TILL Awarded $100,000 Grant by Osher Foundation

The Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded TILL a grant of $100,000 for the coming year as part of a program to encourage lifelong learning, especially for adults. TILL joins 60 other institutions throughout the nation in promoting the goals of the Foundation. Especially important to the Foundation in awarding the grant was the commitment of Tufts University in facilities and staff to our program. The grant is for the coming year and may be extended for an additional two years upon completion of a successful first year.

The Osher grant is to be used for membership growth and program development. To that purpose TILL plans to use grant money to hire a full-time marketing associate to develop and implement an enhanced and expanded marketing program. Outreach efforts will be made to local organizations of retired persons. Collaborations with additional retirement communities will be pursued. The scope and number of peer-led core study group offerings will be broadened. In addition, Tufts faculty members will be recruited to lead study groups in specialized subjects.

The Executive Board subcommittee established to write the proposal was under the direction of John Russell, and included Ken Fettig, Marilyn McCaffrey, Robyn Gittleman, and Marilyn Blumsack. They produced the proposal under a very tight schedule. TILL is honored to be recognized by the Osher Foundation and invited to become part of the Osher Network of Life Long Learning Institutes.

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Hello everyone...so much to tell you this edition. Of course, we are so pleased our Spring session is underway. We welcome newcomers and longtime friends (over 100 registrants) to what is a wonderful spring term. My hope is that you all survived this horrible winter season without too much damage or hardship. We are eager to celebrate new friends, longtime friends, the warmth of the spring sun, and the rich array of courses provided by our distinguished study group leaders. I know we all feel rejuvenated as we reconnect and experience the joy of continuous learning.

Another celebratory event occurred since our last edition. The Tufts Institute for Lifelong Learning received a $100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation of San Francisco, California. The Foundation offers grants of up to $100,000 a year for up to three years to develop and implement lifelong learning programs. Its main concern is to support the creation of new programs or the strengthening of existing ones. Upon demonstrated success, the Foundation will consider giving a final endowment of at least $1 million to Tufts University. The Foundation requires our name be changed (for the last time) and so we now join 60 other Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes from Maine to Hawaii as The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Tufts University.

On March 23 at 10:30 a.m. in the Coolidge Room, we celebrated Kali Lightfoot, Executive Director of the National Resource Center (NRC) for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, as she shared information about the Osher Foundation and the other OLLIs who are part of this nationwide network. The NRC purpose is to provide a way for all OLLIs to be in touch with each other to share information and "best practices," and to communicate and share the enthusiasm of these wonderful programs with each other. We were also honored to have President Lawrence S. Bacow who graciously accepted our invitation and took time from his very busy schedule to be with us on this auspicious occasion.

Shake off those winter blues, put on your happy face. If you are a newcomer and have been searching for an outlet that offers intellectual challenge and social interaction with intriguing accomplished people, you have found it here at Tufts University in our lively learning community. WELCOME one and all.

My very best,
Marilyn Blumsack,
Director
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Tufts University

MUSICIANS UNITE!

Are you a closet musician who plays solo for your own pleasure, but would really enjoy being a member of a similarly inclined group? It has come to the attention of TILL that there is considerable interest in starting one or more musical groups: chamber, jazz, oldies, or whatever your interest. An enthusiastic pianist is calling for brass, woodwind, and string players to come out and identify yourselves. Call the TILL office at 617-627-5699 to get started and have some musical fun! Esther Gruber is the coordinator.
Spotlight on Study Group Leaders

Dotty Burstein
by Fred Laffert Jr.

Dotty Burstein was born and grew up in Georgia, attending local schools and later Mercer University, where she received a Bachelor of Science. She had studied piano and originally planned a career in music, even attending summer music programs with noted teachers. Upon graduation, however, she elected to teach, spending four years teaching high school chemistry in Georgia. After her marriage, she moved to Wisconsin where her husband was attending graduate school. They were there for six years.

