



# Osher Outlook

Because Learning Never Retires

JAN/FEB 2013

## IN THIS ISSUE

Meet Mary Kelly	1
President's Greeting	2
From the Director	2
Book Review	3
Valentine Memories	4-5
Calendar	6-7
SIG notes	7
Save the Date	7
Osher Happenings	8-9
Suggestions?	9
Opera Anyone?	10
Contact Us	11
New Members	12
Parking News	12

### LET MARY ELIZABETH KELLY TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF LIFE

Some of Mary Kelly's passions are opera, art, politics, reading, hiking and Osher, to which she devotes more time than anything on the list. Therefore, it's probably not necessary to identify Kelly and her involvement with Osher. Just mention her name and everyone seems to know who she is. "Oh, she's secretary of Osher's Board." "There she is, coming out of class." "She helps plan the parties," and so on.

As a social committee member, Kelly helps plan Osher's social gatherings, including the upcoming potluck in March and the annual spring luncheon. However, Osher parties are infinitesimal when compared to the daily events Kelly once catered as the administrator of food services for Milwaukee Public Schools. A few short years ago she was responsible for serving 18,000 breakfasts and 70,000 lunches daily with a \$24 million dollar budget and a staff of 1,200.

native came to Milwaukee after graduating from Pratt Institute with a degree in nutrition and



dietetics. Upon completing an internship in food service with Eastman Kodak, Kelly was hired by Allen Bradley as a dietitian. When offered a position with MPS, she embraced the challenge of child nutrition and remained on the job until retirement 40 years later.

Kelly did not go home and sink in a big lounge chair following her retirement. Initially, she kept so busy there wasn't time to enjoy one of her many passions, reading. Osher came to her rescue. Kelly enrolled in classes that forced her to read. She became a student of the classics analyzing *Ulysses*, *Oliver Twist*, *Middlemarch* and learning more about Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The

The Brooklyn, New York,

(Continued on page 9)



School of Continuing Education

## Message from President Phil Rozga

In November Kim Beck and I attended the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes National Conference at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, CO. There are 115 lifelong learning programs on university and college campuses across the country with at least one organization in each of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. Approximately 220 representatives attended the conference. The total membership of the Osher organizations across the country is more than 112,000.

I was struck by the differences in the organizations. Some meet in homes, others in classrooms and one group has its own building thanks to a million dollar donation! Membership varies from 200 to 3100. The University of Delaware group holds classes in each of the state's three counties.

The various organizations brought their curriculum catalogues to share. The variety of courses is mind-boggling

including such things as knitting, bridge and hiking. One has science courses for PhD members and conventional courses for the non-scientific. The UCLA chapter does scenes from plays. The Pittsburg group has a music course led by a member of the Pittsburgh symphony.

All in all I left the conference with wonder and enthusiasm. I should also mention that Bernard Osher was at the meeting and picked up the tab for all events. Our local chapter had to pay only the travel expense.

The day after the National Conference I joined the New York theatre trip. The musicals we saw were enjoyable and the trip to Ground Zero sobering. One small mishap occurred. One of our group took a cab back to the hotel after visiting a museum. In the hotel he realized that he

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## Message from the Executive Director: Life's Twists & Turns

This was going to be a very busy Sunday followed by an even busier week before I left on a trip to Cuba. There were so many things that had to be accomplished before I could leave. Our family scurried off to church that morning.

The sermon that day was about powerlessness. Our priest told of a time when he went to Nicaragua in 1980 as part of a fact-finding mission. When he arrived at the passport checkpoint, he was immediately taken by an armed guard to a holding room. He was held there until he was sent on a plane to Costa Rica. He felt completely powerless. He later found out that the Catholic Church was organizing a protest that day and the government thought he had come to help organize the protest.

It was a captivating story, but the meaning behind the story was even more compelling -- that you never really know powerlessness until you *are* completely powerless. I thought

about his sermon on the way home and what a profound message he had shared.

Then it happened, while finishing my holiday decorations that afternoon, I stepped off the roof onto an extension ladder. The ladder collapsed. In the blink of an eye, I was on the ground in pain. Luckily, I was okay enough to have my wife drive me to the emergency room. As we were on our way, I realized that I was hurt pretty badly and that all my plans for the next few weeks had changed. I was completely powerless. I looked at my wife and said, "I think I was meant to hear that sermon!"

