The second annual issue of Spotlight, the literary and art magazine of Osher LLI at Tufts has just been published. The 128-page soft cover book includes forty-three contributions, a diverse mix of narratives, poems, essays, book review, travelogues, paintings, and photographs by thirty-one Osher members. The stunning cover features Edgewater, an award-winning acrylic painting by Dana MacDonal.

Our members recount their travels in words, photos and paintings. Muffy Lutzin reports her 2007 Cambodian explorations in her pictorial travelogue, "A Short Sojourn in Siem Reap." Mary Hafer writes with vivid detail of her 1939 trip in "Summer Aboard Trains." Lisa Bryant describes her stay at a language school in Sicily. Cordelia Overhiser gives a pastel of Anne Hathaway’s Cottage, and Patricia Perry, a glimmering photo of Slovenia; Len Rothman’s striking photographs capture two local sites, Long Wharf and The Constitution.

Other writings in this splendid volume include two biographical essays, one by Caroline Freeman about Ernestine Rose, and one by Al Muggia about Madame Du Chatelet; Margaret Gooch’s academic review of Walden Pond: A History by W. Barksdale Maynard; and Bob Zieve’s scholarly essay on Stare Decisis and Supreme Court Rulings.

There are a number of personal narratives, lively but often bittersweet. Short stories with varied subject matter and a number of poems round out this extremely readable book.

“Spotlight” is fortunate to have so many submissions. You will find in these pages some of the thoughts, the pleasures, the sorrows, the discoveries, and reminiscences of fellow Tufts Osher LLI members in their journey through life. As your fellow students transform into various art forms their wrestling with their pasts and presents, their adventures become your adventures - and you see the world through their eyes. We hope you enjoy the trip and are enlarged and delighted by their perspectives.”

Osher LLI Director Marilyn Blumsack in her introductory letter to Spotlight states: “The second edition of Spotlight, our annual juried literary magazine, exemplifies the vision and talent of our members whose joy of learning is ever apparent, as is the joy of serving one another as teachers and learners.” She acknowledges and thanks the students of the Medford Vocational High School print shop: Bill Mahoney, Director, Medford Vocational High School and Superintendent of the Medford Public Schools, Roy E. Belson for printing Spotlight again this year.

Spotlight, is available at $10 per copy, cash only, at the Osher LLI’s office. While there are a limited number of printed copies, Spotlight is available for downloading at no cost on the Osher LLI website www.ase.tufts.edu/lli

Guidelines for submissions for next year’s Spotlight are included in the Appendix. The submission deadline is January 31, 2009.
This has been a year of remarkable progress and success. Many people said we would not reach the 500 member count required by the Osher Foundation. Not only did we reach that plateau but now we expect to host 600 members before the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2008. Creative, diverse and “read cool” are some of the remarks we hear and savor these days. We take pride in those compliments recognizing and taking pride in the fact that we know “it takes a village” to achieve success.

To all our volunteers, “scholars,” University and community partners and friends – an enthusiastic and sincere thank you. You are all remarkable!!

There is a place for all of you in our marvelous program. Your ideas and thoughts are always welcome whether it is about a study group, an EDventure, a Lunch and Learn speaker…we need to tap your rich life experiences and ask you to share in whatever capacity you can if we are to continue to move forward and enjoy our programming success.

On a gastronomic note; try to attend our annual meeting planned for Friday, June 13 in the Cheryl Chase Center located on the other side of Carmichael Hall. Be present as we recognize our volunteers and award this year’s Volunteer of The Year, elect new members to the Executive Board and review this year’s highlights. There is always plenty of parking in the Carmichael Hall and Fletcher School parking lots and breakfast will be served at 10:00 a.m. We know the way to your hearts…..food. See you then.

With love,
Yours for Osher,

Marilyn Blumsack, Director
Profiles of Osher Leaders by Fred Laffert Jr.

