

OLLI Café is a venue for the exchange of ideas and experiences focusing on improving the quality of life. The goal of OLLI Café is to present a potpourri of presentations and activities that provide information and new knowledge to OLLI members.

Bring your lunch and we will provide the coffee and fruit! OLLI Café presentations are open to all OLLI members. These are not courses—OLLI Café is one of the benefits of your annual OLLI membership. Pre-registration is not required.

The weekly event features a guest speaker followed by a short Q&A session.

Fridays—Room #113 • 11:30 – 12:00 Lunch • 12:00 – 1:00 Speaker Presentation

SEPTEMBER 18

Forensic Science

Forensic science is the application of a broad spectrum of scientific practices to answer questions of interest to the legal system. While popular crime shows and the media have heightened public interest in forensics in the 21st century, the discipline has a long and unique history. This history, as well as the techniques currently utilized by forensic scientists, crime scene investigators, and other law enforcement agencies in conducting criminal investigations will be discussed as some current issues in forensic science are explored.

Colleen Altenburger is a science teacher at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury, where she has currently designed and implemented the forensic science curriculum. She received a BS in Biology from Providence College and an MS in Natural Sciences from the University at Buffalo in conjunction with the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. She has been a professional educator for eleven years.

SEPTEMBER 25

The Freedom of Information Commission Works For You

The purpose of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission is to insure that the workings of state and local governments are open to the public. This includes open meetings, access to documents and full disclosure of the activities of all agencies on all levels. You will learn how the agency operates, how the public can make use of its services and highlights from a few cases of special significance.

Sherman London has been a member of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission since 1997 and has served as hearing officer on complaints involving about 500 cases. As a reporter for the Waterbury Republican and The American (then two newspapers) he covered local and state government, politics and the Connecticut General Assembly. For 20 years, he was editor of the editorial pages for both newspapers. He has always been a strong supporter of open government.

OCTOBER 2

Renaissance Women Artists

The most celebrated artists of the Renaissance are all men: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. However, there were also a number of important female artists, whose accomplishments until recently have been very much underestimated, if not totally ignored. Three exceptional Renaissance women have helped define the role of professional female artists. They made it possible for other generations to follow in their footsteps: Sophonisba Anguissola (ca. 1535 - 1625), Lavinia Fontana (1552 – 1612) and Artemisia Gentileschi (1593 – 1652).

Véronique Sintobin Dulack is a Belgian born art-historian who has been teaching as an adjunct professor at the Waterbury Campus of the University of Connecticut since 2000. From 1987 to 1999, she was an associate researcher in the Department of European Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where she continues to lecture. Her most recent publication is the monograph *Belgium-Art-New York*

OCTOBER 9

Bacteria and Other Microbes – Friends or Foe?

Are we too clean? Our primitive ancestors evolved close to the earth and were in constant contact with countless microbes. These tiny creatures have learned to adapt to, and in many cases live symbiotically with, the human immune system. New research suggests that our Western obsession with cleanliness may be having a disastrous effect upon our health. The abuse of antibiotics and over-use of anti-microbial cleaners may be destroying these “good bugs” and may be at the root of many cases of asthma, allergies and autoimmune diseases.

Dr. James Prado, returning OLLI presenter is a chiropractic physician and has always had a keen interest in the ability to sustain health naturally. Although the life-saving miracles of high-tech medicine are at times necessary to restore lost health, nature provides all that is necessary to maintain optimal health. He draws on contemporary research that acknowledges the rapid growth of lifestyle-related chronic disease and supports a natural

approach to lifestyle modification as a means of reducing the burden of chronic disease.

OCTOBER 16

The View From Cracker Hill

Enjoy the memoir of an inner city girlhood during the 1950s in Waterbury. Hear selected readings from the book, related to local history and personal reflections, learn how the author came to write it and participate in sharing your own reminiscences.

Bettejane Wesson is a Waterbury native and neighborhood activist who loves her city's history and its potential. She earned a BA from Albertus Magnus, and has degrees in English and Communication and a Master's Degree in Humanities. She also has a Certificate in leading writing workshops from Amherst Writers and Artists Institute.

OCTOBER 23

Climate Change and Connecticut

Polar bears are having a tough time in the Arctic, but how about Connecticut? Will we see the effects of climate change? When? How much? And what can we do?

Laurel L. Kohl is the Education and Training Energy Specialist at Eastern Connecticut State University's Institute for Sustainable Energy. She has many years of experience with adult and child education in community programs and science enrichment. At the Institute, she is creating a center for K-12 Energy Education Resources and developing consumer and educator support programs.

OCTOBER 30

F. Luis Mora: America's First Hispanic Master

F. Luis Mora (1874-1940) was born in Uruguay, and became one of the leading American artists of his generation. Mora was a charismatic personality who built a country home and studio in the Gaylordsville section of New Milford. With a colorful slide show picturing his paintings, come hear how Mora assimilated into American culture and won many coveted awards, while keeping true to his Hispanic roots.

Lynne Pauls Baron is an independent art historian, lecturer, appraiser and the author of *F. Luis Mora: America's First Hispanic Master*, 341 pages, published by Falk Art Reference. She has lectured on Mora at the University of Miami and the National Arts Club in New York City, and is guest curator of the exhibition of Mora's works that opens September 25, 2009 at the Mattatuck Museum.

NOVEMBER 6

OLLI Appreciation Event

OLLI Café today is the OLLI Appreciation Event to honor OLLI presenters. Please come and support the dedication and volunteerism of our presenters!