



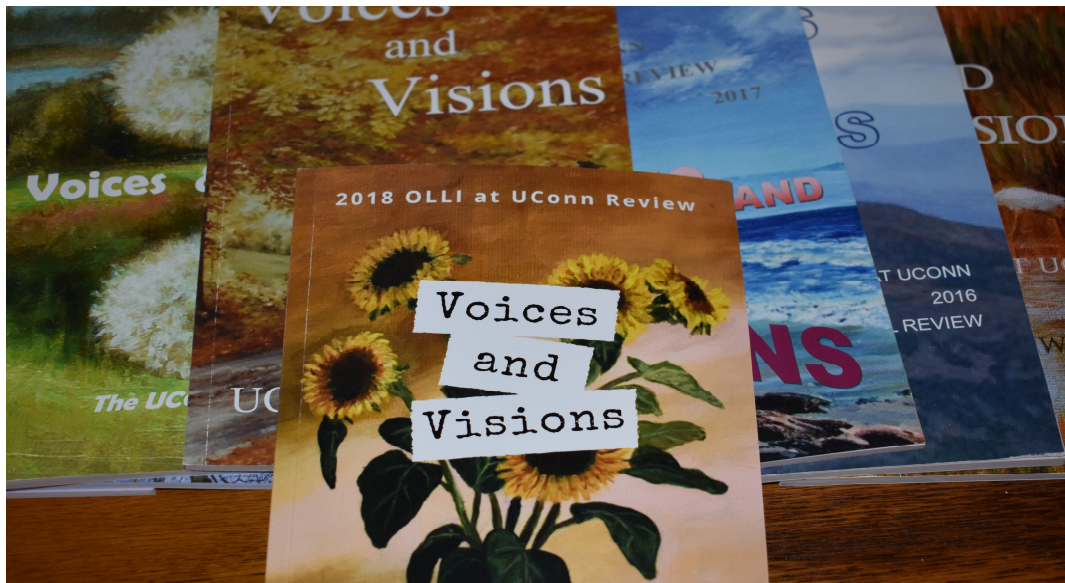
OLLI *News*

UConn
WATERBURY

Volume 20, Issue 8

October 26, 2018

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.



Voices and Visions has been published the last eight of the 11 years of OLLI at UConn Waterbury. Volume 8 of this publication consisted of 85 pages of original pieces of poetry, prose, photography and artwork from forty-two talented members of OLLI.

OLLI is a nationwide program, and not every OLLI community publishes its own journal. We are proud that OLLI members at UConn Waterbury are able to share their passions, stories, humorous events, creative pursuits and talents with you. Some are first-time contributors and others are members who have been with OLLI since its inception 10 years ago.

The Editorial Committee works very hard each year to bring you the best student work in many different creative genres. The Committee is ready to help during any part of the process. The call for submissions goes out at the start of classes in September and ends in June. This is a reminder, for those who may want to submit their creations, that the Winter Semester is coming to an end in a few weeks. June seems to be a long way away but, procrastination may cause forgetfulness, so, send your work in now while you remember. We will remind you again in the spring, however. Submission forms may be found in the administrative offices.

Voices and Visions continues its tradition of showcasing the talents and passions of OLLI members in this work. We hope you will submit your creation and share with your fellow OLLI members.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

The 911 Memorial and Museum

After a 40 minute car ride, a two hour train ride, a twenty minute subway ride, and a five minute walk, we arrived at the 911 Memorial and Museum in NYC.

Our initial impression was that of a tree lined park with two square pools and one small two story building. As we approached the museum we saw that the pools were footprints of the twin towers and all the names of those that died there that day were etched around the two pools. The entire museum space filled an area of one large city block. After purchasing tickets easily from an outside kiosk we entered the building. It was a somber place where we heard the sounds of many languages. We entered a large high ceiling lobby with two giant escalators. The upper one was to an auditorium and restaurant where they presented a movie of the disaster. The lower escalator led to the actual museum with three large sections. The making of the Twin Towers in the 60's, the destruction and the rebuilding. We realized that the majority of this museum was underground, below the pools.

While waiting in line to see a movie about the reconstruction, we had a discussion with one of the volunteers. She explained that we were treading on sacred ground where almost three thousand people had lost their lives. There were no large signs directing you as you moved about, just helpful volunteers, answering any questions you may have. No one seemed rushed here and most sections did not allow photographs. Everyone spoke in hushed tones.

