PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

It was an incredible feeling on Wednesday night, April 30th. It was too hot that night to stay on the patio, so the 40th Anniversary Celebration moved right into the banquet hall. Everyone was happy and enthusiastically greeting each other. Conversations were taking place everywhere. There was a spirit of joy and connection to this group of Osher learners. Spouses who don’t attend were being introduced, members who have been ill and recovering were surrounded by people who were glad to see them and happy for their recovery. One person said, “I go to many of these things and I have never been to one like this.” It was a true celebration with speeches that were warm and embracing.

I’ve been told that I should try to keep the Council meetings to one hour. I tried and succeeded, at this last meeting. This was a light meeting with no action items, just reports. It seemed like the perfect meeting to hold to one hour (not an easy feat for someone who likes to let everyone have their say). It was HARD! Everyone had ideas and questions. These were not criticisms or gripes. These were constructive thoughts about several of the plans that everyone is supporting:

- Ways to get the word out about the affiliate membership which gives people who cannot attend, the opportunity to affiliate and watch our classes on video, as any of our members can, from their own computers.
- Our pilot project with the Belmont Village Senior Living wherein members of their communities can become Osher Affiliate Members and enjoy the educational programs that we attend. They are having a weekend program to tell their residents and the larger community about our affiliate membership, enroll people, and in the future, start a weekly discussion with those members focused on one of the videos viewed.

This enthusiasm seems to run through our committees. The Curriculum Committee is working very hard to build a varied, well-rounded and high quality program. They are clearly succeeding. The new co-chairs of the Membership Committee have been going over our materials in the catalog and for the Open Houses and trying to build upon this information. We have started a fundraising committee. We need to look to our future and build sustainability into our program. Costs are going up. We have an increase in the overhead that we pay to the university. We are bringing in more outstanding speakers and that means more honorariums. We want to work to keep our membership fee as low as possible while continuing the high quality of the program and this committee is enthusiastic and committed to making that happen.

There is a spirit of inspiration in our leaders and our members who believe we are part of a program of excellence. Following our etiquette code is another way of contributing to the positive well-being of the Osher community.

- picking up your cups and putting them in a receptacle;
- turning off your cellphone during lectures;
- if you want to sit in the front, come on time so you don’t interrupt others walking to the front;
- don’t sit in the front if you know you will have to leave or make a call

Let’s keep this spirit of celebration alive!

Jim Wyrtzen, President
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Celebrates 40 Years

by Ilene Hubbs

On a beautiful and sunny April day, more than 150 guests came together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute here at UC San Diego. There was a warm and lively mood in the room as old friends and new ignored the heat outside, sampled hors d’oeuvres, and caught up with each other before sitting down to the program and an excellent dinner. Osher President Jim Wyrtzen welcomed everyone and introduced a heartwarming video comprised of Osher members speaking about their experiences and what Osher has meant to them personally. Everyone in the room could relate as we heard our friends and fellow members share their thoughts on Osher. Thank you Elaine Olds, Marsha Korobkin, Hubert Ralls, Kimberly Davies, Jim Wyrtzen, Don Shields, Alfred O’Brien, Ira Nelson, David Klein, Henrietta Farber, Francois Shah, Dick Dahlberg, and Jack and Florence Schaps; no one could have said it better.

As dinner was served, Stan Faer, Celebration Chairman, spoke on his views of how the world has changed from Osher 40 years ago to Osher currently. After a delicious dinner, honored guest Mary Walshok, Associate Vice Chancellor of Public Programs and Dean of Extension at UC San Diego, captivated the audience as she spoke on the theme, “Everything Old is New Again”.

The wonderful energy in the room continued as a video, featuring Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla, UC San Diego, congratulating Osher on 40 years of success was shown. To complete the celebration, Osher was honored to have special guest Mary G.F. Bitterman, President of the Bernard Osher Foundation, take the microphone to represent the Foundation and to give her comments on “Staying the Course: Bernard Osher and Lifelong Learning”, a tribute to continued learning and a tribute to the man who believed in it.

As the crowd was leaving, positive remarks and kudos were heard all around. The dinner was a big success thanks to the hard work of Stan Faer, Carol Roberts and of course, Amy Patterson. Here’s to 40 years of lifelong learning and here’s to the next 40.
Bernard Osher is passionate about education.

