



AN OSHER SUMMER SUMMARY

Bright sunny days, a shorter time schedule, and a variety of programs filled the summer at Osher.

Two Master Classes on Wednesday mornings were



presented to standing room only crowds. **Gustavo Romero** enchanted us with his lectures and renditions of **The Beethoven Piano Sonatas**. He provided us with insight into the music with his brief lectures about Ludwig von Beethoven, the man and the artist.

As we listened to the music, our familiar Osher quarters in room 129 was transformed into a private concert hall. Truly a remarkable experience! To learn more about Gustavo Romero and his concert schedule check his website: www.gustavoromero.com

The Art of Watching Film was enjoyed by movie buffs and interested participants. In this Master Class **Professor Stuart Voytilla** was able to blend clips

on how movies are created, written, and produced in order to meet the needs of a demanding audience. Being a screenwriter and producer himself, Professor Voytilla brought credibility and charm to his series of fascinating lectures. Ultimately we all learned why movies have become



such an important part of our lives today. To learn more about Stuart Voytilla check his page on Facebook. (Al Korobkin)

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OSHER CALENDAR

FALL QUARTER 2009
SEPTEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4

Friday, October 30
Potluck Lunch
Noon

ANNUAL HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 4
ADMIRAL KIDD CLUB
(new venue)

Check your e-mail or the bulletin board for details about other Osher activities and more details about those already scheduled.

Open House a Success

An Open House was held on Saturday morning, September 12 with more than 30 prospective people in attendance most of whom joined our ranks. Our guests appeared most enthusiastic. Several said, "This seems too good to be true."

Dick Dahlberg, President, welcomed them; Stanley Faer, Immediate Past President, provided a brief history of Osher and Reed Sullivan, Vice-President, talked about the curriculum. It was my pleasure to talk about the benefits of membership and I was joined by Joyce Quintana who addressed administrative matters, such as parking, fees and the like. Jim Mayfield provided a mini-tour of the Extension Complex.

This year new members will have their name tags on yellow lanyards to help us spot them. Be sure to greet them and join in conversations during breaks and especially invite them to have lunch with you.

On Monday mornings, **Dr. Nancy Appleton** gave us insight into our eating habits with her informative



lectures about **Diet and Disease**. We all became more aware of what we put into our mouths and how this relates to our health and well-being. Now the true test, will it stick? For more information about Nancy Appleton and diet and disease, check her website: www.nancyappleton.com

On Thursday mornings **Professor Alan**

Houston taught us about the life and times of **Benjamin Franklin**. A noted authority on the subject, Professor Houston provided insight into this American icon who had such an influence on our country's foundation and future generations. You can learn more about Benjamin Franklin from Dr. Houston's publications, *Franklin: the Autobiography and Other Writings* (Cambridge University Press 2004) and *Benjamin Franklin and the Politics of Improvement* (Yale University Press, 2008).



Other summer offerings included **Modern and Contemporary Authors, Best Short Stories, Memoirs, and Speaking French**. There was Improvisation, a long list of **Distinguished Lecturers, Peer Perspectives, Inside Politics, Town Hall and Monday at the Movies**. Summertime at Osher and the livin' is busy [sic]. Now we look forward to a full quarter of Fall classes and activities.

DID YOU KNOW: There is a shelf of books for borrowing in the Osher office? It is in front of Gloria's desk. Please feel free to borrow them or to add to our Osher collection with your own books you no longer want on your shelves.

Osher members who are not enrolled in Master classes may attend

at a cost of \$3.00 per session if space permits.

OSHER ETIQUETTE

Questions/comments for our facilitators and presenters? Please refrain from interrupting the presentations until it is time for questions and comments. Do keep remarks to a minimum so that there is time for others.

Coming in late? Please enter quietly and take the seat nearest available seat.

Leaving early? Please leave quietly and try to sit on an aisle or near the back so as not to disturb others as you leave.

Cell phones: Turn them off or put them on vibrate. If you must answer your cell phone, kindly step out of the room to do so.

NO FOOD OR DRINK IS PERMITTED IN CLASSROOMS. You may bring in clear water bottles. Be sure to take them with you when you leave!

BOOK REVIEW

ReFirement. A Boomer's Guide to Life After 50

James V. Gambone, Kirk House Publishers.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2000.

