Welcome to all the Snowbirds who have flown our way for the winter. There is a great quarter ahead as Steve Clarey outlines in his column. I used my Winter Catalog Message to share with you several of the things that have been happening here at Osher while you were away. I hope they bring you on-board as we start this quarter.

I am using this column as an update of some matters discussed by the Council and the Executive Committee:

- We have investigated installing a hearing aid loop to make audio more available to those with hearing aids. We found that loops are expensive and not functional in our space. We do have five hearing assist devices for use now and we are investigating getting some newer ones that may be more streamlined and easier to use. (The devices are hung just inside the left door to the audio equipment.)

- Our microphones had us very concerned after UCTV recorded last month but we have returned them to the correct frequencies and they are working fairly well now. Even so, we are looking into newer and more powerful microphones.

- The Open House in September had the largest attendance anyone can remember (115 attended). We have 93 new members and 60 new affiliate members (plus 27 who joined before July 1). At this point in the year, our total membership is 94 members, higher than it was at this time last year.

- Because of the UCSD closure Dec. 24-Jan. 4, our next Open House will be Saturday, January 10, 2015. 53% of the people who came to the last Open House came because a member invited them. Please pass the word along. We will have a brochure for the Winter Quarter similar to the one we used for the Fall Quarter.

- There is a new survey being sent out to gather member information and suggestions. Please fill it out and return it. Your responses are very important to us and give us information to guide our planning.

- These are some URLs that may be helpful:
  1. The weekly schedule can be found at [http://olli.ucsd.edu/index.cfm?vAction=classes/](http://olli.ucsd.edu/index.cfm?vAction=classes/)
  3. UCTV Osher programs have their own webpage: [http://www.ucsd.tv/series/?seriesnumber=208/](http://www.ucsd.tv/series/?seriesnumber=208/)
  4. Transportation information can be found at [http://blink.ucsd.edu/facilities/transportation/](http://blink.ucsd.edu/facilities/transportation/) and also our website [http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/)

I recently toured our website and was amazed at the amount of information that is there. Take a look, it is very interesting. We hope to modernize the website in the future, but right now it has excellent information at [olli.ucsd.edu](http://olli.ucsd.edu/)
On Oct. 9, 2014, Prof. Karl Gerth appeared at Osher to discuss the ramifications of China’s shift to a market economy. Prof. Gerth earned his Ph.D. at Harvard, and has come to UCSD after seven years at Oxford. He is presently the Hsiu Endowed Chair in Chinese Studies and Professor of History at UCSD.

The lecture was humorous and casual, also absolutely fascinating. The full audience was on the edge of their seats.

Prof. Gerth observed that China is undergoing a transformation of its population from “citizens” to less politically engaged “consumers.” For example, spending on personal appearance, such as haircuts, has increased from $24 million in 1982 to more than $200 billion in 2014.

A more major and meaningful example is how the government has pushed people into a car culture by many official actions, such as destroying mixed use neighborhoods, creating suburban housing and shopping centers accessible only by car, and creating really bad conditions for bikes. The Chinese government has also used low-cost credit from state-owned banks, and price cuts to push people into cars. This has created an oversupply of cars, which will be pushed into foreign markets.

Prof. Gerth also discussed pollution, which has rendered many areas in China inhabitable. In addition to the terrible air pollution we have all heard about from coal-fired power plants, he observed that the weight of the vast amount of water at the holding area for the Three Gorges Dam is causing earthquakes. Dr. Gerth also mentioned corruption, including corrupt contractors.

China is taking steps to alleviate pollution, such as a push to electric vehicles. Most interestingly, noting that rich Chinese are leaving China to buy property in other countries, Prof. Gerth forecast that the Chinese economy will collapse. Prof. Gerth has written a fascinating book, As China Goes, So Goes the World: How Chinese Consumers are Transforming Everything, which has been translated into Chinese, Arabic, and Russian. See http://www.ucsd.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=28719/

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST AND PULITZER PRIZE WINNER STEVE BREEN DAZZLES OSHER

by Mark Evan Goldman

Osher audiences are used to high impact lectures from world-renowned physicians, scientists, artists and even attorneys. Now we can add “cartoonist” to the breadth of knowledge we are exposed to on a regular basis. Steve Breen is a nationally syndicated editorial cartoonist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. On 26 August 2014, he lectured to an overflow audience at Osher.

