



OLLI *Nexus*

UConn
WATERBURY

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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.

PEJORATIVE OR PRACTICAL?

Like it or not, the word “socialism” is going to crop up quite a bit in the coming political season. For that reason it might behoove us to find out what the differences are between capitalism and socialism. First of all, socialism is not communism. Communism was a utopian vision of the future characterized by classless, stateless, and moneyless communal living. Strictly speaking, therefore, no communist country was ever “communist” – not even the Soviet Union! Socialism, in the classic tradition, is an economic system where the means of production (e.g., factories), capital (banks), and agricultural land (farms) are owned by the state. “A purely capitalist economy ought to have the following characteristics: private ownership of the means of production and capital; low levels of taxation and regulation; competition unfettered by subsidies, bailouts, and protectionism; and the free flow of goods, services, and capital, domestically and internationally. Lastly, and here the government does have a crucial role to play, a capitalist economy ought to have an independent and efficacious judiciary that protects life, liberty, and property, and punishes fraud and theft,” writes Marian Tupy in the March 2016 *Atlantic Monthly*.

However, there has never been a fully free economy. Communism and capitalism as well as socialism refer to ideals that have never existed in practice. All governments play some economic role. “In order to understand how capitalist America is, consider some of the most important features of the American economy. Except for a small number of government owned enterprises (Amtrak) and government sponsored enterprises (Fannie Mae), the vast majority of enterprises in America are privately run and owned. As a consequence almost all the wealth that is created in the United States each

year (gross domestic product) is privately produced. That part is capitalism. Today, local, state, and federal governments spend 39% of the GDP. Some government expenditures have a broad public support (policing and education) and some are more controversial (big bank bailouts and subsidies to companies favored by the government).

“Thus, while production in America is dominated by the private sector, spending is dominated by the government. Or, to put it differently, the government is by far the single most important spender and, consequently, the single most important economic actor. In fact, many of the most important financial decisions made by ordinary Americans during the course of their lives, such as the purchase of healthcare, Social Security, education, and housing, are heavily influenced by the government,” writes Tupy.

“To obtain and redistribute outlays amounting to 39% of GDP, the government relies on borrowing, as well as a myriad of taxes, including individual and corporate income taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, sales and excise taxes, property and estate taxes, etc. Also, consider the government regulation of the private sector. Capitalism is supposed to be characterized by a low level of regulation. The total number and economic effects of regulations in America are subject to a vigorous debate. So, if capitalism is defined as an economic system characterized by the maximum possible separation of the private sector and the government, and easy taxes and regulation, the United States does not have a strictly capitalist economy.”

The debate over socialism is rich with paradoxes. No American politicians are proponents of real socialism, and that is a good thing, for true socialism,

Continued from page 1 whenever and wherever it has been tried, ended in disaster. Nor is America the bastion of capitalism that some make it out to be. The American economy is a mixed economy and so are Scandinavian countries' economies. It is the mixture that differs.

Some of you might remember driving to Waterbury on Rt. 84 coming over the hill in Middlebury and seeing the yellow pall hanging over the valley as a result of unregulated pollutants. It no longer exists today because of environmental controls. Some aspects of socialism work when government policies are concerned with the common good.

RJG

PARKING

Where to Park - with OLLI /UConn Parking Permit:

1. Friday: Level 2 & 3 of the UConn Parking Garage (entrance North Elm Street). Parking space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Monday - Friday: Level 5 & 6 of the Scovill Street Municipal Garage (entrance Scovill Street).

Where to Park - without OLLI /UConn Parking Permit:

3. Parking is available at the private, street-level parking lot between 141 East Main Street and the UConn campus (on the east side of the campus near the bookstore). The lot has reasonable daily rates.

Need to purchase an OLLI/UConn parking permit?

If you have not done so already, you must submit an application for a parking permit at:

<https://park.uconn.edu/olli-parking-information-2/>

Payment can be made online or by check to:

Parking Services, 3 Discovery Drive, Storrs, CT 06269

- OLLI Members are now permitted to park in the attached garage AFTER 5:00pm Monday - Thursday, too.

