

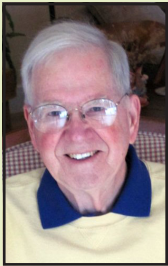
photo by Martha Nelson

# ILEAD @ Dartmouth

Discovering the new. The provocative. The timeless.

# 2014

Newsletter • Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth • Spring



## President's Corner

For the better part of two years now, my predecessor, Pete Bleyler and I have been communicating with you about The Osher Foundation and a potential affiliation with ILEAD and what that would mean to us.

As most of you know, the first phase of this potential relationship was the completion of a comprehensive application wherein we shared with Osher all relevant details of our multi-faceted organization – membership, leadership, volunteerism, our extensive course offerings, Special Lectures, the Summer Lecture Series, study travel programs, and special events. Of course, we also shared with them our financial information.

As a result of Osher's very favorable review of our application, which included how we would enhance our programs if we were awarded a \$100,000 grant, which is the first phase in Osher's monetary relationship with an institute such as ILEAD, we were awarded the grant. Over the past year we have used those funds to purchase and install an online class registration and fee payment system; we have enhanced the honorarium for Special Lecture and Summer Lecture Series speakers; we held Study Leader and ILEAD leadership training programs; and we launched a comprehensive advertising program on NHPR and VPR and placed inserts in the Valley News and the Vermont Standard for each of our class terms as well as the Summer Lecture Series.

As we move into the next phase of our relationship with Osher, the application for the first of two \$1,000,000 endowments, we thought it would be appropriate to share with you some additional

*Continued on Page 2*

## The Most Dangerous Region in the World? The Middle East

It's an area we all watch, wonder and worry about, because there's always a clash, often a crisis. Tribe against tribe, country against country, religion against religion, my bomb vs. your bomb. Governments destroy their own cities; drop bombs on their own citizens. Peace talks never begin, or start one day and disintegrate the next. These are conflicts we address and soften with labels like "Arab Spring," "popular uprisings," or "peace initiatives," but should we?



The 2014 ILEAD Summer Lecture Series, which will treat this extremely important and timely topic, starts Wednesday morning July 9 and runs for 7 weeks to August 20. An impressive collection of experts will help us understand why the Middle East is the way it is, and what the future is likely to hold in store. Mark your calendars now. You'll not want to miss it.

Series details and ticket information will be available in May.

- Bruce Macdonald



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Spring Party

May 3rd, 2014

Fireside Inn

Theme: Study/Travel  
Destinations

#### ILEAD

#### Annual Meeting

May 21st, 2014

Lake Morey Resort

Speaker: Dan Benjamin

## The Origins of Yucky and Yummy: The Anthropology of Food and Eating

In this wonderful course presented by Barbara Butler, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, last Fall, we found a fascinating and comprehensive study of the history of eating, including the discovery of how fire enhanced food and what various world cultures have been doing with that knowledge ever since.

We explored how one food might be considered “yummy” in one culture, while it is “yucky” in another; for example, it is said “in Southern China, people eat everything on four legs except tables, everything that flies except airplanes, and everything in the water except boats.” We, in this country, are rather more discriminating (and often squeamish) regarding many of these choices of food. Why? Via PowerPoint presentations at the beginning of each class as well as numerous articles for personal reading, we saw how food developed into custom, class distinction, celebration, ritual, and pleasure; how and why cuisines change, and how food fads come and go.

A particularly enjoyable facet of the class was partaking of each class member’s culturally meaningful snack, a different one or two each week (no cookies at the break for this group), and the story of how each food came to be meaningful to that person. To make this part of the class even more enjoyable, recipes were

distributed at the end of the course.

We found this course ideal for couples and it was a perfect balance of learning and fun. It certainly enhanced our perspective and helped us respect and appreciate the abundance of food choices we are currently able to enjoy.

Keep your eye on future course offerings and sign up for this one when Barbara teaches it again. We highly recommend it!

- David and Kathi Byam



Participants prepare to sample featured dishes at a class session.

### President’s Letter (cont.)

information about Bernard Osher and the Osher Foundation.

In this newsletter you will find a brief biography of Bernard Osher himself (an extremely successful businessman and philanthropist), a history of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, and an article about the National Resource Center, which supports the institutes.

Please read this information carefully and let me know if you have any questions or comments. In future communications we will provide you with additional information about this wonderful organization and its founder.

- Stew Wood



Participants in Dan Hopkins’ Spring 2014 course, “An African Adventure: The Wildlife of Botswana”, enjoy a rather unusual first encounter with some of the wildlife they may potentially see on their upcoming trip to Botswana.



