The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts University acknowledges and appreciates the compassionate volunteer effort and the exemplary support provided by its members.

Marilyn McCaffrey and Maralyn Segal are the recipients of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts Volunteer Recognition Awards for 2006. The awards were presented by Ken Fettig, Executive Board Chair, at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

“This award is an opportunity for us to say thank you to those who play an invaluable role in helping us achieve our mission,” explained Marilyn Blumsack. “A volunteer’s commitment of time and talent is crucial to the strength and vitality of our program.”

Previous recipients of the Volunteer Of the Year Award are Sondra Szymczak 2003; Ken Fettig 2004; and Mel Prague 2005. Along with Director Marilyn Blumsack they form the Selection Committee for the award. The two new recipients will join the committee to select next year’s recipients.

To read about the recipients’ contributions to the Tufts Osher community, see page 5.

Our newsletter has a new name, Osher Outlook. Congratulations to Dan Hritzay for submitting the winning name. Our members submitted fifteen interesting names in the recent contest to give our newsletter a new name to reflect the change in our program’s title to the Osher Institute for Life Long Learning. By unanimous agreement the Executive Board selected Osher Outlook as a name that captures the spirit of our lively and sophisticated community. Dan explained his choice to us.

I wanted a title that flowed easily off the tongue and had a nice sound. Both words starting with an O helps the sound. I also felt that the word outlook had a positive and futuristic tone. The word outlook also covers a wide variety of topics that the newsletter may cover.

- Dan Hritzay

Thank you to everyone who submitted names. Dan, we hope you enjoy your prize.
The Director’s Corner

Dear Friends,

It is critical to the ongoing success of the Osher LLI at Tufts program that more courses be offered in order to insure our membership growth. A Learning Center has been developed to train and support any prospective or new member who may be interested in assuming this valued role. On Tuesday, November 28th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, or on Thursday, November 30th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 039 Carmichael Hall (Osher LLI Director’s office), you are invited to attend an inaugural study group leader workshop to learn what being a study group leader entails. It is important that everyone in the Osher LLI program know that substantial support is now in place for each and every prospective and/or experienced study group leader. Refreshments will be served.

I am so pleased that this edition of our newsletter is available NOW at Thanksgiving time. It is the perfect time to thank people one knows or to simply give thanks for a myriad of things in one’s life, but there isn’t enough space to accommodate that wish. However, it is important for me to tell all of you that you are so valued by me, personally, to this program, collectively, and I am certain to your world and the world in general. Will you indulge my sentimentality if I quote (and you all know how much I love to resurrect my former teaching career with quotations) one of the greatest writer of all time, George Bernard Shaw.

*Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations?*

By your actions, I am sure you share this emotion with me, my special friends. I give thanks to all of you and a very, very Happy Thanksgiving.

Love you,

Marilyn Blumoseck

Edventures Is Off To a Good Start

**Edventures** provide an opportunity for members to select one or more activities of interest. Each group then meets to learn and enjoy those activities outside of the classroom, i.e. Book Club, Dine Out Club, Armchair Travelers, Writers Club, Walkers, Thespian Club, Boston Edventures, Click Club, History and Current Events, and Movie Group. Each group decides what their informal format will be. They determine their meeting time and place, what activity, and when.

Contact **Bob Wohlgemuth**, Edventures Chair, if you have any question or would like to sign up. Or call the Osher LLI office, 617-627-5699. Visit Edventures online at [http://ase.tufts.edu/lli/progEdventure.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/lli/progEdventure.htm)

Have you explored our exciting new website? CLICK ON IT!

www.ase.tufts.edu/lli
Spotlight on Osher Leaders  by Fred Laffert Jr.

Al Muggia

Al was born in 1933 in Italy and lived there until 1939. With WWII coming on, Al's family left Italy, sailing on the last ship to take Italian emigrants to safer shores. Al told me that the ship was torpedoed on the return voyage. The family settled in Ecuador, where Al grew up and attended school through high school. He went to an American high school in Ecuador that he says helped him make the transition more easily when he came to the United States in 1950 to attend college.

