For President Jan Davis
Osher Is Life Changing
By Joan Morse Gordon

Her acceptance letter from Osher at CMU in 2008 changed Jan Davis’s life.

Our new president and husband Dave had spent more than two years recovering from the floods in 2004 that accompanied Hurricane Ivan and inundated Millvale, Carnegie, and particularly Heidelberg, where their family’s Wright Seafood restaurant was destroyed. Jan and her husband were the fourth generation of Wrights who owned the restaurant. Old family recipes, in-house bakery, innovative bistro plates, and, of course, fresh seafood flown in from both coasts, made it a popular neighborhood destination.

With the support of family and friends for the massive cleanup, the Davises were able to sell the restaurant and move to their cabin in the woods in the Laurel Highlands. Someone there mentioned Osher, and Jan applied. With time now to reflect and with continued on page 5

Good Food and Good Wishes Flow at Registrar Mary Cay’s Retirement Party
By Millicent Lynch

Mary Cay Burke-Hamill, our registrar for the past eight years, retired on March 30. First, I want to share some of the comments that members posted on her party invitation webpage:

Ed Landerman—REGISTRAR FOR ALL SEASONS--THE HEART OF OSHER INSTITUTE. YOU IN PARTICULAR HAVE MADE A SPECIAL DIFFERENCE FOR OUR OSHER PROGRAM; WE ALL WILL MISS YOU—HOW YOU HAVE HELPED AND YOUR JUST BEING THERE!!

Mary Heath—Here’s to a competent, gracious, lovely, and supportive person!

Janelle Waller—It was such a pleasure talking to you. I hope and pray that you enjoy your retirement to the fullest. GOD Bless.

Dodie Roskies—Now onto Broadway!

Many well-wishers came to honor Mary Cay at her retirement party on Mary 16. Over 200 members and study leaders signed up to attend, many generously helping with the catering (excellent!) and supplying paper products. From beautiful fruit, to an assortment of cheeses, dips, salads, meatballs, hors d’oeuvres, brownies, mini-cheesecakes, cookie pops and cookies, there was sufficient food to fill everyone’s plates—plus seconds. Joe Shirk assembled a slide continued on page 5

Save the Date!
October 1, 2012
See back page for more information

Summer 2012
From the President

By Jan Davis

So many courses, so little time! One of the most relaxing evenings I spent recently was sitting with a yellow highlighter in hand, a cup of coffee, and the latest Osher course catalogue.

After reading the course descriptions and marking potential offerings, I go back and review. After eliminating all the courses that meet on the same day and same time, I am left with no fewer than 20 classes! I want to take them all. This is what is so wonderful about our program. So many courses, so little time! Of course, reality sets in, and I know that I have to leave time for meetings and my husband.

So onto the first meeting! Our new board members attended their first board meeting recently, and I am looking forward to working with everyone on the board, including new members Brian Weller, Leslie Evans, Carl Hohnbaum, Fritz Okie, Paul Caswell, and Michael Driver. The transition of offices has been quite smooth. Byron Gottfried is our new treasurer and has been working with the former treasurer, Joe Shirk, for some time now. Gloria Bodek has graciously agreed to stay on as secretary, and Joe Shirk has transitioned from treasurer to vice president. What a great group of people to work with!

Betsy Martin has done a wonderful job as president, and many of the committees that she initiated (Fundraising, Strategic Planning, Investment, and 20th Anniversary Celebration) continue to meet regularly. I have been briefed by all the chairpersons and continue to be impressed with their dedication and breadth of expertise.

The Fundraising Committee was charged with providing a means to sustain the financial future of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon. The Osher Foundation continues to encourage us to look for additional ways to sustain our program financially. The Annual Fund drive has been successful, thanks to the generosity of our members. A legacy brochure has been designed and will be mailed shortly. Supporting OLLI through generous donations will be at the heart of our success. I encourage you all to consider supporting our organization. Your enthusiasm for the programs, classes, and events says much about your commitment to OLLI.

The Strategic Planning Committee is meeting to discuss the impact of a growing membership, limited space for classes on campus, the budgetary impact of increased off-campus rental costs, and overall future financial stability. These are all important issues that need careful consideration. We all look forward to their report.

The 20th Anniversary Committee has set Monday, October 1, 2012, for an evening celebration! Reserve that date and join us for a look back on 20 years here on Carnegie Mellon’s campus.

Our office staff is assessing the feasibility of online registration software to streamline the registration process of 150 classes for 2,000 members. In the meantime, you can now pay online for your classes and your annual membership dues. We hope you will take advantage of this feature on our website.