I suspect that many of you have had similar

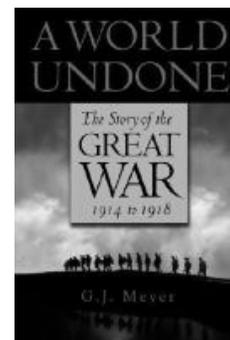
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# A WORLD UNDONE: THE STORY OF THE GREAT WAR 1914 TO 1918

Author: G.J. Meyer

Publisher: Delacorte Press 2006, 618 pages



## Book Review by John Link

The author in his preface to the book wrote that one of his objectives was to “offer this story in the most *readable* form possible and thereby do justice to its inherent drama” I feel that he has succeeded. He took a large amount of material and was able to organize it to tell the story of the Great War.

The book presents major characters involved in this war: Winston Churchill, Woodrow Wilson, John J. Pershing, Ferdinand Foch, and Vladimir Lenin, as well as other Americans, French, Russians, British, and Germans. He discusses the causes, events and the politics of the time, and how this war started based on complex system of alliances of 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe. How once mobilization for war was started it was impossible to stop.

The great battles of the war are included. The generals did understand that warfare had changed, with such weapons as machine guns, and gas. They fought this war by throwing soldiers at these weapons, with thousand being killed at a time. The misery of trench war fare is part of this story.

The author goes into why negotiating peace in this

stalemated war seemed impossible. He says it was pride; both sides demonized the other, so a peace agreement with such enemies was not possible. Arrogance and pride created the imperative to keep fighting over the same ground and killing more people. The author discusses the outcomes of this war: collapse of the European empires and dynasties, the October 1917 revolution in Russia, the eventual rise of the Nazis, ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, and of course the 20 million killed during this war.

The author provides two tools to make this long book readable. The first is a six page outline of the major characters. The second is the use of background chapters. The author uses background chapters between the chapters of the book to provide more detail and an overview of certain aspects of his story. Example of chapters: The Serbs, The Hohenzollerns, The British Commanders, The Machinery of Death, and Lawrence of Arabia. These chapters provide useful details and context for the book. I found this book very educational. It gives a good summary of the many facets of the war, nations, and people involved.

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experiences in your life. Collectively, Osher learners strike me as being full of wisdom. While some of that wisdom comes from books and classes, I know much of it comes from life-changing experiences. It is impossible to go through life without feeling powerless at some point. Don't you agree that it changes your life? Priorities change. You appreciate life more and I would venture that it creates a thirst for knowing more about this fragile life of ours.

By the time you read this, I will be well on the road to recovery, though with strict orders from my doctor to stay off ladders for a while. But I want to use this opportunity to encourage you to make the most of your time as an Osher member. Keep learning and keep growing your supply of wisdom. You will never know when you will need it for life's twists and turns or unexpected falls.

*Kim C. Beck*

# Memories of Valentine

**Saint Valentine's Day**, often simply **Valentine's Day** is observed on February 14 each year. Today Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, mostly in the West, although it remains a working day in all of them. Did you ever wonder why we do this? Who is St. Valentine? We're not sure.

Many liturgical celebrations of early Christian saints named Valentinus were held. The Valentines honored on February 14 are Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni.

Valentine of Rome was a priest martyred about AD 269 and buried on the Via Flaminia. The flower crowned skull of this St Valentine is exhibited in the Basilica of Santa Maria, Rome.



Valentine of Terni became a bishop about AD 197 and is said to have been martyred during the persecution under Emperor Aurelian. He is also buried on the Via Flaminia, but in a different location than Valentine of Rome. Why do we celebrate them on this day? Because that is the day they both *died*. Romantic? Not very.

Modern romantic connotations were added several centuries later by poets such as Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. Chaucer's poetry about "Valentines" generated the first romantic associations to the celebration.

*For this was on seynt Volantynys day, whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make.*

(For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.)

