



**Carnegie
Mellon
University**

34th Annual Report 2025 - 2026



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University

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*Front Cover Images: Images from four of our Learn By Doing courses.
Basic Handmade Books (Lily Hoy), Nature In Watercolor Workshop For Beginners (Betsy Bangle),
Frick Park Lawn Bowling (Doreen Alexander), and Wake And Make! (Deborah Lange)*

Schedule of Events and Agenda

34th Annual Meeting Thursday, September 24th, 2026

- 3:30 PM Welcome Reception
- 4:00 PM Meeting Commences
- 4:01 PM Summary of the 32nd Annual Meeting
- 4:03 PM President's Report
 - Recognition of Departing Directors
 - Welcome New Directors
- 4:13 PM Treasurer's Report
- 4:23 PM Other Business
- 4:30 PM Meeting Adjourns
- 4:30 PM Entertainment

***Presented by Students from the
Carnegie Mellon School of Music***

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU

Mission, Vision, and Goals

(Board Approved September 28, 2023)

The mission of Osher at CMU is to provide its members with learning and social enrichment opportunities that increase their knowledge, enhance skills and interactions with peers, and increase cultural and social awareness, complementing CMU's leading role in educational, intellectual, and cultural life in the Pittsburgh region.

Osher at CMU's vision is to be a premier quality source of lifelong learning for its members through cost effective, short-term, non-credit courses, lectures, field trips, special interest groups, and other events supporting its mission.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion guide our values and are critical to academic excellence and innovation.

Strategic Plan Goals

1. Expand registration and attendance
2. Increase membership
3. Engender a stronger sense of community, goodwill and volunteerism
4. Maintain financial stability
5. Develop succession plans for leadership positions in the organization.

Adopted by the Board, August 2023

Founders and Longterm Members

This list is compiled from the Osher membership roster and contains all the current members whose date of joining the Academy for Lifelong Learning between 1993 and 1999.

Barbara Ackerman
Norma Artman
Marilun Ashkin
Shirley Berstein
Maarcy Bloom
Marjorie Carpe
Catherine Hodgdon

Ellen Katzen
Priscilla McCrady
Marilyn Meltzer
Fred Okie Jr
Helene Pretter
Helen-Faye Rosenblum*
Marla Scheinman

Marjorie Smuts
Carol Snodgrass
Michaeline Srsic
Gloriana St Clair
Mary Ann Templeton
Carole Wolsh
Susan Young

**denotes founding member*

Minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting

Osher at CMU held its 33rd Annual Meeting at 4:06 pm January 22, 2026, in the Osher learning center in Cyert Hall. Twenty-six members attended in-person and seventeen members attended via Zoom. Board President Jeffrey Swoger led the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the 32nd Annual Meeting (2024-2025) were approved.

President's Report: Jeffrey recognized the Board members who completed their terms and thanked them for their service. He then recognized the new members elected to the Board for the 2025-2026 year. Jeffrey recognized and extended thanks to the committee chairs, Study Leaders, volunteers, donors and dedicated staff for their dedication and efforts that resulted in a very successful year.

Treasurer's Report: Board Treasurer, Marcia Taylor presented a summary of Osher's annual Income Statement and Balance Sheet noting that efforts have continued to control costs and to enhance revenues. Revenues for the year were \$337K and expenses were \$390K, resulting in an operating loss of \$52K. This exceeded the budget projected loss of \$40K because of decisions to support additional marketing efforts and provide a new advance course schedule document prior to course catalog issuance. When investment income is included for the 2024-2025 year, the net income for the year is a favorable \$62K. Osher's year-end total investment assets were \$1.4 M, which includes a balance of \$142K in the new Osher Endowment Fund.

Other Business: Jeffrey briefly reviewed the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and that of the Executive Director. He did so to provide information and background for presentation of and votes on adoption of three changes to the Bylaws.

Motions were introduced and seconded, and votes taken on proposed Bylaw changes to 1) introduce an appeals process for a member who might be suspended or dismissed for violations of policies, procedures and/or values and expectations, 2) identify that the Executive Director is not a voting member of the Human Resources Committee, and 3) identify that the Annual Meeting is typically held in August or September. All three proposed Bylaw changes were approved by more than 90% of the votes. Attachment 1 lists the specific proposed bylaw changes and Attachment 2 provides details of the votes that approved of the proposed changes.

Osher Endowment Fund: The Executive Director, Lyn Decker, explained that the reason for starting an Endowment Fund with a \$1 M goal, was to provide a source of recurring income that could be used to offset expenses and keep membership and course registration fees to a minimum. Lyn noted that Osher was looking for members to volunteer to serve on a committee to help publicize and secure donations to the Endowment Fund.

A discussion ensued on methods to raise fees to address increasing costs while minimizing the impact on member budgets. One suggestion was to institute small annual increases (versus maintaining fees constant over multiple years and then incurring a large increase as occurred about 7 years ago). Another thought was to peg annual increases to the annual social security percentage increase.

