



OSHER @ Dartmouth

Discovering the new. The provocative. The timeless.



Photo by Barbara Jones

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Study Leader Profile: Stephanie Reininger

Those who are familiar with Stephanie Reininger's watercolors already know that she is an exceptional artist. Yet her contention that "anyone can do it" makes those of us who know that we're not artists a bit skeptical. Can a beginner be taught to create art akin to hers? She must believe they can because she's been teaching it to beginners for over 40 years and for the last 10 or so at OSHER@Dartmouth. "So long as they learn how to draw first – and almost anyone can be taught to draw – you can teach the techniques of watercolor," she says, "there are images to capture everywhere and I believe in exploiting watercolor's transparent

and watery qualities."

Stephanie began life in New York City and Connecticut. She spent her wild high school days at the St. Mary's School for Girls, run by Episcopal nuns, in Peekskill, NY. Her parents always encouraged her interest in art and she pursued it at Colby Junior

College (now Colby-Sawyer College) where she took every art course offered. After graduating from Colby's 2-year program she went on to Bennington College where she majored in art and studied every form with the exception of sculpture. Working largely in abstract form, she learned how to make prints, produce acrylics, paint in oil and master the critical skill of drawing. "No nudes at Bennington back then, just models in leotards", she laughs.

After college she got a job at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York City, at The Junior Museum and shortly thereafter met Bill, her



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President's Corner



Member giving: We hope you have had a wonderful Holiday Season, and are beginning to think toward the coming warmer months! We are very happy to report a great participation in the Friends of OSHER@Dartmouth fund raising. As of this writing, we have received over \$23,000 in donations! All of our Friends and Memorial gifts are used directly to improve our offerings: a speaker's podium, AV equipment, and much more come from these funds.

In November there was a devastating house fire in Hartford, which left two children and their grandpar-

ents homeless; without insurance there was no chance of rebuilding. Lisa King and our office staff felt we should attempt to help, and used our community email partners to announce this tragedy. To date, almost \$10,000 in cash, gift cards, blankets, and clothes have been donated. We are very grateful for your kindness and generosity!

Office and classrooms under one roof: We continue to pursue options to bring our office and classrooms closer together. As I have written before, we would like to have most of our classrooms under one roof with our office. It would ease the difficulty in providing support to multiple different sites, and would be much more fun to have a

larger social aspect to our teaching. While we do not have a clear choice yet, I will keep you posted!

New by-laws: This spring you will receive a request to vote upon the new by-laws. The new version will be made available to all online, and in printed form to those who request it from the office. A group of us has worked very hard on bringing what we see to be improvements that will streamline our organization's governance. We will set up several opportunities to meet to discuss the changes, and ultimately we will want all to vote. We hope you will join in this important activity!

Spring session: I hope you will find

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Treasurer's Report

Budget Process: December was another landmark month for your Finance Committee with our budget for the next fiscal year (year ending June 30, 2019) due in to Dartmouth before the start of the holiday period. This year's budget process once again involved a close collaboration between the Finance Committee and each of the various program committees. Beginning with a training session in September, committee chairs met with the Finance Committee in early November to review and discuss first round budget submissions. Areas for adjustment were agreed, and in early December, second round submissions were rolled up into a final budget proposal that was presented to, and approved by, the Leadership Council in mid-December.

Our goal is to have a budget in which expense and revenue are balanced. The budget that we have submitted to Dartmouth projects a very small (<1%) negative cash balance at June 30, 2019, well within the margin of error. Our projected revenue for the year (\$500,935) is down 1.5% on FY2018. We foresee income from the Osher endowment and from the Summer Lecture Series growing while membership dues and fees from our four terms of courses decline modestly. The budget has no increase in any dues or fees for the next fiscal year.

