Why Is Osher Conducting an Annual Fund Campaign?

By Joseph Shirk, Treasurer, and Millie Lynch, Senior Administrative Coordinator

At the end of 2010, Osher at Carnegie Mellon conducted an annual fund campaign, the first initiative of this kind that ALL/Osher has undertaken. Through this fund-raising program, we are asking for donations from those who can afford to give and who share our belief in the importance of lifelong learning; those gifts allow us to keep our annual dues and course fees affordable for everyone, which is a core principle of this program. So far, we have received donations in the amount of $14,694.00. A total of 344 members have donated, which represents 19% of our membership (average donation = $41.08). Thank you so much for your response!

We often hear the question, “Why does Osher need donations when it has an endowment of $1 million?” The answer is that the endowment is invested for long-term growth. We receive only a small percentage of the income from the endowment per year. According to the guidelines from the Osher Foundation, our institute receives a minimum of 5% per year from the endowment, or approximately $50,000/year.

Our Osher membership dues have been at $40 since 1999, and the registration fees have been at $50 since 2007. Our dues and registration fees are among the lowest of the 118 Osher organizations, whose annual fees and dues average $421.

In addition to being a low-cost program, our program has grown both in membership and in the number of classes offered since becoming an Osher-sponsored program. We are the second largest program in the US and offer a wider variety and more classes per term than most all other programs in the country.

Continued on page 3
From the President
By Betsy Martin

The current issues facing the board and the membership are diversity and fund-raising. The former has been with us for some time, and while there have been attempts to make us a more diverse group, there remains much to be done. The Curriculum Committee has offered a broad range of courses taught by diverse study leaders, and more are in the offing. Catalogues have been hand-delivered to organizations that have broad minority representation, but so far there has been no response.

The Committee on Diversity, chaired by Dean Gloriana St. Clair, has been considering old and new ideas to recommend to the membership, including by-law changes, at the Annual Meeting. She invited me and two other members to a university-wide retreat called by President Cohon to see how each part of the university is meeting CMU’s goal of a diverse community. Its guiding principle is “maintaining an environment that fosters meaningful and authentic exchanges which will add to our students’ knowledge and skills and perspective... We will continue to create specific strategies for increasing our traditionally underrepresented populations and diversifying our student and employee populations.” That includes us!

The other issue, fund-raising, is new to us, but it will be an ongoing activity if we can expect to get financial help from the Osher Foundation. The Board has created a Fund-Raising Committee to develop a plan that meets the Osher Foundation’s criteria and then carry it out. This subject is covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Millie Lynch and I will be attending a national Osher conference in April, where we hope to learn how other Osher institutes are dealing with these two issues.

Judge Colville Describes a Vital Collaboration
by Rosalyn Treger

In a long career in law enforcement and on the judiciary, Judge Robert E. Colville has put a lot of people in jail. But as he told the Osher audience in a lecture on January 19, he is most proud of his association with the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative, a ground-breaking project that works to keep them out.

A senior judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania since 2006, Judge Colville knows the territory well. He started his career as a teacher and football coach for North Catholic High School. He then served as a Pittsburgh police patrolman (studying law at Duquesne at night), a homicide detective, and Pittsburgh police chief. He was elected Allegheny County district attorney in 1976 and served until 1997, when he was elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

During the years that Judge Colville served as district attorney, the number of people coming through the jail each year rose from 3,000 to 17,000. The number has since risen to 30,000. Judge Colville attributes this increase largely to mandatory sentences for drug and alcohol abuse, spurred, he said, by movements such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The mandatory sentences have overloaded prisons, making them revolving doors for offenders, and if this pattern doesn’t change, a new prison will be needed every three years.

The Jail Collaborative, which marked its tenth anniversary in 2010, brings together the Allegheny County Jail, the Department of Human Services, the Health Department, the Court of Common Pleas, and community partners to provide services inside the jail and in the community that help inmates and their families reunite, become productive, and stay out of jail. Judge Colville is an inaugural member of its Civic Advisory Committee.

Services include treatment for substance abuse and mental illness, Continued on page 14
Why Is Osher Conducting a Fund-Raising Campaign?  

For the past three years, our dues and registrations have not covered expenses because our revenue stream has remained relatively static (unchanging) while our expenses continue to rise each year. For fiscal year 2010, we were more than $30,000 short of covering expenses with dues and registration fees, and for fiscal year 2011 the projection is that we will be $100,000 short of meeting expenses. Let’s take a further look at income and expenses:

In 2010 we were invited by the Osher Foundation to apply for a second $50,000 grant. In order to meet the requirements for this grant, the foundation mandates that we have in place a structured fund-raising program. This necessitates forming a fund-raising committee, appointing a chairperson, developing a job description for the committee, and developing a 12-month plan with a timeline. The Osher Foundation has added the requirements for a fund-raising plan because it wants to ensure the continued solvency of the Osher Institutes. David Blazevich, senior program officer for the Osher Foundation, stated that the goal is for the Osher programs “to be fully independent and robust in order to sustain them for whatever comes down the road.”