Adjournment: 4:49 pm

2025 - 2026 Officers, Directors, and Staff

Officers

President:	Jeffrey Swoger
Vice President:	Peter Oleinick
Secretary:	Al Hribar
Treasurer:	Marcia Taylor
Immediate Past President:	Marcia Taylor

Board of Directors & Term Expirations

Dan Boyarski	2027*	Peter Oleinick	2027*
Neelam Dwivedi	2026*	David Perini	2028*
Stephanie Fall	2028♦	Jeffrey Swoger	2026*
Jan Hawkins	2026+	Marcia Taylor	2028*
Allan Hribar	2027*	Marion Vanek	2028*
Sibby McCrady	2027♦		

* Denotes First Term

♦ Denotes Second Term

+ Denotes Interim Term

Office Staff

Lyn Decker	Executive Director/Registrar
Chelsea Prestia	Administrator - Assistant Registrar
Olivia McCann	Administrator - Promotions & Technology
Dot Gracey	Administrator - General Office
Mahir Nagersheth	Part Time - Database Support

Past Presidents

Gretchen Lankford	1992 - 95‡	Julian Eligator	2008 - 10‡
Lucian Caste	1995 - 97‡	Betsy Martin	2010 - 12‡
John M. Feeney	1997 - 98‡	Jan Davis	2012 - 14
Joseph Scorpion	1998 - 00‡	Joe Shirk	2014 - 16
Helen-Faye Rosenblum	2000 - 01	John Olmsted	2016 - 18
Mary Lane Salisbury	2001 - 02‡	Jim Reitz	2018 - 20
Gloria Kleiman	2002 - 03‡	Allan Hribar	2020 - 21
Lester Berkowitz	2003 - 05	Jan Hawkins	2021 - 23
Patricia Swedlow	2005 - 07‡	Marcia Taylor	2023 - 24
Rita Zecher	2007 - 08	Sankar Seetharama	2024 - 25

‡ Deceased

PRESIDENT

I am pleased to report that, after a challenging period, the Osher community we all love remains strong, vital, and moving forward. In response to that episode, the Board took several actions to address our governance.

The bylaws were amended to provide for a policy to address appeals of those whose membership was either suspended or revoked.

In the interest of transparency, summaries of Board actions are being published in the Weekly Essentials. And a wholesale review of all of our policies and procedures is being undertaken, prior to their publication on our website.

The Board held a mini retreat in May to address three topics of importance to our Osher community: marketing to increase membership, the endowment campaign, and the development of our next strategic plan. Using input from the retreat:

The Marketing Committee developed a multi-pronged plan to recruit new members. (See the Marketing Committee's message elsewhere in this report)

The Board is reviewing several possible actions that will provide needed clarity and energy to the Endowment campaign.

Board Secretary, Al Hribar, volunteered to chair a committee charged with developing a strategic plan taking us to 2030. The committee is comprised of both Board, and non-Board, members.

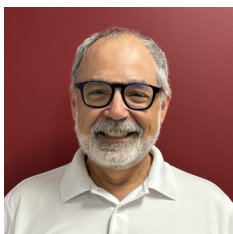
Our Osher community is a valued asset in the greater Pittsburgh area, offering you, our members, an abundance of stimulating and informative courses, as well as opportunities to meet fellow learners and form social connections. The Board, the Executive Director and her staff, and the those who voluntarily serve on our committees are working diligently to assure that these activities not only continue, but improve, over the coming years. On your behalf, I thank them for all they do for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Swoger, President

2025 - 2026 Executive Committee



Jeffrey Swoger
President



Peter Oleinick
Vice President



Dan Boyarski
Board
Representative



Allan Hribar
Secretary



Marcia Taylor
Treasurer &
Past President



Lyn Decker
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year we were pleased to announce the official completion of the Cyert Hall 4.0 project. After numerous attempts, finally an appropriate sound-resistant door was installed in the Activity Room in December 2025. This improvement ensures a higher quality learning environment for all courses assigned to this space and an end to the project.

Our commitment to accessibility and community outreach remains a priority. We successfully launched a pilot program with the CMU Transportation Department, providing members with flexible “mini-lease” 10-pass parking options for the Morewood Lot and CIC Garage, addressing a long-standing need for affordable campus parking. On the partnership front, we launched a pilot program to hold classes at the Masonic Retirement Village. While this collaboration provided valuable insights, it did not reach the necessary threshold of 50 new members required for long-term sustainability. Consequently, the partnership will conclude following the Summer 2026 term, allowing us to refocus our resources on initiatives with the highest impact for our community.

Our membership community continues to show resilience and steady interest. We began 2025 with 979 members and saw growth throughout the year, concluding at 1,058. As of June 30, 2026, our membership rolls showed 1,035 active participants and 267 prospects on our waiting list. The prospects will be invited to join in November for the 2027 membership year. This stability is bolstered by the ongoing success of our “Bring-A-Friend” initiative, which continues to be a major driver for introducing new individuals to our vibrant community along with the efforts made by our dedicated marketing committee.

