On December 20th, I attended a funeral for one of our members; and not surprisingly, I was surrounded by many of the OLLI family. What did surprise me was how the clergy emphasized the importance of OLLI in the life of that member—how much he contributed to OLLI and how much OLLI contributed to his life.

Funerals force us to confront our own mortality; and yet they also provide a time to celebrate the wonders of a life well-lived. They give us an opportunity to reflect on our own lives, and how we may better take advantage of the time allotted to us—how we may better enrich our own lives and, in doing so, enrich the lives of our loved ones.

During these times, I recall teachings from the past:

If some messenger were to come to us with the offer that death should be overthrown, but with the one inseparable condition that birth should also cease; if the existing generation were given the chance to live for ever, but on the clear understanding that never again would there be a child, or a youth, or a first love, never again new persons with new hopes, new ideas, new achievements, ourselves for always and never others—could the answer be in doubt? (H. L. Samuel in Chaim Stern: Day By Day, p175).

I often feel that death is not the enemy of life, but its friend; for it is the knowledge that our years are limited that makes them so precious. (J. L. Liebman in Chaim Stern: Day By Day, p173).

Those of us in OLLI know these lessons better than most. Many of us are constantly involved in acts of creation—not only for self-fulfillment; but also to leave these works behind for the benefit of those following us. These activities include, but are not limited to: writing, painting, photographing, designing stained glass, sculpting, filming, teaching, dancing, and community discussion, involvement, and betterment. Those of us in OLLI appreciate the preciousness of our lives and are determined to experience fully the bliss of this universe. Those of us in OLLI will continue to share, teach, learn, and be responsible for maintaining and providing this extraordinary opportunity to others, who are willing to answer this call to adventure.

Recruit a new member, lead a workshop, join a committee, follow your bliss, enrich your life, share and experience the joy of your journey with us.

Sincerely,

arnie katz
Spring registration is now complete and we thank most of the membership for their patience and understanding during a very trying time for all of us, including the OLLI staff and STARS volunteers, while we endeavored to answer phones and emails as fast as humanly possible. For providing registration assistance, we thank: Ellen Guarnieri, Tina Alexander, Janet Creamer, Helen Emmerich, Terri McCoy, Barbara Pollack, Pat Statuch, Vic Suben.

Obviously, our automated registration system still needs some “tweaking” and we are working closely with the vendor to ensure that all future processes are working correctly. Currently members have registered for our “Paint the Town” event, using their credit cards, without any issues, and I believe this assures us that the system can and will work efficiently.

To compensate for some the “glitches,” room reservations were changed, where necessary, to accommodate more members. Be sure to check the large room schedules posted on the 3 major bulletin boards, near the OLLI offices. As usual, this schedule is posted online at the OLLI website: www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli. Individual revised schedules are available in all OLLI meeting rooms. It is members’ responsibility to become aware of updates and changes.

Immediately, we would like to offer members the opportunity to give back to OLLI, by leading a workshop for 4 weeks in the month of June. During June Activities, we ask you to consider leading sessions covering topics of your interest, hobbies, crafts and games, along with academic workshops. This is the time to show us your stuff!! Remember, there is no registration required for June Activities; you just relax, show up and enjoy.
Please look for Application forms on the bulletin boards. Any questions, please contact Curriculum Co-chairs – Ellen Guarnieri and/or Carole Gambrell.

Please remember that bad weather occurs during the coming months and some or all workshops may be cancelled. Workshop leaders are advised to email or call the OLLI office, if they need to cancel, at any time. Members can call 632-OLLI and listen to the outgoing voicemail message that will be in place after 8 am when necessary. In these circumstances if you are not comfortable, driving to or walking at the University, please stay safe. (Only the governor can close the University and this doesn’t happen too often).

Join us at the General Membership Meeting, on Wednesday, Feb. 6 in WANG, Lecture Hall 1. Refreshments and socializing take place at 12 noon in the lobby outside. Your positive input and interest is always welcome and appreciated.

Less than 8 weeks till Spring!
Despite the difficult registration process, most of us got into the workshops that we wanted. And, by the time you read this, all but a very few classrooms will have seats available. The first two weeks of every semester the attrition rate is quite high for a variety of reasons. People decide that the course isn’t for them. Others decide a particular day’s schedule doesn’t work for them. Many have unexpected family or health issues. So if you are still interested in a course, email the leader to see if a space is available for you.