After he graduated (with a PhD in Physics) they moved to the Boston area in 1976. Dotty continued to teach chemistry and occasionally other subjects. In 1979 she began working for D. C. Heath, editing and writing textbooks for grades K to 6. After her daughter was born, she switched to free-lance writing for local publishers for the next 15 years. Her son was born during this time. He was later diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome, a form of autism, and she has devoted much of her time to working with the school system to obtain the services he needs. He is doing well and intends to attend college upon graduation. Meanwhile, her daughter graduated from Swarthmore last year and is beginning her own career in New York.

During this time, Dotty has been active in local political and cultural affairs, having served as president of the Winchester League of Women Voters and the Winchester Multicultural Network. She has written for each of their publications. More recently, she has become active at the state level in the League of Women Voters. When time permits, she likes cross-country skiing.

As for TILL, she received a mailing and was able to take morning classes. She has since led several study groups on the lives of composers including Schumann, Brahms, Gershwin and, in Spring 2005, Schubert.

Fred Laffert Jr.
by Laura White

Lafferts is on Track with Lincoln

What do American railroads and Abe Lincoln have in common? TILL topics tendered by Fred Laffert Jr, of course. Laffert has led discussions on both topics. In fact, his Lincoln program was one of the items the Tisch Library included in its proposal to land a Lincoln exhibition from the Huntington Collection. Tisch is one of only 40 libraries selected for the exhibit: “Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation” to open this fall. Laffert also will lead a group on Lincoln study.

Laffert (Tufts, ’56), a chemical engineer, joined TILL in the fall of 2002. He thinks he probably holds the record for any TILL member for starting at the Institute after retiring. “Forty-eight hours,” laughed Laffert. “I retired on Wednesday, September 25, 2002; on Friday, I was in a TILL program--New England Poets”. Soon afterwards TILL Director Marilyn Blumsack convinced the multi-interest Laffert to lead study groups.

Laffert’s interest in railroads goes back to his childhood in Lawrence. His dad would take Fred and his brother to the Lawrence railroad station to see the trains and travelers. “Then there were probably 12 trains a day to Boston--passenger and freight,” recalled Laffert. His interest sparked, he joined the ranks of railroad buffs, collected models trains and set up model tracks in his house. Laffert presents railroads in their relationship to U.S. time, history and politics. The growth and expansion of the railroad led to the population and economic development of the west.

With Lincoln, he focuses on the lesser-known aspects of the man, the politician and the period prior to the Civil War. What formed Lincoln into the Lincoln we know as Honest Abe? Lincoln didn’t just burst on political scene after the debates with Douglas. “He was the leading Republican in Illinois, active in local, state and national politics. He was ambitious and so was his wife. He campaigned to large crowds here in Worcester and Everett,” said Laffert. Crowds still turn out for Lincoln at TILL.

It takes a long time to grow young.
Pablo Picasso 1881-1973
Our Newport Trip: Rubbing Elbows with the Elite of Yesterday and Today

by Ken Nimblett

On Wednesday, December 8, a dedicated group of twenty-one TILL members, spouses, and friends boarded our luxury tour bus on a sunny, mild day and traveled to historic Newport for what turned out to be a wonderful and festive time in this most fascinating place. En route, we were treated to coffee and doughnuts courtesy of the TILL hospitality committee. We arrived late in the morning primed for an exciting day of exploring, eating, shopping, and enjoying the ambiance of this city.

Our first stop was The Elms, the summer residence of M/M Edward Julius Berwind of Philadelphia and New York, who engaged Philadelphia architect Horace Trumbauer to design their house completed in 1901. We took the “Behind-the-Scenes” tour to see the areas of the house that kept their lavish lifestyle afloat, from the kitchen to the boiler room to the wine cellar. We ventured to the roof to see Newport harbor and were rewarded with a spectacular view of the city.

Next we motored to the elegant and stylish New York Yacht Club, for a sumptuous, three-course meal that included vichyssoise, crab cakes, and cheesecake, not to mention an open bar for the adventurous souls among us! Following our meal we were entertained by staff who provided an informative history of the Club and a tour of the facility. We could just imagine our three-masted sailing vessel tying up to the dock outside awaiting activities associated with America’s Cup races.

