“It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.”  
Rainer Maria Rilke

Our Winter Quarter saw a mass infusion of enthusiastic participants, many of whom escaped colder climates to share our sunny winter. They brought insight and provocative ideas to our classes, lectures and learning sessions. One of our friends, Joan Kleinman, has written an article about one of the newest aspects of the Stuart Collection, the Fallen Star House. Husband Allan provided the pictures that accompany her article.

Oklahoma took the stage with many people we know sounding quite good as soloists and chorus members. None, however, can surpass Germaine Markowitz, the genuine deal; born and bred in Oklahoma. She served as dialogue “consultant” and sort of coach to be sure everyone got it right. Of course, our own Myron Joseph, the Persian Peddler, did not need the Oklahoma twang; but somehow his Persian accent sounded reminiscent of the Lower East Side of New York…is that a trace of his past coming through?

April is here and so is the Spring Quarter at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. A new Council has been elected with a new President, Jim Wyrsten who will assume this position officially in June. We are thoroughly engaged in learning about the history of cancer from Professor Russell Doolittle, modern architecture from Diane Kane, and many advances in science, law and technology.

Osher, however, is like Rilke says, “…a child that knows poems by heart.” Peer led classes, lectures and presentations continue to dominate our schedule. Neil Heyman, Phyllis Rosenbaum, and Francoise Shah are on board as facilitators for their ever popular classes. Darlene Palmer selects provocative movies on Wednesday afternoons; Reed Sullivan manages to engage fine musicians to entertain us on Friday afternoons. The ever popular Short Stories and Inquiring Minds classes see new facilitators coordinating the discussions with ongoing participation from class members. Deliberative Dialogues, Memoirs, Current Events are all still on the agenda.

As always there is something for everyone. We have also noticed a large number of yellow lanyards, indicating people who have joined Osher in the last year or so…be sure to greet these folks and welcome them. After all, they must know some poems by heart, otherwise why would they involve themselves in this stimulating and interesting program.

Enjoy!
ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

An Interview with Joanna Boval, Director, UCSD Office for Students with Disabilities

Admission to UCSD implies that students who are accepted are able to meet the rigorous challenges of a first class institution with high standards of excellence. So what happens if a student has a disability, physical or mental? That is where the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) comes in. Joanna Boval, Director of OSD, took the time to explain the process of accommodation for undergraduate, graduate and professional school students with documented disabilities. About 520 students per quarter require this attention.

Occasionally there is an overt disability that may be temporary, such as a broken leg; however, most of the students have documented disabilities with which they have been living for most of their lives. On her staff are two disability specialists who review documentation and determine reasonable accommodation ranging from housing to academic programs. Each student is provided with a letter to faculty and departments outlining the specific accommodations for which they are eligible.

There is a broad range of services available which help students become part of the level playing field at the University. Some students require note takers, others may require extra time for examinations. Physical environments have to be evaluated to be sure they can accommodate wheel chairs or other assistance devices. OSD coordinates all sign language on campus, provides real time captioning for lectures and has equipment for voice recognition. For students with vision impairment there are scanners designed to read texts aloud, electronic texts and examinations may be enlarged.

The range of disabilities falls into several categories and there may often be co-occurring conditions. The majority of students come with a psychological disability, such as bi-polar disorder, anxiety or PTS, which is prevalent in veterans returning to campus. Some of these disorders may not be recognizable initially, but surface as the students make their way through the educational environment.

Physical disabilities often cover a range of things, not just motor limitations, but chronic health issues, cerebral palsy, and MS. There are students who may have to undergo chemo therapy and who require assistance not just with the academic requirements, but diet and housing as well. While the terrain of the campus is a challenge, even for those in good health, it can be foreboding for someone in a wheelchair or with limited motor ability, thus some students opt out of coming for that reason.

OSD also reaches out to students who have so-called ‘hidden disabilities’ such as dyslexia. These students will undergo an assessment to determine how they may be accommodated. Inasmuch as they qualify for UCSD, it is likely they have developed strategies on their own, but the office assists them in making faculty aware of the need for consideration. There is also an increase in the number of students who have been identified with Asperger's Syndrome or other behavioral disorders.

The OSD also serves as a resource to UC San Diego faculty and staff who are providing accommodations to students in classrooms and labs across campus. The staff has developed working relationships with other offices on campus to streamline services to students with disabilities and provides disability education to departments and programs in order to help them develop internal processes that better serve students with special needs.

In today's world there is increasing awareness on the part of parents to identify the needs for their children who may have disabilities. Often, by the time they enter the university the students have demonstrated that they can function in a social and academic environment to be successful. Just as students run the gamut from high functioning individuals who need minimal support, there is a range of parents as well. Some are able to set appropriate boundaries, and there are others who are unable to transition into letting their children

(Continued on page 4)
REMEMBERING SHIRLEY IMBER
Marcy Goldstone

Ironically, my good pal Shirley Imber gave up the struggle for life on Sunday, March 3rd, 2013 while I was enjoying a Symphony concert with a stranger sitting in the seat that had been once occupied by her. I recall her labored breathing that sounded like snoring when we were seat mates for our subscription series of Sunday matinees. We would walk the short distance to and from the parking garage on these occasions and Shirely had to stop as she struggled for breath; something we did not mention during our trek.