The Plan: It is the goal of the Board of Directors to establish an annual fund-raising campaign to assure that we have an endowment fund to enable the long-term viability of our program at Carnegie Mellon while retaining our independent status.

For many years, the board has kept membership dues and registration fees at the current rates so that more people will be able to join the Osher program and benefit from its many courses, lectures, and activities. The board has also been very conservative in its spending practices—the rate of spending is within the rate of inflation. Growth in expenses per member over six years are in line with the growth of the Consumer Price Index (+ 12%). There has been no growth in income per member.

We hope you will agree, after reviewing the information in this article, that a fund-raising plan is needed for Osher at Carnegie Mellon.

MEMO From the Curriculum Committee:

SEND US IDEAS FOR NEW COURSES.

Our curriculum changes and, in some ways, remains the same. We want to repeat courses that are “oversold” and also expand the course topics that we offer.

Suggestions are welcome at the Osher office or at adultll@andrew.cmu.edu
**Sharing Their Garden**  
By Joan Gaul

Our classes at CMU usually involve our attendance, our attention, our intellectual growth and enjoyment, but rarely do they produce something we can hold in our hands. However, one couple has succeeded in doing just that.

Alan and Hazel Cope, who came here from England thirty-some years ago, have been attending CMU’s Osher classes for about ten years. Although both are fans of Andrew Miller’s courses in classical literature, Alan has concentrated on photo and film, and Hazel is a veteran of Judy Robinson’s poetry classes. They are also enthusiastic veterans of the course “Writing for Your Grandchildren,” which was taught by Ted Fenton, an A.L.L. founding member and leader who is no longer in Pittsburgh. These interests have manifested themselves in *Sharing Our Garden*.

The slim and charming book of wonderful photos of and light poetry about the creatures in and around their Mount Lebanon garden was done for their seven grandchildren, one of whom was alarmed when he was read Hazel’s poem “Fish.”

> There’s a little pond in which two fish swim.  
> One’s a Her and the other’s a Him.  
> But I have to admit that when looking at fish  
> *I haven’t a clue just which one is which!*  
> He was afraid one of the Copes’ three goldfish had died.

**Butterflies**

Butterflies flutter in Butterfly Bushes, settling to sip nectar so luscious. 
Folding their wings as if to pray  
Then opening them wide to float away.

With their sons’ families in Colorado and Tennessee, the Copes travel a good bit. In Pittsburgh, apart from Osher, the Copes stay busy. Alan is active in the Pittsburgh music scene, and Hazel is a demon gardener. *Sharing Our Garden* includes poems by Hazel and photos by Alan. It was laid out, edited, and published by the Copes themselves, using an online firm called Lulu. Their book can be had at Amazon.com or at Lulu.com. More information about the publishing process is at Lulu.com.

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**Thanks for Helping the Carnegie Mellon Food Drive**

By Joe Scorpion

We extend our thanks and appreciation to all those Osher members who so generously contributed to the Carnegie Mellon University Seventeenth Annual Food Drive in November. This was the largest drive ever in terms of both poundage and cash.

As a result over 9,026 pounds of nonperishable food items and toiletries were contributed to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In addition $2,607.90 in cash was collected, with our Osher members contributing $473.00.

Hopefully, with the help of our loyal Osher members, the University can exceed last year’s totals next November.
The Osher Traveler

My Visit to Iran

By Martha Raak

Martha Raak toured Iran from November 6-21, 2010. The following are excerpts from her journal.

Travel Concepts International: The Serious Traveler provided my visa, a reading list, and thorough instructions: Be flexible, ladies wear a headscarf and a tunic below the hips, and practice knee bends for those special toilets. Always carry tissue, hand wipes, and water, and be ready for a wonderful surprise—a very wonderful welcome for all Americans!

There were 17 in our group, including our tour leader from California, Gwen Erwood. Gwen has visited Iran 10 times and loves it. Our Iranian tour guide, Bahman Zenhari, is like a son to her, and he refers to her as his “American Mother”.

Half of us were stuck for an extra day at the airport with poor communications by the airline [Turkish Airlines]. They belatedly put us up in a hotel in Istanbul. I visited some of the cherished sites such as the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia and the amazing seventh-century underground cistern. Now I know I can keep awake for 48 hours if necessary.

Some of the information I picked up from the guide on our bus trips: Iranians call Los Angeles “Tehrangeles” and Toronto “Tehronto.” There are so many expats there from the Shah’s time. The three Iranian Cs: carpets, cats, and cashews. The roads are excellent. A system of divided roads was begun about 10 years ago.

There are 28 provinces, and the country is twice as large as France.

The election is called “selection.”

I was impressed by a reality TV show called “Stars of Science” produced in Qatar. I wonder where “Dancing with the Stars” will get the U.S. in another 20 years.

Many crops are grown with an ancient underground watering system using water from the mountains. A typical meal included basmati rice, vegetables such as eggplant, grilled tomatoes, kebobs of beef, chicken, and fish, and smashed lamb. We usually had a delicious soup, flatbread, sparkling cider, non-alcoholic beer (no alcohol is allowed in public), and sweets or lovely ice cream of saffron and rosewater.