\$25.95 ISBN 1-886513-25-252595

I met Dr. Gambone at the Oxford conference and found him one of the most interesting people there. *ReFirement* gives Baby Boomers a positive and optimistic vision of how to live a meaningful life as they grow older. Encouraging them to "ReFire" rather than "retire," Gambone redefines the aging years as an opportunity to leave a valuable legacy for future generations. The author challenges Boomers to draw on their values, their roots and their experiences

in half a century of major societal changes to energize their life through mid-life challenges and beyond.

Reviewed by John Staude

BERNARD OSHER: THE QUIET PHILANTHROPIST



When we gather for our classes, distinguished lecturers and our occasional outings we glibly say we are participating in Osher. Yet, there is a real person behind the name. Bernard Osher is known as the “Quiet philanthropist.” His foundation, which he started in 1977, has given away millions of dollars to the arts, educational and social services. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC San Diego is one of 121 beneficiaries of his commitment to higher learning for people over 50.

Bernard Osher was born in 1927 in Biddeford, Maine. After his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1948, Osher managed the family’s hardware and plumbing-supply business before a stint on Wall Street at Oppenheimer & Company. From there, he migrated west and was a founding director of World Savings, which grew into one of the largest savings institutions in the country before being merged recently with Wachovia Corporation.

Though Osher and his four siblings went to college, his immigrant parents from Russia and Lithuania never had the opportunity. Osher never forgot that and notes: “I decided early on to support scholarships for people who desired education but had severely limited financial resources.” He intends to give away all his fortune, explaining: “Although I have no heirs, I can enjoy the opportunity of helping members of several generations lead more fulfilling lives by my contributions.”

Bernard Osher and his wife Barbro Sachs Osher reside in San Francisco where they are active participants in the community. He is an avid art collector who also enjoys opera, fly fishing and piano lessons. He is also a benefactor of many Jewish causes and the recipient of a number of honors and awards.

Barbro Osher, Chairman of the Board of the Osher Foundation, serves as the Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco. A native of Stockholm and a graduate of Stockholm University with a degree in languages and political science, she pursued a career in publishing and advertising in Sweden before moving to the United States in the early 1980s. Over the years, she has represented both the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and the Swedish Tourist Board.

The Oshers conduct their philanthropy through the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Fund, and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, which supports Swedish cultural and educational projects in North America and Sweden.

To learn more about Bernard Osher and the Osher Foundation log onto www.osherfoundation.org

(Information for this article was gleaned from sources on the internet)

YOUR OSHER COUNCIL AT WORK

A synopsis of a few things taking place on the Osher Council in the last few months....

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

An exciting program of classes has been gathered for the Fall Quarter. Work has already begun on the Winter Quarter with our own Osher scholars continuing to lead their popular reading and study groups in literature and history.

CLANCY BORNS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Beginning in Spring 2010 a series of Distinguished Lectures taking place on Thursdays and Fridays will be dedicated to the memory of the late Clancy Borns. In addition, one additional lecture per year will be part of the series and devoted to legal matters.

Osher facilitators who have written books or produced CDs may make them available for purchase either before or after class. It has been suggested that lecturers direct participants to appropriate websites for their materials.

An OSHER FUTURES COMMITTEE has been formed with Stanley Faer, immediate past president, as the chair.

HAVE YOU MET...

GLORIA SMITH



We all know that the backbone of any organization, particularly one which maximizes volunteer participation, needs a good administrator to keep it on the straight and narrow. Osher is indeed fortunate to have Gloria Smith serving us as the Osher Administrator.

Gloria has been with the University for 25 years. Prior to joining us she worked in the Extension Program. She is patient, efficient and knows how to get things done. She is our frontline of communication and is happy to transmit comments and suggestions about our programs to the appropriate people.

Gloria was born in Oregon, but spent most of her life in California and lived all over the state. When Gloria is not at Osher she enjoys gardening and reading.

BARBARA GREER



Barbara Greer is such a vivacious leader of our Short Stories class that I try never to miss a session. She always makes them interesting through her leadership of in depth discussion of plots, characters and styles. I like the book of New Stories from The South. Don't you agree Southern writers are often great? Barbara makes every person and their comments feel valued. She is widely read and is a great cook who brings goodies for us. Can you believe it? (Mary Peirsol)

Do you have comments about our Osher facilitators or speakers? If so, please submit them to Janice Alper, Editor, Osher Observer, janice@jpalper.com We will include them as space permits.