Al attended Harvard and graduated with a BA in Biology. He attended and graduated from Yale Medical School and after his residency entered private practice in Winchester in 1962. In 1968 he traveled to New Mexico to practice on a Navaho Reservation under the auspices of the Public Health Service. In 1968 he returned to Winchester and resumed his private practice. He remained in that practice until he retired and one of his sons took it over.

Al has always been interested in literature and history and has been attending study groups here at Tufts for three years. He is also a member of the curriculum committee and is currently leading the study group on Contributions of Secularists and Freethinkers to American History. He plans to continue to be involved in the Osher LLI program.

Al has three sons: one a lawyer, one a financial analyst, and the third is the doctor who now operates Al's former practice. Two of his sons live in this area and the third is in Buffalo, NY. He also has ten grandchildren. Al enjoys the theater and traveling and keeps himself active by bicycling in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Hannah Simon

Hannah Simon’s family lived in Paris, but her mother traveled to her native Vienna where Hannah was born. They returned to Paris and were there at the start of WWII. During the war, the family moved about France in search of safer areas, including time in southern or Free France. When that became too dangerous, they went to Switzerland and stayed there for the remainder of the war.

In 1946, Hannah arrived in New York where she attended high school and college. She graduated from Barnard College with a major in French and History. She earned an MA in Social Work from Hunter College in the early 1970s and an MA in Health Care Management in the 1980s. She started working in the mental health field in 1974 and later became director of a mental health center in New Jersey, a position she held for 20 years. She retired in 1996.

Hannah and her husband have two children. Their daughter went to college and medical school here and is a Psychiatrist at Mass. General. She also has a brother here and their visits over the years convinced them that this would be their place of retirement. Their son has a PhD in Physics and works for Intel in Portland, Oregon. They have four grandchildren, two with each child.

After retirement, Hannah started to attend the Brandeis LLR and was referred to Tufts by a friend. She liked the shorter commute and the relative ease of parking and found the people friendly. She was one of the facilitators of Elderquest last spring and is currently co-leader with Pat Kepler of the study group Can we talk? Questions we want to ask about aging. Hannah is a member of our curriculum committee. Some other interests are attending the theater, a book group, and being involved with alumni activities.
Book Review

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: A Novel by Lisa See
Random House 2005; paper 2006. 272 pages

Lisa See’s fascinating new novel takes us into 19th century life in rural China. The narrator is Lily, an 80-year-old woman who has become the dominant woman in her wealthy household. This enables her to write her memoir and speak frankly about her life and that of her “laotong,” Snow Flower.

Lily comes from a hardworking, respected farm family that was always on the verge of poverty. When Lily reaches 6 years of age, time has come for Lily to have her feet bound. The diviner comes to determine the most propitious day and realizes that Lily is no ordinary child. Lily has high arches so that her feet could be, if properly bound, made into “Golden Lilies.” Lily could make a prosperous marriage enabling her family to move out of poverty. She has now become a potentially valuable commodity.

At that time in China, women were nei and took care of the inner realm of the home; the men were wei and took care of the outer world. Culture and education belonged to the men’s world. A woman was to be beautiful, meaning her feet were to be bound into the shape and size of a lily flower. Because of Lily’s special qualities, Lily’s matchmaker suggests a second kind of formal match, that of a laotong relationship with another woman, Snow Flower. Lily’s aunt tells her “A laotong match is as significant as a good marriage. A laotong relationship is made by choice for the purpose of emotional companionship and eternal fidelity. A marriage is not made by choice and has only one purpose – to have sons.”

Thus Snow Flower enters Lily’s life. Lily learns nushu, the secret writing between women. This only known language created by women, for women only, was developed about 1,000 years ago in the southwestern part of Hunan Province and no longer exists.

Snow Flower and Lily’s story begins with writing nushu on a secret fan where they record their feelings and concerns. Through a misunderstanding, Lily compromises her friendship with Snow Flower. How the friends meet again and how Lily begins to understand herself and her failings make this a beautiful and heartbreaking story.