Questions? Call (860) 486-4930

TONGUE TWISTERS

Try these twisters to test your talkability

(watch your dentures!)

Start Slow

“Pad kid poured curd pulled cod.”

“Brisk brave brigadiers brandished broad bright blades, blunderbusses, and bludgeons—balancing them badly.”

“If you must cross a coarse, cross cow across a crowded cow crossing, cross the cross, coarse cow across the crowded cow crossing carefully.”

“How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?”

“Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager managing an imaginary menagerie.”

“Send toast to ten tense stout saints’ ten tall tents.”

“Rory the warrior and Roger the worrier were reared wrongly in a rural brewery.”

“Six sick hicks nick six slick bricks with picks and sticks.”

“I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish, but if you wish the wish the witch wishes, I won’t wish the wish you wish to wish.”

“The 33 thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday.”

From Readers’ Digest online





Friendship Tours Travel Fest 2018

On August 20, 2018 Gen Delkescamp and Ann Rompre, from the OLLI Travel Committee, attended **Travel Fest** in Rocky Hill, CT. Travel Fest is an annual event at which Friendship Tours, our travel company for OLLI, invites all the group leaders from the various groups that travel with them to take advantage of learning first hand of locations from all the vendors that they work with. In the day affair, group leaders get to view new trips from the first glimpse of Friendship Tours' 2019 Travel Catalog, go to featured talks given by different travel companies in the catalog, and wander through a large conference room with table after table of flyers and pamphlets about not only trips that Friendship Tours does in partnership with these companies, but all the trips these companies offer on their own. Representatives from various states were happy to talk with us about what they had to offer, different money saving offers for groups, and, of course, the highlights of their locations and companies. Featured half hour presentations were given in separate rooms. This year they included: MSC Cruises; Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau and other attractions; the Franklin Institute; American Queen Steamboat Company; Holland America Line; and Commodores Inn, Stowe, VT.

After a morning of gathering material and information, a delicious lunch was served followed by entertainment by

Frankie Pizarro, the former lead singer of the Platters who also served as a firefighter for NYFD and was among the first responders on 9/11. While we reminisced through his songs, he sang a special number in honor of all the people involved on 9/11.

Following the entertainment, as they do every year, Friendship Tours held a raffle in which they handed out prizes contributed by the vendors that work with them. The prizes were many and varied. This year Ann was lucky enough to win a \$250 gift certificate from Beauport Cruise Lines in Gloucester, MA to be used towards a bused daytrip. Therefore OLLI can look forward to a trip to Gloucester in the Fall of 2019. The individual member prices of that trip will, of course, be brought down because of that prize. We will be discussing in our Travel Committee meetings what more to include in the Gloucester area to it to make it a memorable trip. The prize was a bit more special in that Bob Read, whom many of you may recognize as our most frequent tour guide, was the person from Friendship Tours who presented the raffle prize to Ann (and was already suggesting good additions to the trip when he handed it to her). Beauport Cruise Lines offers a luncheon buffet and entertainment as they narrate their cruise around Gloucester area.

OLLI has been very lucky in other years also to win prizes that have helped us in the price of trips. All in all, Gen and Ann benefitted greatly from their day at Travel Fest 2018.

