



Jan-Feb 2014

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New Members Enthralled with Osher's Offerings

Even though Ralph and Sharon Kirsch are among Osher's newest members, they have participated in more Osher offerings during their initial months as members than, perhaps, some long-standing members have overall. After joining Osher during summer, one or both Kirsches acquired new cooking skills, learned to exercise their minds, acquired a greater understanding of Medicare, learned about the paranormal, marveled at St. Joseph's Convent's stained glass, browsed the Lynden Sculpture gardens and more.

Needless to say, the Kirsches have found many of Osher's offerings appealing. They were enticed to join by local friends and a friend in California who is a member of Osher in her west coast community. The Kirsches desired being around people with interests similar to their own and Osher satisfied their need.

Sharon is a retired registered nurse and Ralph is a former manufacturing and plant engineer. Retirement for both has not meant settling for sedentary, just the opposite. The active and adventurous couple are doing things now that they've always wanted to do, but could not find time. Ralph spends his summers gardening, fishing and kayaking.

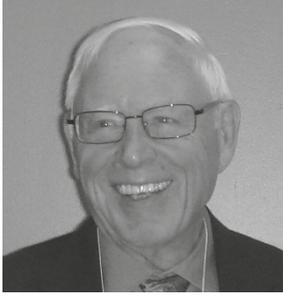


Photography is a favorite hobby along with model railroading, reading and cooking. Oh yes, he is the only man in his yoga class. When revealing this, a quiet smile crossed his face, then looking at Sharon for affirmation, he stated, "Sharon isn't jealous."

Sharon explained that because of a back problem she is unable to join Ralph in his yoga class. "He does his things and I do mine," she said. Her things include gardening, stitchery, reading, enjoying breakfast; lunch or dinner with friends, as well as, eating Ralph's cooking and pampering the beautiful home they built

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Message from President Phil Rozga



Best wishes for the New Year. There are a number of things that we can look forward to in 2014. We are continuing with our Strategic Plan to offer more courses with a greater diversity in topics. Our Travel Committee is planning to

repeat the very popular trip to New York for Broadway plays. Detroit and Costa Rica are new destinations in the works. Beth Waschow has accepted the position of the Curriculum Coordinator Chair. This is a new position which will be responsible for coordinating the topics and dates of all the educational committees. This should help in making program decisions. Good luck, Beth, it's always difficult to be the trail blazer.

We are finding new and different methods to raise the \$15,000 needed to qualify for a second million dollar endowment. This

grant requirement was established by the Osher Foundation. The silent auction at the Winter Gala and the donation appeal were the beginning of our fund-raising efforts.

As you may remember, Osher at UWM is a member of WALL, the Wisconsin Association for Lifelong Learning. WALL is a loose association of organizations that are similar to ours, connected with Universities throughout Wisconsin. This year it is our turn to host the semi-annual conference. It will be held at the School of Continuing Education on Sept. 3 and 4. We expect 80 to 100 guests to attend and are counting on our members to help welcome the group. We will be asking for volunteers to help facilitate the planned program offerings and social events.

Finally, we welcome Natalie Fluker, the new Public Ally, and Kathy Darrington who are helping the administrative staff with various duties.

Message from Executive Director Kim Beck



*O! be some other name:
What's in a name? that which we
call a rose
By any other name would smell as
sweet;*

Ah, yes. What's in a name?

My whole life people have always been confused about my name. As one member succinctly said to me over the phone recently, "Dang I thought Kim was a woman." So, I thought I would share with you how I got the name.

First, my mother's side of the family liked very short names. As a matter of fact at one family reunion, one relative always says to me, "Oh, you are the alphabet-challenged branch of the family." You see, my oldest brother is named, Jay and my other brother is Guy. My one cousin is named, Jon—no "h" of course.

Thus, the first part of the equation, the name must have three letters.

What about the name, Kim? You should all remember that Kim wasn't really a girl's name until Kim Novak came along. Prior to her, things were different. They were Kimlark's and Kimball's. Neither of which, though, has anything to do with me. One day, I asked my mother where the name came from. She claimed that my father was reading Rudyard Kipling's Kim right before I was born. Now, I have a lot of respect for my father, but there was not a lot of British literature lying around the house when I was growing up. No, upon further research, before I was born a major motion picture version of "Kim" came out starring Errol Flynn. Well, now you know the rest of the story.

I have had people confuse my name my whole life. It just

(Continued on page 5)

Osher Welcomes Kathy Darrington and Natalie Fluker to Our Staff



Hi. My name is Kathlene Darrington. I am the new Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Member Care Specialist and I am here for you!

I have worked for UWM and the School of Continuing Education for over 10 years and have recently moved from the Dean's Office to the Osher Life Long Learning Institute.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with seasoned adults, maybe because I am one myself, and look forward to the challenges of making your Osher experience even better. My hobbies are music, movies and history and I have already learned that many of you share the same interests.