**Top Image:** Participants investigate leopard hide

**Center Image:** Crocodile bag

**Bottom Image:** Snake skin (straddling two full tables in the DOC House Dining Room!)



## Study Leader Profile: John Johnson

Isn't it fascinating what some folks do for a living and what they do for fun? In the last few issues of the newsletter we've featured an anthropologist who became an expert on the origins of language, writing, and food; a world-renowned expert of comparative religions; a self-taught wizard on Hollywood movies; a professor of American and British literature; a couple who taught us about vaudeville and world events; and a former advertising executive who became an expert on China from his days living there.

And now we have an American History major who spent his working career in cultural resource management and developed an IL-EAD course on *The Cultural Landscapes of New England*.

John Johnson was born in Illinois, but his family moved to Massachusetts when he was 16. That's when he "discovered New England." After graduating from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a B. A. in American History, which was subsequently augmented with an M.A. in American History, his first professional job was in the Crafts Department at Old Sturbridge Village. He now boasts a 40 plus-year career in cultural resource management and has lived and/or worked in every state in New England.

Johnson has also taught historic preservation at the undergraduate and graduate level and for many years was a contract historian for the Historic American Engineering Record, working with architects and engineers to document industrial sites. In his spare time, he prepared nominations to the National Register of Historic



*John Johnson at his home.*

Places for architecturally significant houses, rural schoolhouses, churches, farms, and factories, as well as many large urban and rural historic districts. For 16 years, he was Director of a regional office of the Florida State Historic Preservation Office before moving back to Vermont in 2001.

His most recent work, *Reinventing the Waterwheel: Rediscovering the Knowledge of a Mid-Nineteenth Century Millwright in New England*, is a published documentation project for the Historic American Engineering Record, the Society for Industrial Archeology, and the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont.

John and wife Emily are winter resident in the hills of Vermont and summer resident on the coast of Maine.

"I'm also quite active in my community," said John. "I'm president of the historical society and I've re-written parts of the Town Plan. My hobbies include growing vegetables, carving quarterboards, and traveling in Europe. I joined IL-EAD to share my knowledge and passion about the places and cultural landscapes of New England."

"I really enjoyed the research, presentations, and students, so I plan to teach *Understanding Place: The Cultural Landscapes of New England* again in Fall 2014.

This course presents the diverse landscapes of New England's coast, farms, industries, forests and mountains, as well as villages, towns and cities. This place-based, regional approach considers the contact points between cultural and natural resources that have created the present environment. We will time travel near and far, from Peterborough, New Hampshire and the White Mountains to Downeast Maine and Cape Cod. Our readings, in *A Landscape History of New England*, edited by Blake Harrison and Richard W. Judd, will promote insights into these landscapes that inform our understanding and appreciation of places.

*-Jeff Bendis and John Johnson*

## Bernard Osher

Bernard Osher, a patron of education and the arts, started The Bernard Osher Foundation in 1977, which seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts.

A native of Biddeford, Maine and a graduate of Bowdoin



College, Osher pursued a successful career in business, beginning with the management of his family's hardware and plumbing supply store in Maine and continuing with work at Oppenheimer & Company in

*Continued on Page 4*

Bernard Osher (cont.)

New York before moving to California. There he became a founding director of World Savings, the second largest savings institution in the United States, which was sold to Wachovia Corporation in 2006.

A collector of American paintings of the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries, Osher purchased the fine art auction house of Butterfield & Butterfield in 1970 and oversaw its growth to become the fourth largest auction house in the world. In 1999, he sold the

company to eBay.

Bernard Osher has been affiliated with a number of philanthropic and non-profit boards and currently serves as president of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Foundation and vice-chair of the American Himalayan Foundation. He is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Class of 2009). He also is a serious student of opera and an ardent fly fisher-

man. He and his wife Barbro Osher, Consul General for Sweden in California, conduct their philanthropy through The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Fund, and The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, which supports cultural and educational projects that link communities in North America and Scandinavia, with an emphasis on Sweden.

-Source: The Bernard Osher Foundation website ([www.osherfoundation.org](http://www.osherfoundation.org))

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes: History

### Background

In the fall of 2000, the Bernard Osher Foundation began to consider programs targeted toward more mature students, not necessarily well served by the standard continuing education curriculum. Courses in such programs were designed to attract students of all ages eager to accumulate units to complete degrees or to acquire career skills. By contrast, the interest of older adults, many of whom are retired, is in learning for the joy of learning without examinations or grades.

### First Grants

In early 2001, an endowment grant was given to the University of Southern Maine to improve and extend its excellent programs, and the name "Senior College" was changed to "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute." Shortly after, Sonoma State University, a member of the California State University system, became a grantee. Both programs progressed admirably, and the Foundation decided to

join the "lifelong learning" field in a significant fashion.