Upcoming OLLI Travel

Fall Trips – 2018

ALL FALL TRIPS SOLD OUT

10/13-18/2018 – Biltmore, Asheville NC & Monticello VA

11/03/2018 – Carmen/Metropolitan NYC

11/28/2018 – Boar's Head Feast, Williamstown MA/
Bright Nights, Springfield, MA

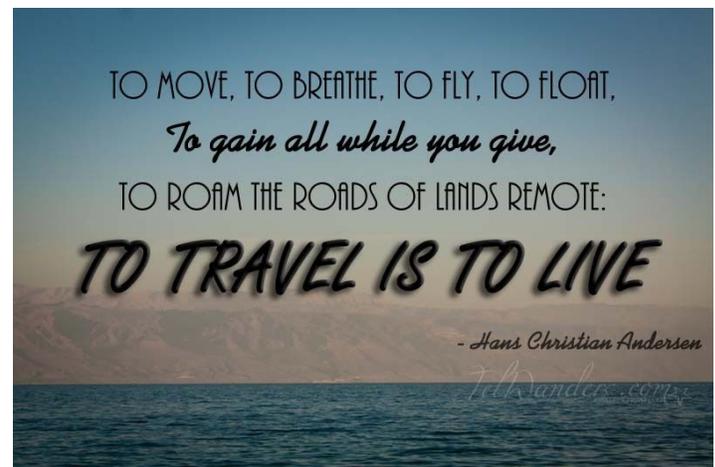
Please Note – All OLLI Trips will depart from and return to the Chase Parkway DOT Commuter Lot, Waterbury. Maps of this Departure Area are available on the OLLI Information Table in the main hall.

OLLI BOOK CLUB

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

Oct. 15 News of the World by Paulette Jiles

Nov. 19 The Last Painting of Sara deVos...
by Dominic Smith



OLLI *artBeat*

by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

The Metropolitan Opera

Egypt, Gaza, The Wild West, London, and Paris – Something for Everybody!

It's that time again – my semi-annual mostly tongue-in-cheek preview of the *Metropolitan Opera's live streaming at local theaters*. This fall you will be able to see five operas, from traditional to very contemporary. While I am really looking forward to my OLLI trip to see Carmen, I appreciate having the opportunity to see other selections close to home, no expensive trip to Manhattan required. Many OLLI members take advantage of this and two popular theaters are *The Regal Cinemas in Waterbury and The Warner in Torrington*. All are shown on *Saturdays at 12:55 pm*, and some, previously recorded, are encored the following Wednesday – check your local theater for schedules. This fall's offerings are:

October 6 – Giuseppe Verdi's Aida. This is a blockbuster four act opera set in Egypt. Many of us enjoyed the OLLI trip two years ago to see this, and it is really spectacular. It tells the story of a war between Egypt and Ethiopia, and of the warrior Radames who is secretly in love with the Ethiopian slave girl Aida. There is the requisite love triangle, and of course, Aida just happens to be the captured daughter of the Ethiopian King. If you can't follow all the intrigue, don't worry, the scenery, costumes, and of course the singing will hold your attention! Is there a happy ending? Um, no, but it is kind of romantic, sort of an Egyptian Romeo and Juliet.

October 20 – Camille Saint-Saens' Samson et Dalila. I bet you could translate that! Yes, it's that fun duo from the Old Testament, Samson the virtuous Israelite and Delilah the Philistine temptress. Samson's job is to save the Hebrews from bondage. Delilah's mission, of course, is to seduce Samson, whom you will remember is very strong, and undermine his leadership of the Israelite uprising. Oh, Samson, watch out – she's using the oldest trick in the book! She's pretty confident of her powers, but Samson is a stand up and steadfast guy. Well, sort of. I suppose we can call the ending a moral victory for Samson, but what a way to go.....

October 27 – Giacomo Puccini's La Fanciulla del West. Based on the American author David Belasco's play *The Girl of the Golden West*, it's a bit esoteric a subject for an opera as we tend to think of this genre, but isn't opera really just stories sung (with really good props and clothes)? Arturo Toscanini conducted the premiere of the work at the Met in 1910 and called it a "great symphonic poem." It tells the story of a group of 19th century California Gold Rushers who just happen to be singing in Italian (use your imagination, okay?) Sheriff Jack Rance wants to marry Minnie the saloon-keeper, but she tells him that she's waiting for the right guy. Translation: It's not me, it's you. And then she reads from the Bible to the miners – now that's realistic. Just then, Dick Johnson from Sacramento enters the saloon and Minnie's heart is captured. What else? Cheating at cards, blood dripping from the attic right onto the Sheriff's hand!, a chase through the Great Californian Forest, and yes, I'll give the ending away. Love triumphs! They live! (An unusual opera ending!)