As we consider ways to continue to grow our offerings and events, we are always looking for member input. Please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members with suggestions. We are here to be your voice.

Looking forward to a great year! See you in class!

New board members, from left: Paul Caswell, Fritz Okie, Brian Weller, Michael Driver, Carl Hohnbaum, Leslie Evans
V.P. Joe Shirk Brings Many Talents to Osher

By Diana Yankes

Joe Shirk (Industrial Economics, Purdue University) sharpened his skills in sales and market analytics during his corporate career at Quaker Oats.

Recently, during his two terms as Osher treasurer, Joe initiated the Plaid Fund: a plan to gradually shift funds from minimal-interest savings to a low-risk investment portfolio. The process deepened his appreciation for our “well-run, inexpensive” program.

Interviewed in May, just after his first board meeting as vice president, Shirk said his top priorities are future growth: what we can do to expand capacity and get people off the waiting list, and what we need to build an endowment fund for future generations of students. Joe’s corporate sales experience comes through clearly when he speaks of assembling a team to help guide the board into new areas of financial management, and how his teammate, new President Jan Davis, is an innovator—like himself.

For R&R, Joe switches gears to a more free-spirited lifestyle—whether watercolor painting (a skill he discovered in an Osher class), or traveling with his wife and their beloved dog, or taking photographs. In fact, Joe is our Osher photo archivist, keeping a large collection of snapshots on a Picasa webpage. He invites all to add their own photos of Osher events to the e-gallery. Contact josshirk@gmail.com for the address to the site.

“From Bit to Terabyte: Wading through the Digital Surf”

By Leslie Evans

“It’s harder and harder to stump Osher students,” observes Charlie Humphrey. Ten years ago when Charlie started teaching his digital media class, many students neither understood nor used email. In 2012, they use it daily. “Wow, you guys are finishing my sentences for me,” he complimented the class on several occasions.

Although this year’s group “wowed” Charlie with their senior savvy about thumb drives, not one Osher class member tweets!

Other digital facts about class participants:

100% had viewed something on YouTube.

100% have purchased from Amazon.

85% have wireless Internet. (Charlie, wanting no dead zones in his house, has three repeaters so that he can print from any room in his house.)

50% of the class have sent and received texts.

50% of the class have bought tickets on Fandango.

25% of the class have used Skype.

Only one person had posted a video to YouTube.

Only one person was connected to The Cloud.

Only one person knew that Second Life was a virtual reality site.

Only one person knew that a “hashtag” was used for tweeting.

No one knew about Bing, Ping, Pinterest, Kickstarter, or Indi Gogo.

No one was an active participant on LinkedIn because most of us are trying to avoid getting jobs.

New to all of us in the class was Klout, which measures a person’s percentage of influence on the Internet. If people read your posts on Facebook, your blogs or your tweets, you might have a Klout rating. An average person will have a score of 20. Charlie’s score is 52.26.

Have you seen RSS on your continued on page 7
Meet Lyn Decker, Our New Registrar
By Leslie Evans

This spring Lyn Myslinski-Decker, Osher’s new registrar, learned that “Registrar is a short title for a big job!” Not only is she faced with the continual challenge of booking ever more classes for our members, but she is also busy with meeting the day-to-day registration needs of the organization.

“Osher is a terrific organization, populated with the most wonderful people. I find myself always laughing!” Lyn remarked as we sat down for this interview. “I understand why the Osher program at CMU is one of the most successful, as the volunteers are dedicated and diligent in their tasks of helping to run the organization.”

She states that her biggest challenge is trying to remember everyone’s name, to put all of the faces and names together, and to not offend someone in the meantime. “Maybe by Thanksgiving I’ll have it down!”

Outside of the Osher office, Lyn’s passions are gardening and her family. (Her most recent position was as director of development and membership for a Pittsburgh non-profit.) Her husband, Joseph P. Decker, is a Pittsburgh attorney who is a co-founder of the Collaborative Law Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Her son, Trevor, just finished his freshman year in engineering (ECE) at CMU. On top of his demanding course work he currently works both as a mentor for CMU’s Girls of Steel Robotics Team and in one of CMU’s robotics labs.

Osher Members Enjoy an Evening With Rob Marshall
By Filomena Conti

Osher members were invited to a CMU event to hear Rob Marshall, Emmy and Academy Award-winning alumnus of Carnegie Mellon, on March 23 at the Chosky Theater. Among the Osher members attending were many who remembered Rob from his growing-up days in Squirrel Hill when their sons and daughters claimed him as a playmate and friend.

