Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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Osher-Brookhaven Alliance

An important productive relationship began in 2001 when the Tufts Lifelong Learning program affiliated with Brookhaven in Lexington. Over the years almost 100 Brookhaven residents and people on their wait list participated as students and/or study group leaders. In 2006 a satellite campus at Brookhaven began with study groups meeting on Wednesdays. “Lynn Romboli, supervises the Osher LLI affiliation at Brookhaven with tenderness, commitment and grace,” observes Marilyn Blumsack. The two women will be talking about Osher Brookhaven cooperative venture at the Mass Aging Annual Conference on May 15.

Meet Lynne Romboli by Joyce Ananian

Lynne Romboli, Director of Resident Services at Brookhaven at Lexington, cares deeply about offering new and interesting experiences to the residents of Brookhaven. Her commitment to this goal is the force at Brookhaven behind the alliance between the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts University and Brookhaven. In her quest to provide intellectual opportunities, she has operated videoconferencing equipment, driven buses, spearheaded collaborations, and smoothed the way for a partnership that enriches both parties.

(Continued on pg. 6)

To: My dear Osher LLI friends,
From: Marilyn and the Osher LLI Curriculum Committee

Please take heed to our plea.
We need you one and all, you see,
To volunteer in as many ways as you can.
If as a study group leader, you may call Chairman Sam,
Or on any of our twelve committees, speak to me.
Your service is highly valued, our members agree.
We request your time to read John Wesley’s quote.
Decide what you want to do; call us and we will note
Your choice and guarantee you will have the time of your life.
No hassle, no problems, giving and sharing, we promise, no strife.
Redundant but…..WE NEED YOU ONE AND ALL
PARTICULARLY AS A STUDY GROUP LEADER FOR FALL.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. -- John Wesley

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My Dear Friends,

Well, it is about to happen. What, you ask? Spring is about to arrive again and it is welcomed with glee by me and thee, I am sure you will agree. More importantly, let’s all join together and give a round of applause to our 75 new members from communities locally and nationally and a special warm tribute to Joan Welles, Director of Resident Services from North Hill and the six new members who registered for Wednesday Spring classes at Brookhaven. WELCOME

On a more somber note I would like to call your attention to the notion that today, mature learners from the Greater Medford area and from all over the country and world, come together and learn from one another in our four year-round sessions thanks to the generosity and support from the University, the Bernard Osher Foundation and you, dear friends and members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Research suggests the need for each one of us to partake in learning throughout our lives. This lifelong educating process has been proven to stimulate the mind while broadening one’s knowledge and contributing to personal, family and community growth.

For more than 5 years, our Osher LLI has remained committed to its mission, offering a stimulating learning environment based on peer education and open proactive discussion. For many members, the Osher LLI has become an integral part of their lives, expanding their horizons and contributing to their growth and happiness. And it has been a privilege to be the Director alongside all the dedicated, talented people who exemplify the synergy that makes our program thrive. I am thankful for the on-going support and commitment of many toward making our program a pre-eminent opportunity for lifelong learning locally, nationally and globally. We faced numerous challenges in the past and our future is not without challenge. However, together we know everything is possible and we have only just begun.

Please, won’t you join me, new and experienced members, and become more involved? Call me if you have any amount of time to volunteer in a myriad of capacities within the program or in the community. We need you …you can make a difference.

My love,

Give what thou canst, without thee we are poor; And with thee rich, take what thou wilt away.

- William Cowper

Are You Being Served?

by Deborah Senay, Chair Hospitality Committee

There’s no doubt that we offer fewer choices than the Canteen at Grace Brothers, but that does not make your morning coffee any less enjoyable. The Hospitality Committee is hard at work, making sure you have all the caffeine you need to keep you sharp during those morning classes. Additionally, you can count on the Hospitality Committee to have water available for purchase before class and during lunch. And you can be sure that any profit derived from this effort will be used to enrich our program. This is something that we decided to experiment with to generate a little working capital to pay for the morning coffee program. In the past, we relied on the contributions of a very few members to provide our sweets. By selling water, we are hoping to be self-supporting. Please let someone from the Hospitality Committee know what you think about the idea. If there is enough support, we will do it again in the fall.