Lifelong learning is extremely necessary for us all. I am glad to be a part of an organization that seeks the joy of learning.

As a Member Care Specialist, I look forward to serving and assisting members. My role is to help you enhance your membership, by keeping you engaged and excited about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UWM.

Hello, my name is Natalie Fluker and I will be working with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute as a Community Engagement and Awareness Associate over the ten months.

In 2012, I graduated from UW- Madison with a BA in International Studies and Political Science. Shortly after, I dedicated a year of service to City Year Milwaukee; an AmeriCorps program where I tutored, mentored and role-modeled for middle school students in Milwaukee Public Schools.

I am pleased to begin my second year as an AmeriCorps member with Public Allies and Osher. During my time with Osher, I will develop and execute community engagement strategies with the goal of expanding and diversifying Osher membership. I look forward to working with all of you as we grow our institute to over 1,000 members.

A Valentine's Sneak Preview

Valentine's Day is a celebration of all the people and all of the things that we love. As Osher members we love learning, meeting new people, and going to art occasions of all genre's. On Tuesday, February 11 from 2pm to 5pm at St. John's on the Lake, Osher is hosting a special Valentines party – for the love of books.

Tickets for this fund-raising event are \$50 per person and is a tax deductible donation to the UWM Foundation. Proceeds go to help us reach the goal of 1,000 members + \$15,000 = 1 Million.

We will have a very special guest speaker , hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a “book” auction in one of the loveliest reception areas on Lake Michigan.

The accompanying picture illustrates the talent of fellow Osher member Tony Busalacchi. The book “War and Peace” actually creates war-like action in three dimensions.



Photo courtesy of Tony Busalacchi

A friend of one of our board members makes bird houses out of

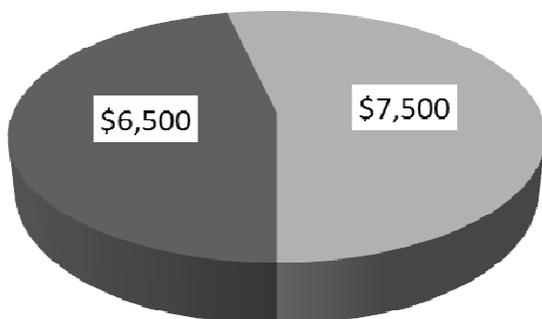
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1 THOUSAND +
15 THOUSAND
= 1 MILLION

An Update on Our Progress

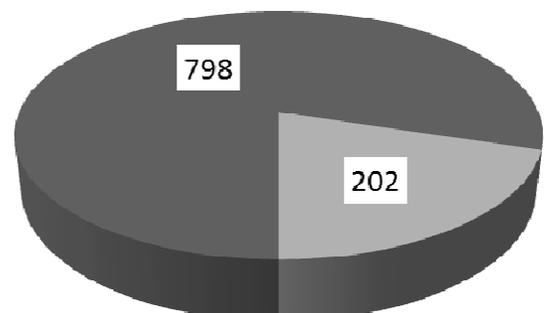
\$15,000 Fundraising Goal

■ Amount Raised as of 12/31 ■ Remaining Goal



1,000 Member Goal

■ Members as of 12/31 ■ Remaining Goal



The Tao and the Bard: A Conversation

Moderated by Phillip DePoy, Publisher: Arcade Publishing (2013), 148 pages

Book Report by John Link



Taoism is a Chinese philosophy that offers teachings into life, our relationship to the world, and how to live a balanced life in harmony. Tao can mean “way”, “path”, or “route.” In this clever short book the moderator uses the thoughts of Tao written by Lao Tzu and relates them to lines from Shakespeare’s plays. Observations and thoughts are exchanged between Lao Tzu and Shakespeare with comments by the moderator. Examples:

Lao Tzu: Can you control the animal in your soul and still remain the same person always? Can you keep your mind from wandering and concentrate on one thing? This is the mystic virtue.

Shakespeare: Keep yourself within yourself. *Anthony and Cleopatra*

I am constant as the northern star. *Julius Caesar*

Comment: Great concentration, on single thought, single activity, or single moment, is an essential quality for all human beings and too often missing from contemporary life.

Lao Tzu: The Tao that can be said in words is not the Tao. Words cannot describe it.

Shakespeare: Words are but the wind. *The Comedy of Errors*.

Comment: The word sun doesn’t give any warmth or light. Only the sun can do that. Saying the word is only meant to suggest the thing itself. Of course, in the case of

Lao Tzu or Shakespeare, the irony of using words to say something that can’t be said in words is significant. Lao Tzu’s writing is a foundation of Eastern thought. Shakespeare’s plays are among the greatest uses of any Western language.

I became interested in Taoism after taking the OSHER class Taoist Insights taught by Carolyn Sweers. This book can be an entertaining opportunity to think about the meaning of the Tao. I did find it fun to read and to think about the verses of the Tao. The year 2014 (starting January 31, 2014), is the Chinese year of the horse, maybe this book will help you find your path and discern meanings of mystic thought.

