Jayson Brodie Elected Executive Board Chair

Jayson Brodie (B.S., Tufts; MBA, BU) is the newly elected Executive Board Chair for the Tufts Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, taking over from Ken Fettig, the founding father of the Tufts Institute, who has held that position since 2000.

Jayson has been part of the Tufts LLI program since 2000, enrolling in a study group during the program’s first semester. Since then he has been an active volunteer. His interest in finance led him to become a 2002 Study Group Leader for Basics of the Stock Market. He is the former Chair of the Curriculum Committee and a member of the Executive Board. Service in these roles has given him the opportunity to observe the quality of our program from various vantage points. He brings to his new position skills honed during more than forty years of work as an engineer in the military-industrial complex.

In a recent interview, Jayson spoke about the greatest challenges for our program, its greatest strengths, as well as his goals for his two-year term. Jayson is celebrating the Institute’s enormous growth in members and study groups. He is looking forward to dialogue with members to guide our program’s growth in new directions.

Jayson notes that the recently awarded $1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation, with its accompanying $50 thousand bridge grant, it provide the impetus for the program to become self-supporting. To that end, the Executive Board has authorized a fundraising campaign. Tufts University has generously offered the assistance of its expert staff to provide the program with tools to conduct the effort.

Jayson warmly applauds Marilyn Blumsack, Lynne Romboli, Ken Fettig, and others who have nurtured the partnership between Tufts Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Brookhaven at Lexington. He feels that conducting classes at Brookhaven meets the needs of its residents as well as offering increased choices to the membership as a whole.

One of our more exciting developments in Jayson’s view is the formation of EDventures under the leadership of Bob Wohlgemuth. EDventures provides an opportunity for members to select one or more activities to enjoy outside of the classroom, increasing links among members. Currently our members enjoy a Book Club, Dine-Out Club, History Club, Movie Group and an On-Line Book Club.

The members of Tufts University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute have much to look forward to under the leadership of Jayson Brodie.

by Joyce Ananian
**Director’s Corner**

**You Need To Know!**

We received the $1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation but that meant a staff reduction. Why? Well, for the past three years we received $100 thousand annually and with the endowment we will receive only 5% annually or $50 thousand.

What this means is that we need you more than ever to step up to the plate and help out. The Fund Raising Committee will be getting in touch with you about donations or gifts, but we also need you to volunteer on a committee of your choice, help us here in the office with mailings, become a study group leader, or perhaps test the waters giving a workshop or a Lunch and Learn presentation. Whatever works for you will work for all of us. Let’s talk….call me please and we can meet and talk about any of the above at any time…it is all up to you.

Just a little “I love you”… to the most wonderful people who ever happened to me. My Bob was loved by so many folks throughout his lifetime and his passing leaves a huge hole in my life and the lives of many others.

I want you all to know that filling that void is working with people like you who care and who want to make a difference. You’re all so outstanding starting with Lisa and Robyn!

With love,
Yours for Osher,

Marilyn Blumsack, Director

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**REMEMBERING BOB BLUMSACK**

Longtime Medford City Solicitor Robert J. Blumsack, Bob, died June 26. Rarely in the spotlight at Tufts Osher LLI, but nonetheless he was a fixture in the earlier years when we were known as TILL. His participation in and dedication to TILL stemmed from his loyalties to his undergraduate alma mater, Tufts University.

Bob graduated from Somerville High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Navy the very next day at the age of seventeen. He was holed up in a foxhole during a monsoon in Okinawa when he first learned of his acceptance at Tufts. As soon as he finished his tour of duty and returned home, Bob enrolled in Tufts. In 1949, after only three years of study, Bob graduated from Tufts with majors in biology and chemistry. Partially on a whim and partially to follow in his family’s long line of Blumsack attorneys, Bob applied to and attended Boston University Law School. This thrust him into a thirty-eight year long career in the City of Medford Law Department: first as an assistant City Solicitor from 1964 to 1983 and as City Solicitor from 1983-2001. His city job was part time, and he also maintained a private office in Somerville’s Magoun Square. He lived in Medford for more than fifty years and held various positions in the community.