The volunteers of our curriculum committee work very hard to assemble a large and varied slate of workshops. The volunteer workshop leaders put time, energy and enthusiasm into every presentation. Do you think the key word of this paragraph is volunteer? Bingo! You’re right. What have you volunteered to do? What skill or interest can you give to this organization?

We on the curriculum committee will start asking you in March and April to step up to the plate and join our efforts to expand our curriculum for our growing population. Remember, we can put teams of leaders together if need be so that any one leader’s work load and schedule demand is manageable. So be prepared to say yes when you’re asked!

**Welcome back to OLLI’s spring semester!**

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**OLLl IS A COOPERATIVE VENTURE**

Your suggestions for workshops and activities are welcome and necessary to maintain the vitality of our organization. If you are considering leading a workshop or activity, please email Ellen Guarnieri (see your OLLI directory).

We value your ideas!
## Monthly Calendar

### February 2013

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<tr>
<td>Super Bowl</td>
<td>OLLI workshops start</td>
<td>9 am – Arts Council OLLI Conf. Rm</td>
<td>12 Noon OLLI Genrl Member Mtg WANG.LH 1</td>
<td>9:30am Special Events Committee S102</td>
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<td>10 Chinese New Yr.</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>13 Paint the Town - $62</td>
<td>14 Happy Valentine’s Day</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>18 Presidents' Day</td>
<td>19 2-4pm Collect Art for Art Wall –S106</td>
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<td>24 Flag Day Of Mexico</td>
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<td>26 10 am Budget Mtg OLLI Conf. Rm</td>
<td>27 10:30 am EXECUTIVE BOARD MTG - S102</td>
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**Notes:**
- Friday, Mar. 1 at 1pm “Meet the Artist” with reception – S102
- Join us to view the art and hear the stories.
Paint the Town Studio & Restaurant Joanina

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013

10:30am-1:00pm  Paint the Town Studio art class
Located at 17 Green St in Huntington, NY
Enjoy a unique lesson with painting, music & fun!
All skill levels are welcome! Materials provided.
1:30 pm Lunch at Restaurant Joanina, located at
35A Gerard St. Huntington Village, NY
Includes Salad, Choice of Chicken, Pasta,
or Salmon, Coffee, Tea & Biscotti
Transportation on your own. Carpool suggested
$62 per member, register online Jan 14th, 10am

Coordinated by:
Connie Buckingham & Barbara Chadakoff
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
Thursday, March 14, 2013

8:00am - Bus departs SBU South P-lot
8:30am - Bus departs Huntington Exit 49N LIE
10:00am - Arrive at the Met Museum
10:30am - Architectural & Design Tour
One hour guided tour may include:
Frank Lloyd Wright room, George Nakashima Room, & the American Wing.
Lunch on your own.
3:30pm Approximate departure for home.

Visit the OLLI website to Register
www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olfi/
Click on Special Events
$48 per person

Coordinated by Bunnye Avril
& Lottie Bennett
Although we know all about our Stony Brook OLLI chapter, we are going to look at some of the other OLLI chapters located at Colleges and Universities throughout the United States. We are also going to look at the history of OLLI.

Bernard Osher and his wife, the Honorable Barbro Osher, started the Bernard Osher Foundation (also known as OLLI) in 1977. The Foundation, which is headquartered in San Francisco, provides post-secondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to reentry students. It also benefits programs in integrative medicine in the United States and Sweden, including centers at the University of California, San Francisco; Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston; and The Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Bernard Osher is a native of Biddeford, Maine and a graduate of Bowdoin College. Barbro Osher is a native of Stockholm and a graduate of Stockholm University. She is an Honorary Consul General of Sweden in California. She also serves on the Board of the University of California (Berkeley) Foundation, as well as other boards in Sweden. Perhaps the most prestigious award for Barbro was being a recipient of His Majesty the King’s Medal in 2002. The career of Bernard Osher began managing his family’s hardware and plumbing supplies store in Maine. He went on to Oppenheimer & Company in New York before moving to California. The vast fortune of this amazing couple, who conduct their philanthropy through the OLLI Foundation, has touched and improved so many lives.

