IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Greeting 2
From the Director 2
Book Review 3
Did You Know? 3
Spring Luncheon with Sue Black 4-5
Calendar 6-7
SIG notes 7
Wisconsin Cheeses 8
Eleanor Roosevelt 9
Dean’s Lecture Series 10
Open New Doors Conference 10
Contact Us 11

A Taste of Thailand Comes to Osher

Only one reason is needed to attend the upcoming Thai Special Interest Group and that is meeting the presenter, Dr. Somchintana Ratarasarn. The brilliant and charming Thai native is an American-trained Anthropologist and business manager who will undisputedly put forward a fascinating SIG experience.

Ratarasarn will teach the tonal monosyllabic traditional Thai language intertwined with the culture of Thailand. Her sessions will include Thai history, folklore, songs and cuisine. Exposure to the culture makes understanding and speaking the language easier, Ratarasarn explained. She added that she does not expect everyone to leave the class speaking fluent Thai, but everyone will have the basics. Ideally, Ratarasarn wants participants to leave wanting more.

The Special Interest Group will be helpful to anyone planning a trip to the Southeast Asian nation or those interested in languages and culture generally. Perhaps a few of Osher’s curious will take a peek in to see what the group is all about and decide to stay. Don’t be frightened when Ratarasarn mentions textbooks. Yes, they will be necessary but supplied for free. The ongoing Thai class will meet on first and third

Wednesdays starting September 5.

Ratarasarn was granted a PhD in medical anthropology from UW-Madison and a master’s degree in business from UW-Milwaukee. She is described as a Thai traditional medicine and comparative medical systems researcher and herbalist. Principally, Ratarasarn’s career in this country has been devoted to teaching the language and way of life in her homeland.

She first came to the United States after studying archeology and history of the arts in Thailand and journeyed west to study at Northern Illinois University. While there, she was asked to teach Thai at the Peace Corps Center on the school’s campus. She didn’t know English well and would be teaching English speaking students. “How do you teach a language?” Ratarasarn asked herself. She muddled through a summer at the center and discovered an ability to teach. The following year, she enrolled in Southern Illinois University and served as a teaching assistant while pursuing a master’s degree in anthropology. Degree in hand, Ratarasarn traveled home for a year, then back to the States.

(Continued on page 8)
Message from the President

I believe that you cannot call yourself a Wisconsinite until you have attended the Wisconsin State Fair and consumed at least one cream puff. If Osher members who have moved here from other states missed it this year, put it on your “must do” list for next August. You get extra credit if you take a picture of a grandchild with his or her face covered with whipped cream.

In the last newsletter I gave you some of my background information. I didn’t mention that my maternal grandfather, Charles Kremer, was a baker and in the 1920’s was also the Dairy and Food Commissioner for the State of Wisconsin which later became the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. During that time some bakers began using substitutes, such as margarine, in their bakery products.

As a counter to this, my grandfather suggested that the use of dairy products in baking could be a feature of the Wisconsin State Fair. The star of the experiment was the cream puff, using a recipe from the Kremer bakery. There is a plaque at the Cream Puff stand at the Fair which commemorates this successful event.

State Fair is over and summer Osher activities draw to a close as we remember a gathering at Lake Park, some “go explore” trips, and a several excellent courses mentioned elsewhere. But we look forward to this fall starting like “gang busters” with the Open New Doors Conference on Friday, September 21st. The only problem you’ll have is deciding which courses you will sign up for. See you at registration. And thanks for letting me mention my ancestral claim to fame.

Phil Rozga

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Message from the Executive Director

Aging Memories

A few weeks ago, I spent a week at a Scout Camp in northern Wisconsin with my 13 year old son. Apart from the culinary and sanitary skills (or lack thereof) of 12 and 13 year old boys testing every last ounce of patience that I have, it was a memorable and enjoyable week. I bring this up because this camp has a very special place in my memories.

