



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Osher Outlook Monthly: May & June

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A Note from the Director

In the words of Bob Dylan, “The times, they are a changing.” And changing they are here at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UWM. You will notice this right away with the first edition of our new electronic newsletter. I hope you like it. It will have much of the same information and stories the old newsletter had, but it’s much easier to put together and you will receive it the day we send it. So no more waiting for days as the paper edition would work its way through the vagaries of bulk mail.

It’s not just a new newsletter here at the institute. There are many new initiatives taking place that will improve your Osher experience. We just put the finishing touches on a new strategic plan that will not only build on the many excellent programs we offer, but will help us remain financially sustainable for many years to come.

Then there are the number and quality of programs the institute offers. Just the other day, Jayna told me that she and the core programming committee had doubled the number of offerings in the year she has been with us. Congratulations to everyone involved! This is a terrific accomplishment—one from which every member will benefit. We are also developing new committees including a Communications Committee that will focus on

ways to improve communication to and from our members.

We also are instituting a sponsorship subcommittee that will help underwrite the cost of social events and our course catalog. And we are developing a community relations board that will help us make the connections we need to increase Osher's visibility throughout the greater Milwaukee area. So indeed, the times they are changing. Thanks much for being a part of these exciting times at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Sincerely,

Kim Beck

Executive Director

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Italy: La Dolce Vita with pasta, pasta, pasta – and wine

The members of the March Osher trip to Italia could be likened to the pilgrims of old. Bravely going where none had gone before. Well a few had been there before but that spoils the comparison. Once again the long overnight plane trip made a few second thoughts rise to the sleepy surface of half-comatose minds. However, once we arrived and foraged for food, the pasta and wine made all worthwhile. The best was certainly yet to come. The body of this document was very kindly and ably written by tour member Jim DelBalso; this short preamble is simply to set the scene and let Jim give us a review of the entire trip.

A group of 39 members, and Osher Executive Director Kim Beck, left Milwaukee on a gorgeous spring Saturday March 12. We motor-coached to Chicago to fly overnight to Munich. From Munich a short flight to Rome where we met our tour leader, GianLuca. We arrived late in the day at our hotel, ready for our first dinner adventure. The decision on the vino and food in all of our stops in Italy was "molto bene!"

We began our next day with a hearty breakfast and then met our local tour guide, Roberta, who cheerfully led us on a tour of the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel & Museum and St. Peters Basilica. We walked all over Rome and saw sites like the Piazza Navonna, the Pantheon and Campo Fiori. We closed out the day with a nice group dinner in the Trastevere neighborhood.

Our second day in Rome began with Roberta leading a tour of the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, where we viewed ruins which dated back around 2000 years. We learned about and saw the marvels of Roman Engineering and building prowess, and were able to utilize some of the pre-trip lessons in Italian language and culture to communicate with the Italians whom we encountered. We also learned that we could communicate quite nicely in English virtually everywhere we went.

Our third day began early, as did all of our days, with a coach trip south to Pompeii where we met our local guide Lino (Pasqualino) who schooled us on the incredible ruins of the ancient city, buried under volcanic ash from Mt. Vesuvius in the year 79 AD for over 16 centuries, even thought to have been only an imaginary legendary city till it was rediscovered in 1749. The city dated to 400 BCE, and the materials and construction techniques revealed to us the advanced state of culture and lifestyle of the Romans from that time. We motored past the port city of Naples, which is one of the largest cities in Italy, we only wished we'd had time to visit there as well.

On tour day four, we headed north to Assisi, where we met our tour guide, Francesca, who led our tour through the incredible beauty of the Umbrian mountain town which was home of St. Francis. The city could have been peeled out of a storybook, it was so charming. The art inside the Basilica of St. Francis was breathtaking with its walls lined with frescoes. The Basilica was consecrated in 1253. The city was hit by a large earthquake in

1997, but the damaged areas of the Basilica were rebuilt, without changes to the original frescoes which were repaired but not recolored. We then ventured onward toward Florence (Firenze) where we were to spend the next two nights. The charms of Florence, considered the birthplace of the Renaissance period, were evident everywhere. Our hotel was on one of the many narrow streets, barely wide enough for our coach to let us disembark. We enjoyed dinner on our own, partaking of more of Italy's finest food (pasta), wine and culture.