Lisa See draws a detailed picture of life in 19th century China, where women lived their lives on the second floor, taking care of their husbands, their husband’s family and their children. The feelings of these women and how they coped with their situation is portrayed touchingly and the process of foot binding (which did not end until 1953) is described. We live in this 19th century province with its people. Lisa See takes us to a place that is foreign and at the same time familiar. The story is suspenseful, insightful, and poignant. This mesmerizing book is well worth reading.

Bronte Country Journey: April 22-29, 2007

Join members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts University on a memorable Journey to Bronte Country. This 6-night stay in England takes travelers to internationally renowned locations that inspired the writings of the Bronte sisters. Visits to Haworth, Yorkshire dales, York, North York Moors and the Yorkshire Coast are include. Guided tours, discussions by study leader Dot Dudley, camaraderie of Osher and Tufts traveling companions, 4-star accommodations in Bradford and much more make this journey special.

COST:
Early Booking Savings, Boston departure: Register by November 21, 2006 $2,790.00
by December 21, 2006 $2,890.00

Inclusions: RT air from Boston to London on British Airways and London to Leeds/Bradford on British Midland Airways, accommodations and full English breakfast and dinner daily, and local transfers.

For itinerary, registration and additional details, call: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts University Telephone: 617-627-5885, 5699 or 6215. Email: marilyn.blumsack@tufts.edu Website: www.ase.tufts.edu/lli
**2006 Volunteer Recognition Awards**

**Maralyn Segal**  
_by Joyce Ananian_

Every organization needs a Maralyn Segal because she is one of those rare individuals who sees a need and then—without fanfare—fills it. The Tufts Lifelong Learning Program has certainly benefited from her leadership and support in many, many ways.

Marilyn Blumsack openly admits that Maralyn stepped into her heart in the fall of 2003 when she became a Great Decisions study group leader. “Maralyn embodies nobility: unselfish, sincere and committed to any role she assumes within Osher LLI. We appreciate her dedication.” In a truly gracious “save” in 2003, Maralyn agreed to accept the role of Study Group leader for the Great Decisions course just one week before the fall session was ready to commence.

Maralyn’s willingness to help out whenever she can has translated into serving as a facilitator for The Elderquest in Film course last spring, serving two 2-year terms as a member of the Curriculum Committee, and currently sitting on the Executive Board as an At-Large Member. This semester, Maralyn is the class assistant for Jane Katim’s Studies in Contemporary Fiction.

Signing up for the Tufts Lifelong Learning Program was one of the first things Maralyn did after ending her full-time employment as the Development Director at the Chestnut Hill School. Maralyn evidenced her abilities in the area of development and fund raising prior to that for a child welfare agency in Boston and at the textile museum in Lowell.

Robert, Maralyn’s husband, also takes courses at Tufts. They reside in North Andover and have four children and four grandsons. The entire family plans to gather together in the spring in Hawaii.

Maralyn in committed to the success of the Tufts Lifelong Learning Program—so much so that she enrolled her entire bridge group in the Elderquest course last spring and in Dot Dudley’s course Jane Eyre and Charlotte Bronte: On the Novel and its Creator this fall. In addition to bridge, Maralyn also enjoys reading and gardening.

The Volunteer Recognition Award certainly represents an appreciation for the wide array of talents and generous willingness to serve reflected in the varied positions Maralyn Segal has accepted within the Tufts Lifelong Learning Institute.

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**Marilyn McCaffrey**  
_by Tania Friedman_

Are there any among us who do not know Marilyn McCaffrey? Marilyn became the editor of our newsletter from the moment she came to Tufts. She has single handedly made the newsletter into an interesting eight-page publication. She persuades us to write articles, submit news, and moreover does the layout herself. In the words of Marilyn Blumsack: “There aren’t enough superlatives to expand on Marilyn’s virtues as editor of the newsletter. We, the Osher LLI family, congratulate her on her literary prowess and outstanding effort as editor.”

Marilyn is a fascinating woman of the world who is modest about her many accomplishments. She is Professor Emerita of English at Fitchburg State College where she taught and chaired the English graduate department for over 30 years. Marilyn spent a year in Belfast, Northern Ireland on a Fulbright and has been a guest lecturer at the University of Lodz in Poland.