The Hospitality Committee also would like to hear your ideas about our end-term-luncheons as well as any other catered lunch programs you would like to see implemented. Last but not least, we want to remind you we are always looking for new members. Please join us if you have a little time to spare and the inclination to make our program as enjoyable as possible.

Hospitality Committee: Dody Button, Caroline Freeman, Christine Leonard, Marie Murray, Angie Paison, Joan Stoddard, Gina Tangney and Deborah Senay.
Profiles of Osher Leaders  by Fred Laffert Jr.

Ted Wall

Ted Wall is a native New Yorker, born in the Bronx. He tells me that he attended grade school, high school, and college in New York, and that all of these were within walking distance of home. He graduated from Fordham University with a BS in Chemistry. His interest had turned to the subject of Physics and he later received a National Science Foundation Fellowship to study at Princeton, from which he graduated with a PhD in Physics. This, at last long, was not within walking distance.

After graduation, Ted moved to Virginia to work for Melpar, a government contractor. At the outset, he worked on research relating to comets and related projects. He left Melpar to work on desalinating water at another contractor. This one was located in Massachusetts and represented his introduction to New England.

Ted returned to New York and began his career with the department of Health and Human Services, which was to last until retirement. He acted as an internal consultant on policy analysis, which consisted of reviewing policies and making recommendations for improvements and cost savings. He notes that this allowed him to continue to apply scientific methods to problem solving. He was initially based in New York, but later transferred to Boston and has been a resident of Massachusetts since that time. During his tenure, he attended Harvard Extension.

After retirement, Ted initially continued to attend Harvard Extension School, but later saw the light and switched to the Osher LLI program at Tufts and began attending study groups. He has since become a study group leader and is currently leading his second study group in Physics. This has expanded the range of scientific offerings available under the program. Ted also has an interest in walking as an activity and hobby and walks regularly with organized groups.

Eleanor Lintner

Eleanor Lintner was born in Worcester and lived there until she was 12 when her father passed away. Her mother relocated to Waltham with Eleanor and her sister to be closer to family. She attended Waltham schools through high school. With WWII in progress, she spent the next two years as a SPAR in the Coast Guard.

After the war, she entered the Foreign Service and her first post was Rome. It was a fortuitous posting since she was already an opera buff, having regularly listened to the Saturday opera radio broadcasts. In Rome, she was able to attend operas in the opera halls as well as outdoors in season. She reports that these were spectacular productions. Later, she was sent to Bucharest and finally back to Rome before she returned to the United States.

Eleanor had married and had a son when her husband passed away. She returned to work at the Harvard Business School and there she met and later married John Lintner, who had two children. After the children were raised, she returned to work at the Kennedy School and later retired from there. They spent parts of some summers in London, where John was teaching.

After retirement, Eleanor spent time traveling and visited every continent except Antarctica. She visited China with the Smithsonian before the Chinese economy had begun to expand and when bicycles were the prime mode of transportation. She also visited Morocco with the Smithsonian and was in Russia in 1979 when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Other trips included Greece, Turkey, South America, and Samarkand.

Eleanor now resides at Brookhaven and found out about the Tufts program from a brochure sent there. Her first study group was with Ken Fettig on the Crusades and she enjoyed it and has continued to attend. She has also become a study group leader and has led three opera study groups including one this spring.

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Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.

-- Eleanor Roosevelt
**Book Review**

**A Thread Of Grace: A Novel**  
*by Mary Doria Russell*  

In World War II, Italy saved over 40,000 Jews – a survival rate greater than all the other occupied countries in Europe. Mary Doria Russell felt that she had to tone down the decency of the Italian saviors in our cynical age in order to make their story believable. The title of the book comes from an old Hebrew saying: No matter how dark the tapestry God weaves for us, there is always a thread of grace.

When interviewed by the writer Alden Mudge, Russell said: “I was concerned that I was writing a feel-good Holocaust book. I was afraid that in writing about Italy, where 85 percent of the Jews did survive, that it would be another opportunity for people to think that they would have been clever enough, plucky enough or imaginative enough to survive. But all the survivors would tell you that it was just blind dumb luck. It wasn’t intelligence. It wasn’t bravery - you just turned left instead of right without knowing you’d made a decision.”