Sometimes there were some delicious vegetarian casserole.

A 236-mile drive to Hamadan to visit the tombs of Esther and Mordecai—this city is one of the oldest continually inhabited towns of the world. We also visited the tomb of Abu Ali Sina, eleventh-century physician who systematized herbal medicine.

Drive to Shiraz (348 miles), present day capital of Fars Province, which gave its name to the Iranian language. Oil pipelines are everywhere. There are 30 refineries here. Expats are returning with technology to help.

Martha Raak at the Chehel Sotun Palace in Isfahan (otherwise known as the Palace of 40 columns)

This land of Fars is the cradle of Persian civilization. Shiraz is a city of historic monuments, poets and philosophers, warriors, kings, and orchards. There are wheat, barley, maize, citrus, date palms, and persimmon trees. We pass through a huge natural rock formation called “the gate” in the Algorz mountain range. It reminds me of Utah and the Grand Canyon. It is about 5 p.m., and the sun is most attractive on the lime and sandstone formations.

Had a lovely visit to the tomb of Hafez, one of the most revered poets of Iran. Our guide read a piece in Farsi, and I read it in English. He exalts the connection between God and humanity. I bought an anthology of Persian poems here. The whole site is beautiful and surrounded by gardens.

Visited the Vakil Bazaar, one of the loveliest in the world. Here true craftsmen work on polished inlaid boxes; there are copper workers, weavers, and silversmiths. Gold is very popular in Iran as it is considered a hedge against currency devaluation.

Our attractive 23-year-old local guide filled us in on women’s issues. She said that the next generation will not tolerate the headgear and other infringement on women. Women do drive here, even those in the full black chador. I even saw one on the back of the omnipresent motor scooter.

Continued on page 15
Diversity is Vital in a Globalized World, Says President Cohon

By Filomena Conti

A fellow Osher member came up to me a few weeks ago and said, “I saw you at the Osher lecture where President Cohon was speaking.”

“What did you think of President Cohon’s presentation?” I asked. She told me how much she had enjoyed the topics he had presented. I thoroughly agreed.

Dr. Cohon spoke to Osher on February 9 on “Globalization and Diversity at Carnegie Mellon.” He had recently returned from a meeting in Switzerland on globalization and spoke of the importance of the university’s commitment to achieving diversity as it aims to lead in an increasingly globally connected world.

This commitment accounts for some of the priorities at Carnegie Mellon. Diversity enables the university to obtain the best and the brightest to obtain educational benefits and demonstrates the importance of power in groups.

Carnegie Mellon values collaborative group study and group projects, and believes that such groups should be diverse. In a study, the results of group contributions were shown to be more successful than those of individuals working alone, and the participation of women in such groups was significant. More women in the groups increased sensitivity to others and seemed to improve their performance.

Early on, President Cohon recognized that the female population of the university had to be increased. He noted that as young boys become acquainted with computers, their main thrust was to learn as much as possible about computers as an end in itself. Girls, on the other hand, learned as much as possible about computers with the aim that they could use the knowledge to help them with sociology or education, for example; computers to them were not an end but a way to learn about other things. Carnegie Mellon has made great strides increasing the minority and female population of the student body, as well as increasing the percentage of women in the tenured faculty.

Dr. Cohon noted that Carnegie Mellon has had an increasing presence and recognition in regions of growing wealth and influence. Carnegie Mellon has promoted understanding across cultures through development and education. The university’s International Initiative has led to significant financial contributions to the university (donors come from 71 countries).

As part of its commitment to increasing minority students’ involvement in math and science, Carnegie Mellon has developed the Summer Academy for Mathematics+ Science. A residential program for high-schoolers entering their junior and senior years and considering careers in engineering, science, and other math-based disciplines, the program aims to encourage good students to become excellent students. It focuses on creating interest in technical disciplines and building academic and personal skills to better prepare students for the college application process. This has become a popular endeavor.

Dr. Cohon pointed out that Carnegie Mellon is global. It has degree programs in such places as Silicon Valley, Washington, D.C., London, Frankfurt, Bologna, Athens, Singapore, Osaka, and Adelaide, to mention a few.

President Cohon blew me away, as well as others in the audience, when he showed us a “doctored” picture of the continent of Africa. Did you know that the United States and China fill about 75 percent of the continent, with Europe and India taking up the rest of the space? An interesting comment on how we fit into the world.

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Speaking of Books
By Helen-Faye Rosenblum

The Metropolis Case
By Matthew Gallaway

Blurbing, a word insistently rejected by the spell-check function on my computer, nonetheless occupies a long history in the world of publishing. It refers to the practice of providing those enthusiastic, quotable squibs on book jackets and in advertising designed to entice readers to stop, read, and buy. As a blurber and blurbee of many years’ experience, I’ve often considered the phenomenon, and to the most frequently asked questions, “Can you believe them? Don’t people add puffery for the sake of promoting their friends?” my answer is unequivocal: No blurber, no reviewer, for that matter, can ever afford to be less than thoroughly honest. One’s own literary reputation, ethical standards, and conscience are at stake. Declining to review is always an option. Dissembling is not.

