"39,773: how many Americans lost their lives to firearms in 2017.
1.625 million: the number of Americans who have died from gunfire since 1968 – more than the accumulated American deaths from all wars since the country’s founding more than 200 years ago.

These are numbers that everyone agrees on. From here, nearly everything else that can be said about gun violence in the US elicits a partisan response. It doesn’t have to be this way." - Discover Magazine September/October 2019


Does there seem to be a pattern? Well, maybe there is or maybe there isn’t. We just don’t know. A growing chorus of researchers wants to study gun violence in the United States as a public health issue, similar to the way they have studied automobile or workplace safety for decades. However, Jay Dickey, a Congressman from Arkansas, is best known for a 1996 amendment that effectively put an end to federal research on gun violence. “As the self-described ‘point man’ in the House for the NRA, he questioned an official of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at a congressional hearing in 1996. Mr. Dickey was interested in a $2.6 million program at the CDC’s National Center for Injury Control and Prevention – investigating firearms deaths as a public health problem. Mr. Dickey asked the director of the center, Mark Rosenberg, why the CDC was interested in promoting gun control. "Can you stop violence?" Mr. Dickey asked. "You can’t stop violence unless you stop people from committing it, can you? How can you stop violence by attacking the gun?"

"We’re not trying to attack the gun, sir," Rosenberg said. "We’re trying to understand the problem... And absolutely yes, we can prevent violence."

Mr. Dickey and other Congressmen then cut the CDC’s budget by $2.6 million – the amount of the study on gun violence. Mr. Dickey also inserted a provision into a federal spending bill, stating, “none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.” - Matt Schudel, Washington Post April 22, 2017.

Thoughts and prayers don’t seem to be able to stem the problem of gun violence deaths. "Given the magnitude of the problem – not just in lives lost but in the consequences for survivors, families and entire communities – a purely scientific approach may hold the key to making progress toward reducing injuries and fatalities."

"A 2017 Journal of the American Medical Association study estimates that for every death due to firearms, the US spends about $63 on research into the topic. In contrast, research spending on motor vehicle deaths is about $1000 per fatality. That disparity is particularly striking because the number of the lives lost is similar: From 2008 to 2017, there were 342,439 deaths by firearm and 374,340 motor vehicle deaths.” Discover

“There is one problem: Where to begin?”

"What we do know about gun violence in the US from a purely statistical perspective, may surprise you. Mass shootings make headlines and dominate public discourse, but roughly 60% of firearm deaths in 2017 were suicides." Why? Perhaps if Congress repealed that amendment about research and began to gather data, and study the problem, that would illuminate possible solutions. Anyway, OLLI members, knowledge is power, no matter what side you are on. Thoughts and prayers definitely are not working. It’s time Congress that acts positively!

"If you don’t figure out how to make things work from a broad societal perspective you will pay a steep price for many years.” Brad Smith, Microsoft Time, September 16, 2019
Subject: Things to ponder over a cup of coffee...

To start your day off in an intellectual way, here are a few of life’s mysteries to ponder over coffee.

1. Ever wonder about those people who spend $5.00 each on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE

2. Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren’t they just stale bread to begin with?

3. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn’t it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

4. If Fed Ex and U.P.S. were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

5. At income tax time, did you ever notice: When you put the two words ‘The’ and ‘IRS’ together it spells ... ‘THEIRS’?

**JUST FOR LAUGHS**

One night while I was cat-sitting my daughter’s indoor feline, it escaped outside. I found the beast clinging to a branch about 30 feet up in a spindly tree. Unable to lure it down, I called the fire department.

“We don’t do that anymore,” the woman dispatcher set. When I persisted, she was polite but firm. “The cat will come down when it gets hungry enough.”

“How do you know that?” I asked.

“Have you ever seen a cat skeleton in a tree?” She said.

Two hours later the cat was back, looking for breakfast.

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 presenter or staff member

**OLLi Café**

**Today: September 13th, 2019**
**12:15 - 1:30pm, Room 113**

**Untold Stories: Lend Me Your Ear with Nina Lesiga**

What is the secret to getting people to listen? Nina Lesiga, a professional storyteller and chemist, will share tips on crafting and sharing a personal story.