I attended the camp for five years as a boy and worked there for another five as a young man. I truly enjoyed being able to share this special place in my life with my son. As I walked around camp, I found places that brought back vivid memories. It was as if these events happened 30 and 40 years ago had only happened a week or two ago. A hill there, a glen of trees there, each one reminded me of people and places that were part of a special time in my life.

I really tried to contain myself but I wanted to share these recollections. I would tell my son about how I watched Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon in the old dining hall or regale a staff member about the summer I was the Camp Aquatics Director. At first, everyone was nice enough to acknowledge my stories and memories, but it became evident that I was living in the past. There was a whole new generation of campers and staff that were creating their own memories.

Has this every happened to you? Have you ever gone back to a place that was full of memories only to be frustrated that there was no one who remembered your remembrances? I believe I may have discovered something that many of you may already know. While memories continue to enrich a life, they are disconnected from its normal ebb and flow. They tempt and tease only to remind of what used to be. Cherish your memories but know that they have their place.

Here’s to memories, enjoy but beware!

Kim C. Beck
I had the opportunity to hear the author speak about this book. He does admit he likes long titles, and has used them in other books.

It is 1893 and Grover Cleveland has reoccupied the White House, being elected to a second, non-consecutive, term. The economy is in a free fall. There is a major political and economic debate over the gold or silver standard. The President discovers that the rough patch in his mouth (the side where he liked to chew cigars) has grown larger. The physicians realize this is a cancer. The plan was to have a secret operation on a yacht. The concern was the public’s confidence during this time of economic uncertainty. Vice-President Adlai Stevenson (Grandfather of the 1952 and 1956 Democratic candidate for president), was not aware of this illness or proposed surgery.

The yacht Oneida sails from New York to Massachusetts with the President and six physicians, looking to the entire world as a bunch of guys fishing. The operation is performed. When you read about this surgery from a 21st century perspective, you will find it amazing that such surgery could be done, yet alone on a yacht.

The story then continues with a reporter named E.J. Edwards exposing this cover up. The White House was able to convince the public that the reporter was not telling the truth. The public believed Cleveland was an honest president, after all his most memorable quote was “Tell the truth”. Edwards was dismissed as a disgrace to journalism. Many years later the facts did come out.

This short book (238 pages), is very readable. I found the description of the surgery and how the cover up was accomplished to be very interesting. Besides the surgery you do learn about Cleveland’s earlier life, and the period of the 1890’s. The author includes a cast of characters which is helpful.

While reading this I wondered about the public’s right to know the details of a president’s health. It seems we like to know a lot, yet the presidents and their staffs know the risk to public confidence and election challenges. Cleveland was not the only president who attempted to hide health issues, and like others the truth does come out. A long title on a short book but well worth reading.

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**Did You Know?**

Did you know that your Osher membership grants you access to the UWM Golda Meir Library? Obtaining a library card is easy. All you need to do is present your Osher membership card to the front desk and fill out a form with your basic contact information. If you do not have your membership card handy, you may also present the confirmation of the payment of your membership dues.

With your library card you may check out up to ten books from the library’s general collection. Media collections and interlibrary loan are not included. As is available to the general public, you may use the public access computers, as

(Continued on page 9)
June 13th was a bright and sunny day at the Milwaukee Yacht club as members gathered for a festive luncheon and interesting talk by Sue Black. After a short business meeting in which new officers were elected and a by-law change was proposed and passed Black entertained and informed the large gathering. Her power-point presentation, prepared by her able assistant Emily, evinced both the history and the present nature of our Milwaukee County parks. The vast county park system has flourished under Black’s direction, achieving a National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in 2009, this despite the massive need for ongoing maintenance in addition to the enhancements and embellishments accomplished under Black’s leadership. Our park system offers year round educational, cultural and recreational activities for people of all ages and persuasions.