During his talk, Rob mentioned that he attended Taylor Allderdice and Falk schools and how much he enjoyed growing up in Pittsburgh. He gave credit to his father, who had been adopted and wanted to make certain his son had a good childhood.

A very pleasant, at-ease speaker, Rob told us that while at CMU, he danced in the musical Chorus Line. He started his career as a dancer, then was a dance captain and choreographer in musical theater, and from there became a director, choreographer, and producer of musicals, movies, and television shows. Among his best-known movies are award-winning Chicago (2002), Nine (2009), and Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011). Together these films grossed more than one billion dollars at the box office.

Rob mentioned that a German director once told him that everyone in a production was there to serve the director. Rob’s philosophy is that he is there to serve everyone. He believes an actor or director must leave his ego outside the door.

Rob directed Nine (a take on Fellini’s 8 1/2) and remembered seeing, for the first time, actress Sophia Loren coming through the doorway—a gorgeous brunette and much taller than he had thought. Sometime later while attending an award ceremony, she was seated next to him and commented how honored she was to be in the presence of so many important people.

Following his talk, there was a reception in the theater lobby, where Rob again appeared and enjoyed talking with the parents of his childhood friends.

No doubt about it, this was one of the “perks” of being a member of Osher.
Osher Is Fulfilling for Secretary Gloria Bodek
By Sylvia Sachs

When Gloria Bodek became secretary of Osher last year, it was her first time as secretary of a large organization’s board but followed many years of serving in a variety of jobs on boards of agencies in her career field of human services.

A native of Altoona, Gloria married in 1951 and moved to Clearfield, Pa., where she raised her three sons. She enrolled at Penn State when her youngest son was six and earned her degree from the College of Human Development in 1976.

When she was widowed in 1985 after 33 years of marriage, Gloria moved to Pittsburgh in 1986. She continued working in positions in her chosen field, for example, as the nursing home administrator at Canterbury Place in Lawrenceville.

She and fellow Osher member Dr. Alvin Bodek were married in 1999. They joined Osher about 10 years ago, and both agree they have found their activities as members fulfilling and pleasurable.

Byron Gottfried: Teacher, Student, Drummer—Now Osher Treasurer
By Joe Scorpion

Byron Gottfried was born in Detroit but grew up in Rochester, New York. He has degrees in chemical engineering from Purdue University, the University of Michigan, and Case-Western Reserve University (formerly Case Institute of Technology).

Byron originally came to the Pittsburgh area to work for Gulf Research, though he spent most of his working career at Pitt as a professor of industrial engineering.

A few years after retiring, Byron joined the Osher program at CMU (then A.L.L.). He gradually became involved in teaching computer classes and serving on the Curriculum Committee, in addition to taking classes in many different areas. He now serves as treasurer of our Osher program as well as Curriculum Committee coordinator.

Byron’s interests include reading, listening to jazz, bicycling on the local bike trails, playing with computers, dabbling in digital photography, and playing the drums in two community bands. He also spends as much time as he can with his two grandchildren, who live in the area.

President Jan Davis continued from page 1

the Osher acceptance in hand, Jan realized that she had the desire to enrich her life by moving into Pittsburgh. Once here, she volunteered for the Cultural Trust and Osher and the rest is history.

Looking to the future, Jan foresees some changes. Because of growth we need more space (off-campus rentals have quadrupled expenses) so we’ll be searching for new venues, hopefully on campus. She notes that only half of our membership now takes classes and hopes more become involved.

Jan is amazed and excited by course offerings by the Curriculum Committee, the generosity of volunteers and study leaders, and she just loves being on campus.

Mary Cay Retirement
continued from page 1

show of photos over the years, which captured so many treasured moments. Joe Scorpion spoke of his memories of Mary Cay, and Helen-Faye Rosenblum read a poem written especially for her. The room was full of people, full of conversation and gaiety, and people were able to meet and greet and mix in a largely unstructured atmosphere. The participation in this soiree was a testament to the place Mary Cay has held in everyone’s hearts over the years.
Osher members Joan and Jerry Wolfson have been proud of the many career triumphs of their son, Evan, in the 30 years since his graduation from the Harvard Law School. But the ultimate was his receiving an Honorary Medal of Distinction at the Barnard College graduation on May 17. His fellow honoree was Barack Obama. And Jerry and Joan and Evan’s siblings were present to hear Mr. Obama’s speech and to watch with pride Evan’s sharing the platform with the president of the U.S.