Our last stop for the day was the Newport Art Museum to enjoy their incredible display of modern art as well as more classic offerings. Some of our group also engaged in retail therapy to prepare for holiday events or took a late afternoon walk before boarding our coach for the return to Tufts that evening. A wine and munchies cocktail hour eased our return from the city of the Gilded Age as we could only fantasize about what life from a bygone era must have been like.

The Elms, Newport, Rhode Island

The Newport trip was the first daylong excursion sponsored by the TILL Special Sessions Committee. We welcome your feedback about this and other events that we have run. We especially want to hear your ideas about other activities in which you would enjoy participating.

Please contact Special Sessions co-chair Ken Nimblett by phone at 617-596-3944 or by email at knimblett@earthlink.net with any ideas you might have. Thanks in advance.

Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life: A Life Planning Workshop.

Join with other members of the Tufts community for a highly interactive, stimulating workshop that will:

• Provide you the opportunity to envision options for active citizenship and public service
• Give you a life-planning model and tools that will continue to serve you beyond the workshop

Attend the free workshop on April 30 at 9:00am-4:00pm

Facilitators: Meg Newhouse and Deb Shapiro of The Adagio Group
Location: Rabb Room in Lincoln Filene Hall, Tufts Medford Campus

For more information and to register:
http://uccps.tufts.edu/06 Alumni/makingmost.html
Melissa Russell, Alumni Coordinator at 617.627.2029
TILL the MIND: Book Reviews by Tania Friedman

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
Reviewed by Tania Friedman

You have grown up in Kabul, Afghanistan, which is occupied by the Russians. Then the Mujahideen that began as a hopeful beacon toward more freedom begins a reign of terror. You belong to an affluent Pahtun family. This is the story of Amir and his father, of Hassan, the servant who is an ethnic Hazar, and Ali, his son. Amir and Ali are playmates; however, Amir’s friends taunt him about his closeness to Ali as Pashtuns look down on the Hazaras. Amir is arrogant and one part of him values the friendship; the other denigrates it. With his skill in kite flying, Amir wins the annual contest. This is important to Amir as he feels this will bring him his father’s approval and love. When Ali, the best kite runner in the community, retrieves the winning kite, events are set in motion that lead to Amir’s betrayal of Ali.

It is the journey of a young man becoming aware of the world around him, of his relationship to his father, his betrayal of Ali, and of Ali’s loyalty to him. Amir and his father immigrate to the United States where they have to begin a new life without the advantages of class. Amir becomes a successful novelist, but is haunted by his betrayal of Ali. One day, Amir receives a phone call from Rahim Kahn, his father’s business partner and a second father to him. (Kahn stayed behind in Afghanistan). With that call, Amir has a chance at redemption, which requires him to return to Afghanistan now under the Taliban rule. This novel takes us into the internal struggles of Amir but also gives us insight into the lives of the Afghani people. Hosseini’s sensitively drawn characters have heartbreaking struggles as well as emotional triumphs. They continue to live within us though we have put the book down.
**Dinner in Davis Square**

In the winter issue of *stILLife*, we introduced you to Davis Square, a major intersection in Somerville connecting College Ave, Elm Street, Highland Ave, and Holland Street. The Davis Square subway stop makes this a convenient location. Parking is pretty tight. The dinner crowd is swelled by the ranks of theatrogoers to the Somerville Theater and Jimmy Tingle’s Off Broadway Theater. Here are my favorite dining spots.

**Gargoyle's on the Square Bar**
215 Elm Street (617) 776-5300
Gargoyle’s, the most upscale restaurant in Davis Square, is quiet and romantic. The food is fabulous and very imaginative. Although I am very much a meat eater, I frequently order the vegetarian dishes that are particularly good. They have an excellent wine list. I have found a couple of great wines getting them “by the glass” here and then ordering a case. While some find the portions small, they do allow a person with a moderate appetite to eat an appetizer, entrée, and dessert. This is an expensive restaurant, but worth the money if you appreciate good food served by an excellent wait staff.