Black’s dedication and enthusiasm were evident throughout her presentation. She made her way to each table for a short chat before lunch and made all feel appreciated.

Phil Rozga

Phil takes over the helm from newly past president Dave Kelling.

Dave Kelling

Sue Black, Director of Milwaukee County Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Black and Longhini pose behind Mrs. Kelling and the Rozgas

The 2012 Osher Board and committee chairs: (L to R) Hankes, Kurensky, Brehmer, Rozga, Kelly, Obrien, Waschow. Not pictured Nolan and Link
Angelos, Cohen, McMahan, Kelly, Johnson, Nolan, Brehmer

Leslie Clevert and friends

O’Brien, Tischer and Kelly—the hard working social committee members

An excellent turnout

Debbnick, Partica, Harris, Paalu, Way, Gideon, and Johnson enjoy their table with a view

Jenny Neale (standing R) enjoys a conversation with Sue Black’s assistant Emily (standing L) and Osher members.

Photos by George Bryant
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday,</td>
<td>Sep 3</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG 12:1-3:30pm Italian SIG 1:30-3:45pm Writing SIG 2:30-3:45pm Rites of Passage</td>
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<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Sep 5</td>
<td>10:11:15am Berlin to Prague 10:30am-12pm French SIG 1-3pm Thai SIG</td>
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<td>10-11:15am Potpourri I 1pm Board of Directors Mtng.</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG 1:30-3pm The Wildflowers of Wehr</td>
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<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Sep 19</td>
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<td>Thursday,</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG 10-11:15am The African Experience 10am-12pm Book Group SIG 11:30am-12:45pm The Great War</td>
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<td>Monday,</td>
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<td>8:30am-4pm Open New Doors Conference</td>
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<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>9am Leadership &amp; Dev. Com. Mtng. 10-11:15am Potpourri I</td>
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<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG 10-11:15am Oceanography III 12-1:30pm Italian SIG 1:2:30pm German Conv. SIG 2:30-3:45pm Rites of Passage</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG 10-11:15am The African Experience 11:30am-12:45pm The Great War</td>
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<td>Friday,</td>
<td>Sep 28</td>
<td>8:30am-4:30pm A Fall Trip to the Horicon Marsh 1-3pm Understanding Hinduism</td>
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<td>Tuesday,</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG 9-10:15am Perspectives of Human Life on Earth 10am-12pm Book Group SIG 12-1:30pm Italian SIG 1:30-2:45pm Adventures in History 1:30-3pm Writing SIG</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG 10-11:15am The African Experience 11:30am-12:45pm The Great War</td>
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<td>1-3pm Understanding Hinduism</td>
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<td>9am Newsletter Com. Mtng. 10-11:15am Potpourri I 1-2:15pm UWM Presents the Year of the Arts</td>
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<td>Friday,</td>
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<td>10am-12pm Politics on Film 12-5pm All Aboard the East Troy Electric Railroad 1-3pm Understanding Hinduism</td>
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<td>Friday,</td>
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<td>9am Leadership &amp; Dev. Com. Mtng. 10-11:15am Potpourri I 1-2:15pm UWM Presents the Year of the Arts</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG 9-10:15am Perspectives of Human Life on Earth 12-1:30pm Italian SIG 1:2:30pm German Conv. SIG 1:30-2:45pm Poetry: The What, the Why and the How</td>
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<td>Wednesday,</td>
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<td>9-10am History SIG 10:30am-12pm Earth Wisdom SIG 10:30am-12pm French SIG 2:30-3:45pm Advertising Hype, Myth or Science</td>
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September & October 2012 Osher Calendar

Thursday, Oct 25
9:30-11:30am Spanish SIG
10-11:15am The African Experience
11:30am-12:45pm The Great War
1-2:15pm Jogging for Your Mind

Friday, Oct 26
10am-12pm Politics on Film
1-3pm Understanding Hinduism

Monday, Oct 29
10-11:15am Potpourri I
1-2:15pm UWM Presents the Year of the Arts

Tuesday, Oct 30
9:30-11:30am Spanish Conv. SIG
10-11:15am Radio during WWII
12-1:30pm Italian SIG
1:30-2:45pm Poetry: The What, the Why and the How

Wednesday, Oct 31
Halloween

Save the Date

Prospective Member Event
Saturday, September 15 | 10am-12pm
UWM Hefter Conference Center

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 Jenny Neale at neale@uwm.edu or 414-227-3255 with the name and address of anyone who might be interested in attending and she will send them an invitation.