His first professional job was as a cartoonist at the Asbury Park Press in New Jersey. As a native Southern Californian, Breen was interested in returning to California so the job opportunity at the Union-Tribune (U-T) was ideal. Besides appearing in the U-T, Breen’s work is nationally syndicated, appearing in the NY Times, Newsweek, USA Today and US News and World Report, among other publications.

Breen has also written five children’s books. At the lecture, he gave away two copies of Stick, to grandparents Peter and Linda Levine, and Carol and Skip Roberts.
MARCH 6, 2015

The First Annual Osher Crafts Show will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015. There are some very creative people among us and now is the time to show us that talent. Whether you paint or draw, crochet or create sculpture, or work with wood, we want to see it. The rules are simple. Fill out the form so that we know what you will bring. Finish your masterpieces and bring them to Osher the morning of March 6 before 10 am and we will be displaying your art for the rest of the day. You can display or sell your works. It’s up to you. Let’s all be sure to come to Osher that day to support the artisans in our community!

REGISTRATION FOR CRAFT SHOW
MARCH 6, 2015

Please fill out this form and return to Osher Office by February 27, 2015. Items must be brought to Osher the morning of March 6 by 10 am.

Name_________________________________________ home phone #________________

Email address_______________________________________________________________

Description of submission (s)___________________________________________________

Size of submission (s)_________________________________________________________

Display needs_______________________________________________________________

Title (s) (if applies)___________________________________________________________

Price (s) (if applies)___________________________________________________________

Any questions, please call Carol Roberts 858-356-9076
REMEMBERING BARBARA GREER

by Marcy Goldstone

Barbara Greer will be most remembered as the facilitator of the Short Story class that met on alternative Tuesday afternoons. It was always a pleasant surprise to see Barbara’s illustration of the short story of the day on the white board. Participants looked forward to seeing what she would focus on and how creative she would be. They were never disappointed.

Barbara listed the characters in the story and posed provocative questions to consider for the discussion. She was well-prepared and often preceded the discussions with book reviews or articles pertaining to the story from various sources including the New York Times Book Review, the Guardian and various other periodicals. We all learned so much about writing and current trends in literature from her. Barbara was an avid reader and often shared her books with members of the class or left them on the shelves in the office.

Not only did Barbara feed our minds, she also nourished our bodies. Every week there was a treat that she prepared in her kitchen. For some reason, word got out to the lecture in room 129, so the Short Story class would take its break about two minutes before them in order to be first at the goodies. In between quarters, there was often an informal gathering at her home in University City.

For more than 20 years Barbara was an active member of Osher. She participated in Theater World and was a member of the Council for several years. A frequent participant in Osher field trips, she would bring along her sketch pad and delight everyone with her keen eye and accurate renditions of sculpture, paintings and environments. Many of her sketches have been included on recent covers of Osher catalogs.

Barbara's background was eclectic. She was a graduate of Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. With her Navy husband, she lived in other parts of the world and managed to learn Japanese when residing in Hawaii and the Philippines. She was an avid collector of Chinese artifacts that adorned her home in University City. In addition to her artistic talent, Barbara had a flair for writing poetry.

Barbara Greer will be sorely missed. Her legacy to all of us was her enthusiasm for the program, her openness, her love of literature and art, and, of course, her culinary talents. A memorial service is planned for a future date and an education fund is being established in her memory.

We are all richer for having had Barbara in our lives.

LU ALMGREN: A SMILING PRESENCE IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM

by Janice Alper

On most days when there is a major lecture or master class in room 129 you may notice many of the same people occupying the seats in the back of the room. One of the regulars among them was Lu Almgren. She would always greet you with a warm greeting and bright smile.

Louise, Lu, was born in Fort Collins, Colorado in 1932. She moved with her family to southern California and graduated from University High School, (along with Elizabeth Taylor). Lu got a degree in sociology with a minor in business from the University of Redlands in 1954.

Lu had an adventurous spirit. She and her college roommate, Darlene Palmer, who remained a lifelong friend, came to San Diego, sight unseen and jobless. She got a job as a social worker for San Diego County and served in various capacities. In 1955 Lu got the travel bug which lasted her whole life, and she and Darlene hitchhiked through Europe, hosteling all the way.

(Continued on page 5)
In 1956 Lu married Clark Almgren, who owned a travel agency. They settled in Del Mar where her favorite spot was the 20th street beach. She resided there for almost half a century.