“My four siblings and I had the benefit of a college education—an opportunity unavailable to our parents who emigrated from Russia and Lithuania to America,” he explains. “I decided early on to support scholarships for people who desired education but had severely limited financial resources. I know what a big difference higher education makes in a person’s life—enhancing career choices, earning power, and self-esteem—and I would like to help as many people as possible to have that chance.”

Founded in 1977, the Bernard Osher Foundation facilitates this goal through gifts to colleges and universities with a special emphasis on re-entering students. Since 2000, the Foundation’s assistance to programs for mature students has sustained 117 lifelong learning programs and a National Resource Center. The Foundation also supports three programs in integrative medicine and benefits many cultural institutions.

Osher attributes his success in business to his parents’ example of hard work and commercial acumen. His father, Samuel, inspired his ongoing philanthropy. “His warm manner put people at ease, and he always assisted those in need. I like to think that I am continuing a family tradition that he set in motion many years ago.”

Osher says, “It is not my manner to press others into giving to charitable causes, but I do hope that my philanthropic activity has a multiplier effect. All of us learn by example. When we see someone doing something constructive, we often think, ‘I should be doing this myself.’”

Osher has four siblings but no heirs. By design, his Foundation will spend down its resources rather than exist in perpetuity. Osher serves as the Foundation’s treasurer and is fully involved in its grant-making decisions. In 2007, Business Week cited Osher for lifetime giving of over $800 million.

Born in 1927 in Biddeford, Maine, Osher graduated from Bowdoin College and ran his family’s hardware and plumbing supply store. He began his career in banking and investing at Oppenheimer and then became a founding director of WorldSavings, the second-largest savings institution in the U.S. after it merged with Wachovia. Osher purchased the auction house, Butterfield & Butterfield, managed its growth to the fourth largest in the world, and sold it to eBay in 1999.

Osher is a collector of mid-19th to mid-20th century American paintings, a serious student of opera, and an ardent fly fisherman. He hikes and skis, surfs when in Hawaii, and started piano lessons at the age of 80. Judaism is important in Osher’s life; particularly, he is guided by the ideals of tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repair of the world). In San Francisco, where he lives, he belongs to a conservative temple and is active in the Jewish Community Federation.

The Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation contributes to Jewish programs in the San Francisco Bay area and in Maine, and it funds significant scholarships at most of the universities in Israel. Osher is married to Barbro Osher, Consul General for Sweden in California and Chair of the Bernard Osher Foundation’s board of directors.

For more information, including a list of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, visit www.oshfoundation.org/index.php?index
Five years ago, Elaine Olds started the Membership Committee because she saw so many needs of our members that could be filled by such a committee—for example, the yellow armbands for new members, and the New Member Luncheons (no, we don’t eat the new members) at the start of fall and spring sessions. She has handed the baton to Joan Jacobs and Grace Lee, who will be the new co-chairs. Thank you Elaine, for having and implementing this good idea, and thank you Joan and Grace, for taking over!

The mission of the Osher Membership Committee is to obtain resources to enhance our members’ experiences at Osher. Here are some of the activities the Membership Committee performs:

**New Members’ Luncheons** - we organize two New Members’ Luncheons a year, at the beginning of Fall quarters and Winter quarters, for new members to meet each other, ask questions, and get oriented to the Osher community.

**Outreach** - When members become ill or injured, they or their family members are welcome to notify the Membership Committee (via Osher Program Manager Amy Patterson) of their health changes. Members or their families can indicate whether they want other Osher members to know of their health status and/or if they wish to receive contact from other Osher members.

**Carpooling** - To encourage members to carpool to Osher, we are initiating a new self-service carpooling effort. We have set up a folder in Amy’s office so members can indicate that they are interested in carpooling and find other members in their neighborhoods who are also interested in carpooling. It is up to the members themselves to contact each other to make carpooling arrangements.

We appreciate any suggestions that can improve our experiences at Osher. Feel free to contact us:

Grace Lee (858-246-7003) (grace_s_lee@hotmail.com)
Joan Jacobs (858-551-8602) (manueljoj@aol.com)

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**“OSHER PALS”**

Steve Serepca (on the left) and Steve Clarey (on the right) met at Osher and talked periodically about their continuing enjoyment of downhill skiing. In March, they spent a week rooming and skiing together at Aspen/Snowmass in the Colorado Rockies. Here they are taking a break at 11,000+ feet at Aspen Highlands on another beautiful, blue sky day. Plans are already in the works for another trip in 2015.