Finally, to ensure the long-term financial resilience of our community, we established an endowment fund in 2025 with the ambitious, but extremely doable, goal of raising \$1 million. This initiative represents a vital and prudent step toward financial stabilization of the organization as we navigate an increasingly uncertain future. By building this permanent foundation, we will add to the protection of the quality of our programming and the longevity of our mission for years to come. We hold the sincere hope that every member will contribute something toward this worthy goal; every gift, regardless of size, serves as a meaningful investment in our collective future and ensures that our organization continues to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Decker

TREASURER

When the 2025-2026 budget was prepared Osher at CMU had projected an operating loss of \$64,649. This reflected a stable membership and the continuation of the cost-cutting efforts begun in 2023-2024. But the actual year-end result is significantly different with net operating income of \$35,581. The increase of slightly over \$100,000 came from two factors: a significant increase in the Osher Foundation underwriting (\$88,793 over budget) and a higher than anticipated registration fees (\$15,723 over budget). Combined with strong investment performance, the net income for the 2025-2026 year is \$197,860. (This excludes the income from the endowment fund.) While this shows that our organization is financially sound, most of the improvement this year is the result of the strong financial markets. The Osher Foundation underwriting is based on the value of the investments. The net income figure includes \$114,150 in unrealized gains on investments. Both of these financial factors could change quickly if there was a downward turn in the financial markets.

The income for 2025-2026 was \$109,386 higher than anticipated, due to the two factors noted above. Membership dues declined in 2025-2026, but this decline was covered by the higher registration fee income. A new revenue source – travel commissions – generated \$5,585 in unanticipated revenue. Expenses for the year exceeded the budget by \$9,166 but were lower than the previous year by \$6,451. As noted, the cost-cutting efforts begun two years ago have resulted in steady expenditures.

Overall assets totaled \$1,685,579, an increase of \$259,204 over the previous year. Not surprisingly, the reason for this increase is from the increase in value in the investment accounts. The liabilities of the organization are virtually the same as in the previous year. The unrestricted fund equity (assets less liabilities not in restricted or reserved) increased \$34,385.

At its June 2026 meeting the Board approved the 2026-2027 budget. This budget, which is based on current membership levels has projected income of \$375,500 and expenses of \$420,050, resulting in a net operating loss of \$44,550. Other income and expense is not budgeted. On the revenue side, the budget for the coming year includes increases in registration fees for members and prospects. New expense line items were added for two marketing efforts: to increase membership and to generate contributions to the endowment fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Taylor, Treasurer

Comparative Balance Sheet

	June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and short term investments	402,406	380,852
Reserve Investment Fund	997,894	841,958
Osher Endowment Fund	210,279	142,360
Osher underwriting receivable	75,000	60,000
Other assets	-	1,205
Total Current Assets	1,685,579	1,426,375
Fixed Assets		
Equipment and Leasehold Improvements	159,262	159,262
Accumulated Depreciation	(159,262)	(159,262)
Total Fixed Assets	0	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,426,375	1,321,053
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable/Credit Card Payable	8,391	9,401
Accrued Payroll	12,004	11,144
Accrued PTO	5,681	5,681
Member Advance Payments	3,559	2,445
Total Liabilities	29,635	28,671
Equity		
Restricted - Osher Endowment Fund	210,279	142,360
Unrestricted - Board Investment Funds	997,894	841,958
Unrestricted	447,771	413,386
Total Equity	1,655,944	1,397,704
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,685,579	1,426,375

Comparative Income Statement

		Year Ending		
		June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025	Budget 2025-2026
INCOME				
	Membership dues	101,789	107,201	104,400
	Registration fees	99,223	97,401	83,500
	Contributions	2,708	4,533	1,000
	Osher Foundation underwriting	211,793	127,513	123,000
	Other revenue	6,273	884	500
	TOTAL INCOME	421,786	337,532	312,400
GROSS PROFIT		421,786	337,532	312,400
EXPENSE				
	Administrative services	55,625	54,592	54,102
	Membership	22,492	22,852	19,055
	Curriculum	17,337	22,004	16,700
	Payroll	285,258	285,981	282,532
	Executive	2,913	2,637	2,600
	Recurring events	2,580	1,688	2,050
	Total Expense	386,205	389,754	377,039
NET ORDINARY INCOME		35,581	(52,222)	(64,639)
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE				
General				
	Interest and investment income	42,523	30,507	
	Realized gain on investments	12,002	33,395	
	Unrealized gain on investments	114,150	56,652	
	Investment fees	(6,396)	(6,016)	
	Total Other Income	162,279	114,538	-
Endowment				
	Interest and investment income	5,738	-	
	Realized gain on investments	29	-	
	Unrealized gain on investments	24,767	-	
	Investment fees	(1,189)	-	
	Endowment Contributions	31,035	43,339	
	Total Other Income - Endowment	60,380	43,339	-
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		222,659	157,877	
NET INCOME		258,240	105,655	(64,639)

REGISTRAR

Following is a composite of our registration statistics from the last 10 years. During the 2020-2021 year, all courses were held online on Zoom due to the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic. The switch to on-line courses occurred in the 1st week of the 2nd session of the Winter 2020 term. The switch back to in-person courses with the addition of Zoom courses occurred in March of 2022.

