I have been aware of the project to install an electronic bulletin board in the lobby of Osher since Steve Clarey and Amy Patterson began working on it, but I have to say I never anticipated my reaction when I saw it. I was stunned (or shocked)! It changed my whole experience of entering the building. I arrived when the scene of our shoreline and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was showing. It was bright and alive with color. I hope you agree that this is a wonderful addition to our building. Amy can put the day’s lectures, announcements, and many other items on the screen, so that they rotate through the different screens.

There is more to come: rewiring the video system to HDMI, installing Blu-ray players in both rooms, with much more user friendly control boxes, and a screen that can be pulled out from the right side wall of room 129 so that people in the rear of the room can better see the PowerPoint and speaker. That will be done in June when we have a longer break. During the break in March, a new projector will replace the disappointing one that has not lived up to expectations.

In other news: we brought our on-campus membership back up to the level of two years ago and plan to maintain it at that level (around 700 monthly, quarterly and annual members). We are continuing to add senior living facilities and have some excellent potential facilities that want to use our videos for community educational meetings and individual use.

This, as well as our fundraising has allowed us to make these improvements without removing money from our reserves (investments). We are half way to meeting our $15,000 fundraising goal for this year and I hope that you will contribute.
It has been a pleasure having our Snowbirds with us for the winter quarter. They contribute in so many ways in the classroom and in UC San Diego public programs. We wish them well as they return to their nests across the country. Do hurry back! Our spring quarter begins after a short two-week break on April 4th and concludes on Friday, June 10th. On Saturday, March 19th, we will host an Osher Open House for new members. Please invite your friends and send them a copy of Amy’s always outstanding electronic marketing brochure and announcement.

Our Spring 2016 catalog is posted on our web site and describes another rich and varied program. Master Class I on Wednesday mornings welcomes the return of the amazing Emeritus Professor of Microbial Biology, Russell Doolittle, to give us the back-stories of many historic moments in science. In Master Class II we are pleased to bring Professor Karl Gerth back to Osher for his reflections on the history of China, from antiquity to the establishment of the People’s Republic of China. Registration for our Master Classes opens at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 24th.

A number of other multi-lecture series are again scheduled: Tufts University Emeritus Professor Elio Schaechter will present a series on the incredible world of microbes and their impact on life on the planet. Osher favorite Derrick Cartwright returns from USD to discuss artists who transformed American art in the first half of the twentieth century. Music Professor Walter Clark ventures down from UC Riverside to offer his insights on Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. Emeritus Professor Sandy Lakoff, who founded the political science department at UC San Diego, returns to discuss the never-ending turmoil in the Middle East.

Our regular lecture series in International Relations, Law, Medicine, Science, Humanities, and the Social Sciences feature a wide range of preeminent speakers. Notable this quarter, among many others, are our own UC San Diego Extension Dean Mary Walshok, discussing the importance of public research universities; Revelle Medal recipient Professor Cecil Lytle on jazz improvisation; integrative medicine cardiologist Dr. Mimi Guarneri; and Dame Zandra Rhodes, talking about her work for the San Diego Opera. Our small-classroom seminars continue to entertain and stimulate their loyal participants, and we will again hear from some of our accomplished colleagues as Osher Presenters.

The highlights above are just a sample of the marvelous program your hard-working Curriculum Committee of volunteer Osher members has assembled. Take a moment to thank them for their efforts on behalf of us all. A reminder that member recommendations are a key part of our curriculum development. We welcome your ideas. Drop them in the suggestion box in the lobby, or send us an e-mail.

OSHER CALENDAR

| March 24 | Master Class Registration* |
| April 4 | Spring Quarter begins |
| April 15 | Membership/Council Meeting** |
| May 13 | Council Meeting ** |
| June 3 | Potluck (noon) |
| June 10 | Spring Quarter ends |
| July 5 | Summer Quarter begins |
| August 25 | Summer Quarter ends |
| September 26 | Fall Quarter begins |
| December 2 | Fall Quarter ends |

* Opens at 10:00 a.m. ** everyone invited

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We have all worked very hard to face challenges that are ever present at Osher. Several of those challenges, as is often true, have cost money. We have been able to face those expenses without invading our reserves (investments), primarily because we have worked to bring our membership back up to the level that we need to maintain our budget and added the off-campus affiliate members giving us a solid income; and also because of our fundraising. The time is coming (sometime, we hope—soon) when there will be new construction on the extension campus. That will allow us to have a twenty-first century plan for our accommodations. For now we want to bring us into the twenty-first century technologically in our present circumstances, while preserving our significant financial investments for that future bricks and mortar.