In early 2001, an endowment grant was given to the University of Southern Maine to improve and extend their program named “Senior College.” Their name was changed to “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.” A short time later, Sonoma State University, a member of the California State University, became a grantee. Because both programs progressed so well, the Foundation in 2002 issued requests for Proposals to campuses in the California State University and University of California system and the OLLI program was born. At present, 116 lifelong learning programs in 50 states are active and growing. I went to the map of the 50 states to see how many chapters each state had. It came as no surprise that California has, by far, the most programs. Since Sonoma State University and the University of Southern Maine were the first two OLLI chapters to be formed back in 2001, I wanted to see where they were in their programs in the year 2012.

In 2001 when Bernard Osher contacted the President of USM to discuss funding for a Lifelong Learning Institute on their campus, the “Senior College” program that had been started in 1997 had six classes which were held on Fridays only. In order to be accepted into OLLI, the name “Senior College” had to be changed to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). By 2007, the OLLI program in Portland, Maine, had a membership of 1000. In 2008 OLLI moved into the Wishcamper Center on the University campus which allowed them to expand their program to five days a week. In 2010, OLLI began offering evening and weekend classes to accommodate members who were still working. In 2012, OLLI had a total of 163 courses and their membership is now 1400 and growing. The OLLI program at the University of Southern
Maine is proud to be the “first grantees” as they celebrate their 15th anniversary.

Sonoma State University, which has three locations within the California State University system, was the second grantees. One location is on the Sonoma campus itself and another is held at an Adult Community named Oakmont in Santa Rosa California. The third is in historic Villa Chanticleer in the City of Healdsburg. This Northern California city of 11,254 is known as one of the region’s wine capitals. Three of the most important wine-producing regions, the Russian River, Dry Creek, and Alexander Valley meet in Healdsburg. Needless to say, the Healdsburg OLLI students must be the happiest people in the world. The membership for the three locations is well over 800.

I went to the map of the entire United States, Hawaii and Alaska to see how many chapters each state has. California has the most with 13 OLLI chapters in Northern California and 12 OLLI chapters in Southern California. California State University and the University of California have the most on their campus. San Diego, Los Angeles, Long Beach and Palm Desert are some of the cities, with San Francisco being the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute headquarters. Florida has six chapters all the way from St. Petersburg to North Miami. Pennsylvania has 5 chapters at Carnegie Mellon, Temple and Penn State to name a few. Massachusetts, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia have 4 chapters and 5 states have 3, a few more have 2 and the rest of the states have only one chapter. New York has two chapters. One is Stony Brook campus and the other is the Rochester Institute of Technology, in Rochester, NY. The total chapters for OLLI presently is 116.

Because I write for the Chronicles newsletter I was interested in other newsletters that I found. One is called “Gray Matters” which I thought was a great name. We all basically cover the same news from our chapters. I do like an idea in one, however, of a cake and cookie bake sale. Workshops throughout the country offer a lot of the same courses. Naturally they are influenced by the area they are in. What I thought was exciting was a travel program called “eldertrecks.” I realize that our OLLI membership here in Long Island has traveled collectively to every corner of the earth. If you bring up eldertrecks you will find their X factor Adventure travel of the beaten path. 15 Days in Argentina and Antartica. I have no doubt however that someone in our OLLI family has been there too.

A lot of the OLLI programs throughout the country charge for 2 or 3 courses and that is usually for only one semester. Some also pay for parking daily. We can choose up to eight courses and have free parking. Our annual tuition for eight courses for two semesters, is one of the best in the entire program. We also are fortunate to attend a beautiful university where our classes are close to each other and in one location.

Fred Friedman, an OLLI Past President, recently attended the OLLI National Conference with Janet McLean in Colorado Springs. The following is his report.
After being asked to represent our program at the OLLI National Conference, which was held in Colorado Springs, I immediately bought 2 airline tickets. Our youngest daughter lives there with her family. Janet McLean, our Director, was also representing us.

Arriving in Denver on November 12, we drove to Colorado Springs, which is about 90 miles south. We checked into the Broadmoor Hotel and were immediately surrounded by many OLLI people from all over the country. They made us feel very welcome. The evening started with a reception from the National Osher Foundation’s corporate president and founder, Bernard Osher. After his welcome speech, executive director, Kali Lightfoot, spoke. She thanked everyone for coming and then proceeded to talk about all the programs available to us while at the conference. I found out that there are 116 OLLI chapters located in 290 cities across the country. Janet and I then went to dinner and did not meet up with each other until breakfast the next day.

At dinner I sat with a couple from Jacksonville, Florida; a director from Lubbock, Texas; another director from Alabama and two past presidents from two OLLI chapters. The director at Texas Tech University, Emma Carrasco and I teased each other for two days about our accents.

