This is my first opportunity to speak to all of you since my election as President. I am honored to serve, and hope to live up to the high standard Jim Wyrtzen set over the past four years. He and his excellent Executive Committee have worked tirelessly, and can be proud of their many accomplishments. Osher is financially sound, membership has increased, and the quality of our programs and events continues to grow.

Fortunately, as I strive to learn my new job and contribute, I will be aided and guided by a strong, experienced Council and Executive Committee, and our talented and tireless Program Manager, Amy Patterson.

Along with congratulations, many people have asked me, “Why would you volunteer for this job?” Those comments provoked a lot of thought on my part. Here is my belated response:

—I have been a student at Osher since 2011. I have always been an avid reader, and believed that I was a well-educated person, with several degrees, and long and interesting careers. But over the past six-plus years, Osher has redefined education for me, and has made me passionate about learning at age 77.

—The format is partially responsible. Here, learning is the goal; it is not just a means to a goal. No grades, no attendance records, no pressure. Our presenters are uniformly outstanding and engaging. The Curriculum Committee keeps discovering talent. I learn many new things each week. My prior education was good, but linear. It focused on preparing me for my careers. Osher’s programs let me use the rest of my brain.

—My fellow students at Osher are a vital part of our program here. I have never known a brighter, more interesting group. I look forward to the Q&A portions of our classes, and always learn from the discussions.

—in earlier years I have participated in numerous organizations in business, education, government, politics, etc. The ones that benefited me most were the ones in which I assumed a leadership role, or at least volunteered for specific tasks. I found this a great way to make lifelong friends.

—Our program is run, and run well, by student volunteers. Considering what the Osher experience has given me, I felt a strong urge to “give back.” That is why I am now holding an office. I hope to learn even more, and make many new friends.

I hope that many of you reading this, will further enrich your lives and make new friends by volunteering to serve on the Council or a sub-committee, or even a short-term task. I hope all of you will contribute financially as well. The amount is less important than showing your support!

As Steve Clarey’s column reveals, we are looking forward to a great Summer quarter. Hope to see all of you here! Bring a friend!

Mike
Congratulations to president Mike McDade and the other newly elected members of the Osher Executive Committee and Council. Thank you for volunteering to lead our marvelous Osher Institute. I am stepping down from the Executive Committee in June after a four-year tour, but will continue to chair the volunteer Curriculum Committee, which organizes our program of guest lecturers and seminar leaders each quarter.

Our summer quarter begins on July 5, 2017, and the summer catalog is posted on our website. Our summer quarter is abbreviated: eight rather than ten weeks with classes on Monday to Thursday only, except for Friday, July 20. Master Class I on Wednesday mornings welcomes the return of the acclaimed concert pianist Gustavo Romero, who will be lecturing and playing the music of Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. Be sure to attend his Sunday concerts at the Athenaeum Library in La Jolla, where Osher members can again purchase tickets at a discount. Master Class II features an Osher favorite, USD Professor Derrick Cartwright, who will deliver five lectures on the Art History of the United States and its key narratives. Registration is required for our Master Classes and opens at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21.

Theater World, Current Events, and Inside Politics are “dark” during the summer quarter. Summer Town Hall discussions will, however, continue bi-weekly on Monday mornings. Our lecture and seminar programs promise to be rich and varied. In International Relations, we will feature speakers on U.S. and Mexico relations, and the Kurdistan Regional Government’s efforts to create an autonomous region in Iraq. Professor Glenn Smith will return for his annual assessment of the United States Supreme Court’s 2017 session, and a discussion of the impact of Judge Gorsuch’s appointment to the Court. To increase our enjoyment of the Old Globe’s production of Hamlet, Shakespearean scholar and Osher member Judith Anderson returns to lead a discussion of the play during a series of five seminars in classroom #128, one for each act.

Our summer program features an annual workshop as a departure from our routine of academic lectures. This summer award-winning UCSD professor Karen Dobkins will conduct a four-session life-skills Principles of Clarity workshop: Mindfulness and Well-Being, on July 17 and 18. Professor Dobkins has conducted this workshop overseas as well as here at UCSD, and it will be tailored to our Osher demographics. Registration for this no-fee workshop will be required and Osher members are invited to bring one guest at no cost. The summer catalog includes a detailed agenda for the workshop.

In the field of science and medicine, we will learn about the recent discovery of seven Earthlike planets, the latest in energy storage and battery technology, the ethics of human genetic engineering, and sleep disorders. Research in using stem cell therapy for the treatment of arthritis, and an update on the treatment of Parkinson’s disease also will be discussed. Racehorse owner and author Alan Mindell will lecture on the “Ins and Outs of Horse Racing,” and has arranged a special Osher tour during an early morning workout at the Del Mar Racetrack in July.

