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SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Ever since I retired ten years ago my attention has been directed toward taking classes at OLLI and checking my computer for news, mail, etc. It used to be when I had one day off a week that it was spent calling the computer company to fix some glitch in my computer with little time for anything else. Now there is time for working around the house which, for a neophyte like myself, means massive time spent on routine problems.

As an example, spring is coming. My wife and I eschew roles but she tends to spring-clean in the house and I tend to work in the garden even though there is significant overlap. The other day I took the hose out and planned to ignore several leaks which did not hinder a steady stream of water from the nozzle. My wife insisted that I repair the leaks and that was my downfall. Home projects can be a source of exasperation and writing about them dissipates my frustrations. So here is my tale of woe.

The leader hose, that is the three foot hose from the spigot to the rotary hose rack, was cracked, so I drove from Middlebury to Woodbury to get a replacement. My simple solution failed when I discovered that I needed two female attachments rather than the male and female attachments that I had gotten. Details complicate solutions. Now I drove to Home Depot in Waterbury where the only way I could get such a leader was to buy an entire hose rotary rack. One leak was fixed but my wife correctly noted that the attachment of the hose to the hose rack caused a kink in the hose and another leak. Ignoring leaks is my preference but not an option for a married retiree. Back to Woodbury to get a hose repair kit. Returning home triumphant, I cut the hose planning to repair it when I noticed that my kit was for 1/2 inch hose and my hose was 3/4 inch. I was embarrassed to return to the Woodbury hardware and so went to Kmart in Watertown which unfortunately did not have the necessary repair kit. Back then to Woodbury for the correct diameter hose repair kit. By now I had to fill the car gas tank.

I struggled to attach the cut hose to the attached plastic device but could not overcome the resistance of the hose. I turned the water on and my attempted repair exploded. Perplexed, I remembered the best piece of advice that my son had given me. Youtube. I searched for "hose repair." "Stick the hose end in boiling water and then attach the hose to the repair device." Such good advice had been so elusive. The hose leak was fixed by me in the time it took my wife to thoroughly clean our entire home.

Sitting in an OLLI class has distinct advantages!

Ira Mickenberg M.D.

NAUMKEAG & TANGLEWOOD TRIP - AUGUST 18, 2019 by Evelyn Marshak

Right now it is hard to think beyond the bridal showers, the graduation parties, the summer weddings, and the picnics, but the 2019 the Spring/Summer OLLI learning program will be offering one last trip late in the summer for you to enjoy.

I'm not sure how a 44-room gabled mansion can be called a cottage. Naumkeag was the summer home of Joseph Hodges Choate who was a leading 19th century attorney. The cottage is renowned for its elegant gardens which will be in full bloom when the OLLI tour bus arrives there on Sunday, August 18.

After a guided tour of the cottage, there will be time to enjoy its gardens including the Blue Steps, which are a series of deep blue fountains flanked by four flights of stairs and a grove of white birch.

The second part of our trip will take us to Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The music will be by Brahms and Schumann and feature cellist Yo-Yo Ma and members of the BSO horn section with Francis Xavier Roth conducting.

The trip's cost, \$135 for OLLI members or \$145 for non-OLLI members, includes a box lunch with a choice of four sandwiches, bottled water, and a jumbo cookie.

Our bus to Massachusetts will leave from the Chase Parkway Commuter Parking Lot at 8:15 am, and return time is estimated at 7 pm. For reservations and questions, call Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630. Those going on the trip will be asked to indicate their choice of sandwich at the time of their reservation. Join us and make the end of your summer memorable!





Upcoming OLLI Travel

Spring/Summer - 2019

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.

Mattatuck Museum Entry is Free

by Evelyn Marshak

While the Mattatuck Museum is undergoing additions and renovations, its collections will be housed in a temporary home at 63 Prospect Street. This elegant building, once called Rose Hill, housed the Chase family, owners of Chase Brass and Cooper, the Welton family, including Carrie Welton, owner of Knight, the bronze horse on the Waterbury Green, and the Scovill family, owners of Scovill Brass and Copper.

The museum is closed to the public until April 22nd, but once it is established in its temporary home, it will be open from noon to 5, Monday through Friday, and from noon to 5 on the first full weekend of every month.

Weekday admission is free to all Waterbury residents. Admission for adults and children older than 16 will be \$5. There are special rates for year's membership for senior citizens.

Construction of the expanded and rejuvenated Mattatuck Museum is expected to take about a year. During that time, there will be special programs and events at Rose Hill and other venues in the city.

FASHION SHOW

September 17, 2019 seems like a long way off, but save the date for the first ever OLLI Fashion Show to be held at the POLI Club which is part of the Palace Theatre.

The show starts at 6 pm, and there will be free parking in the UCONN Garage. Clothes will be modeled by OLLI members. The Fashion Show committee is looking for 20 women and 20 men to model clothes they already possess.

Appetizers will be served.