Open New Doors Conference
Friday, September 21 | 8:30am-4pm
UWM School of Continuing Education

Redefine what it means to be living your "next chapter." For more information, visit the Special Events page on our website, sce-osopher.uwm.edu.

Correction to Fall 2012 Catalog
Oceanography III
Tuesday, September 25 & October 2,
10-11:15am
(NOT September 18 & 25 as it is listed)
Program No. FALL:08

Please Note: Potpourri now has a new time, 10-11:15am

Special Interest Group Notes Sep & Oct, 2012
For more information about Special Interest groups, call the Group Coordinator.
Special Interest Groups are held at three locations:
UWM Hefter Conference Center, 3271 N. Lake Drive (Hefter)
UWM School of Continuing Education, 161 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 7000 (SCE)
Shorewood Senior Resource Center, 3920 N. Murray Ave., lower level (Shorewood)

BOOK GROUP
Cathy Morris-Nelson 414-352-2839
Third Tuesdays, 10am–12pm Sept-June (Shorewood)
Sep 18: Wild by Cheryl Strayed
Oct 16: The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbeck

EARTH WISDOM
Dale Olen 262-339-5481
Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 10:30am–12pm (Hefter)

FRENCH
Prof. Martine Meyer 414-964-3717
Every Wednesday, 10:30am–12pm (Hefter)
Sept 5 meeting will be held at St. John’s On The Lake

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)
September 6 Before the Poison, by Peter Robinson
Two for Sorrow, by Nicola Upson
At the Shorewood Public Library
October 11 Turn of Mind, by Alice LaPlante
Troubled Man, by Henning Mankell

HISTORY
Marilyn Walker 414-332-8255
Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 9-10am Sept-May (Hefter)

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
Somchintana Ratarsarn 414-771-9065
First & Third Wednesdays 1-3 pm (SCE)

Writing (New!)
Nancy Martin 414-228-5228 Facilitator
Beth Waschow 414-764-9299 Chair
First & Third Tuesdays, 1:30–3pm (Hefter)

THAI (New!)
Nancy Martin 414-228-5228 Facilitator
Beth Waschow 414-764-9299 Chair
First & Third Tuesdays, 1:30–3pm (Hefter)

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and soon afterward met her husband, Manu. They settled in Chicago Heights, Illinois, and started a family.

After receiving her doctorate in 1986, she returned to Thailand to take a position at Thammasat University in Bangkok but again returned several years later when her two sons asked to pursue their graduate studies in the US. While they completed their education, Ratarasarn enrolled in UW-Milwaukee’s School of Business.

Although she has authored several professional publica-

A Tasty Tour of Wisconsin Original Cheeses

Have fun, do good, eat cheese. That’s the theme of Jeanne Carpenter’s life and work as head of her company, Wisconsin Cheese Originals. The summer Osher catalog listed her presentation as “A Tasty Tour of Wisconsin Original Cheeses”. It was that and much more. Those of us in attendance learned about the rigors and the pleasure of artisanal cheese making. We were given the inside scoop on the Wisconsin cheese industry as well as butter, ice cream and milk individualists. It was surprising to learn of the rigorous processes necessary to make and sell dairy products as an artisan. And surprising to learn how many persons in our state are involved in these family or individual enterprises.