A raconteur, joke-teller who spread good humor at City Hall, Robert J. Blumsack is remembered by city officials and friends of former City Solicitor for his love of law and his wonderful sense of humor:

*Bob’s sense of humor is legendary. He was a good friend and close colleague. He will be missed. He was very well respected and very affable. Bob was very conscientious as City Solicitor; he was very committed to the job and he loved City Hall and all the employees. He had a full life.*
Profiles of Osher Leaders by Fred Laffert Jr.

Fran Lanouette

Fran Lanouette and her two sisters were born in Manchester, New Hampshire, and attended public schools there. She notes that her parents encouraged the idea of trying and participating in activities and that she and her sisters had a very active childhood. One activity that generated a lifelong interest was swimming, in which she still participates. During high school, she found that she loved Latin and decided then that she wanted to be a Latin teacher. This was to prove prophetic.

After high school, Fran entered Tufts, graduating in 1970 as a Classics major. Along with Latin, she developed an interest in Greek. After graduation, she began to teach Latin and French in Reading, eventually spending eighteen years there. During this time, she returned to Tufts and received her Masters degree in 1988, thus becoming a double Jumbo. She moved then to Winchester as Director of Foreign Languages and Latin teacher, remaining there until retiring in 2006.

The thirst for activity first learned in her youth led Fran to Tufts Osher LLI and she took her first course in the fall of 2006. It was not long before she was active in other parts of the organization, becoming first a member of the Curriculum Committee, and later that same year, its Chair, a position she still holds. More recently, she led her first study group, Myth Interpretations: Greco-Roman Mythology in Art in the 2008 Winter Session. She is a member of the Executive Board and active in EDventures.

Fran has always loved to explore Boston and serves as an official tour guide in Boston on bus tours and for Boston by Foot. She also remains active in the professional Foreign Language Associations that she belonged to when teaching. Her other hobbies include swimming, skiing, and cooking. She has taken several Travel and Ski trips.

Bob Zieve

Bob Zieve was born and grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. He attended local public schools through high school and entered Brooklyn Polytechnic to study Electrical Engineering, graduating with a BSEE.

After graduation, he first worked at Sperry Gyroscope in New York for four years, beginning a career in the electronics industry that principally involved government and defense electronics. He moved next to RCA, beginning in New York and later moving to Camden, New Jersey. During this period, he began working on an MSEE degree at the University of Pennsylvania, which he completed after several years when he was working for Honeywell. Among his projects during his tenure at RCA was operating as the Site Installation Manager of a secure telephone system for NORAD, then in Colorado Springs.

After nine years at RCA, Bob moved to Honeywell where he remained for twenty-four years. It was during this time that he both finished his masters degree and moved to Massachusetts. When Honeywell closed that operation, he moved to KeyBank and remained with them until retirement.

After retirement, Bob found himself looking for some intellectual pursuits. He started attending Lifelong Learning classes at BC and remained in that program for three semesters. At that point, he saw a Tufts Till catalog and found selections that he liked. He began taking classes and has remained with the program ever since. He has served on the Curriculum Committee and has been a classroom assistant. He also has led a study group, A History of the U.S. Supreme Court, three times, most recently in the spring of 2007.

Bob has been married to his present wife for twenty-two years. Each of them has three children and several grandchildren, making for a large extended family. For other outside activities, he plays tennis twice a week, enjoys playing bridge, and serves on the board of his condo association.

Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients 2003-2008

Sondra Szymczak 2003
Ken Fettig 2004
Mel Prague 2005
Marilyn McCaffrey 2006
Maralyn Segal 2006
Marie Murray 2007
Angela Paison 2007
Bob Wohlgemuth 2007
*Fred Laffert Jr. 2008

*See page 5 for article on 2008 Award Recipient
It has been a wonderful year for the Tufts University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. We have exceeded our goals for the number of courses and workshops offered, and increased our social activities such as travel and EDventures. The quality and variety of our offerings have caused our membership to grow to new highs.