Shirley was an activist, a flaming Liberal, a Social Worker during her working years, a devoted wife, aunt, mother, grandmother, friend and especially the "keeper of the family connections & traditions." She was a Yiddish scholar who subscribed to the Jewish Forward, a lover of opera, theater, and especially music in the Classical mode. I was fortunate to share her passions, her advice when I needed first aid to-the-heart and most sincere "motherly" scolding. Through all these moments of candid conversations she always supported me in my quest for emet (truth), without having anything other than my best interests at heart. So this is about her persona, being a concerned citizen, a member of Common Cause, League of Women’s Voters and the alumnus of her beloved Brooklyn College.

Her insights into what made people tick was amazing. She truly understood where a person was coming from. I always admired her for her glowing comments about her mother, her late husband, Stan, who was the love of her life and a double purple heart recipient received for his heroism during the Normandy invasion; and her grandchildren who she praised continuously.

Shirley lived in a state of denial about her health issues which were numerous. Nevertheless, her joie-de-vivre was always present. When she wanted advice about theater in New York for a 5 day whirl of opera, sightseeing and togetherness on the fast lane with her granddaughter, Alexis, I was happy to advise her. Her pain, breathing difficulties and other physical disabilities could not stop her momentum for living.

A week or so before the curtain dropped on her intensely lived life she sent me a note, now a treasured memento where she wrote of the puppy poodle her daughter had brought her, needing oxygen to help her breathe and trying to hang on until Laureen, her Navy cadet granddaughter would become a bride in April and her realization that her relocation to Texas to live on a ranch with her family was a good decision.

I will never forget how she confessed to me one day with an explanation, "Never tell the doctors the truth." So my dear friend was a fraud, "faking it until she made it." My admiration for my dear friend, Shirley lights a fire in my belly and helps me remember an extraordinary woman, my consummate role model.

REMEMBERING JACK SAMUELS
Adrienne Samuels

Osher members may remember Jack Samuels, the fellow who brought up MSG every time a speaker was discussing health issues, neurology, or something even vaguely related. My book, The Man Who Sued the FDA, is Jack’s story -- the story of a Jack Samuels, the man Osher members never knew.

I wish this was a work of fiction; that this was a novel and the principal characters were products of my imagination; that this was all a bad dream. But by and large, The Man Who Sued the FDA is a documentary -- part memoire, part history, part exposé. It is the meticulously documented story of Jack’s 24 year battle to expose the toxic potential of MSG, written by a spouse who was trained in research design, methodology, and statistics. Readers will follow our footsteps as we walk, one step at a time, from naiveté, to awareness, to disbelief, to recognition of human greed and man’s inhumanity to man.
Readers will meet the men and women who market the toxic chemicals now poured into food. Readers will meet the men and women who do research for pay, and learn how they rig their studies to conclude that they have not found MSG to be harmful. Readers will meet the man who supplied those researchers with both study design and neurotoxic aspartame to use in placebos; and will meet his friends at the FDA. Friends like Michael R. Taylor, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Food, who for years has moved through the revolving door between Monsanto, the USDA, King and Spalding, and the FDA.

I have always written. Not for others, except for journal articles. Just for myself. But some years ago, Robert, an MSG-sensitive friend, came to interview Jack about his reactions to MSG and his work to expose its toxicity. It was a tape of that interview that inspired me to expand upon what Robert had done. It was the ever deteriorating state of the FDA, the EPA, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation -- along with Barack Obama's appointment of Monsanto's Michael Taylor to the post of FDA Deputy Commissioner for Food -- that compelled me to share Jack's story. And it was the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. that helped me find the courage to do so.

Cowardice asks the question, "Is it safe?"
Expediency asks the question, "Is it politic?"
And Vanity comes along and asks the question, "Is it popular?"
But Conscience asks the question, "Is it right?"
And there comes a time when one must take a position
that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular,
but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

For more about the book:
TheManWhoSued@aol.com
www.TheManWhoSuedTheFDA.info

Students with disabilities face the same challenges as all students entering UCSD and other institutions of higher learning, lack of structure. OSD is there to help students with challenges confront the expectations of the faculty by accommodating and contributing to their success at UCSD.

Election Results

President          Jim Wyrtzen
Vice President-Planning       Steve Clarey
Vice President-Administration  Neil Perl
Treasurer              Stanley Faer
Secretary              Kim Davies

Council:
Joan Jacobs
Paul Markowitz
Judith Miller
Paul Page*
Frances Simon
Christine Sullivan

My thanks also to the current Executive Committee and Council members who have been so supportive during the past two years. I think Osher is in just great shape as we move ahead.