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<tr>
<th>Michael Martin</th>
<th>Linda Carey</th>
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<td>Michael Martin was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1932. At seventeen, he left high school to join the Marines. He spent his service time as a member of marine detachments aboard large ships, including the USS Missouri. During this period, he studied for and passed an exam for the Naval Academy prep school in Virginia. He attended and graduated from that school and attended Annapolis for five months before deciding against a Navy career and resigning. Next, he attended Arizona State University and graduated with a BS in Business, but along the way he had taken philosophy courses and became interested in that subject. Michael got his MS degree from the University of Arizona and then a PhD in Philosophy from Harvard. He and his wife were married after his graduation. He spent three years teaching at the University of Colorado and then thirty-two years at BU, retiring as Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus. His wife was also a Philosophy professor and spent twenty years at UMass-Boston. During his academic career, he published a number of articles and fifteen books relating to the philosophy of religion, law, and social science. Michael and his wife have been married for forty-six years. They have two sons and four grandchildren.</td>
<td>Linda Carey is a native Bostonian. She lived in East Boston until she was nine and then in Revere until she was married. In between, she attended Catholic schools in the surrounding towns, graduating from St. Rose High School in 1958. It was during her high school years that she met her future husband. They dated through her college years at Boston State (now UMass Boston) after which she returned to Revere to teach. They married in 1964 and when her first son was born in 1966, she left teaching for a period of ten years. A second son was born two years later. They settled first in Wakefield, later moving to Reading. After ten years had elapsed, she returned to teaching in the Reading elementary schools. Her husband was also a teacher who taught for thirty years in the Somerville school system. She served for a time (1995-6) on the adjunct faculty of Lesley College, finally retiring five years ago. Both sons are now married and live in Massachusetts, one in Stoneham and one in Easthampton. They have five grandchildren.</td>
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A Tribute to Miles Uhrig

Miles Uhrig, a gentle man in every way, was firmly dedicated to learning as a lifelong process. After earning his bachelors and master's degrees at Tufts, Miles taught for four years in the Groton and Lexington school systems before taking a position in admissions at Tufts. In 1959 he was named director of admissions, and served Tufts for thirty-eight years before his retirement in 1994.

In 2000, Miles became an active member of the Tufts University Lifelong Learning Institute where he served diligently on the Executive Board and Curriculum Committee. Miles, who truly loved teaching, led a number of study groups in history and literature. Whenever he taught, his “army” of devoted students registered immediately to secure a place in his popular study groups.

Fred Laffert, one of his avid followers said, “Miles contributed in a positive way to every student group whether as a student or study group leader.

He was a knowledgeable historian, low-key, informative, and inclusive, who was highly respected by everyone in our Lifelong Learning program.”

Marilyn Blumsack, Director, “remembers Miles as a kind, considerate, wise man whose easy manner, compassion, and understanding were a source of comfort and always valued, particularly as it related to University procedures, which he was well experienced with. Miles had a lilting smile that always made me feel good and often said, You’re all right in my book!”

Miles Uhrig’s time with the Tufts/Osher Life Learning Institute will be treasured and remembered. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Alumnae Lounge by Sondra Szymczak

Yes, it has been inconvenient to shuttle back and forth between Aidekman and Sophia Gordon this semester, but the disruption will have a good result. Alumnae Hall has been designated as the on-campus home of the Tufts University Alumni Association and is undergoing a top to bottom makeover. To protect this expensive undertaking, any group wanting to use Alumnae Lounge must apply to TUAA, and frequent post-event inspections will insure that parties guilty of misuse can be charged and banned.

A new hardwood floor (cherry and maple) will replace the worn parquet, and ceiling fixtures with a dimmer will replace the dated chandelier. Comfortable club chairs in the fireplace area and in each corner by the windows will create cozy conversation settings. The focus will be on the windows where a large screen will drop down for video presentations. The heating and air conditional systems have been cleaned and repaired so that our choices are no longer limited to sauna or freezer. The main feature will be conference table seating twenty-two which can be reconfigured into smaller units to accommodate our early morning coffee drinkers. Stacking chairs and folding tables will make Lunch and Learn more comfortable for all.

Cabinets in the new kitchen will provide a secure space for Osher LLI’s coffee makers and other “stuff,” so we can say goodbye to the Green Room at last. As a special gift to us, there will be a refrigerator; this took much discussion since the men in charge of the project needed to be convinced that it is indeed necessary. Construction should be complete by mid April, but the furniture will not be in place until May. Worth waiting for? - Yes, indeed!

