



Photo by Betsy Vickers

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Study Leader Profile: Barbara Stern

“Never waste a good crisis,” Winston Churchill once remarked. Had he been around in 1862, he might have given this advice to the U.S. Congress. Although the Civil War was not going well for the Union at the time, it did have the serendipitous effect of removing



all of the South’s representatives from Congress and allowed the Republicans to pass pro-growth legislation that would help modernize and industrialize the country. Long opposed by the southern members, legislation such as the Homestead Act and the Pacific

Railway Act of 1862, as well as the Act to Encourage Immigration of 1864, now became law in their absence. This, as Barbara Stern points out, helped launch what Mark Twain dubbed, “The Gilded Age.”

Her incredibly popular course of the same name ran in the fall and was expanded to two sections for the winter term after the first section filled, quite literally, in minutes. A former history major at Smith College, Barbara sees the fifty years that followed the Civil War as one of the most interesting and formative

periods in our history. It gave rise to the “Robber Barons” and “Captains of Industry” who would transform a largely agrarian United States into the greatest industrial power in the world. It would concentrate great wealth into the hands of fewer people than the country had hitherto seen or imagined. Fortunately, it also led to a cultural awakening on this continent akin to the eras of the Medici and Hapsburgs and, ultimately, to the Sherman Antitrust Act and the populism of Theodore Roosevelt. Names such as Morgan, Gould, Frick, Vanderbilt, Astor, Carnegie, and Rockefeller would come to exemplify both the worst aspects of capitalism and its

Continued on Page 4

President’s Corner

Your Leadership Council and all committees continue to work to maintain our high standards, improve, and offer more to our members! Here is a brief summary of where we stand. We especially welcome your joining us as a volunteer, so please contact the office if you are willing. Thank you.

- New home – we continue to work with Dartmouth and others to find a new home for Osher where we can have adequate classroom space, parking and our staff in one location.
- More members – it is right to share a good thing and so plans are in place to let more of the Upper Valley citizenry know what we do, and to encourage people to enrich their lives with

lifelong learning.

- More social activities – We will offer opportunities for members to gather together around each of our four terms, as well as movies, small meetings, and lunches.
- More courses – Help the Curriculum Committee discover more study leaders and different topics for courses. New and different courses such as Botanical Drawing and Duplicate Bridge bring in new members. If you have ideas, please put them on your follow-up form or contact the office.
- Financial stability – our Finance Committee works hard with each committee to ensure we have a credible budget and that we stick to it.

- Stronger relationship with Dartmouth – We will continue to work to inform the Dartmouth community of who we are and what we do. Our association with the Allen House residential housing community is the first step. We have seen more retired Dartmouth professors becoming study leaders. We are discussing ways to reach retirees from DHMC and Dartmouth.



- Sylvia Sands Paxton, President

Notes From the Finance Committee

The end of December marks the halfway point in our fiscal year and we have just wrapped up our first half financial results. This is a good time then to look at how well we have performed year-to-date.

Membership continues to be strong with 1,462 members logged in our database for 2016-17. From past performance we can expect additional past members to renew, and new members to join, in response to our recently mailed catalog of courses for the spring term. For those who did not join at the beginning of the fiscal year, our 'Spring Special' membership fee is still a great buy, allowing for participation in both spring and summer courses in this fiscal year and full-year membership until June 30, 2018.

The Summer Lecture Series 2016 – 'The New Medical Frontier' – brought several leading figures to the stage in Hanover. We had very generous underwriting support from the Byrne Foundation, Caldwell Law, DHMC, Kendal at Hanover, and Wells Fargo Advisors, as well as sponsorship from Coldwell Banker, Ledyard Bank, Tyler Simms St Saviour, and the Visiting



Nurse Service. Please take a moment to thank these organizations and businesses for their generous support whenever you can. Their financial contributions helped to offset disappointing ticket sales, which were below budget, but the organizing team worked hard to keep expenses in check and also below budget. Enrollment in courses for the fall and winter term have again been near record levels, thanks to the very attractive array of courses offered, and revenues have exceeded budget.

We continue to strive to honor the intent of the Osher Endowment by using income from the investment of the principal to "enhance the member experience." We have provided financial support to our Special Lectures program (including the Osher Annual Lecture, and the

post-election analysis roundtable), the monthly "Golden Oldies" film series at the Nugget, the Viennese Holiday Evening in collaboration with Classi-copia, and the publication of the *Anthology and Poets and Writers* (a collection of Osher members' writing and art). We always appreciate your feedback on these events and the value they hold for you.