On day five we met our Florence tour guide, Ishmael. He led us through the streets where the Medici family ruled the northern part of Italy for over 3 centuries. The Medici family produced four popes, and contributed much to the art which we all associate with Italy today. Ishmael led us through the Academia Gallery, which is home to Michaelangelo's famous David sculpture, the magnificence of which cannot be fully appreciated until one stands at its base and walks around it. The Medici's commissioned the sculpture as well as so many other works of art in both Firenze and throughout Italy. We then saw the Florence Cathedral, with a dome engineered by Brunelleschi and bell tower designed by Giotto. The entirely marble exterior defies description, and I for one could not recall ever seeing such an elaborately decorated building of any kind anywhere. It is considered the third largest basilica in Europe, after St. Peter's of Vatican City, and St. Paul's of London. Florence is the capital of the Tuscany region of Italy, and our drive there in the late afternoon sun highlighted the magnificent beauty of the mountainous region. It is known for its art, culture and as a center of fashion and commerce. It was also the home of the writer Machiavelli, who was commissioned by the Medici family to write the history of Florence. The German army occupied the city until they were driven out in 1944, and although they destroyed all of the bridges spanning the Arno River which splits the city, they spared the beautiful Ponte Vecchio Bridge, a well-known landmark of the city.

As day six dawned, we were "on the road again", heading for Pisa to do some "leaning" and learning, viewed another spectacular Cathedral, and more with our tour guide Claudia. After a walk around the town, seeing the Medici palace there, we headed out again, with another scenic drive through Lucca, to a marvelous outdoor wine tasting and lunch. The Fattoria Sardi winery treated us to fantastic organically grown wines and a light but tasty lunch in the vineyard, for which the weather cooperated nicely, sunny and pleasant. After some wine purchases by members of our group, we hit the road again, and headed through the Tuscan mountains toward our final destination, a four hour drive, to Venezia (Venice). At the bus/boat terminal, we loaded our luggage aboard water taxis (vaporettos in Italian) to our hotel on the island city. The charm of the canal city, considered one of the most picturesque and romantic in all of Europe, was a great end to our trip.

The next morning, we met our Venezia tour guide, Manuella, who led a tour of Piazza San Marco and the Doges Palace, named after the Emperors of Venezia who were called Doges which loosely translated comes from the English word Duke. There were 117 Doges, and each one added to the grandeur of the palace. The artwork on the walls and ceilings was absolutely amazing. Venice was a powerful naval empire controlling the Adriatic and much of the Mediterranean Ocean. It was a center of commerce and arts, and was the most prosperous city in all of Europe in the late 13th century. By 1482 Venice was the printing capital of the world as well.

We had a bit of time to wander on our own; some of the group took a gondola ride, others viewed the famous La Fenice Opera House near the Piazza San Marco, before boarding another boat for a trip to the separate Island of Murano, which is known for its glass blowing industries. We got a demonstration of glass blowing before getting time to shop, of course, in the studio's glass gallery.

We had our closing dinner that evening after a walk through the many paths and streets of the island city, including a walk over the famous Rialto Bridge. The next morning, after a more leisurely breakfast, and a bit of a walk around the charming pathways including a chance to walk across the Calatrava Bridge, we boarded another vaporetto to take us to the airport, what a neat way to end our tour. We owe many thanks to Kim Beck who shepherded our diverse crew through many paths and byways, and all of the wonderful tour guides who

taught us so much of Italian history and art.