Comparative Registration Information	Year	Number of Registered Students	Number of Seats Filled	Number of Courses
Fall	2015	1132	4158	153
	2016	1141	3963	153
	2017	1183	4169	157
	2018	1179	5494	169
	2019	1050	4809	133
	2020	389	3740	95
	2021	718	3500	108
	2022	767	3509	176
	2023	652	2901	130
	2024	633	2971	104
	2025	596	3197	123
Spring	2016	1011	3319	132
	2017	995	3525	139
	2018	1094	3542	145
	2019	970	4397	139
	2020	973	4029	110
	2021	890	4991	120
	2022	714	3562	118
	2023	638	2591	105
	2024	597	2682	108
	2025	599	3048	101
	2026	638	3116	107
Summer	2016	870	2718	105
	2017	866	2530	104
	2018	950	2846	115
	2019	886	2744	112
	2020	574	2681	67
	2021	717	3340	93
	2022	567	2310	94
	2023	526	2619	89
	2024	464	1616	79
	2025	481	2111	96
	2026	491	2283	92

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Decker, Registrar

CURRICULUM

The Curriculum Committee has undergone some major changes this past year.

The name of the committee has been changed to the Study Leader Recruitment Committee or SLRC to better reflect what the committee actually does.

To promote synergy and shared learning, all committee members participate in development meetings each term to report out their solicitation efforts for new study leaders and on their relationships with our newer study leaders.

Following reports, by term, show how many new courses were brought on and how many new Study Leaders joined us. Please see the Registrar's report for more statistical information about each term for the last 10 years.

Term	NEW Courses	NEW SLs
Fall 2024	58	13
Spring 2025	49	10
Summer 2025	54	15
Total	161	38

This spring a statistical analysis was conducted by comparing how many courses we have been offering each term since 2014 to now, along with how many members were taking courses and how many courses were dropped due to low enrollments. Prior to our reduction in membership and covid, we had to cancel 7 to 11 courses per term, mostly due to low enrollment. After covid and since our membership numbers have been down, the course cancellations have ranged from 15 to 49 courses per term. To address this situation, until our membership numbers return to satisfactory numbers, we are asking that Study Leaders only submit one course per term. This solution will hopefully reduce the number of courses that have to be cancelled. The number of courses our committee worked so hard to acquire.

Thank you to Judy Rubinstein and Rochelle Steiner who retired from the committee this year after having served on the committee for more than 15 years each.

In conclusion, I want to recognize this year's curriculum committee AKA SLRC members: Jeffrey Swoger, Michael Belshe, Toby Chapman, Dick Daffner, Don Goughler, Kathy Greenspan, Rochelle Steiner, Dot Gracey, Dan Boyarski, Becky Carpenter, Jan Hawkins, Nancy Keebler, Jane Pawlowski, Howard Seltman, Chrys Gabrich, Kathy Farrington, Bill Greenspan, Dan Kocurek, Judy Rubinstein, Anne Semmler, Sharon Walsh, Wendy Ye

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Decker, Registrar
Chelsea Prestia, Assistant Registrar

STUDY LEADER SUPPORT GROUP (SLSG)

The Study Leader Support Group (SLSG) assists and supports current and prospective Study Leaders throughout the course cycle - through preparation of course content, course delivery and post-course review. It evaluates course content in initial proposals and Study Leader performance based on participant reviews. When necessary, the SLSG assists in identifying problems or unusual situations with a course or a study leader and it identifies resources, interventions, or other means of support or corrective actions to address the situation.

The Study Leader Support Group also assists the Registrar and the staff in new Study Leader Orientation, practice sessions and in Study Leader Recognition events.

As a standing committee, the SLSG is an important in-house resource and its members are all enthusiastic and highly skilled volunteers. The SLSG continues to positively influence the quality of Osher course offerings. During the past year, members contributed approximately 60 volunteer hours.

The SLSG consisted of: Jeffrey Swoger, Jan Hawkins, Anne Semmler, Neelam Dwivedi, Jan Dorman, Lyn Decker (Registrar), Chelsea Prestia (Assistant Registrar), and Randy Weinberg (Chair).

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Weinberg, Chairs

Celebrating Pioneering and Prolific Study Leaders

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU owes its vibrant existence to our remarkable study leaders. Their wisdom, generosity, and tireless commitment are the heartbeat of our success. While we are grateful for every instructor who shares their talent with us, we would like to extend a special tribute to our most prolific leaders, those who have taught 25 or more courses since 1992.

Last Name	First Name	Total # of Courses	First Year Taught
Rosenblum	Helen-Faye	277	1993
Olmsted	John	70	2014
Pollack	Connie	64	2012
Rapp	Connie	57	2003
Robinson	Judith	54	1999
Schinhofen	Mary	50	2011
Swoger	Jeffrey	48	2016
St. Clair	Gloriana	47	2000
Cantor	Owen	46	2003
Carpenter	Becky	42	2013
Barone	Loretta	39	2011
Bangley	Betsy	38	2020
Green	David A	37	2012
Blank	Stephen	37	2019
Fortun	Dave	35	2007
Snyder	Thalia	35	2018
Daffner	Richard	32	2017
Zimmer	David	30	2026
Florida	Gerry	28	2012
Schreurs	Veronique	28	2014
Gottfried	Byron	27	2007
Davis	Sherri	27	2017
Webster	Douglas	26	2012
Seltman	Howard	26	2023
Weinberg	Randy	25	2015
Greenspan	Bill	25	2017

Note: This list reflects study leaders who are currently active or hold ongoing membership with the Institute.

