

photo by Tom Urgo



OSHER@Dartmouth

Discovering the new. The provocative. The timeless.

2014

Newsletter • Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Dartmouth • Fall



### President's Corner

What a great Summer Lecture Series we had at the Spaulding Auditorium! Bruce Macdonald and his committee found a topic last fall that grew more important as fall turned into winter and winter into spring. From the day tickets became available,

it was clear that our membership and the community at large were eager to hear from really gifted speakers on this global issue. Records were set for subscriptions by members, non-members, and individual session tickets. Be sure to read Bruce's article about the Summer Lecture Series in this newsletter.

As most of you know, Bruce announced his retirement at the first session and within weeks learned that he needed bypass surgery and a new heart valve. Fortunately, several Osher members were able to capably fill in and moderate the remaining sessions of the series. With Bruce's surgery successfully out of the way, he and his wife, Jann, were in the auditorium for the final lecture. An appreciative audience gave him a round of applause for his efforts over these past ten years. You'll be glad to know that Tom Blinkhorn, who has been a member of the team that has brought us these fine lectures over the years, has agreed to head up next year's effort as the Leadership Council determines ways of securing the ongoing Lecture Series in the face of rising costs for quality speakers.

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will have informed the Bernard Osher Foundation of how we used every penny of the initial \$100,000 grant given us a year and a half ago and how our new logo as an Osher affiliate will be used in all our communications, on our web site, and in our catalogues. That was the final request of the Foundation, suggesting the second of two \$1,000,000 endowments will soon be on its way.

The \$2,000,000 in endowments, after it has been invested for a year or so, is likely to generate \$100,000 in annual income for the strengthening of our organization. With the gift of the grant more than a year ago we were able to increase the advertising of our programs, and not surprisingly, our membership grew substantially. We have already

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### Summer Lecture Series A Record Breaker

This year's OSHER@Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series broke all attendance records and attendee satisfaction levels. The Middle East was the subject and it could not have been more timely. Speakers included two widely renowned national media "stars" along with a host of acknowledged experts in specific areas.

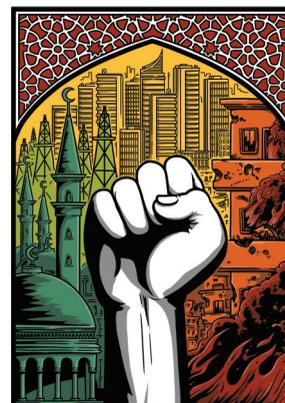
As has been the case for the past several Summer Lecture Series, we selected a topic in October that was destined to become the number one newsmaker and global concern nine months later in July. To give this year's program the best possible launch, we were able to open with Robin Wright, a well known and highly respected Middle East reporter, journalist, and commentator. Osher members and many from the broader community flocked to her presentation, which barely missed filling the hall.

Impressively, that momentum led to a series of near capacity audiences, as subsequent speakers addressed Middle East history, the life of Mohammad, productive dialogue between warring parties, nuclear competitions throughout the area, the role of the State of Israel, the origins of long-standing conflicts, and more. The series concluded with an exceptional presentation by Harvard Diplomacy Professor Nicholas Burns.

Previously, we could not have attracted some of these high-priced and high-powered speakers, but the growth in local sponsors and continuing support from the Osher Foundation enabled us to secure all of this exceptional talent while allowing us to keep our ticket prices as low as possible.

David Bisno started the Summer Lecture Series and conducted it for 6 years.

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### UPCOMING LECTURES

**October 25, 2014**

*Korean Culture*

Wedding Ceremony & Meal  
11:30 AM; Wilder Center

**November 10, 2014**

*Marcel Marceau*

Rob Mermin

3 PM; Wilder Center

**November 12, 2014**

*Restoring the Planet*

Paddy Woodworth

4:30 PM; Haldeman 041

## Botswana Safari 2014

A group of 6 intrepid Osher members recently returned from a mobile camping safari through the spectacular game parks of Botswana. This was the travel section of my Spring 2014 course: "An African Adventure: The Wildlife of Botswana". We spent 12 days exploring Moremi Game Reserve and Chobe National Park, finally ending in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The focus of our safari was on wildlife and learning about the conservation issues surrounding Africa's wildlife and people. During our journey we experienced a seemingly endless variety of African wildlife and birds. We were surrounded by a breeding herd of elephant as they came to the river to drink; we witnessed thousands of Cape buffalo and zebra grazing on the floodplains; and watched spotted hyenas and vultures feeding on a baby elephant carcass. Lions were sighted sleeping in the shade and we saw large numbers of giraffe, hippos, antelopes, and warthogs. We were even fortunate enough

to see leopards and rare African Wild Dogs.