Budget Line Items: Administration remains our largest single area of expense (69%). Our fixed costs – staff salaries and benefits and our lease expense for DOC House and the 7 Lebanon Street office - continue to be the main drivers of increase in expense in this area, offset to an extent by savings made elsewhere by staff in office operating expenses. Additional savings in expense are projected by the Curriculum and the Marketing Committees. We again plan to dedicate some of the revenue from the Osher endowment to underwrite both the Special Lectures and the



monthly movies at the Nugget – both available at no charge and a great opportunity to introduce a friend to our life-long learning institute.

We expect the cost of space across all activities – DOC House, 7 Lebanon Street and classroom rental throughout the area – to account for just over 20% of all projected expense in FY2019. Your Finance Committee continues to support the search for new space that will give us better value for the money that we spend.

New Finance Committee members needed. In May 2018 two members of the Finance Committee will be required to step down, each having fulfilled two 3-year terms. If you think you might like to replace one of these retiring stalwarts as a member of the Finance Committee, please come to one of our monthly meetings to “try us out”. There is a lot going on beyond pouring over spreadsheets. Contact Lisa King in the office for details.

- *Iain S. Sim, Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee*



Attendees of OSHER@Dartmouth's first-ever Mah Jongg Party enjoyed the game at the DOC House on January 8.

By-Laws Vote

On January 26, 2018, OSHER@Dartmouth's Leadership Council voted to accept revisions to our existing by-laws. These revisions were the result of an extensive review of existing by-laws and a desire to provide flexibility in governance and increase the number of people working to improve and govern our organization.

Before our organization can officially accept this revision to our by-laws, we are asking current OSHER@Dartmouth members to weigh in and submit their vote to accept or decline the revisions. (Members can also elect to abstain from the vote.)

To help our members make a decision on this matter, we are posting our current by-laws and the proposed revisions on our website (osher.dartmouth.edu). If you cannot access the web, or prefer a printed copy of these documents, contact the OSHER@Dartmouth office to request a printed packet. Please provide at least 24 hours notice to allow staff members to prepare your packet.

Some of the most impactful revisions to the by-laws include the following items:

- Elimination of the Nominating Committee, to be replaced by the Governance Committee which will be 'responsible for ensuring a constant, disciplined attention to succession planning of Council member and... Committee leadership; broadening the recruitment of new Council members from OSHER@Dartmouth's entire membership. **The reason for this change is to ensure that people proposed as Leadership**

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A Feast for the Eyes from OSHER@Dartmouth's Food for the Mind

For over 25 years OSHER@Dartmouth has brought educational programs to the greater Upper Valley community. Now we bring visual art exhibits to that community in our attractive office space at 7 Lebanon Street in Hanover. Local area artists are invited to display and sell their work in a viewer-friendly space where visitors may enjoy and purchase art with a 10% commission to OSHER@Dartmouth. So far the results have been very gratifying to all.

Opening receptions with artists' presentations about their medium, subjects, and location bring art lovers and artists together with convivial appreciation of each exhibit. In 2015 Sylvia Paxton, then OSHER@Dartmouth's president, initiated the concept of the exhibits when our offices moved to their current Lebanon Street location. The bare walls invited creative use, and Anne Baird, Laurie Wadsworth, and Nora Gould volunteered to curate artists to be appreciated by the OSHER@Dartmouth community during sixty-day exhibits throughout the year. The goal to expand local appreciation of talented visual artists while enhancing the ap-

pearance of the office and realizing a commission for OSHER@Dartmouth's programs was achieved successfully beginning with the exhibit of Study Leader Stephanie Reininger's art in December of 2015.

Since then these artists from our greater community boundaries have engaged in OSHER@Dartmouth exhibits:

Anne Baird
 Rosalie desGroseilliers
 Mary Gerakaris
 Nora Gould
 Anne Hartmann
 Cindy Heath
 John Lehet
 Jim Lustenader
 Meg McLean
 Barbara Newton
 Northern Lights Quilt Guild
 Ann and Bruce Peck
 Judith Pettingell
 Stephanie Reininger
 Ann Semprebon
 Margaret Sheehan
 Li Shen
 Kathleen Swift
 Tom Urgo
 Patti Warren

Currently Mary Ann Holbrook and Mary Rohr are curating exhibits for the coming year. Exquisite water colorists Rosalie desGroseilliers and her sister Patti Warren are featured through February 2018. Herb Swanson, a worldwide photo journalist, will begin in March with images from Ireland and other European venues. Jo Tate will be displaying her work in oil, acrylic, and watercolor during May and June. We welcome suggestions for future exhibits from our OSHER@Dartmouth community. We hope that the exhibit space will enhance appreciation for the highly talented visual artists in our area, and bring desirable art for acquisition to that audience. Visit the OSHER@Dartmouth office at 7 Lebanon Street, Suite 107 in Hanover to see for yourself.