Having said all that, I turn to a remarkable new first novel, The Metropolis Case, by Matthew Gallaway, who happens to be the son of a friend and longtime Osher member, Pat Gallaway. When the book came to my attention, I had the usual trepidation: what if I don’t like it? Then I read it, once and again, and, not to worry. What an achievement! What a vast, yet intimate portrait of four characters, separated yet bound by time and music. What an insightful coupling of Europe, approximately 1830-1875, a New York City, roughly 1960-2002, settings on the verge of, and recovering from, their respective nervous breakdowns. What a subtle unfolding of a multi-dimensional mystery, to wit, the provenance of a mysterious musical manuscript, and the essence of the people to whom it signifies, through time. Add to these elements a hint of magic, blend with Matt Galloway’s sensuous yet disciplined writerly gifts, and the result is a riveting tale, beautifully made.

It’s tempting to use the word operatic in describing this novel. After all, the Love/Death themes of Wagner’s opera Tristan and Isolde reverberate through the interlaced plots at many levels. The fascinating but rarely heard Leoš Janáček opera, The Makropolis Case, though not explicitly, lends its playful, time-bending conceit, and a few other details to the plot. Three of the four central characters are well-trained, ecstatic singers of opera. The fourth, a neophyte to opera but by no means to music itself, brings to light the myriad ways in which music becomes leitmotif to real life, even before the character understands the meaning of the word.

What’s more, the book is divided into three majestic acts, each composed of many scenes in each of three eras, underscoring (and I use the word advisedly) the ways in which the grand themes of love, bereavement, obsession, ennui, identity repeat and revise from century to century, generation to generation. By book’s end, death and redemption march hand-in-hand toward an operatically inevitable conclusion.

Yet, it would constitute a grave disservice to suggest that The Metropolis Case is a book targeted for music aficionados or cognoscenti only. It is, at rock bottom, the story of four vividly fleshed-out characters in two separate centuries, and how their lives concretely and mysteriously intertwine. Anna Prus, a world-renowned diva, has sacrificed much of her personal life in the service of a magnificent career. At her retirement from the stage, she becomes a tutor and mentor to young singers to whose potential she is utterly committed. Alternately, Lucien Marchand, son of a precedent-shattering biological scientist in nineteenth-century Europe, seems destined for a glittering musical career, but is waylaid by tragic events of his time, personal and political. Maria Sheehan, a sublimely gifted but socially isolated teenager growing up in Castle Shannon (yes!) in the 1960s, will make her way to Juilliard and a striking singing career, despite the shattering tragedies that punctuate her early years. Martin Vallence, a New-Yorker-by-choice, faces a crossroads in his career as a successful lawyer, his social life as a healthy but HIV-positive man, his pursuits as a music-lover of eclectic experience and tastes.

Continued on page 13
The popular Osher class “Sing- ing for Fun” is aptly named; it has been enjoyed by loyal attendees for almost ten years. And it has provided special pleasure for one of its newest members, Carolyn Schrading, a retired music teacher, who plays the piano for the singers. Her husband, Paul, a minister who served with the United Methodist Conference of Western Pennsylvania, and a longtime singing member, urged Carolyn to join. The class leader, Connie Rapp, had mentioned that if there were only someone else on the piano, she would have more time to coach the singing.

“I was recovering from a bout with breast cancer,” says Carolyn, “and I knew that music really does help in healing. It is a joy to make music with this class, and I have to also say I am honored to be working with Connie Rapp.”

Former active Osher member Elaine Light, who now lives in Washington, is keeping in close touch with her friends in the Burgh. And wherever she goes, Elaine never loses her close connection with Punxsutawney Phil, whom she helped to make famous with her cookbooks and other participation in the activities that surround him every February 2. A friend sent her a clipping of the Post-Gazette story about her books, which included a recipe for her groundhog cookies.

The chef at the elegant assisted-living facility where Elaine now lives was shown the article and was intrigued by the cookie recipe. He decided to make the little groundhogs, and they were served for dessert to all the residents on Phil’s big day. “It was one of the best desserts he ever made. Everyone loved it,” said Elaine.

Popular study leader Chuck Tague is an expert on the outdoors and is particularly fascinated with the birds of this area. He shares his wide knowledge of these birds and their activities with his students, who quickly become fellow bird lovers.

Tague centered on the woodpeckers of this region. They are reliable predictors of the end of winter, he wrote in a long and enlightening article. I guess Woody Woodpecker could hire a publicity agent if he chose.

The January 15 Post-Gazette ran this picture of Osher Treasurer Joe Shirk with his teeny tiny dog, Renfrew. Osher members are accustomed to seeing this man and his dog together on campus. The photo, taken on her IPhone by his wife, Rosemarie, was in the “Pet Tales” section and showed Renfrew wearing his PAWZ dog boots, the chic doggie shoes, for a walk in the winter snow.

In a long feature in the January 27 P-G, John Carson, head of the CMU School of Art, discussed his new video installation, “Timelines.” Osher students interested in art who were smart enough to sign up for his class are now enjoying his talks on the visual arts. What a coup for the Osher curriculum!