Our Lifelong Learning Institute has been recognized by the National Osher Foundation as a cutting edge leader in learning technology for our innovative and varied programs. We are pleased that the National Osher Foundation has seen fit to reward us with a $1 million endowment that will generate income for our operating expenses from now on. While this is great news, it also represents a challenge.

The process for obtaining the endowment began three years ago, and included grants from Osher of $100 thousand each year to fund the Institute’s growth towards qualification. Obviously that money was used efficiently since we exceeded the qualifications and greatly improved our program. The endowment means an end to the annual grants leaving us with income from the endowment of only $50 thousand annually, a decrease of $50 thousand.

It has long been the goal of the Institute and Tufts University for us to be financially independent, self-supporting, and not a financial burden to the University. (Note: Tufts will provide free classroom and office space as well as security and on-campus transportation.) Since our inception, we have run a deficit and depend on the University to support staff wages and other expenses. As we grow, our expenses will grow at a rate that cannot be covered by tuition alone. As Chair of the Finance Committee, I have asked Maralyn Segal to join me in an effort to raise funds through donations to the Tufts University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The money raised will be used to:

- Cover the expenses of our volunteer Study Group Leaders
- Continue to support the honoraria for Tufts Scholars
- Increase our infrastructure to provide the level of support for a program of our size and scope
- Become self-supporting and not an expense to the university.

You will be hearing more about this fund raising in the future. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or Maralyn Segal, or anyone else on the Executive Committee.

Sam Brown  Maralyn Segal

The Institute's membership voted unanimously to amend its Bylaws at the Annual Meeting held on June 13, 2008. The changes accomplished three main purposes:

1. Updating the Institute’s existing name to satisfy Tufts University policy. The organization is now known as the Tufts University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

2. Formally recognizing the Institute’s affiliation and learning partnership with Brookhaven at Lexington.

3. Creating the new position of Chair Emeritus on the Executive Board, to be occupied this year by Ken Fettig, the outgoing founding Chair.

In a nutshell, bylaws are the rules guiding the mission, membership, and governing board of the Institute. At this point in the Institute's young life, the Bylaws have proved to be a flexible working document to govern the affairs of the organization.

Sam Brown  Maralyn Segal
**Book Reviews by Tania B. Friedman**

**Divisadero by Michael Ondaatje**

Anna, one of the characters in Michael Ondaatje’s *Divisadero*, informs us that “We live with those retrievals from childhood that coalesce and echo throughout our lives, the way shattered pieces of glass in a kaleidoscope reappear in new forms and are songlike in their refrains and rhymes, making up a single monologue. We live permanently in the recurrence of our own stories, whatever story we tell.”

Anna is the daughter of a farmer in Northern California. Her sister Claire was adopted by her father when her own mother died in childbirth and no one claimed her. At the beginning of the book, they are eleven years old and live on the farm with their father and Coop, the hired hand who is only a few years older than the girls. The girls are mostly left to grow up on their own. Coop is the one to whom they go to complain or when they need to talk. Both girls idolize him. When Anna is sixteen, her father discovers her and Coop in an amorous position. In his fury he beats Coop and takes Anna away. Claire, aware of Anna and Coop’s love, does not know where her father and Anna have gone. Coop leaves. The family is shattered and we continue with the individual stories of Claire, Coop, and Anna.

In the second part of the book, Anna has become a writer and is researching the author Lucien Segura and is living in France where she is renting the last home Segura lived in. She learns that Segura had given up his fame as a respected poet and wrote lesser stories under a pseudonym in order to reclaim himself, much as she has had to do.

*Divisadero* is a character driven novel, and someone reading for plot will be disappointed. All the characters have pasts that are challenging. The story is written from so many different points of view that we are left with some ambiguity. This allows one’s imagination free to roam in many directions, raising a range of issues. How do we act in extreme situations? What is memory and what is its significance? How is the past related to what we become?