**Coming Up Next: September 20th, 2019**
**Attorney Carla Perugini-Erickson: Keeping the Golden Years Golden**

**TECHNOLOGY CLINIC**

with UNDERGRAD STUDENTS!
**9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, & 11/8**
**1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, FREE!**

Need some help figuring out your laptop, smartphone, or iPad/tablet?

UConn Adulthood & Aging students are here to help! Just stop by and receive free, individualized technology training in an intergenerational setting. Have your questions answered and gain some clarity over sometimes-frustrating modern technology.

The clinic will be held on five Friday afternoons over the course of the fall semester (9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, and 11/8) from 1:30 - 2:30 pm in Room 317 (computer lab).
A Trip for All Mystery Lovers by Ann Rompre

Do you love to solve mysteries? Come with OLLI Travel on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. While you travel to Newport and help solve an interactive murder mystery by the Marley Bridges Theatre Company, “Murder on the Bellevue Express,” you will also be savoring a luxurious lunch aboard the Newport & Narragansett Bay Railroad Train and enjoying views of the Narragansett Bay. The train is arranged so that all seating is facing the main players of the mystery so that you can take it all in without turning your head.

If you think this would be a great day for you, call Friendship Tours at 1-800-243-1630 and mention OLLI Travel to reserve your seat. The OLLI member cost of the trip is $116 (non-member price is $126). On the day of the trip, our Peter Pan bus will leave from the Waterbury Chase Turnpike Park & Ride Lot at 8:15AM.

OLLI Travel hopes to share this day of fun with you!

Tanglewood Day Trip by David Bill

Sunday, August 18, 2019

The Travel Committee ran a bus trip to Tanglewood, the summer residence of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in Lenox, MA. The weather was a little warm but not oppressive. The bus was air conditioned and we were under cover in the Shed during the concert.

There were 51 people on the trip. Everyone showed up early at the Chase Parking Lot and the bus was able to leave on time. The bus ride went smoothly. We stopped at Naumkeag at about 10 o’clock on the way up. Naumkeag was the summer residence of Joseph Conrad, a wealthy New York City lawyer. We were given a tour of the gardens and the interior of the house. The guides were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. The place is beautiful and it has been preserved in the same condition as when it was given to the state. Then we boarded the bus for the short five-mile ride to Tanglewood.

The grounds at Tanglewood are beautiful. It was sunny, a little hot and humid. We all got our bag lunch and a place to eat in the shade. We arrived at Tanglewood just after noon and the concert wasn’t scheduled to start until 2:30pm. There was plenty of time to relax, eat, and walk around, taking in the magnificent views. The Shed at Tanglewood is big, with a 6,000 people capacity. We had very good seats. Everyone could see and hear everything, there were hundreds of people sitting on the lawn eating, drinking and listening to the music which was fantastic.

The concert ended at 4:30, and everyone went to the bus and we left right away. We arrived in Waterbury at 6:10pm. A good time was had by all. It was a great day of music, a safe bus trip, and a tour of the beautiful Naumkeag estate.
OLLI Book Club
The Book Club meets the third Monday of every month in Room 102 @ 1:00pm. Come by!

Sept. 16: Clock Dance by Ann Tyler
Oct. 21: Georgia by Dawn Tripp
Nov. 18: Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Contact: nvia@sbcglobal.net

OLLI Film Club
The Film Club meets on three Wednesdays in the Fall and Spring semesters.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DATE CHANGE FOR THE FIRST FILM CLUB MEETING OF THE FALL ’19 SEMESTER.

The showing of Suffragette will now take place on Wednesday, September 25th, 2019 in the Rectory building (across the street from the main building), Room 402 (fourth floor) from 12:00 - 3:00pm. Free popcorn! Just show up!

OLLI Genealogy Club
The Genealogy Club meets the third Thursday of the month. This semester: September 19th, October 17th, and November 21st. 10:00 am - 11:30 am in Room 317 (computer lab on third floor of main building)
Contact: dianeciba@gmail.com

OLLI Photography Club
The Photography Club meets the last Friday of each month at 3:30pm in Room 102.
Contact: (t.padgett@hotmail.com).

OLLI Reiki Club
Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 1:00pm in Room 102.
Contact: barbara.schafer@comcast.net

OLLI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Council Members
OLLI officers are part of the Leadership Council, which is the principal representative body of the OLLI membership.