Any other “Osher Pal” stories or pictures out there??
As I arrived in class, I was shocked to see the knight-errant Don Quixote De La Mancha (Scott Farrell) and his side kick, Sancho Panza (Neil Perl) looking to lay waste to the Osher “scoundrels” found in Room 129. I got to class about 20 minutes before the scheduled start time to watch Scott, our guest lecturer, single-handedly get into his knight’s armor. During the process he answered questions that the audience provided.

Scott’s enthralling lecture was a history of the development of codes of conduct about the warriors from the Middle Ages until modern times today. Key characteristics of a knight included bravery, aid to the needy, justice, nobility, mercy for the defeated foe and living up to a code of ethics.

Scott brought with him samples of the weapons and armor used during the Middle Ages and showed how they changed over the centuries. He presented the class with lots of interesting facts:

- The history of armor goes back to ancient Roman and Greek eras.
- Only the top 1% of the elite of the countries in Europe could afford to become a knight.
- The cost of a suit of armor in today’s dollars would start at approximately $250,000.
- Training to become a knight would begin at age 7.
- It takes about 50 people to support one knight.
- There never was a formal code written about the traits to become a knight.
- The weight of full body armor is approximately 60 pounds.
- Before there was full body armor, people wore chain link mail weighing about 20 to 30 pounds which took about one year to build.
- A chain link mail may contain about 22,000 interlocking iron links.
- Tournaments involving knights were not the typical jousts on horsebacks that we see in the movies, but rather teams of players slugging it out with weapons and shields.

Is chivalry dead? Today’s modern television shows and movies actually use similar concepts from the “knights of old”. Batman, Game of Thrones, Star Wars and books like the Hobbit can trace their themes to specific codes of conduct and helping people.

I am always fascinated by the fact that you never know what you will see in an Osher class.
By Kim Davies

On February 25, 2014, two Syrian UCSD students presented their personal experiences and perspectives on the Syrian civil war.

Amr Kahaleh is a Syrian American student completing his bachelor’s degree in Computer Engineering at UCSD. He was raised in Damascus until age 18, when he moved to San Francisco for college. When the Syrian War began, he organized social media and flash mobs in San Francisco’s Union Square, and was also involved in many fund-raising events across the Bay Area. In 2011, he visited his family in Syria and participated in peaceful demonstrations. Also, in summer 2012, before transferring to UCSD, he travelled to Lebanon and volunteered in the Syrian refugee camps to help with humanitarian projects.

Yasmeen Mobayed is a sophomore, majoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD. During winter 2012, Yasmeen traveled to Turkey and the liberated areas of Syria to send aid to refugees and to meet with civilian councils in liberated cities. She has worked with the local coordination committees of Syria and several grass-roots organizations on the ground as a translator. She has also translated a discussion paper on local councils in Syria by the late intellectual activist Omar Aziz.

Both had family members and friends killed by the Syrian regime. Amr showed us beautiful photographs of his home in Syria where he lived for eighteen years. He gave us a short political history of his country, and a picture of what life was like there when he left. He told us about life under Bashar al-Assad, and the Hama massacre in 1982. “People would not say the word ‘Hama’ for one year. His grandparents told stories of being afraid there would be a coup – of a time when nobody went outside. He heard hundreds of stories from people who were arrested for no reason and held in prison. He showed pictures of little children selling cigarettes in the streets. Amr explained that everything in the country was owned by Basher-al-Assad and his family. Their extreme opulence was in stark contrast to the utter poverty of the people.

March 15, 2011. Facebook pages declared, “we’ll go on the streets.” A young man was hit by police, and the chanting started: “people should not be treated like this.” The police grabbed kids and ripped their fingernails off. They kicked the international media out of the country. The regime targeted villages. They wanted it to be an armed struggle. Immediately, there were defections. We saw photographs of tortured children.

Amr returned to Syria in 2011. He joined the demonstrations. They only lasted a few minutes, until buses with armed soldiers arrived and they started shooting. He showed us videos of these demonstrations – young people dancing and singing. And soldiers beating handcuffed arrestees. The regime was not on defense; it went on the attack. He told us how the Free Syrian Army started as villages smuggled in weapons, soldiers continued to defect and kept their weapons, joined by locals who had lost family members. He showed videos of the bodies of children being thrown into the river for the families to come and identify.