Committees and Chairpersons

CURRICULUM: Lyn Decker & Chelsea Prestia

SLSG: Randy Weinberg

FINANCE: Marcia Taylor

HUMAN RESOURCES: Ann Isaac

LEADERSHIP: Peter Oleinick

MARKETING: Dan Boyarski

MEMBERSHIP: Stephanie Fall

NOMINATING: Marcia Taylor

FINANCE

The Finance Committee focused its efforts this year on the future of the organization and the role that a strong financial position plays into that future. Where the finances (budget) currently stand, the purpose and status of reserve funds, the potential impact of marketing efforts, and the current dues/fee structure were all discussed. Much of the work this year was focused on the revenue portion of the budget. The fees currently being charged have not been raised since 2019. As a result, the committee recommended and the board adopted in the 2026-2027 budget an increase in the registration fee from \$60 to \$70 (effective 1/1/27), an increase in the fee paid by Prospects from \$95 to \$105 (effective fall term 2026), and an increase in the rental fee from \$10 to \$20 (effective immediately). The committee also discussed whether a fee for credit card use could be charged and determined that, at the present time, it is not feasible due to software constraints.

The committee also discussed banking arrangements, resulting in a change in accounts that maximizes interest earnings on idle funds. The ability to pay for dues and fees by e-check (or something similar) was explored but not found to be possible at this time. The committee met with the investment advisor and reviewed performance and money managers. There were no changes to the investment accounts at this time.

Volunteer hours expended by the committee in the course of their work during the year were about 60.

The 2025-2026 Finance Committee consisted of: Peter Oleinick, David Perini, Ted Brooke, Lyn Decker, and Marcia Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Taylor, Chair

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Committee did not have any major initiatives to address during the subject year. Issues arising during the year primarily concerned significant member issues, all of which were satisfactorily resolved in compliance with Osher policies.

Volunteer hours expended by the Committee in the course of their work exceeded 240 hours.

The 2025-2026 Human Resources Committee consisted of: Janice Hawkins, Marcia Taylor, Ann Isaac and Lyn Decker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Isaac, Chair

LEADERSHIP

A meeting with our insurance provider and the Board of Directors was arranged to review our insurance coverage and to consider new guidelines or ideas we may want to investigate, e.g., cyber threat insurance.

A meeting with our financial advisor and the Board of Directors was arranged to review our portfolio performance at a high level and to review both the advisory firm's and our fiduciary responsibilities. Our Finance Committee already maintains an active and positive relationship with the advisors, but this meeting was to educate the board about how we work with our financial advisor.

The primary focus going forward is continuing education for the board as well as contributing to the efforts to recruit new members to leadership positions at Osher.

The 2025-2026 Leadership Committee consisted of: Jan Hawkins and Peter Oleinick.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Oleinick, Chair

MARKETING

In the fall, with a focus on recruiting new members, we launched a set of Facebook ads over three months, that were targeted at our desired demographics. Results provided by Facebook told us the ads were effective in drawing attention to our Osher program. The challenge remains to increase the number of new members after viewers see the ads.

The creation of an overarching Marketing Plan, covering goals, timetable, and projects was led by Marian Vanek. The committee now refers to the plan when planning new projects. Later in the fall, working with seven Osher members and videographer David Bangle, we produced a "welcome to Osher at CMU" video that was added to our website. It was also linked to the Facebook ads for anyone wanting more information about Osher. The video is available to view anytime on our website: www.cmu.edu/osher/membership/index.html

With input from a mini Board retreat in May, the Marketing Sub-Committee developed an updated multi-pronged plan to recruit new members which includes reaching out to retiring CMU faculty and staff, asking local real estate agents to share our program information with clients moving to Pittsburgh, placing ads in the program booklets of cultural events, encouraging local newspapers and magazines to run a story about our program, and placing posters around the city.

The 2025-2026 Marketing Committee consisted of: Dan Boyarski, Lyn Decker, Al Hribar, Olivia McCann, Sibby McCrady, Gail Murphy, Jeffrey Swoger, and Marian Vanek

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Boyarski, Chair

MEMBERSHIP/SOCIAL

The Membership/Social committee has organized and hosted several events during the year. Osher at CMU celebrated its 33rd Year at the Annual Meeting held on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Many members attended in-person in our Cyert Hall Learning Center enjoying a pre-meeting ice cream social. Board President Jeffrey Swoger led the meeting as additional members joined the meeting on Zoom. The meeting was followed by *An Afternoon of French Piano Music*, presented by CMU graduate and pianist Connie Testa.

The Membership/Social Committee has been in the process of Identifying and initiating programs to promote membership interaction and retention. The Osher New Member Reception was held on February 13, 2026. New and current members gathered to enjoy coffee, tea and pastries in the Lawrence Lounge. Committee members made welcoming phone calls to all new members throughout the term. A bi-weekly Coffee, Tea and Chat Zoom was initiated in 2025-2026 that is open to all new and current members to share ideas and company. The Committee continued to organize the Coffee-in-the-Lounge and the Osher Little Library Initiative (OLLI).