As if this were not enough, Marilyn is the Guardian of the Robert Cormier Manuscript collection at the college and runs an annual celebration with readings from the author’s nineteen novels. She founded the Reader’s Review of Young Adult Literature and was its editor for thirteen years.

There are not enough hours in the day for Marilyn to pursue her interests and share her talents. Before she joined Osher LLI at Tufts, her sole involvement with Tufts had been to exhibit her international collection of children’s books at the Tufts Library in the 1980s. Marilyn loves traveling and has visited fifty-seven countries. Some of her favorite destinations are China, Egypt, Morocco, and the ancient cities of Petra and Jerash in Jordan.

Since 2003, she had been a member of the Executive Board and worked on the proposal for the Osher Grant. When Marilyn is not enhancing the program at Osher LLI, she loves attending classical or jazz concerts as well as opera and plays. As one might suspect, she is an avid reader who is a member of a book club with friends she met at Tufts. She enjoys walking, singing, visiting museums, doing research on the Internet, and spending time at her sports club.

The presentation of the Volunteer Recognition Award to Marilyn McCaffrey in recognition of her very special efforts has been the perfect opportunity to learn about the many facets of this remarkable woman.
Meet Patrick Meier: Fletcher Fellow & Distance-Learning Course Leader

by Jerry Kornreich

Patrick Meier, the leader of the distance-learning course, Disaster and Conflict: Early Warning Systems, is as unusual as his experimental course. He has an amazing background. Born in the Ivory Coast and raised in Kenya, Patrick is familiar with African politics and society. As a visiting scholar, he attended the University of California at Berkeley on a full scholarship, obtaining a B.A. in 2000. He obtained an M.A. at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs in 2004. At Columbia, he had a fellowship and was a research fellow. Since 2005, Patrick has been working on a Ph.D. in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, specializing in disaster and conflict early warning systems. At Fletcher, he is a Henry R. Luce Graduate Fellow.

How Patrick became interested in early warning systems is an interesting story in itself. In the summer of 2002, he took the time to learn Arabic. He wanted to practice his Arabic and began traveling in the Sahara desert. In his travels, he met Sheikh Ma al-Aineen, a man with a passion for the pursuit of knowledge and a desire to better understand humanity. For over a week, Patrick spent long days in the Sheikh’s Bedouin tent sipping tea and discussing such varied subjects as human nature, psychology, Arabesque art and global warming.

He left the Sheikh, ready to start on a new mission. He wanted to better understand the preconditions for conflict on a global scale and how such conflicts could better be prevented. He decided that the best means for him to tackle these problems was to pursue a Ph.D. Thus, his matriculation at Tufts.

Patrick has worked with many international organizations on conflict early warning systems. Besides working in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda in Africa, he has worked in Sweden, Austria, Washington D.C. and New York. He has taught at Columbia and Tufts and has been a guest lecturer at Harvard. Recently, he co-founded Partners for Conflict Reduction, a consulting group that develops field-reporting tools for conflict early warning, early responses and input evaluation.

Patrick is certainly well equipped to lead the first ever distance-learning program on Disaster and Conflict Early Warning Systems.

In Memoriam
Isabel Abbott Passed Away
On August 6, 2006

It is with sadness we announce the passing of Isabel Abbott on August 6, 2006. Isabel was a valued member of the Tufts community, working in the Undergraduate Admissions Office for 16 years, retiring in 1987. She was also a volunteer teacher of English as a second language for international students during the years she worked in admissions and continued in that role until around 1994. The widow of Freeland Abbott, Professor of History at Tufts, Isabel was deeply committed to the life of students on the Tufts campus. She also served on the Board of the Cambridge Friends School.
As we approach the time of year when we count our blessings and pause to share a day of Thanksgiving with families and friends, we at Brookhaven would like to thank Osher LLI @ Tufts for further strengthening our affiliation this year by piloting our satellite campus. We are honored to be hosting three excellent study groups this fall and we wish to express our gratitude to Sondra Szymczak (All That Jazz: An American Sampler), Jerry Kornreich (Great Decisions) and Irene Weigel (Survey of World Religions: Part I – The Eastern Traditions). It’s hard to believe we are two sessions away from the end of the term! Feedback from study group participants has been very positive and we are eagerly anticipating the Winter and Spring session offerings at both the Medford and Lexington campuses.