Janet and I attended different conference sessions so we would not duplicate the information received in them. The conference broke us up into small groups to discuss many different scenarios on how to run and do workshops more efficiently. Janet attended the ones pertaining to her position as a director and I choose three that would give me some idea as to the way other OLLI chapters do their workshops.

I met the director of the University of the Pacific, Kathleen Coughlan. We spoke at length about a neighbor of hers whom she wanted to enroll in OLLI. The woman was afraid to join because she felt that, not attending college after high school, she would not be able to keep up with other members who had. I told her that I also had never attended college but joined the Roundtable after finding so many different workshops pertaining to my hobby, which is photography. We made a promise to keep in touch so I can be informed of the neighbor joining and attending at least one workshop that she enjoys.

The OLLI programs that I heard about were mostly what we have now in our organization, with few exceptions. The UCLA branch invites actors and actresses from Hollywood to speak on their accomplishments and also failures. The Auburn OLLI has a pilot’s workshop. One director runs the Kansas OLLI for the entire state. One workshop covers what happened 50, 100, 200+ years ago. Maybe someone could lead that type of workshop here. We are really a very unique group since we pay only one time for the entire year, and get free parking. Other OLLI’s have a “pay as you go” system. You register with a small fee and then additional workshops are an additional fee. Some charge for parking on campus.

At the end of the two days, I found that our OLLI Chapter is one of the best programs in the country. The graphic on the following page summarizes OLLI’s national scope.
The OLLI Network
2012 Snapshot Survey Summary

Located in 290 cities & towns across America

112,108 members

115 Institutes

OLLIs by Size of Membership

1. 3900+ - 5000+ 12
2. 1000 - 2000+ 35
3. 1000 - 1000+ 15
4. 600 - 999+ 30
5. 600 - 799+ 22
6. 600 or less 19

OLLIs Fee Systems

1. Charge membership & tuition fees 79
2. Include classes in membership fees 32
3. Other 4

OLLIs & Non-Members

OLLIs with offerings to non-members 86
OLLIs with no offerings to non-members 22

Yes (79.4%)
No (20.6%)

OLLI Classes by Average Length

1. 10 - 13 weeks 13
2. 6 - 9 weeks 53
3. 3 to 5 weeks 53
4. 3 weeks or less 6
5. Other 10

Survey conducted by the National Resource Center of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes: www.ollinetwork.org

Next Contributor »
Surrounded by the beautiful artwork of its talented members, the literati of OLLI met on Friday, November 30 to present and read the works of their peers at Rhoda Spinner’s 28th semi-annual Literary Tea. This event has been a tradition at OLLI since 1998 when Rhoda developed the idea for the showcase while attending a writer’s workshop. While many of the works have been created within our own poetry and memoir writing classes, others have been inspired by “strokes of genius” running through many creative minds. This term, much of the prose and poetry was inspired by Superstorm Sandy. Some people were able to find some levity in the event, while others waxed philosophical.

It is not surprising that OLLI members are truly Renaissance people, and the Literary Tea enables us to see each other in a role other than student or teacher. Some of us are published authors while most of us just love to write. Some create traditional poetry, others write haiku, limericks and blank verse. Some of us compose poignant memoirs which elicit tears, while others draw laughter.

SBS 102 was filled as the attendees listened raptly to the 59 submissions from the 27 contributors. They followed along in the beautiful booklet covered by Wallace Collier’s artistic photograph of a teapot, and enjoyed the exquisite repast from Elegant Eating.
Reunion in Italy

by Steve Hovani

When my wife, Susan, or I joke that we tried to raise our two children to be independent but we overshot the mark, we are alluding to the fact that our son, Lex, lives in Indonesia and our daughter and her family reside in Rome, Italy. Although this circumstance gives us an excuse—if one were needed—to take extended trips to far-away places, we miss them all, including our two granddaughters, 4 year old Sadie and 6 year old Charlotte. Thank goodness for Skype!

Usually we gather for Christmas in Stony Brook, but this year we opted for a reunion in Italy. We negotiated the logistics through a flurry of e-mails and one conference call. Lex arrived in Rome several days before Susan and I flew to Milan. He spent a couple days with Erica, then proceeded north to meet us after a day spent sightseeing in Florence. During the next 36 hours we visited some of the many must-see sights of Milan.

