



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at Dartmouth

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

STUDY LEADER SPOTLIGHT: MAYNARD GOLDMAN

Anyone who has taken one of Maynard Goldman's popular classes will not be surprised to learn that he has always been a performer.

Born in Boston, raised in Newton, MA, he acted in high school plays. He was twice voted student body president at the University of Michigan (not a small school). During law school in Boston he ran statewide political campaigns and in 1962 ran in the Republican primary for state legislature. During his long consulting career he served on many boards, both for-profit and non-profit, speaking to audiences large and small, here and abroad. He and his wife, Suzanne Goldman, lived over forty years in the Back Bay of Boston before moving to Eastman in the Upper Valley.

When asked what he thought contributed to his popularity as a Study Leader, he replied, "I think the enthusiasm of the presenter is really what carries the day."

Describing his political leanings over the years he said, "I started as what might have been known then as a Rockefeller Republican.



In Massachusetts, where I grew up, there was a model for that. We had Leverett Saltonstall, Henry Cabot Lodge, Ed Brooke and Elliot Richardson. There were, really, some excellent people. I think what's happened, unfortunately, to the Republican Party over the years, what we see today, is to me unfathomable. I'm very concerned about where the Republican Party is, and what they are doing to our democracy. We certainly seemed to have fallen into a very sad situation."

"I think Osher has been, for me, a really terrific experience. I enjoy the classes, and I've enjoyed the camaraderie with many of the other Study Leaders. I think the

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LEARNING FOR ALL AGES!

Though Osher courses are primarily directed towards adults, the Institute's core commitment is to lifelong learning and providing an inclusive community. Simply put, Osher courses are open to anyone who wants to learn. A highlight of the Fall term was having the two youngest participants to ever take an Osher course in its 30-year history. Maddie and Margaret Morley, aged nine and seven, took Pete Bleyler's course on Hiking New Hampshire's 48 4,000-footers, along with their mother, Chrissy.

"We wanted to learn more about hiking in the Whites and



Above (l to r): Maddie, Margaret, and Pete Bleyler in class.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a busy time at Osher at Dartmouth this fall, and by and large the news is good.

There have been some changes in the ranks of our leadership. Peter Paquette has assumed the role of Vice-President while continuing as acting Treasurer until the Finance Committee elects a new Treasurer. Gene Currotto has stepped in to fill the role of Chair of the Finance Committee. Meanwhile, Hilary Llewellyn-Thomas has moved into the role of Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

The Planning Committee has developed a new Five-Year Strategic Plan and presented it to a Town Hall meeting in late October. The Plan envisions Osher at Dartmouth adapting to the changes and new opportunities created by the Covid pandemic. We will address both in-person and virtual learning, and our standing committees will refocus on these internal and external cohorts without losing sight of the critical role that socialization plays both in classes at One Court Street (OCS) and social gatherings.

We have received a new lease from our landlord which will allow us to proceed with our expansion into Suite 210 at OCS. The addition of these ~1,500 sf creates space for social gathering, another classroom, and a library with books donated by Joe Medicott.

Unfortunately, Covid does not appear to be quite done with us yet. We



probably all know of more than one person who has contracted the virus recently, although fortunately most cases are far less severe than in pre-vaccine times. Still, we feel it best to err on the side of caution and with this in mind have decided to postpone our Holiday Party until January at the earliest.

This doesn't mean that we're not going to be getting together. The staff has already launched several successful trips to Boston (King Tut and Tina Turner) and more are planned. Special lectures have resumed, and the popular Hot Plates/ Hot Topics luncheon has returned with sold-out sessions at Salt Hill Pub. Special Events Chair Pam Ahlen deserves our thanks for organizing these additions to our program.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

**Steve Tofel,
President**

Study Leader Spotlight, cont.

staff has done an excellent job in helping to grow the organization."

As a Study Leader, Maynard's aim is to show both sides of the coin, present different cogent points of view, and let the class discuss and conclude what they will. "I'm not here to sell anything to anybody." The following anecdote typifies the kind of course he aims for. When reviewing evaluation forms of a politics-oriented class that he had led, Maynard recalled, "I would get some forms that said 'I know Maynard is a Republican, and then I'd get other forms that would say 'I know Maynard's a Democrat'. So I felt then that I must be doing something right."