By the 15th century, it had evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "*valentines*") with verses of love and sweetness. The verse *Roses are Red* echoes conventions traceable as far back as Edmund Spenser's epic *The Faerie*

*Queene* (1590):

*She bath'd with roses red, and violets blew,  
And all the sweetest flowres, that in the forrest grew.*

The modern cliché Valentine's Day poem can be found in the collection of English nursery rhymes *Gammer Gurton's Garland* (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue,  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou art my love and I am thine;  
I drew thee to my Valentine:  
The lot was cast and then I drew,  
And Fortune said it shou'd be you.*



Today the celebration and romance are perhaps too clearly connected with the cash register yet it marks the potential of spring, when reflections do indeed often turn to thoughts of love. Here are some anecdotes from Osher members that illustrate the many aspects of the day.

My best Valentine's Day memory: I arrived home from work to a pathway, a scattering, of red rose petals from the parking pad, down the sidewalk, up the steps and into the house, to the dining room table, where my husband had placed a dozen red roses, a card and a present (don't even remember what the present was). I was so delighted. I thought it was so sweet. I hoped he'd do it every Valentine's day after, but of course, he didn't. The charm was just for that one time. In his mind, repeating it was not charming. **Linda Rohr**

## Bachers

I don't have anything profound to offer, but the memory that stands out in my mind is that beautifully decorated box in the classroom in the primary grades. Classmates brought bags full of handmade or store-bought cards carefully chosen for specific friends—although all classmates were included. On Valentine's Day, along with treats, the box was opened and the treasures distributed. Each card was read

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many times and then put into a scrapbook to be saved forever??? Don't know what happened to those scrapbooks, but thanks for bringing back the memory. **Marilyn Walker**

**Grace Roth** is not a Valentine celebrator and thought she had no personal memories, romantic or otherwise, but she did remember: My husband and I once owned a lighting and furniture store. On Valentine's Day morning, Craig, our senior buyer, would welcome each of our female staff members to work with a beautiful long-stemmed red rose. It was fascinating how such a small gesture made each of us feel so appreciated and somewhat special.

I remember the excitement and disappointment I felt when opening valentine cards received each year from classmates while in elementary school. Each year I looked forward to a card from some special little boy, never mind that my crush was known only to me. But maybe, just maybe, he thought I was special too and would express his feelings with a valentine card. Most often it didn't come, however. When it did, WOW! I would read it over and over and maybe kiss it and hold it to my heart. Occasionally I would sleep

with it under my pillow. When I went to school the following day eager to let him know how I felt, shyness and embarrassment kept me from smiling or even looking at my suitor. But that was okay. I had his nice valentine card and that was all I needed. **Leslie Clevert**

Whether or not you “celebrate” Valentine’s Day, it is nice to think of a day on which we can begin to believe that spring will return, even if we are still in the dead of winter. So as you read this, the romantic, the sad and the ancient, think ahead to spring, think red roses, birds returning and treat yourself to something nice, even if you do not have roses strewn on your sidewalk.

*Diana Hanks*

*(Continued from page 2)*

did not have his wallet containing his credit cards, driving license, and money. This could have made it difficult to board the plane for the return trip, picture ID being required by security. Kim checked with the airline and they advised obtaining a police report to verify that the ID was lost or stolen. A police report was completed, but upon returning to the hotel the doorman reported that the cab driver noticed the wallet, which had the hotel key in it. The cabbie returned the wallet with everything intact. Nothing was missing. How about that for honesty? New York, New York, it's a wonderful town!

Until next time may you all keep up your interest in our Osher LLI. Sign up for spring courses, and let your board or editorial committee members know what you like

about Osher. I have found so many things to enjoy that it has been a pleasure to serve in a leadership capacity, allowing me to give back a little bit of what I have been given. If you would like to contribute more of your time just let us know. Our membership is increasing rapidly—a good thing—but we need more who are always willing to help us maintain the quality of our organization and our offerings. Happy Spring.

*Phil Rozga*

# January February 2013 Osher Calendar

## **Tuesday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day**

## **Wednesday, Jan. 2**

10:30am-12pm French SIG  
1-3pm Thai SIG

## **Thursday, Jan. 3**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG  
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG

## **Monday, Jan. 7**

1-2:30pm Board of Directors Mtng.