As some of our current Finance Committee members will reach the end of their three-year term at the Annual Meeting this coming May, we are looking for new members to join the Finance Committee. You do not need to be a CPA, but an ability to balance the family checkbook is a plus. Individuals with a background in running a small business, experience in long-range financial planning, or knowledge of commercial real estate will be a valuable addition. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail Lisa the Osher office at osher@dartmouth.edu (use "Finance Committee" as your subject line).

- Iain Sim,
Treasurer and Chairman,
Finance Committee

2017 Summer Lecture Series

This year's Summer Lecture Series will feature a big change to the schedule: Sessions will convene at 9:00 am on Thursday mornings beginning July 13, 2017, with the final session taking place on August 24, 2017.

This year's theme is Global Challenges Confronting the United States, and will feature experts on the following topics:

- Global Warming
- Cyber Warfare
- Russia & NATO
- Brexit & the European Union
- Global Nuclear Proliferation & Terrorism
- China's Assertiveness

More information coming later this spring!

Osher Office Art Gallery

Stop by our 7 Lebanon Street offices to enjoy a new exhibit every two months.

January/February

Reality to Abstraction - A Photographic Journey of Perception

Mary Gerakaris explores colors, textures, and patterns that appear organically in the world around us.

The gallery is free to view during regular office hours:

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

Dartmouth Club of the Upper Valley

The Dartmouth Club of the Upper Valley (DCUV) is one of the largest of all Dartmouth alumni clubs, comparable in size to urban clubs in major cities. It is one of the most active clubs and annually sponsors events and programs that would appeal to many residents of the Upper Valley. The DCUV is the only Dartmouth club that invites non-Dartmouth alumni to join, and we are grateful that many have taken us up on that opportunity.

On the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, we host a reception and speaker/program for our members. These programs are varied and appeal to members with a wide variety of interests. For example, presentations in the past couple of years have included:

- Dean of the College Rebecca Biron on the new house communities.
- Dean of the Tuck School Matthew Slaughter on his vision for Tuck and the role that business schools and

their graduates will play in the ever-changing world economy.

- Professor John Campbell on the rise and fall of American politics in the age of Trump.
- A panel of veterans discussing their Vietnam and Iraq War experiences.

In addition, the DCUV sponsors an annual seminar, which includes a catered lunch. The three most recent topics at these seminars have been Arts in the Upper Valley, Issues of Sexual Assault and Harassment on Campus, and Privacy & Security in the Age of the Internet.

Our Annual Meeting and Dinner features interesting presentations which, in recent years, have included an Olympic Preview from ESPN executive Russell Wolff '89; former Vermont governor Madeline Kunin; and a preview of Ken Burns documentary on the Dust Bowl. Other DCUV activities that Osher members might find appealing have included:

- a tour of DEN (Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network) along with presentation by students undertaking projects at DEN
- a tour of Tracey Memorial Gardens and The Fells with a talk by Professor Jere Daniell
- a tour and picnic at Saint Gaudens National Historic Site
- a Groundhog Day tour of the steam tunnels
- a look at the Special Collections in Rauner Library

Many Osher members are already members of the DCUV, and can attest to the relevancy and quality of these activities. We feature the DCUV in our newsletter because its activities are so much in tune with Osher at Dartmouth's mission to provide intellectual and experiential offerings to residents in our region.

- Laura Schneider,
Chair, Membership Services Committee

John Sanders: Our President-Elect

I was born in inner-city Detroit, and lived in an emerging neighborhood of largely Orthodox Jewish families for 6 years. Attending the local grade school, and going to Hebrew School as my Sunday School, I now remember being a true minority. When my father finished his OB-GYN residency at Henry Ford Hospital, we moved to the West Side of Cleveland, where I finished high school. Dartmouth was suggested as a possible alternative to Ohio State or Michigan by a local alum, and I was fortunate to be accepted. I went to University of Michigan Medical School, and then Peter Bent Brigham Hospital for my General and Thoracic Surgical residencies. After a year on the staff there, I was invited to join the faculty at Northwestern



University Medical School. My wife, Karen and I spent 19 years in Winnetka, Illinois, and our children Julie and John graduated from New Trier High School.

Our daughter Julie went to Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School, and married Jay Davis, a Dartmouth grad from Maine. They organized the first of our now-annual canoe trips to better know his parents. Jay's father Mac, at the end of the trip, said, "You guys love this. You should move out here." After a weak protest on my part, Karen convinced me to look into a job at DHMC. Six months later we were here, and beginning the last part of my professional career as a cardiac surgeon. Our son John and his wife Nicki brought their young family to Hartland soon after. For 15 years, I looked with envy at the ILEAD courses my wife was able to enjoy. We have fully immersed ourselves in the outdoors,

performing arts, and intellectual activities offered in the unique Upper Valley environment.