### National Expansion

Beginning in the fall of 2002, the Foundation issued Requests for Proposals to campuses in the California State University and University of California system. Grants of \$100,000 were made on the understanding that, once a lifelong learning institute was launched, the Foundation would consider the renewal of the grant for two or more years with a view to providing an endowment gift of no less than \$1 million should the institute demonstrate potential for success and sustainability. At present, the Foundation supports 117 lifelong learning programs on university and college campuses across the country. The Foundation also supports a National Resource Center for the Institutes, which is located at the University of Southern Maine.

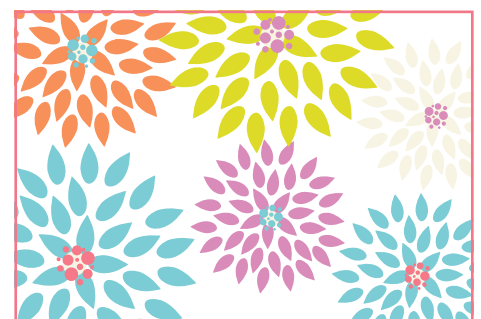


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### Current Program

There is considerable variation among the Osher Institutes, but the common threads remain: Non-credit educational programs specifically developed for those who are aged 50 and older; university connection and university support; robust volunteer leadership and sound organizational structure; and a diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating courses.

-Source: The Bernard Osher Foundation website ([www.osherfoundation.org](http://www.osherfoundation.org))  
edited by Jeff Bendis



## The National Resource Center for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes

The Bernard Osher Foundation designated the Osher Institute at the University of Southern Maine (USM) as the National Resource Center (NRC) for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) in 2004. The NRC serves as the national center for the current network of 117 lifelong learning institutes throughout the nation.

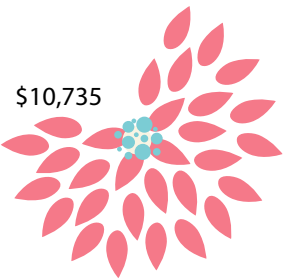
The NRC plays a lead role in disseminating information on effective educational programming for older learners. In addition to providing information and connections, the NRC holds an annual national conference and provides a range of ways to help OLLIs

to connect with one another.

The NRC is not a governance body, but is a center for excellence and dissemination of best practice models. Each Osher Institute reflects the culture of its own university and its learning community. The NRC exists to facilitate the exchange of opinions, solutions, and experiences among institutes throughout the country so that all can benefit.

- Source: The Bernard Osher Foundation website ([www.osherfoundation.org](http://www.osherfoundation.org))

### Friends of ILEAD Fund



\$10,735

Our fund currently stands at \$10,735. Thank you all for your generosity!



Ann Garland guides Bob Christie through an activity during her Winter 2014 course, **So You Bought An iPad: Now What?**

### ILEAD Annual Meeting

May 21st, 2014  
Lake Morey Inn

Speaker: Dan Benjamin

This annual event is an opportunity for ILEAD members to celebrate the events of the past year, and to learn about exciting new possibilities and opportunities. This enjoyable afternoon will include a tasty luncheon followed by addresses by our current President and our guest speaker, Dan Benjamin.

## ILEAD

*It's been well-documented that after retiring,  
Learning helps keep the old synapses firing.  
Enroll in some courses and make new connections.  
Adventure and travel; take brand-new directions!  
Develop new talents and skills worth admiring.  
ILEAD offers these for the aspiring.*

*Alexandra*

This lovely image was presented to ILEAD by the artist, Alexandra Corwin. Alexandra had planned to offer a course on calligraphy this fall, but has decided to postpone those plans for the time being. We thank her for this creative gift, and invite visitors to the office to admire the original in person!

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## UPCOMING LECTURES & EVENTS

**May 8, 2014**

*Lecture: Painting With Stone*

Derek Levin

3 PM; Haldeman 041

**May 8, 2014**

*Lecture: Destination Botswana*

Steve Stockhall

5 PM; D.O.C. House

**May 13, 2014**

*6th Annual Literary Night*

6 PM; D.O.C. House

**May 29, 2014**

*Lecture: Russia & the West*

Matt Rojansky

3 PM; Moore B03



## Lisa's Corner

**Dear ILEAD Members and Friends,**



Our program has long relied on the use of name-tags in class, as they help participants and study leaders communicate with one another more effectively. This winter, we asked our members to begin taking charge of their own name-tags, as the task of filing and retrieving tags has begun to have a detrimental effect on our staff's other term preparations. During the spring term, we made another change, switching from the use of card-boxes to three-ring binders, intended to hold course materials. These binders include a zippered pouch that is perfect for storage of name-tags, and we encourage you to keep your tags there between class sessions, and remind you to bring your tag home after the final class session. We thank our members for their cooperation and understanding as we've acclimated to this new process, and appreciate your continued patience.

**Thank You!**