We Never Dreamed…
By Helen-Faye Rosenblum

Those earliest days of the Academy for Lifelong Learning, when Founding Mother Gretchen Lankford unexpectedly sat next to Youthful Progenitor Steven Calvert at a CMU dinner event and hatched a legend, have been recounted often enough to have attained the stature of a Creation Myth. The difference is, these stories are true and verifiable. Founder Ted Fenton and an eloquent crew of collaborators chronicled the events vividly in *A Decade of Excellence*, the estimable documentation of our first ten years. Many early participants proudly and nostalgically register memories to this day, even as we scramble to memorialize further reminiscences while village elders are still present and capable of articulating them.

Aside from the data, though, above and beyond the stunning statistics of our phenomenal growth, in addition to the pride we’ve taken since the outset in our unique and collegial relationship with our cherished University, there are the Moments: the moments that we wish could be preserved in amber for their sweetness or their power, but that we can only hope to express, one anecdote at a time, to convey the flavor of those days.

A'umni House, our first campus headquarters, was our dungeon and our blessing. It was our home, hosted by Steve Calvert, blessed by CMU. We enjoyed the gracious surroundings of the first-floor conference parlor; endured good-naturedly our claustrophobic basement office, continued on page 8 and

Annual Meeting Kicks Off 25th Anniversary Celebration
By Rosalyn Treger

On April 19, 2017, the Annual Meeting of the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at CMU began the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of our lifelong learning program. The event began with a members’ reception, entertained by student musicians—the Owazen Duo of Juno Lin and Joshua Huang. Raja Sooriamurthi, CMU faculty member and Osher board member and study leader, introduced Provost Farnam Jahanian, who spoke warmly of the pursuit of lifelong learning and our continued on page 4 and

At Annual Meeting: Helen-Faye Rosenblum at the podium; Raja Sooriamurthi thanks Provost Farnam Jahanian, the keynote speaker, with a gift of a photo collage by Joe Shirk.

Photos by Joe Shirk

Summer 2017
From The President

Osher at CMU is well embarked on our dual celebratory year, marking the 25th anniversary of our founding as the Academy for Lifelong Learning and a decade as a leading member of the nationwide network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes. Other articles in this newsletter describe what is already underway to celebrate the successes of our past. An anniversary is an equally appropriate time to prepare for the successes of the future. Several Osher committees are working to do that.

Osher at CMU has a strategic plan that was prepared five years ago, with goals that have been updated in intervening years. We consulted with several experts on strategic planning last year, and they were unanimous that our basic plan is sound and remains relevant. Nevertheless, it is time to reexamine our goals and update them, particularly with the prospect that we may be securing new space in the foreseeable future.

Board member Jeffrey Swoger will chair a Strategic Planning Committee, which will develop a new set of goals for our organization. We believe there are good prospects for Osher at CMU to secure new space on the campus soon, as the new Tepper facility on Forbes Avenue becomes ready for occupancy. Anticipating the need for us to finance the renovation and outfitting of this space, we have set up a Capital Fund Planning Committee chaired by Board member Jane Cordisco. This committee will prepare a plan for launching a successful capital fund campaign, its timeline to be determined once we know what our exact needs will be. The committee will be working closely with members of CMU University Advancement staff who have expertise and resources that will greatly assist us.

The revised bylaws, approved at the Annual Meeting in April, establish a new standing committee, the Leadership Committee. Chaired by Vice President Alan James, this committee “is responsible for director orientation and development, publicizing opportunities for members to contribute to Osher at CMU, developing succession plans, identifying potential future leaders, and helping to engage and involve potential leaders in Osher at CMU activities.” The mission of the committee is to build a stronger cadre of potential directors and officers, ensuring that our organization continues to have robust leadership in years to come.

In the course of doing bylaws revision, last year’s Bylaws Committee realized that although Osher at CMU has a well-functioning set of committees, little is written down concerning the detailed policies and procedures followed by the committees. The Bylaws Committee offered to tackle this problem, and we enthusiastically agreed, renaming them the Policies and Procedures Committee. Under Board Member Allan Hribar’s chairmanship, this group will be working closely with the various committee chairs to develop an archive of policies and procedures to ensure that future committees do not need to spend time “reinventing the wheel.”