I retired from DHMC in 2010, and began a major teaching commitment at Geisel School of Medicine, as well as volunteer work with Good Neighbor Health Clinic and ACTS-Honduras. I have enjoyed a number of Osher courses, and help teach "Great Decisions" and a course on "Smoking Salmon at Home". Karen and I share a love of our natural world, and have the joy of having both of our children and four grandchildren living nearby. I look forward to an exciting two years as President of Osher at Dartmouth, and hope you will share in our hopes for its future.

- John Sanders,
Osher President-Elect

Study Leader Profile (cont.)

best. Some of our finest museums, universities and charitable foundations received both their names and financial support from the tycoons of The Gilded Age.

Barbara conceived of this course while going through what she terms “Downton Abbey withdrawal” and her hope that a new series, *The Gilded Age*, set in New York City, that is being developed by Julian Fellowes, the creator of *Downton Abbey*, would fill that void. She explores the period when newly minted, but title-less, moguls built their baronial estates and sent their daughters off to marry English aristocracy, thus acquiring titles in the process. She cites as examples Mary Leiter, daughter of Levi

Leiter (Marshall Field’s retail partner) who married George Curzon and became Vicereine of India, Consuelo Vanderbilt, who became the Duchess of Marlborough at age 18, and Jennie Jerome, who married Lord Randolph Churchill and gave birth to Winston Churchill.

Barbara grew up in Excelsior, MN, which she describes as “kind of like Lake Wobegon”, the mythical town in Minnesota created by Garrison Keillor. For a brief period as a child she got to experience a bit of the Gilded Age herself when her family lived on Boulder Bridge Farm, the Lake Minnetonka summer estate of the Dayton family of Dayton-Hudson Department Stores. It was during this

part of her life that she developed a love of gardening. After a post-college stint in Washington DC, at the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, she worked as a reporter at the *Washington Star*, where she met her husband Dennis, another acclaimed Osher at Dartmouth study leader. They later moved to the New York area where she studied and later taught landscape history and design at the New York Botanical Garden and had her own design business. Retirement brought them to the Upper Valley, where teaching and taking Osher courses has become a big part of their lives.

- Steve Tofel, Chair,
Marketing & Communications Committee

Osher: Our Best Kept Secret?

We tell our friends about a great new restaurant, or a movie we loved, and might encourage them to come up for the summer or maybe consider buying a place here. The Upper Valley has so much to offer - a premier Ivy League college, Broadway standard theater, outstanding museums, great hospital resources, a thriving cartoon school, a vibrant opera program, an always busy cultural arts center, and on and on.

But have you ever told your neighbors, classmates or friends about Osher (or as some still say, ILEAD)? This community-based learning environment has 1,600 active members, 175 exciting courses each year, and a wealth of expertise available to lead interactive study groups.

Many members take one or two courses annually, but others sign up for 5 or 6. Why? Because they love it, find it stimulating, and discover a

vehicle for meeting other like-minded folks, in one of the largest and most comprehensive programs in the country.

There are some big things ahead for Osher, but costs escalate with growth. Every new member we bring on board helps to spread the cost. Either we pay more individually, or we bring in new members to help share the load. This message is key: bring in new members and promote Osher, rather than continuing to treat it like our best kept secret!

- Bruce Macdonald, Member,
Marketing & Communications Committee

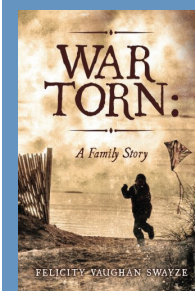


War Torn: A Family Story

Osher member Felicity Swayze of Tunbridge has published her personal memoir, *War Torn: A Family Story*. She began writing this tale as a participant in a memoir class taught by Joe Medlicott, an enthusiastic supporter of her work.

In August, 1940, England is at war. Fearing a German cross-channel invasion, Felicity’s father makes the decision to send his wife and their twin children to America for safety. In just a few days they are gone, traveling by ship through dangerous waters. This is the story of those wartime years: years filled with uncertainty, constant change, and virtual homelessness.

Felicity searches the past to answer questions that troubled her for years: Why did he send his family overseas? What happened between



Continued on Page 5

Letters to the Editor

Q: Why are class participants asked to be class representatives? Why aren't the study leaders asked to take attendance and handle arrangements?