Osher Members Invited

Alumni Weekend at Tufts will be May 15-18, 2008, and Osher members are once again welcome to participate.

Tufts Night at Pops will be May 15 with an all Bernstein program. Seats in the second balcony are $25.00, the pre-Pops Buffet at Dewick-MacPhie is $25.00, and bus service is $10.00.

Super Seminars will be conducted Friday and Saturday and a complete list will soon be available.

For reservations phone 1-800-THE-ALUM (1-800-843-2586) or http://www.tufts.edu/alumni/c-reunion.html

Fall 2008 Session
Sept 8 - Nov 3, 2008
Save the Dates
Out Stealing Horses by Per Patterson.

I am going to be audacious and say this book is a gem. The book is not plot driven and reveals its complex characters in a leisurely manner. The story takes place in rural Norway close to the Swedish border. The time is during and after WWII. Trond, a young teenager, and his father live in a cabin in rural Norway. He has a friend Jon with whom he gets into mischief. One day Jon comes and asks Trond to go “out stealing horses.” They go to the largest landowner in the area, climb the corral fence, and ride his horses. Trond’s father asks where he has been and is told he was out stealing horses. His father is surprised as this was the password used by the Resistance during the Nazi occupation.

One day Jon left his hunting rifle unattended for a moment while watching his twin brothers. In the moment he was gone, Lars, with a young child’s curiosity, picked up the rifle, shoots it and accidentally kills his twin brother. The next day at the funeral, Jon and Trond exchange glances and Trond understands that he will never see his friend again. That summer Trond also suffers the loss of his father who has gone to Sweden with Jon’s mother.

Years later, after losing his beloved wife in an accident, Trond, who is 67 years old, moves back to the secluded mountain area of his youth.

One evening, his neighbor shares a dinner with Trond and says, “I know who you are.” The past comes rushing back. The neighbor is Lars. It takes him back to the part of his past he wished to forget. On another evening Trond comes back from a walk with his faithful dog and finds his daughter Ellen, who had searched for him after he left for the mountains. She asks why he left without letting her or her sister know where he was going. They have an intense discussion that leads to the beginning of a new closeness.

Per Petterson, a Norwegian author, has received many awards including the 2007 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, one of the most prestigious. He is a minimalist and an atmospheric writer. He differentiates between loneliness and solitude. In this remarkable and beautiful book he addresses, as Jonathan Keates writes in his review, the problems of “bridging the gulf between our present selves and our former lives.” Be forewarned, once you begin reading this novel, you will find it difficult to put it down.

Amy Rubin Joins New Tricks Improv Troupe
by Joyce Ananian

“This could be fun,” was Amy Rubin’s thought as she enrolled in the Osher LLI Improvisational Acting study group led by Michael Martin at Brookhaven. Guiding the group in his gentle and encouraging manner, Michael created, in Amy’s words, “the greatest playperiod” Members engaged in common improv exercises. Participants were asked to give a monologue or enact a scene based on a word chosen randomly from the dictionary. These scenarios allowed group members to engage with words and sharpen their language skills.

Amy’s fine work in the class prompted Michael to invite her to try out for New Tricks, an improv performance troupe. Now Amy is a member of the only over-50 improv troupe in the Boston area. They are scheduled to perform on May 2 at the Arsenal Center for the Arts. Amy particularly enjoys having a new group of people with whom to interact and learning to think in a different way. Trying things that interest her has provided a new balance in Amy’s life. Asked if she is nervous about performing, Amy replies “What’s the worst thing that can happen? So they laugh.”

Victorian Bookends Trip: Travel to worlds of Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy
September 7 - 14, 2008

Like bookends on an age, Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy reflect two widely different world views and showcase the culture that is most characteristically Victorian England. In conjunction with the TUAA Travel/Learn program we have arranged an outstanding travel adventure for up to twenty people. This exciting tour is an opportunity to experience the worlds of Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy with a group of friends from Osher LLI at Tufts. Travel with Dot Dudley, one of our most honored and popular study group leaders who led a vibrant group to Bronte Territory in April 2007 and to Shakespeare Country in December 2007.

