TIME MACHINES

In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes:
so with present time.
– Leonardo da Vinci

How often have you wondered what it would be like to see the future or return to some past event? Books such as *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain, or much science fiction allow us to go back in time or into the future at least in our imagination. *Star Trek* or the movie *Back to the Future* are amusing adventures, but that seems to be all that they are – exercises of the imagination.

In a lecture from *The Great Courses* entitled, *Mysteries of Modern Physics: Time*, Prof. Sean Carroll asks the question, "Is time travel possible? The answer gives us a kind of good news/bad news situation. The good news is that general relativity, Einstein's theory of gravity in which space and time are flexible, allows us to talk about the possibility of time travel in a scientific way. The bad news is that it's probably not possible, although interestingly, we can't say that it's definitely not possible. We travel through time every day, but we travel to the future."

Prof. Carroll eruditely takes us through the laws of physics, from Newton to quantum, and many scientific theoretical side passages such as wormholes, space/time, singularities, light cones, and logic. Unfortunately (or fortunately) we do not have enough time or space to include all of his information on the scientific possibility/impossibility of time travel. Suffice it to say at this time in our knowledge, we lack two things – the ability to travel at the speed of light and the fact that it is happening to you locally. “The trick to time travel isn’t to build a machine; it’s to warp space time so much that we can keep moving forward in time yet come back to where we started, that is, bending our light cones so much that we can move in a circle – a closed-time-like curve.” Unfortunately, we do not live in a universe such as that.

Prof. Carroll says, “If time travel were possible, the most likely scenario is that even if you made it into the past, something would prevent you from changing things that really happened. What is truly bothering us here is the arrow of time, which is absolutely built into how we think about the past, present and future. We believe that we can make choices that affect the future but not choices that affect the past.” To put it concisely, we live only in the present. The past is memory. The future, conjecture.

So, OLLI members, when a politician promises to return you to some mythical past greatness – be skeptical. In this universe, so far, the past no longer exists. The present is you, now. Changing the future depends on
SOME BEAR FACTS

“With territories stretching from Arctic ice to south of the equator, the eight members of Ursidae include the planet's largest land predators – in a seriously sketchy family tree. For decades, researchers have struggled to chart the evolution of bears. A genomic analysis published in Scientific Reports in April explained why:

Gene flow between different species is common and can result in fertile hybrids. You may have heard about pizzlies and grolars, the offspring of grizzlies and polar bears, but other species, such as the sun bear and Asiatic black bear also hybridize in the wild.

Bears' back story may seem muddled because they are the most recent carnivore lineage to evolve, splitting off from canines only 20 to 25 million years ago. The subfamily Ursinae, which includes six of the eight living bear species today, is even younger, evolving a mere 2 million to 5 million years ago. The non-ursine bears, the giant panda and spectacled bear, split off the line earlier.

Today's polar bears are carnivores, but most other bears are omnivorous. The exception is the giant panda, which sticks to bamboo 99% of the time. And Winnie the Pooh aside, honey is not the primary food source for any bear. Even the sun bear and sloth bear, both sometimes called honey bears, feed mostly not on the sweet stuff but on insects – including bees – and fruit.

Let's put another common myth to rest. Bears don't hibernate. At least, they're not true hibernators, like ground squirrels, which lower their metabolic rate by more than 90% in winter months. Instead, northern latitude bears enter periods of dormancy, reducing their metabolic rate up to 50% and lowering both heart rate and body temperature. The animals are still easily roused, however, and typically are awake about 15 minutes a day during this period.

