Marcia and I want to thank everyone for being so supportive these past few months. It’s been amazing to have so many members show us they care. It has helped both of us, and particularly Marcia as she has gone through an emotional and physical rollercoaster. Having to miss so many lectures and discussions with fellow members has been regrettable. But, Marcia’s health has to be our priority.

At the Council Meeting last week, we began the process of forming a nominating committee to organize and find nominees for five executive committee members and five council members for the class of 2020. We are a volunteer-run institute. Many are involved in the volunteer leadership—well over fifty people! This is a wonderful way to run our Osher community because it leads to an ownership of the Institute. We sent out a survey recently with a 49% return. Who ever heard of a 49% return on a survey? Most Oshers’ get a 10-20% return. This shows that our members are invested!

I know we have many talented members. We have important positions available for election in April, both on the executive committee and the council. The president, vice-president of programs, vice-president of administration, treasurer, and secretary will be elected. It’s so important for people to step forward and accept nomination.

The present executive committee has been a very dedicated group. We have organized the diverse areas of the executive committee’s work. We have an efficient program for open houses and luncheons. We have established a solid base of finances and activities, and formalized our marketing efforts to sustain our membership. We established a community outreach program to remotely share our outstanding Osher experience via our library of recorded lectures and partnerships with local retirement communities. We also have upgraded our classroom audio-visual equipment.

We believe the new people coming into these roles will most-likely have an easier time learning their tasks. Our roles may seem more daunting than they need to be, but it is important for members to step up and accept these roles to help lead us into the future. I believe we are handing over a well-organized institute to those who follow us. Please consider participating on the executive committee or on the council.
It has been a pleasure to welcome so many new members to Osher this fall quarter. We hope our program has met your expectations and we look forward to your many contributions in the classroom, speaker recommendations, or as committee volunteers.

Our winter quarter begins on January 9, 2017, and with it, the return of our many loyal “snowbirds”. Welcome back! Come join us at our Open House and winter preview at 9:30 AM on Saturday, January 7.

Our winter 2017 catalog is posted on our website and describes another rich and varied program. Master Class I on Wednesday mornings welcomes the return of UCSD astrophysicist Professor Brian Keating offering “Infinity is a Long Time, Especially Toward the End: a Brief History of the Multiverse.” Master Class II features UCSD philosophy professor Sam Rickless discussing the “equal protection” and “due process” clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and how these concepts have been interpreted by justices and legal scholars over the years. Registration is required for our Master Classes and opens at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 15 (please note Thursday, not Wednesday).

A number of multi-lecture series are scheduled: Osher’s own Allan Kleinman, a Massachusetts snowbird, presents a reprise of his Brandeis University Osher class on Translational Medicine, “How New Cures and Therapies Are Developed.” Art Historian Kate Butler will discuss the “Odd Couple: The Artistic Dialogue of Picasso and Matisse.”

Our regular lecture series in Law and Society, Medicine, Science, Humanities, and the Social Sciences feature a wide range of preeminent speakers. Notable this quarter are professors Eli Berman discussing the economics of ISIS and Richard Feinberg on the emerging economy of Cuba, retired Metropolitan Opera violinist and award winning author Erica Miner on her favorite operas, nutritionist Gordon Saxe on diet and cancer, and many others. Our small-classroom seminars will again entertain and stimulate their loyal participants, and we will hear from some of our accomplished colleagues as Osher Presenters. Our thanks to you all for your many hours of preparation to enrich our Osher experience.

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. If you would like to volunteer to become a member of the Curriculum Committee, or have speaker recommendations, please send me an email: ssclarey62@gmail.com.

Steve Clarey
Chair, Curriculum Committee
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING FALL QUARTER

Luncheons
All luncheons take place in Room 128 and begin at 12:00 PM.

Friday, Jan. 13: New Members’ Luncheon

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Brown Bag Luncheon hosted by the Executive Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 14: Brown Bag Luncheon hosted by the Curriculum Committee

Events:

Friday, Jan. 20 1:00 p.m.: Council Meeting (everyone invited).

Friday, Feb. 10 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, Mar. 3 1:00 p.m.: Council Meeting (everyone invited).

Field Trips

Saturday, Feb. 4 at 10:00 a.m.: Join us for a private Osher tour of the Craig Venter Institute. A talk about how the Institute was created and some of its current research projects will precede a tour of this ground-breaking research facility. Registration limited. No fee.

Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m.: Travel to Los Angeles via chartered bus to visit the famed Petersen Automotive Museum collection of Collectible and noted automobiles. The Schedule will include a group lunch at a local restaurant. Registration details and a trip schedule will be provided later in the quarter. Registration limited. Fee.

Saturday, Mar. 11 at 10:00 a.m.: San Diego Neighborhoods. Join us for a North Park Historical Association walking tour and discussion of how this scrub-covered mesa, dotted by small farms and orchards, has grown to a bustling urban community now celebrated as being hip and historic. Registration required. Fee. Details of the tour and registration procedures will be announced later in the quarter.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Fall starts our annual fundraising efforts. In our first year, FY 2014-2015, twelve percent of our membership (94 donors) gave $25,524. In our second year, FY 2015-2016, 93 individuals donated $19,415. We have a very generous membership indeed. Thus far this year 26 donors have donated $4,000. We have a start!