Our small-classroom seminars and weekly discussion groups which take place during the summer, will entertain and stimulate their loyal participants, and we will hear from some of our accomplished colleagues as Osher Presenters.

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

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**OSHER CALENDAR**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Master Class Registration**</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Summer Quarter begins</td>
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<td>July 7</td>
<td>New Member Luncheon (12:00)</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
<td>Council Meeting*</td>
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<td>August 10</td>
<td>Council Meeting*</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
<td>Summer Quarter ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Fall Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Master Class Registration**</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Fall Quarter begins</td>
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*everyone invited

** 10:00 a.m.

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**Vol. 9 No. 4 Summer 2017**

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The Need for Philosophy and Ethics Courses in a College Curriculum
by Professor Samuel Rickless UCSD

When he was running for President, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida stated that the value of a vocational degree exceeds the value of a philosophy degree: “Welders make more money than philosophers. We need more welders and less philosophers.” Setting aside the fact that Senator Rubio should have said “fewer” instead of “less,” was he mistaken? Yes, twice over.

In the first place, it is false that welders are better remunerated than philosophers. The median wage for welders is $5,000 lower than the first-year salary for philosophy majors, and in mid-career the median philosophy major earns $26,000 more than the top 10% of welders. But this is far less important than the second point: we need more philosophers, not fewer.

Philosophy is the careful, analytically precise search for answers to abstract questions about the most important features of human life and the nature of the world around us, questions such as: “What is the difference between right and wrong?” A true answer to this question is critical to a life well lived. Without an understanding of what makes acts (and omissions) wrong, we will likely commit more wrongs than we would otherwise. And a life full of wrongful acts is very much to be avoided.

Some people think that wrongs stem from evil intentions. But this is not always the case. Many, perhaps most, wrongs stem from weakness, often self-serving: “I know that I should be honest with my colleagues, but I don’t want to hurt their feelings,” “I know that my company’s product is poorly made, but if I blow the whistle then I will be fired.” Sometimes we don’t do the right thing, even though we know it’s right; but sometimes we rationalize. This is almost surely how the VW engineers who defeated anti-pollution regulations thought of what they were doing: “I’m just doing my job”, “If we lose market share, then jobs will be lost,” and so on.

It is easy for people, including young adults, to fail to consider these questions with sufficient care and precision. There is therefore some risk that they will take social norms for granted and, as a result, won’t stand up for what is right when push comes to shove. This is one reason why the teaching of philosophy, especially in college, is so important. In order to do what is right, we need to know what is right; and in order to know what is right, we need to think hard about the difference between right and wrong. But thinking hard, which is what philosophers do, takes effort. So it makes sense to require college students to learn about ethics.

Moral philosophy is not a panacea. It won’t cure cancer, and it won’t stop global warming. But what it offers students is the opportunity to think about what to do, and what not to do, in the pursuit of happiness. Socrates once said that the unexamined life is not worth living, and he was right.
Folk Musical
by Bob Young

Each year, in the days after the Theater World musical production, the chatter begins. What will we do next? In this era of email, the air e-waves are busy with ideas. A year ago, a day after the performance of A Tale of Four Cities, Fran Zimmerman wrote the group that she was up late watching public television. Those who know Fran knew right away to pay attention to what she was about to propose. “Let’s do a show about folk music. That’s our music! We’d do great singing the songs. We already know the words—always a bit of a problem for our memory-challenged cohort. And the audience, 1950s and 1960s somethings like us, will love it.” That’s how it happened!

On April 15 and 18, 2017, a cast of twenty Osher singers, with musical accompaniment by Jay Berman and friends, presented Folk Musical: Music of a Generation. Each year’s production is a bit audacious. This year was specially perplexing. The songs were easy. Easy to choose, anyway. We asked Osher members to suggest songs, and join the cast to sing them. The more difficult problem was how to tie the music together into something resembling musical theater. This is Theater World, after all. Our solution was pure Osher: let’s give it a try and see what happens! That’s how we did it.

Once we chose the songs and sorted out who would sing each song, we began rehearsing. Theater World continues to be an opportunity for experienced singers and actors to use and polish their skills. We had some old hands whom we knew could do some of the more challenging songs. And, every year, new Osher members present themselves as new talent. This year we had a bumper crop. And, most delightfully, Osher is a place to try new things and challenge ourselves in new ways. This happened over and over in Folk Musical. “Just don’t let me embarrass myself,” was the mantra.

And no one did. Rehearsals and practice—lots of singing in the shower—got the songs in shape. Expectations were high, and patience and guidance were in good supply. We also had lots of fun each step of the way.

All that remained was a story line to put it all together. We knew the singers were keen to sing the songs. We knew the audience wouldn’t hesitate to sing along. But, what would make the show a special experience? The answer, again, was the genius of Osher. We come together not just to be entertained, but to learn and to engage our vast experiences. So we wrote a narrative to teach about the songs and to touch our memories of the times and places we first heard them. We also wanted to make the songs relevant to our lives today.