Pat Silva, who has taught many art classes for Osher, has created another handmade book, The Art House Co-op and the Thread of Life, for the Sketchbook Project, part of Brooklyn Art Library, which will tour a dozen U.S. cities. She and several other Pittsburgh artists are thinking about taking a bus tour to Washington in April to view the thousands of books from around the world that will be on display.

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Chinese American Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association of the University of Pittsburgh on February 3 held a 12-course dinner at the Dormont Recreation Center. Among those enjoying the event was Karen Yee, past president and current vice president of public affairs of the association. Karen is a study leader for Osher.

There are many readers of mysteries among Osher members, most of whom are fans of Mary Alice Gorman and Richard Goldman, study leaders of our always-crowded classes on these books. One of the most popular authors of this genre, Linda Fairstein, has just published Silent Mercy, her thirteenth thriller featuring Alexandra Cooper and Mike Chapman, her policeman partner. Continued on page 9
Ad Lib  continued from page 8

As the Mystery Lovers Bookshop’s guest, Ms. Fairstein will speak at the Oakmont Library Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. Tickets to the talk and book signing are $5.

Works of Osher poet laureate Judy Robinson are often published in the local press. A particularly charming poem, “Dream Lunch,” appeared in the Post-Gazette November 13. In the paper it says, “for Grant.” Grant is Judy’s seven-year-old grandson, and, she says, “the love of her life.”

We have quite a number of winners in this organization of high achievers, but not too many in the field of athletics. But Osher member and active volunteer Leslie Evans of Mt. Lebanon absolutely qualifies as a SPORTS STAR. She will be representing Pennsylvania in the Senior Olympics in June. Winning “gold” this past summer in three categories—triathlon, 5K/10K cycling trials, and 20K/40K cycling road races has qualified Leslie to compete in Houston, Texas, this summer.

Part of her training includes cycling, swimming, and running with other seniors. Anyone interested in more information on training along with Leslie, call 412-279-6855 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Millie Lynch and Mary Cay Burke-Hamill, who keep our Osher office running so smoothly, are careful readers of most local newspapers. And when they spot a name of an Osher member (and they seem to know all 1,800 members) they clip the item. Like the following:

Study leader Jean Peterson wrote a story on passing on family traditions at Thanksgiving, which merited a big, boxed-in page two display in the November 22 Post-Gazette.

Osher students who were in the class led by the noted Pittsburgh artist Robert Qualters may have missed the notice in a Post-Gazette article in November about the installation of his paintings on the exterior of a building at 325 Braddock Avenue. Subject of the works is “Braddock, Past and Present.”

Leslie Evans in training to be an Osher office volunteer

Janet Moritz wrote a charming holiday story on page two of the December 7 Post-Gazette that started with two little kindergarten girls who started a tradition of sharing their different December holidays. They remained best friends and continued the dual celebrations in adulthood, according to Janet, even while raising their own children.

In the December 7 Post-Gazette Joan Gaul wrote a letter describing how important buses are to so many of the city’s citizens. It was in response to yet another story about cutting the bus schedule.

Study Leader Susan Yohe was at the head of a column in the P-G business section December 8. She was named managing shareholder of the law firm Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, a most important accomplishment.

Member Carolyn Lindberg wrote a pertinent letter in the P-G on January 21, discussing the Tucson shooting and the need for more availability of psychiatric care.

Marla Perlman wrote a follow-up letter in the January 6 P-G on a food story about a Milwaukee corned beef sandwich.

Alan Cope wrote a December 19 letter about the tax package put out by Congress. He found it wanting.

Study leader Charlie McCullen is quoted on the Dec.22 P-G business page in regard to training programs for job seekers.

Dean Damick wrote a letter in the December 23 P-G about his experience of a “Random Act of Kindness.”

Maria Piantanida wrote on November 12 about the need to get rid of the Liquor Control Board.

A November 19 Pittsburgh Catholic article about the Pursuer of Peace Pilgrimage led by Bishop David Zubik and Rabbi Aaron Bisno to Rome and Israel lists among the 28 attendees Osher member Harvey Zeve.

In this issue’s “Speaking of Books” Helen-Faye Rosenblum reviews The Metropolis Case, by Matthew Gallaway, son of Osher member Pat Gallaway. Helen-Faye tells us that other Osher members’ kids are publishing books: Alan Paul, son of Richard Paul, has a new memoir from HarperCollins: Big In China: My Unlikely Adventures Raising Family, Playing the Blues, and Becoming a Star in Beijing. Helen-Faye says the advance word is fabulous. And Helen-Faye’s daughter-in-law, Joanne Sydney Lessner, has a new novel called Pandora’s Bottle, published by Flint Mine Press.

Are there any more out there? We want to hear about your accomplishments, your brags about kids and grandkids, your interesting travel. Send info to the Osher office or email to ADULTLL@cmu.edu
Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival Examines the Faces of Migration

By Filomena Conti

About a year ago many Osher members enjoyed the various screenings on the theme “Faces of Globalization” presented by the Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival. Osher at Carnegie Mellon was a supporter of this event, and this year Osher is again a supporter of this program, whose theme is “Faces of Migration.” It runs from March 17 through April 10.