Finally, projecting income and expenditures over the next few years, we foresee a need to increase our income, because our expenses will grow owing to inflation even if we do not expand our operations. I have appointed a small task force to analyze future revenue sources as well as trends in expenses. This group is tasked with proposing a mix that will ensure that the organization’s annual budget remains balanced while keeping to our tradition of offering educational offerings of the highest quality at modest cost to our members.
Editor’s Note: The Winter-Spring 2008 issue of It’s All Talk featured an article titled “Ed Landerman Keeps on Dancing.” Joan Gaul interviewed Ed, prompted by his being overheard planning to take tango lessons. Joan’s article chronicled a life filled with education, professional work, and serious volunteering. As we honor pioneering study leaders as part of our 25th anniversary celebration, we wanted to hear about Ed Landerman again. Joan Morse Gordon asked Ed to reflect on that milestone for this newsletter. The following article combines excerpts from the 2008 article with those reflections.

Ed worked for Westinghouse for more than 35 years, specializing in materials and welding, primarily on the safety aspects of nuclear power plants and consulting for 3 years after retirement.

Joan Gaul found that Ed was a seasoned volunteer before our lifelong learning program came into being. His volunteer activities ranged from assisting the director of a joint Chautauqua-Soviet Union program; working with the Career Development Center of the Jewish Family and Children’s Services to find jobs for new Soviet Jewish arrivals, primarily engineers; to serving on the boards of United Mental Health and the Allegheny County Board of Public Assistance; to, with his late wife, Inkie, being among the founders of the local NEED (Negro Educational Emergency Drive). In 2008, he proudly told Joan Gaul that more than 15,000 scholarships had been awarded.

The 2008 article says, “Then came A.L.L. Ed was one of the founding members. He and Ted Fenton chaired the first Curriculum Committee. Early study groups took heavy advantage of CMU’s staff. They pulled together a group of experts to talk/teach in particular areas, primarily science and history.

A scan of study groups Ed arranged after 2000 shows a change in emphasis to art, music, and theater. These were, he explained, an attempt to put together . . . courses that would be as much to the advantage of the people teaching them as to those taking them.”

Ed’s interests weren’t all academic. For example, he was a member of the Holocaust Center and active in the organization for Parkinson’s disease, an illness his wife fought for 12 years. And he played tennis, learned tai chi, and enjoyed dancing.

Talking recently with Ed Landerman, Joan Morse Gordon found that looking over his 25 years of dedicated involvement, Ed is most proud of the hundreds of classes he organized, connecting Osher with CMU students in the areas of art, music, and theater, including his Visual Arts program in which grad students exhibit their works, and post-grads present results of their theses. CMU professors present background in class before a particular concert, followed by attendance at the concert. He created an outreach program with local theaters in which actors, directors, and playwrights would make presentations of current plays to his classes. Once, Doug Levine arrived with his piano, followed by six singers and dancers.

At 94, Ed has put tango, tap dancing, and tennis behind him, but he still takes a number of classes each semester, ranging from autism to massage, short stories, and singing. He has more time to appreciate his family, including two sets of twin grandchildren, and to reflect with satisfaction on the amazing growth of A.L.L./Osher from the original 40 to its current 2500 members.
How Do You Make A Video? ?

By Jim Reitz

Last year our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute’s Board of Directors recognized that in May of 2017 we would be entering our 25th year.

They set up a 25th Anniversary Committee. It was composed of: Linda Bischoff, chair; Anna Estop, Jeffrey Holst, Helen-Faye Rosenblum, Jim Reitz, Pat Schroder, and Doug Webster. We were told there would be many events and commemorations throughout the year, but one of the first assignments would be to make a 6-minute video celebrating our 25 years.

Wait, What?? You want us to make a video? How do you do that? Fortunately, Pat and Doug had experience doing that in their professional careers, so we began.