In her retirement, Lu continued to travel extensively throughout the world. She became a member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and was a leader in the group that raised money to purchase the piano. She was active on the curriculum committee and her introductions of speakers were clever and interesting.

Lu had many great passions. She had a lifelong love of animals; she loved her USC Trojans and was also a devoted Charger fan. She was an active member of Mission Valley Methodist Church and often attended their choir functions. Particularly fond of classical music, Lu could often be seen at Copley Hall for the Masterworks concerts with her friend Pat Crowley.

Lu was a real people person. When her travel days waned, she remained intellectually curious, sitting in a special chair in the back of room 129. When Lu moved to Bend, Oregon, a few months ago, to be closer to her son Marc and his wife Alanna and grandson Kevin, she was sorely missed. We were saddened to learn of her passing on October 12. In her fashion, she died peacefully. Her quiet presence and warm and welcoming smile will now provide all of us with lovely memories.

Darlene Palmer made a donation to Osher in memory of Lu.

OSHER’S POSTER GIRL:
A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF VIVIAN LEAHY

by Janice Alper

Most of us will remember Vivian Leahy as Osher’s Poster Girl. For the last several years she supplied the posters announcing each session taking place in room 129. She did this quietly, without fanfare. Every week the posters would magically appear in the front of the room and she would sit quietly in the back listening to the lectures and talks.

She was born Vivian Mefferd in Ainsworth, Nebraska on May 22, 1927, one day after Charles Lindbergh landed in Paris. She was the oldest of three sisters born to her father’s second family. Her father, an optometrist and jeweler, was 55 years old when she was born and her mother, a former teacher, was 25 years old. Always an enthusiastic student in school, she also managed to play in the band and sing in the chorus. She was a University of Nebraska Regent’s Scholarship recipient. When the family moved to Wyoming in 1944 she enrolled at the University of Wyoming and was granted an emergency wartime teaching certificate.

Vivian married her first husband, Dick Colley, in 1946 and they became the proud parents of two sons, Victor and Tom. As a Navy family they lived in many places. In 1960 they were transferred for a second time to Hawaii. While there, Vivian pursued her education in earnest, obtaining both a B.Ed. and an M.Ed. from the University of Hawaii. When the family was transferred back to San Diego she launched a long career teaching for the San Dieguito Union High School District. She spent her summers from 1973-1976 studying while traveling in Austria, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Switzerland, and Italy.

Vivian married her second husband, Jim Leahy, in 1981. They taught school, danced, and traveled summers in China, the British Isles, and Europe. In 1985, After her second divorce, she continued teaching until 2000. Some of her teaching assignments included English, Remedial Reading, American History, and Keyboarding and Computer Applications taught in a computer lab. She said she began a “love affair” with computers in 1979 with an Olivetti electronic typewriter. Over the years she became adept on a MAC and owned several PC’s.

Vivian joined ICL, now OLLI, in 2001. She immediately became active and served as treasurer and activities chair for several years. She shared her knowledge of computers as an active member of University City United Church. In her spare time she enjoyed reading, attending theater and surfing the internet.
**GUYS AND DOLLS** COMES TO THE Osher STAGE

Ever more ambitious, Osher Theater World will again produce a Broadway musical, this time the captivating Broadway show “Guys and Dolls.”

Featuring a delightful and well-known score by Frank Loesser, the Damon Runyon characters will come to life on the Osher stage March 4 and 7.

At the helm are Co-directors Josie Burdick and Linda Shirer, Music Director Jay Berman, and Producer Al Korobkin.

Guys and Dolls may be the quintessential American musical, with its outstanding and memorable music and legendary characters that are now part of the fabric of our national culture.

Behind the obvious objective of entertaining the Osher audience, producing a musical comedy creates new friendships, a powerful bonding between cast members and a chance to explore hidden talents. As many Osher Theater World thespians past and present will tell you, once you are bitten by the “bug,” you’re generally hooked.

There will be two performances: Wednesday, March 4 and Saturday, March 7.

**AUDITIONS SET FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24 WITH CALLBACKS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25.** If you would like to be part of the production as a scenic designer, costume advisor, or lighting assistant, contact Al Korobkin.
Our winter quarter begins 12 January 2015 and returns some Osher favorites to the lecture podium: Master Class I features art historian Linda Blair, who will deliver a five-lecture series on 17th Century Dutch Masters. Osher colleague Allan Kleinman winters in La Jolla and will present a reprise of his Brandeis University Osher series on Human Immunology. Fran Zimmerman, another Osher colleague, is back by popular demand to offer her entertaining and informative “World of Dance” series. Finally, Professor Ibrahim al-Marashi will discuss the volatile Middle East and changing American attitudes in this tumultuous region.