This latest novel by the author of *The English Patient* is not for those of us who cannot live with ambiguity and want stories that are conclusive in their telling. My feeling is that this novel is like a tree with many roots. Some are deep; some are not. We do not know where they end, and many remain mysterious. As one keeps reading more is revealed but never all. If you enjoy beautiful writing and complexity, this is the book for you.

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**Fred Laffert Presented**

**2008 Volunteer Recognition Award**

Fred Laffert received the 2008 Volunteer Recognition Award at the Annual Meeting held in Carmichael Hall on June 13, 2008. Fred was presented a crystal plaque by Ken Fettig, Executive Board Chair. Marilyn Blumsack, Director, congratulated Fred saying: This award is an opportunity for us to say thank you to those who play an invaluable role in helping us achieve our mission. A volunteer's commitment of time and talent is crucial to the strength and vitality of our program. Thank you Fred for your commitment and devotion.

Fred has been an active member of our LL Institute since 2002 and is always the willing volunteer. He is an Executive Board Member, Chair of the EDventures History Group, an Osher Outlook columnist writing two member profiles per issue since 2004. He is a Study Group Leader on the Medford campus and at Brookhaven on such topics as the Silk Road, Civil War at Sea, Railroads, and Lincoln. Fred's Lincoln study group was included in the Tisch Library Lincoln exhibition proposal that won a grant from the Huntington Collection.

Previous recipients of the Volunteer Award along with Director Marilyn Blumsack form the committee that selects the award winner.
What must individuals, communities, and nations do to return the world we inhabit to levels of consumption of energy, water, resources, and food that are sustainable over the long term? This is the subject of Ned Spang’s Tufts Osher LLI study groups: Rescuing an Ailing Planet Parts I and II, the first taught in the spring term of 2008, the second to be offered during the coming fall term.

Although he did not begin formal study of sustainable ecologies until he was in college, Ned grew up in an atmosphere permeated with study of the natural world: his father taught biology and his mother, oceanography and environmental studies. After graduating from Wayland High School, Ned left the family home in Carlisle for Dartmouth College, where he majored in geography and environmental studies.

Travel has greatly broadened Ned’s knowledge of the natural world. For several summers, he led educational trips for high school students to Costa Rica and Cuba. After graduating from Dartmouth in 2000, he spent a year in the Marshall Islands teaching high-school math and English. There he began to see obtaining fresh water as a serious problem not only for the inhabitants of those islands but also as an issue for much of the world’s population. Before beginning graduate work at Fletcher, Ned worked for three years with Management Sciences for Health, managing projects in the Caribbean and Latin America.

After completing an MA, Ned entered Fletcher’s Ph.D. program, which he expects to complete in the spring of 2009 with a dissertation on ensuring meaningful stakeholder participation for integrated water management, focused on Caribbean nations. After completing his graduate studies, Ned hopes to work in international water management.

Teaching his Osher study groups has given Ned the opportunity, he says, to explore a variety of topics involved in the world’s reaching sustainability and to bring the world into his classroom with his Macintosh laptop. Many of the issues discussed in the study group were vividly illustrated with slides and video clips from the Internet and with film, in particular Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth.

Ned’s class presentations were enlivened by the Baby Picture of the Week--of his first child, a son, Jonah, born March 27. Ned managed to keep himself awake and his study group lively during Jonah’s first few weeks of life—no small task for a new father.
What Study Group Leaders Are Saying

Knowing that you have all thought about becoming a Study Group Leader, I am here to give you that gentle nudge toward making a proposal for a study group. Most of our SGL’s have had no prior teaching experience and have been hugely successful. Let me share with you some insights that current and former SGL’s have offered to encourage you to make the leap into study group leadership.

- My SGL experiences have brought me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, because Osher study group members bring so much wisdom and life experience to the process. Our study sessions come as close to the classical ideal of art for art’s sake as is humanly possible. Together, we’ve enjoyed great literature, traveling as colleagues and companions on a wonderful, academic journey of discovery.