First we’ll need to hire a professional video production firm. After two interviews we unanimously selected Media Services, Computing Services Division, Carnegie Mellon University. Located right here on campus—how convenient. It turned out to be a GREAT choice with Paul Magalotti as our dedicated videographer.

Now we’ll need some interviews. We recruited, set up a schedule, and videoed 19 persons, including some founders, longtime study leaders, Osher members, CMU faculty, Osher Board members, Curriculum Committee members, etc.

Oh yes, we also will need to take some shots of classes and Osher events and some campus views, and we’ll need a voice-over narrative to tell the story and tie the segments together.

Pat pulled together a very long list of key facts and events from which to build that narrative. Then Pat and Jim turned those facts into a coherent narrative.

Hold on—do you mean we have to put 19 interviews, many classroom shots, Board and Curriculum Committee in action, special events, a history, and a continuing narrative into only 6 minutes? That doesn’t appear to be even remotely possible.

Paul constructed a “first draft” video. We studied it carefully. Then, Doug, Jim, and Paul huddled over Media Service’s editing equipment for two hours each time producing three new versions until we had the product we wanted.

The video was shown at our Annual Meeting. Have you seen it? If not go to the Osher website—www.cmu.edu/OSHER. On the left of the screen below the name of our lifelong learning program, click the word About. A link to the video is displayed on the right.

And there it is. You’ve got time—remember it’s only 6 minutes. You just might see yourself and certainly will spot some friends, fellow classmates, familiar classes and instructors. It’s all about YOUR Lifelong Learning Institute.

ENJOY!!

Annual Meeting Kicks Off 25th Anniversary Celebration

Continued from page 1

welcome in the university community. During the business meeting, that followed. Francine Abraham, Roslyn (Roz) Goorin, and Lee Fogarty were elected to their first terms as board members. Gary Bates and John Olmsted were elected to their second terms as board members, and President John Olmsted, Vice President Alan James, Secretary Rosalie Barsotti, and Treasurer Greg Wright were elected to their second and final terms as officers.

After the business meeting came the 25th Anniversary kickoff. The video Osher at CMU: Past, Present, and Future, whose creation Jim Reitz describes to the left, was shown and warmly received.

Following the video, Steven Calvert, a key founder of our lifelong learning program at CMU, spoke fondly about the beginnings of the program and his strong interest in learning in retirement.

From left: Les Berkowitz, Helen-Faye Rosenblum, Steve Calvert, Rochelle Steiner

photo by Joe Shirk
Founding Father Steve Calvert Recalls the Early Days, Celebrates Lifelong Learning

By Jim Reitz

Over 2,200 members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU renew their memberships each year, which is a clear way of stating, “I like and value this lifelong learning program.” But how many of those members know how it got started?

Have you ever met a person, and almost from the first “Hello,” said to yourself, “This is an impressive person. This is someone I’d like to know a lot better.” That’s what it is like to meet Steven Calvert. Mr. Calvert was a guest speaker at our April 2017 Annual Meeting. He was honored for being a key founder of what is now the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU.

Let’s start from the beginning: Once upon a time . . . No, scratch that. Mr. Calvert came to CMU from Dartmouth College, where he had been instrumental in initiating a continuing education program for their alumni, later expanded to seniors in their geographical area.

He was brought to CMU to be the Alumni Director, but to also do something that had never been done here: start a lifelong learning program for alumni and seniors in the community. It would be an alumni relations effort, but also, in part, a means of enhancing relations with the community.

CMU’s administration recognized they were in a unique situation. Immediately surrounding the

University was a large community of well-educated people, some CMU alumni, but also a great many who were graduates of a wide variety of universities.

One of the first persons he found to help was Ted Fenton. Ted had taught history at CMU for 35 years and was about to retire. He was widely trusted throughout the University, so he was in a good position to help get the program started. Their original hopes were that the program would take off and survive, and that it might grow to as many as 400 members.

But, they knew they needed some local person to really take day-to-day charge of the program and recruit others. Steve was new. He didn’t have contacts in Pittsburgh communities.