(Executive Director, Continued from page 2)

doesn’t bother me anymore. So, don’t worry if you ever get it confused!

Speaking of names, here is one you should really know: Bernard Osher. A native of Biddeford, Maine and a graduate of Bowdoin College, Mr. Osher pursued a successful career in business, beginning with the management of his family’s hardware and plumbing supplies store and continuing with work at Oppenheimer & Company in New York before moving to California. There he became a founding director of World Savings, the second largest savings institution in the United States, which was sold to Wachovia Corporation in 2006. By 2005, Forbes listed Mr. Osher as the 584th richest man in the world.

More importantly, in 2007, BusinessWeek cited Mr. Osher as one

of the country’s most generous philanthropists.

The article noted at the time, that he had already given \$805 million to arts, educational, and social services. In 1977, he founded the Bernard Osher Foundation. His foundation has funded over 120 Osher Lifelong

Learning Institutes, including ours, at universities and colleges in the United States since 2001.

The Osher Foundation has already given our Institute a little over \$1.3 million. By now you know the Foundation has challenged us with an additional goal of raising \$15,000 and 1,000 members. We are well on our way to receiving another \$1 million. Let’s do everything we can in the next few months to take advantage of Mr. Osher’s wonderful generosity.

January-February 2014 Osher Calendar

LOCATIONS:

UWM Hefter Conference Center (H)
UWM School of Continuing Education
(SCE)
Offsite (O)

Wed, Jan 1

New Year's Day

Thu, Jan 2

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG (H)

Mon, Jan 6

1-2:30pm Board of Directors Mtng. (SCE)

Tue, Jan 7

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
12-1:30pm Italian SIG (H)
1:30-3pm Writing SIG (H)

Wed, Jan 8

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

Thu, Jan 9

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG (H)
2-3:30pm Public Relations Com. Mtng.
(SCE)

Mon, Jan 13

11:30am-1pm Program Com. Mtng. (SCE)

Tue, Jan 14

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
12-1:30pm Italian SIG (H)
1-2:30pm German Conv. SIG (H)
2:30-3:30pm Social Com. Mtng. (SCE)

Wed, Jan 15

10:30am-12pm French SIG (H)
10:30-11:30am Membership Com. Mtng.
(SCE)
11:30am-1pm New Member Orientation
(SCE)

Thu, Jan 16

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

Mon, Jan 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tue, Jan 21

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

Wed, Jan 22

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

Thu, Jan 23

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG (H)
3-4:30pm Spring Reception and In-Person
Registration (SCE)

Mon, Jan 27

12:30-2pm L&D Com. Mtng. (SCE)

Tue, Jan 28

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

Wed, Jan 29

10:30am-12pm French SIG (H)

Thu, Jan 30

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

Mon, Feb 3

10-11:15 Potpourri I (H)
12:30-1:45pm Plato's Vision of the Good
(SCE)
1-2:30pm Board of Directors Mtng. (SCE)

Tue, Feb 4

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
12-1:30pm Italian SIG (H)
1:30-3pm Writing SIG (H)
2:15-3:30pm The Ethics of Drones (H)

Wed, Feb 5

10-11:15am History of the Ancient World
Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)
10:30am-12pm French SIG (H)
12:30-1:45pm The History of Your Milwau-
kee County Parks (SCE)
2:15-3:30pm The Great Tours: Greece and
Turkey, Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)

Thu, Feb 6

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG (H)
10-11:15am Consciously Navigating the
Second Half of Life (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG (H)

Fri, Feb 7

10:30am-12pm Manpower Tour (O)
11am-1pm Friday Forum (SCE)
1:30-3pm Manpower Tour (O)

Sat, Feb 8

10-11:15am Beginners Genealogy (SCE)

Mon, Feb 10

9:30-11am Newsletter Com. Mtng (SCE)
10-11:15am Potpourri I (H)
12:30-1:45pm Plato's Vision of the Good
(SCE)

Tue, Feb 11

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
10-11:15am Egypt and Petra Revisited
(SCE)
10-11:30am Chudnow Museum (O)
12-1:30pm Italian SIG (H)
12:30-1:45pm Italian Neorealism (H)
1:30-3pm Chudnow Museum (O)
1-2:30pm German Conv. SIG (H)
2-5pm Valentine's Day Fundraising Event
(O)
2:15-3:30pm The Ethics of Drones (H)

Wed, Feb 12

9-10am History SIG (H)
10-11:15am History of the Ancient World,
Part I (DVD Course)
10:30am-12pm French SIG (H)
10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom SIG (H)
12:30-1:45pm The History of Your Milwau-
kee County Parks (SCE)
2:15-3:30pm The Great Tours: Greece and
Turkey, Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)

Thu, Feb 13

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG (H)
10-11:15am Consciously Navigating the
Second Half of Life (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG

Fri, Feb 14

Valentine's Day

Sat, Feb 15

10-11:15am Beginners Genealogy (SCE)

January-February 2014 Osher Calendar, cont.