We have been told we were successful. Some came back for the second performance. Some brought their friends. Children and grandchildren were impressed—and moved. That’s all good!

Now, on to next year. We wonder what Fran Zimmerman has been watching late at night on public television?

OSHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Marketing Team Leader Steve Clarey, and Carol Roberts are pleased to report that both White Sands and Chateau La Jolla retirement communities have joined Osher as community partners, in conjunction with our Affiliate Membership program. For an annual partnership fee, their residents are allowed to watch our recorded lectures in a community setting. We welcome them to our Osher community!
by Carol Roberts

On Saturday, March 11, 2017 we explored the neighborhood of North Park. This community is located on the edge of Balboa Park giving many of the homes a beautiful view of the park. The architecture is varied as is the population. It is a growing, popular place to live, dine and enjoy music. Another fascinating look at a vibrant area in San Diego.

An enthusiastic group of fifty went to the Los Angeles County Museum on Saturday, April 22, 2017 to view the *Picasso and Rivera: Conversations Across Time* exhibition. Amy Crum, Curator of this fabulous exhibition, presented a lecture the previous week to highlight what we would be seeing. It turned out to be a spectacular viewing of this large, comprehensive subject. We all appreciated being familiar with what we were seeing.

ACTIVE VOICES
by H. S. Aksen

We are in the process of publishing Volume I of Active Voices, a publication by and for Osher members. The book will contain short stories, essays, poems, original photos, and art, all done by members of the Osher community. Over thirty members are represented in the first volume. We need everyone’s support to publish the first book. We hope to publish a volume each year.

If you can contribute $5 per person the executive committee will cover the remaining costs. Your show of support is important for the following reasons:
1. You’ll have a chance to read and see skillful writing and photos from fellow members.
2. You’ll have something to read while waiting for class to begin.
3. It may keep you off your smart phone for a few minutes.
4. You may decide you want to submit some original work to *Active Voices*.
5. Where else can you find an original publication for just $5.00.
6. Let’s show the executive committee that something other than a lecture will entertain you.
7. It’s less than 14 cents a day over a year.
8. The writers, photographers, and artists will be grateful.
9. Organizational support.
10. PLEASE!

All kidding aside, we do need your support and hope you will send in a check.
Friday Afternoon Concerts
by Howard S. Aksen

Osher had another fine concert under the direction of Dr. Angela Yeung and twelve of her students from USD. The program, with a classical orientation, featured the music of Katherine Hoover, Johann Sebastian Bach, Jacques Ibert, Johann Christian Bach, and Karl Jenkins.

The students, many of whom are music majors, performed very well. The audience enjoyed the entire one-hour performance. These biweekly musical events are a relaxing way to spend an hour on Friday afternoon. The performers, always enthusiastic, provide marvelous entertainment.

RAZZLE DAZZLE
by H. S. Aksen

Often I am not able to attend Monday morning class at Osher. Fortunately for me on April 10, 2017, the morning program piqued my interest, and I arrived at class early enough to have a good seat. The special program that many of us saw, Jay Berman and Doug Coblens, performing a retrospective of the music and lyrics of Kander and Ebb, was pure delight.

The performance of Doug Coblens and Jay Berman was a wonderful event involving a musical member of Osher and the talented son of Osher members. The enthusiasm, singing, and music were excellent. How fortunate we are to have volunteers perform for us at a level that you might only see in a professional theater. Doug, taking on the part of Fred Ebb, had his own props, and sang the songs flawlessly. Jay, played the music of John Kander with his usual expertise. They were well rehearsed with a fine representation of Kander and Ebb songs.

John Kander and Fred Ebb were a writing team that gave us the musicals *Cabaret* and *Chicago*. They wrote many other musicals and specialty songs for various artists through the years. Amongst their many famous songs is *New York, New York*, from the film of the same name, and performed originally by Liza Minelli and then Frank Sinatra. There is no doubt that Kander and Ebb’s music and lyrics will continue to be performed for years to come. But for the Osher audience, the presentation and performance by Doug Coblens and Jay Berman will remain a fond memory.

Our thanks to Eileen and Ed Coblens for having their son (a full-time attorney and amateur musical performer) join Jay Berman, our musical maestro, to bring us such wonderful entertainment. As Kander and Ebb said, they “Razzled Dazzled Us”

Folk Musical: Music of a Generation
by H. S. Aksen

Osher Theater World performed a folk musical show today. This was cleverly developed with many members in play. Folk music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s was fun for the soul. The audience enjoyed themselves, which was the show’s goal.