Just to let you know that the word is getting around about the Clubs & Activities
Committee's upcoming ethnic luncheon on April 29. The cost is \$15 per person, including tax and gratuity.

Thank you to those of you who have signed up to join us, and please let this serve as a reminder that we need your support to reach our goal of 50 diners. We encourage you to bring a guest, and please pass the word around.

Reservations are mandatory and, to sign up, you may contact either me at delvilway@aol.com; phone 860-274-8621, or Barbara Gavin at bar1005@yahoo.com; phone 1-201-506-0288.

Thanks for your support.

Delma



OLLI BOOK CLUB

Apr. 15: Once We Were Brothers by Ronald 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

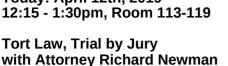
The Book Club meets the third

Monday of every month in Room 102 @ 1:00 PM. Come by!

PLEASE BE REMINDED: OLLI is CLOSED next Friday, April 19th, 2019

OLLI Café

Today: April 12th, 2019 12:15 - 1:30pm, Room 113-119





Richard L. Newman. Executive Director of the American Museum of Tort Law, will discuss the importance of trial by jury - its roots in the Constitution, and role as a check on tyranny and corporate power. His presentation will also discuss tort law and its social benefits. Attorney Newman will provide information on the American Museum of Tort law, a nationally acclaimed museum of law located in Winsted, Connecticut.

COMING UP NEXT: NO OLLI CAFÉ ON APRIL 19TH - GOOD FRIDAY!

April 26th: United Nations: Past, Present and Future with Joseph Baxer

> Missed a newsletter? Find past issues online @

https://olli.uconn.edu/weekly -newsletters/

Just for Laughs

Sherlock Holmes's sister, Ella, was a bit confused - not that she suffered from dementia or anything - she simply was a bit "blonde." She was always getting her two twins confused, even though they were fraternal, not identical, and everyone else could easily tell Patricia from Theresa.

One day Sherlock's sister invited the great detective and his assistant to a piano recital that Patsy was to give the following evening. When she left, Sherlock's assistant said, rather bewilderingly, to Sherlock, "I didn't know Patsy was studying the piano." To which Holmes replied,

"Ella meant Terry, my dear Watson."

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I was checking out at the busy supermarket, and the cashier was having problems. The register ran out of paper, the scanner malfunctioned, and finally the cashier spilled a handful of coins. When she totaled my order, it came to exactly \$22.

Trying to soothe her nerves, I said, "That's a nice round figure."

Still frazzled, she glared at me and said, "You're no bean pole yourself."

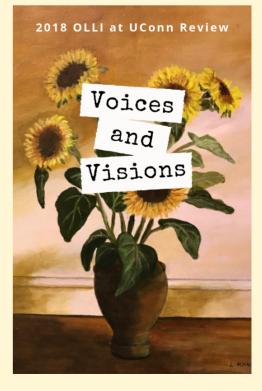
Have you read the latest copy of *Voices & Visions*?

It is available at the front desk or in racks around the campus. Pick one up and enjoy it. Voices and Visions is a yearly OLLI publication of prose, poetry, and art work of all kinds created by the OLLI membership.

Who can have their work published in *Voices and Visions*? You can! If you are an OLLI student at any time this year, you are invited to submit your work for review to the Editorial Committee. Who is on the Committee? Your fellow students are.

Check the Info Table for guidelines and submission forms.

We accept submissions by email: UConnOlliReview@gmail.com AND LizHanahan@aol.com



OLLI artBeat

by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

Telling Our Stories as Art

I was privileged recently to attend an afternoon of women's storytelling at the Episcopal Cathedral in Hartford. Facilitated by professional storyteller Valerie Tutson, thirty women had the opportunity to tell theirs. I have known Valerie since she was a teenager and my children's counselor at our summer Parks & Rec Program in New Milford. She attended Brown University where she designed her own major in storytelling and has made her living this way since graduation. She travels nationally and internationally continuing the art of telling personal, ethnic and traditional stories.

As the afternoon went on, I was struck by the realization (you think I would have figured this out a long time ago) that all of art is simply storytelling. From the primitive images in the Lascaux caves in France, to Michelangelo and DaVinci's masterpieces, to Picasso deconstructing anatomy and Pollock's fury-filled canvases, humans have expressed themselves and told their stories through painting. They have sung their songs from David's psalms, to Hildegarde of Bingen's plainchant, to some of my favorites, the French madrigals, to the Beatles! Ballet is a danced story, and opera, of course, is a sung one. All our written word, from cuneiform to Microsoft Word, tells stories that humans want to convey to other humans. Dance — what story does a tango tell? Human romance, passion, and vulnerability. Poetry — Dante's *Divine Comedy* to Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* — demonstrates the human need to tell their own individual stories of love, tragedy, triumph and sadness. And even just plain old everyday living.