The Duomo is literally in the center of the city and is the third largest Catholic church in the world. The construction was begun in the 14th century, but the final touches were only applied five centuries later. The Gothic cathedral is striking, not least because of its unusual roof, which can be accessed by a very long staircase or an elevator; we took the latter.

We trudged through Sforza Castle, a fortress and the residence of the Italian noble family that constructed it. Our guide escorted us through La Scala Opera House, the ornate interior of which has been the scene of the musical triumphs of Verdi, Puccini, Caruso, Toscanini, Callas, Price, Fischer-Dieskau, and Pavarotti. We wandered around Vittorio Emanuele Gallery, an immense, nineteenth century covered arcade that features cafes, upscale shops and prestigious restaurants.

Last, but certainly not least, we marveled at Leonardo’s “Last Supper,” although in one sense I was disappointed. Because the artist experimented with a dry technique, using tempera paints, the masterpiece started deteriorating within a few years. Numerous restoration attempts managed to distort the painting until the most recent 21 year effort removed the overpainting, but left the colors more muted.

After we picked up our rental car we headed north for a brief stop in Verona, where we toured an outdoor, Roman-era theater, climbed the Lambert Tower, which we managed to exit just before its deafening bell signaled the time, and gawked at “Juliet’s house.” As one comment on Trip Advisor suggested, “You can’t go to Verona and not see the famous balcony (even if it is a fake)!”

We then drove to Selva di Val Gardena, a picturesque village in a valley of the Dolomite mountains, noted for skiing, rock climbing and wood carving. The apartment our daughter had found months before proved to be spacious, well equipped, and located a mere 100 yards from...
the gondola to the top of the nearest peak. She and her family arrived from Rome about two hours after us. Next day, Christmas Eve, we secured ski equipment until the insistent carillon summons from the church next door. The service was bilingual, the celebrant and choir alternating between Italian and German. The next morning, the excitement of our granddaughters amply rewarded lugging their presents from afar.

The girls had tried skiing before and quickly built on that experience to become remarkably proficient for their ages. Lex, our son-in-law, Erik, and Erica enjoyed several days on the slopes. I, on the other hand, took a couple of spectacular spills the first day. Although my ego was the most serious casualty, I ultimately finished my descent on a ski patrol sled. But I did manage to slowly walk back to the apartment. Susan, who does not ski, helped Charlotte and Sadie build and decorate a gingerbread village from ingredients we had brought from home.

The Dolomites are spectacular, if a bit too developed for my taste. Culturally and geographically, they resemble Austria, to which the region once belonged. Even today, signs and the names of towns and villages are in both languages. Indeed, this semi-autonomous region is referred to as South Tirol in German.

Our week flew by and we headed to Rome, by way of Bolzano, to visit Otzi, the nickname of the naturally mummified remains of a man who lived about 5,300 years ago and who is thought to have been murdered. Two hikers happened upon his frozen body, protruding from a melting snow bank near the Austrian-Italian border in 1991. He now “resides” in a climate controlled chamber in his own museum. He has been the object of intense scientific study and has aided our understanding of his time. During our final days in Rome, we revisited the Vatican museum, which was mobbed, as usual, and sauntered through the colossal ruins of the Baths of Caracalla, which, in its heyday during the third to sixth centuries, could accommodate up to 6,000 bathers.

No account of a visit to Italy would be complete without mentioning the food. Suffice it to say, whether in upscale restaurants or more modest eateries, few meals disappointed and we seldom met a wine we did not enjoy. This was our first visit to Italy after participating in OLLI’s Italian workshop, ably led by Angelo Sabatelli and Heather Babits. Although we were glad we encountered many Italians who spoke English, thanks to our mentors we were much more comfortable negotiating grocery stores, ticket counters, and restaurants than ever before.
Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They’re going to see you naked anyway...

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If the professor on Gilligan’s Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can’t he fix a hole in a boat?

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME stuff, why didn’t he just buy dinner?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog’s face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on ‘insufficient funds’ when they know there is not enough money?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?
Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends – if they’re okay, then it’s you.

**Answering Machine Messages**

Hi, I’m not home right now but my answering machine is, so you can talk to it instead. Wait for the beep.

Hi, John’s answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator.... Please speak very slowly while I write down the message and I’ll stick it to myself with one of these magnets.

This is not an answering machine-this is a telepathic thought-recording device. After the tone, think about your name, your reason for calling and a number where I can reach you, and I’ll think about returning your call.