Grace Roth had this to say:

I am now a certifiable cheese snob. When I walked into the Hefter Center last June 26, I was new to Wisconsin, having moved here just eleven months before. What I knew about cheese I had learned in the cheese shops of New York City, which featured mostly (exclusively?) European imports. I had no idea what an education the next two hours would be for me.

The small individual cheese plates we each received were tasted as the pictures of the farms from which they originated were shown. Our palates were educated to the many nuances of cheese and the differences the sweet grasses produced by Wisconsin’s soil make to the taste. I’ve often ordered plates of these artisan cheeses in local restaurants and been amazed at the wonderful variety and flavors. Knowing the history has me eager to order them again soon, and make the connections to where they’re from and who made them.

Carpenter, a self-described cheese geek, had many interesting things to say about Wisconsin dairy business. Early in the 2000’s, for the first time in history, Wisconsin was being threatened by California for its title as the #1 cheese making state in the US. The Cheese Heads were shaken to action. Under the aegis of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin is in the middle of a renaissance of cheese crafters making more artisanal, farmstead and specialty cheeses than any other state in the nation. Artisan cheeses command prices as much as 300% higher than commodity cheeses. She profiled four of the most successful of these cheese masters from all over Wisconsin.

In 2007 Carpenter started her own PR firm to promote artisan cheese, and in 2009, launched Wisconsin Cheese Originals, an organization dedicated to discovering, tasting and learning more about artisan cheeses. She is also the author of Cheese Underground blog.

Did you know that if the cheese is aged for at least two months the lactose is broken down and a lactose intolerant person may eat the cheese without discomfort? To find out more interesting information about a variety of dairy related products and events go to the website www.WisconsinCheeseOriginals.com. You will find tours, festivals, educational seminars and other events. Locally, look for artisanal cheeses in Larry’s Market, Sendak’s and Whole Foods, to name a few cheese markets that carry them.

Enjoy.

Grace Roth & Diana Hankes
A great many people can corroborate the sighting of “The First Lady of the World” on July 17th at 1:30 in the afternoon at Hefter Center. She, in the persona of Jessica Michna, arrived from the back of the Hefter Center meeting room attired in a dark blue polka dot dress and blue straw hat ringed with small flowers. She was definitely Eleanor herself. For over an hour she spoke, in her not altogether pleasant but authentic voice, of her sad beginnings and her rise to become the first lady of the world for her impaired husband, President Franklin Roosevelt.

Born into the opulent wealth of America’s “Golden Age” Eleanor would grow from a shy, homely orphan into a confident, driven woman. Her mother died when she was only 29 years old, a beloved younger brother died soon thereafter and her reprobate father died at age 34. This left Eleanor on her own with various family members. The family lacked for nothing in terms of financial wealth but Eleanor’s life was bereft of emotional support. She boarded at the Allenwood School near London for many of her formative years, and was “forced to graduate” as she put it. The school had provided her with stability and a sense of security that she hated to leave.

However, she soon met Franklin, a distant cousin, at one of the many parties of her “coming out” year. The mutual love of politics drew them together, they became engaged and the marriage lasted until his death. After five children the couple lived platonically for the rest of their marriage. This decision was made after Franklin’s extramarital affairs were known to Eleanor. Instead of divorce she became his eyes and ears to the world, especially after he became disabled with polio. Annealed by personal tragedy, she would emerge as a champion of civil rights, author, and stateswoman. She is best summed up by President Harry S. Truman, who dubbed her “The First Lady of the World.”

Michna is widely known for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies and other historic women as well as fictitious characters. She entertained us with the life and world travels from the eyes, ears and voice of the “real” Eleanor Roosevelt. She has a powerful effect on an audience; we were enthralled by her depiction of war and amused by her many anecdotes of politics and family life during the Roosevelt era. After the conclusion of the presentation Ms. Michna fielded questions in her own voice, very different from that of Ms. Roosevelt. Osher members in attendance were richly rewarded and entertained.