This historical novel begins in September 1943, when Italy surrendered to the Allies and the Nazis invaded Italy. A German doctor, Werner Schramm, an officer in the Waffen SS who is responsible for the deaths of 91,867 people, forces a priest, Don Oswaldo Tomitz, to hear his confession. When Schramm asks, “What is my penance?” Don Oswaldo replies: “Mein Gott, Schramm, what did you expect? Rosaries? No, Shoot yourself. May God forgive you. I can’t.”

Schramm meets Renzo Leoni, an Italian Jew, a charismatic resistance leader who is bedeviled by his part in the bombing of a hospital in the Abyssinian war. In one of his conversations with Schramm he turns to him saying, “Never underestimate how soothing it is to have someone else to blame. If Jews didn’t exist, someone would have to invent us.” There are many stories interwoven in this fascinating book that present us with a complex moral world. Russell shows us the goodness and honor of people as well as the horror of evil. Of Hitler she says, “The hollow hateful little man. The last awful thought: All the harm he ever did was done for him by others.”

In 1998, the Jews of Saint-Martin-Vesubie in honor of the people of Valle Stura and Valle Gesso had the following inscription chiseled on the marble memorial stela erected in Borgo San Dalmazzo:

> When racial hatred raged in Europe  
> Jewish refugees, uncertain of their fate,  
> coming from distant countries  
> - Austria, Belgium, Germany, Poland -  
> found hospitality and safety in these valleys.  
> Hidden in isolated cottages,  
> protected by the population,  
> they waited with trust and hope,  
> through two interminable winters,  
> for the return of liberty.  
> In homage to and in memory of those  
> Who helped them, those refugees and their descendants embrace the noble inhabitants of these valleys in brotherhood.

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**The Learning Center**

To further enhance the Osher LLI at Tufts University learning environment, a Learning Center has been established to connect a vast network of beneficial resources to our members. The Learning Center was opened in November 2006.

The Osher LLI Learning Center provides a Workshop Manual and a Study Group Leader Manual for each Study Group Leader (SGL) focusing on how to become an SGL, what being a SGL entails, and the fundamentals of teaching. Every six weeks a Study Group Leader Workshop is held. A separate E-Learning SGL orientation is held to familiarize members with the Blackboard Learning System and the technology needed to lead an on-line course. Other support measures adopted this year include providing a classroom assistant and a curriculum committee liaison for each SGL. The goal of the Learning Center is to provide our community with the resources and support to ensure the highest quality of teaching and learning.
Granoff Music Center Opens by Jerome Kornreich

With the opening of the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center this spring, Tufts has demonstrated its commitment to music and the arts. The $27 million edifice houses some 55,000 square feet of space. Its design makes it an outstanding contribution to the arts and music environment in the Boston area.

At the center of the new building is the Distler Performance Hall designed to provide superb acoustics. The hall is acoustically sealed, preventing outside noises from interfering with performances. It seats some 300 people for major performances but can also accommodate concerts for smaller audiences. The new building connects to the existing Aidekman Arts Center.

Dr. Joseph Auner, professor and chair of the Music Department was lured to Tufts from Suny-Stony Brook by Granoff Music Center. He has said: “There is no hall of this size with this quality anywhere in New England. Outside of large symphony halls, acoustic groups must rely on churches, museums, or other halls at colleges and universities, none of which offer either the acoustical quality or the technological resources of this hall.”

The opening of the Granoff Music Center was heralded by the arrival of 12 new Steinway grand pianos. Faculty members went to the Steinway factory in Queens, N.Y., to choose the nine-foot concert grand piano that graces the stage of the Distler Performance Hall. In addition to the concert grand, the group chose pianos at Steinway’s Boston showroom. The Granoff Music Center also houses eight new Yamaha uprights.

The Center provides classrooms, practice rooms, offices, storage spaces plus the latest technology in multimedia and recording capabilities.

The Ruth Lilly Music Library located on the lower level of the complex houses Tufts’ collections of music scores and recordings, books about music, and music periodicals. Osher members may use their Tisch Library cards to access and borrow materials.

Granoff Music Center will offer programs aimed at stimulating interest in music among the surrounding communities. Together with the meeting and performance space at the new Sophia Gordon residence hall across the street, the Music Center is the cornerstone of an arts complex that brings together music, drama, dance and the visual arts. It makes Tufts an even more attractive university for students interested in music and the arts.

