



OLLI *News*

UConn
WATERBURY

Volume 21: Issue 1

February 22, 2019



Welcome back,
OLLI Members!

WHERE LEARNING
NEVER RETIRES

President's Message

I welcome everyone as we begin the OLLI Spring Semester. This winter's weather has been one of contrasts, warm days punctuated by a polar vortex. Whoever heard of a polar vortex prior to this year? For those of us who participated in the OLLI winter semester in January, there was no time to experience the winter doldrums as we were out and about meeting people and learning new things.

Whereas some of you may have been having a respite from OLLI, the staff and other OLLI members have been busy. The Open House featuring Larry Rifkin of CPTV was well-attended and a big success.

The Film Club, open to all OLLI members, is up and running featuring theme-researched films. The current theme is "The Loss of Innocence" with the most recent showing being "Life is Beautiful." Bring your lunch and a drink to enjoy while watching. Movies are followed by discussion facilitated by a club member.

The Spring Catalog features new courses and presenters and several events open to the public to encourage new members. At the Open House people signed up for committees and the Garden Project. The Travel, Curriculum and Newsletter committees can always use new members. These activities encourage socializing, an essential ingredient for a healthy retirement. As for socialization, I'm aware that as soon as the gardening group put the raised beds in Fulton Park to rest they began their group walking and card "setback" activities. The beauty of OLLI's social and committee activities is that everyone is invited and accepted. As a comedic sage once said, "Try it, you'll like it."

We can all look forward during this Spring Semester to gaining new ideas and knowledge enabling us to interpret news events with more intellect and less bias. Also, as spring blossoms so can socialized OLLI members bloom. Those of us who have found OLLI at this time in our lives are lucky. Let's make the most of it!

Ira Mickenberg M.D., President of the Leadership Council

Sign Up Soon for TOSCA at Lincoln Center

by Evelyn Marshak

Have you ever thought to yourself that you'd love to go to New York City's Lincoln Center and see a live Metropolitan Opera performance? Then, a few minutes later, you decide that getting to the performance by train or bus would be too difficult. What if you could get to midtown Manhattan for a performance of Puccini's Tosca, without having to worry about transportation and at the same time getting a good seat at a decent price?

If this is appealing to you, then sign up for OLLI's trip on April 6, 2019 for Tosca and your worries will just about vanish. All you'll need to do is find your orchestra seat, then relax and enjoy the opera. OLLI's Travel Committee has arranged for a chartered bus to pick you up at 9 AM at the Chase Parkway commuter lot and drop you off in front of Lincoln Center with your ticket in your purse or pocket. When the three-hour performance of Tosca ends, you will have some time to find a snack or a meal in the immediate area, and then go on to meet the waiting bus which will take you back to Waterbury at about 8 PM.



Tosca is the story of a jealous diva, Floria Tosca, her passionate lover Cavaradossi and the wicked Captain Scarpia who is determined to have Tosca for himself at any cost. Don't miss it!

The cost for the bus, the opera ticket and gratuities is \$142 for OLLI members and \$152 for non-OLLI members. This does not include your evening meal. Everyone is welcome on this and every OLLI trip. For reservations or questions, call Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630.

Note: if you want to sign up for this or other OLLI trips but are wary about traveling alone, my own experience has been that people are friendly and welcoming. Every OLLI trip has a knowledgeable tour guide to answer your questions.

Finger Lakes Speaker to Visit OLLI

by Evelyn Marshak

If you are interested in the Travel Club's upcoming trip to the Finger Lakes in upstate New York (June 4 – 6), mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 6 from 1:00 – 2:00pm to hear Brett Isaacson, Friendship Tours President, speak about this excursion and other details involved in taking an OLLI overnight trip. This presentation will take place in Room 402 of the Rectory Building across the street from the main campus. Light refreshments will be served and there will be ample time for questions.

Brett will answer your questions such as "I don't have a roommate. I could feel left out at the hotel and there is a cost differential of \$130 between a single room and a shared room." If you attend the lecture you may just meet someone who would like to share as they too may be reluctant to make the trip alone. This has actually happened prior to recent trips.

I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Isaacson and ask him questions about the trip. He comes with solid credentials as his mother was the founder of Friendship Tours. He told me that when she was the tour leader for a trip, she would take her husband and three children along and call it "a family trip."

Regarding this upcoming trip, he said that two of his favorite stops are the Corning Glass Museum and its incredible collection of paperweights, and demonstrations by glass blowers. He also recommends the Museum's incredible gift shop.