Times of Our Lives Conference

John-Raphael Staude



In January I read about an invitational interdisciplinary conference on aging being planned at Mansfield College, Oxford University. As I was teaching a class on “Aging and Creativity” at Osher I decided to

apply. One of my three proposals was accepted: *Aging and Creativity: the Late Life Creativity of Hermann Hesse and Thomas Mann.*

The purpose of the conference was reflected in the title, **Times of Our Lives: Growing Up, Growing Old.** It was designed to examine the idea and meaning of the human life course. We age from the moment we are born. The changes we undergo are complex, multifaceted and, above all, inevitable. From a biological perspective these changes happen to everyone. However, human development does not happen in the body alone; it happens in life, in the bio-social sphere that is our natural habitat. The nature and significance of its phases depend on how the typical events of the life span are interpreted by culture and understood by individuals.

At the opening session Peter Caws and Julia Glahn from the Department of Philosophy at George Washington University presented a paper entitled “*The Irrelevance of Chronological Age.*” Their paper postulates and explores constant factors underlying the changes due to ageing that can minimize problematic differences stemming from categorizing individuals into age groups and cultural differences. They theorize that it is possible to

have social relations and other interactions transcending chronological age.

Another interesting paper presented by Harry Blattner, from the Department of Sociology, Macquarie University, Australia was entitled “*Without a Centre that Holds: Contemporary Adulthood and the Devolving Life Course.*” While there is some concern about kids growing up too soon, there coexists the exact opposite assumption, namely that young people either refuse to grow up, or delay that process by a number of years, especially when compared to their parents’ generation.

As a developmental psychologist, I based my analysis of late life creativity on Gene Cohen’s model of the stages of adult development and creativity as presented in his book *The Creative Age* which we read in my Osher class. I treat Thomas Mann and Herman Hesse as members of a generation born in 1875 that went through midlife during the First World War and late life in World War Two and after. In my talk I presented some generalizations about late life creativity and the significance of last works, which tend to be more introspective, focusing more on inner emotions and experiences than on outer world scenes and events.

Some observers note a greater attention to themes of aging and issues of death in late life works. So although performance in many areas of life may indeed peak in the twenties, the attraction to change media or domain, and thus contribute to society, may actually increase in later years. There is no denying that health complications are a part of life for many older people and that risk of chronic disease or disabilities increases with age. But all around us, throughout history and today, there is evidence that the creative spirit can find expression despite age, obstacles, grief, and loss, and sometimes more powerfully in the process. Sometimes the best does come last.

You can download the conference proceedings from the website: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/making-sense-of/life->

[cycles/conference-programme-abstracts-and-papers/](#)

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Travel junkie, **Faye Girsh**, will leave Sept 15 to explore Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan for 3 weeks on her own. From Oct 8-11 she has a right-to-die meeting in Frankfurt and will then fly to Spain to meet up with her daughter, son-in-law and her two Australian grandsons. Osherite Mary Kersting will also join her there. They return Oct 30 --too homesick for Osher to stay longer, but ready to report.



What's your personal news? Send it to Janice Alper, Editor, Osher Observer, janice@jpalper.com. We will include your submissions as space permits.

Check out these web-sites for many interesting things to do on campus and in San Diego

www.ucsd.edu

This is the link to everything happening on campus. Just click onto what interests you: news, events or anything else and you will have instant access.

www.ucsd.tv

This site will provide you with the schedule for UCSDTV and includes archives, special podcasts and other items of interest.

www.signonsandiego.com

This Union Tribute site will give you access to everything happening in San Diego including neighborhood restaurants, movies and movie reviews, gallery exhibits, concerts, lectures and local theater among other things.

www.sandiego.org

This is the official site for the San Diego Visitors and Convention Bureau



Socializing, an important part of Osher



Our own Dave Fish talks about Inspiring Citizens

Vol. 2, No.1 Fall, 2009

The *Osher Observer* is published quarterly by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC San Diego.

Editor: Janice Alper

Contributors: Al Korobkin, Barbara Leondar, Elaine Olds, Mary Peirsol, John Staude

Photographs: Marsha Korobkin, Janice Alper

Office Manager: Gloria Smith

Olli.ucsd.edu