Diana Hankes

(Continued from page 3) Did You Know?

Head over to Golda Meir and expand upon your Osher studies today!

Jenny Neale
Now in its third year, the UWM School of Continuing Education Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series is an integral component of the UWM School of Continuing Education’s mission is to provide innovative and accessible lifelong learning opportunities to the residents of southeast Wisconsin. The series engages distinguished members of the UWM faculty in sharing their knowledge and understanding of current economic, political and social issues with the general public.

The School of Continuing Education extends a special welcome to all Osher members to attend three lively and informative presentations this fall:

The first offering on Public Health Revisited: Why We Can’t Live Without It will be held Wednesday, September 19. Magda Peck, the inaugural dean of the Zilber School of Public Health, will offer her unique perspectives on this critical issue facing our community and our county now and in the future.

On Wednesday, October 17, UWM Association Professor Jasmine Alinder will team with legendary local civil rights leader, Vel Phillips, as they remind the 1962 March on Milwaukee. In that year, then City Councilwoman Vel Phillips introduced the first open housing legislation in Milwaukee. Learn about this legislation’s powerful impact 50 years ago, how it influenced changes in the 1960s and 70s and how it continues to influence our community up to the present.

Finally on Wednesday, November 14, in celebration of the UWM Year of the Arts, Interim Dean of the Peck School of the Arts, Scott Emmons, will explore The University’s Role in Arts Education Today.

All lectures are from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the UWM School of Continuing Education, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., 7th Floor. They are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. You can sign up by calling the UWM School of Continuing Education Registration Department at 414-227-3200.

Past lectures have included The Politics of Water with UWM School of Fresh Water Science Dean David Garman and The Economics of the 2012 Presidential Election with Professor William Holahan. For more information about the lecture series, contact Kim Beck at 414-227-3321 or kcb@uwm.edu.

Open New Doors Conference

Today's older adults are healthier and more active than any generation before. Attitudes about age are changing as the impacts of older adults continue to grow. So, what options are there to enrich your life? The Osher Conference, “Open New Doors: Enriching Your Life” is just around the corner. Consider joining us Friday, September 21 for a day dedicated to exploring new opportunities and redefining what it means to be living your "next chapter."

Who should attend? Any Osher member who is looking to reawaken dormant skills and talents, thinking about new employment opportunities or considering new ways to enrich their lives.

Highlights of the day include Phillip Jackson, Founder and Executive Director of the Black Star Project and Purpose Prize Fellow delivering the keynote address and Sister Edna Lonergan, President of the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care sharing her perspectives on bridging the generations. There will be a variety of breakout sessions

(Continued on page 11)
The Osher Outlook is a bi-monthly publication of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UWM. Please contact Diana Hankes with ideas and/or articles. Deadline for the Nov/December issue is Tuesday, October 2nd.

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Diana Hankes, Special Interest Groups

(Continued from page 10) Open New Doors Conference

sure to whet your appetite for new opportunities. Sessions include genealogy, memoir writing, being ecologically aware, becoming politically active and becoming more involved in your communities and many other ways to enrich your life. There will also be a number of exhibitors sharing information about new opportunities.

When: Friday, September 21 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: UWM School of Continuing Education
161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 7000
Cost: $30 per person (single registration) $25 per person (couples registration) Lunch is included.

You can register online at sce-osopher.uwm.edu or by phone at 414-227-3200. Don’t wait too long. The registration deadline is September 17.
Welcome
New Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Members

Raquel Lauritzen
Dorothy Sciammas
Daniel Cho
La Don Love
Kyla Motz
Carol Herrle
Elizabeth Steinberger
Nancy Nohl

Housekeeping tip from Grace Roth:

Always keep several get-well cards on the mantle. That way, if unexpected guests arrive, they'll think you've been sick and unable to clean.

The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are a few:

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Can you think of any more? Submit them to the newsletter.