Jim DelBasio is to be thanked for his comprehensive commentary. Now for a few comments from others on the trip: Mary Beth Bialecki “enjoyed the quaint hilly city of Assisi. The warm hues of rose and cream colored bricks engulfed us with their charm. Tiny alleyways, nooks, and corners interlaced the steep streets. The presence of St. Francis himself could almost be felt as we walked to the majestic three layered church – the Basilica of St. Francis.” Nancy and Dave Hager found “the colossal jaw-dropping beauty of Rome and the Vatican City made it hard to leave but as we traveled to Pisa, Assisi, Florence and Venice we discovered they carried the history and magnificence throughout Italy.” The Rewolinski’s wanted more time. A group in a water taxi on the way to the airport gave their best memories. They were: “The coliseum and the Vatican in Rome, the ancient streets of Pompeii, Michelangelo’s “David” in Florence, wine tasting in Tuscany, the monuments of Pisa, the story of St. Francis in Assisi, and finally the Grand Canal of Venice at night. Honorable mention went to the glass blowing demonstration in Murano. Wow! Did we miss anything?” One member found the frequent comment from the guides “piano piano” or “Go slowly, quickly” summed up our stay in Italy – go quickly, there is so much to see but go slowly, there is so much to see. Memories of Italy 2016 - La Dolce Vita – left many with the hope to go back.

Summer catalogs have been mailed and should arrive in your mail boxes soon! Registration for the summer session begins at **9:00am on May 27th**. There are several ways to sign up for classes:

Online at uwm.edu/sce-osher

Call UWM-SCE registration at: 414-227-3200

Mail your registration form and payment to:

Noncredit Registration
UW-Milwaukee, Drawer No. 491
Milwaukee, WI 53293-0491

In Person at the UWM SCE 6th floor registration desk. 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 6000



Book Review

STALIN’S DAUGHTER: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva

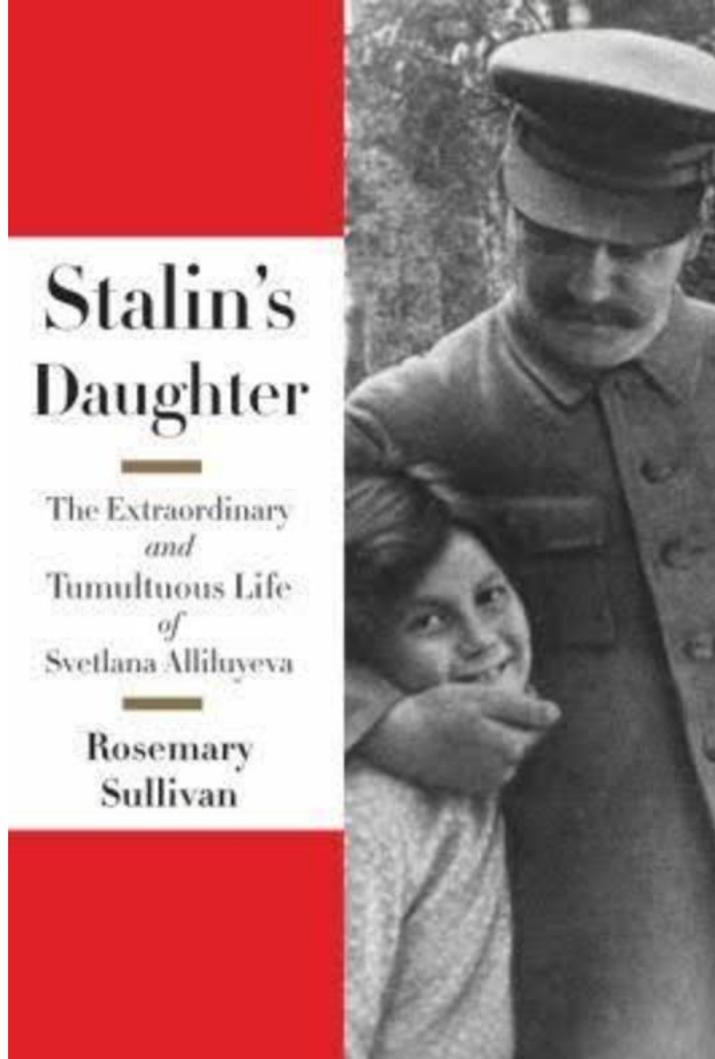
By Rosemary Sullivan

Publisher: Harper (2015), pages: 623, with photos and a helpful list of characters