A: We appreciate the many class members who volunteer their time and energy to act as their class representatives. Study leaders are volunteers, and over time our program has found that it better enables study leaders to focus on leading the class if the tasks of attendance, name tag distribution, and communication between individual class members and the office is streamlined through a single class rep. Class reps help the office



stay connected with what's going on in the classroom, and their du-

ties can be either very light or more complex, depending on how much responsibility they wish to take on and how involved their study leader and other class members wish to become. Some class reps simply take charge of the class binder, record attendance, and pass along questions to the office from class members. Some class reps organize a refreshment schedule for break times, and establish a phone tree in case of foul weather and canceled classes. Some even take it on themselves to touch base with the office to make sure class members are receiving class materials from the on-line course folder, or to share news about upcoming events with their class.

Regardless of their level of involvement, class representatives provide a vital service to both their

fellow class participants and to their study leaders. We can't thank you enough!

If you have a question or comment you'd like to see in our next Letters to the Editor, please send it to the office via one of the methods listed below. We will post your submission anonymously unless you direct us to include your name.

Mail your Letters to the Editor to this address:

Osher at Dartmouth
7 Lebanon Street, Suite 107
Hanover, NH 03755

E-mail your Letters to the Editor to this address:

osher@dartmouth.edu

(Please include "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line of your message.)

Psychological Benefits of Osher Membership and Participation

I don't recall what occasioned this response to a question I was asked several years ago, but I tagged Osher at Dartmouth as one of the significant mental health resources in the Upper Valley. I suspect it sounded to the questioner's ear like an odd description of this more than twenty-five-year-old vibrant continuing education effort, but think again what

these classes, trips, and gatherings offer.

They are each of them opportunities to flex our mental apparatus, either by rehearsing things we've enjoyed reading and talking about in the past, or opening us to events and ideas we've never considered. It's like the athlete's adage, "use it or lose it." Whether it's in preparation for a class or trip, attending the thematic Summer Lecture Series, or meeting at a gathering of Osher friends, our minds are stimulated. That's good mental health care.

Perhaps more importantly, we're doing whatever we're doing with others. Osher engages us by drawing us out of our homes or apartments. For some, the community of fellow-learners is every bit as

important as the content of the class. We are reunited with old friends and discover new friends. Isolation can be a real issue for seniors, and in the Upper Valley we hardly live on top of one another; for example, for twelve years Kristin and I lived at the end of a dirt road with four other homes, but the owners were often traveling, some for significant periods of time. Osher gave us the chance to build a community of friends from all over, and that's no small gift.

So I'd say the gifts of Osher membership are really significant beyond the catalogue's inviting descriptions of the courses, and they come without the cost of a couch and consultation.

- Stew Wood, Study Leader
& Past Osher at Dartmouth President

War Torn, cont.

her father and her mother? What was her father like? She weaves her tale from her own memories, stories and letters from her mother, and wartime letters from her father. Her book is a deeply personal and compelling work.

War Torn: A Family Story is now available on Amazon.

- Richard Neugass,
Editor and Member,
Marketing & Communications Committee

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Spring Classes March 16 - May 25, 2017

Osher at the Movies

Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH
All shows start at 10:00 am
Admission is free for members

Tuesday, February 21

All About Eve

(1950) Bette Davis, Anne Baxter

Wednesday, March 8

The Quiet Man

(1952) John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara

After each movie, gather with other members at The Canoe Club for a 25% lunch discount! See our website for more information!

Lisa's Corner



First, I would like to thank everyone that gave a donation this year to the Friends of Osher. We had a total of 124 households submit a gift to our Friends of Osher Fund, making a grand total of \$11,655. THANK YOU!

Second, I would like to reach out to all members who enjoy taking digital photos. If you attend an Osher class, special event, or lecture, we would love to see your photos. We are looking for images of all the different types of events our program offers. We want to show our members and our community exactly what Osher at Dartmouth does and how much fun we have. Please send your digital images to osher@dartmouth.edu. Make sure the date of the event and the title of the photo is included in your message, along with your personal contact information.

Next, I want to mention the importance of giving back to our program by volunteering. Every year, several of our committees lose members when their terms expire. Please consider joining either our Curriculum or Member Services Committee. Curriculum recruits study leaders by reaching out via email, phone calls, and face-to-face conversations. Be a part of putting the courses together we offer each term! Member Services plans our annual meeting, pre-term gatherings, Literary evenings, and many other events throughout the year. If interested in serving on either committee, please email osher@dartmouth.edu and include either "Curriculum Committee" or "Membership Services" in the subject line. (And don't forget our Finance Committee - see page 2 of this newsletter!)

Finally, I will visit the DOC House periodically this winter and spring, and would love to say hello! These dates and times will be listed on our website calendar, which you can view at osher.dartmouth.edu. I look forward to seeing you!

- Lisa King, Program Manager