## **Tuesday, Jan. 8**

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
1-2:30pm German Conv. SIG

## **Wednesday, Jan. 9**

9-10am History SIG  
10:30am-12pm French SIG  
10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom SIG

## **Thursday, Jan. 10**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG  
10am-12pm Book Group SIG

## **Tuesday, Jan. 15**

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
10am-12pm Book Group SIG  
12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
1:30-3pm Writing SIG

## **Wednesday, Jan. 16**

10:30am-12pm French  
12-1pm Membership Committee Mtng.  
1-2:30pm New Member Orientation  
1-3pm Thai SIG

## **Thursday, Jan. 17**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG

## **Monday, Jan. 21: M. L. King Jr. Day**

## **Tuesday, Jan. 22**

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
1-2:30pm German Conv. SIG

## **Wednesday, Jan. 23**

9-10am History SIG  
10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom SIG  
10:30am-12pm French SIG

## **Thursday, Jan. 24**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG

## **Monday, Jan. 28**

12:30-2pm Leadership and Development  
Committee Mtng.

## **Tuesday, Jan. 29**

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
2:30-4pm Spring Reception and In-  
Person Registration

## **Wednesday, Jan. 30**

10:30am-12pm French SIG

## **Thursday, Jan. 31**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG  
1-3pm Islam: Religion and Way of Life  
(DVD Course)

## **Monday, Feb. 4**

10-11:15am Potpourri I  
1-2:30pm Board of Directors Mtng.

## **Tuesday, Feb. 5**

9-10:15am Living with Optimism in a  
Chaotic World  
9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
1:30-3pm Writing SIG

## **Wednesday, Feb. 6**

10-11:15am Oceanography IV  
10:30am-12pm French SIG  
1-3pm Thai SIG

## **Thursday, Feb. 7**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG  
10am-12pm Book Group SIG  
11:30am-12:45pm Italian Food Culture  
1-3pm Islam: Religion and Way of Life  
(DVD Course)  
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG

## **Monday, Feb. 11**

9:30-11am Newsletter Committee Mtng.  
10-11:15am Potpourri I

## **Tuesday, Feb. 12**

9-10:15am Living with Optimism in a  
Chaotic World  
9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG

12-1:30pm Italian SIG

1-2:30pm German Conv. SIG

1:30-2:45pm Poetry: The What, the Why  
and the How

## **Wednesday, Feb. 13**

9-10am History SIG  
10:30am-12pm French SIG  
10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom SIG

## **Thursday, Feb. 14**

### **Valentine's Day**

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG  
11:30am-12:45pm Italian Food Culture  
1-3pm Islam: Religion and Way of Life  
(DVD Course)

## **Monday, Feb. 18**

### **Presidents' Day**

10-11:15am Potpourri I  
11:30am-1:30pm Program Committee  
Mtng.

## **Tuesday, Feb. 19**

9-10:15am Living with Optimism in a  
Chaotic World  
9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
10am-12pm Book Group SIG  
12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
1:30-2:45pm Poetry: The What, the Why  
and the How  
1:30-3pm Writing SIG

## **Wednesday, Feb. 20**

10-11:15am Oceanography IV  
10:30am-12pm French SIG  
11:15am-2:45pm Lunch at MATC's Cui-  
sine Restaurant & MPTV Studio tour  
1-3pm Thai SIG

## **Thursday, Feb. 21**

9:30-11:30am Spanish  
10-11:15am World War II: A Military  
and Social History (DVD Course)  
11:30am-12:45pm The Life and Work of  
Mark Twain (DVD Course)  
1-3pm Islam: Religion and Way of Life  
(DVD Course)

## **Monday, Feb. 25**

10-11:15am Potpourri I  
12:30-2pm Leadership and Development  
Committee Mtng.

# January February 2013 Osher Calendar

## Tuesday, Feb. 26

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG  
 12-1:30pm Italian SIG  
 1-2:30pm German Conv. SIG  
 1:30-2:45pm Poetry: The What, the Why and the How

## Wednesday, Feb. 27

9-10am History SIG  
 10-11:15am Oceanography IV  
 10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom SIG  
 10:30am-12pm French SIG

## Thursday, Feb. 28

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG  
 10-11:15am World War II: A Military

and Social History (DVD Course)  
 11:30am-12:45pm The Life and Work of Mark Twain (DVD Course)  
 1-3pm Islam: Religion and Way of Life (DVD Course)

## SAVE THE DATE:

### New Member Orientation

Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
 1-2:30pm  
 Lake Park Community Room  
 Open to all new members. Please RSVP to Jenny Neale at 414-227-3255 or [neale@uwm.edu](mailto:neale@uwm.edu)

### Spring Reception and In-Person Registration

Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
 2:30-4pm  
 UWM School of Continuing Education  
 Enjoy conversation and light refreshments while registering for Osher's Spring 2013 semester.