That party, which marked the end of Mary Cay’s role as registrar, but not her participation in Osher activities, had a large turnout attesting to her popularity. There was lots of food and much mingling and chit-chatting among the guests. On hand was the popular study leader Al Kosmal, who is recovering from surgery and reassuring his fans that he is busy planning his fall classes.

A wonderfully organized and excellently chosen set of pictures of Mary Cay at work was continually projected high up on a wall. Also on display was a beautifully designed scrapbook (done by the multi-talented Millie Lynch).

Another enjoyable May event was a visit to an eco-friendly, energy-conscious home on Beechwood Boulevard in Squirrel Hill. The owners have done great things to adapt their home to the best-possible green standards. The house and grounds have a spectacular view of the Monongahela River Valley. Driving by on this busy city street, one would have no idea this landmark residence was located there.

A note from Mary Alice Gorman and Richard Goldman, owners of the Mystery Lovers Bookshop, who have taught many classes for Osher, announces that they have sold the Oakmont store to Laurie Miller Stephens, formerly of Dallas, Texas. They plan to be around to be helpful after she takes over in July and then do some traveling to visit grandchildren and the like.

Does that mean other classes from them are possible in the future?

As always, many of our members appear in the local newspapers in various ways. Among those noted and clipped for this column were these: A long interview with Joe and Rosemarie Shirk in a January Tribune-Review described their positive reaction to living Downtown. Best part of the story was a picture of the couple hugging their dear doggie, Renfrew. Renfrew is so small and quiet he often accompanies Joe to the Osher office and endures the inevitable pats on the head he receives.

A January 30 letter on yoga from study leader Loretta Barone was published in the Post-Gazette, and a letter from member Phyllis Dreyfuss in the February 21 Post-Gazette discussed drugs and jail time.

The February 9 Post Gazette contained an article about a play by Ray Werner, who has been an Osher study leader. The play, Elder Hostages, was performed at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater. A large critique with many brilliant, colorful pictures of works by painter Romare Bearden appeared in the March 14 Post Gazette magazine. It reminded art-loving Millie Lynch of our tour of this artists’ work and lunch last September at the August Wilson Center.

Carol Sikov Gross, who has been a study leader on elder law, was quoted in the April 23 PG in a story about the closing of Engel’s Market,
a longtime Squirrel Hill fruit and vegetable store. Carol had been a customer since accompanying her mother there as a child and was sad to learn of its closing. Ruth Yahr, a new member, displayed her writing skills in a May 16 PG Animal Tale about a cat named Butterscotch, who lives at her house.

Member Helen Wilson, president of the Squirrel Hill Historical Society, wrote an excellent full-page story about the Turner Cemetery that appeared in the Post Gazette on April 1. The May 1 PG carried a terrific picture of Cecile and Eric Springer, who received awards during the Family Resources seventeenth annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Benefit on April 25.

Wading Through the Digital Surf

Continued from page 5

emails or computer, but you don’t know what it means? Come to Charlie. Ya wanna blog mister? Charlie will tell you about Tumbler.

It was interesting to hear that Google owns YouTube and gmail, collects and saves all your information, and keeps track of every place you’ve been on the web.

Explaining everything from bit to terabyte to gigapan, Charlie tackled all these questions:

--What is Monkey Mail and how do you send it?
--What should you do before you give someone else your computer?
--Why should you never ask a junk mailer to take you off their list?
--Why are some emails sent immediately and others take two days?
--What is the latest scam on PayPal?
--Why should you never call a number on the screen of an advertiser?

--Why “message undeliverable” may not mean that?
--What do USP and GUI stand for?
--Is Blu-Ray better than HD? And what kind of cable do you need?
--Is Apple TV worth the $100 investment?
--What fun thing does the app Hipstmatic do?

--Facebook Fact: There are 800 million users.

During our winter semester 17-year-old Treyvon Martin was shot and killed near Orlando, FL., on Feb. 26. It was not reported in the New York Times until March 16. Because social media would not let the murder be forgotten, rallies were conducted in churches, and marches were held on the streets. It was an event that illustrated the power of Facebook and social media.

Charlie warned us about Facebook privacy. “It’s not called envelope book.” He doesn’t share anything personal himself, but he tries to communicate in the community and sparingly promotes things he believes in. His approach is more whimsical than serious. Recent posts in Charlie’s Facebook include “I am one post-it-note away from chaos,” and “Somedays it feels like God is doing origami with time and space.” He does think it is a powerful tool to communicate with people you have not talked to in a while.

Wading through the digital surf? Thanks to Charlie we’re swimming!