A quick reminder – Osher LLI members are welcome to attend many of the lectures, concerts and events at Brookhaven on a space available basis. (See the listing below)

On a personal note, it continues to be my extreme pleasure to work with Osher LLI Director Marilyn Blumsack and her staff in a collaboration that began over five years ago when the program was in its infancy. Brookhaven at Lexington is proud of its affiliation with Tufts University and we wish all of you in our extended family a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Warmly,
Lynne Romboli
Director of Resident Services

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT BROOKHAVEN

NOVEMBER 2006

November 7  Habitat Lecture: Jill Tapper, instructor – Falling Leaves – The Cycle Begins (10:30 am)
November 7  Afternoon Social with Dan Krentzman & Friends (piano & vocals) (2:30 pm)
November 8  Lecture: Michael Tougias, author of Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide (8:00 pm)
November 10  Art Lecture with Jane Blair of Art Matters: Paul Gauguin (11:00 am)
November 15  Jack Craig Music Program: Great Songwriters Series – Hoagy Carmichael (7:30 pm)
November 16  Afternoon Social with Skye Hurlburt (harp) (2:00 pm)
November 21  Lecture: Professor Gary Hylander, Stonehill College – When in the Course of Human Events – The Declaration of Independence (7:30 pm)
November 29  Lecture & Live Demo: Maya Ruettgert-Cruiciana, naturalist. Topic: TBA (7:30 pm)

DECEMBER 2006

December 6  Vocal Concert: In Choro Novo with Therese Provanzano, Director (8:00 pm)
December 7  Afternoon Social with Dan Krentzman & Friends (piano & vocals) (2:30 pm)
December 8  Arthur Rosen Lecture: The Dead Sea Scrolls (11:00 am)
December 12  Jane Blair Art Lecture: Topic TBA (11:00 am)
December 14  Vocal Concert: Cantilena (female vocal group) (8:00 pm)
December 15  Vocal Concert: Weston Middle School Madrigals (10:30 am)
December 19  Habitat Program: Winter Solstice Celebration (11:00 am)
December 20  Jack Craig Music Program, Holiday Program (8:00 pm)

JANUARY 2007

January 9  Jane Blair Art Lecture: Topic TBA (11:00 am)
January 9  Slide-Illustrated Lecture: Michael Perry – Rhode Island (8:00 pm)
January 16  Lecture: Professor Gary Hylander, Stonehill College: Martin Luther King (7:30 pm)
January 18  Vocal Concert: Halalisa Singers (8:00 pm)
January 23  Afternoon Social with Art Gould (fiddle) (2:00 pm)

Subject to Change
## 2007 Sessions Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>March 19 – May 11</td>
<td>Medford Campus: Mondays and Fridays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2007</td>
<td>June 11 – 14</td>
<td>Brookhaven Campus: Wednesdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>June 14 (Final day of Summer Classes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Winter 2007 Session: January 22 _ February 1

**Medford Campus: Mondays and Fridays**

- **Telling Our Stories**
  - Geoff Birmingham
  - 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Monday

- **Fundamentals of Music**
  - Sheila Vernick
  - 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday

- **Jump-Start Creativity**
  - Cathie Boucher
  - 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Friday

**Brookhaven Campus: Wednesdays**

- **The Art of the Short Story**
  - Lydia Smith
  - 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- **New Interpretations of History:**
  - **Puritans, Indians, Origins of Slavery and the American Revolution**
    - Miles Uhrig
    - 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Distance Learning**
  - Ronnee Yashon

- **Biogenetic Dilemma: Can We Choose the Traits of Our Fetuses: YES. Should We?**

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Osher Study Group,
Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Mozart