## Special Interest Group Notes Jan.-Feb., 2013

*For more information about Special Interest groups, call the Group Coordinator.*  
 Special Interest Groups are held at UWM-School of Continuing Education, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
 UWM Hefter Conference Center, 3271 N. Lake Dr.  
 Shorewood Senior Resource Center, 3920 N. Murray Ave., lower level

### BOOK GROUP

Cathy Morris-Nelson 414-352-2839  
 Third Tuesdays, 10am-12pm Sept-June (Shorewood)

### EARTH WISDOM

Dale Olen 262-255-3628  
 Second & fourth Wednesdays, 10:30am-12pm (Hefter)

### FRENCH

Prof. Martine Meyer 414-964-3717  
 Every Wednesday, 10:30am-12pm (Hefter)

### GERMAN CONVERSATION

Valerie Brumder, 414-352-4506  
 Second & fourth Tuesdays, 1-2:30pm (Hefter)

### GOLD STAR MYSTERIES

Beverly DeWeese 414-332-7306  
 First Thursdays, 1:30-3pm Sept-July (Hefter)  
**Jan.** Connelly, Michael. *The Final Witness*. 2011. ( 421 pages, lots of copies) (This book replaces the Marcia Clark book).  
 Landay, William. *Defending Jacob*. 2011. (421 pages, 49 copies)  
**Feb.** Malliet, G.M. *Wicked Autumn*. 2011. (297 pages, 13 copies)  
 Penny, Louise. *Trick of the Light*. 2011 ( 339 pages, 27 copies)

### HISTORY

Marilyn Walker 414-332-8255  
 Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 9-10am Sept-May (Hefter)  
**January 9**, *A World on Fire* by Amanda Foreman, Chapters 12, 13 & 14  
**January 23**, *A World on Fire*, Chapters 15 & 16  
**February 13**, *World on Fire*, Chapters 17, 18 & 19  
**February 27**, *World on Fire*, Chapters 20 & 21

### ITALIAN

Silvana Kukuljan 414-935-2958  
 Every Tuesday, 12-1:30pm (Hefter)

### SPANISH

Tony LoBue 414-364-4936  
 Every Thursday, 9:30-11:30am (Hefter)

### SPANISH CONVERSATION

Simon Arenzon 262-242-2035  
 Every Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am (Hefter)

### THAI LANGUAGE/CULTURE

Roger Gremminger (Chair) 262-253-9404  
 -771-9065  
 First & third Wednesdays, 1-3pm (SCE)

### WRITING

Nancy Martin 414 228-5228  
 First Tuesdays, 1:30-3pm (Hefter)

## What's Been Happening at Osher Lately?

Last issue you heard about the WALL conference of lifelong learning organizations in Wisconsin. Since then Phil Rozga, our President, and Kim Beck, our Executive Director, attended the national Osher LLI conference, held this year in Colorado. Why do you care about this you ask? As our group grows toward 1000 members we need to grow our thinking and our processes along with it. So meeting with other groups nationally and regionally has provided a start in future planning for our group. You care because your activities can be affected. This fall many new members were unable to attend the events they wanted because classes were full.

In an effort to be proactive the Board of Directors of our Osher group has instituted a Strategic Planning Committee. This group met for the first time on November 27, 2012. The meeting was facilitated by Ron Kuramoto. Many of you may remember a large meeting held last year, also facilitated by Kuramoto. The strategy he uses attempts to find consensus among all involved, a difficult task. This group used a consensus gathering method that resulted in a list of things that the groups, working in smaller groups of three, determined were most important to Osher in 2015, assuming our membership grows to 2000.