Mon, Feb 17

Presidents' Day

10-11:15am Potpourri I (H)
11:45am-1:45pm Program Com. Mtng. (H)
12:30-1:45pm Plato's Vision of the Good (SCE)

Tue, Feb 18

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
10-11:15am Egypt and Petra Revisited (SCE)
10am-12pm Book Group SIG (O)
12-1:30pm Italian SIG (H)
1:30-3pm Writing SIG (H)
2:15-3:30pm The Ethics of Drones (H)

Wed, Feb 19

10-11:15am History of the Ancient World, Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)
10:30am-12pm French SIG (H)
2:15-3:30pm The Great Tours: Greece and Turkey, Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)

Thu, Feb 20

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG (H)
10-11:15am Consciously Navigating the Second Half of Life (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG (H)

Sat, Feb 22

10-11:15am Beginners Genealogy (SCE)
10-11:30am Skywaukee Tour (SCE)
10am-12pm Prospective Member Event (H)

Mon, Feb 24

10-11:15am Potpourri I (H)
12:30-2pm L&D Com. Mtng. (SCE)

Tue, Feb 25

9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG (H)
10-11:15am Egypt and Petra Revisited (SCE)
12-1:30pm Italian SIG (H)
1-2:30pm German Conversation SIG (H)
2:15-3:30pm The Ethics of Drones (H)

Wed, Feb 26

9-10am History SIG (H)
10-11:15am History of the Ancient World, Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)
10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom (H)
10:30am-12pm French SIG (H)
12:30-1:45pm Social Media 101 (SCE)
2:15-3:30pm The Great Tours: Greece and Turkey, Part I (DVD Course) (SCE)

Thu, Feb 27

9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG (H)
10-11:15am Consciously Navigating the Second Half of Life (H)
1:30-3pm Gold Star Mysteries SIG

Fri, Feb 28

10:30am-12pm Discovery World Tour (O)

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Special Interest Group Notes

For more information about Special Interest Groups, call the Group Coordinator.

BOOK GROUP, Shorewood

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

EARTH WISDOM, Hefter

Dale Olen 262-339-5481
Second & fourth Wednesdays,
10:30am-12pm

FRENCH, Hefter

Marc McSweeney 414-788-5929
Every Wednesday, 10:30am-12pm

GERMAN CONVERSATION, Hefter

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

GOLD STAR MYSTERIES, Hefter

Beverly DeWeese 414-332-7306
First Thursdays, 1:30-3pm Sept-July

Jan 2—*Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes* by Marcus Sakey, *Before I Go To Sleep* by S.J. Watson

Feb 6—*Gods of Gotham* by Lyndsay Faye, *Bedlam Detective* by Stephen Gallagher

HISTORY, Hefter

Marilyn Walker 414-332-8255
John Link 414-588-5162
Second & fourth Wednesdays, 9-10am

Jan 8—*Founding Brothers*, Chapter 6

Jan 22—*Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East* by Robin Wright, Prologue and Chapter 1

Feb 12—*Dreams and Shadows*, Chapter 2

Feb 26—*Dreams and Shadows*, Chapter 3

ITALIAN, Hefter

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

SPANISH, Hefter

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

SPANISH CONVERSATION, Hefter

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

THAI, SCE

Somchintana Ratarasarn 414-771-9065
Every Wednesday, 1-3pm

Not meeting until further notice. Please contact Somchintana if you wish to receive future updates.

WRITING, Hefter

Nancy Martin 414-339-1172
First & third Tuesdays, 1:30-3pm

LOCATIONS

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

What's Happening at Osher Lately?

Osher Travel Committee Announces Long Range Plans

It is never too early to plan for that trip on your bucket list! After several months of discussion and research, the Osher Travel Committee has created a tentative travel schedule through spring 2018. Each year of travel will feature several different types of travel at varying lengths and prices. There will be a variety of activities sure to please all of our members. A typical year of travel will include a three to five day motor coach tour in the Midwest; our annual exceptionally popular Broadway Theatre Tour; a seven day tour to locations in North and South America; an extended ten to seventeen day tour to exotic locations around the world; as well as the always thought provoking Week of Learning. Here's what the next few years will bring:

	Motor Coach	Broadway	7 Day Tour	10-17 Day Tour	Week of Learning
2014-15	Detroit	New York City	Costa Rica	Thailand Myanmar	Arizona Immigration
2015-16	St. Louis and Vicinity	New York City	Puerto Rico	South Africa	Government Washington DC
2016-17	Nova Scotia	New York City	Panama	Barcelona	TBA
2017-18	Along the Mississippi	New York City	Amazon Headwaters	London Paris	TBA

We hope you agree that this is an exciting set of travel destinations. We also hope that this will help you with including Osher in your travel plans. What do you think? In the next few weeks, you will receive an online survey, asking for your input into the travel committee plans and traveling with Osher. We are open to your suggestions and are willing to adapt our schedule and activities to meet members' interests and expectations. We look forward to seeing on the road with Osher!