We thank each of the donors who contributed to make our new upgraded audio visual system a reality. We’re sure you will enjoy the new equipment during our fall quarter. We will continue to produce high quality videos that can be viewed by our members and affiliate members, so you won’t miss any of the exciting programs we have in store for you at Osher.

In FY 2016-2017 we are targeting $20,000 as a fundraising goal. We have about 800 members. While approximately twelve percent of our membership donates each year, a positive challenge would be for each of us to donate something. We welcome all donations, small and large. Additionally we welcome donations of your time and talents. As a volunteer organization, we rely on the work of many to produce wonderful programs and events. As our costs continue to increase, we want to keep our dues low while providing excellent speakers and programs. Please consider giving to Osher — either with your treasure, your time, or your talents.

If you would like to donate to Osher, you can do so online (olli.ucsd.edu) or by mailing in a check (payable to UCSD Foundation) to Osher at 9500 Gilman Drive MC#0176A, La Jolla, CA 92093.
The Fall Open House was held on Saturday, September 10, 2016. There were over seventy-eight attendees considering membership. Bob Morgan began the presentation and was assisted by Mike McDade and Marsha Korobkin, who explained the wonderful benefits of belonging to Osher. After answering questions, tours began and many attendees went to register. We hope to see them all enjoying classes soon.

Following a fascinating lecture by Professor Stanley Opella, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UCSD, a group was treated with a visit to the mysterious dome, a short distance away from our classrooms. We were amazed with what we learned about the unique research being done with nuclear resonance on proteins, after thinking they were playing tennis in this fascinating dome.
Lifelong Learning for the Body As Well As the Mind

by Eileen Coblens

When your 50-something physically fit daughter and her 20-plus even more fit son invite you to join them in Costa Rica for the grandson’s fall break, beware. The likelihood is that your adventures won’t be confined to seeing the countryside from a bus window, or even hiking to the vantage point of a volcano.

Ed and I just completed an amazing trip to Costa Rica with said daughter and grandson. Undaunted by the rainy season or the zika- and dengue-carrying mosquitoes, we arrived in San Jose, CR in mid-October to face an itinerary that included snorkeling, which neither of us had done in years; kayaking (experience of a little more recent vintage, but not much), and white-river rafting (two past experience in the eighties—not our eighties, mind you). The itinerary also included a canopy tour with seventeen zip lines, but we were smart enough to opt out of that one.

As for the weather, torrential rain fell, but always after we’d completed our day’s adventure. The snorkeling, with a little help from our daughter and a really observant guide, went fine. The kayaking, not so much. My grandson and I did fine; we proudly paddled in sync with one another, saw some handsome birds, and avoided getting hung up on a log. All of a sudden, however, there we were, on a narrow river in the jungles of Tortuguero, face to face with a “cayman”—aka crocodile. We had seen several of the reptiles from afar, but this guy was about two feet from us, his big eyes staring and daring us to come any closer. So we did what any self-respecting 78- and 20-year-old would do: we exercised a swift backwater maneuver and high-tailed it out of his line of sight. Ed and Karen, sadly, did get stuck on the log and never got to see the cayman at all.

These two adventures should have been enough for any senior couple. But, no, there was one more in store for us: white-water rafting down the Pecuare River. This 18-mile-long ride included a few Class II rapids, several Class III, and, just to keep it challenging, a couple of Class IV’s. We calculated that we were three times the age of most of the people on the trip, but we smiled bravely, donned our life vests and helmets, took paddles in hand, and embarked.

The trip turned out to be one of the most exhilarating and memorable of our lives. We passed through two magnificently scenic gorges, where waterfalls poured or trickled into the river. The walls of the second gorge were so high and so close that they almost blocked the light. There were times when the current was so strong that instead of paddling I clutched the rope along the side of the raft, and times when I was grateful to hear our guide shout, “Get down!” But for the most part we proudly held our own, and felt especially good when one of our fellow rafters said, “When I’m your age I want to be like you.”
By Joan Fudala

Remember 1971? Nixon was president, the U.S. was embroiled in the Vietnam War, Apollo XIV landed on the moon, “All in the Family” was on TV and “A Clockwork Orange” premiered in theaters. I also bid farewell to a friend who was leaving Ohio State to join her new husband at his flight training base.

Regrettably, my friend and I lost touch, as so often happens when life gets in the way. Even when the internet made it easier to find someone, we didn’t know each other’s married names, so we remained virtual strangers. Too bad! We had lived in the same dorm, we often double-dated guys who were on the Navy ROTC drill team and we were members of the campus community service organization, Angel Flight, sharing many happy experiences.