- Mary Ann Holbrook, Curator,
 OSHER@Dartmouth Art Gallery

President's Corner (cont.)

the offerings in this year's Spring Catalog exciting! We are working very hard with ProClass, the company which hosts our online registration, to improve the registration process. We apologize for the terribly difficult Winter online registration, and are doing everything possible to make this one smooth! Thank you again for your patience.

- John H. Sanders, Jr., M.D.
 President

HomeLife Expo

This March, for the very first time, OSHER@Dartmouth will host a booth at the HomeLife Expo in Leverone Field House. Volunteers from several of our committees will be on hand to answer questions from attendees. We are also looking for members who would be willing to volunteer for a two-hour shift (or longer, if interested) at the booth. If you would like to share your OSHER@Dartmouth experiences with new people, please contact our office to volunteer for a shift at the booth!

The 2018 HomeLife Expo will take place on the following days:

- 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, March 16
- 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, March 17
- 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Sunday, March 18

Contact the OSHER@Dartmouth office today to volunteer!

Email: osher@dartmouth.edu
 Phone: (603) 646-0154

Study Leader Profile (cont.)

first husband. They moved to Madison, WI, where he pursued a PhD in Finance at the University of Wisconsin, and she worked as a medical secretary. They soon began raising their family of four children.

Later, when he took a research sabbatical in London, Stephanie had a chance to explore the English watercolorists. She went to an exhibit of J.M.W. Turner's watercolor working sketches at The British Museum. She sought and received special permission to visit the archives of the Victoria & Albert Museum where she studied and absorbed as much as she could and to this day considers herself largely self-taught.

Prior to working in watercolor, she had tried batik, but the dyes used in the process made her ill and oil painting, while enjoyable, was cumbersome and, she felt, had the real potential to cause a house fire. Watercolor, on the other hand, could be transported with relative ease and was safe.

Her husband's career took them to many campuses, but in North Carolina and Arizona her inspiration and work blossomed. She joined watercolor societies, entered and was juried into national shows where she won many prestigious awards within the rarified world of Watercolor.

She has exhibited at the AVA Gallery, and her work can be seen at the Long River Gallery in White River Junction, as well as the Matt Brown Fine Art Gallery in Lyme, NH.

Those fortunate enough to be among her students learn from her in her studio above her barn/garage in Lyme, NH where she has lived since 2007.

For the many courses she

has taught at OSHER@Dartmouth and ILEAD and for her many other contributions she was awarded the Thomas B. Campion Award for Exceptional Service in 2013.

- Steve Tofel,
Marketing & Communications
Committee



Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will take place on May 23rd at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farms. The event will begin at 11:00 AM and run until 2:30 PM. We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Joe Helble, Dean of Thayer School. We will be posting more information on this event in April, and registration will open at that time.

We hope you'll join us!

OSHER@Dartmouth At the Movies



All the President's Men

Monday, March 19th
10:00 AM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

No registration required;
OSHER@Dartmouth receive free admission for themselves and one guest.

Because You Want to Learn Something

While reading "Lisa's Corner" in the Winter newsletter I was aware that there is yet another reason to lead a course - because YOU want to learn something.

Many years ago, as part of the Curriculum Committee, I suggested we needed an Astronomy course. It was met by silence until someone turned and said "why don't you teach it". I replied, "because I don't know it, and want to take it." After some discussion the light went on - I could read, and study, and teach it. And much to my delight I could, and I did.

