OLLI - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

SPRINGFIELD

Fall 2019 (Sept-Dec)

Programs are held at 2 pm Tuesday afternoons at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 40 Pleasant St., Springfield, Vermont 05156

*For weather related schedule changes, check the website www.learn.uvm.edu/olli (Springfield site) and SAPA TV 802-885-6248 Comcast Channels 8 & 10 — VTel Cable Channels 1160 & 1161

September 3 ————————————————————
Farming Vermont: 2 Generations Back
Fred DePaul, Vermont Farmer

Learn from a Vermont farmer about early farm equipment used to grow food for man and beast on the Vermont hillside. As the resident docent at the Calvin Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth Notch, DePaul speaks in a ‘down-to-earth’ manner from his extensive experience with all kinds of early farm equipment, many of which were made right here in Vermont!

September 17   ————————————————————
New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell
Pam Weeks, Quilt Historian
Co-Sponsored by Springfield Art & Historical Society

History is stitched into family quilts. By observing the patterns and fabrics, we can learn quite a bit about when and where the quilt was made. Listen as Ms Weeks enlightens us about the history involved in quilt making and the stories they tell. Audience members are invited to bring a family heritage quilt for her to examine and include in her presentation.

October 1   ————————————————————
Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era 1946-1960
Rick Winston, Author, Film Historian

What happened in Vermont when the anti-Communist fear known as the “Red Scare” swept the country? Quite a bit, as
it turns out. See how a small, rural “rock-ribbed Republican” state with a historically libertarian streak handled the hysteria of the time. Hear Winston focus on the chapter in his book about Springfield’s Ralph Flanders, the Vermont senator who led the fight to censure McCarthy in the U.S. Senate.

October 15 —————————————————————
The Jewels of Ecuador
Hank Kaestner, Avid bird-watcher and Photographer

Join us for a journey around Ecuador. Visiting a series of eco-tourism lodges that help protect the environment and provide jobs for the locals, we’ll be introduced to the geography of the country and the beautiful birdlife there. Through his travels as a spice procurer for McCormick Spices, see the results of his hobby of photography and more than 7,500 species while traveling to remote and fascinating corners of the globe.

October 22 —————————————————————
Truth, Propaganda and Media in the Age of Trump
David Goodman, Journalist

Join nationally published journalist and best-selling author, David Goodman, to discuss the state of journalism under the president and his current assaults on freedom of the press. Examine a short history of official propaganda. Consider how do we, as news consumers, know who to trust and what to believe?

October 29 —————————————————————
Grave Robbing in New England
Alan Rumrill, Director Cheshire County Historical Society, Keene, NH

During the 19th century, it was common for paid grave robbers to visit cemeteries in the dark of night to dig up recently buried bodies and sell them to medical schools for use as cadavers in medical dissection classes. Hear stories of this practice throughout New England. Discuss the laws and punishments used against grave robbers, as well as the process used to rob a grave.

November 12 —————————————————————
Protecting the Aging Brain: Lifestyle Matters
Robert Hamill, MD, Professor of Neurological Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Vermont

Understand the key concepts of neuroplasticity, the ability of the nervous system to change and modify structure and function. Discover how the brain is able to respond to modifying influences throughout life, providing an opportunity for interventions to positively influence aging biology. Learn how relatively simple and straight-forward activities in lifestyle influence the ability of the brain to age in a healthy way.

November 19 ————————————————————
Bobcat and Canadian Lynx: The Big Little Cats
Kurt Valenta, Naturalist and Educator
Co-Sponsored by Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society

Realize that these beautiful felines are cousins, superbly adapted to the demands of their habitats. Shy, reclusive hunters, they are seldom seen as they range their territories in search of food, shelter and safe haven. We will trace their past, take measure of their current status, and examine future challenges. Join Exordium for another fact-filled presentation on one of nature’s apex predators.

December 3 ————————————————————
The Star of Bethlehem
Mark Breen, Planetarium Director and Senior Meteorologist, Fairbanks Museum

During the Christmas holiday season, we see images and figurines, and hear songs about three wise men following a star to Bethlehem. Did this really happen? Countless astronomers, philosophers, and theologians have examined the account in the Gospel of Matthew, other historical accounts of the time, and combined this with our knowledge of astronomy. Retrace these investigations, offering a fascinating exploration of history and astronomy. Was the Star of Bethlehem real? Let’s find out!

Thanks to our local benefactor: Barbara Sanderson