One day he attended a dinner at Margaret Morrison. By chance he ended up being seated beside a woman he did not know, and they struck up a conversation. She wanted to know what his job was at CMU. He described the program he was attempting to get started and said that he was beginning to search for a volunteer to take charge and run it.

Her name was Gretchen Lankford. Steven remembers vividly that she put her hand on his arm and said, “I’ll do it.” Steve said he could see in her eyes that she was determined. It was clear that she could and would do it.

Gretchen had already put into motion plans to sell her condo and move to California to be near her children. She told Steve, “Tomorrow morning, I am going to call my realtor and take my condo off the market.” She did, and she began working on the program as the first volunteer. She never made that move to California.

Gretchen Lankford knew a lot of key people. She recruited people like Ed Landerman and other people—who knew people, including Helen-Faye Rosenblum, Yes, that Helen-Faye, the one you probably know, who is still teaching, 25 years later, in our lifelong learning program.

Steve said, “I only recruited one other person, and I did that through a friend and CMU alum named Chuck.” Steve described to Chuck the sort of program he was in the process of starting. Chuck knew a man who was about to retire and had said that when he retired, he wanted to stay involved in some significant work.

His name was Joe Scorpion. Steven called Joe, and he said “Yes.” Joe was another major key. He became the first office manager. He created an office in the dank, continued on page 10
Pioneering Study Leaders Honored

By Jeffrey Holst

Our Study Leaders are the engine that drives the success of Osher at CMU. Without them, we would not have the wide variety of courses from art and cooking, to drama, history, science, language, and many, many more interesting and thought-provoking topics that help Osher members continue our learning and sharpen our minds.

As part of the 25th Anniversary of Osher at CMU, a plaque has been created honoring our 25 "pioneering" Study Leaders who have taught 25 or more courses. It is in the Osher display case in Wean Hall, just outside our classrooms. These honorees were part of the initial cohort of teachers who helped our lifelong learning program at CMU get off the ground, and become what is now the largest single campus chapter in the Osher galaxy!

Additional plaques will be created for more Study Leaders who have taught at least 25 courses. Check out these plaques the next time you’re in Wean Hall, and make it a point to thank our Study Leaders.

At Annual Meeting, from left: Rosemary Shirk, Mary Cay Burke-Hamml, Beatrice Jones

Photo by Joe Shirk
Marcia Frumerman, Pioneering Study Leader, Focuses on World Affairs

By Filomena Conti

About 25 years ago a small group of Carnegie Mellon University alumni met with Steve Calvert, formerly of Alumni Relations at Dartmouth, to discuss opportunities for continuing educational resources; thus was the Academy for Lifelong Learning at CMU born. Several years later this program was renamed the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

Marcia Frumerman was among the small group who started this organization.

Among the many wonderful ideas this small group had, Marcia noted, was to open participation in this organization to people of all ages. Anyone who was interested in adding to his or her educational skills was welcome to become a member.

In addition to being a founding member, Marcia is also one of the original and continuing Osher study leaders. She holds a B.S. degree in psychology from CMU and an M.Ed. degree in international education from the University of Pittsburgh. In the consulting practice she ran for over three decades, Marcia worked with various agencies of the federal government, presenting management and corporate governance-related seminars and conducting management studies.

Prior to founding her consultancy, she created and managed a Pittsburgh oral history project that resulted in the publication of two books, of which she was executive editor, and two films, for which she was the scriptwriter and oversaw the production team. The resulting compendium of oral history work is housed at Pitt’s Hillman Library and serves as a template for volunteers in other communities as to how to go about organizing and chronicling the history of its local population.

Marcia and her late husband, Bob Frumerman, raised two children, a son and a daughter. They also have a grandson and granddaughter.

We at Osher have been very fortunate to have Marcia’s continuing class on Great Decisions. The class starts with a lecture on current global issues, using the current edition of briefings from the Foreign Policy Association. During each two-hour session, Marcia presents the class with a new, real-world political challenge to analyze and come up with recommended governmental actions that could politically address the issue at hand. During her six-week course in 2017, Marcia covered issues that included the EU, the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia, Latin America, Afghanistan/Pakistan, and Nuclear Security.