**Orleans Restaurant & Bar**
65 Holland Street (617) 591-2100
The name of the restaurant refers to Cape Cod and not Louisiana. Nouveau American cuisine is featured with an emphasis on fish. When my Thanksgiving holiday plans changed at the last minute, Orleans supplied a decent dinner for my family. They have some fun big couches near the windows you can use even when ordering from the dinner menu. This makes it great for meeting friends and having a very long dinner. There is no pressure to leave after finishing your food. The service is slow, but they do have lots of TVs to watch while you are waiting.

**Sauce Bar & Grill**
400 Highland Avenue (617) 625-0200
This modern restaurant is attracting the hip young crowd, but that has not stopped our family from checking it out. The interior has several levels with different seating options, which makes for more interest visually. The dishes are appetizer size portions (think tapas).

Order one for an appetizer and two for your main course. The wait staff continuously brings and removes dishes. When people in your party have different sized appetites, you can seamlessly order a different numbers of dishes and share or not. The dishes are beautifully presented and the menu is quite extensive.

**Namaskar**
236 Elm Street (617) 623-9911
This Indian restaurant has European desserts, yum. The extensive menu with the usual chicken tikka masala and lamb curry is filled out with some regional specialties. The service is excellent and the ambiance is nice with interesting light fixtures and pictures. They start the meal by offering you a small juice drink called a welcome drink. It tastes good and adds a different touch. Part of the kitchen is open so you can see the bread being made and the tandoori oven. A better-known Indian restaurant, Diva’s, is a few doors away. Many people love Diva’s, but I prefer Namaskar especially for their service. Another nice feature is a late closing kitchen.

**Other Options:** Diva’s (mentioned above) is another Indian food option. For more casual fare there is Redbones Grill with an open pit, Fusion with a mixed Asian menu, and Joshua Tree with a sports bar feel and a large bar. Johnny D’s has a full menu along with amazing music and a full bar. The Burren is an Irish pub run by Irish musicians, much improved since the smoking ban went into effect! Antonio’s is a small Italian restaurant with an intimate atmosphere right in the middle of Davis Square.

These restaurants are well represented in on-line reviews. Just search for restaurant name Somerville. A number of the restaurants offer a 10% to 20% discount off dinner with ticket stubs from Jimmy Tingle's.

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**sTILLife**, the newsletter of the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Tufts University, is published four times a year: fall, winter, and spring and summer. Marilyn A. McCaffrey is the editor. Submit Letters to the Editor and articles to her at stillife@comcast.net.

**An Invitation**
Would you like to write articles, take photographs, or do desktop publishing for our newsletter? *sTILLife* would welcome your contributions. Please contact the editor.
New Look for Aidekman Arts Center

By Ginny DeAngelis
Till members will notice a new look at Aidekman Arts Center this semester. The gallery space has been reorganized. The old pictures have been removed to other places on campus, and the building is now exhibiting new art. The sculptures have been removed from the sculpture court and the room is now used as a multi-purpose room for receptions, performances, etc. These changes are due to gallery director, Amy Ingrid Schlegel, who arrived at Tufts in January 2004. Dr. Schlegel is committed to showing contemporary art. She wants Aidekman to be a forum for the Tufts community to show their work.

One of Dr. Schlegel’s objectives is to include local communities in the University. She reached out to local artists in Somerville and Medford. As a result, last June an exhibit featuring local artists drew hundreds to its opening reception.

Another of Dr. Schlegel’s objectives is to get accredited. This will involve a series of expensive changes involving light and climate regulation and displaying and storing artwork according to strict regulations. Also Dr. Schlegel hopes to build a national profile for exhibitions and publications scholarships. To raise money to meet these objectives, she would like to build the endowment through fundraising, applying for grants, and cultivating donors. “We have a beautiful space that has been perceived as a hidden gem,” she told the Globe. “Our challenges are not that great.”

Dr. Schlegel was the Lunch and Learn Speaker on March 25.

