It’s about time. What makes people so concerned about time? “I can never find enough time in the day to do what I have to do!” “You’re just wasting time.” “Where does the time go?” How concerned with time were those hunter-gatherers of long ago? For most of our history the only time people were thinking about was ‘when do we plant and when do we sow?’ Early time-tellers were the sundial and the hour glass. It wasn’t until the 1300s that mechanical clocks, which used weights or springs, began to appear. They had no faces or hour or minute hands but struck a bell every hour. By the 1400s, an important invention came about - the use of coiled springs using a lever that controlled the direction and speed of the uncoiling - which allowed the use of hour and minute hands. This eventually led to smaller clocks and later to watches. Still only the rich could afford them and the general populace were aware of the time by listening to church bells because they did not have to concern themselves about each minute. What has happened to us?

I was reading the August 2019 edition of the Airplane Pilots and Owners Association magazine recently and came across this passage written by Barry Schiff, a former airline pilot:

“Airline passengers not only seem oblivious to the view from above, they’ve generally become antisocial, ignoring their seatmates. While they used to introduce themselves to one another and engage in occasional conversation, today it seems it they prefer the company of their devices.

A few years ago a friend and I were returning from Page, Arizona, in his V-tail Bonanza, and our track passed directly over the Grand Canyon. It was nearing sunset and the walls of the canyon were ablaze with a kaleidoscope of reds and magentas. I pointed this out to my friend’s son, who was sitting in back, preoccupied with his iPad. When I called his attention to the incredible site below he took a quick look, returned to his game, and said, “Yeah, I’ve seen that.”

His father was incredulous. “You’ve never been here. How could you have seen it?”

"Aw, c’mon, Dad," he replied. "I’ve seen it on the Internet."

That may be part of our problem. We have become so addicted to our electronic devices that we are in danger of becoming less human. We prefer the electronics to reality. Social media absorbs all our time and lessens our ability to communicate and be excited about the wonders of the world that surrounds us. After all, what is it that distinguishes us from the animals? It is our ability to imagine.

So, OLLI members, use your imagination!

by Bob Grady
**What Happened - Could We Be Next?**

For nearly 200 million years dinosaurs ruled the Earth. Then quite suddenly, about 65 million years ago, they disappeared. It was Luis and Walter Alvarez, father and son, who first explained in 1980 what happened to the dinosaurs. They found thin layers of iridium in rocks that dated to 65 million years ago, and since iridium is naturally very rare on Earth they proposed that its source was a meteorite that impacted the Earth at this time. Their theory was controversial at first and had many doubters, but other researchers began to find similar iridium layers in rocks from other locations on Earth, suggesting a global event, and finally a meteor crater was found near the Yucatan Peninsula that was about the same age.

The Chicxulub meteor must have been 10 to 15 kilometers in size and traveling at about 10,000 mph when it impacted, triggering a global winter that was devastating for nearly all land plants and animals. But the small furry mammals that burrowed underground survived. They had been living in the shadows of the dinosaurs all along, but with the dinosaurs gone they could now thrive and grow in size. They became the new rulers of the Earth. Eventually the mammalian lineage evolved into primates, then apes, then hominids, and finally the Homo lineage that produced human beings. If not for the chance encounter with a meteor 65 million years ago it is doubtful whether we would be here at all.

**JUST FOR LAUGHS**

A man walks into a dentist office and starts to complain: “Dr., Dr.! My life is in shambles! My addiction has led me and my wife to divorce and because of that I don’t get to see my children anymore! I have no money to my name because my now ex-wife took it all and I’m forced to live in a small broken-down apartment. I got fired from my job because I couldn’t find the motivation to work on account of my depression. I barely have the energy to wake up in the morning and when I do, I can’t seem to find happiness in anything. And, on top of all that, I think I’ve turned into a moth!”

The dentist looks the man up and down and strokes his chin. “I’m sorry, sir, it sounds like you had a rough life, but this is a dentist’s office. Why did you come here?”

The man points up and replies, “Oh. The light was on.”

**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? Would you like to make a PowerPoint presentation for your family photos? Do you want to understand the online games your grandchildren play? Do you want to play games on your computer or phone? We can show you how!