The final responses were codified, as seen in the following table:

<u>Goal Categories</u>	<u>Number of votes</u>
Programming	Total of 83
Branding/Marketing	Total of 6
Financial Stability	Total of 38
Welcoming diversity	Total of 12
Active participation	Total of 5

Work will continue on this project with further defining and quantification. If you have questions, suggestions or comments please share them with a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. Those members are : **Phil Rozga, Terry Rozga, Mimi Notestein, Mike Roller, Diana Hankes, Linda Nolen, Ruth Kurensky, Kathy Brehmer, Kim Beck, and Dave Georgerson.**

Potpourri II was very well attended and had some excellent presentations. One presentation, actually a substitute for the scheduled speaker, was a highlight of the series for this attendee. The differences in program attendance and the housing of the different classes and lectures is an illustration of the need for strategic planning as we continue to grow.

The Peck School of the Arts provided a five part class series during October and November. This offering was missed by many but very much enjoyed by our select few in attendance. Each division of the program was presented by a different sector of the school. Art, dance, theater, and much more. You would not believe what can be done with a pizza cutter! And it is art! Useful art. Amazing. You had to be there.

The Winter Gala, held at Hefter on December 13 ushered in the Christmas Season with fun, food and frivolity. Thank you **Chris O'Brien** and the social committee for providing a lovely afternoon. The Italian SIG group had their new cookbook available for purchase—a nice present or stocking stuffer.

**Beth Waschow** recommends an upcoming oceanography class, she says that Professor Keith Sverdrup has developed a following at Osher. His first class was on the topic of earthquakes. Members were impressed by his ability to explain issues in a language that was easy to comprehend, sprinkled with his humor. When a member asked him if he heard about the occurrence of an earthquake from the news,

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

he said, “Madame, I AM the news.” And truly, he has often been interviewed on local TV stations after an earthquake occurred.

Following the earthquake class, Professor Sverdrup has been offering a series of classes on oceanography. Attendees have learned about topics such as the composition of oceans and El Nino. One does not have to have attended the previous course in order to attend the next one, since all courses deal with different topics.

Oceanography IV will deal with waves and water dynamics. If you noticed the strong waves on Lake Michigan caused by Hurricane Sandy or may want to know about currents and tsunamis, you will probably find this course of great interest. Find out for yourself why members who have attended Professor Sverdrup’s classes keep coming back for more.

Welcome to 2013. Let us work together to take Osher to a new level in the new year. *Diana Hanks*

## **Got more good ideas?**

**Give us your suggestions! What would make Osher better? Do you have ideas for courses, presenters or social events?**

**Leave your suggestions in the Osher suggestion box, located in the Hefter Center entrance hall.**

**Suggestions will be compiled by the Osher office and distributed to the appropriate committees.**

(Continued from page 1)

energetic woman with a big personality eventually caught the attention of former board president Terry Rozga, who recruited her for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute’s board. Since then, Kelly has served in various capacities with Osher, but her other interests have not been neglected.

The young 73 year old, who is happy to say she is in very good health, hikes the Appalachian Trail every other year. Years ago she visited the trail more often for three-week backpacking treks. To keep in shape and prepare for the trail, Kelly hikes 24 miles around Lake Geneva’s shoreline and walks seven hours a week near her Milwaukee home.

Kelly’s love of art places her in the Milwaukee Art Museum as a volunteer greeter each weekend. Not only does she enjoy the exhibits, she loves meeting and interacting with people from all over the country and world. Kelly observed that many international visitors come just to experience the Santiago Calatrava addition and its Brise de Soleil.

Opera is probably at the top of Kelly’s passions. She views it as a “celebration of the human voice, drama and acting.” It’s been a life-long love. Her parents also loved singing and met while performing in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Their off spring inherited their musical talent and Kelly performed with her four sisters during their youth. Singing 3-part harmony, they were billed as the Five Kelly Sisters and were popular at churches and community events.

Deeply involved in last fall’s presidential campaign and the get out to vote activities, Kelly is awed by the fact that 87 percent of registered Milwaukee voters turned out and she is satisfied that her contributions paid off. Anyone wanting to learn how to live life to its fullest should consult Kelly. She is well qualified to write a book or become an Osher presenter on the topic.

*Leslie Clevert*

# Beautiful Music Made in Milwaukee: Metropolitan Opera Auditions

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions launched its annual auditions program in 1952. Now in its 60th year, it is the longest running singing competition in the country.