Through climate change, habitat loss, poaching and other pressures, six of the eight living bear species are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>The Book of Unknown Americans</td>
<td>Cristina Henriquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>The Refugees</td>
<td>Viet Thanh Nguyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Rules of Civility</td>
<td>Amor Towles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>All the Light We Cannot See</td>
<td>Anthony Doerr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OLLI Book Club meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, 1:00 p.m. in room 102D, UConn/Waterbury.
Upcoming OLLI Travel

Spring Trips – 2018

5/15/2018 – South Central Park / Circle Line Cruise Tour Landmark & Brooklyn Tour – member price - $98pp (Wait List only)

6/11-12/2018 – Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour – member price - $297pp dbl & triple

Fall Trips – 2018

10/13-18/2018 – Biltmore, Ashville NC & Monticello VA – member price - $1179 pp/dbl & triple

Early Dec. 2018 – Boarshead Feast, Williamstown MA – details to come

Flyers available at the OLLI Information Table. All prices are member prices. Non-members are charged a slight surcharge that is listed on all flyers. Call Friendship Tours for information and reservations. (1-800-243-1630). Mention OLLI Travel. (Please do not

Please Note – All OLLI Trips will depart from and return to the Chase Parkway DOT Commuter Lot, Waterbury. Maps of this Departure Area are available on the OLLI
March 9
300 Years Of Connecticut's Remarkable Women | Tina Carlson

Join us for an interactive multimedia program about the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame and learn about some of our State’s most remarkable women! Be inspired as you learn about well-known figures like Ella Grasso, Katherine Hepburn, Marion Anderson and lesser-known heroines like Maria Sanchez, Barbara McClintock and Hannah Watson. This presentation will introduce you to the Hall, its mission and programs, and give you a panoramic view of some of its 118 inductees across all fields of endeavor, from politics and sports to the arts and sciences. The CWHF is the State's premier source for Connecticut women's history.

A good-sized man approached the ticket counter at United Airlines and asked for a reservation from Los Angeles to New York. The clerk knew that the plane was already filled with baggage and passengers.

"How much do you weigh, sir?" asked the clerk.

"With or without clothes?" The passenger asked.

"Well," said the clerk, "how do you intend to travel?"

An old man died and went to heaven. When he got to the Pearly Gates, St. Peter told him that new rules were in effect due to the advances in education on earth. In order to gain admittance a prospective heavenly soul must answer two questions:

1. Name two days of the week that begin with "T".
2. How many seconds are there in a year?

The old man thought for a few minutes and answered ...

1. The two days of the week that begin with "T" are today and tomorrow.
2. There are 12 seconds in a year.

St. Peter said, "Okay, I'll buy the Today and Tomorrow, even though it's not the answer I expected, so your answer is correct. But how did you get only 12 seconds in a year?"

Old man replied, Well, January 2, February 2, March 2 etc...

St. Peter lets him in without another word.

I decided to take an aerobics class. I bent, twisted, gyrated,
Our OLLI membership can boast many very talented and creative writers, and one of the most outstanding, prolific and versatile is Chuck Miceli. He is a prose writer and a poet, and now a playwright looking forward to a staged reading of a play he has written drawn on his experiences and those of a close family member.

“Wounded Angels” is a play based on Chuck’s upcoming novel of the same name. It is rooted in the real-life experiences of people he knew who have “managed life and love after loss.” The audience will recognize the settings of Bristol and Southington and the down to earth people inhabiting the play. The main character is Maureen Russo, based on Chuck’s mother-in-law, an inconsolable widow in her 80’s, and the help she receives, in unexpected ways, for emerging from her depression and crisis from another woman she meets. Doris Cantrell is described as “an uncontrollable social misfit.” The nexus of these “two dysfunctional women” creates the drama and resolution of a play which promises to bring up many questions regarding love, loss, help and healing in spite of or maybe because of their very differences. The reading, by a cast of eight actors, will be presented on Sunday, April 22 at 5 pm at Seven Angels Theater in Waterbury. Tickets are $10, and there will be an opportunity for discussion and Q&A afterward.

Chuck didn’t grow up aspiring to be a writer. In one of life’s many twists and turns, during his years working in correctional facilities, he was asked to write a guidebook regarding fire prevention. In the 1960’s and 70’s incarceration philosophy had changed with a view to making jails less punitive and more rehabilitative. Many prisons were re-modeled with this in mind, but unfortunately many of these changes resulted in an increased number of fires and deaths. Chuck wrote a 130 page guidebook for preventing and controlling prison fires, the first in the United States to deal with this topic, and he soon was called upon to address groups nationwide. His work was responsible for making safe environments for staff and prisoners and prevented many more deaths.