Yasmeen told of the 2.5 million documented refugees and the 6.5 million internally displaced civilians, out of a country with a total population of 23 million. She visited the refugee camps in 2012. There were makeshift bathrooms made of draped towels (there were only three official bathrooms for 13,000 people), and makeshift hospitals. There was only bread and jam, and very little. She told stories of sexual abuse and torture. The camps were so crowded, you could not sleep lying down. She saw open wounds full of maggots. In 2013, there was a chemical attack where 1600 civilians were killed, the majority of whom were children. Yasmeen showed videos of indiscriminate showering of “barrel bombs” on residential neighborhoods outside Damascus. And then the aftermath: People rushing in, frantically digging to finally pull a baby – alive – out of the rubble.

We asked: What do you want the global community to do? Yasmeen and Amr answered: “Raise awareness so that people will go to their governments and do something serious about it… Create a no-fly zone… Food and medication is not that useful… Keep the Russian and Iranian ships from dealing arms…” But then Yasmeen added, “It is a political game and much more complicated than that.”

I think I speak for everyone who attended in saying we were very moved and much impressed by the compassion, insight, and vigilance of these outstanding young people in shining the light on this crisis.
Osher was honored to have Dr. William Stanton lecture on the relationships between the treatment of cancer and human communication. He is well suited to deal with this combination of subjects as an oncologist who is the current Medical Director of the Scripps Cancer Center at Scripps Mercy Hospital and who holds an AB degree from Harvard in Philosophy. Dr. Stanton is also known to some as the caring clinician who, between seeing patients, doing research, performing on national bodies involved with improving cancer care, finds time to be skilled at playing classical guitar.

Dr. Stanton pointed out how lucky we were to be living in an era in which enormous innovations that impact medical care have been made. A discovery of particular importance that was that the material that carried the genetic codes was DNA and not proteins. Also crucial to our understanding was that the form of the DNA is a double helix, first identified by Rosalind Franklin using X-ray crystallography and used by Watson and Crick to develop their model. He pointed out that twelve Nobel prizes were based on the discovery of the importance of and related research. Ultimately it was shown that errant DNA is the cause of cancer. Along with the scientific knowledge came more communication between patient and physician. The state of the art in cancer care that is emerging from this work today, along with new tools, includes “customized” treatments starting with analysis of the patient’s own tumor cells.

Since cancer largely affects the older population, our aging demographic suggests an increasing prevalence in the future. There is hope, however, in that survival rates are going up and with new treatments are likely to continue to rise. To support treatment improvements, Dr. Stanton closed with seven “solutions” among which were the “adherence to evidence-based medicine and guidelines” and putting an “emphasis on prevention and early detection.” The latter solution is clearly dependent, in large measure, on communication between patient and physician. Video of Dr. Stanton’s lecture is available to Osher members on the OLLI website.

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CRAFTS FAIR
Start preparing!
We are going to have:

THE FIRST ANNUAL OSHER CRAFTS FAIR

Friday, March 6th
10:00—3:00

This crafts fair is for Osher members to display their crafts. If they wish, they can sell them or they can just show them so that all can see.

For more information contact:
Carol Roberts
carolandskipsd@gmail.com
Your hard-working volunteer Curriculum Committee has assembled another rich and varied schedule of classes for our eight-week summer quarter, with classes Monday to Thursday only.

Our two Master Classes again highlight our program. We are privileged to welcome back to Osher for his 12th season, the renowned, Julliard-trained pianist, Gustavo Romero, who will lecture on and play excerpts from the works of Gustav Mahler, the first of the 20th Century Expressionists.

Our second Master Class returns another Osher favorite, Diane Kane, who will present a four-lecture series on the History of American Architecture. Registration for our two summer Master Classes is required and begins the morning of June 25.

The summer quarter also features two multi-lecture Premier Classes. One surveys exciting research at the Jacobs School of Engineering in Advanced Materials, from the development of nanoparticles for drug delivery, to 3D printing of human joints. A second Premier Class addresses the implications of Traumatic Brain Injuries and how they are examined in neuropsychology, psychiatry, and neuro-imaging. Additionally, Osher regular Kraig Cavanaugh will present two lectures on modern art: Jackson Pollock and Carolee Schneemann.