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).

**OLLI Café**

**Today: October 4th, 2019**

**12:15 - 1:30pm, Room 113**

**DR. CHARLES MCNAIR:**

**SOLDIERS OF A FOREIGN WAR**

Dr. McNair is a retired physician who served during the Vietnam war prior to returning to medical school. Dr. McNair is the author of the novel “Soldiers of a Foreign War” which tells the story of the combatants of the Vietnam war and the many hardships that they endured. The goal of writing this novel was to offer a depiction of the war and its effect on the young soldiers from both sides of the battlefield. Dr. McNair will quote passages from his novel that reflect his personal experiences in Vietnam which include the deplorable conditions that the soldiers had to endure, the tunnel system that was built by the enemy and the issues that the soldiers faced after returning home.

**Coming Up Next: October 11th, 2019**

**GERALD O’CONNELL:**

**ARE WE IN ROME?**
What a Great Trip!
OLLI trip to Beauport Princess
Gloucester, Massachusetts

by Barbara Gavin

We started out on a beautiful Tuesday morning on September 17 with 45 people on board, happily guided by Bob, OLLI's favorite Friendship Tour Guide. We enjoyed a lovely trip through Connecticut to Gloucester, Massachusetts.

We stepped aboard the elegant Beauport Princess boat and settled back for a cruise from one of New England's most photogenic harbors: Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Our sights included Ten Pound Island Lighthouse, Fisherman's Statue, Hammond Castle, and so much more. The buffet lunch was delicious! Our choices included fresh crisp salad, North Atlantic haddock, chicken piccata, penne pasta Alfredo, steamed vegetables, potatoes, and a luscious chocolate mousse. There was a terrific DJ who also narrated the sights. We could view everything from all sides including three outdoor levels.

In the afternoon, we visited Rockport, Massachusetts, one of the oldest artisan colonies for fun shopping in the many galleries enjoying the beautiful harbor views. Rockport is the perfect seaside destination for relaxation, unmatched beauty, serenity, and history. We took a stroll along Bearskin Neck, then walked to the end for a panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean and the breakwater enjoying the many shops, cafes, and art galleries along the way.

Returning to Waterbury, our tour guide, Bob, was excellent as usual! On the way home we watched the movie "The Perfect Storm" which was filmed in Gloucester and tells a true story of the fishermen there. Bob is always attentive to our needs and helped ensure an excellent experience!

The OLLI trips are always fun, educational, and interesting! Sign up and join us!

Upcoming OLLI Travel

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.)

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.
OLLI Book Club
The Book Club meets the third Monday of every month in Room 102 @ 1:00pm. Come by!

Oct. 21: Georgia by Dawn Tripp
Nov. 18: Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Contact: nvia@sbcglobal.net

OLLI Genealogy Club
The Genealogy Club meets the third Thursday of the month. This semester: 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 Film Club
The Film Club meets on three Wednesdays in the Fall and Spring semesters.

The showing of Antonia's Line will be held on Wednesday, October 16th, 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 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

Find a full list of OLLI Clubs and Committees and their descriptions on Page 4 of the course catalog!

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/

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

Questions?
Call (860) 486-4930
 Last weekend was a busy one. Friday evening I saw “Wait Until Dark” at the Warner Theatre in Torrington. On Saturday morning, I stopped by the Museum of American Art in New Britain to review two of their current exhibitions. Then a Facebook item caught my eye regarding a show and reception in West Hartford featuring an artist from Meriden, where I live, so off I went! My intention was to write this week’s column about New Britain and give a two or three sentence mention to the Meriden artist. Well, New Britain will have to wait until next week. The art show I saw at the Monastery Art Gallery at Holy Family and Copper Beech Retreat Center touched me on such a deep and personal level that I am devoting all of this week’s offering to it.