Reed Sullivan

*to be presented to the Council for approval to fill the unexpired term of Neil Perl.
Joan Kleinman

When you ride the elevator to the seventh floor of Jacobs Hall, you can step out onto a small and lovely rooftop garden colorful with blooms and inviting wooden chairs where you can sit and enjoy the bird’s eye view of the quad below and the Geisel Library not far in the distance. Follow the garden path to the threshold of a small, attractive, light blue cottage. This is Fallen Star, the latest addition to UCSD’s Stuart Collection of art and sculpture.

With your first step onto the large stone threshold your perceptions are challenged. On the one hand the living room seems completely familiar and welcoming. There is a rocking chair, a couch, a fireplace, a bookcase, and a writing desk. Family photos line the walls. Yet something is awry! Your balance is challenged. The window panes and doorframes are angled; the floor is sloped. And if you stand in one corner, diagonally opposite another visitor, one of you will appear larger and the other noticeably smaller than usual. Are you Alice in Wonderland? Or have you landed in Oz, feeling like Dorothy, confused and unsettled? Why, when you look out the window, have the walls of the Geisel Library become strangely tilted?

This feeling of dislocation is exactly what the artist, Do Ho Suh, hoped to achieve with this house. Born in Korea, he came as a young man to the United States to study painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. He found himself disoriented and displaced in a totally strange culture. In Fallen Star, he evokes those same emotions in visitors by perching the house partly off the roof’s edge, and by tilting the entire structure thereby shifting normal perspectives.

Fallen Star was completed in 2012 at a cost of 1.5 million dollars, funded privately and with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The furnishings were purchased at consignment shops or donated by individuals; the photo gallery includes one of Do Ho with his family and pictures of individuals associated with the University. A docent is always present to explain the artifacts and elaborate on the house’s construction.

There is an excellent view of Fallen Star from the seventh floor of Geisel Library. And you can visit the house on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 2 pm. The experience is unique, thought-provoking and memorable.

Enjoy!
Katrin Belenky and husband Sam Peck, former college sweethearts, reconnected after 40 years in 2010, and were married in October 2012. Coincidentally both Katrin and Sam have artistically focused children from their prior marriages.

Katrin's daughter Rachel Brenner Schanzer, who was born and raised in New York City not too far from Broadway, is a budding psychotherapist in Jerusalem, and also a director of musicals. She re-crafted and adapted a scaled down version of the Tony Award winning musical *A Chorus Line* renamed it *One Dream* and presented it to Orthodox women in Jerusalem to standing room audiences. She plans to reprise it in April 2013 in Beit Shemesh.

Sam's son Justin Peck is a soloist at the New York City Ballet, and a choreographer who has literally burst onto the dance scene. He has been interviewed by New York Magazine, photographed by Vogue China, and engaged by other ballet companies in Florida, Denmark and California. In 2013 Justin, who grew up in Del Mar and Encinitas, premiered two original pieces at NYCB. The pieces, "The Year of the Rabbit", with music by Sufjan Stephens, and "Paz De La Jolla", with a score by Martinu, a former La Jolla native received very positive reviews. Justin will be speaking to Osher members in June.

**Editor's note:** Katrin will be assuming the responsibility of editor of the Osher Observer in the Fall of 2013. We wish her well in this capacity and in other roles she will take on with Theater World.

I find the Sanford Lakoff lectures invariably interesting, instructive and stimulating. Can Dr. Lakoff be persuaded to keep them going, as long as his health and stamina hold up? Are there other UCSD or SDSU profs or emeriti to join this lecture circuit on topics that they are experts on and that might be of interest to many of us? Thank you.

**Martin O. Stern**
The 2013 Southern Regional Conference, July 24-26

The 2013 Southern Regional Conference for Institutes of Learning in Retirement is being hosted by the OLLI at the University of Georgia, Athens, from July 24-26. Built on the theme "Engaged Minds, Enriched Lives," the conference will focus on techniques for improving lifelong learning programs, which provide educational, social and recreational opportunities for mature adults. Registration information is available online. Look at what all the different OLLI Groups are doing! http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs112/1102509927733/archive/1113044606702.html

Toot your horn! Does your OLLI have news that you are proud of and would like to share with the network? The NRC newsletter is looking for articles about those special happenings that you know will inspire and excite others. So, keep the network newsletter in mind as a place to "toot your horn!"

If you have a story to share, please send it (with photos if possible) to Fran (fmyers@usm.maine.edu) or Anne (acardale@usm.maine.edu) at the National Resource Center.

OSHER CALENDAR

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* everyone invited

Vol. 5 No. 3  Spring 2013

The Osher Observer is published quarterly by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC San Diego.

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