- One does learn something from taking a course, but it is nothing compared to what you get from giving a course. One learns from the students as well as from preparing the talks.

- As for stage fright, everyone experiences it. Some just cover it up better than others. In fact, I flopped big time, because of too much preparation. With a lot of support from the group members, I think I recovered and thrived.

- I became an SGL out of a longing to return, in a serious way, to the music I engaged in as a child and young adult. Since I no longer performed (and didn’t want to spend my time practicing), I thought that maybe I could combine the music I loved with the composers’ lives that I had read

- What I got back from students was way beyond what I even imagined. I learned as much as I taught and am grateful to them all for their knowledge, enthusiasm, and energy.

- I learned so many new and surprising things about a subject that I thought I knew pretty well that I realized that one of the unmentioned bonuses of being a study group leader is how much more you learn.

- It's an old saying but a true one that you don't understand a subject until you try to teach it. That, for me, was the key experience and the major pay-off. The concomitant of this is a substantially increased respect for teachers and their profession.

- If you find yourself thinking that you don’t like the selection of courses in the catalog some semester (and most of us have, at one time or another), then ask yourself: What have I contributed to make the catalog better?

You can see that SGL’s come from different perspectives and experiences to arrive at the same conclusion—study group leadership is a great experience. If you have been inspired to consider trying it for yourself you can download a proposal form from the Osher website, www.ase.tufts.edu/lli or call the office to request one to be sent to you (617-627-5699). Feel free to contact me at mfrlanlan@comcast.net or 781-391-2079 if you have any questions or concerns.

This is YOUR Osher and WE WANT YOU!

Study Group Leaders being honored at End-of-Term Luncheons. Become a Study Group Leader and Join this Group of Happy People.
## BROOKHAVEN EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2008

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>Jane Blair Art Lecture: <em>Egypt</em> (11:00 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Lecture/Live Demo: Maya Ruettger-Cruciana, <em>Small Owls Living Large</em> (7:30 pm)</td>
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<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Lecture: Professor Gary Hylander, Stonehill College Topic: TBA (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Jack Craig Music Program: Jazz Series, Session One (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Vocal Concert: Ken Leland (vintage instruments) (8:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Lecture: Hildy Cumings, Art Curator: <em>American Impressionism</em> (8:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Lecture: Peter Rand, Author - Topic: <em>Ballets Russes</em> (8:00 pm)</td>
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### OCTOBER 2008

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Lecture: Steve Reifenberg, Author - <em>Santiago’s Children – What I Learned about Life Working at an Orphanage in Chile</em> (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Workshop with James Fox, PhD: <em>The Craft of Comedy</em> (7:30 pm)</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Lecture: Melanie Hall – <em>The Great Houses of Europe</em> (8:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Jane Blair Art Lecture: <em>Cassatt and Degas</em> (11:00 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Jack Craig Music Program: Jazz Series, Session Two (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Vocal Concert: Needham Retired Men’s Club (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Lecture: Dr. George Valliant, Professor/Harvard Medical School – <em>Aging Well</em> (8:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Slide-Illustrated Lecture with Michael Perry – <em>Exploring Mysterious China and Tibet – On the Road to Mt. Everest</em> (8:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Magic Show with George Saterialle (3:30 pm)</td>
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### NOVEMBER 2008

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Vocal Concert: The Golden Tones (1:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Lecture/Live Demo: Maya Ruettger-Cruciana – <em>Turtles in Winter</em> (7:30 pm)</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Reading by Tom Fells, Author: <em>Farm Friends- From the Late 60s to the West 70s</em> (2:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Jane Blair Art Lecture: <em>Escher</em> (11:00 am)</td>
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<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Lecture: Marshall Goldman, Professor of Russian Economics (Emeritus) at Wellesley College: Topic – TBA (8:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Classical Concert: Joel LaRue Smith, pianist (8:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Jack Craig Music Program: Jazz Series, Session Three (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Lecture: Professor Gary Hylander, Stonehill College Topic: TBA (7:30 pm)</td>
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*Subject to Change*