This is my last President’s Column. There will be a new president writing in the Summer Quarter Osher Observer. It has been a joy to serve as president for the past four years. The members have been very supportive, and many have stepped forward to help us accomplish tasks that we have taken on.

I have had an excellent executive committee with which to work. An early goal was to build a budget, and to gather the information necessary to do that. Stanley Faer spent many hours personally and with the UCSD Extension accountant to determine accurate figures. Neil Perl, who has worked to update our website, took over as treasurer two years ago, and has continued to follow the numbers and understand our investment structure. It has been essential to have a clear understanding of the monies that we have and which we spend.

Steve Clarey was elected to be the VP of Planning; however, very soon he added Curriculum Committee Chair and worked very hard to organize the procedures for paying honoraria and submitting requests for payment to the UCSD Extension. He expanded the committee and structured it to align with our video program. He also worked to build procedures for open houses, the Affiliate Membership and Senior Facilities program, and facilitating our process to make Osher more visible to the university and community.

Carol Roberts also became Secretary, adding this to her responsibility as Activities Chair, and assisting Steve with the Senior Facilities outreach. She has built an excellent activities program with trips, tours of San Diego neighborhoods, and opportunities to see exhibits at USD. Most of these opportunities have been coordinated with lectures within our curriculum.

Bob Morgan joined us two years ago, and has expanded our program by keeping us apprised of volunteer opportunities at the university and activities of interest to our members.

Many changes have taken place. Fees are now collected by student services, and we had to develop ways those fees could be paid. We decided to create a video library and to purchase video equipment to record our lectures. We realized that we needed to change our audio system to become completely digital with new microphones and receivers.

I started by saying that it has been a joy to serve as president. It has also been a joy to collaborate with such competent people, who have worked together and all chosen areas to use their strengths to accomplish our goals. This has been aided by an inquisitive and thoughtful council. The members have wanted to understand the program and goals in order support this work. Committee members—Curriculum, Activities, Membership, Open House, Fundraising, TLC, Potluck, Theater World, and Marketing and Communications have joined in to make everything happen smoothly and fulfill the goals we have set. What a pleasure to work with these people!

Amy Patterson—what can I say? Nothing I have been describing could have been accomplished without the pleasant, consistent and solid support by Amy. How she gets it all done and still smiles so brightly is amazing!

Thank you all for four great years!
It has been a pleasure having so many new and returning “snowbirds” with us during the winter quarter. You have enriched our program in many ways and we wish you safe travels back to your “nests”.

Our spring quarter begins on April 3, 2017 and the catalog is posted on our website. Master Class I on Wednesday mornings welcomes the return of long-time Osher favorite Linda Blair, to discuss the post-Impressionist painters Vincent van Gogh and Paul Cézanne. Master Class II will be a five-lecture series on the history of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires by UC San Diego professor Matthew Herbst. Registration is required for our Master Classes and opens at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22nd.

UCSD’s Cognitive Science Department established the country’s first program for, and remains a leader in, the interdisciplinary study of the mind. We will learn about their latest research from six different professors in this exciting series. Osher’s own retired physics professor Peter Fedders returns for a three lecture series on “Light: Perception, Quantum Theory, and Astrophysical Measurements.”

In addition to the above, the renowned art diagnostician Maurizio Seracini will share tales of his latest art authentications and discoveries; John Malashock will lecture on The Malashock Dance Company; and updates will be provided on the civil war in Ukraine, developments on the Korean Peninsula, and in Southeast Asia. We will discuss the death penalty in California and the Roberts’ Supreme Court, and have an especially rich series of lectures in Medicine, Science, and the Social Sciences.

Our small-classroom seminars and weekly discussion groups will again entertain and stimulate their loyal participants and we will hear from some of our accomplished colleagues as Osher Presenters. Check the catalog for our spring Live Music and Theater World performances and our special Osher field trips.

Your hard-working volunteer Curriculum Committee of Osher members has scheduled more than sixty guest lecturers for the spring quarter. Take a moment to thank them for their efforts. If you would like to volunteer to become a member of the Curriculum Committee, have speaker recommendations, or would like to make a presentation to your colleagues, please send me an email: ssclarey62@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Steve Clarey, Chair, Curriculum Committee

OSHER CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Membership/Council Meeting *</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Winter Quarter ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Master Class Registration**</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Spring Quarter begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>New Member Luncheon (12:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Membership/Council Meeting*</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Council Meeting*</td>
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<td>June 2</td>
<td>Spring Potluck Luncheon</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>Spring Quarter ends</td>
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*everyone invited  
** 10:00 a.m.
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING FALL QUARTER