The Tufts University Art Gallery Aidekman Arts Center

Upcoming Exhibitions

| Feeling Lucky: Recent Sculpture by Karl Stirner | April 7–August 14, 2005 |
| MFA Thesis Exhibition | May 3–22, 2005 |
| April 5–24, 2005 | Tufts Second Annual Juried Summer Exhibition |
| April 5–May 22, 2005 | June 9–July 31, 2005 |

Great Decisions Host Fletcher Speakers

This spring the Great Decision Study Group led by Jerry Kornreich has been enjoying a stimulating and knowledgeable group of speakers from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. This speakers program is being coordinated by Alejandra Ruiz-Dana, a second-year student at Fletcher, who specializes in international economic and commercial law, as well as environmental policy and resource management. Last summer she did research on corporate social responsibility for a think tank in Santiago, Chile. Prior to Fletcher, Alejandra worked at the Organization of American States and the Bank Information Center. She holds a B.A. in Latin American and Iberian Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Fletcher student speakers include:

Erik Dahl, a PhD candidate at Fletcher, is a retired naval intelligence officer with tours of duty in Korea, Japan, Germany, and the Pentagon. For three years he taught at the Newport Naval War College. At the Office of Management and Budget in Washington DC, his duties included analyzing the 9/11 Commission Report and helping to develop policy options.

Rudy Jaafar, born and raised in Lebanon, has lived in West Africa and Canada. An engineer by profession, he is presently studying Middle Eastern history, politics, and Islam. He is president of the Fletcher Mediterranean Club and a researcher on Lebanese political history and political Islam.

Kristina Jeffers lived in Russia as an exchange student and spent three years with the Peace Corps working for a non-profit in Uzhgorod, Ukraine. At Fletcher she is studying ethnic minorities and conflict resolution.

Russell Knight, an ISSP Fellow at Fletcher, has served in the U.S. Navy since 1982. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and the U.S. Naval War College, Russell is a strike fighter pilot by trade and has flown over 50 different types of aircraft. His most recent fleet experience was serving as a commanding officer of an F/A-18 squadron.

Look for more profiles in the summer issue of sTILLLife.
Upcoming Events at Brookhaven at Lexington – 1010 Waltham Street

TILL members are invited to Brookhaven Events. Contact the TILL office for details.

April 24  Passover Program with Cantor Sheila Cline: Passover in Song & Story (3:00 PM)
April 26  Vintage Music Concert with Ken Lelen, vocalist (7:30 PM)
April 27  Vocal Concert: In Choro Novo (8:00 PM)
May 3    Dramatization with Jan Tournquist: Louisa May Alcott (2:00 PM)
May 4    Vocal Concert: The Needham Retired Men’s Club (7:30 PM)
May 5    Classical Concert: The Arlington School Select Orchestra (11:00 AM)
May 11   Vocal Concert: Rebecca Hayden (soprano), Karen Bell (mezzo soprano) and Bonnie Donham (piano) 8:00 PM
May 12   Vocal Concert: John O’Neil: A Lullaby for Broadway (2:00 PM)
May 16   Brookhaven Lecture: Ann Poulet, Frick Museum (8:00 PM)
May 17   Art Lecture with Jane Blair: American Art – Part Two (1900-1950) (11:00 AM)
May 18   Slide-Lecture with Michael Perry of Dreams Unlimited: Exploring America – This Wonderful Place Called Massachusetts (8:00 PM)
May 19   Live Demo: Maya Ruettger-Cruciana, teacher/naturalist at the Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Blue Hill’s Trailside Museum: Frogs (7:30 PM)
May 22   Piano Recital by the Students of Bonnie Anderson (3:00 PM)
June 7   Lecture: Ken Turino of Historic New England Properties (7:30 PM)
June 8   Music Program by Doug Martin: Bells Around the World (7:30 PM)
June 9   Outdoor Concert: The Squirrel Hill Olde Tyme Band (8:00 PM)
June 14  Art Lecture with Jane Blair: American Art – Part Three (1950-1990) (11:00 AM)
June 21  Lecture: Professor Gary Hylander: Sacco and Venzetti (8:00 PM)
June 28  Concert: The Roaring Jelly Band (7:30 PM)

Program is subject to change.