How does Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin’s daughter, the “Princess of the Kremlin”, end up at the age of 85 penniless and dying alone in a hospital in Richland Center, Wisconsin? In this well researched, informative and very fascinating biography the author tells how all this happened to a very complex and tragic figure.

Alliluyeva lived through purges (family and friends disappeared}, war and after defecting from Russia by way of India she moved over 30 times in her life. She made millions from her books, but had no money. She was married four times, leaving children behind in the Soviet Union. Her American teenage daughter did not know who her grandfather was until the paparazzi showed up. The chapter titled THE TALIESIN FIASCO will make for very interesting reading for those of us who live in Wisconsin and have toured Taliesin. This chapter describes how Frank Lloyd Wright's third wife, Oligvanna, manipulated Svetlana, for financial gain, into the marriage of Svetlana to Wesley Peters, a member of the inner circle of Taliesin.

The author in her preface asks "What would it mean to be born Stalin's daughter, to carry the weight of that name for a lifetime and never be free of it?" Maybe Svetlana Alliluyeva answers this question when she says "Wherever I go, whether to Australia or some other island, I will always be a political prisoner of my father's name." It is a lengthy book, but does have a fast paced quality to it and it is a very interesting true story.



Osher Distinguished Lecture Series

Rich Meeusen of Badger Meter and the co-chair of the water council was the lecturer on March 23, 2016 for this second lecture of the Distinguished Lecture Series, which was held at the Wauwatosa Women's Club.

Mr. Meeusen discussed how Milwaukee's history could allow the region to become the leader in solving the world's water problem. He also discussed three important aspects to this challenge: 1. Policy, water charges are based mainly on cost of delivery and not the value of water, 2. Behavior, water consumers must be made aware of their consumption habits and change their behavior, and 3. Technology, the importance of having technology available to help solve this problem.

The Osher Distinguished Lecture Series is open to both member and guests, which gives guests an opportunity to learn about the many opportunities of being an Osher member. The final lecture in the series was on Wednesday May 11, 2016 at the MATC Oak Creek campus. The speaker that night was Charles Franklin, Professor and Director of the Marquette Law School Poll and Founder of Pollster.com. The talks are free and open to the public. Call 414-227-3200 to register for future events.

Mark your calendars! The Osher Summer Potluck is coming!

Wednesday August 3, 2016

1:00pm-3:00pm
South Shore Pavilion
2900 S. Shore Dr.

Food, Fun and Festive Friends!
Call Karen at 414-227-3320 or
barrykj@uwm.edu to sign up!



Milwaukee to Host Acting Irish International Theatre Festival 5/24-29

As a follow-up to the recent lecture on the 1916 Dublin Easter Rising given by John Gleeson of the UWM Celtic Studies Department, OSHER participants have an excellent opportunity to experience Sean O'Casey's epic work on the Rising, "The Plough and the Stars." Milwaukee Irish Arts will be performing the play at this year's Acting Irish International Theatre Festival (AIITF) to be held at Next Act Theatre from May 24-29. Continuing its more than 25-year tradition of showcasing Irish works, this year's AIITF will bring together nine theatre groups from the United States, Canada and Ireland for one week at Next Act Theater to present a wide variety of exciting Irish theatre in Milwaukee.

As the host group, Milwaukee Irish Arts opens the festival on Tuesday night, May 24th, followed by two shows per day from Wednesday through Saturday, performed by the visiting groups from Chicago, Rochester NY, Cincinnati OH, Del Ray Beach FL, Alberta and Calgary in Canada and Dublin, Ireland.