Luncheons
All luncheons take place in Room 128 and begin at 12:00 p.m.
Friday, April 7: New Members’ Luncheon
Tuesday, April 11: Brown Bag Luncheon hosted by the Executive Committee
Tuesday, May 9: Brown Bag Luncheon hosted by the Curriculum Committee
Friday, June 2: Potluck Luncheon on the Patio

Events
Friday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m. Membership and Council Meeting (everyone invited)
Friday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. Poetry Café in Room 128 at the conclusion of Live Music. Come share or come listen: poetry, limericks, meaningful literary pieces. Refreshments will be served.
Friday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m. Council Meeting (everyone invited)

Field Trips
Saturday, April 22 at 8:30 a.m. Travel to Los Angeles via chartered bus to visit the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) to visit the exhibition *Picasso and Rivera: Conversations Across Time*. The schedule will include a group lunch at a local restaurant. The bus will depart from parking lot #303 adjacent to Osher at 8:30 a.m. and will return to San Diego at 6:00 p.m. Registration details and a trip schedule will be provided later in the quarter. Fee.
Thursday, May 11 at 4:00 p.m. Join us for a private Osher tour of the University of San Diego special exhibition of prints in the Hoehn Gallery from the British Museum. This special tour will be preceded by a lecture at Osher on April 27. Registration limited. No fee.
Saturday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. San Diego Neighborhoods. Join us for a walking tour and discussion of historic Little Italy, first settled in 1871 to become the “tuna capital” of the United States, and now a magnet for people to visit the numerous art galleries, restaurants, and the San Diego Maritime Museum. The tour will be preceded by a lecture at Osher on May 16. See page 45 for a program description. Registration and parking instructions will be provided later in the quarter. Fee.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Albert Camus once said: “Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all toward the present.”

Osher recently received a $10,000 unrestricted donation from Suzanne Losonczi in memory of her late husband Laszlo Losonczi. They were both Osher members from 2011-2015. Osher had a positive impact on Suzanne and Laszlo’s lives and they wanted to give back to share the gift of learning with others. We are so thankful for the Losonczis’ generosity. Their gift will make a difference.

We welcome donations in any amount – no gift is too small or too large. During this 2016-2017 fundraising campaign, you can honor or donate in memory of a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply make a one-time donation to Osher. Your donations go to securing excellent speakers, enhancing our video library and making facility upgrades. Thank you in advance for giving to Osher at UCSD.

I am also amazed at the generosity of Osher volunteers and community members who give so willingly of their time, talent and treasure. We would not have the successful program we have today were it not for volunteers on the Osher council, committee members, peer presenters, and our theatre group. Your willingness to serve is a real commitment toward the present and future of Osher at UCSD. Your willingness and generosity in our fund-raising campaign helps sustain the quality of our program. Thank you for your continued support.

Marlese Pinney, Chair
Enthusiastic Osher members took a trip to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles and had a wonderful experience. We started the day with a docent led tour of three of the floors covering the special Bugatti exhibit as well as early French made cars. We then visited the second floor where the diversity of design and technology helped us learn about how the industry works. We completed the morning tour on the third floor, featuring the history and how Hollywood played a part. Lunch was in the Penthouse with a breathtaking view of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Hills. This was followed by a docent tour of the Vault, home to extremely special vehicles of all ages and types. Many are one of a kind, all fascinating to see. It was a perfect end to an informative visit to this unique museum.

Larry Brooks took many excellent pictures while on the tour. He has placed them on a Google site for us to view.

Go to: https://goo.gl/photos/oKJdsu63EEouHh4v8

When you open the link, click on the first picture to open the album. If captions do not appear at the bottom of the screen, click on the letter i in the white dot in the upper right. Use arrow keys to advance through the pictures.
by Faye Girsh

One of my favorite parts about the Osher experience is lunch under the umbrellas. One day, before our crowd came out, I parked myself at one of our tables where a young woman was sitting. She looked slightly Asian and was wearing Western dress. It turned out she was from Kazakhstan — and, especially, from Astana, the new capital. I had been in her country before but only visited Almaty, a delightful European city and the old capital. When I returned from that trip a fellow traveler, from Osher, showed me a National Geographic article and picture spread about the modern city of Astana.

Completely enthralled with this architectural wonder, I was determined to go back and see what I’d missed. And here was this delightful young woman from the very city I longed to see! I told her this and invited her, and her Astana roommate to dinner at the Vi (Vi is the retirement community where I live). I have to say that the first time they didn’t show up, but we tried again. They did come this time and we had a delightful dinner. I’m sure she never saw so many “mature” folks. I did learn not to invite another person to join us since the talk went on a tangent about the Peace Corps, and it went too fast for Assel and her roommate to understand everything. Still, it was fun.