Again, the festival presents screenings of movies and documentaries at various venues. There are 15 selections from China, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Turkey, and Pittsburgh.

This is the fifth year that the festival celebrates the art of filmmaking and the themes that define our contemporary social landscape.

According to the festival’s introduction, this year’s theme asks, “What motivates the migration of people? In what ways does migration affect the native and host countries? How is the identity of the immigrant both enriched and threatened by the ever-evolving complexities of nationality, citizenship, and culture, both native and adopted?”

See you at the movies!

Plato’s Academy
(Greece/Germany, 2009)
Sunday, March 20 5 p.m.
Regent Square Theater, 1035 S. Braddock Avenue

Stavros has been living the life, sitting outside of his convenience store with his three best friends watching other men work, but never really working himself. His days consist of either counting the Chinese workers or criticizing the Albanians with his loser friends.

Then one day everything gets turned upside-down when an Albanian worker claims that he is Stavros’s brother. All of a sudden Stavros’s mother can speak Albanian. She tells Stavros that she left Albania when he was a baby, leaving behind another son. Stavros has to face the facts and try to figure out if he is the Greek man he always thought he was, or if he is suddenly one of the Albanians he and his friends always talk about.

Far left: Patrice Chagnard, director with Claudine Bories of The Arrivals (Les Arrivants) (France, 2009), shown Thursday, March 17, 7:15 p.m., in the Melwood Screening Room.

Left: Mieke Bal of Amsterdam, director with Andréa Seligmann Silva of Separations (Netherlands, 2010), introduced and discussed the film at a March 2 sneak preview.
Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival March 17 - April 10

**Week One**

**Thursday, March 17  7:15 p.m.**
*The Arrivals*
(France, 2010)
Opening Night Reception
Melwood Screening Room
477 Melwood Avenue.
Presented in conjunction with the Alliance Française de Pittsburgh

**Sunday, March 20  5 p.m.**
*Plato's Academy*
(Greece/ Germany, 2009)
Regent Square Theater
1035 S. Braddock Avenue
Presented in conjunction with the American Hellenic Foundation of Western Pennsylvania

**Friday, March 18   7:00 p.m.**
*Warsaw Available*
(Poland, 2010) +
*Hanoi - Warsaw*
(Poland, 2010)
Melwood Screening Room
477 Melwood Avenue
Supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York

**Friday, March 18   9:00 p.m.**
*Littlerock*
(USA/Japan, 2010) - indie pick!
Melwood Screening Room
477 Melwood Avenue
Presented in conjunction with the Art Institute of Pittsburgh

**Saturday, March 19  5:00 p.m.**
*First of All, Felicia*
(Romania/Netherlands, 2010)
Melwood Screening Room
477 Melwood Avenue
Supported by the Master of Entertainment Industry Management program at Carnegie Mellon

**Saturday, March 19  7:30 p.m.**
*Norteado* dir. Rigoberto Perezcano
(Mexico/Spain, 2010)
Melwood Screening Room
477 Melwood Avenue
Presented in conjunction with the Carnegie Mellon Center for the Arts in Society

**Friday, March 25   7:30 p.m.**
*Pink Saris*
(United Kingdom/India, 2010)
Kelly-Strayhorn Theater
5941 Penn Avenue
Presented in conjunction with the Women and Girls Foundation

**Saturday, March 26  5:30 p.m.**
*Neukolin Unlimited*
(Germany, 2010)
McConomy Auditorium, CMU
University Center
Supported by the Carnegie Mellon School of Art

**Week Two**

**Friday, April 8   4 p.m.**
*Immigrant Nation: The Battle for a Dream*
(USA, 2010)
105 College Hall, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Ave.,
Director Essau Mendelez is scheduled to appear.
Presented in conjunction with Duquesne University

**Friday, April 8   7 p.m.**
*Dooman River*
(China/Korea/ France, 2010)
McConomy Auditorium, CMU
University Center
Co-presented by the Global Film Initiative; part of the Global Lens 2011 film series

**Saturday, April 9  6:30 p.m.**
*Immigrant Nation: The Battle for a Dream*
(USA, 2010)
Director Essau Mendelez is scheduled to appear.
Presented in conjunction with Pittsburgh Jóvenes Sin Nombres; Supported by the Humanities Scholars Program of Carnegie Mellon University

**Week Three**

**Thursday, April 7   7 p.m.**
*My Marlon and Brando*
(Turkey/ Netherlands/UK, 2009)
McConomy Auditorium, CMU
University Center
Presented in conjunction with the Global Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh

**Thursday, April 7  7:30 p.m.**
*Cuban Shorts: Our Common Experience of Living*
Future Tenant Gallery
819 Penn Avenue

**Sunday, April 10   5 p.m.**
*Competitive Shorts Program*
Kelly-Strayhorn Theater
5941 Penn Avenue
Presented in conjunction with the Carnegie Mellon Filmmaking Club
Continued on page 13
Cool Hand Ukes
By Joan Morse Gordon

Ever since I shared in the enjoyment of watching the Osher ukulele group perform at last year’s Ice Cream Social, I was determined to see if I, too, could join in the fun. And so this term I enrolled in Joan Dickerson’s beginner’s class. Everyone there seemed as gung-ho as me. Joan claims that’s the process of natural selection. Who, not slightly adolescent, would opt in?