President
Ira Mickenberg

Vice President
Mila Limson

Secretary
Mary Peitler

Asst. Secretary
Joyce Conlan

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/
Those of you who have perused my columns on the arts and culture for the past few years know that I am a big Waterbury Symphony fan. One of my closest friends was an intimate of composer Leroy Anderson’s family - she introduced me to the WSO and the rest is history - I am a confirmed devotee! Two years ago the WSO celebrated an incredible milestone - their 80th anniversary - with a banner year of concerts. This year the celebrations continue by honoring Maestro Leif Bjaland’s 25th anniversary with the WSO. Leif has done so much to promote the arts and music in our community of Western Connecticut and far beyond. It is fitting that he is being recognized for his many innovations and contributions.

On the afternoon of Saturday, November 2, the orchestra will perform Max Steiner’s original score live to the showing of the classic 1942 film “Casablanca” against the backdrop of Waterbury’s jewel, the beautifully restored Palace Theater. Having seen how Leif has done this kind of pairing in the past including The Phantom of the Opera, it should be great fun to watch Bogie and Bergman with live musical accompaniment. I, for one, can’t wait!

The regular season opens next Sunday, September 22, at 3pm at Naugatuck Valley Community College with a concert featuring music from around the world including Sibelius’ “Finlandia,” Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 3 “Little Russian” and Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 5 “Egyptian” featuring Korean pianist Ko-Eun Yi on piano. Miss Yi has garnered many top prizes during her young career. The Washington Post said of her that she is “a masterful technician….her fingerwork was immaculate, and there was no lack of power when needed.” Dr. Vincent DeLuise, WSO’s Community Cultural Ambassador, will present pre-concert highlights, which are always educational, enjoyable and insightful, at 2 pm. Dr. DeLuise shared with me some of his insights on the upcoming season. “The season ahead explores a vast symphonic landscape. There will be masterworks that have stood the test of time, such as Saint-Saens’ “Carnival of the Animals,” as well as Mozart’s enduring and poignant Requiem. The season culminates in a 250th anniversary celebration of one of the greatest of composers, Ludwig van Beethoven.” Regarding the cinematic celebration of Leif Bjaland’s anniversary, Dr. DeLuise adds that “the timeliness of the symphonic art form will also shine through when the orchestra puts it to film...as part of a historic collaboration with the Palace Theater.”

Music in Great Spaces, the WSO’s initiative to take music out into the community at interesting and different venues, will have its first outing of the season this Sunday, September 15 at 3 pm at the Hollister House Garden, featuring the award-winning Rolston String Quartet. The setting is an English garden beautifully situated on a sloping, terraced site in the rolling hills of Litchfield County in Washington, CT. Sounds idyllic!

And, of course, what would the holiday season be without the WSO’s Christmas concert? This year’s concert will feature holiday brass and organ music in two beautiful area churches. But more about that in a future column!

For tickets call 203 574-4283, and don’t forget to ask for your OLLI 15% discount on $35 and $55 tickets. For more info about the upcoming season, check out info@waterburysymphony.org.
OLLi Art Show: A Great Success!

by Mary Fitzpatrick Peitler

On a beautiful and warm Friday night in June over one hundred OLLi members, supporters and art lovers filled the Five Points Gallery in Torrington to take in the first OLLi Members Art Show. Members were invited in the Fall of 2018 to submit examples of their many talents in the fields of painting, drawing and photography, and the results were outstanding. Participants took in the artwork, and enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres and beverages provided by Red Apple Catering, and each other’s company as summer got underway. The art show, entitled ‘Lifelong Learning: Lifelong Art,” was devised with a two-fold purpose. In addition to celebrating OLLI artists, the show’s location at the prestigious Torrington gallery meant that OLLi could raise awareness in a part of the state with a large “OLLI demographic.”

OLLi Director, Fiona de Merell, who spearheaded the endeavor and oversaw a crew of artists, staff and volunteers who helped make the evening happen, said, “We couldn’t be more thrilled at how the show turned out. It was a real testament to the energy and talent of our community – and a learning experience for me, as I had no idea how to hang an art show! The best part was seeing the pride on the faces of our wonderful artists. We’re already planning another show in the same location for next summer.”

Below, see some highlights from the evening’s festivities! It is hoped that this will become a yearly event. Our members keep growing and expressing themselves. Post-50 is a terrific place to be in life!