The most poignant moment for me, and there were many,

was one small picture in amongst hundreds of others, of abandoned baby carriages covered with debris at a nearby park. I can only imagine those young mothers hearing the explosion, feeling the earth quake and seeing the oncoming cloud of dust rushing towards them. Logically one would place your baby in the carriage and proceed to safety. Fear and a strong sense of motherhood could make them abandon the carriages, clutch their babies to their chests and RUN!

The whole experience was very moving. Everyone who goes there will appreciate what a difficult time it was for our country and marvel at the American spirit.

So, emotionally drained, we went in search of the return subway to Grand Central Station. On the way we found the nearby Eataly Restaurant and had a cold glass of Rose Wine and were thankful we made the trip.

Deborah Simpson

October, 2018



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 OLLI staff member.

Our duty is to preserve what the past has had to say for itself, and to say for ourselves what shall be true for the future.

John Ruskin

We're on the web!

WWW.OLLI.UCONN.EDU

Look for the newsletter in the Publications link

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.

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



TOSCA: AN OLLI TRIP by Evelyn Marshak

OLLIE's chartered bus trip to the Metropolitan Opera House will leave the Chase Parkway Commuter Lot on April 6, 2019 at 9 a.m. Please do not think that you have much time to book this trip to see Puccini's fast-paced operatic thriller since there are two months left in the calendar year 2018 and more than three months until the curtain rises on the production of Tosca.

Recently the OLLI sponsored trips to the Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House have been sold out weeks in advance of the bus departure from the Waterbury commuter lot.

The cost of this trip, \$ 142 for OLLI members and \$152 for non-OLLI members and includes seating in the reserved orchestra balance area, transportation, and a tour director.

After the three hour opera performance ends, you will have time to grab a bite to eat and perhaps takes a few pictures before the bus heads for home with the ETA at 8 p.m.

For reservations or questions call, Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630.



Upcoming OLLI Travel

Fall Trips – 2018

11/03/2018 – Carmen/Metropolitan NYC – **SOLD OUT**

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

Spring/Summer – 2019

4/06/2019 – Tosca/Metropolitan NYC – member cost \$142

6/04-06/2019 – Finger Lakes – member cost \$561(dbl); \$691(single)

(July) TBA – Tanglewood/Naumkeag – member cost (TBA)

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 call the OLLI Office.)

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 *artBeat***Libraries, Another Cultural Resource**

by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

Remember that library of your childhood? It may have been a wonderful place, where you were welcomed and could take out books and actually bring them home with you! Or it may have been an intimidating atmosphere where the librarian (complete with bun and clodhoppers) shushed you and acted like she and she alone owned the books. Well, whatever our experiences as children were, those libraries are no more. Libraries today are vibrant places with a lot more than books. This year the theme of National Library Week was “Libraries Lead.” And indeed, they do! From lectures, to book discussions and signings, to concerts and art exhibits, libraries offer a world of culture to all who step through their doors, and all of it for free! Many of us care for grandchildren one or more days a week, and the local library is a great place to take kids and introduce them to so many programs.

A well-stocked, growing library is a sign of a healthy town, and I always encourage friends to seek out their offerings. You are paying for it in your local taxes – you might as well take advantage! According to an article by *Sadie Trombetta in Bustle.com*, today’s libraries offer free educational resources to all, provide safe refuges for the homeless and underserved populations, help boost local economies by providing a work space for telecommuters, free internet access to job seekers and offer job and interview training. They play an important role in English language learning, contribute to the physical health by helping patrons find insurance, bringing healthcare providers in for limited screening services and offering free fitness classes. They preserve history, and truth, by acting as a hub of information. And they bring people in the community together by pooling local resources.

Here are just a few examples of upcoming events at our local libraries. Check out your own library’s website!

Waterbury – Silas Bronson Library – Saturday, November 3, 2 – 3 pm “*Whose Voice Matters: A Community Conversation about Race and History.*” A community conversation about the issues surrounding the old post on the Green in Waterbury which was featured in a performance art piece last year by a young black artist. Panelists will discuss the issues surrounding the post and its symbolic meaning, and audience members will be welcome to share their thoughts as well.