Full days were spent exploring the bush, searching for game, and observing wildlife. We slept under canvas in the remote bush in private, unfenced campsites. During the night animals would wander freely through the camp, including leopard, hyena, and elephants. One night we could hear a hippo grazing near our tents! The camp staff prepared delicious meals including bread baked fresh over the campfire.

In Maun, we visited the Bana Ba Letsatsi Children Center, which offers a place of safety for orphans and vulnerable children. The Center provides support in the form of education, skills training, meals, and medical attention. As part of his Cameras for Conservation initiative, our guide, Steve Stockhall, takes children from the Center on camping safaris in neighboring Moremi Game Reserve. These children lack the resources to visit the game parks in their own backyard and by using

donated cameras the kids can record their experience while learning about wildlife and conservation.

Our group also had lectures by wildlife researchers who are actively



*Pictured left to right: Peter Martin, Lynn Freeman, Lili Mayor, Michael Mayor, Barbara Gerstner, and Barbara Jones.*

trying to conserve Botswana's wildlife. Dominik Bauer, project leader of the University of Oxford's Botswana Lion Corridor Project, discussed his current research on the movement of lions between Botswana and neighboring Zimbabwe. Using a combination of the ancient tracking skills of Bushmen and modern, high-tech radio collars, Dominic and his group can monitor the dispersal of lions between protected areas.

Geoff Gilfillan and Jessica Vitale, PhD students with the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, spoke to us about their work on the conservation of African Wild Dogs, among the rarest of African carnivores. We learned about a project to create artificial territorial boundaries that will keep African Wild Dogs safely inside the borders of protected conservation areas. Solar powered radio collars with advanced GPS are used to follow movements in and out of protected areas.

Our safari was a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about Africa's rich collection of wildlife as well as the challenging conservation issues facing Botswana. Throughout our journey, we were immersed in the daily rhythms of the African bush and enjoyed a unique experience of this vast continent.

- Jeff Bendis

- Dan Hopkins

## OSHER@Dartmouth Annual Meeting

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, a glorious late Spring day, ILEAD held its last Annual Meeting at the Lake Morey Inn & Resort and, at the same time, OSHER@Dartmouth held its first Annual Meeting. It was a grand event at which ILEAD's new relationship with the Osher Foundation became a reality and our name was officially changed to OSHER@Dartmouth.

President Stew Wood opened the meeting with a recap of the events that

lead to the change and the plans for the future of the organization as part of the Osher Institute. Rachel Silver from the Dartmouth Provost's office spoke about the positive relationship between our organization and the college, which has been enhanced by the creation of the Dartmouth Relations Committee.

This year, Herb Kummel (introduced by Sylvia Paxton) and Pete Bleyler (introduced by Hank Buermeyer) became the newest Champion Award recipients. There couldn't be any more deserving folks than Herb and Pete to be so honored.

After a wonderful lunch, Tom Blinkhorn introduced our guest speaker, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Benjamin, who spoke with great insight, wit, and humor about his government service in a talk entitled "Democracy – An Insider's Perspective."



*OSHER@Dartmouth's officers for 2014-15: (left to right) Treasurer C.J. Smith, Secretary Martha Clark, Vice President Sylvia Paxton, President Stew Wood.*

## Remembrance of Things Past

As my eye wandered around the room seeing faces - some familiar, some not - the click was jarring - out of place in the staid surroundings of the DOC House and definitely a sharp contrast to the serene pond my eyes viewed as I gazed out the window. But then again I knew to expect it, just as I knew to expect a



of crafting details so the reader can participate in your experience from the content written, I also learned to can the exclamation points, get rid of semi-colons, use dashes instead, and say what you want to say using as few words as necessary.

warm smile from the gent in the Herringbone jacket standing at the head of the room. That click, that smile, that Herringbone are all parts of the legend of Joe Medicott.

I had signed up for this memoir writing class for several reasons. I had hopes that the class would serve as motivation for me to start putting pencil to paper as so many of us do as we age. I wanted to learn how to tell my 'story'. I also hoped this class would increase my writing skills. Who could possibly be better at helping me achieve my goals than legendary Joe?

Aside from learning the importance

Joe creates an atmosphere in class that is infused with warmth and safety, allowing his students to share their most personal stories without fear of being made fun of or judged. For those interested in honing writing skills, who wouldn't want to take this class, again, and again, and...?