New Travel Activity Levels

Have you considered traveling with our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and were uncertain if you could handle the trip? Perhaps, you have traveled with us and felt the trip did not offer enough independence or physical challenge. The Osher Travel Committee understands the need to offer a variety of different types of travel opportunities to our members. At the same time, members need to understand that certain trips may just not be right for them.

So, the committee has come up with a rating system for travel programs. There are five levels with different levels of

physical expectations.

Level 1



These tours have a leisurely pace with a minimum of physical activity. Tour members should be able to climb a small flight of stairs, board a motor coach or walk within a hotel.

Level 2



These tours will have average physical activity. Tour members should be able to climb a medium flight of stairs and walk some distance over even or uneven ground.

Level 3



These tours include moderate physical activity. Tour members can expect at least one active or long day. You should also expect walking tours with possible stair climbing and moderate periods of standing.

Level 4



These tours include physical activities that include longer walking tours, moving over uneven territory, climbing large flights of stairs and extended periods of standing. Tour members can expect longer days with activities that run later into the evening. You should consider not signing up if you use a walker or wheel chair.

Level 5



These tours include strenuous activities that require physically fit participants. Tour members can expect extensive walking tours, possible high altitudes, early morning departures, late night activities and/or extreme temperatures. You should not sign up for Level 5 tours if you use a walker or a wheelchair.

Beginning with the Winter/Spring 2014 catalog, all tours will be listed with one of the five levels. The committee's goal is to offer a variety of trips at varying levels of challenge so all members will have the opportunity to participate. We hope this will increase your interest in traveling with our Institute and make your decision process easier.

Travel Cancellation/Refund Policy

If the UWM School of Continuing Education cancels a trip for any reason, participant will receive a 100% refund of any fees paid to date.

If a participant withdraws from a tour before the final payment deadline, participant will receive a full refund any fees paid to date.

If a participant withdraws from a tour after the final payment deadline up to one week before the tour, the following conditions apply:

If a replacement can be found, participant will receive any fees paid less a 10% administrative fee.

If a replacement cannot be found, participant will receive only those fees which can be refunded by tour vendors less a 10% administrative fee.

If a participant withdraws from a tour within one week of tour departure, the following conditions apply:

If a replacement can be found, participant will receive any fees paid less a 25% administrative fee.

If a replacement cannot be found, participant will not receive any refund.

Osher members are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance for any tour sponsored by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Trip cancellation insurance is the best way to ensure a complete refund of tour fees.

Photos courtesy of Pixabay

Spring 2014 Catalog Coming Soon!



The Spring 2014 catalog will be mailed to Osher members in mid January. Classes begin the first week of February. In the meantime, you may view and register for classes on our website, sce-osher.uwm.edu.

View the interactive catalog pdf or click on "Programs and Activities" to view individual course listings.

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Explorations in the Fall

A Tale Within a Tale and a Trip Within a Trip

To commemorate Giuseppe Verdi's 200th birthday, the Florentine Opera opened its 80th Anniversary season in grand opera style with Verdi's tale of star-crossed lovers. William Florescu directed and Maestro Joseph Mechavich conducted the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Florentine Opera Chorus in *La Traviata*. There is an interesting "back story" to the opera. A tale within a tale.

Dumas' based a romantic novel the *Lady of the Camellias* (*La Dame aux Camélias*) on Marie Duplessis who was his mistress between September 1844 and August 1845. Marie was both a popular courtesan and the hostess of a salon, where politicians, writers, and artists gathered for stimulating conversation and socializing. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 23 in February, 1847. In the book, which appeared within a year of her death, Dumas became "Armand Duval" and Duplessis "Marguerite Gautier." Dumas also adapted his story as a play, which inspired Verdi's opera *La Traviata* and various films. In the *La Traviata* story she is known as □ Violetta Valéry.

Like Marie, Violetta (sung by Elizabeth Caballero) has tuberculosis, knows that she will die soon, exhausted by her restless life as a courtesan. At a party she is introduced to Alfredo Germont, (Rolando



Photo courtesy of Marcia Scherrer

Sanz) who has been fascinated by her for a long time. Violetta is torn by conflicting emotions—she doesn't want to give up her way of life, but at the same time she feels that Alfredo has awakened her desire to be truly loved.

She chooses a life with Alfredo, and they enjoy their love in the country. When Alfredo discovers Violetta has been selling her property to pay for their life style, he immediately leaves for Paris to obtain money. In Alfredo's absence, his father, Giorgio, pays her a

visit. He demands that she separate from his son, as their relationship threatens his daughter's impending marriage. Germont realizes that Violetta is not after his son's money but he tells her that her liaison with Alfredo has no future. Violetta agrees to leave Alfredo and return to her old life.