November 10 Nico Muhly's Marnie. Now for something **REALLY** different! If the name Marnie rings a bell, think Hitchcock. This new opera, which premiered in London last November, is based on the Winston Graham novel *Marnie*, which was in turn made into a blockbuster film by Alfred Hitchcock. It tells the story of a young woman, a con artist, sexually frigid, kleptomaniac, compulsively identity-shifting who has a childhood trauma she needs to confront in order to heal. Muhly has taken the story back to its original setting of 1950's London and the action goes from offices to mansions to tenements to a psychoanalyst's consulting room. The reviews I read all emphasized how timely the themes are, given our present "Me, Too Movement" environment. The opera gives a decided nod to a new era of women's self-empowerment.

December 15, Giuseppe Verdi's La Traviata. And what better way to celebrate the holidays than with "The Fallen Woman"? Even though the courtesan Violetta has tuberculosis, she keeps partying and singing a lot, but eventually abandons her less than stellar habits and moves to the country with the noble Alfredo. Alas, Alfredo's father tells her to get lost as her reputation is harming his family. One memorable line from Act 2: "Ignoble insulter of women, go away from here, you fill us with horror!" And on that note, our season comes to an end.

Happy holidays!

MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Rosemary Toletti segued from a long teaching career to doing volunteer work designed to help people in need of caring support.

She has assisted families and individuals as a hospice and bereavement volunteer and also has taught Reiki, which she believes lessens stress and works in support of medical treatment in situations involving illnesses.

After teaching 35 years, Rosemary felt it was time to move to another phase of life that didn't require a daily commitment although her career in education offered many memorable moments.

She began her professional career teaching fifth graders, then moved to Wallace Middle School where she taught English and later history.

"I was always trying to get kids to think and found that very rewarding." An avid student of history, which she finds fascinating, Rosemary sought to get students to see relationships between events.

Once they began to see connections, the subject came alive to them. She urged her students to see "both sides" of questions. "Try to see why unions began," for example.

"I think it bothered me" when people said as she was growing up that "history is boring." It is important to make the events of the past "relative to what we are doing now."

An only child, Rosemary grew up on Poplar Street in Waterbury, where she enjoyed playing with neighborhood kids. Reading was a passion and many hours were spent in the Brooklyn neighborhood branch of Silas Bronson Library. A favorite book was the well-loved and enduring novel *Black Beauty*, written in 1877 by Anna Sewell from the point of view of the horse who experienced hard times. "I read it about twelve times."

After graduation from Croft High School, Rosemary earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Elizabeth in New Jersey. She had a double major in history and elementary education and earned her master's in counseling and guidance from Fairfield University.

Becoming a teacher was a natural course for the young woman whose extended family included a number of educators.

Rosemary smiled as she recalled the final day of her teaching career when an administrator said to her, "You are the only one I know who has enjoyed teaching on the

last day as much as on the first."

When she retired, Rosemary was already a hospice volunteer, something she began doing because she had a "gut feeling" calling her to help people. She prepared for volunteering in hospice by taking a training program.

After her retirement in 1999, a friend asked her if she had heard about Reiki. She soon began taking private lessons with Barbara Schafer, a Reiki Master who presents at OLLI. Barbara said in a prior OLLI newsletter interview that Reiki is a "non-invasive caring way of energizing, restoring and balancing the energy centers in our bodies."

Rosemary, who now is a Reiki Master herself, found the practice of the technique for stress relief and relaxation helped to "center me. Reiki has given me a different perspective on life: What's important, what matters, know who you are . . ."

Rosemary has assisted Barbara in presenting at OLLI but isn't doing so this term. Reiki is presented in many settings, including some hospitals and other medical centers.

Reiki helps calm people who are going through difficult medical treatments. Part of its success is helping patients to sleep well, which helps them cope better, Rosemary believes.

Rosemary continues to volunteer with bereavement groups. She works with her friend Mary Lee Carroll, a licensed social worker. The groups are comprised of kids who have lost people close to them – parents, grandparents, and others.

Of OLLI, Rosemary believes its premise of making life-long learning on a wide range of topics readily available "is phenomenal." She, not surprisingly, wants to keep learning. -**Mary Ann Martin**