**Richard Neugass,
Editor**



As president of his class at the University of Michigan, Maynard had the honor of escorting Eleanor Roosevelt to various speaking engagements on and off campus. His recollection of that day in 1957:

"We ran around an entire day with her and her secretary...she made several speeches...including one to over 1,000 guests...and when it was all over...more than eight hours...I took her back to the airport, where she boarded a plane for another "date"... amazing!"

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

We Have HyFlex Equipment at Osher!

You ask, "What is HyFlex?"

HyFlex allows our members to take part in a course with the option of attending that course either by Zoom or in-person. The members in the classroom can interact with the Zoom members via large screens in the front and back of the classroom (when the Study Leader isn't screen sharing any documents). When a Study Leader wants to share files, such as a PowerPoint slideshow or a video, the HyFlex system allows that file to be shared simultaneously on the screen at the front of the classroom and in the Zoom window for the online participants. It's like magic; all participants can view and interact with each other and their Study Leader as if they were all in the same space.

We invested a significant amount of money from our Friends of Osher fund to purchase and install the HyFlex technology. The One Dartmouth AV team and a company out of Springfield, MA, worked together to map the classroom and ascertain the necessary technology and equipment, and to finally install

the equipment and fine-tune the settings. I am told that while other departments at the College have interactive classrooms, we are the first at Dartmouth to have this exact type of HyFlex equipment.

The HyFlex system is located in our largest classroom; classroom 3A in Suite 380 at I Court St. We are excited to be able to offer our Study Leaders the option of holding their classes in a HyFlex mode. Having the chance to attend class from a remote location allows members to join regardless of circumstance, whether it's due to weather, travel plans, health, or simply a personal choice.

It's amazing how technology has changed and made it easier for our members to attend classes from the comfort of their home, from the sandy beaches of Florida, or in-person in an Osher classroom. We like the catch phrase "Osher on the Go. Learn from Anywhere."

Lisa King,
Director



SPOTLIGHT: THE OSHER EXPERIENCE

Osher has been an integral part of my eighty-year-old life since reluctantly moving back to the Upper Valley after Lynn, my wife, "left everyone."

Osher, in some respects, has been my family, a welcoming body of thoughtful, adult teachers who design courses for students of all ages. My "students" run the gamut from young adults to one nonagenarian. I "teach" them and vice-versa.

Osher is inclusive...not exclusive. It is there for the common man and woman who are invited to show up and be themselves, whatever that might be. We are reading Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* and *Macbeth* side-by-side, act for act. So far we have devoted our time to acts one and two, focusing primarily on the likenesses and differences of comedy and tragedy, a rewarding enterprise. In the final three classes we will be examining more far-reaching concepts: fate, chance, free will, necessity, and luck, as they relate to our lives through the juxtaposed vehicles of comedy and tragedy. So far, my teaching is far removed in style from my HHS years; and my students seem receptive to it. Essentially, I too am a student in the classroom. I believe/trust that the world operates with constant, universal truths/

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EXPLORING LIVING HISTORY MUSEUMS

BY

MARY

KRONENWETTER

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “Living History Museum”? Women in long woolen skirts cooking over a hearth fire? Lessons in a one-room school house? A blacksmith forging a horseshoe? In the Fall 2022 course, Living History Museums: Promises and Practices, the participants examined the history of living history museums, techniques, and controversies. While living history approaches can be used to engage the public by adding faces, stories, and period activities, it can also be a powerful lens to apply to issues of inclusion, equity, and diversity. Museums that were used as case studies in the course included Greenfield Village, Colonial Williamsburg, Plimoth Patuxet, Connor Prairie, Sturbridge Village,