Adhering to Irish theatre festival tradition, all performances will be assessed by experienced adjudicators, who share their evaluations with the cast and audience immediately following each show, making the offerings a learning experience for all. Awards are given out at a final brunch on Sunday, May 29.

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to give a warm Milwaukee welcome to the visiting groups. If you are interested in this fun opportunity, contact Milwaukee Irish Arts here:

Email: aiitf2016@gmail.com

Phone: 414.751.0450

Further information on the schedule of performances and the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival can be found at <https://milirisharts.wordpress.com/>. Tickets (\$15-\$23) can be purchased at the Next Act box office at 414.278.0765 or <http://nextact.org/rental-events/aiitf-2016/>

Mary Kelly, Osher Board member, is on the planning committee of the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival. She would be happy to answer any questions about the festival. She can be reached at 414-964-6429, or kellymaryelizabeth@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDERS

[Osher Calendar - Distinguished Speaker Series](#)

Welcome New Members

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Christa Andres | Tony Hunter | Marianne Robbins |
| Julie Baron | Jill Jeka | larry robinson |
| Rose Marie Baron | Erica John | Loyce Robinson |
| Monica Beitzel | Susan Kane | Carla Roden |
| Theresa Bellone | James Kimmel | James Ross |
| David Berg | Barbara Kozminski | Pacia Sallomi |
| Renee Bertz | Richard Kremer | Miriam Schechter |
| Dennis Bialecki | Pam Kriger | Ann Schmid |
| Mary Beth Bialecki | Carl Kucharski | Laverne Schmidt |
| Tom Bierbach | Carol Kucharski | Susan Schramm |
| Marylee Blume | Kathleen Lacey | Richard Schwartz |
| Werner Blume | Debra Lampe-Revolinski | Virginia Schwartz |
| Allon Bostwick | Jim Larson | Judith Scott |
| Maggie Brieske | Teri Larson | William Shaffer |
| Susan Brown | Judith Lasca | Paul Sokolowski |
| Darlene Bruesewitz | Norman Lasca Jr | Janet Soldon |
| Carrie Bury | Robert Lehmann | Elizabeth Staehler |
| Cheryl Butterfield | Gretchen Lindstrom | Philip Starr |
| Mary Callen | Clinton Luckett | Rachel Taknint |
| Kathryn Conole | Dena Lucoff | Judy Thuss |
| Francis Cook | Steven Marcus | June Tushar |
| Jean De Vita | Mary Kay Martin | Jennifer Valenti |
| Robert De Vita | Jane McCauley | Diane Wais |
| Mary Ellen DeHaven | Mike McCauley | Kenneth Wargin |
| Marsha Denny | Joan Miller | Albert Washko |
| Maureen Dorgay | Susan Monyette | Judy Washko |
| Celinda Dyer | Motoko Muneno Rashka | John Weigelt |
| David Early | Ann Murphy | Shari Weingrod |
| Margaret Fink | Tom Murphy | David Weissman |
| Linda Fredrich | Brad Murray | Patricia Wendt |
| Geneva Fuller | Dianne Murray | Craig White |
| Mose Fuller | Elaine Nelles | Susan White |
| Randy Goodman | Laurel Nelson | Maryann Wieczorek |
| Richard Griepentrog | Karen Neville | John Wierszem |
| Cheryl Grimm | Linda O'Brien | Takako Willden |
| Sandra Gruszynski | Rakhil Okun | Peter Wolters |
| Mary Hanson | Bruce O'Neill | Carolyn Wood |

Eileen Hein
Mary Hill
Jan Hunter

Scott Onisch
Christine Prevetti
Virginia Rader
Cindy Raven
Mary Reavey
Patrick Reavey
Rebecca Regan

Steve Zeisler



SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

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