We are requesting the two things that have moved us forward over the past two and a half years: the volunteers to keep us going and donations to keep us moving ahead at this level. We have a $15,000 fundraising goal. We ask you to help us to reach that goal. We have volunteer needs and we ask you to step up to that challenge either by volunteering or by helping us find appropriate people to offer that support. More specifically:

- Steve Clarey and Carol Roberts have been going it alone (with great support from Amy) building our outreach to senior living facilities. They would like other partners in this process of meeting with facility leaders and continuing the support of these facilities as they develop ways to use our videos in their context. This could be very rewarding for anyone who becomes involved.

- Related to that, we need someone to take on the task of communicating in monthly emails to affiliate members about recommended new video recordings and Live Music offerings.

- Mike McDade has volunteered to work with Amy on public relations. This involves deciding what activities to publicize and how to communicate this—to the public in our area and also to the larger OLLI community. We need another member on that team so as to facilitate good dialogue about identifying goals and tasks.

- Howard Aksen has agreed to be editor of the Osher Observer. He needs reporters (what’s a newsletter without reporters?). He needs people to write up articles about Osher members or speakers and to explore areas that have yet to be included in the Osher Observer.
Our Osher partnership program with local retirement communities is meeting with great success! New partners include Ocean Hills in Oceanside and Seacrest Village in Encinitas and Rancho Bernardo. As partners, they join the Vi at La Jolla Village and Casa de Mañana in La Jolla in bringing our engaging and intellectually invigorating Osher video programs to their residents.

Ocean Hills is a seniors’ community of over 1600 individual residences. Resident volunteers, who introduce the lecture and moderate follow-up discussion, are showing our Osher videos bi-weekly. Seacrest Village is investing in a closed-circuit television channel that will electronically connect its two resident locations. Our Osher video recordings will form a major part of their daily programming.

For an annual fee, Osher partners are allowed access to our extensive online video library of recorded lectures for viewing by their residents in a community setting. In addition, each partnership includes twenty-five individual affiliate memberships for residents who wish to view Osher videos on their personal laptops, TVs, or tablets. While the partnership is focused on reaching residents no longer physically able to travel to Osher, affiliate members are invited to our Live Music and Theater World programs and to attend Osher lectures during our quarterly Guest Week.

If you are a retirement community resident and think an Osher partnership is appropriate for your facility, please have your program or lifestyles director contact Amy Patterson, the Osher Program Manager, at 858-534-3409, or apatterson@ucsd.edu.

Saturday April 23, 2016 10:00 a.m.

We will be visiting the Museum of Photographic Art (MOPA) to view the Trilogia(Trilogy) exhibition, an internationally recognized collection of black and white works of famed Mexican photographer Flor Garduno. She focuses her photographs on three principal themes: Bestiarium, Fantastic Women, and Silent Natures.

Saturday, May 14, 2016 10:00 a.m.

Following a lecture on San Diego Neighborhoods: Coronado Historical: Hotel Del Coronado on Thursday, May 12, we will have a 90 minute tour of the Del Coronado Hotel, offering insights into its construction and 125 year history. Registration is limited. There is a fee.

Friday, June 10, 2016 1:00 p.m.

An American Heart Association Heart Saver CPR/AED training and certification class will again be offered to Osher members on Friday afternoon, June 10th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Room #129. The Osher discounted cost is $30 and registration will be limited to 30 members.

TBA June, 2016

Originally published in 1623, this is the collection of William Shakespeare plays put together by two of his friends. 18 of the plays were never before in print. It is referred to as the First Folio and will be on display at the San Diego Central Library. We will meet at the library and have a tour. Registration is limited.
Sharing the Campus
by H. S. Aksen

When you arrive for Osher classes it’s a little hard not to notice you are almost in a foreign area of UCSD. My initial impression was that I had gotten lost while trying to find where my classes would be held. Once I walked into the Osher building I realized that Osher was in the middle of the English language area of the UC San Diego Extension.

The English Language Institute’s mission is to provide English language instruction of the highest quality, in which people can learn to their fullest potential, develop a deeper understanding of the United States, and always receive courteous and knowledgeable service.

Many of the students who enroll at the institute are college graduates in their own countries, and wish to do advanced graduate study in the USA. Their first order of business is to learn English as quickly and well as they can in order to enroll in graduate school.

The students attending the English Language Institute (ELI) are from countries around the world. To name a few, China, Japan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and many others. Both young women and men attend the classes and are fine representatives of their countries. More than fifty-five countries are represented, with an average of five hundred and twenty-five students attending ten week programs. A sampling of the program is; Conversational English, Business English, Medical English, and other courses to help them become well versed in the English language.