Another one of the trip's stops is the Pleasant Valley Winery. The stone buildings on the complex are on the National Historic Register. The tour includes a three-course dinner at the winery and a chef who will demonstrate the making of the meal's dessert.

The trip cost includes travel on a deluxe motor coach, a two-night stay at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (single room is \$691; double or triple \$561) five meals, sightseeing and all admissions, Friendship Tour escort, and tips for the escort and driver.

For questions about dietary issues or to make a reservation, call 1 800-243-1630. A \$200 deposit is required by March 19 and final payment is due April 23.

For those of you who have never taken an OLLI trip, know that others on the bus will be very friendly and welcoming. There is a restroom on the bus and the bus stops often for "coffee and..." and to stretch your legs. Non-OLLI members are also invited to sign up for the trip for a very small additional fee, so feel free to invite a friend to come with you!

Clubs & Activities Committee News

Whether it's trying a new ethnic dining experience, seeing a thought-provoking film, reading an interesting assortment of books for discussion, or supporting a food drive, then you might want to join one of OLLI'S Clubs and Activities Committee venues.

And, if you want to learn some new photographic and computer skills or trace your family lineage, then the Clubs and Activities Committee members encourage you to join two newly formed OLLI clubs: the Photography Club chaired by Tim Padgett and the Genealogy Club hosted by Diane Ciba.

Committee members have been busy over the past few months scouting out an area ethnic restaurant that offers tasty food, seating for at least 50 and a reasonable luncheon price. We will be announcing our restaurant selection in the next few weeks.

Our Film Club and Book Club listings are located elsewhere in this newsletter. We always have room for one more, so feel free to join us at our scheduled film and book discussions.

Committee members have come up with some exciting suggestions for future activities which combine museum visits with a book

discussion and dining experience. We are anticipating a fashion show to be hosted by the Photography Club. And we are seeking another community involvement project.

As you can see, we are eager to offer our OLLI members diverse educational and fun activities, and we welcome your involvement in these endeavors. Our Clubs and Activities Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, Room 102, at 10:30 a.m. Nancy Via and Delma Way, co-chairs, hope to see you at our March 5th meeting.

by Nancy Via

OLLI Book Club

Mar. 18: Love and Ghost Letters by Chantel Acevedo
Apr. 15: Once We Were Brothers by Ronald H. Balson
May 20: Ruthless Tide by Al Roker
June 17: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
July 15: The Ensemble by Aja Gabel
Aug. 19: The House at the End of Hope Street by Menna Van Praag
Sept. 16: Clock Dance by Anne Tyler
Oct. 21: Georgia by Dawn Tripp
Nov. 18: Bel Canto by Ann Patchett
 *The Book Club meets the third Monday of every month in Room 102 @ 1:00pm. Come by!

OLLI Film Club

Spring '19 theme:
Loss of Innocence

All films held in Room 302 in the Rectory building (directly across the street from the main building)

Wed. March 13: Absence of Malice (1981)
Wed. April 10: To Kill A Mockingbird (1962)

The purpose of the Film Club is to encourage lively discussions about the films shown. There will be activities both before and after each showing to aid in these discussions. The members of the Film Club committee will present information about the writer, actors and background to each film.

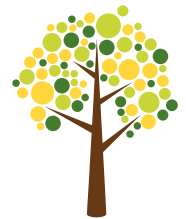
Bring a bag lunch, beverage, and be ready to actively participate in discussion. We'll provide the popcorn.



Find a list of OLLI Clubs and Committees on Page 5 of the course catalog!

OLLI Genealogy Club

Spring '19 Meetings:
Tues. March 19 & Tues. April 16
 12:00 - 1:30pm



Join us to learn more about your family history, to plan events and activities, provide answers to questions, and discover service projects in genealogy.

Questions? Email Diane Ciba (dianeciba@gmail.com)



NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

Bob Grady 860 483-2014
 Email yvoorg@aol.com
 or nblomstrom@aol.com

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. The Newsletter Committee gathers announcements and information and writes news stories for the OLLI Newsletter.

OLLI Café

**Today: February 22, 2019
12:00 - 1:30pm, Room 113**

Confessions of an Urban Archaeologist with Greg Van Antwerp

If you have seen an episode of "The Antiques Roadshow" or "American Pickers", it's clear we have an obsession with the value of the items we collect and keep. This is where Greg Van Antwerp, "The Urban Archaeologist", is different. He sets aside the interest of monetary value to highlight the story behind each discovery. He will describe his fascination with journeying through the towns of Connecticut and New York for the opportunity to dig for items from the past at estate and tag sales. From the rare to the hilarious and the poignant to the pointless Greg enjoys connecting with the audience as he moves from item to item and adds his own brand of humor to each description. This is a fun, insightful and educational tour of American history through the eyes of a curious and successful digger.

