



OLLI *News*

UConn WATERBURY

Volume 21: Issue 3

March 8th, 2019

OLLI @ UConn
WHERE LEARNING
NEVER RETIRES



TIME TO LEAP FORWARD

Well, OLLI members, it's time to make up for the hour you slept-in on November 4. This weekend, on March 10, it's time to leap forward and lose that hour as Daylight Saving Time comes around again. There is a rumor that Benjamin Franklin invented DST. According to the Franklin Institute, "Daylight Saving Time – the practice of moving the clocks forward one hour – has many critics. But is Benjamin Franklin to blame for this "invention"? Daylight Saving Time is one thing that Franklin did not invent. He merely suggested that Parisians change their sleep schedules to save money on candles and lamp oil. The common misconception comes from a satirical essay he wrote in the spring of 1784 that was published in the Journal de Paris." Strictly tongue-in-cheek, he suggested that this was a way of being economically frugal using the sun rather than candles to light the way.

According to an article from the Minute Read on the Internet entitled, "Why Do We Have Daylight Saving Time? 100 Years Of History," George Hudson, an entomologist from New Zealand, proposed in 1895 a two hour time-shift so that he could have more sunshine to go bug hunting in the summer. And in 1902, British builder William Willett suggested it to Britain's Parliament as a way to prevent the nation from wasting daylight. The government rejected his suggestion. In 1916, two years into World War I, the German government started brainstorming ways to save energy and remembered Willett's idea of moving the clock forward and thus having more daylight during working hours. "Soon, England and almost every other country that fought in World War I followed suit. So did the United States. On March 9, 1918, Congress enacted its first daylight saving law and it was a two-fer: in addition to saving daylight, the Standard Time Act defined time zones in the US. In those days, coal power was king, so people really did save energy (and thus contribute to the war effort) by changing their clocks."

"Today, the idea of springing forward and falling back is a bit more controversial, in part because it no longer really saves energy. But when you hear from a time change skeptic, consider the source and where they live. If they're from a more northerly place, they may be inclined to like saving daylight more. It's a matter of geography. The farther you travel from the equator, the more drastic the seasons will be. That's because earth is tilted on its axis with respect to the sun so the top and bottom portions of the globe receive more or less sunlight at different times of the year making the loss of daylight hours more pronounced."

Two US states – Hawaii and Arizona – also said no to moving the clocks around because the residents prefer to savor the cool nighttime hours. On March 5, 2018, the Florida State Senate passed the Sunshine Protection Act, which would make daylight savings time always on in the state. Opting in year-round will require approval from Congress, but if it's granted, Floridians will join the ranks of those who no longer need to worry about bi-annual time warp.

So, OLLI members, since we live in the Northeast, I, like you, will have to remember how to change my wrist watch, again, on Sunday!

Continuing Education

by Evelyn Marshak

The producers call the show *Jeopardy*. I call it an opportunity for continuing my education without paying tuition. Yes, I am addicted to the TV show *Jeopardy*. Watching it causes me to have different reactions. When I know the answer, I might applaud myself because I knew it, maybe because it was something I learned years ago in grammar or high school. If I do well in the Shakespeare category, I silently thank Mr. O'Brian.


Getting the answer right can make me even happier if it was a piece of information that dates back to the days when I taught several social studies classes at Long River Middle School in Prospect. In many cases, I learned as I taught, particularly when the questions involved Latin America or Canada or the ever-evolving sciences, including space travel and oceanography.

If the category is one where the answer is a famous American and I get it right, I thank the Silas Bronson Library, once located on my daily trek to Anderson School. That branch had a great collection of biographies, and I think I read every one. Remember this was the early 1950s when there were but a few biographies of famous women.

If I managed to get several right answers from the Double Jeopardy part of the show, I'm rather amazed since they are somewhat more difficult. If the category is current music or recent movies, I give myself a break and don't even try to come up with an answer!


Yes, I am totally amazed when an answer pops into my head from deep in my mind. It is an answer that I never realized was stored in my memory bank. Of course, it happens frequently that I knew the answer once it was revealed but somehow it never made it from my memory bank fast enough to applaud myself.

In answer to the question I know you have about *Jeopardy* and me, my answer is no, I never thought about entering the competition to be on the show.



UConn Gives is an annual 36-hour giving event celebrating the UConn Nation.

On March 27th, go all paws in for Osher Lifelong Learning at UConn Waterbury!



SAVE THE DATE

OLLI members, the UConn community, and the general public are invited to celebrate UConn Gives by joining us for a free movie presentation and talk by Risa Mickenberg, the screenwriter of the "Egg" movie, starring Christina Hendricks of "Mad Men" fame.