Encouraged by the success of his first writing endeavor, he branched out into poetry and prose. His poem “Miner’s Lament” won a third place prize in the worldwide Reader’s Digest Writing Competition in their annual poetry contest. Topics in his first novel “Amanda’s Room” include prisons, violent weather, and the paranormal! “Wounded Angels,” originally written as part of an OLLI class, is also a to-be-published novel, and Chuck is right now hard at work on an historical novel tentatively entitled “Black Hell Drowning” about an immigrant family working in the Pennsylvania mining industry.

Many of you, of course, know Chuck as he has been an OLLI member for many years, and is Past President of the Leadership Council. He serves on the “Voices and Visions” literary magazine committee and has had his work published there for quite a few years. New OLLI members will have an opportunity to meet him next Friday, March 16, at the OLLI Café at 12:15. He will be speaking about coal mining in Western Pennsylvania, where he grew up one of eleven children whose father was a coal miner. This talk will be a prelude to OLLI’s upcoming trip to the Lackawanna Coal Mines in June.

I have my ticket for Seven Angels on April 22nd. I hope I will see you there,
MEET YOUR STAFF

OLLI Coordinator Jenna Ryan loves engaging with people of all ages and promoting positive experiences. Her ability to connect with people makes her a great fit for the position she now holds.

Jenna graduated from the University of Connecticut in December with a bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She is applying to master’s degree programs at UConn that focus on clinical mental health.

She describes herself as putting education as her top priority. She is known for spending many hours studying, which paid off when Jenna earned Cum Laude honors.

While at UConn, she enjoyed an internship held in the Watertown Public Schools that subtly addressed helping children develop healthy ways to cope with stress. The after-school program open to all pupils in appropriate grade levels included Yoga, breathing exercises and “fun activities . . . intended to help you be your own superhero.”

The program was offered to several age brackets. Jenna worked under supervision of a certified counselor with youngsters in grades three to five and found the experience with its underlying theme of learning how to overcome obstacles “awesome.”

As she learned more about stress and its impact on people of all ages, Jenna decided to pursue a career in the mental health field.

When a student at Seymour High School, she wrote “The Advice Column” for the school newspaper. But Jenna found it hard to get her peers to write in with queries. High school students can be “kind of embarrassed” participating publicly on topics of interest to their age group, she observed.

So Jenna created “generic questions” with answers on topics such how to prepare for the SATs or “should I go to the prom” this year. She received “lots of good feedback” from her readers.

Jenna likes spending time with her family, particularly with brother’s two young daughters, Emma, 6, and Mattie, 4. Her older niece currently is “obsessed with unicorns,” the mythical creature depicted as having a single horn in its forehead. Jenna’s family is planning a party with a unicorn theme for the Emma.

Her musical interests include attending concerts in New Haven venues with her boyfriend. Among performances she most enjoyed were those given by the Cold War Kids, a California alternative rock band, and Milky Chance, a German folk group performing with a Scottish singer-songwriter, Lewis Capaldi. Like her mother, Jenna enjoys singing informally, often with her friends.

She is a movie fan. Among her favorites is the comedy Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, a colorful tale of the unbelievable experiences of a teenager and his friends when they skipped school.

Since her December graduation, Jenna has been catching up on her reading. Currently, she is pursuing a memoir by Jeanette Walls that tells the story of a resilient group of siblings growing up in a profoundly dysfunctional household. The book Glass Castle was made into a movie.

When an undergraduate on the Waterbury campus, Jenna became a student worker in the OLLI program. After graduation, she was encouraged to apply for the Coordinator position. She was happy to do so, having enjoyed her time as a student worker with the program and getting to know many OLLI members. She has “great conversations” with OLLI members who share their life stories with her.

Jenna finds it rewarding to be part of the OLLI Team, headed by Director Fiona de Merell and including Breana Sanchez, Alondra Lopez, Laura Rendon and Nicole Caron.

As OLLI Coordinator, Jenna is the major contact for correspondence for presenters, current and potential. She reviews the guidelines with people with special talents who