Facebook started off as a neat way to communicate with your friends and to interact with the friends of your friends. It has since evolved into something which could be much more sinister. Geoffrey A. Fowler, in an article in the Washington Post, wrote, “Even with Facebook closed on my phone, the social network gets notified when I use the Peet’s Coffee. It knows when I read the website of presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg or view articles from The Atlantic. Facebook knows when I click on my Home Depot shopping cart and when I open the Ring To answer my video doorbell. It uses all this information from my not-on-Facebook, real-world life to shape the messages I see from businesses and politicians alike.”

OLLI members, how many of you were aware that Facebook is tracking you even with the phone off? “There is not necessarily a new privacy violation here. Facebook has been partnering websites, apps and stores to track and target customers for years. And it’s hardly alone. Lots of companies send information about us to ad data firms. Think of it more as a reminder that we’re all living in a reality TV program where the cameras are always on. Anyone who is concerned about the power Facebook has to manipulate people and shape elections should care about how it tracks us. It’s easy to forget with the constant barrage of Zuckerberg’s privacy apologies and fines, but here’s the reality: Facebook keeps gathering more and more data about us, with few laws restricting how it can use it.”

Many journalists and commentators have been concerned about this lack of transparency. A Pew survey published in 2019 found that 74% of American Facebook members were unaware that the social network builds a dossier on each of us to target ads. Facebook makes its surveillance systems so convoluted and boring that we are less likely to object.

Fowler states further, “Here’s the big picture: Everybody’s experience on Facebook and Instagram is different. Your feed might be filled with stories about luxury real estate and ads from Mike Bloomberg, while mine might be NASCAR and Donald Trump commercials. That’s because Facebook’s software uses the data it gathers about us to tailor what it shows us. Facebook also let advertisers target messages to the people the data suggest might be most receptive — or, in the case of political advertisers, easily swayed.”

According to Facebook, it puts limitations on the information that it shares with organizations. Supposedly they do not pass along health and financial information. But who really knows?

So, what can you do if you don’t want Facebook collecting all this data in the first place, asks Fowler. He suggests an app that Facebook has put in its settings, but it is very difficult to find. The app is called “Off-Facebook Activity.” Good luck in searching for it! He also mentions web browsers that fight trackers, like Mozilla’s Firefox. It seems to me that you must be much more computer-literate than most of us to get rid of the ubiquitous Facebook.

So, OLLI members, there is the ultimate fix. Say goodbye to Facebook and Instagram and close your accounts. And just to make sure, get off the Internet and get rid of your computer because you’re being tracked there also.

Unfortunately, that’s not a choice most people have been willing to make. Just be careful out there!
VOICES and VISIONS

Starting an art, photography, or writing course soon? The OLLI Editorial Committee invites you, as an OLLI student, to submit your work to our yearly literary and arts publication, Voices and Visions. Have you wondered what Voices and Visions is? Voices and Visions is a yearly publication created by OLLI members that showcases your writing skills, your interests, or your creative works in the form of artwork of any kind. We want to see what you have created and what you would like to share with the OLLI community. If you are an OLLI member this year, and have taken classes, you are eligible to submit your work. As your Editorial Committee, we meet and go over the submissions to find places for them in Voices and Visions. If needed, we will get in touch with you about any editing that might need to be gently done. We have a photographer who will work with you to be sure we get photos of your artwork to look its best. Guidelines and submission forms are online.

If possible, we ask you to submit your forms online: UConnOlliReview@gmail.com OR LizHanahan@aol.com OR leave them in the OLLI office.

The new Walking Activity group met for the first time Wednesday, February 19, at the entrance to the Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail in Meriden. OLLI members who came to walk enjoyed a stellar winter day, as the shone brightly with only a slight breeze in the air. It was an easy, paved walk along the banks of the river. Although the trees lining the river were still bare, it was a visual delight to note the swift currents of the rushing water splashing over the rocks, and producing what looked like glistening, twinkling stars. What a wonderful sight! The next scheduled walk is Wednesday, March 18, at Scoville Reservoir Loop in Wolcott. We begin at 10:00 a.m., weather permitting, and invite you to join us. If you have any questions, contact Diane Visconti at (203) 215-8548, or email her at Vis1795@aol.com.

-Gen Delkescamp

ATTENTION: Please note that the UConn Bookstore will now be open from 8:30am-12:30pm on Fridays. This was a decision by Barnes & Noble. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please note that UConn Starbucks is located directly across the street from the main building for your afternoon coffee and snack needs on Fridays. Thank you for your understanding.