The committee members wish to recognize the dedicated Osher Office staff, as their assistance was the key to these successful events.

Volunteer hours expended by the committee in the course of their work during the year were about 130.

The 2025-2026 Membership/Social consisted of: Nancy Harrison, Marlene Haus, Jeffrey Swoger, Randi Wedner and Stephanie Fall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Fall, Chair

NOMINATING

Requests for applications from the membership for positions on the Board of Directors for the 2026-2029 board terms were placed in the Weekly Essentials and on the Osher website. Initially, five applications were received; upon further reflection, two individuals chose to withdraw from consideration.

A roundtable session was held with the three active candidates and the nominating committee members. This provided an opportunity for the candidates to discuss questions relative to board membership and for committee members to get to know them. Individual interviews were then conducted over the next few weeks.

At the conclusion of the process, the nominating committee was unanimous in recommending the three candidates for 2026-2029 board terms; however one candidate withdrew from the nominating process. The Osher board approved the two remaining candidates recommended by the nominating committee: Janice (Jan) Hawkins and Anne Semmler.

Volunteer hours expended by the committee were approximately 40.

The 2025-2026 Nominating Committee consisted of: Peter Oleinick, Ann Isaac, Nancy Harrison, Sibby McCrady, Lyn Decker and Marcia Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Taylor, Chair

VOLUNTEERS

As we finish another year, we're grateful for the individuals who helped to make this year special. Volunteers continued to serve as Photographers WE article writers, SIG Leaders, Study Leaders, Committee Members, and Board Members.

The Study Leader Support Group, along with the staff, hosted three Study Leader Appreciation lunches in August 2025, December 2025, and April 2026. These are wonderful opportunities to thank our Study Leaders for their time and hard work throughout each term.

We appreciate the hard work of all of our volunteers. Their dedication to our organization paves the way for our future successes.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Osher Office

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

BRIDGE SIG

The Bridge SIG meets weekly on Saturday mornings from 9:45-12:00 and provides a venue for social bridge in a non-threatening environment. Participants will either be assigned a table upon arrival, or choose their partner in advance. The SIG is an opportunity to play hands in a relaxed environment that encourages discussion and learning. Attendance is varied and participants range from beginners to advanced players with years of experience. Often students from one of the Osher bridge classes will pair up to practice and reinforce the lessons taught in the preceding weeks. To that end Q&A is encouraged among the participants.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Strelec, Facilitator

BROWN BAG LUNCH & A MOVIE SIG

The BrownBag Movie Special Interest Group completed its fourth year this May. Members bring a lunch, we all converse while eating, and then we watch a movie together in a classroom. Members enjoy the chance to not only make new acquaintances, but watch a movie on a large screen with other people, like movies were meant to be watched. This Spring's theme was crime and suspense, featuring classic movies from the mid 1940's to modern day. As a member. you are welcome to join us in September for a convivial bag lunch and three more classic movies.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey Swoger, Facilitator

CANASTA SIG

The Canasta Special Interest Group will be 4 years old this December. It began back in 2023 with the goal of giving members the opportunity to play the game. However, it turned out that many more members wanted to learn the game than already knew it. So the first part of the year focused mainly on learning the rules, the play, and the scoring of Canasta. Fast-forward 3 years and we usually have 2-4 tables of Canasta playing every Friday from 1-3 in the Osher Lounge area. If for some reason that Osher Lounge is unavailable, the Canasta SIG has been known to make a road-trip to Bakery Square to play.

If you've always wanted to learn the game, come to the Canasta SIG. We promise to have you playing the basic game before you go home that day.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Oleinick, Facilitator

MAH JONGG SIG

The American Mah Jongg SIG began in January to give students in the Mah Jongg class the opportunity to gain experience. In April, the SIG was opened to the entire membership. We regularly have 2-3 tables. The SIG plays according to the rules of the National Mah Jongg League. All skill levels are welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Oleinick, Facilitator

WALKING SIG

The Walking Special Interest Group formed in Fall 2024 and is led by Sandi Pinsker and Leah Hoechstetter. The SIG currently has 35 members, and on any given Monday morning, 8-20+ of us show up to walk together. We've built a supportive community of walkers and enhanced our connections with other Osher members. We are committed to being an open and welcoming group. We enjoy both walking in nature and exploring some of Pittsburgh's interesting neighborhoods. Some of the past year's highlights include: touring Pitt's Nationality Rooms, Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Frick and Schenley Parks, Troy Hill, Mexican War Streets, Bloomfield, Polish Hill and Morningside neighborhood walks and viewing holiday displays in downtown Pittsburgh. We were even hosted for an edible campus walk at CMU by a nutritionist and chef. Members keep generating great ideas for future walks as we look forward to our third year as an Osher SIG.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandi Pinsker and Leah Hoechstetter, Co-Facilitators