What a wonderful opportunity for class members to study, learn about world problems, and discuss them; solving them is something else. Be grateful that we at Osher have the opportunity to have available the services of a first-class study leader. Thank you, Marcia.

On June 8, members of the Osher Patrons of the Arts Special Interest Group met at the Mt. Lebanon home of Cynthia and Michael Weisfield. They viewed and discussed the Weisfields’ collection of Modern Art and enjoyed refreshments and music played by CMU student musicians. Members who are interested in joining this group can send their name, phone number, email address, and area of interest/expertise to Marilyn Maiello
marilynmbmaiello@hotmail.com
We Never Dreamed
Continued from page 1

trooped up to the second floor, to
the smaller meeting rooms where
we continued to hash out our ob-
jectives, ways and means. We
talked finances. We measured our
wealth in a few nicely yielding
CDs. We never dreamed of Mr.
Bernard Osher, nor he, of us—yet.

When it came time to expand
our horizons and our real estate,
one of our next areas of dedicated
space on campus was in the now-
defunct, dogleg-shaped building
behind Cyert Hall, affectionately,
probably inaccurately, known by
some as the Student Union. Our
main classroom, on the main floor,
often carried the enticing fragrance
of Indian food from the concession
(now represented by a food truck)
down the hall. As background
music we frequently enjoyed, not
raga and sitar, but the resonant
strains of actual bagpipes. We were
thrilled and bemused to share a
building in the only university on
the continent known to offer a
bagpipe major, and we were a part
of it. We cherished contact with
members of the Pittsburgh Sym-
phony in those earliest classes in
the Drill Deck; we heard operatic
arias explained by a world-class
opera coach and occasionally sung
by a member of the Metropolitan.
We studied Swing and Jazz at the
hands of experts and aficionados. It
was all music to our ears. And that
was only one small niche in our
ever-expanding roster of classroom
offerings and beyond.

We acquired all of those first
dedicated spaces due to the support
and good offices of many friends
and sponsors within our university,
and within our own ranks. Furnish-
ing them was another matter. Two
of our founders, Lucian Caste and
Jack Feeney, were both early presi-
dents, major creative forces in our
growth, and generous men of prag-
matism, refinement, and taste.

Jack, also a paragon of a study
leader and a student as well, under-
stood the importance of comfort in
the classroom, especially for those
of us who might be a bit, well,
crackier than, say, undergraduates.
He decided to donate the necessary
chairs to the space that Lucian had
designed. One day, then, Jack
assembled a number of us of
various shapes, sizes, dimensions,
and configurations. He squeezed us
into his big boat of a Cadillac, and
betook us over to Dresbold’s Office
Supplies, where we proceeded to
try on potential classroom chairs
for size, as if they were a wardrobe.
Bottoms in chairs! Practical and
aesthetic! Before we knew it, we
had a fully furnished classroom,
and yet another bond to our sur-
roundings and among ourselves.

In those days, the late, gentle
Roland Graham worked closely
with the registrar of the university
to find the additional classroom
space of which we always needed
more. We held classes everywhere
we could, and became more closely
allied to CMU in the process. We
were, as was often pointed out, the
walking (or rolling) exemplars of
lifelong learning to the dewy-eyed
students.

The day finally and inevitably
arrived when our horizons expan-
ded again, and we and Hunt Li-
brary came into each other’s lives.
Gloriana St. Clair, who was to
become the multi-dimensional
stalwart, sponsor, and mainstay of
A.L.L. and then Osher in ways in-
imitable and previously undreamed
of, led a small contingent of us
around her library precincts, and
showed us some of the possibilities:
an office! a conference room! a
reception area! a foothold! We’d still
be ensconced in a ground floor (the
polite term), but there’d be an ele-
vator! rest rooms! such possibilities!