Wallingford Public Library -Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 – 8:30pm – “*Tellabration, A Celebration of the Oral Tradition.*” Tellabration is a storytelling phenomenon, made up of dozens of worldwide storytelling happenings. The purpose is to introduce adults and children to the pleasures of the oral art of storytelling. Rosa Leventhal, story teller, will perform. She has been sharing her passion for the power of the story for 27 years.

Southbury Public Library, Friday, November 16, 2018, 6-7pm - “*The Nutcracker – An Interactive Program presented by the Nutmeg Ballet.*” All ages are invited to enjoy selections from this holiday classic performed with audience participation by young ballet dancers. Children may come in costume. Registration is required, 203 262-0626, Ext. 3. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cheshire Public Library – Tuesday, November 20, 1-3 pm - “*All Quiet on the Western Front,*” the 1930 classic film which takes place during World War I and highlights the tragedy of war through the eyes of individuals.

Wallingford Public Library: Thursday, November 29, 7-8 pm - *Grayson Hugh and Polly Messer, singer/songwriter duo.* This husband and wife team will perform some of Grayson’s award-winning hits from radio and film, as well as previously unreleased songs, in an intimate, acoustic setting.



MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Bryan Southworth loved playing football at Norwich Free Academy but gave no thought to someday traveling to Egypt to teach English or having a career in the world of academia.

He says now he probably thought he would pursue a career in corrections like his father, who was a drug and addiction counselor with Connecticut's Department of Corrections, or be a state trooper. Another possibility was joining special forces in the United States military.

But injuries resulting from organized football were to play a pivotal role in his life after high school.

Bryan played middle linebacker and fullback positions and was not too concerned about grades although he tested well. A football injury resulted in reconstructive surgery when he was in high school.

During high school, Bryan pursued the idea of joining the marines with the goal of being in special forces. But he was only one year away from knee surgery and the program required two years from such events.

A friend suggested he might receive a partial football and academic scholarship, which Bryan did from Nichols College in the summer following high school graduation.

He matriculated planning to major in sports management. But he re-injured his knee on the collegiate playing field. While he retained the scholarship from the Division Two college for the rest of the academic year, Bryan realized another knee injury would present major complications. If he stayed at Nichols but left football he would lose the scholarship and take a big financial "hit" as a regular student.

Bryan chose to go home and sort things out. During the next few years, he studied at Three Rivers Community College, played some baseball, became interested in nutrition, and trained Norwich friends in fitness. .

Three Rivers encouraged him to consider transferring to a four year college. After applying to Cornell, Rutgers and Pennsylvania State University, Penn "gave me a great offer to study kinesiology," the study of movement.

After a year at Penn, "my knee was feeling better ... The next thing, I knew I signed up for the air force."
"Because of the knee injury, I couldn't jump out of airplanes."

His aptitude testing went well and Bryan became a crew chief tasked with signing off on the fitness of an aircraft to fly. He was assigned to a C5 Aircraft, the largest plane in the United

States Air Force, based at Dover Air Force Base. He completed his tour training reservists at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

Returning to Connecticut, Bryan enrolled at the University of Connecticut as a non-traditional student. He graduated with a major in political science with assistance from a tuition waiver available to veterans. Bryan chose to study Arabic as his required language and participated in an exchange program that took him to Cairo, where he was present in 2011 during a time of major political upheaval in Egypt.

After graduation from UConn, Bryan earned his master's degree from Central Connecticut State University. During that period, he traveled to the University of Jordan to continue the study of Arabic.

Bryan was "tired of living out of a suitcase" and began teaching at the collegiate level while pursuing his doctorate at Central.

Currently, he is program manager of the part-time MBA program at the University of Connecticut's Waterbury campus. At OLLI, he presents "Great Decisions," a discussion program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, a national think tank. He loves the dynamic of the OLLI students, who read avidly and have varied experiences and strong views, all of which makes for "Great Discussions," which he believes should be the title of the course taught across the country.

Bryan also is an adjunct faculty member at Post University. At Post, he serves as military admissions counselor as the college has "a major online military presence."

He also teaches traditional, blended, and online courses on the history of terrorism and homeland security in the United States.
—**Mary Ann Martin**