It’s wonderful to have talented members step up to the plate. Their performances are pleasurable and definitely elate. To all who performed and those who produced the show, your audience thanks you for making us all feel aglow.

We know it’s hard work and takes weeks to get ready. But it is worth the effort and your perseverance is steady. So thank you all who took part and joined in the fun. You had two shows at Osher which is a helluva run.
It happened at Osher Life Long Learning! Linda Shirer and Doug Webb met while in a Theater World production of *Oklahoma* and became good friends. The friendship blossomed as they continued to be cast opposite each other in different Theater World productions. As time passed the friendship developed into romance, and finally marriage. A real life Osher romance, akin to a Hollywood movie or Broadway show.

Linda, originally from Chicago, has lived in La Jolla for over thirty years. Doug, a native Californian, has lived in San Diego for over fifty-five years. Both were previously married and divorced. Each of them has three children, now grown and on their own.

Linda and Doug happened to join Osher five years ago to partake in Theater World and continue their love of learning. How fortunate they were to have met. They plan to live in the home Doug has in Del Mar. Before Linda retired she worked as an editor, public relations professional, and journalist. Doug, who is still a practicing attorney, will continue working for the foreseeable future.

Once they both realized their love for each other was serious, they decided they wanted to spend the rest of their lives together. Doug unfortunately had a stroke about six months ago, and is slowly improving. Since they had decided to marry before his stroke, they did not let this setback deter their plans.

Their wedding took place on April 8, 2017, and to add to the Osher connection, their good friend, and ordained United Methodist minister, Jim Wyrtzen, performed the service. These photos show the happy and wonderful event.

For Linda and Doug their serendipitous meeting at Osher will always be a special Osher romance and marriage that will last for as long as time goes by. A song from the show *Oklahoma* describes it very well, “All Er Nothin’.”
by Neil Perl

Every eighteen months the Osher Foundation and the Osher National Resource Center (NRC) hold a National Conference to discuss the status of the nationwide program and to address concerns and problems that are common to all the organizations.

Each OLLI sends two representatives to the conference, one staff member and one volunteer. This year Amy and I attended the event that was held in Irving, Texas. The presentations focused on volunteerism, fund raising, marketing and outreach, interaction with other organizations in the community, curriculum, how to have hands-on classes in the creative arts, distance learning, and resources available through the NRC.

The welcome session included opening statements by the Osher Foundation Leadership and Bernard Osher, Founder and Treasurer. The Executive Director of The National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes presented the results of the 2016 survey of 12 schools, 8 of which also participated in the 2014 Survey.

Based on the survey and other data, there are now 120 OLLI’s, in 327 towns and cities, at 26 private and 96 public universities or colleges. Five OLLI’s are 501.c3 organizations, independent of, but affiliated with, universities. Of the 120 OLLI’s, 11 are in Southern California, from Camarillo to the border, and 14 are in Northern California. There are 160,125 members nationwide, reflecting a 68 percent increase since 2009-10. Only 5.24 percent of the members identified as non-white and only 2.7 percent of the membership is African American. Fifty-five percent of the members are between 65 and 74 years old, with 59 percent holding advanced degrees. History is the most popular subject, followed by fine arts and current affairs.

Most of the other OLLIs are managed by paid staff, with a volunteer advisory council. Generally they offer classes that run over many weeks in small classrooms. Some have classrooms on campus, but many are offsite. Several have multiple campuses, thus the 327 locations for the 120 OLLIs.

The programs I attended dealt with Diversity, Volunteerism, Fund Raising, and Distance Learning. Other programs covered Interaction with the Community, and Outreach through Social Media, etc.

The key benefits from the presentations I attended were:

Diversity
Although “visual” diversity (Race, Gender, Ethnicity …) is important, cultural, socio-economic, and political diversity are also needed to present all viewpoints to the members.

Volunteerism
• Attracting and keeping quality volunteers is a problem at all OLLI’s
• Have a Mission Statement for the Council and job descriptions for the various positions
• Train the volunteers on their duties
• Make sure the volunteer is qualified for the position and is willing to do the job
• Recognize the work done by the volunteers
• Start recruiting for next year’s volunteers early in the term
• Have members suggest possible leaders of the future

Fund Raising
• Ideas about fund raising methods were also discussed from the viewpoint of OLLI’s that have new fundraising programs, like ours, or have well established programs
• Culture of giving is more important than strategy
• Donate for needs
• Acknowledgement of donations in newsletter
• Look at your request for donations from the eye of the donor

Distance Learning
Ideas such as webinars or video conferences are being considered by various OLLI’s but the extra manpower needed to handle questions from offsite viewers is a problem. I promoted our Affiliated Member program and several attendees approached me for further information.

Overall, I found the conference helpful in understanding our unique qualities, and the shared problems we all have. Hopefully, we can use the information I learned to improve our program.