Osher Membership Retention by Year

Membership Stats for the Past Five Years

# Yrs	Yr Joined	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
34	1992	1	1	1	1	3
31-33	1993-95	1	3	6	8	11
30	1996	5	5	5	5	7
29	1997	2	2	3	4	6
28	1998	1	2	3	3	7
27	1999	11	11	13	14	20
26	2000	0	0	0	0	0
25	2001	2	2	2	3	6
24	2002	6	6	7	7	13
23	2003	6	12	13	17	24
22	2004	0	0	1	1	1
21	2005	22	22	28	33	44
20	2006	35	39	43	53	64
19	2007	26	31	40	47	52
18	2008	10	17	20	23	31
17	2009	27	34	40	51	69
16	2010	17	19	25	25	32
15	2011	10	11	20	35	50
14	2012	42	47	49	53	68
13	2013	20	22	31	36	53
12	2014	56	59	67	76	101
11	2015	37	44	50	66	89
10	2016	55	61	68	70	126
9	2017	69	76	80	88	100
8	2018	64	68	73	88	112
7	2019	25	32	35	42	56
6	2020	48	56	66	70	120
5	2021	66	82	110	140	200
4	2022	46	52	80	99	135
3	2023	57	71	109	120	
2	2024	57	86	128		
1	2025	60	81			
0	2026	140				
		1,024	1,053	1,216	1,278	1,600

While YTD is lower, the number of new members in 2026 has increased over the last 5 years!

Endowment

Investing in Our Future: Help Keep the Joy of Learning Alive

For years, our Osher program has been more than just a place for classes, it has been a second home. From classes in our new Learning Center to our vibrant Zoom sessions, we have built a community where curiosity never retires and friendships flourish.

As we look ahead, we want to ensure that this “Pittsburgh asset” remains accessible, affordable, and thriving for generations to come. To do that, we have established our Endowment for the Future campaign.

Our Osher organization is unique. Out of 124 Osher programs across the United States, we are one of only three independent, 501(c)3 non-profits. Despite not having the financial support of our host university, we take immense pride in being one of the most affordably priced programs in the country. This will ensure that the learning community we love is available to as many people as possible.

While we are financially stable today, the \$1 million Endowment for the Future fund is about tomorrow. Upon reaching our goal, the fund will generate approximately \$50,000 in annual interest income—funds that will be used to support our operations, and keep membership costs low, while the principal remains untouched forever.

Your support isn't just a donation to a program; it's an investment in the well-being of our community. Research consistently shows that lifelong learning is a key ingredient for healthy aging:

- Cognitive Reserve: Engaging in complex new subjects helps build “cognitive reserve,” preserving mental sharpness and delaying the onset of cognitive decline.
- Social Connection: Participation in Osher provides a vital community of peers, reducing the risk of isolation and fostering emotional well-being through shared interests and lively discussion.

We are hoping all of you will help us reach our \$1M milestone, and help ensure that our Osher program here at CMU remains intellectually and socially vital. Please make a donation by creditor card through your registration account, send a check to the Osher office, or call with your credit card.

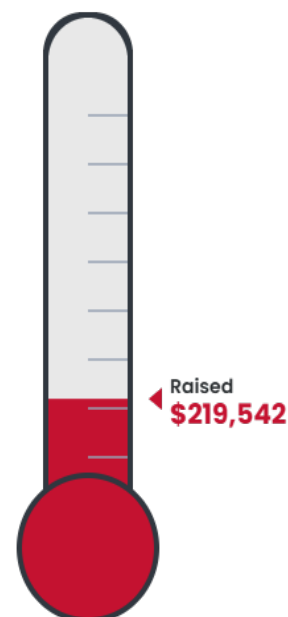
With gratitude,

Jeffrey Swoger, President, Osher at CMU

Questions? Please contact:

Lyn Decker, Executive Director
Email: ldecker@andrew.cmu.edu
Phone: 412-268-7489

Osher at CMU
\$1,000,000



Donors to the Endowment Fund

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Rosalie Barsotti & Anthony Poli	Marlene Haus	Gail & Thomas Murphy
Mary Boscia	Barbara Hepner	Clark & Sharon Mycoff
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David & Louise Cannon	Deborah Hurrell	Eugene O'Sullivan
Michael Colligan	Lynne Jacobson	Bessie Pease
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Nancy Crouthamel	Dorothy Kabakeris	Oscar & Terri Reicher
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Mary Grimes	Elizabeth Mullaugh	Judy Thompson

Donors to the Annual Fund

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Karl & Lynn Albitz	Marlene Haus	Sarah Neusius
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Gabrielle Corson	Leah Hoechstetter	Frederic Porkolab & Margaret Ragni
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Roz Goorin	Susan McIntosh	Barbara Trachtenberg
Barry Gottlieb	James McQuade	Stephen Winikoff & Esther Liston
Patrick Gray	Robert & Sheila Molyneaux	