First, there were the ukuleles themselves in an array of brilliant colors, turquoise, orange, Steeler yellow, Kelly green, the picks, the tuners. So exotic.

Next, we learned to tune to the phrase, “My dog has fleas,” and then came playing the C chord, using one finger. Up to then it was a cinch. The G7 chord requiring three fingers only a contortionist could master suddenly made me see that this enterprise was not all fun and games and that I’d have to seriously master this nemesis. These two chords finally under control, we were able to actually perform “He’s Got the Whole World in his Hands.” Apparently there are a bunch of songs requiring only two chords. We’re working on a simpler F, which will open a much wider horizon.

The ukulele, designated by Wikipedia as “a chordophone, a plucked lute, a subset of the guitar family,” was introduced to Hawaii by Portuguese immigrants in the 1880s. According to Queen Liliʻuokalani the name means “the gift that came here” from the Hawaiian words *uku* (gift) and *lele* (to come) and by other Hawaiians as “jumping fleas.” Take your pick.

The instrument gravitated to the mainland and became very popular in the early jazz age. Today, there seems to be a revival, probably based on us and other Osher groups around the country.

Joan Dickerson, our leader, has a doctorate in something else, but has a store of ukulele knowledge even though her principal interest is in the banjo. The Pittsburgh Banjo Club has an average age of 81, she informs.

So here’s to the ukulele, which seems to show no limitations as to age, only enthusiasm. Wrong chords don’t seem to matter. And if you’re not quite sure how to play something, just vamp it and look as if you’re playing.

Joan Dickerson clearly enjoys playing the ukulele, and her pleasure is infectious.

Food and Fun at the Holiday Luncheon

If you missed the Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 10, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, or if you were there and would like to enjoy the performance of the Ukulele Club again, there’s a treat waiting for you on You Tube. Joe Shirk has posted a video at this link: CMU Osher Holiday Party - 1080p.mov. Check out the Santa Claus hats!

From left, Gillian Meieran and Anna Estop enjoy the entertainment at the Holiday Luncheon
Hunt Institute Presents *Flora’s Lexicon* March 25 - June 30

“*Flora’s Lexicon* presents books from the Hunt Institute’s Library and botanical portraits from the Art Department in an examination of the scope of the Language of Flowers phenomenon, from the influences on its beginning to its continued presence in 21st-century publishing. Differing approaches to the floral dictionary are displayed, while intricate systems of meaning are explored through artworks of many key 18th- and 19th-century botanical artists and illustrators.

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University and will be open to the public free of charge. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1–4 p.m. (except 22–24 April; 15 and 29–30 May). Hours of operation are occasionally subject to change; please call to confirm hours. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412 268-2434.

“To beauty, friendship and love [rose, ivy and myrtle], hand-colored engraving published by Saunders and Otley, Conduit Street, from Anna Christian Burke’s *The Illustrated Language of Flowers*”

**Speaking of Books**

*Continued from page 7*

Eventually the destinies of these carefully limned characters play out in an onrush of coincidence and inevitability. *Tristan and Isolde* will sweeten the pot for many readers. Those non-opera buffs who simply enjoy the patient and textured unfolding of a great character-driven novel with a gracious plenty of period atmosphere, sexuality, and something of magical mystery enriching the proceedings, will relish the utterly graceful prose of a well-told tale.

To say that I enjoyed this novel would be an understatement. To say that I appreciated it would be important, because its erudition is staggering, but the light hand with which it’s applied is sophisticated and accomplished. To say that I hope Matthew Galloway isn’t going to take ten years to deliver his next novel is a true statement, one I’d be proud to attach to any blurb.

**International Film Festival**

*Continued from page 11*

**Sunday, April 10  7 p.m.**

*Diplomat*

(Israel, 2009)

SouthSide Works Cinema

425 Cinema Drive

Director Dana Goren is scheduled to appear.

*Presented in conjunction with the Jewish Israeli Film Festival*

**Ticket Prices**

*Opening Night* (March 17) with reception: $15/$10 student

*Regular Admission*: $7/$4 student

*Full Access Festival Pass*: $40/$20 student

(Osher members are eligible for student pricing. Present an Osher ID when picking up tickets for student pricing.)