Our regular lecture series in Social Sciences, Science and Medicine, International Relations, Humanities, and Law and Society will feature a wide range of preeminent speakers, and our small-classroom seminars will again entertain and stimulate their loyal participants. We will also hear from a number of our accomplished colleagues as Osher Presenters.

Recent member surveys and discussions at our Open Houses repeatedly confirm that most members join Osher upon the personal recommendation of a family member or friend. We encourage you all to invite your friends and visiting family to enroll and join us for our exciting Osher summer program.

The newly formatted summer catalog explains our comprehensive program in detail. Come join us this summer as Osher celebrates its 40th anniversary at UC San Diego.
Ever since I retired, and before that, for one of them, two mottos have stood me well as guides for living my life. The first is, “It’s never too late to quit;” the second, in force since I retired, is “If I hate it, I don’t have to do it.” It’s very surprising how often I turn to one or the other, or both, to make decisions. When you think that you have only so many minutes, hours, seconds, left to live, and probably even fewer than that to live volitionally, these guidelines applied absolutely make so much sense.

And I don’t spend any time thinking, “possibly I can stand this for a little while longer,” or, “I’ve got so much into this already (sunk costs) it would be a shame to waste all that.” NO NO NO!!! OUT OF THERE! If I hate it, I don’t have to do it!

As to “It’s never too late to quit,” that little sentence got me all through law school, and many a tough moment since. If you think about it, you can try anything, anything at all, knowing that with these two mottos in your pocket you can ALWAYS stop if you hate it—it’s NEVER too late to quit.

GET OUT THE WORD!!!
The Affiliate Membership in Osher at UC San Diego allows people to watch many of our lectures on their computer (or TV if they have that connection). This is designed particularly for people are not able to attend the classrooms lectures or are not members. Anyone can join as an affiliate member for an annual payment of $25. It is easy to do: go to olli.ucsd.edu. Then look for the video menu on the left. Click on that and you will go to the extension web site entry. If you are a member, enter your email address and password and enter the library where you can choose the video you wish to see. If you are not yet a member, you can join by click on the appropriate link on that box, sign up, pay $25, get a password and then enter the library. Tell your friends!!!!

Theater World Play
“Love Letters” was not scheduled for June 4th but was moved into this Theater World slot to replace a cancelled show.

It is a beautiful play by A. H. Gurney in which the actors read the letters they have written to each other through their lives. It stars Jim and Marcia Wyrtzen and is directed by Mort Schnable.

Give a Gift of Learning to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
For More Information on Making a Donation or Estate Planning.
Contact the Osher Office at 858-534-3409
By Martha Kaplan

Many lectures at Osher are fun, informative, delightful to listen to. This lecture on March 13th about the basso profundo voice in all its manifestations just made my ears laugh. From opera, choral, lieder to novelty, low low low note singing is just a joy.

The lecturer, Edward F. Durbeck III, is the owner of the Durbeck Archive, one of the largest classical singer sound recording collections in the world. The Archive specializes in LP era music from 1950-1990, and contains all classical vocal music recorded during those years. The music goes back 1700 years. He and his wife, Klara, are both singers and opera experts, they met and fell in love 29 years ago at a local opera quiz. They had a store in Leucadia for many years, but now deal strictly through mail order. They maintain their collection of 60,000 LPs and 4000 books in their Oceanside home, which is, needless to say, stuffed beyond imagining.

By Neil K. Perl

Thank you all for responding to our Transportation Survey. Responses were received from 253 members to at least some of the study. Invitations were sent to 633 members for a 40.0% return response rate.

- The primary mode of transportation to Osher classes is to drive alone (58.3%), with 23.0 % in carpools, and 10.3% taking public transportation. Other members use the UCSD Shuttles (2.8%), other modes of transportation (2.8%) or do not drive to campus (2.8%).
- As expected 71.8% of the respondents said the cost of parking is too high.
- The 10 day “A” permit are used by 40.5% of the respondents while 25.9% use the pay stations, 20.5% use Disabled Placards, the other 13.1% use 10 day “B” or “S” permits, quarterly Night/Weekend or other form of permit.
- Over 87% of us responded that they were not interested in carpooling.
- The current free bus service is known to 66.5% of us while only 20% of us use it.
- 63.3% reported that they had trouble finding a parking spot and over 81% of them left because of it.
- Finally, parking problems are very important to 32.9% of us, somewhat important to 38.9% and not important to 28.2%.

Several of the questions asked were requested by the UCSD Transportation Department and the