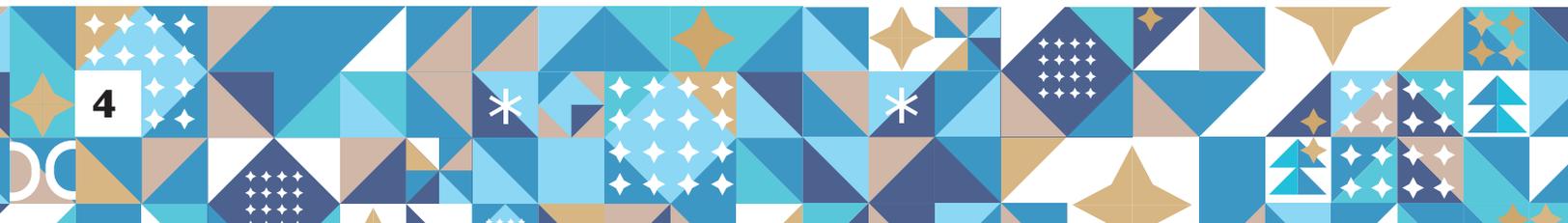
Fort #4, and Strawbery Banke. One reenactor we studied in depth was Sturbridge Village’s first Native American character, “Molly Geet”—an Abenaki Indian herbal doctress. The hobby of military reenactment was explored. The class also investigated the vast breadth of opportunities to experience living history online through virtual tours and classes, blogs, youtube videos, and more.

Like every Osher course, the participants in the fall class brought deep experience and insightful questions as we tackled debates on topics including reenactments of traumatic events in the past, such as slave auctions or The Trail of Tears, and the issue of who should be “allowed” to portray historic characters. Eleanor Coffey reminded the group of the theatrical roots of living history techniques. While discussing military reenactments, Steve Driscoll shared his extensive knowledge of Civil

war battlefields such as Gettysburg. Cynthia Bittinger shared her recent efforts in offering Eleazar Wheelock and his housekeeper reenactors at the Hanover July 4th parade in 2022. Our class representative extraordinaire, Pat Vlaminck, shared a story of experiencing her first encampment at Fort #4. Arlene Bettigole described her experience as a costumed docent at the Keeler Tavern in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Terry Martin extrapolated learnings from his time as a historical docent for Billings Farm Museum and as an interpreter offering tours in Philadelphia’s historic district.

Our course culminated in a trip to Strawbery Banke. The description of the museum from the website reads,

Strawbery Banke is unique among outdoor history museums in presenting an authentic neighborhood, with most of the 32 historic



Living History Museums, cont.

buildings on their original foundations, the earliest dating to 1695. Historical roleplayers at Strawberry Banke incorporate costumes, props, artifacts, architecture, gardens, and demonstrations into their interpretation to stimulate the imagination and help create a living visualization of the past.

Upon our arrival, Director of Education Bekki Copolla spoke to the group about the museum's approach to living history and historical interpretation. We then toured the museum and encountered "costumed roleplayers", including a very authentic Abraham Shapiro, a Russian-Jewish immigrant, at the 1919 Shapiro house. We spoke to interpreters, demonstrators, and role players and analyzed the differences in approach to sharing the museum's 300+ years of history, presenting life in Portsmouth from Indigenous history to the present day.

I am so grateful to the group for their generous sharing of the experiences and knowledge and making the course enjoyable and useful for all.

Mary Kronenwetter,
Study Leader



Spotlight, cont.

assumptions, and there are countless universal paths for we humans to find TRUTH: individual, societal, and worldly.

Yes. The earth is warming! I utilize all of my senses: sight, hearing, smell, touch, intuition, observation as tools of concern and love for myself and all other beings.

I will end with a brief poem by David Wagoner entitled "Lost."

Jim Hunt,
Study Leader



Lost

by David Wagoner

*Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you,
If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest know
Where you are. You must let it find you.*



Learning for All Ages, cont.

this course seemed like a great opportunity to do that,” the Morleys said.

The girls have become enthusiastic hikers after hiking with their parents throughout childhood, first in backpacks and then under their own steam. Margaret hiked Mt. Cardigan at age three and the girls have since hiked extensively in the area, including Moose Mt., Smarts Mt., Mt. Cube, and Camel’s Hump (one of VT’s 4,000-footers). They also completed their local section (map 5) of the Appalachian Trail during the pandemic. “We like the idea of having a goal and have set a few for ourselves. Thanks to our time in Pete’s excellent Osher class, this now includes hiking the 48 4,000-footers.”