She accepts the invitation to the ball and writes a goodbye letter to her lover. The furious and jealous Alfredo seeks revenge

and confronts Violetta, who pretends to be truly in love with another. □

Violetta is dying. She has only a few more hours to live. Alfredo's father, full of remorse, told Alfredo about her sacrifice. Alfredo wants to rejoin her as soon as possible. Violetta is afraid that he might be too late but Alfredo does arrive and the reunion fills Violetta with a final euphoria.



Photo courtesy of Marcia Scherrer

All sorrow and suffering seems to have left her—a final illusion, before death

claims her.

Osher Explorers were able to attend a working rehearsal of this tragic tale at the Florentine Opera Center on E. Burleigh Street. After the lovely introduction to this traditional entertainment the Osher group went right next door to the La Lune Furniture Factory – a surprising transition that added a new dimension to the afternoon’s trip. La Lune owner, Mario Constantini, provided interesting commentary as the group toured the showroom and the factory itself. Furniture made here uses wood that is considered by most to be trash and is, in fact, invasive species such as poplar. Thus, La Lune is eco-friendly and “green.” Constantini has been a very positive influence on the neighborhood, having made the area free of gang influence and safe for many other small restaurants and shops.

Once again, kudos to the “Go Explore” committee members for a fine choice. The sad tale of love and the happy tale of a neighborhood revitalized with an eco-friendly business made for a very interesting “tale within a tale” in our “trip within a trip.” Not only was the exploration a “two events for one” but each participant was offered two La Traviata tickets for the price of one. Another indication of the value of Osher membership.

Diana Hankes

A Trip to the Fire Station

On a cold sunny Wednesday eleven Osher Explorers met at the Milwaukee Fire Museum on Oklahoma Avenue for a trip down memory lane. The old fire station, built in 1927, was in service until 1995. Today it is preserved for the enjoyment and education of visitors, open only on the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. So it was a special treat for Osher members, thanks to our hard working “Go Explore” committee, to be able to tour leisurely on a Wednesday morning.

Our tour guide Jim, a retired fire fighter, was enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. He provided real insight into the life of a

including the alarm systems once seen on street corners and in lobbies of large buildings. Jim confessed that he was one of the persons who did buy one of these old icons of a previous era and has it in his basement. The alarm boxes were in use since before the telephone was available. When they were removed from neighborhood corners many area residents missed seeing them, some insisted their own red alarm box remain on the corner.

The Captain’s office has a cot and the station has sleeping quarters since the men were on 24 hour shifts and saw the station as a “home away from home.” The men



Photo courtesy of Marcia Scherrer

fireman in a previous generation. Jim drove a ladder truck and said the men were able to get the trucks out the door within 30 seconds of receiving a call. Impressive. Alas, no fire poles were used at this one-floor station, although there is one there for “show and tell.”

The station is a repository of equipment

provided all maintenance for the building as well as the equipment. They provided their own groceries and cooked their own meals.

The moving stock included four pieces of equipment. A beautiful bright “fire engine red” 1947 Cadillac ambulance catches

(Continued on page 13)

A Confluence of Needs

Research confirms that one of the most important elements of a satisfying/fulfilling retirement is volunteering our time, energy, and talents to a cause that we feel passionate about. He would like to know:

Are you interested in lifelong learning?

Do you want to help others to learn and grow?

Are you looking for opportunities to meet new people?

Are you interested in sharing your experience and wisdom?

Osher has many opportunities to serve as members and as leaders of various committees. These committees are comprised of volunteers that work on the important Osher goals and opportunities in the areas of programming, social, financial, leadership, and membership.

If you would like to explore how your interests and talents might contribute to the continuing growth of Osher, please contact any of the people listed on page 15.

David Georgenson

(New Members, Continued from page 1)

shortly after marriage.

Together, the Kirsches enjoy traveling and camping. They have traveled much of the world including London, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Finland, Sweden and Russia. They have been on Rhine River cruises and have taken cruise ships to the Caribbean and Mediterranean. Their camping escapades have not been without occurrences like the time the Kirsches were caught in a blizzard in Yellowstone National Park and could not leave their pop-up tent because a large elk parked himself at the entrance and refused to move.

Ralph and Sharon grew up in Wisconsin and, not surprisingly, met doing something adventurous – skiing. Actually, they met at a ski club while playing Sheephead with a group that included Sharon’s best friend. Ralph asked the best friend out first but she refused. Not wanting to accept rejection, he decided to court Sharon and they have been compatible for the past 45 years. Through the years they added two children.

Daughter, Kara, followed in Sharon’s footsteps and entered the medical arena as an occupational therapist. Son, Kevin, found footsteps to follow, as well, and became a prominent water resource engineer. Kara, Kevin and their spouses are parents of two children each, which resulted in something else the Kirsches enjoy doing together – babysitting on Mondays.