At OLLI I've taken two writing classes. The first was facilitated by Fiona deMerell and Cathy Capuano and concerned itself with the topic of "Home." All the students had ample opportunities during the five weeks to tell stories of what home means, especially to them personally, both past and present. This year I took a winter class with Diane Lamoreaux Ciba where we explored the themes of travel, perception, longing for our real home, and whatever anyone took from a book we read together called "Etta and Otto and Russell and James" by Emma Hooper. It was fascinating to learn from fellow classmates about their personal journeys and their interpretations of the book based on their own experiences.

Stories. Do you have a story to tell? Well, you do if you are alive, and certainly folks of our age have stories to tell. Lots of them. How do you tell yours? Do you write, talk to your grandchildren, paint, sing, play an instrument, draw, dance, take photographs? How can you tell your story? Singing in a group, taking dancing lessons in the style of an ethnic heritage, traveling to a place you have always wanted to see, whether exotic or closer to home, and then telling others about it. Work up the courage to audition for a local theater group if this is something you always longed to do – believe me, it is never too late!

If you are more the homebody type, or even if you aren't, one of the best ways to tell your story is to write your own obituary. Yes, you read that right. When I taught Hospice volunteers, this was an exercise we used during training to help people get in touch with their feelings about their own and other people's mortality. Far from morbid, it is a very human way to think about what our real story is. I started writing mine when I was in my thirties, probably because my older sister died when she was only 38. As the years went on, I was surprised at how much my story grew, and how so many of the things I thought were monumental at one time diminished in importance as the years went on and other things gained in significance. Write your life story – you might even find the bones of a book there!

Paint a self-portrait. Write a song about you or your ancestors. Write a poem, sew or knit an article of clothing that expresses who you are. Tell your story through whatever art medium you choose. All art is stories. At our storytelling afternoon at the cathedral I told a funny story (if I do say so myself) about my childhood friend Joanie who was the only person in all of my 67 years who ever did what I told them to do – it got a lot of laughs! What's your story, and how, using the arts, can you tell it?

MEET YOUR OLLI INSTRUCTORS

by Mary Ann Martin

Nancy Schuler was a stay-at-home home mom at age 30 when she began running road races, starting with short distances and continuing to the 26.2 mile challenge of a marathon. She ran seven, including the Boston Marathon, before leaving the sport because of a hip replacement. Nancy now walks rather than runs but continues to reinvent herself with full support from her husband Ed. Today, the petite elegant woman is acting, writing and has done some modeling after a long career as a personal trainer.

Nancy firmly believes as life evolves so must you. Growing up in Waterbury in the 1950s and 60s, Nancy recalls taking walks all over the city with her girlfriend, swimming at Lakewood in the summer and putting on plays in the backyard. She enjoyed playing card games, usually setback, with neighborhood friends with one of the dads getting pizza for the players. She liked to paint and write. After high school, she attended the Paier College of Art in Hamden before she and Ed married. She didn't do sports during her high school days feeling there weren't opportunities to do so "unless you were a cheerleader."

As an adult, she often walked for exercise but became interested in distance running. Ed had run track in high school and the couple began training together when his business schedule permitted him to join her. Along the way, they joined a club for distance runners in Watertown. "After successfully completing her first marathon, I was euphoric! It is so rewarding to finish a grueling race of 26 miles," she related. Besides the sense of accomplishment when running, Nancy and her husband enjoyed the camaraderie among runners.

Marathon running was "ideal for me because I am small." The sport also requires mental concentration and a high capacity for endurance. Her own enthusiasm for running led her to coach girls competing in cross-county at Holy Cross High School for three years. Fit herself, Nancy obtained certification to be a personal trainer, a career she pursued in the YMCA and various private clubs. After a time, the Schulers had a gym installed in their home and Nancy began her own business. Several celebrities, whom she refrained from naming, were among her clients.

The hip replacement ended long distance running for Nancy but she and Ed now walk almost six miles a day, sometimes in a cemetery in Torrington. "Once when walking, we saw a mother bear and three babies!" But she still misses the thrill of long distance running. Her resume



also includes participation in some triathlons, which seemed a fun thing to do as she both swam and cycled growing up and was an avid runners as an adult.

Always interested in trying something new, Nancy was intrigued when someone suggested she might try modeling. This led to jobs to modeling clothing for print magazines. Eventually Nancy decided to go to New York to study film with the Barrow Group and acting with Herbert Berghof. She laughs when saying she often is cast as an older woman. She showed a short video where the story line took a couple joyous as young people but drawing apart and divorcing in middle age. At the end, the now elderly man and woman, are shown sitting on a park bench enjoying each other's company. "I'm the wife in that scene," Nancy points out. You may see Nancy in brochures and commercials promoting retirement villages.

Nancy has come back to writing, often monologues based on people she has met. She performs stories she has written and cites one of her personal favorites, a piece about her Italian grandmother. She had the opportunity to perform that story at the New York Public Library Equity Theatre. She often presents her work at area libraries and other venues, including Waterbury's Palace.

She is presenting "Act One: A Class for Beginner Actors" at OLLI this term.