I spent a year reading texts, audited Astronomy courses at Dartmouth with an extraordinary and

accommodating group of professors (many of whom are still friends), and finally, a year later, with great trepidation, led a "Night Sky and Beginning Astronomy" course for about 20 "students". It was a joy. They learned and I learned. And I kept on reading and, subsequently, taught 2 more courses, which only deepened my knowledge and interest. It remains today a compelling fascination.

The point is, if you want to learn something, this is a great way to do so. Lead it and learn it with an equally interested (and interesting) group of "learners".

- Joe Tofel

By-Laws Vote (cont.)

Council members be experienced OSHER@Dartmouth members with qualifications needed by the organization.

- Creation of two new standing committees: **Fundraising and Membership Development. Fundraising will be responsible for raising funds for the benefit of OSHER@Dartmouth and Membership Development will create programs and benefits to attract new members when needed.**
- The Leadership Council will be enlarged, if needed, to include 12 members chosen by the membership, and the chairs of the following standing committees: Curriculum, Summer Lecture Series, Marketing and Communication, Finance, Planning and the Immediate Past President for a term of two years. **The President may appoint additional members to the Council**

when necessary subject to the approval of the Council and subject to the 23 voting member limit. The purpose of this change is to permit the Leadership Council to add members who bring needed expertise when needed.

- Future amendments of the by-laws will be proposed by the Governance Council and require two-thirds vote by Leadership Council to be accepted. **The purpose of this change is to expedite needed by-law changes without the expensive, time consuming current need to get the entire membership to vote.**

If, after reviewing the current and proposed by-laws, you have questions and wish to discuss the proposed changes, members of our Leadership Council will take part in information sessions at the DOC

House on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 6, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 7, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
- Monday, March 12, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 20, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

These sessions are open to all OSHER@Dartmouth members; there is no fee involved, and registration is not required.

Ballots will be mailed to all OSHER@Dartmouth members over the next few weeks. We ask that you submit your ballot by returning the pre-paid postcard included in that mailing. You can also submit your ballot to the OSHER@Dartmouth office in person, or bring it to any of the info sessions listed above. All ballots must be received no later than Friday, March 30, 2018.



In last fall's course, "The Supermarket Bouquet and Beyond: Designing with Flowers & Botanicals" members met at the Lebanon Co-op's Learning Center. Using materials purchased from the Hanover Garden Club, participants attended four sessions to learn basics of design, materials, and techniques, resulting in a new arrangement every week!

OSHER@Dartmouth Art Gallery

Stop by our 7 Lebanon Street offices to enjoy new bi-monthly exhibits!

January/February
Patti Warren & Rosalie desGroseilliers
watercolors

March/April
Herb Swanson
photography

May/June
Jo Tate
paintings



Our art gallery is free to view during regular office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30a to 4:30p
Fri 8:30a to 1:00p



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Spring Term
March 26 -
May 23, 2018

Tech Café Dates

Need help with your laptop or mobile device? Have a question about registration or downloading course materials? Stop by and get answers!

Thurs., Mar. 8..... 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Thurs., Mar. 29..... 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Thurs., Apr. 12..... 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tues., Apr. 24..... 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Tues., May 15..... 9:30 am - 11:00 am

No appointment necessary. All Tech Café sessions take place at the DOC House.



Lisa's Corner by Lisa King, Program Manager

As mentioned in the "By-Laws Voting" article on page 2 of this newsletter, you will soon receive a postcard mailing about the importance of your vote regarding the proposed revisions to OSHER@Dartmouth's current by-laws. You will find all of the relevant information on our website (osher.dartmouth.edu), including dates for special information sessions hosted by members of our Leadership Council. These sessions are intended to allow our members to ask questions and receive answers from some of the people who participated in the extensive review of our by-laws and sought to improve them as our organization has changed over the last few years.

If you would like a printed copy of our current by-laws and the proposed revisions to the by-laws, you can request printed copies from our 7 Lebanon Street office.

We hope you will participate by casting your vote.

Thank you,
Lisa