Master Class II will be a History of Post-Colonial Africa by UCSD Emeritus Professor Edward Reynolds. Our Science and Medicine series is especially comprehensive this quarter, with multiple lectures on cosmology and toxins. Arts and Humanities, International Relations, Law and Society, and Social Sciences will each feature a wide range of preeminent speakers, and we will also hear from some of our accomplished colleagues as Osher Presenters.

Our peer-led seminars once again will offer a wide array of opportunities for discourse in a more conversational setting: Janice Alper will conduct her annual “Exploration of the Hebrew Bible”, this year focused on the Joseph Cycle. Francoise Shah continues her Thursday morning “Intermediate French” classes; and Aurora and Bob King encourage new members to join their “Discover Your Next Chapter” writing seminar. A variety of focused literary discussions again are scheduled, as described in our winter catalog, with long-time Osher seminar leaders Phyllis Rosenbaum, Jane Jellinek, Esther Lynn Dobrin, and Howard Hyman. Osher colleague SDSU Emeritus Professor Neil Hyman continues his look at the American Progressive Era, this quarter examining the lives and careers of presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

Want to engage in a discussion of current events and politics? Join Osher members Al Korobkin and Burt Levine for their bi-weekly “Inside Politics” and “Current Events” seminars in classroom #129.

Two other Osher events are scheduled next quarter: a return to Balboa Park for a guided walking tour of the site of the 1935 California-Pacific Exposition, and our first ever Osher Craft Fair on Friday, March 6.

Members of your volunteer Curriculum Committee are listed in the front of our quarterly catalog. Please recognize and thank them personally, for it is they who diligently develop our varied and enriching program each quarter. They select the topics for discussion, recruit lecturers and seminar leaders, and coordinate the logistics and catalog entries.
Someone once told me that there are three kinds of why: the teleological, or historical why, as in “what were the events leading up to the situation in question,” the purpose why, as in “for what purpose did you perform the acts leading to the situation in question;” and, lastly, (the only why anyone ever really asks), the “why?” which can only ever be answered with the phrase, “why, oh why indeed?”

The following true story illustrates all three kinds of why:

Several nights ago, Macaroni, my little Westie terrier, growled and barked frantically outside on my patio from 2 to 4:30 am. I went out several times, but she was so frantic and intense that I couldn’t catch her to bring her in. Worse even than that, I could hear growling louder than hers, sort of a big roaring growl. I shone my flashlight into the bushes, and saw a possum glaring back at me, showing its teeth, and growling. Possums are fairly large, not afraid at all, their eyes glare back at you, and they bare their teeth and growl. They have large claws. I was afraid for myself, and my doggy, but I was finally able to grab Macaroni, close off the doggy door, and we two went to bed. I hoped the possum had enough sense just to leave the premises.

A few nights later, about 10 pm, I heard the barking and growling again, and I knew what it would be. Susan, my husband’s daughter, was staying with me (thank God) and we went outside. Macaroni had cornered another, slightly smaller possum in some dense shrubbery, and was barking frantically. Dog and possum were both growling and glaring. Susan and I both tried, but couldn’t grab the dog. After awhile, I got the idea to try to throw a box over the possum, hoping that this would allow me to grab the dog. But when I threw the box, the possum startled and darted out, and my little dog, acting, I’m sure, on the compulsion of centuries of breeding for this very act, snatched the creature and shook it to death, biting and shaking and killing. My little white dog was covered with blood, and there were blood and possum hairs all over, inside the house, and out. It was horrible.

I brought Macaroni in, gave her a bath all over (I even had to wash inside her mouth), dried her with a towel, and we all went to bed. I decided to leave the dead possum until morning.

I got up at dawn, as soon as it was light enough to see, but I was not so wide awake as to be fully conscious. I put on rubber gloves, got a paper bag, and went outside. There in the patio, in the bushes, was the dead possum, now completely stiff. Before I was fully awake, I got the possum into the bag, and walked to the public trash receptacle across from the new restaurant at the end of my street. I put the bag, dead possum, and my gloves into the trash can.

Which is WHY, if you were at the Shorehouse restaurant at approximately 6 am on that day, you saw me walking down the street in my pajamas, and putting a brown paper bag into the public trash can.