SPOTLIGHT Published

We have literary and art talent in abundance among the members of the Osher Lifelong Living Institute at Tufts. Witness the first edition of our literary and art review published this spring. SPOTLIGHT features the artwork and writings of our Osher members. The three editors of this splendid volume are Tania Friedman, Mary Hafer, and Arline Heimert. We commend them for their fine work in putting together the first volume of this annual publication.

The stunning cover of SPOTLIGHT is a watercolor by Cordelia M. Overhiser of the croton, a decorative shrub used for landscaping. Other artworks included are Japanese Girl by Elaine Rothman, Berries by Marsha Wiggins, and Santa Fe by Cordelia Overhiser.

The opening article is a History of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts by Sondra Szmyczak, one of our founding LLI members. There are twenty-one poems, memoirs, short fictions, essays, and articles by seventeen writers. SPOTLIGHT is available on line at http://ase.tufts.edu/lli/newsletter.htm. Hard copies can be picked up at the Osher Office.

Submissions for the second annual edition of SPOTLIGHT will be accepted now through January 31, 2008. Check the submission guidelines available on our website at: http://ase.tufts.edu/lli/newsletter.htm

Spotlight 2007
Lynne Romboli  (continued from page 1)

During a conference for life care industry professionals in the late 1990’s, Lynne learned about a partnership between a retirement community and a local college in Connecticut. This sparked her ever-active mind to seek a relationship with a local university to enrich the lives of Brookhaven residents.

In 2001, the Tufts Institute for Learning in Retirement program was in its infancy. Program Director Marilyn Blumsack and Lynne worked together to fashion an initial partnership that took the form of Brookhaven providing transportation to the Tufts campus to encourage residents in joining various study groups. The residents were delighted to be on a college campus and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to participate.

Transportation and mobility issues lead to the next step in 2003-2005 of linking Tufts and Brookhaven through the use of videoconferencing equipment. With the support of Jim Freehling, Brookhaven’s CEO, and the Board of Trustees, Brookhaven invested in the necessary equipment, and Lynne learned how to operate the cameras that allowed a television link between the two facilities. This solved the transportation and mobility problems but left both groups missing the personal contact that enhances learning in small group settings.

Lynne’s vision of Brookhaven as a satellite campus became a reality in 2006. Study groups are offered on site to the delight of both the Tufts and Brookhaven communities, resulting in a significant increase in membership. Study group leaders will be receiving training at Brookhaven so that more of the rich talents of its residents can initiate new courses.

The relationship between Tufts and Brookhaven is just one result of Lynne Romboli’s passion to offer her residents many exciting learning opportunities that affirm her belief that people are happiest when they are involved in new ventures. It is a vibrant testament to Lynne’s energy, creativity, and gift for solving problems.

The journey that led Lynne to Brookhaven began at Lowell State College where she majored in vocal performance – she also plays guitar and piano. Along the way she has served as a member of a professional ski patrol, worked at the University of New Hampshire, earned her pyrotechnician’s license, and served as the dining room manager at Carleton-Willard Village in Bedford, Massachusetts.

In her search to reach every resident and provide fulfilling experiences, Lynne is constantly enlarging her vision. Along with the Wellness Committee at Brookhaven, her newest emphasis is on creating a Personal Wellness Model for each resident. One important component of that model is the benefit that comes from learning. To that end, the alliance between Tufts and Brookhaven is destined to grow and deepen.

Save the Dates

Osher LLI Tufts Annual Meeting & Brunch
10:00 a.m., June 15, 2007
Cheryl Chase Center Faculty Dining Hall

Tufts OLLI Travel-Learn Program
Shakespeare/London Theatre Tour

Led by Dot Dudley, Osher Study Group Guide
December 3 - 9, 2007
Curriculum Committee Report
by Sam Brown, Chair

The Curriculum Committee is focused on offering a variety of Study Groups on both broad and specialized subjects that excite our members. We study the course selection at other institutions to get ideas for what else we might offer. We recruit Study Group Leaders (SGLs) from outside the program to volunteer their services. We have a Scholars Program that offers an honorarium to graduate students to lead groups in their specialized fields of study. And this year we are recruiting heavily from the membership for new Study Group Leaders (SGLs). We depend on you most of all to keep our program exciting.