Contact the Osher LLI office for details: 617-627-5885
On the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, the Fares Center at Tufts University, assembled an impressive array of distinguished speakers to address the broader question of “The United States and the Middle East: What Comes Next After Iraq”? The March 27-28 conference, held at the Cabot Intercultural Center, was sponsored by the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, in conjunction with the Fletcher School and other Tufts programs.

Lee H. Hamilton, Co-Chair of the influential Iraq Study Group and Vice-chair of the 9/11 Commission, delivered the keynote address on “Iraq: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond.” Mr. Hamilton commented critically on the shallowness of the domestic discourse and debate currently taking place in the U.S. on Iraq. He further took to task the lack of strategic content in today’s national debate on Iraq, the highly partisan nature of the debate, and underscored the importance of bringing about a unity of national purpose.

Mr. Hamilton pointed out that the Iraq War is now longer than either world war the United States fought in the 20th century. He also expressed his dismay that Iraq’s political leaders, despite the breathing spell created by the success of the surge by American forces over the past year, have squandered the opportunity to bring about national reconciliation.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Hamilton emphasized that the military alone cannot solve the problems of Iraq, that the United States needs a responsible exit plan rather than a precipitous withdrawal, and that a major reason for continuing the American presence in Iraq is to avoid a calamitous defeat in this critical region of the world. Finally, in response to a question, Mr. Hamilton stated his firm belief that the primary reason for going into Iraq in the first place, was “not oil,” “not Israel,” but to “take out Saddam Hussein” for national security reasons.

On the second day of the conference, Retired General Anthony Zinni was the featured speaker, addressing the question of lessons learned from the Iraq War. General Zinni, formerly commander-in-chief of the U.S. Central Command for the Middle East, condemned the failure of strategic thinking that entered into the decision to invade Iraq and the lack of detailed plans to occupy and govern Iraq once Saddam Hussein was ousted from power.

General Zinni identified two of the initial blunders committed by the Bush Administration, such as disbanding the Iraq Army at a time when it was needed to maintain order and security after Baghdad was captured and the fighting ended—also, the de-Baathification of government, purging competent and essential career officials not closely tied to the regime.

General Zinni urged the reinstatement of the “Powell Doctrine” before the United States again commits to the exercise of military force anywhere in the world. The Doctrine, named after General Colin Powell in the aftermath of the first Gulf War, called for the exercise of overwhelming force once the United States decides to go to war, to terminate the conflict quickly and decisively as was done in 1991. Both a clearly defined political objective and a clear-cut exit strategy are also central to the exercise of the Powell Doctrine before the nation decides to go to war.

The consensus that seemed to emerge from the array of speakers is that as ill-advised as the invasion might have been, a precipitous withdrawal could have even more devastating consequences for Iraq and the entire Middle East region.
Osher 2008 Spring Reception has Irish Theme
by Ken Fettig, Chair of Executive Committee

On Sunday, March 16 Osher LLI at Tufts and Brookhaven combined to celebrate the opening of the 2008 Spring Session with an evening of great food and entertainment in Brookhaven’s function room. The theme of course was Irish and over 130 people joined together to enjoy a wonderful buffet meal and to hear and sing along with an Irish balladeer, Paddy Homan and his accompanist, Don Wessels on the guitar. They sang and recounted many familiar songs but also many traditional Irish songs highlighting aspects of Ireland’s rich history and culture such as The Rising of the Moon, Four Green Fields, Jamesy Gannon’s March, and The Wild Colonial Boy. Paddy Homan has a rich tenor voice and he visibly moved the crowd. One feature of the evening was a lovely duet by Paddy with Lynne Romboli, also an accomplished singer. Lynne is Director of Resident Services and Brookhaven liaison with Osher LLI. Everyone left smiling and well fed.

Field Trip to Massachusetts Historical Society

Members of The Presence of the Past: History and Memory study group were given a private tour at the Massachusetts Historical Society on April 2.

“Summer Serendipity” Program Begins on June 10
by Fran Lanouette, Curriculum Committee Chair

The 2008 summer program, with the theme, “Summer Serendipity,” will offer something for everyone: art, literature, politics, tours of Boston’s waterfront, and a special program for Baby Boomers. This year the program is scheduled for four days over a two-week period: June 10, June 12, June 17 and June 19. Not having to commit to four straight days as in the past will make it more accessible to more people.

