapter, I have already begun the grueling work on my topic of academic research (which will take many years), and have increased my responsibilities as Adjunct Professor of Theatre at Quinnipiac University.

My final day in the OLLI office is Friday, April 29th, 2016. That is also OLLI ARTS DAY! It is my hope that all of you remember how important it is to have the arts in your lives. Feel free to drop by the office on our final Friday if you don’t see me in the hall. I would love to see you and give you a proper fair thee well!

Aleta E. Staton