Later she invited me to a special evening put on by the Kazakh students at UCSD — there are 40 of them! There was homemade Kazakh food, costumes, dances, songs and a slide show from her country plus a delightful and hospitable group of young people. We stayed in touch and I saw her before she returned to Astana at the end of the semester.

That summer, June 2015, I was in Berlin and eventually headed for North Korea and China. Since I would be in the “neighborhood” I included Astana on my itinerary. Fortunately, Assel was in town, working during the day but available to have fun every evening and on the weekend. We tried fancy restaurants where she had never dined. After dinner she took me around to the mosque, the museum and the amazing downtown area, and we walked around till 1AM feeling perfectly safe and giggling a lot. Then she would go out to the street, flag down a regular car, and negotiate with the driver to take her home for a small fee, — and I went back to my interesting hotel.

Assel is now getting her Masters at Boston University, and we stay in touch. I promised I’d go back for her wedding, though nothing is scheduled as yet, including a groom. Astana is such a rapidly changing city that I look forward to a return trip, being with Assel again, and meeting her family (including her twin sister). Here’s a picture of us at the beautiful Astana Opera House.
by H. S. Aksen

Friday Afternoon Music at Osher
January 13, 2017

For our Winter quarter the first Friday music event was a barbershop quartet, “Behind the Barn”. The group did an outstanding job of singing in four-part harmony and everyone who attended had an enjoyable time. The members of the singing group not only sang wonderful songs, but they then involved the audience, and had us singing along as well. One new Osher member joined in, and also did quite well as the female voice counterpointing the men. Once again, Reed Sullivan brought in a talented group to start our weekend on a high note.

Music, Music, Music
January 27, 2017

Another Friday afternoon with music. Today our performer and lecturer was Yale Strom. Yale is a highly respected musician and historian of Klezmer and Roma (Gypsy) music. He provided excellent background information about his research in eastern Europe to learn as much as he could about this music, which had virtually been lost to the world since World War II.

Along with his lecture Yale played his fiddle and presented several songs of the Roma or Gypsy era, as well as Klezmer music. The audience enjoyed his informative talk, but really started feeling the music whenever he played. The afternoon was another fun hour of music and musical history. We all could have listened to more music and history from Yale. Thanks again to Reed Sullivan for arranging another fun musical event.

The Classical Guitar
February 10, 2017

When the classical guitar is played properly it almost sounds like a mini orchestra. We were most fortunate to have Colin McAllister play his guitar for us at Friday afternoon Live Music. Colin has been playing for over thirty years, and his technique and presentation were just wonderful. Colin had played at Osher in the past while living in San Diego. Since he now lives and works in Boulder, Colorado it took a special visit to San Diego to have him back for an Osher music class. The audience on this particular Friday was quite large and everyone was enthralled with the sounds emanating from Colin’s guitar. Another hour of delightful music on a Friday.

by Natalie Holtzman (02/17)

There are many milestones one reaches on the road to recovery from surgery or serious illness: the first meal one can fully enjoy, the first walk in the sunshine, the day the antibiotics are finished, and when the pain pills are no longer needed.

Another major milestone on the way to good mental and physical health is the day one is able to return to Osher. That means your neurons are waiting to be reactivated. You are ready and eager to listen, learn, and participate once again.

While your brain is being stimulated, something equally important is happening. Your soul is being nourished by all the Osher friends happy to greet you, embrace you, and welcome you back. You know this family of Osher friends really care about you, they truly missed you, and also how much you missed seeing them. What a wonderful feeling that is, and what an amazing boost to recovery!
OUR SEASONAL CROWD

by Joan Kleinman

We come from New Jersey, Minnesota and Illinois, from Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and even Canada. We come in the winter for the mild climate, the colorful vegetation, and the ocean. We enroll in the Osher program because it frames our days and provides not only outstanding classes but also opportunities to easily meet new people. We come for the diverse cultural life in San Diego and the seemingly endless academic and artistic experiences UCSD offers. We fill our calendars with event tickets and social get-togethers ruing that there is not enough time to do everything.

We gravitate to the often-dramatic sunsets, ever hopeful to see the elusive green flash. We marvel that we can eat meals outdoors in the middle of January and February. We appreciate being here amidst reports of multi-inch snowfalls on the east coast and in the mid-west. We think we are hardy, but, before long, we consider temperatures in the 50’s to be cold.