OLLI Café

Today: February 28, 2020
12:15 - 1:30pm, Room 113

Maureen Edwards: Climbing Kilimanjaro

Do you think you have to be a super athlete to climb Mount Kilimanjaro? Or is it possible for the average person to make the climb? Maureen Edwards, an OLLI member and certified average person, will take you through her journey to prepare for the climb, the highlights of her climb, and the thrill of ultimately reaching the top of Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet on March 12, 2008. With the help of a great group of people even an everyday person can summit!

NEXT WEEK, 3/6: Kim Tallcouch: The Wonders of Feathers
**My Worst Fears**

I walk already amid the beginning of my worst fears. They are not spiders, or snakes, or even fear of very tall heights. No, today the world around us has evolved to a point where we are afraid to speak our minds. In my worst fears I imagine myself walking through a very dark place in the future where this has been allowed to multiply, where I dare not say what I may be thinking at any time because almost ANY thought may offend someone. I will be trapped in this horrific place, filled with the gleeful ghosts of hateful historical times, where I, or anyone, no matter who, do not dare say what our beliefs might be, no matter how benign our intentions. We will be instilled with the fear that those beliefs may put us on some Master List of “evil doers” that will bring some sort of retribution down on us. “Thought Police” will be patrolling. If I use the wrong words, I will be excoriated. I will be living in a hateful time when I will not know who I can trust or who I can feel free to talk with. At the same time I will realize that others are walking by me feeling the same reticence and fear - fear walking in silence past fear. We will be living in our own private prisons, constantly hiding all our thoughts. We will be a new form of robotic people, no matter what our point of view. To intellectually neuter all will be the mission of society.

A world of self-imposed fear is a very scary place that I am hoping I will not have to live in. I am also hoping that somehow these tendencies, already starting to cripple us, will start to reverse themselves.

-Ann Rompre

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**Walking Activity**

“Nature quiets the mind by engaging with an intelligence larger than our own.”

Come and walk in nature with some OLLI friends. Experience the beauty in our different communities. All walks are easy with some minor hill climbing. We will walk for approximately an hour. Third Wednesday at 10:00am. Meet at parking area. Bad weather will cancel the walk.

**March 18th**: Scovill Reservoir Loop in Wolcott Park. Park at St. Pius Church, 517 Woodtick Road. Flat 3.5-mile loop.

**April 15th**: DeDominicus Preserve, Old Lane, Cheshire. (Route 10 to Old Farms Road. At crest of hill there is a kiosk on left. Park on the side of the road. The trail is through the woods. More challenging, as it is not paved and there are hills. The beauty is well worth it! Hiking boots recommended.

**May 20th**: Hopbrook Trail, Naugatuck. Parking at lot at the intersection of Routes 63 and 188.

**Questions?** Diane Visconti (203)215-8548 or email Vis1795@aol.com

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**Upcoming OLLI Travel**

**SPRING 2020**

- **4/22/2020**: Harlem, NYC – member cost $109
- **6/5/2020**: NYC Philharmonic - Copland & Nico Muhly conducted by Jaap VanZweden- member cost $122 pp

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 at 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.

**REMINDER TO OLLI TRAVELERS FOR THE PHILHARMONIC TRIP**

Reservations for the Philharmonic Day Trip, June 5, 2020, need to be in by the end of MARCH.

Please make sure to reserve this trip early.

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**TECHNOLOGY CLINIC**

with Timothy Padgett

3/6, 3/20, 4/3, & 4/17 in Rm 317
12:00 pm - 1:00 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! Walk-ins welcome!
OLLI Book Club
The Book Club meets the third Monday of every month in Room 102 @ 1:00pm. Come by!

March 16: Lost Roses by Martha Hall Kelly
April 20: The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See
May 18: The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah
June 15: Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver
July 20: Warlight by Michael Ondaatje
August 17: Tobacco Road by Erskine Caldwell
September 21: Consider the Fork by Bee Wilson
Contact: nvia@sbcglobal.net

OLLI Genealogy Club
The Genealogy Club meets the second Tuesday of the month. This semester, we will meet on March 10 and April 14, 12:00 - 1:30pm 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 Film Club
The next film club event will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 @ Noon in Room 324
Bring your own lunch. Free popcorn will be provided!!

Missed a newsletter? Find past issues online @ https://olli.uconn.edu/weekly-newsletters/

Find a full list of OLLI Clubs and Committees and their descriptions on Page 3 of the course catalog!