Young opera singers from around the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico who are between the ages of 20 and 30 compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform on one of the world's most prestigious stages. The purpose of the National Council Audition program is to discover exceptional young talent, provide a venue for young opera singers, assist those with the greatest potential in their development, and to search for new talent for the Metropolitan Opera.

The process begins at the District level in the fall of each year. Currently there are 40 districts, one of which is Wisconsin. Singers who are selected from this first round advance to the Regional level in February. There are fourteen regions, and Wisconsin District winners go to Minneapolis. One singer from each Region is then selected to advance to the semi-finals in New York City in March, where they audition with piano accompaniment on the Metropolitan Opera stage before members of the Met artistic staff and opera professionals. From this group, National finalists are chosen and remain in residence at the Met for a week in preparation for the Grand Finals concert. During this final audition, they perform before a public audience and a distinguished panel of judges, and are accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Anywhere from three to five singers will become Grand Finals winners, and receive a significant cash award. This year it will be \$15,000. More important, however, is the prestige that comes with this achievement, and the performance opportunities that open to them, not only at the Met itself, but at major opera houses throughout the world.

Over 100 singers on the Metropolitan Opera roster during any given season have auditioned for the National Council Auditions. While there are many routes to the stage at the Met, for North American singers the National Council

Auditions create an introduction to the company that can prove invaluable. Names like Renee Fleming, Denyce Graves, Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, Deborah Voigt and Samuel Ramey come to mind.

Fortunately for those of us who live in southeast Wisconsin, the Wisconsin District auditions, in existence for the past 50 years, are held right here in the Milwaukee area at the Sharon Wilson Center in Brookfield. This past October, there were 39 incredibly gifted singers competing, and as our District director Kathy Pyeatt stated, "it was a full day of glorious music". Each competitor must prepare five arias; he or she chooses the first aria to sing, and the judges select the second, and occasionally a third. This enables the judges, all of whom are music educators and/or opera professionals, to assess voice quality, stage presence, language proficiency and the ability to project the voice to an audience.

The District auditions occur in the fall and are open to the public. A nominal fee of \$5.00 is charged to help defray expenses. You don't have to be a committed opera lover to enjoy this experience.....it is all about beautiful music, and hearing the next generation of talented vocal artists as they pursue their dreams. To learn more about past Wisconsin District winners and where they are currently performing, go to the Web site [INFO@MONCWIDISTRICT.ORG](mailto:INFO@MONCWIDISTRICT.ORG).

Coincidentally, our photographer **George Bryant** not only studied music but went through a similar process in Cleveland and was chosen to sing in the chorus of *Aida*, *La Boheme*, and *Tosca*.

*Mary E. Kelly*

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Diana Hanks, Special Interest Groups

### Definition of the month:

Calories: (noun) tiny creatures that live in your closet and sew your clothes a little bit tighter every night.

## *Welcome* New Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Members

Patricia Aken	Ervin Colton	Jeanne Jacobs	Mary Jo Malone	Maxine Sliefert	Marilyn Wheeler
John Archibald	Arlene Devorkin	Lanette Kagen	Kit McNally	Janet Soldon	June Wiken
James Berger	Roberta Greve	Cynthia Kryda	Helen Mueller	Marcia Spector	Sharon Williams
Richard Brehmer	Sandra Griffith	Julianna Ksicinski	Joseph Pollack	Beatrice Strick	Dorothy Woodruff
Joan Brenk	Marcia Hecker	Dena Lucoff	Patricia Sabin	Steve Sweet	

### **PARKING NEWS**

We are happy to announce that **Osher members with handicap stickers/placard signs** are now permitted to park on the two blocks of Marietta Avenue closest to the Hefter Center, between Kenwood Boulevard and Hartford Avenue, and even on the side of the street designated for vehicles with resident parking permits.

Thank you to Osher member Phyllis Wetzel for

diligently voicing her concerns to the city, and to Alderman Nik Kovac and his Legislative Assistant Nicole Meyer for making this possible.

It doesn't make the parking situation perfect, but it should help! If you receive a ticket or run into any problems, please contact Nicole Meyer at the Alderman's office at 414-286-3447 or nmeyer@milwaukee.gov.