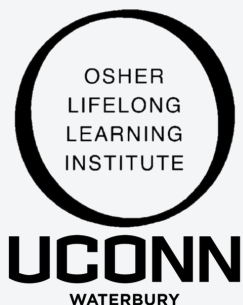
March 27th, 1:00pm, MPR. See you then!




SAVE THE DATE

05 03 19
FRIDAY

OLLI APPRECIATION DAY!
12:00PM - 1:30PM, ROOMS 113-119

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.

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

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Email yvoorg@aol.com
or nblomstrom@aol.com

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!

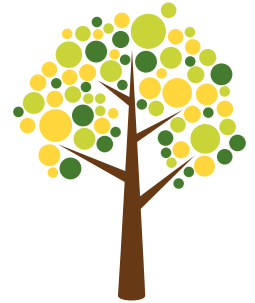


OLLI Genealogy Club

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)

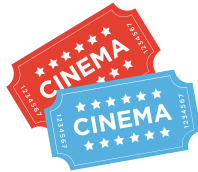


OLLI Film Club

Spring '19 theme:
Loss of Innocence

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.

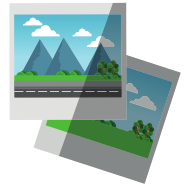


Bring a bag lunch, beverage, and be ready to actively participate in discussion. We'll provide the popcorn.

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

OLLI Photography Club

Attend monthly meetings with photographic challenges and critiques as well as advice on composition, exposure and contrast as well as creating black and white images. No experience needed! Meets the last Friday of each month at 2:00pm in Room 119.



Interested? Contact Timothy Padgett (t.padgett@hotmail.com).

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

UConn Choirs: Vox Feminae et Canti Amoris!
 The voice of women and songs of love. This concert will showcase music composed by women and music of love in its many forms. Featuring the UConn Chamber Singers and Collegium Musicum.

FREE!!!!

UConn Choir

Tuesday, April 16, 2019
 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Waterbury Campus
 St John's Episcopal Church



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

St. Patrick's Day Shenanigans

Next to Daylight Savings Day (tomorrow!), I guess Saint Patrick's Day is my favorite day of the year. I enjoy the festivities, getting out my favorite Irish books, decorating the house, watching the parade, and generally contemplating and thinking about my ancestors, both the legal and illegal varieties. There's never a shortage of things to do, so I'll list a few in case you need Green Inspiration.

Museum: One of my favorite places to visit this time of the year is Ireland's Great Hunger Museum in Hamden. Last year at this time it was closed as the main exhibit was traveling abroad, but it is open again and has reprised its exhibition from 2017, "Making America: The Irish in the Civil War Era." I was inspired on many levels, the gathering of historical paintings and drawings, the scholarship, and of course the dedication of the soldiers, many of whom were recent immigrants to the United States themselves. This exhibit will close on Saint Patrick's Day, so go soon!

And now for a political plug. The new president of Quinnipiac University, Judy Olian, has announced that the university will be severing its financial ties to the museum and wants it to become self-sustaining by June 2020. This museum was the brainchild of John Leahey, past President of Quinnipiac, but backed financially by the late Murray Lender, founder of Lender's Bagels, who was impressed by stories of the famine, identifying closely with people who are persecuted by others, as his relatives in Europe were during the Holocaust. What a shame if this beautiful tribute to the history of this tragic event and the spirit of universal brotherhood were to be abandoned or closed. Please make your protests known to the Board of Trustees of Quinnipiac if, like me, you feel strongly about what a treasure and asset this institution is to our community and state. And cc Mrs. Olian.

Parades: The mother of all parades is on Fifth Avenue on Saturday, March 16th and kicks off at 11am. But if you're not up to a trip to NYC, a closer option is Milford's parade tomorrow at 1 pm with an after party at the Irish Heritage Society, live music, \$5. Sounds like fun!

Television: There is never a shortage of Irish movies and concerts this time of the year. The wonderful PBS series "Ireland's Wild Coast" is a unique personal journey featuring the wildlife and places of "the very edge of the world." You can catch trailers on PBS and subscribe if interested, or if you have Amazon it is streaming there.

Netflix: I am currently engrossed in the series "Rebellion" which centers around the Easter Rebellion of 1916 and the Irish Civil War which led to the partition of the nation into Ulster under British Rule, and the Irish Republic. The acting is very good (though sometimes I must stop and rewind to translate their brogues) and the characters well drawn and (mostly) sympathetic. Highly recommend.