Hello. I’m home right now but cannot find the phone. Please leave a message and I will call you up as soon as I find it.

Bob here. I’m home right now, I’m just screening my calls. So start talking and if you’re someone I want to speak with I’ll pick up the phone. Otherwise, well, what can I say?
New Workshop Added to Spring Schedule

By Lee Marc Stein

Janet and the Curriculum Committee have graciously agreed to let me lead a brand new workshop this spring. I thought I had submitted my application in time for the Bulletin, but evidently it was left in the copy room and was discovered backing up a photocopy of one of Len Farano’s hysterically funny poems.

The workshop is entitled “History and Psychology of the Hoax.” We will cover how to tell a real event from a hoax (that will take up approximately 63.7% of workshop time) and then discuss some 15-18 great hoaxes in history.

To arrive at an acid test for hoaxes, the workshop will analyze a recent BBC report, now widely available online. It concerned a program that teaches dogs how to drive. You can watch it before the workshop begins at http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20614593. The video focuses on one dog. The reporter says “six months ago, the owner said his dog was too difficult to control. Now there is no sign of road rage.” And the last sentence of the report is “No people or animals were harmed during the making of this film.” We’ll decide together if this was a hoax. (Personally, I hope it isn’t. If dogs in the U.S. were trained to drive, there would be fewer accidents as they are unlikely to do much texting.)

We will also discuss these famous hoaxes in detail:

- The spaghetti tree hoax was a 3-minute report broadcast on April Fools’ Day 1957 by the BBC program Panorama. It spun the tale of a family in southern Switzerland harvesting spaghetti from a tree. It was broadcast at a time when this Italian dish was not widely eaten in the UK and some Britons were unaware that spaghetti is made from wheat flour and water. Hundreds of viewers phoned into the BBC, either to say the story was not true, or wondering about it, with some even asking how to grow their own spaghetti trees. When I saw the report on Jack Paar in the late ’50s, I was amazed to see how the pickers used scissors to make sure the spaghetti crop was harvested evenly. Decades later CNN called this broadcast “the biggest hoax that any reputable news establishment ever pulled.”

- The hoax of the Cardiff Giant. It was a 10-foot tall “petrified man” uncovered on October 16, 1869 by workers digging a well behind the barn of “Stub” Newell in Cardiff, New York. What I did not know as a teenager was that the Cardiff Giant I saw at the Farmer’s Museum in Cooperstown was a hoax on a hoax.
It was an unauthorized copy made by P.T. Barnum.

- For sports fans, the *Sidd Finch hoax*. In early 1985 the managing editor of *Sports Illustrated* gave writer George Plimpton (author of *Paper Lion*) permission to create his own hoax. Plimpton reported that Hayden “Sidd” Finch was a rookie pitcher in training with the New York Mets. He also wore only one shoe—a heavy hiker’s boot—when pitching. Finch, who had never played baseball before, was attempting to decide between a sports career and one playing the French horn. What was astonishing about Finch was that he could throw a fastball at an amazing 168 miles per hour with pinpoint accuracy. The story was accompanied by photographs of Finch, including one featuring a young Lenny Dykstra and another of Finch talking with the Mets’ actual pitching coach, Mel Stottlemyre. The Mets played along with the hoax, even providing a uniform for Finch.

- And more recently (just over three years ago), the *balloon boy hoax*. On October 15, 2009 in Fort Collins, Colorado, Richard and Mayumi Heene allowed a gas balloon filled with helium to float away into the atmosphere, and then claimed that their six-year-old son Falcon was inside it. At the time, it was reported by the mass media that the boy was apparently traveling at altitudes reaching 7,000 feet in a homemade balloon silver-colored and shaped to resemble a flying saucer. After the balloon landed and the boy was found not to be inside, authorities began a manhunt of the entire area, raising fears that he had fallen from the balloon. Later that afternoon the boy was reported to have been hiding in his home’s attic the entire time.