So, the next time you arrive for an Osher class, look around, and feel good about what is taking place at the UCSD Extension English Language Institute. These young women and men will return to their countries having a much better understanding of English as well as some of the culture in the USA. It’s wonderful to share the English language area of the campus with these vibrant young people.
J'OY VEY (a play reading)

Gammy Leigh has big plans for her holiday overnighter with her grandbabies, including a surprise visit from Santa. She isn’t alone with her twin grandbabies for five minutes when Bubbie Arlene unexpectedly shows up at the door armed with Chanukah gifts galore and a know-it-all attitude that even the most mellow Gammy can’t abide.

And from there we went on an incredible journey to discover who is “World’s Greatest Grandmother” starring Linda Shirer, as Gammy Leigh, and Marcia Wyrtzen, as Bubbie Arlene, with co-playwright Anita Simons as the narrator.

It was a unique and valuable experience for Theater World to have the co-playwright involved in facilitating the audition and directorial process of “J’oy Vey” presented to the Osher audience in the form of a play reading. Many thanks to Anita Simons for sharing her talents with so many of us.

Join the fun at Theater World

More plays are being developed and auditions for some are taking place.
On Saturday, February 27, a group of Osher members joined the student group to explore the border culture and landscapes. We started at Chicano Park with Senator Denise Duchaney who explained the origin of the wonderful murals placed on walls and embankments under the Coronado Bridge. Then we headed for the Tijuana River Estuary where the Mayor of Imperial Beach talked about how both countries are cooperating in the conservation of the area. Following a delicious Mexican lunch we walked the trails and saw flowers and birds. It was a fascinating and enlightening day.

A large group of Osher members gathered at the Coast Guard Headquarters in San Diego on Saturday, February 6, 2016 to learn more about how they protect us all. We began with an overview by Lt. Scott Verhage (pictured below), followed by visits to the boats that go out on missions and helicopters just returning from a mission. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Fifty-four Osher members joined the trip to see the new Broad Museum in Los Angeles on January 23, 2016. The group bypassed the large lines and entered the Museum right after arrival. Afterwards, everyone was on their own, having received an excellent description of the Museum. Lunch was enjoyed at the Vespaio Restaurant next door, followed by a docent led tour of the current exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, across the street. Jan Miller did a wonderful job of escorting us from place to place, and making all the arrangements. We actually arrived back at UCSD by 5:30pm, as promised.
I decided to become a member of Osher in September of 2015. I had always heard good things about the classes from people I know who attended. I was fortunate enough to attend a class on history as well as a master class on Shakespeare. Both were very interesting and quite well done.

While the classes were somewhat crowded I always found a seat, and was fortunate enough to have found a parking space in one of the nearby lots. I was surprised by the diversity of the people attending the classes, and delighted to see their interest in the courses. For me, just being able to listen and learn, without taking notes or having homework, was a delight. Yes, I had to do some reading for the history class, but I was learning and enjoying what I read. It was like being back in college without the pressure.

I have since attended many of the Osher classes and at times found myself being there two or three days a week. The people I have met are all friendly and very bright. Questions from the audience always are concise and to the point. I made the right choice in deciding to join Osher and will continue to enjoy the learning experience and camaraderie.

Having spent a lifetime in college textbook publishing, Jim Wyrten asked if I would consider helping with the editing of the Osher Observer. Reluctantly I said I would try to help out, but didn’t want to take on any projects that I could not handle. So, for now I am assisting with the Osher Observer and hope to continue doing it for a while. I tend to be somewhat introverted, but enjoy meeting new people and keeping up the learning process. I hope that the Osher Observer will continue to be a useful vehicle for members to be aware of all that happens throughout the year.

Howard S. Aksen

I joined Osher to continue my life long learning
And watched a vaudeville show that piqued my yearning
Yearning, for the wonderful talent of yesteryear
And music and lyrics that will never disappear
From Berlin’s music, and other classic songs as well
They even read a Robert Service poem that made me feel swell
The live music by Jay Berman never missed a beat
The smiles from the whole cast were ever so sweet
The acts were great, the performers superb
The jokes were old, but still tickled a nerve
Each act performed without props and fancy lights
But everyone was enthusiastic and a real delight
It takes talent and steady nerves to put on a show
And based on what I saw I came away with a glow
So to Osher people I say, thank you so much
I plan to come again for this learning and such
Be proud of your performance and feel good too
You made this new member feel great about you