Some of us come because we had previously visited La Jolla or its environs and had immediately felt a sense of home. Many of us follow friends who have wintered here before, extol their experience, and entreat us to join them. Often, we first stay for a week or two, then a month, and then for several. Eventually, some of us leave our homes of many years to transition into permanent residents; we may be drawn by relatives who live nearby, but some of us make the more difficult decision to leave family behind.

We comprise forty to fifty percent of the Osher winter-quarter-only enrollment. While we may impact available space in the classrooms and the parking lots, year-rounders are generally glad to see us arrive and appreciate the different perspectives we bring to class discussions. We talk about other Osher programs and may stimulate ideas for new models for UCSD. We love renewing our winter friendships, and we like to have folks visit us in other seasons in our other homes.

We are the snowbirds.

Wikipedia defines us as people “who move from the higher latitudes and colder climates of the northern United States and Canada and migrate southward in winter to warmer locales.” Merriam-Webster observes that we are not a new phenomenon. The term “snowbird” was first used to describe men who enlisted in the armed forces to get food and clothing during the winter months and then deserted as the warm spring weather approached. Later, it referred to northern laborers who flocked south to work as the harsh winter arrived up north. The website isnowbird.com explains that we follow in the footsteps of prosperous Europeans during the Victorian Age who escaped the cold winters of their northern homes by traveling to a milder Mediterranean climate in Italy or Southern France.

Since we are snowbirds, our California stay does end. We leave a bit reluctantly but energized and already writing our to-do list for when we return.
by H. S. Aksen and Jim Wyrtzen

It was 1971 when Joseph and Irene Rubinger proposed a program for retirees to the administration at the UCSD Extension. Over the next three years Dean Martin Chamberlain and the Associate Dean Mary Walshok (currently Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Extended Studies) handled the development and launch of what would be called the Institute of Continued Learning (ICL) in 1974. It has become one of the country’s oldest academic programs for retirees.

When ICL launched in 1974 the first official program included four study groups: Brazil, Mexico, Readers Theatre, and Art. About fifty people attended the classes, which met weekly for ninety minutes, often in members homes.

In May 1975, a Charter and Bylaws were approved by Dean Martin Chamberlain. ICL would be an “Inner University” for retired and semi-retired persons to continue intellectual pursuits and activities as part of a university community. It was to be self-governing and self-directed with a UCSD Extension affiliation, annual membership, UCSD staff support, and the support of Assistant Dean Mary Walshok.

In 1976 a series of Forums were introduced. The Forums were one-time lectures open to all members and occasionally the public. These Forums developed into our present day Master Classes, Premier Series, and Distinguished Lectures.

In 1977 UCSD was able to build the six-building complex that created the UCSD Extension campus. This was accomplished with a Department of Commerce grant of $850,000 and was supported by a California State Legislature resolution calling on state universities to implement programs for seniors. One of those buildings was designated for ICL and has been our home since that time.

The building was renamed the Rubinger Center to honor their initial work in the launching of ICL. Through the years generous gifts from Joseph and Irene Rubinger, Reva and Stanley Rogaliner, the Anderson’s, and a $600,000 gift from the estate of Marci Coolidge have allowed the classroom space and office to be improved and expanded. In addition our active members have also donated generously to assist our growth.

Grants and an endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation totaling $1,375,000 in 2003 helped the ICL expand and improve its curriculum with the name changing to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSD in 2005. With the Osher funds and name change Osher at UCSD is part of a network of more than 120 programs at universities throughout the country.

Osher remains a volunteer organization, self-governed by a five-member executive committee and a fifteen-member council. Our enriching program of lectures and seminars is developed entirely by the members of the voluntary Curriculum Committee. In 2014 the council approved video recording of Osher lectures for viewing by members physically unable to attend, or who miss a lecture. An Affiliate Membership program was established to provide access to recorded lectures without on campus privileges, and the first retirement center partnership created at the Vi retirement community in La Jolla to add lifelong learning to their programs for healthy aging.

Today with over eight-hundred members (including snowbirds) our class offerings and lectures involve peer presenters and outside experts in their respective fields. We have one full-time paid employee, our Program Manager. Osher offers over 120 classes per quarter, plus tours and social events each year. Class subjects include art, science, medicine, literature, economics, politics, history, theater, distinguished lectures by national and local leaders in government, and live musical performances. In 2016 we converted our audio-visual system to a modern digital format.

After more than four decades since we began, Osher Life Long Learning Institute is a premiere learning environment for older adults. We look forward to many more years of offering classes and activities to our membership.