Leslie Clevert

(Calendar, Continued from page 7)

SAVE THE DATES

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, January 15

11:30am-1pm

UWM School of Continuing Education

161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 6000,

Milwaukee

Open to all new members. Please contact Natalie Fluker to RSVP at nfluker@uwm.edu or 414-227-3320.

SPRING RECEPTION AND IN-PERSON REGISTRATION

Thursday, January 23

3-4:30pm

UWM School of Continuing Education

161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 6000,

Milwaukee

Enjoy conversation and refreshments while signing up for spring courses. Open to all members and prospective members. No RSVP required.

OSHER VALENTINE’S DAY FUNDRAISING EVENT

Tuesday, February 11

2-5pm

St. John’s on the Lake

1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee

Tickets for this fundraising event are \$50 per person and is a tax deductible

donation to the UWM Foundation.

1,000 members + \$15,000 = \$1 Million.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER EVENT

Saturday, February 22

10am-12pm

UWM Hefter Conference Center

3271 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee

Attendees will enjoy snacks and refreshments as they learn more about the organization and have their questions answered. There is no charge for the event. Please contact Natalie Fluker at nfluker@uwm.edu or 414-227-3320 with the name and address of anyone who might be interested in attending and she will send them an invitation.

(Happenings, Continued from page 9)

A Sneak Peak of the Spring Go Explores

The first event will be a tour of Manpower World Headquarters on Friday February 7th. There will be two tours to accommodate everyone, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The incredible architec-

ture, the design of this “green building”, the history and mission of this internationally renowned company will surely be of interest. This trip in particular is early in the semester so be sure you don’t miss it in the catalog.

Other things to look forward to in Spring include: The Chudnow Museum, Downtown Skywalk tour, Discovery World, Wildflowers of Estabrook Park, the Me-

nomonee Valley Branch of the Urban Ecology Center, Spring Migration at Horicon Marsh, Central Library Tour and Rare Books Room, Convent of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Elm Grove, Pabst Mansion Tour and Lecture with John Eastburg and a S.C. Johnson Landmark Tour along with the Racine Art Museum. As usual a very nice line-up.

Diana Hanks

(Explorations in the Fall, Continued from page 11)

your eye sitting sleekly in front of the two engine and ladder trucks that were built in the Milwaukee Fire department shops during the 1920’s and 1930’s. A 1943 Pirsch closed cab engine was built in Kenosha and capable of pumping 1250 gallons of water per minute. This is a far cry from earlier attempts at fire containment yet far below the requirements of today.

One picture in the station shows a horse drawn wagon filled with buckets of water on the way to a fire. Other pictures illustrate the enormous and tragic fires from years past. This room serves as a meeting room for various groups and contains many mementos of by-gone days of fire-fighting and safety. It was clear to us that

the fire fighter of yore had to be strong. Much of the equipment, axes, breathing and safety equipment, boots and coats all were heavy. Jim was still able to one-handedly pick up a large fire axe that most of us could not pick up with two hands.

Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series

The Dean’s lecture series is OSHER sponsored and as the OSHER program catalog states that you will enjoy a lively presentation on timely and important issues of the day. John Link found this to be the case when he attended the lecture November 20, 2013. The lecturer was University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Athletic Director, Amanda Braun. During the one hour

presentation topics such as pay for student athletics, salaries for coaches, and concussions were discussed. Ms. Braun feels that athletics and student athletics are and should be an integral part of campus life. A quality athletic program does help recruit and maintain all students not just student athletes. UW-M student athletes have an graduation rate of 82% and have a 3.0 grade point average. John encourages all OSHER members to try this lecture series. The next lecture will be Wednesday February 12, 2014. The topic will be immigration. The lectures are held at UWM School of Continuing Education, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Diana Hanks

(Valentine’s, Continued from page 4)