200 Volunteers

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Felimelia Abenes-Douglass	Rachel Delphia	Ashique KhudaBukhsh
Jim Aiello	Alisa DeStefano	Jon Klancher
David Albert	Patricia DiRienzo	Daniel Kocurek
Doreen Alexander	Kathleen Dixon Donnelly	Karen Krieger
John Alison	Patty Doody	Chris Kubiak
Christian Andros	Jan Dorman	Anita Kulina
Joan Anson	Mary Duquin	Rachel Kurchin
Ken Argentieri	Neelam Dwivedi	Rick Landesberg
Harry Back	Charles Etensohn	Deborah Lange
Ron Backer	Kathleen Farrington	Nancy Quick Langer
Betsy Bangley	Catherine Flint	Kathy Lauteri
David Bangley	Gerry Florida	Tracie Liberatore
Mark Banister	David Fortun	Richard Lockwood
Loretta Barone	Frick Environmental	Magee Womens Hospital
Alison Barth	Chrys Gabrich	Cherie Maharam
David Bear	Barbara Gengler	Barbara Manner
Michael Belshe	Joseph Givvin	Michael Mariani
Don Beynon	Bruce Goldstein	John McCarthy
Neal Binstock	Larry Gondelman	Sharon McCarthy
Byron Black	James Gorton	James McCarville
Jean Black	Don Goughler	Sibby McCrady
Stephen Blank	Dorothy Gracey	Laura McGinnis
Stacie Bonenberger	David Green	Kathleen McIntyre-Seltman
Daniel Boyarski	Bill Greenspan	William McKendree
Christopher Briem	Kathleen Greenspan	Julia Meredith
Charlee Brodsky	L Jon Grogan	Christine Michael
Ted Brooke	Sara Grove	Madelyn Miller
Randal Bryant	Joan Gundersen	James Morris
Robert Bukk	Norton Gusk	John Mullennix
Tom Call	James Hagerty	Sarah Neusius
Owen Cantor	Susan Hansen	Melanie Novak
Alice Carnes	Nancy Harrison	Linda Nyman
Rebecca Carpenter	Scott Harshman	Lawrence O'Connell
Donald Carter	Jan Hawkins	Kerry O'Donnell
David Chambers	Bin He	Jack Ochs
Flavio Chamis	Heinz History Center	Barbara Oleinick
Toby Chapman	Charles Hier	Peter Oleinick
Steven Cherry	Leah Hoechstetter	Rema Padman
Stephen Christian-Michaels	John Hooker	Jack Patzer
City Theatre Company	Robert Hoover	Jane Pawlowski
City Theatre Company	Ann Isaac	David Perini
CMU School of Drama	Tom Jakab	Barb Pezze
Joan Cucinotta	JHF Patient Safety	Gary Pezze
Denise Cummins	Vincent Johnson	Sandi Pinsker
Mary Kay Cunningham	Ken Joseph	Pittsburgh Botanic Garden
Christian Daehler	Robert Jucha	Pittsburgh Opera
Dick Daffner	Brian Junker	Mike Plaskett
Richard Daffner	Denny Kato	Connie Pollack
Drew Davidson	Nancy Keebler	Bill Presutti Jr

Volunteers Continued

Sandy Preuhs
Fredric Price
Bruce Rabin
Constance Rapp
Jessica Rea
Arthur (Skip) Reed
Ruth Cooper Reidbord
Trevor Ring
Richard Roberts
Judith Robinson
Helen-Faye Rosenblum
Judy Rubinstein
Mary Schinhofen
Matthew Schlueb
Martin Schneit
Veronique Schreurs
David Schwing
Sankar Seetharama
Howard Seltman

Anne Semmler
Barbara Siegel
Yoka Slagle
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Thalia Snyder
Mark Spada
Gloriana St Clair
Rochelle Steiner
Lloyd Stires
Ronald Stone
Stephen Strelek
Jeffrey Swoger
Linda Swoger
Brenda Tate
Marcia Taylor
Paul Tellers
Jennifer Thayer
Allison Thompson
Diane Turnshek

Francine VandenBerg
Howard Voigt
Galina Vromen
Sharon Walsh
Kate Wang
Randi Wedner
Randy Weinberg
Cynthia Weisfield
Richard Wertheimer
Mark Winer
Wendy Ye
David Zimmer
Wendy Zinkone
Edward Zuckerman
Laura Zurowski

Thank you to all of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers!

2026 - 2027 Executive Committee



Jeffrey Swoger
President



Peter Oleinick
Vice President



Marcia Taylor
Treasurer & Past President



Allan Hribar
Secretary



David Perini
Board Representative



Lyn Decker
Executive Director

2026 - 2027 Board of Directors



Dan Boyarski



Stephanie Fall



Jan Hawkins



Allan Hribar



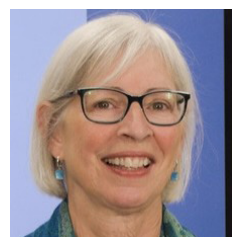
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Marcia Taylor



Marion Vanek



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Osher Yearbook 2025 - 2026



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- Motor coach transportation, accommodations, hotel luggage handling (portage), select meals, admission to attractions as outlined in your itinerary, and gratuities for servers of included meals as outlined in your itinerary, bellmen, and door attendants.

For More Information, please go to www.cmu.edu/osher and click on the "Travel" tab.



**Charms of Quebec
Oct 1 – 8, 2027**



**Colors of Morocco
Mar 15 – 29, 2028**

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