 The exhibition showcases 50 works by Meriden artist Nick Scalise. I have lived in Meriden for the past 15 years, and enjoy finding my way around Meriden and learning about the past and present culture there. I have met many wonderful, talented and down to earth people. They are much like the Waterbury natives whom I have gotten to know, love and respect through OLLI. The cultures of the two cities are very similar, and I say that in the hopes of enticing you to take a trip to West Hartford to enjoy this beautiful show. Nick Scalise (1932-2009) was a life-long Meriden resident. His father died when he was six and his mother, with limited English and even more limited ways of making a living, was left to raise her family of five children. This story reminded me of OLLI member Nancy Schuler’s one-woman play about her Italian grandmother in Waterbury! Nick’s art aptitude and talent was evident even as a young child and he was asked by the priest at the neighborhood Italian parish of Mount Carmel to do a drawing from which a stone sculpture could be made by local masons. Scalise, whose work can be found in public and private collections in the U.S. and throughout the world, understood the human persona. At the reception his daughter Rosann, a writer, shared her stories about growing up with such an incredible father and artist. I also had the opportunity to sit down with his widow Henrietta for a few minutes to ask about her life with Nick. We found out that we live right around the corner from each other, and we also had a connection in that she was born in Jamaica, New York where I attended high school and college! She worked as a nurse at Midstate Hospital supporting the family financially, while Nick, after leaving his position as an instructor at Westport Artists School, devoted all of his time to his art. She was his biggest supporter and enabled him to share his gifts with the world.

 His media were oils, watercolor, pencil and acrylics. He was also an accomplished sculptor. His daughter explained that his keen eye could see something beautiful in every mundane thing which most of us would never notice. My favorite painting is a small self-painting of Nick operating a snowblower on a beautiful still winter evening. You can actually feel the cold air and hear the snowblower over the otherwise silent yard. A man either working resignedly or enjoying the briskness after a day in his studio! Another one which caught my eye depicts a young black boy sitting on an open air porch in Rockport, Massachusetts. I couldn’t believe it - another OLLI connection - I had walked by that building two weeks ago on our OLLI trip to Gloucester and Rockport! Scalise placed a black child into the painting as a social statement - beautiful! He also painted many scenes from his trips to Italy. The portrait of his mother is absolute perfection - the Italian matriarch, kind, humble and hard-working. My words don’t do justice to this show, and I hope you will avail yourself of the opportunity to see it before it closes on October 27. There is no better time than October to visit the beautiful grounds of the retreat center. Enjoy the beautiful artwork of Nick Scalise, a little Italian kid from Meriden, truly a giant in the art world!
I'm sitting in the Student Lounge at the downtown Waterbury branch of UConn. The sun is shining on the statuesque fountain in the quad, making the stones at the foundation glimmer like jewels. I am alone in here; through the glass, other students sit around the black wrought-iron tables, enjoying the pleasant weather, talking and laughing amongst themselves, outside in the quad. Square planters surround the fountain, bursting with petunias in salmon, fuchsia, and white - not colors I would have chosen, but nobody asked me for my opinion.

Such a peaceful spot, the quiet and serenity only occasionally broken by a lone student or maintenance worker passing by my table. It’s summer, and few classes are in session, the perfect time to sit and write, here at my little metal table with the blue plastic chairs. During the Spring semester, I seldom found this area quiet as it was usually bustling with students and instructors; loud greetings echoed off the walls and chairs were scraped on the floor as people came and went.

I hear the murmurs of a man on his cell phone, his conversation clear to me from three tables away. No one who uses a cell phone in public should expect privacy, so I listen as he discusses personal matters concerning his health – too much information!

There are American red maples planted along the far end of the quad, and they were planted too close to the foundation. These trees were probably planted as three to four foot specimens, so whoever did the planting did not allow for future growth. Again, nobody asked me.

The small basketball court in the corner is usually in use as I walk by on my way to class, but today it stands empty and forlorn. It’s too hot in the sun for a pick-up game today.

A bed of healthy-looking hydrangea plants hugs the closest wall, next to the first set of French doors, leading out of the lounge into the courtyard. Soon they’ll be blooming. I can see hundreds of buds that formed on the lush growth. Clearly, somebody knew how to plant hydrangeas, and they didn’t even ask me!

Thanks to Carol Ann Laferriere for her contribution. The newsletter encourages readers to contribute to the Newsletter – any item which you think might interesting to OLLI members.