The Curriculum Committee meets the second Thursday of each month. We review proposals for Study Groups for future terms, set policy and direction for the academic role of the Institute, and discuss ways to improve the opportunities we offer members.

The responsibility of reviewing and approving proposals for Study Groups is one we take very seriously. When a proposal is received, we view it as an opportunity for the Institute to grow. Therefore, we do not just approve or disapprove each proposal and then move on. The position we take is that each idea can be successful. We work with the person who proposes the Study Group to refine the proposal into a form that our experience tells us will attract enough members to fill a class.

After each semester we get a report card on how well we did. Each of you fills out a critique of each course you have taken. We review these carefully to see what works, and what needs improvement.

We depend on you for honest input, so do not sugarcoat your review to protect our feelings. Of great importance in these surveys are the suggestions you make for new subjects.

Our program is a leader in Elearning (online courses), and offers courses that have worldwide participation. We have the advantage of our relationship with the university graduate programs that generate unique Study Groups in areas of contemporary interest. The ElderQuest Programs deal with issues important to us now. This summer a new forum has been developed by members and staff that we feel will be an outstanding offering for the Baby Boomer generation: The Third Age, The Bonus Years. Watch for it!

We have three Curriculum Committee openings. If you would like to join the Curriculum Committee, contact a member personally or through the Osher Office. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any suggestions, concerns, and especially if you wish to be an SGL.

Curriculum Committee Members: Maureen Abate, Sam Brown, Janice Dolan, Tania Frieman, Arline Heimert, Fran Lanouette, Albert Muggia, Kristen Salo, Maralyn Segal, Hannah Simon, Bob Zieve.

Have you explored our exciting new website? CLICK ON IT!
www.ase.tufts.edu/lli

Dine-Out Group EDventures
by Fran Lanouette

One of the highly successful Edventures offerings is the Dine-Out group. At the organizational meeting run by Bob Wohlgemuth it was decided that members would be responsible in alphabetical order to plan an event. The choice of venue and date is up to the planner who notifies the group, provides directions, and makes restaurant reservations. This system has worked brilliantly. While not all members can always attend there has been a turnout of 8-12 diners at most events.

The fun of this group lies in the diversity of the members and the menus. Our first event, organized by Sheila Vernick, was at Marino’s in Cambridge. Good food and lively conversation made it a treat. The next event, organized by Mel Bernstein, took us to Bocelli’s in Medford for some down-home Italian cuisine. The success of the first gathering drew new-comers.

In Winchester we went Asian. Arline Heimert introduced us to China Sky, a terrific spot within sight of the Aberjona waterfall. A lively discussion of the political scene ensued as well as some impassioned movie reviews.

Another event took a small group south of the border to the Mexican restaurant, Tu y Yo, in Powderhouse Square near Tufts. A future event may return to Tu y Yo so more people can sample the delicious authentic cuisine in a charming setting.

In March 14 members met at the Yangtze River Restaurant in Lexington. We had a wonderful evening enjoying a Chinese buffet, exchanging conversation and catching up with each other’s activities.

New members are always welcome. Contact Bob Wohlgemuth at Bobwohl@aol.com.
Spring 2007

Save the Dates for 2007 - 2008
September 17 - November 12, 2007
January 25 - February 15, 2008
March 17 - May 12, 2008
June 9 - 14, 2008

Programs at Brookhaven – May 2007
May 1  Vocal Concert: The Apollo Club (8:00 pm)
May 3  Lecture by Professor Gary Hylander, Stonehill College: The Bill of Rights (7:30 pm)
May 8  Jane Blair Art Lecture: Renior (11:00 am)
May 10 Afternoon Social with Rick Scalise, classical piano (2:00 pm)
May 10 Ragtime Concert: The Ancient Mariners Band (8:00 pm)
May 16 Jack Craig Music Program: Celebrating Women and Song (8:00 pm)
May 22 Afternoon Social with Art Gould (fiddle) (2:00 pm)
May 23 Lecture: Daniel Wasserman, cartoonist for the Boston Globe (8:00 pm)

A Bronte Country Journey
April 22-29, 2007
Osher LLI members at the
Bronte Parsonage Museum, Haworth, England