Theater: If you are feeling adventurous or are planning a trip to Manhattan for the parade, the Irish Repertory Theater is performing Sean O'Casey's "Juno and the Paycock," a play I have always wanted to see. March 9 – May 25. It is O'Casey's 1924 tale of a family in Dublin, described as "a devastating portrait of wasted potential in a Dublin torn apart by the chaos of the Irish Civil War." Irish Rep Theatre, 132 W. 22nd Street.

Opera: No, not an Irish opera, but one being performed in Boston on March 17th! I mention this by way of giving yet another OLLI nod to the importance of making social connections as we age. Yes, old friends are the gold, but it is so important to make new friends, too. I met an interesting woman in my exercise classes at the YMCA (yup, Silver Sneakers), and mentioned that I had been on an OLLI trip to see Carmen. We started talking about our shared love of this genre and she told me that her niece is an aspiring opera singer! Erica Petrocelli, a graduate of the New England Conservatory and a member of the Los Angeles Opera's Young Artists' program, will be singing the part of Pamina in The Magic Flute at Symphony Hall in conjunction with the Boston Symphony Youth Orchestra, noon and 3 pm. I think being in Boston for Saint Patrick's Day is just about as much fun as you can get, and paired with an opera, what could be better?

Well, I am out of room, but you get the idea. Have yourself a wonderful Saint Patrick's Day!

"La fheile Pádraig sona dhuit!"



MEET YOUR OLLI INSTRUCTORS

by Mary Ann Martin

Emily Mattina is living her dream.

As artistic director of Shakesperience Productions, she is deeply engaged in bringing Shakespeare to outdoor venues in communities throughout Connecticut and contiguous states in the summer

Emily loves Shakespeare's plays so much that she named her daughter Viola, now 10, after a character in one of her favorites, the Bard's comedy *Twelfth Night*. She and her husband Jeffrey Lapham, who is executive director of Shakesperience, also have a son Tommy, 14.

Emily grew up in the Berkshires immersed in the arts. Her parents took her to artistic events and she started dancing classes at age 6. Around age 9, Emily appeared as one of the children in a production of Tennessee Williams' *Rose Tattoo* at the Berkshire Festival of Arts. She laughs as she recalls being Baby Joan in a production of *Anyone Can Whistle* with music by Stephen Sondheim and book by Arthur Laurents.

About this time, Emily's mother gave her the book *Tales of Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb. Emily was entranced and this book set her on a career path although she didn't realize it at the time.

She pursued acting for a time and recognized she "wanted to have a (theater) company someday. I wanted to use the theater to spark communication among people."

Emily was a theater major with a minor in English at the University of New Hampshire. Still fascinated by Shakespeare, she headed to England after getting her bachelor's degree to do graduate work. She received her master's degree in Seventeenth Century English Literature with a focus on William Shakespeare from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in northeast England.

While in England, Emily sought to immerse herself in English culture and history. She visited burial sites of historic people. "I loved Canterbury" and toured the cathedral town of Lincoln. One of the four original copies of the Magna Carta, the historic document attesting to human rights signed by King John of England in 1215, is in Lincoln.

Emily firmly believes theater helps people relate better to each other and the world. The history lessons found in plays offer insight in how events evolve. People learn to respect others, do research, and gain confidence. Performers and audiences gain insight into the human condition.

Emily and Jeffrey elected to establish their company in Waterbury, because he was from Connecticut and they really liked having quick access to two major highways, 8 and 84, that made it easy to launch touring companies. The touring company casts are a blend of professional (Equity) actors and local individuals. Contracts are negotiated to allow the professionals to appear in Shakesperience productions. The company has won many, many awards, among them the New Haven Business Times "Forty Under 40" award in 2006 and the Waterbury "Mayor's Arts and Culture Award" (2015). Festival productions Shakesperience has done include "Shakespeare in Library Park" (Waterbury), "Shakespeare on the Shoreline" and Vintage Shakesperience, a tour of Connecticut's wine trail. Shakespeare performances now comprise about one-third of their work as the company expands its range of activities. It offers acting classes and workshops. The company also works with schools and with the Police Athletic League.

This term at OLLI, Emily and her colleague Linda Gordon are offering "Neighborhoods of Time and Space," a writing class developed from Shakesperience's program, "Waterbury Interactive: Our City, Our Neighborhoods." Linda oversees the writing and Emily co-teaches the classes.

Some wonderful stories are being developed by students, Emily says. One man is doing a piece on Roger Connor, a legendary baseball player from Waterbury, while others write about growing up in an ethnic neighborhood.

"This is what I wanted to do," Emily says.