At the penultimate session of the course, the girls were presented certificates attesting to their achievement. They couldn’t attend

Below: Margaret (l) and Maddie (r) on the way up Mt. Moosilauke.



the last session because they were hiking Mt. Moosilauke (their first of the 48 4,000-footers in NH) on Maddie’s 10th birthday. On that hike, Maddie remarked that she plans to complete the NH 4,000-footers by age 14, implying that Margaret will complete them by age 12.

Pete Bleyler,
Study Leader



*Above: Margaret poses next to her certificate.
Below (l to r): At the top of Mt. Moosilauke.*



RECONNECTING

I retired from the U.S. Navy in 1982. I joined the Green Mountain Base (GMB) of the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc. about four years ago. I had not seen nor talked to Dave Beattie since retirement. But at a quarterly meeting and luncheon of the GMB in Montpelier, there he was!

The GMB was actively promoting the building and commissioning of the submarine USS VERMONT (SSN-792). I told Dave about Osher, thought that the subject matter would make a great course, and asked if he would consider being a co-Study Leader. He said, "Yes."

So, after not hearing from each other for 38 years, he (as my final commanding officer), and I (as his former Chief-of-the Boat), joined forces to offer the course on the commissioning of the USS VERMONT. It truly is a small world.

Hank Buermeyer,
Study Leader



David Beattie (l) and Hank Buermeyer (r) at the 2022 Osher Study Leader BBQ.



KING TUT LIVE

BY GAIL FANCHER

What a great day!

After 3,000 years, the young King Tut still entertains people in his court. 46 Osher members enjoyed a day in Boston on Wednesday, August 24, viewing the Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience. After a short clip with 360 degrees of pictures, the door opens, and the crowd is allowed to wander through the well-crafted displays showing Dr. Carter's world-famous discovery. National Geographic quality films and educational information bedeck the walls on the self-guided tour, culminating in a virtual reality short, *Tutankhamun: Enter the Tomb*. Seated in a chair that swirls 360 degrees, the visitor dons VR goggles and headphones and is suddenly thrust into the opening tomb experience Howard Carter saw 100 years ago. Amazing!

Gail Fancher,
Study Leader



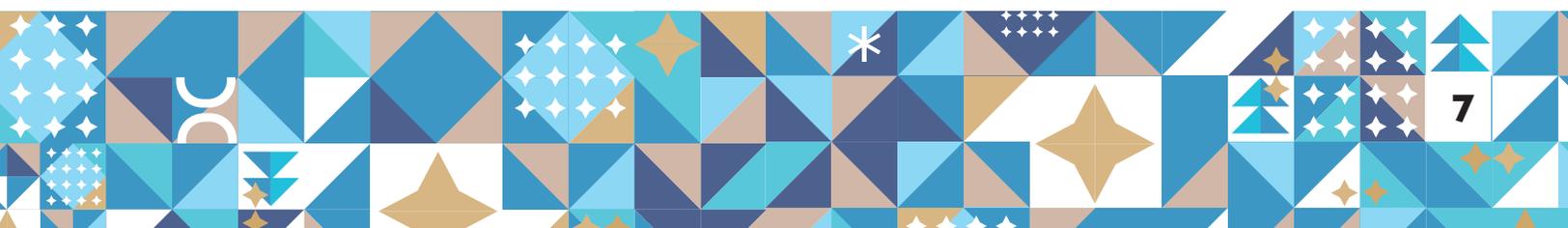
Osher at Dartmouth staff members Diane Doe (l) and Laura Belback (r) play a game of senet. There is some confusion regarding the identity of the winner.



Osher at Dartmouth members stand near King Tut's sarcophagus as a narrator describes some of the features of the burial container.



Trip participants pose for a group photo prior to leaving Boston.





Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Dartmouth

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OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING...

I stayed with [Osher at Dartmouth] because you folks are so helpful and are kind to folks who are computer challenged. It takes a long time for me to feel I belong, and you have provided that confidence!

Nancy Titchen,
Osher at Dartmouth Member

WINTER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Visit
osher.dartmouth.edu
to view courses.

Term begins
January 4, 2023.