Coming Up Next: March 1st, 2019

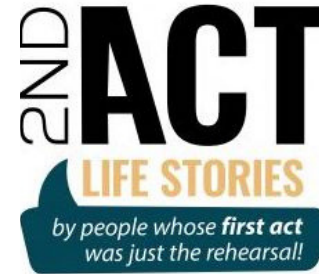
Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps: History, Memories, and Legacy with Martin Podskoch

**OLLI Gardening Project Information Session**

**Date: Thursday, February 28th, 2019
Time: 10:00am
Location: MPR Rooms 113-116**

Join Nunzio De Filippis, OLLI instructor, for an informative meeting to learn more about how the OLLI Gardening Project is working to create a more sustainable environment. Don't miss this special opportunity to learn about how to become involved in creating a sustainable urban food production in the city of Waterbury.

RSVP: osher@uconn.edu / 203-236-9924



**Special offer for
OLLI members**

February 23rd, 2019
12:00 - 2:00pm

Miraculous Coincidence

Just \$15!!! Usually, the cost is \$25/person or \$20 for AARP or OLLI members. This special price includes lunch and the presentation!! Parking is FREE on Saturdays in the Scovill St. garage.

To sign up, call the Palace Theater at (203) 346-2000.

Upcoming OLLI Travel**Spring/Summer – 2019**

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

6/04 - 06/2019: Fingerlakes – member cost \$561 (dbl/triple); \$691 (single)

8/18/2019: Tanglewood/Naumkeag – member cost \$135

Fall – 2019

9/17/2019: Beauport Princess

Cruiselines/Gloucester, MA - member cost \$107

10/1-4/2019: Ocean City, MD – member Cost \$585pp (dbl/triple); \$731 (single)

10/22/2019: Murder on the Bellevue Express, Newport/RI – member cost \$116

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.)
RSVP: osher@uconn.edu / 203-236-9924

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.

**PARKING INFORMATION**

OLLI members with University-issued parking decals may park in the following locations on the following days:

Fridays, any time: UConn's attached ramp garage (entrance on North Elm St.) or Scovill Street Garage (33 Scovill Street)

Monday - Thursday, morning - 5:00pm: Scovill Street Garage

Monday - Thursday, 5:00pm or later: UConn's attached ramp garage or Scovill Street Garage

If you would like to utilize OLLI at UConn's parking options, you must submit an application for a parking permit at: park.uconn.edu/olli-parking-permit-application/

Questions? Call (860) 486-4930

If you do not want to purchase a permit, find other local parking areas here: <http://www.waterburyparking.com/pricing/>

Just For Laughs

Q: What do you call a fish without eyes?

A: Fsh.

Q: Why did the scarecrow win an award?

A: Because he was outstanding in his field.

Q: What do a dog and a phone have in common?

A: They both have collar ID.

I gave my friend an elephant to put in his room.

He said, "Thanks."

I said, "Don't mention it."

OLLI artBeat

by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

Welcome Back and What's Up at the WSO?

It's good to be back! While I enjoyed the break from coming up with an arts topic every week, I am so happy to be back at OLLI, registered for a few classes, and eager to share some fun upcoming arts events with you! Those who attended the OLLI Spring Open House were reminded by keynote speaker, journalist and newscaster Larry Rifkin, that it is never too late to develop a new interest, a new career, a new passion. Not all of us are interested in re-entering work world again, but we can certainly continue to expand our horizons. At this stage of life, I no longer care about acquiring "stuff" (thank you, Marie Kondo for your help) -- I'd rather have enjoyable experiences and gain some knowledge. The Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, right in our own backyard, is certainly a way to enjoy and learn more about all kinds of music.

This year's WSO theme is "Atlas of Sound." Last fall we were treated to works by Scandinavian composers Sibelius and Grieg. For the holidays, German composer George Frideric Handel's Messiah with soloists from Yale was very special. Now to begin the Spring offerings, WSO will present The American Sound on Sunday, March 3, 3pm at Naugatuck Valley College. Music Director and Conductor Leif Bjaland will lead the orchestra in a multi-media presentation that explores the topic of American music through the works of three famous and well-loved composers, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Aaron Copland. The centerpiece will be the performance of Copland's Appalachian Spring and Lincoln Portrait with guest narrator, Humphry Rolleston. Rolleston was born in England, where he obtained a master's degree at Cambridge. After a career at The Economist in London and New York, he retired to Litchfield. In addition to being a reader in the Waterbury Symphony's Creating Musical Readers program, he has appeared in plays at the Thomaston Opera House.