We have chronicled elsewhere,
and will continue to chronicle, our
gradual and often challenging
transition from an all-volunteer
operation to our current and unique
structure, Board-driven, Board-
defined organism supported by
continued on page 10
Meeting Mr. Osher
By Byron Gottfried

We could sense the excitement in the air on this warm spring day as a group of board members and past presidents gathered at the home of Michael and Sherle Berger, awaiting the arrival of our benefactor, Bernard Osher, from the airport. Mr. Osher was here to accept an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on the following day, as a part of CMU’s 2017 graduation ceremonies. The awarding of the degree came about as a result of a recommendation from the Osher at CMU Board of Directors. Mr. Osher’s selection to receive this degree has been a source of pride for all of us Osher folks.

Originally scheduled for 1:15, his arrival was delayed due to traffic from the airport. We socialized among ourselves for a while, enjoying the Bergers’ beautiful art collection, while eagerly awaiting Mr. Osher’s arrival. Around 2 p.m. the conversations died down as a few people began to whisper, “He’s here! He’s here! And then, he suddenly appeared at the Bergers’ front door, looking much as we had expected from Osher newsletter photos. He immediately began circulating and chatting with people as they introduced themselves and expressed their appreciation for his support of our program.

When my turn rolled around, our conversation was brief but memorable. I welcomed him to Pittsburgh and reminded him that his cousin, Irving Lowe, had been a member of A.L.L. and later Osher at CMU. He remembered Irving, and provided some details about their early years in Maine. During our conversation I had to resist the urge to call him Bernie. Not out of disrespect, but in response to his friendly and unassuming demeanor. He could have been the guy I would sit next to in an Osher course in Wean Hall, making small talk after class and eventually perhaps forming a lasting friendship.

After about 20 minutes, President John Olmsted called the group to order and presented Mr. Osher with a beautiful plaque—one of Joe Shirk’s wonderful Andy Warhol-style photo collages that featured Mr. Osher’s picture within a typical classroom setting. John followed that with a collective expression of thanks, on behalf of all of us, for his generous support.

Then it was Mr. Osher’s turn. He began by telling us that this was his first trip to Pittsburgh. He was glad to be here, not only to receive an honorary degree from CMU, but also because he has long been an admirer of Andrew Carnegie, particularly his extensive generosity to the community.

Mr. Osher then proceeded to tell us a bit about himself. His grandfather was a rabbi who emigrated to the United States from Russia. His family eventually settled in Biddeford, Maine, where he grew up. Following graduation from Bowdoin College, he opened and ran a large hardware store in Biddeford, as well as an amusement park in a nearby community. He later moved to California, where he became involved in banking. He was a founding director of World Savings, which eventually became the second-largest savings institution in the United States and eventually merged with Wachovia Corporation. An avid art collector, he also purchased the auction house Butterfield & Butterfield, which grew to become the fourth-largest auction house in the world. In 1977, in response to a lifelong interest in adult education and the arts, he founded the Bernard Osher Foundation. The foundation now supports over 120 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at U.S. colleges and universities. (For more information about Mr. Osher, visit the following website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Osher.)

Mr. Osher then answered a few questions from the audience, and then, as quickly as he appeared, he was gone. Off to the full schedule of events CMU had planned for him for the remainder of the weekend. We were sorry we could not have had a more formal reception for him, with an opportunity to meet more of our members, but we were thankful for this brief visit. It was a great experience, one that we will all remember fondly.
wet, unused basement of the Alumni House. He was on the first board of directors.

They began with about 40 members. When the program grew to 600 members, they had to hire staff, but they were clear that the volunteer board would be in charge. This was a new and different model from most alumni programs in the country, which were run by and under the direction of the universities.

Steve stressed, with obvious passion, that over the years he had learned that a certain percentage of people are born lifelong learners. It is like an addiction—something new and very interesting that you did not know before, and you have to . . . pause . . . for a few moments to just let it sink in, to enjoy that new knowledge. For persons like that, the new knowledge is not only something they think about—they can feel it.

That is an appropriate description of the people who become members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU, who keep coming back. Once exposed to the excitement of new things to learn, they come to expect it from every class, and they can’t live without it.