**Questions**: Contact Festival Director Jolanta Lion at 412 445-6292

*Dr. Robert Runzo entertaining at the Holiday Luncheon December 10*
**Going Places with Osher**

2011 Multiday Trips

*Watch for flyers detailing these upcoming excursions arranged by RoseMarie DiRiso!*

- **April 29-May 2**  Azalea Festival and Military Spectacular, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- **May 17-19**  Philadelphia Museum of Art (Chagall and Capucci exhibits)
- **May 27-30**  Music City, USA, Nashville, Tennessee
- **June 5-6**  Springtime at Omni Resort in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania
- **June 14-18**  Shaw and Stratford Festivals, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Stratford, Ontario
- **July 7-11**  Museums of the Berkshires, Tanglewood, and Jacob’s Pillow
- **July 19-22**  Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
- **August 22-26**  Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, New York
- **September 18-24**  Deluxe New England in Autumn
- **October 14-16**  Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania
- **October 20-23**  Art Along the Hudson River Valley, New York
- **November 10-12**  Sentimental Journey/Salute to Veterans, John Glenn Exploration Center, Ohio
- **November 15-18**  Museums of New York City

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**CMU President Cohon Talks to Osher**

*Continued from page 6*

President Cohon ended his interesting and informative lecture by touching on the university’s role in the economic development of Western Pennsylvania. First, he considered it an obligation to the city and noted that what’s good for Pittsburgh is good for CMU. A healthy Western Pennsylvania encourages student and faculty recruitment and faculty retention. And research sponsored at Carnegie Mellon reaps many benefits for our area.

President Cohon gave us a tremendous amount of information. We at Osher truly appreciate our relationship with the university.

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**Judge Colville’s Lecture**

*continued from page 2*

parenting skills, couples counseling and life-skills training for both inmate parents and their families. Follow-up continues for 6 to 12 months after release.

Does the program work? Judge Colville said that the recidivism rate for the treated group of offenders has been reduced from 47% to 17%. No wonder he considers working with the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative one of the most significant achievements of his long career in public service.
My Visit to Iran
Continued from page 5

Persepolis is located 62 miles from Shiraz. It is one of my two favorite places, the other being Isfahan. This is the ruined capital of ancient Iran and a spectacular archaeological site. It was reserved only for ritual celebrations on the first day of spring when the subjects from the nations ruled by Darius I came to pay homage with gifts.

Walking up the steps of the Gate of Nations gave me goosebumps as the ancients walked these very steps in the sixth century B.C. They were led to the Hundred Column Palace and the presence of the King. Xerxes and other Achaemenid Kings had palaces here until Alexander the Great destroyed much of the site in 330 B.C. as revenge for the sacking of Athens during the Persian Wars. This place has the feel of the contemporaneous Greek Acropolis. I would put Persepolis in the category of Petra in Jordan.

In the evening, our guide took those who wished to go to a modern indoor mall to see how the younger set comports itself. We saw women with giant bouffant hairdos, lots of makeup, and a slim scarf around their heads. The tunics or sweaters were tight fitting and covered tight jeans and high heels. In the shop windows were extravagant gowns, etc., which apparently are worn at home and at private weddings and parties. This is a paradoxical society.

We drive 280 miles to Yazd, a third-century city and home to 60,000 Zoroastrians. This is a fascinating religion considered by many to be the root of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This religion faded after the Muslim invasion but also persists in India where the followers are known as Parsees. We visited a Zoroastrian shrine and saw the fire that has been burning for 1,500 years. We visited a Qanat museum that explained the amazing underground water system that still provides 75% of Iran’s water supply. This ancient city also perfected a cooling wind-tower system which one sees throughout the city. We stop for a short dusk visit to the charming and ancient desert city of Na’in, a Friday mosque, and roam the ancient alleys.

I fell in love with Isfahan, the garden city and cultural heart of Iran, and can understand why over half of Iranian honeymoons happen here. This city dates back 2,500 years and was the capital during three historical periods. There is a famous bridge/dam surrounded by gardens and public paths and covering a river where people were boating. Totally charming and attractive. We visited one of the grandest and largest squares in the world, where people were picnicking, taking horse-and-buggy rides, visiting one of the two grand mosques, and strolling and buying in the huge bazaar.

We stop at the village of Natanz enroute to Tehran. Visit a potter and still another beautiful mosque. I will never keep these mosques separated in my mind. We arrive in Tehran (having stopped at a very popular fast food emporium for sandwiches to save time) and visit the archaeological museum, which to my delight had a marvelous collection of objects from Persepolis.

Preparing to leave for the U.S., some of us needed to stay an extra day in Istanbul as airflights were unavailable. Gwen and I enjoyed strolling in the neighborhood of our wonderful small hotel. The rooftop garden looked right over the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia! We enjoyed a hot and steamy bath in a 1,000 year old bath house and a seafood dinner. We left the next morning.

Martha Raak in Iran

Martha Raak to Speak on Iran at March 22 Evening Lecture

Martha Raak will speak on Iran at 7:30 p.m. on March 22 in McConomy Hall in the Carnegie Mellon University Center.

Her talk will provide an overview of her recent trip from the perspective of a participant-observer, not a professor, she says. She will comment on Iran’s history, educational system, government, religion, culture, and the role of women, illustrated with some personal photos.
Dr. Kent Moors, professor with the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy and the Department of Political Science at Duquesne University, speaking on December 8 on “The Promise and Perils of the Marcellus Shale.”

Photo by waiting list member Michael C. Driver, who helps with the lectures

MEMO: From the Curriculum Committee
Give us the names of new study leaders. Could one of them be you??