We are sure the variety of offerings will have broad and enthusiastic appeal. Two study groups will meet on all four days: “A Treasury of Ghost Stories” and “Landscape Painting on Location.” A one-day study group will explore the DeCordova Museum’s Sculpture Garden with a morning introduction at Brookhaven and a field trip to the garden in the afternoon. There are three two-day offerings: “Nature Through Literature and Art,” “Your Vote Counts,” focusing on local government one day and national elections the second, and “On the Waterfront,” walking the Greenway to the ICA and Federal Courthouse one day and touring Spectacle Island the second.

The second annual Boomer Workshop offers participants a three-day self-assessment and investigation of options for the next stage of life and a one-day opportunity to practice and develop relaxation and stress management techniques. The three-day session, entitled “Boomers at the Crossroads: What to Do With the Rest of Your Life,” will be conducted by Charlene Martin, a certified retirement coach. The fourth day of the workshop, “Creating Calm in Your Life,” will be conducted by Rivka Simmons, an expert in meditation and stress reduction. The Boomer Workshop has been scheduled from 4-6 p.m. to accommodate boomers who are still working.

Anyone who cannot attend all of a study group’s sessions should contact the Osher office at 617-627-5885 for special attendance and payment arrangements as appropriate. While “Boomers at the Crossroads,” designed as a three-day experience, does not lend itself to partial attendance, “Creating Calm in Your Life” could be a single registration.

We hope that the variety of offerings and scheduling flexibility will encourage a record turnout for this year’s summer program. For a copy of the program for yourself or to be sent to a friend, contact the Osher office. We look forward to seeing you starting on June 10.
BROOKHAVEN EVENTS

MAY, 2008

May 1 Classical Concert: David Kim (piano) and Lauren Basnay (violin) (7:30 pm)
May 5 Semafor Lecture: Dr. Sylvia Feinburg Topic: Child Development (10:30 am)
May 6 Lecture/Service: Rabbi H. Jaffe Passover Thoughts for all in Modern Times (11:30 am)
May 8 Wellness Works Lecture: Dr. Robert Carey Memory Loss (2:00 pm)
May 8 Lecture: Anne Smiddy Growing Up with War (8:00 pm)
May 12 Semafor Lecture: Dr. Betsy Williams - The Development of the Heart (10:30 am)
May 13 Jane Blair Art Lecture: Monet and Renoir (11:00 am)
May 14 Brookhaven Lecture: Al Merck - Topic: TBA (8:00 am)
May 16 Clean Sweep Yard Sale (10:00 am to 2:00 pm)
May 18 BSO Concert: BoYoup Wang (violin) (2:30 pm)
May 20 Slide-Lecture: Gary Pell - Ancient Silk Road (8:00 pm)
May 21 Jack Craig Music Program - Decades of Music: The 60’s (7:30 pm)
May 22 Habitat Program with Barbara Bates - Flowers and Polinators (1:00 pm)
May 28 Brookhaven Lecture: Sol Gittleman - Topic: TBA (8:00 pm)
May 29 Hearth Presentation: Home at Last - Housing the Elderly Homeless (7:30 pm)

JUNE, 2008

June 4 Vocal Concert: The Mastersingers (7:30 pm)
June 5 Lecture/Live Demo with Maya Ruettger-Craciana, naturalist.
  Topic: Amulet - A Survivor’s Story (7:30 pm)
June 10 Jane Blair Art Lecture: Goya (11:00 am)
June 10 Classical Concert: Joel LaRue Smith, pianist (7:30 pm)
June 11 Brookhaven Lecture: Kin Williams - Immigration Politics (8:00 pm)
June 12 Habitat Program: Barbara Bates - More Buzz (1:00 pm)
June 12 Concert: Rebecca Hayden and Karen Bell (vocals), Bonnie Anderson (piano) (8:00 pm)
June 18 Jack Craig Music Program. Topic: The Story of Swing (7:30 pm)
June 19 Classical Concert: Jillian Zack (piano) (7:30 pm)
June 25 Brookhaven Lecture: Leila Fawaz - Topic: TBA (8:00 pm)
June 26 4-Hand Piano Concert: Bonnie Anderson and Donna Gross Javel (8:00 pm)

Subject to Change