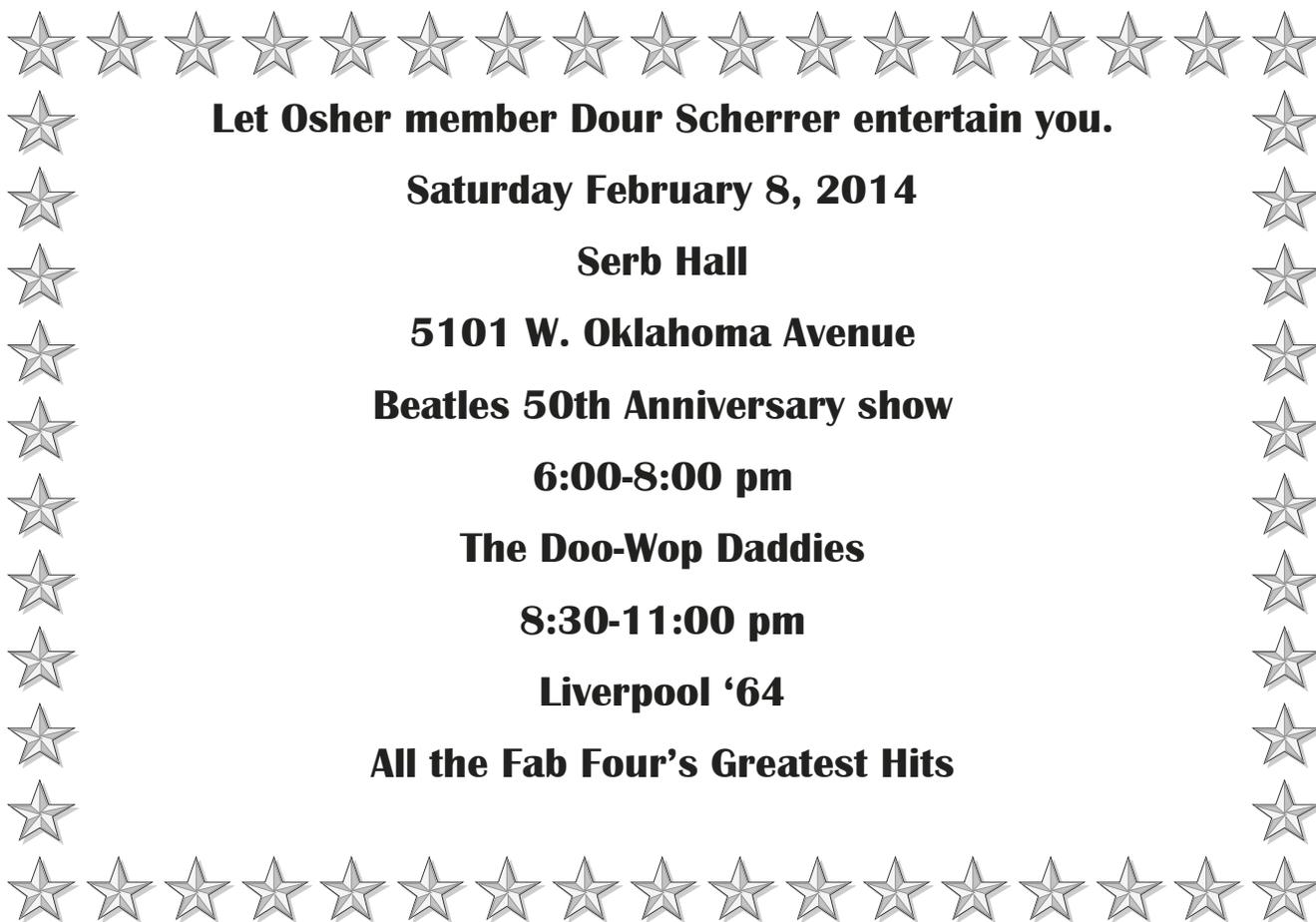
books. It could be a music box, an interactive bank, a night light, a holiday scene, a wild west scene, anything that your imagination can come up with.

The idea is to auction off books that have been artistically re-purposed. We are contacting local artists for donations, but we also want our members to try and creatively re-purposing a book.

Is there an artist occupying a corner of your heart and soul?

If you are not the artistic type, come purchase one of these lovely art forms.

Kathy Brehmer



Let Osher member Dour Scherrer entertain you.

Saturday February 8, 2014

Serb Hall

5101 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Beatles 50th Anniversary show

6:00-8:00 pm

The Doo-Wop Daddies

8:30-11:00 pm

Liverpool '64

All the Fab Four's Greatest Hits

A Member to Remember

Many Osher members will be saddened by news of the death of Ruth Allschwang. Her obituary appeared in the November 3, 2013 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Ruth was a long time member and supporter of Osher. She was president of the guild before the name Osher was used. She taught poetry, led a S.I.G., and was involved in play reading and writing. Her love of lifelong learning led her to much reading and eventually the publication of her memoirs.

An active and talented woman who left her birthplace in Germany to escape Nazi rule, she was a successful milliner who supplied fashionable hats for many Milwaukee matrons. After a divorce she sold her house, moved to Hawaii and eventually came back to Milwaukee, living in the Shorecrest Hotel for much of the remainder of her life.

Osher Outlook does not make a practice of publishing obituary notices but Ruth's long association with Osher and her active participation in the leadership of committees and growth of the Osher organization make her an exemplar of the type of member we are actively recruiting as we progress toward the one-thousand member, fifteen thousand dollar goal for 2014.

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Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute
at **UWM**

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Welcome New Osher Members

Cecile Cheng	William Seidleir
Monica D'Attilio	Jim Smyth
Mary Lou Del Balso	Bruce Stenz
Stephen Denker	Mary Tschannen
Barbara Ferriday	Sue Ellen Tweddell
Robert Ferriday	David Weissman
Joan Herschberg	Eileen Weyers
Kathleen Horgan	William Weyers
Shelby Jean Ingersoll	
Mary Kielich	
Carol Larson	
Ingrid Marx	
Tony Matuszewski	
Eilenn Olen	



*Members who attended the New Member Orientation on November 20, 2013.
Photo courtesy of John Link*