It also is true of the program’s instructors. Most of the time, they are, or in their professional lives had been, teaching 20-year-olds. Those 20-year-olds are bright but don’t bring life experience to class, and coming to class is something they do because they have to.

Once these professors, teachers, and experienced professionals are exposed to members of Osher in a class, they can’t wait to do it again.

The Osher members are there because they want to be there, and they have life experience, which they can share in class, so the instructor also learns.

How fortunate we are that Steven Calvert came to CMU when he did. That he came with the experience he had gained at Dartmouth and persisted in his goal to establish a volunteer-led lifelong learning program based at Carnegie Mellon, now in its 25th year, and now the largest lifelong learning institute on one campus in the United States, which is also often described as the best. Yes, let’s go ahead and say that — THE BEST.

We Never Dreamed
Continued from page 8

an incomparable paid, professional staff. We have also recounted, and will continue to recount, the history of the munificence of the Osher Foundation as they recognized our excellence and success, and invited us to submit proposals for the grants which we were ultimately awarded.

For the moment, though, as we reflect upon these years of growth and evolution, none of which our many efforts at Strategic Planning, with and without professional guidance, had ever quite accurately foreseen, I believe from the heart that we must: remember the moments as well as the data. We have had more friends within the university, from the office of the president across the board, than we ever could have hoped. We have had more memorable classes, lectures, trips, events, luncheons, creative output, burgeoning friendships, than a memoir can hold. But the aforementioned Jack Feeney gave us a phrase and a memory that helps to put it all together. Jack said, “There is a magic glue.” We can’t quite define it, but we feel it. It gives us a core, a mission, and communal memory. We never dreamed that our numbers would be in the thousands, our courses in the hundreds. We never dreamed of the nostalgia that would attach as our memories faded into the mists of time. But the magic glue still lingers. We always did dream of a spirit that would endure, and endure, it has.

Stories are vehicles that societies use to explain themselves to themselves and their posterity. This is a small part of ours. We hope that you will find ways to add your chapters to our story as we move through time.

With love,
Helen-Faye
Osher Members Have Many Ideas for the Next 25 Years!

By Jeffrey Holst

At our recent Annual Meeting, where we celebrated the kickoff of our 25th anniversary year, we asked members for their comments about Osher at CMU. They wrote their ideas on “sticky notes” and posted them on the door to the reception for all to view. Here is what our members said they liked . . . and what could make us even better for our next 25 years:

- I meet interesting people . . . I often meet someone in class I did not know and make a wonderful connection . . . Love the people!
- What I get from Osher is the joy of learning, the excitement of discovery.
- We need a more diverse membership.
- Need a better way to register . . . don’t like to register online . . . hard to select classes before they are filled (several comments).

In terms of additional classes, those participating said they would like to have:

- More interactive classes in non-traditional classrooms.
- Seminar classes where students can contribute to the topic, for example: living housing alternatives.
- Offer a few more one-time lectures/speakers.
- Music jam sessions . . . writing classes that are at least 8 weeks long . . . ongoing language classes to maintain skills . . . current events forum with speakers . . . more “hands-on” personal computer and smartphone classes . . . more art & drama (2 comments) . . . the history of rock n roll and evolution to rap . . . the Vietnam War . . . short stories . . . The New Yorker . . . the 1960s . . . World War I . . . Stoic philosophy.
- We need more trips. Do you have additional ideas about what we should do for the next 25 years to make Osher CMU even better? Please send your thoughts to Jeff Holst at jrholst13@gmail.com (your privacy will be protected). The appropriate board committee will get your comments, and some may be published in the Weekly Essentials.

Members’ Back-to-School Picnic

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<tr>
<th>When:</th>
<th>Monday, August 29, 2017 5:30pm-8pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where:</td>
<td>The big, white tent on the CMU Cut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>Members: $22; Guests: $30; RSVP by August 21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reservations are required. Members may register online for ID: 2152. Fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffet:</td>
<td>Picnic food: hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Entertainment by CMU Student Performances</td>
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