Also performing will be American baritone, Carlton Ford, acclaimed by Opera Today as having "the most uncommonly beautiful lyric baritone [they] have heard in many a year." He is hailed as "a fluid interpreter of a wide range of styles from Mozart to American musical theater." In recent seasons, Carlton has made prominent debuts with operas worldwide including the Berlin Philharmonic, and Paris' Le Théâtre du Châtelet. He has appeared at the New York Philharmonic, New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and London's Royal Albert Hall. A native of Chicago, Carlton is a graduate of The Juilliard School.

To me the most fun part of the concert will be the opportunity to hear Robert Cinnante, WSO Executive Director since 2017, as guest tenor. Together with Mr. Bjaland, Robert has expanded the scope and offerings of the symphony, reaching out to schools and different neighborhood venues. He is a community-driven arts leader with more than a decade of combined experience as a performer and arts administrator. Previously he was the Statewide Director of Education & Outreach at Virginia Opera, and the General Manager of Music for Food, a musician-led initiative for hunger-relief. Cinnante also regularly acts as a consultant to artists and arts organizations. He has written articles and delivered lectures on topics such as arts education, audience and community engagement, and career preparation for young musicians. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston where he received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees.

****This concert is sponsored by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCONN Waterbury. What does this mean for you? It means run, don't walk, to your phone to order your tickets because they are half-price for OLLI members! This offer ends February 28th. Call 203 574-4283 NOW!*****



MEET YOUR OLLI INSTRUCTORS

by Mary Ann Martin

Naida Rodriguez-Rosado is a small woman with a big smile who walks with a bounce in her step. She embraced a career in fitness because of the joy she finds in helping people and her own passion from childhood for movement: dancing, practicing karate, and, best of all, doing gymnastics.

Music also played a big part in Naida's homelife as a child. Her dad was an "amazing singer" with Naida and her siblings joining in song at home, both singing and playing various musical instruments. Naida liked percussion instruments. "My favorite was the clave," wooden sticks or blocks used as a percussion instrument. When singing, "I liked harmony best; I always wanted to be a backup singer." Born in Waterbury, Naida and her family moved to Puerto Rico for a time when she was young so her father could care for his mother who was unwell. When she was in fifth grade, the family returned. In the '70s, Naida took gymnastics classes at the Waterbury Girls Club and was a contestant in pageants, including Miss Puerto Rico, Waterbury, and Miss Puerto Rico, Connecticut. Her talent was performing a gymnastics routine. "I think my agility came from being a lefty," she laughs.

She was an enthusiastic participant in many activities at St. Cecilia Church, Waterbury. Noticing that Naida was good with children and sang well, the pastor asked her to direct the children's choir. The children sang at the 9 a.m. Mass on Sundays. "No one was without a voice," she recalled, adding that "I believe we are given talents to use for God's glory." Naida described the pastor, the late Rev. John Blackhall, as a "huge presence in the Hispanic community and also a "blessing to this city."

Naida graduated from Kennedy High School where she was in various school productions. She met her husband, Wilson Rosado, at Kennedy. Both were interested in martial arts and he became a master of Tang Soo Do. "We still go dancing when time permits," Naida says. After high school graduation, Naida worked in banking and insurance before her high energy and ongoing delight in fitness drew her to a lifetime career in that field. She became a licensed/certified group exercise instructor able to teach a wide range of exercises, including but not limited to Zumba, kickboxing, and chair exercises for older adults.

Naida has an associate degree as a physical fitness technician from Gateway Community College, New Haven, and is certified to work with people in group training through the National Exercise Trainers Association based in Minneapolis. Interested in assisting individuals who need help with managing chronic medical conditions, Naida obtained an Enhanced Fitness Trainer Certification through the YMCA. Eventually, Naida founded and became chief executive officer of the Fitness Fury X-perience (FFXP) with headquarters on Homer Street, Waterbury. Her husband is the chief financial officer. FFXP also provides Mobile Gym services in New Haven/Fairfield County, which offers programs in senior centers. FFXP also takes programs to schools, residential centers, and, on occasion, to corporate settings at the request of companies seeking to provide wellness programs to employees. FFXP serves a wide range of age groups from teenagers to people in their 90s. According to the group's website, about a dozen trainers are on staff.

OLLI members who are taking her lively class "Swing into Health, Balance and Strength with FFXP" this term can expect to have fun as well as improve their well-being.