Osher Tours North Side Attractions

By Joe Scorpion

PNC Park © Robert Pernell Dreamstime.com

Osher’s North Side tour on May 1 concluded with a visit and tour of PNC Park, conducted by Dave Fortun, Osher member and study leader. Fifty members took the tour, which was the third stop of the day, after a visit Heinz Field and the Rivers Casino.

They were shown around the park, with stops at the clubhouse, batting cages, dugout, club level, press box, and Legacy Square, which honors our Negro League heritage.

It was a great day weather-wise, with members being impressed by the “best baseball park in America;” not only in appearance, but in structure.

Many were able to reminisce about old Forbes Field and Three Rivers stadiums as they viewed artifacts and photos from the days when baseball was played in those venues, and they recalled many memories from those eras.
Meadville Exhibits Focus on Liberation
By Gene Dickman

It was February 29, 2012, and the day dawned warm and wet. The trip north to Meadville, known to be scenic with trees “just the right height” for the woodsy vista along the road, was obliterated by heavy rain. Disappointed but undaunted, after distribution of muffins the 40 passengers soon settled in with noisy conversation.

Within a couple of hours, we arrived at the two-story historic Market House, where artisan-produced organic products, handcrafted items, and local products were for sale. On the second floor were a dance studio, a theater, and the home of the Meadville Council of the Arts, where its members were exhibiting their paintings and sculptures, which were quite good. A couple of very friendly staff people were there to show us around and answer questions.

After a leisurely browse, we were hungry enough to enjoy the premier restaurant in Meadville—The Montana Rib and Chop House, where everyone savored a delicious three-course luncheon.

Then it was back on the bus to Allegheny College to see the five-year project produced and curated by our own Pat Ulbrich entitled “In Sisterhood: The Women’s Movement in Pittsburgh.” The fascinating multimedia exhibit included digital videos of oral histories of influential leaders such as Eleanor Smeal, Brenda Frazier, and Alma Fox, plus photographic portraits and auxiliary material from the period between the late 1960s and 1980s.

A companion exhibit, shown in the next room, was titled “The Figure Untamed: Desire as Resistance.” These were drawings and paintings of nudes by two women and one man. The pictures of naked bodies in various poses and positions with other naked bodies suggested many responses to pleasures of the flesh.

I thought about the juxtaposition of these two exhibits and what common thread was running through them. I decided it was all about liberation: the social and political liberation of women, and the liberation of both sexes in the pursuit of freedom.

Farewell to Andrew Miller
By Filomena Conti

It was a happy occasion; it was a sad occasion. It was Professor Andrew Miller’s last class of the Osher winter-spring term. Not just the end of the term, but a final class. Andrew Miller retired as professor of classics at the University of Pittsburgh, where he had taught since 1976, and planned to leave Pittsburgh to spend his retirement in the state of Washington.

At that final class on April 16, following a term-ending tradition, Gloria Kleiman presented Andrew Miller with a gift of wine from the class members, and Helen-Faye Rosenblum composed a personally inspired poem, which Andrew read to us.

But wait, this was not our final goodbye! Immediately after class we adjourned to the home of Marilyn Meltzer, who along with Gloria and Helen-Faye hosted a farewell party. When he arrived, we lifted our champagne flutes and toasted Andrew Miller to thank him and to wish him well in his new life.

With Andrew Miller’s departure from our midst, there is an unfillable hole at Osher, but we are grateful for this Greek and Roman classics scholar’s gift of over a decade of enriching the lives of many Osher students.
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Contributions to the Annual Fund help us keep our dues and registration fees low and develop self-sufficiency to augment grants from the Osher Foundation.

Your contribution is welcome. Please make out your check to Osher at Carnegie Mellon and send it to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon, Hunt Library, 4909 Frew Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890.
SAVE THIS DATE:
Monday, October 1, 2012
5:30 PM-7:30 PM
20th Anniversary
Celebration of
A.L.L./Osher Program
CMU Campus: Singleton Room, Roberts Hall

Come Join our Diversity Committee!

The vibrancy of our membership, the challenge of our classrooms, and the length of our waiting list all argue that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon is a great organization. We on the Diversity Committee believe that we could be even greater if our membership included people from a wider variety of backgrounds—African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

These Americans and their international counterparts have had radically different experiences from most of our members. Having them join us in our classes would help us to understand better our history and culture. Each one of us has found that life is immensely richer because of our relationships with those different from ourselves.

Come join our Diversity Committee and help us grow! Call the Osher office at 412 268-7489 or email us at Osher@cmu.edu