Fast forward 45 years to 2016. As a summer semester student at OLLI-UCSD for the past eight years, I’ve come to know many of my fellow Osher participants. Imagine my surprise when I recognized a ‘new’ voice and face during a lecture break in mid-July. It was Holly (Gasser) Nappen, my long-lost friend from Ohio State! After our initial shock at reconnecting, we met for lunch to attempt to reconstruct 90 years (her 45; my 45) of life stories.

Amazingly, we found we’d followed similar paths, and not those we’d ever dreamed of during our Ohio State friendship. Holly became a dentist and served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for 26 years. After Holly left Ohio State, I enrolled in Air Force ROTC, was commissioned and served as a public affairs officer nine years on active duty and 12 years as an Air Force Reservist. We were both stationed in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area. She’s been living on Coronado Island since the 1980s; I’ve been summering in La Jolla since 2006. As military retirees, we both use San Diego military facilities, shop at the commissary and, surprisingly, have never run into each other. We both married military officers – she married a Navy pilot, then a Navy dentist; I married an Air Force pilot. We even learned that her father, USMC Col. James C. Gasser, and my late husband, Gene, both Vietnam veterans, are buried at Arlington Cemetery.

Over more lunches we discovered we both like to travel, have served on historical society boards, love art, watch the same PBS shows and read the same books. We both have second homes (hers in Napa; mine in La Jolla). We even toyed with the idea of trying to contact those guys we dated at Ohio State to see how their past 45 years have unfolded, but decided it would be more fun to leave that as a mystery.

I’m back in Scottsdale now, and Holly’s in Coronado. We’re each involved in our busy lives, community activities and travel. But you can bet that we’ll pick up where we left off when I return for another Osher-filled summer 2017. You never know who you’ll meet on the patio!
NEWS FROM THEATER WORLD

12 Angry Jurors

The 1954 teleplay, 12 Angry Men, written by Reginald Rose, and turned into an award winning movie of the same title in 1957, was adapted and performed at Osher Theater World on November 2, 2016. When female actors are performing, the show title becomes 12 Angry Jurors. The adaptation received rave reviews from many audience members. Directed by Ilene Hubbs, the Osher performance included both female and male actors.

Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor stated that the movie influenced her decision to become a lawyer. As a judge, she always instructed jurors not to follow the actions of the jurors in the movie because it is not permitted. The Osher version was an enjoyable theater experience for both cast and audience. The actors thanked Ilene for her fine direction of a complex play with a large cast.

There will be another Theater World presentation on Wednesday, November 30. This time the show will be Candida by George Bernard Shaw.

THE MUSIC OF “BEAUTIFUL”

Rock and Roll is Still Alive: The Music of “Beautiful”
by H. S. Aksen

How fortunate we were to hear the music of the talented Miss Carole King
Jay Berman and Janet Hammer made this August morning feel like Spring

Carol King writes rock and roll music and lyrics with toe tapping rhythm
She is a marvelous musician whose music has your feet moving with ‘em

Janet and Jay were just superb as they sang and played Miss King’s best
The time passed by very quickly at this Osher musical class with so much zest

The audience was moving and swaying as each new song was presented
One could sense how happy the people were since they all looked most contented

To Jay and Janet we owe a round of applause and grateful admiration
The audience was mesmerized and always ready to show their appreciation

And as Carol King so aptly said in one of her well known compositions
“You’ve got a friend” under any and all of life’s conditions
Now That’s Jazz
by H. S. Aksen

Friday afternoon music is always a time for joy, relaxation and good fun. On September 30 we had the pleasure of hearing the Pizarro brothers perform. These two young men have been studying music since they were seven and four years old. With the guiding hand of their grandfather it is clear that the brothers are first class musicians and entertainers.

Dominic and Angelo are classically trained musicians with a great love for jazz. They take old standards and rework them to fit their musical style, and what one hears is marvelous jazz played on the piano and keyboard, along with a synthesizer.

They are very talented young men, now twenty and seventeen respectively. This was the fifth time they have performed at Osher. With each performance these young men show how their hard work, musicality, and maturity have made them fine entertainers. Their renditions of “Don’t Get Around Much Any More” and “Take the A Train” are lively and most enjoyable. They each took a turn at the piano to play a classical piece, satisfying the audience’s curiosity about their training. Their final song was “That’s Life” popularized by Frank Sinatra in the 1960s, and it was a wonderful way to end their concert.

We were most fortunate to have the Pizarro’s showcase their talent at Osher. Everyone in the audience thoroughly enjoyed their performance, and will look forward to hearing these musicians in the future. We hope these young performers will definitely be getting around the world of music and entertainment. Finally, to top things off this was the first time that Friday afternoon music was videotaped for the Osher video library. Thanks to Reed Sullivan for his very able management of Friday afternoon music at Osher.

SOJOURNER TRUTH SCULPTURE

Manuelita Brown explained to Osher members her desire to represent Sojourner Brown (Isabella Baumfree) in a more affirming style. Her statue of Sojourner is now installed on the UC San Diego campus.

She explained the process of creating the statue and each of the steps involved in reaching the final bronze sculpture.