When Spring comes 'round sign me up!

Click!

(If you've taken a Joe Medicott course, you understand the use of the word "click" throughout this article. If you haven't taken a Joe Medicott course, what are you waiting for?)

- Ellen Terie

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Winter 2015 Catalogs**  
Will mail first week of November

**Winter 2015 Registration**  
will open November 19

**Winter Term 2015**  
Jan. 12 to Mar. 6, 2015

### Summer Lecture Series (cont.)

I followed his stewardship for the past ten years ending with this summer's program. The Summer Lecture Series will continue next year as OSHER@Dartmouth's most prestigious program under new direction. Thanks to all of you who have enjoyed this program since its inception. We look forward to your continued support.

- Bruce Macdonald

## Study Leader Profile: Martin Smith

In the early 1970's, during his military service, Martin Smith worked in Hanover at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL). While serving there he became enamored of the Upper Valley. After his return to civilian life, however, it took 20 years, until 1992, for him to get back here.

Martin was raised in New Orleans, but headed west to attend the California Institute of Technology and then on to Princeton for grad school. According to Martin, "Caltech was so difficult that my PhD work in geophysics at Princeton was easy by comparison!"

After Princeton, he taught at the University of Colorado for almost a decade. He is pleased and proud that the evaluations of his teaching at OSHER@Dartmouth are superior to the ones he got in Colorado! He moved on to the for-profit world by working at the AMOCO Research Lab in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. "AMOCO was a very supportive, and resource-rich, environment, but during my career there, I still harbored a desire to move back to the Upper Valley," said Martin.

When a former Army colleague, Randy Martin (also an OSHER@Dartmouth Study Leader), offered him a position at New England Research, in White River Junction, Martin jumped at the chance. He began working on technology for petroleum exploration. This involved frequent travel and he made numerous trips to Saudi Arabia, where he saw that religiously conservative society up close.

Since his retirement, Martin has taught or co-taught courses on the human impact on our climate, plate tectonics, classical mechanics, and energy; and has taken numerous enjoyable



courses. Teaching science to non-scientists can be challenging, and he sometimes uses commercial videos to help get the message across. He also works with a younger group of students as a volunteer at the Montshire Museum, helping introduce them to science, both as an avocation and as a possible career.

Martin is a valued member of the Curriculum, Committee and serves as chair of the Study Leader Support Subcommittee. He and his wife Terri live in Sharon, VT.

Watch for future Martin Smith courses. They're sure to be challenging, enlightening, and enjoyable.

- Charlie Buell



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## President's Letter (cont.)

exceeded the anticipated growth for next year. That in turn has prompted our Curriculum Committee to offer a wider selection of classes for our larger membership and pressed us to find more classroom space. We now have provided classes in nineteen different Upper Valley locations.

All that is good news, but it has come at a price. Our staff works valiantly in a space not designed for their size or tasks, and the wondrous volunteers who have pitched in to help can attest to how crowded that upstairs space at the DOC House has become. We're looking for a solution that can be transformative; but right now it's important for you to know it's a primary concern for all of us in leadership roles at OSHER@Dartmouth.

Finally, as you may have read in a recent e-newsletter, we have had changes in the leadership of a few of our standing committees as required by the committees' term limit provisions.

Charlie Buell has replaced Sylvia Paxton as chair of the Curriculum Committee, Steve Tofel has replaced Jeff Bendis as chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, and Tom Blinkhorn has replaced Bruce Macdonald as chair of the Summer Lecture Series Committee. At the moment, we are still looking for a replacement for Mary Ann Holbrook as chair of the Membership Services Committee. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Sylvia, Jeff, Bruce, and Mary Ann for their conscientious work on behalf of this wonderful organization and their support of my presidency, and extend my best wishes to the new chairs for successful tenures in their new positions.

Please consider volunteering to serve on these and other committees. Our volunteer leaders and committee members are critical to our ongoing success.

- Stew Wood

## Lisa's Corner



### Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to personally thank our dedicated leaders and volunteers who have provided our members with iPad classes and assistance at our bi-monthly iPad Cafe's. They include Janet Owens, Cindy Stableford, Ann Garland, Bruce Findley, Faith Knapp, Pui Yee, Meg Grove, Aiala Reizer, and Ellis Rolett, among others. We have been offering iPad courses for over a year and initiated these Cafe drop-in sessions about 4 months ago, with no decrease in popularity! We continue to receive requests for these types of technical courses and help sessions, and hope to continue offering them. We are seeking more iPad instructors and volunteers. Please contact the office if you are interested!