**WORKSHOP DETAILS**

Title: *History and Psychology of the Hoax*

Dates: One session only, Monday, April 1, 2013

Time: 8:12 am – 9:17 pm

Registration: Unavailable online or at the OLLI office. As Leonardo DiCaprio might say (playing professional imposter Frank Abagnale), “Catch me if you can.”
Euphoria and the Canisophiles

by Cornelius McDonnell

Last month Euphoria Uforia - not her real name, as she wants to remain anonymous - found herself with a group of OLLI canisophiles who spent the entire afternoon speaking about their terriers, spaniels, boxers, chihuahuas, collies, etc., etc. Euphoria, who is really a canisophobe, felt as if she had been bitten time and time again. Nobody knows about her fears as she is a genuine cryptocanisophobe, refusing ever to reveal her fear of dogs. But, let it be said, she likes - and even pets - small dogs. It is the wolfhounds, the German shepherds, the great Danes, and their ilk, that frighten Euphoria. So you see, she is not a complete cryptocanisophobe; she is only a cryptomacrocanisophobe. And this serious ailment afflicted the poor lady only six months ago. Before that, she was not afraid of any type of dog. In fact, she had owned two greyhounds, two bulldogs, and three bloodhounds. So, today, she is really a neocryptomacrocanisophobe.

Now, that you have figured out what is Euphoria’s problem, you are on your way to becoming a neologist. Produce your own neologisms, using the following Latin words: anser – goose; vulpes – fox; gallina – hen; corvinus – crow. So that your neologisms will be mellifluous, employ the following forms: ansero, vulpeso, corvino.

You can produce hundreds of neologisms by using the following prefixes and suffixes with the above: micro – small; choreo – dancing; cenoso – filthy; calli – beautiful; lepto – slender. Vore – eater; drome – racecourse; ology – study of; morph – shape; broma – food.

Create your own neologisms and you will astound every single member of OLLI.
Most scientists recognize that global warming does seem to be happening, but a few don’t believe that it is anything to be worried about. These scientists say that the Earth is more resistant to climate changes on this scale than we think. Plants and animals will adapt to subtle shifts in weather patterns, and it is unlikely anything catastrophic will happen as a result of global warming.

How Global Warming Works by Jonathan Strickland and Ed Grabianowski

Global warming is indeed a scam, perpetrated by scientists with vested interests, but in need of crash courses in geology, logic and the philosophy of science.

Martin Keeley, BBC News, Dec. 6, 2004

The rain was coming down in blinding sheets. The wind, blowing in from the north, was pounding the bits of land that were left with blasts of icy waves. Soon, no land was visible at all. Just angry savage waves, as far as the eye could see – cresting and pounding down, again and again. Blue black. You couldn’t tell any more where the angry sea ended and the dark sky began.

These frigid rains were coming more often now. And each year the freezing weather was lasting longer and longer.

Pondering this, I looked around me. I noticed a friend approaching.

“Hello there. Terrible weather.” I said.

“Yes. Getting worse and worse” he replied. “You know, this weather reminds me of the stories my mother used to tell me - about the others – the ones a long time ago. She was always amazed, she said, at how long it took them to take notice….”

“Sure they’d been warned’ she’d say, “but you know what?” They said, ‘We’ve got other things to think about. Gotta make a living.’ They were told there was nothing to worry about.”
“‘Why didn’t the smart ones know?’ I’d ask her. She’d look at me strangely. ‘Maybe they did. I don’t think they believed it themselves. Too incredible.’”

I listened to my friend in wonder. “And the scientists: the geologists, the meteorologists?”

“‘Talking into the wind,’ that’s how my mother put it,” he replied.

My friend circled around me once before continuing:

”It must have been terrible for them – those years when most of them, defeated at last, slowly gave in to the rising water from the Great Meltdown. Only so many boats. Only so much land left. Years when angry, frightened mobs actually shoved some of the older, weaker ones alive into the rising oceans.”

“I guess when a couple of them discovered they could breathe in the water, it was a real surprise.” I said.

“Must have been. My mother showed me pictures of some of the ones that came later – weird looking creatures - human animals with little gills sticking out of their ribs.”

I found it hard to visualize, to imagine that these were my ancestors, returning to the water, eons ago.

“In any case,” I continued, as I swam two quick friendly circles around him, “I’ve got to go now. Got to prepare. We’re leaving in the morning, heading south. Want to join the swim with us? We hear the water’s warmer there. Don’t know how long that will last. Some crazies are talking about an ice age. But they tell us not to worry. We’ve got other things to think about.”
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook University

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Sunshine Corner

Cards Have Been Mailed To:

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Morton Laby
Bill Hammer
Helmi Star (family of)
Frank Di Benedetto
Ellie Schotz
Liliane Thurau
Roz Haber
Margaret Larmore
Joe McVeigh
Celeste Sachs

IN MEMORIAM

Chris DiBenedetto
Herb Haber
Merton Reichler
Susanne Demuth
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