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/

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

Course Proposal Deadlines
The submission deadline is Friday, April 17th, 2020 for Summer proposals (6/1 - 6/26) and Friday, May 29th, 2020 for Fall proposals (9/8 - 11/13).
Submit online: https://olli.uconn.edu/course-proposal-form/
I must admit that my semi-annual tongue-in-cheek opera column about the livestreaming of the Metropolitan Opera’s season is my favorite one to write. I do my research, and the twists and turns of the plots never fail to inspire my comedic asides. But I also learn so much about the composers and the stories of how each opera was written. I have learned so much about opera and, as a bonus, I am really upping my crossword puzzle game!!

I was thrilled to see Porgy and Bess at the Warner in Torrington a couple of weeks ago. I got the last seat in the house, and what a treat it was to enjoy one of my favorites on the big screen up close, if not exactly in person. But it is live, and very special! The ensemble’s incredible voices transported the audience to Catfish Row with all its human foibles and struggles.

TOMORROW!!! Saturday, February 29, an updated Handel’s Agrippina is set in contemporary times. Don’t miss this one, especially if you are tuned into our current national drama. And who at OLLI isn’t? The opera tells the tale of Agrippina, the mother of Nero, who wants to install her son as emperor of Rome and plots the downfall of her husband Claudius. Claudius, who was on his deathbed, miraculously springs back to life, however, so Agrippina has her work cut out for her! Betrayal, lies, infidelities, lust for power, it’s got it all! Handel wrote the role of Nero to be sung by one of the castrati, and this 21st century version has the terrific mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey in this role! Lots of plot twists and turns, worthy of a daytime soap. Who gets the throne? Tune in tomorrow!

March 14, Die Fliegende Hollander (The Flying Dutchman) is Wagner’s tale of the cursed fisherman who is damned to travel the seas forever because he once invoked Satan. But, once every seven years he gets to find land and look for a faithful woman who will release him from his fate!!! Talk about a challenge!! It’s hard enough to find a mate nowadays even with all the websites, apps, etc. Can you imagine only being able to check into land every seven years? However, a cursed Flying Dutchman’s gotta do what he’s gotta do. Will he get the girl? Well, in a way…. The Met is touting the sets which they say “turn the Met stage into a rich, layered tableau reminiscent of a vast oil painting.” That alone sounds like an enticement to attend!

April 11, Giacomo Puccini’s Tosca, the story of the diva and her love triangle is set in Rome in 1800, as the kingdom of Naples’ control of Rome is threatened by Napoleon’s invasion. (Really, Nunzio deFilippis can tell you a lot more about this than I can.) The painter Cavaradossi is painting a blond Mary Magdalene (that’s a stretch in itself) who looks like a beautiful local Marchesa. His girlfriend, the singer Floria Tosca, immediately becomes jealous when she sees this likeness and accuses him of infidelity. Enter Scarpia, the evil chief of police, who covets Tosca for himself. Hmm, this may not turn out well for our artist friend. More action, Cavaradossi has an hour to live, but spends the time reminiscing about their love trysts, instead of trying to escape. Does anybody survive? Spoiler alert: No, but there is a lot of good singing.

May 9, Donizetti’s Maria Stuarda - you speak Italian, don’t you? Nineteenth century Italy had a fascination with English history, especially the Three Queens, including the martyred Mary Stuart (there, I gave away the ending!) This opera isn’t exactly a household word, but reading up on it really piqued my interest. It is loosely based on the lives of Mary, Queen of Scots and her cousin Elizabeth I and their political and personal rivalry. The thoughts of them singing in Italian, as well as the period costumes, are enough to make me want to see it!

All shows on Saturday afternoons at 12:55pm. Many OLLI members attend the Regal Cinema in Waterbury and The Warner in Torrington, but there are other venues in CT. Some show encores (taped) on Wednesday evenings. For about $25 you can be up close and personal - no need to drive into the city, battle the crowds, or dig out your opera glasses! (Put some candy into your pocket, but don’t make too much noise when you unwrap it!)
"Lexophile" describes those who have a love for words, displayed in phrases such as "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish" or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by The New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile. This year's winning submission is posted at the end:

No matter how much you push an envelope, it will still be stationery.

If you don’t pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can’t put it down.

I didn’t like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn’t control her pupils?

If you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me.

I changed my iPod’s name to Titanic. It’s syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarian Club, but I’d swear I’ve never met herbivore.

I know a guy who’s addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

When a dentist and a manicurist married, they fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Police were summoned to a nursery where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she’d dye.

-Sheila Morisette