



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Dartmouth

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE FRIENDS OF OSHER AT DARTMOUTH FUND

Back in 2020, I brought together a small team of Osher members to organize our annual appeal for the Friends of Osher fund. Three years later I continue to be humbled by the generosity of so many members who donate to the Friends fund. I would like to take this opportunity to report on the past two years' campaigns (2020-21 and 2021-22) that, thanks to your generosity, have allowed our Osher institute to re-invent itself in new facilities at One Court Street, and to reenvision the manner in which we can offer courses to our members wherever they might be.

You generously donated a total of \$106,824 in the previous two years as we introduced a number

of innovations in our fundraising. For our 2020-21 campaign, we introduced a Challenge Grant designed to attract gifts from new donors. A small group of generous members agreed to support the Challenge Grant, pledging to give \$100 to the Friends fund for every member who was a new donor to the fund. You responded and we raised \$63,321 for the year, more than we together have ever achieved. I would like to share with you some of the comments we heard from our Challenge Grant supporters:

"I am happy to support the Osher Challenge Grant because this is a valuable community resource. Not only have I learned things that I did not

> take the time to learn on my own, but I have also met some delightful members of the greater community who I otherwise would not have met. Osher is a true gem."

"Especially in the time of Covid, Osher at Dartmouth has been a lifeline of

connectivity and as close to combining educational and social gathering as we are

continued on page 5

CALL FOR POETS AND WRITERS

When I first joined Osher (then called ILEAD) in 1994, I began taking literature and creative writing courses, one of which was Reading and Writing Poetry, led by Mame Willey.

Through the years I realized there were many of us who had begun writing or resumed writing with the encouragement of Study Leaders. Veteran Study Leader Joe Medlicott offered the first memoir course in 1992, Remembrance of Things Past! I recall other writing courses: Words on Paper by Melissa Mather (1997), Writing Fiction by Don Metz (1997), Our Lives Our Legacies by Sylvia Field (1999), and Fiction Writing by Suzanne Levy (1999). Writing courses have been offered continually these thirty-two years on travel, nature, essay, poetry, autobiography, our very rich creative history.

In 2010 I envisioned a literary evening in which members both published and unpublished could present their work followed by a reception hosted by Membership Services. The first Lit Night was held at the Dartmouth Outing continued on page 4



The Friends fund helps support improvements to classroom technology. Pictured here is the HyFlex teaching station in Classrom 3A at 1 Court Street.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Where has the time gone? hard to believe, but this will be my last contribution to the President's In the next quarterly Corner. newsletter Peter Paquette will be writing this column and I'm confident that Osher at Dartmouth will be in good hands under his guidance.

Writing this valedictory has given me a chance to reflect on several facets of our learning community. As an organization we have successfully emerged from the Covid pandemic! We've reintroduced our social gatherings, added a wide variety of group trips, are implementing a 5-Year Strategic Plan, and are expanding our space at One Court Street to include a library with books generously donated by Joe Medlicott.

I've had a chance to think about what Osher at Dartmouth means to its members. To some it can be a life-changing experience, as was so eloquently expressed by the late Brian Blanchette in his essay for the newsletter, "How Osher Saved My Life."

Osher is so much more than a simple transactional relationship, where one pays her/his money online and takes a course. We are a community of curious individuals who care about



more than just our daily lives. We enjoy learning from each other and sharing the experiences gained over lifetimes. To keep those rich interactions going, I urge you all to bring in a new neighbor, teach a course, take a trip, and experience what we have to offer.

I can't sign off without thanking our incredible staff. Simply said, they make Osher work. We can all be proud that as of last year we were able to make salaries competitive.

Thank you all for giving me the privilege of leading such a diverse, engaging, dedicated group of people! Look at what we've done!

Steve Tofel. President



The last four years have been dramatic and daunting for Osher at Dartmouth:

EVOLVING

- the termination of the use of the DOC House in 2019
- the move to One Court Street in Lebanon in early 2020
- the continuing onslaught of COVID-19
- the cancellation of the Summer Lecture Series (SLS) for 2020
- the re-establishment of in-person courses and the implementation of HyFlex in Fall 2022
- the closure of the Hopkins Center and the resulting need to find a replacement venue for the 2023 and 2024 SLS
- pay equity for the staff
- supply chain disruptions, and
- inflation.

Osher at Dartmouth's necessary responses to these realities have had financial consequences. The move to Lebanon and the implementation of HyFlex cost almost \$300K. The need for additional space at One Court Street (i.e., Suite 210) will require \$60-70K in fit-up costs. Fortunately, a combination of financial reserves and generous support through the Friends of Osher has provided sufficient funding for these projects.

Membership has declined from a peak of 1,688 at June 30, 2019, to 1,353 at February 28, 2023. Concurrently, total operating expenses have increased 22% from





Evolving Finances, cont. fiscal 2020 to the projected budget for fiscal 2024.

In response, Osher at Dartmouth is undertaking several initiatives to maintain its financial integrity, including: an effort to increase membership; the elimination of some printed materials, saving \$15-20K annually; a transformation of the sponsor program from an SLScentric to an Osher at Dartmouthwide focus: a review of the pricing model for member dues, course fees and SLS tickets; the request that members use their debit rather than their credit card to pay for Osher at Dartmouth offerings; and the re-establishment of both course and non-course related travel.

As always, the Leadership Council and the Finance Committee are keenly aware of their responsibility to balance the financial resources of Osher at Dartmouth with the need to provide beneficial experiences to its members. Stay tuned!

Peter Paquette,
Vice President
& Acting Treasurer,
Osher at Dartmouth



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I am elated to see our office and classroom spaces in Lebanon buzzing with so many of our members. I have seen many happy faces, returning members and new members alike, learning and engaging in our in-person, Zoom, and HyFlex courses and other events.

If you have been away for a while, this is a GREAT time to reactivate your membership. We have so many wonderful programs and events this spring! We are continuing to offer classes on Zoom. We are offering several trip opportunities, including day trips, overnight trips, and extended travel. Osher takes care of all the details while our participants just hop on the bus, take a seat, and let the learning, socializing, exploring, and comradery begins. Out trips feature both member and non-member rates, so there are plenty of opportunities for your family and friends to join you!

Want to know what we are doing? Be sure to visit our website at osher. dartmouth.edu. On the main page you'll find a calendar listing upcoming events. You can also look for trips and events by visiting the Programming page. That's where you'll also find info on lectures, tech café dates, and more. We have so much going on!

Although we know everyone is inundated with emails these days, this is the main method Osher at Dartmouth uses to communicate with our members. We send our weekly e-newsletter on Tuesday (or Wednesday, if there's latebreaking news), which is filled with items of interest and events offered either by Osher, other departments on the Dartmouth College campus, or by any number of our local partners. Our Sunday email is usually related to the current term and a listing of the courses that are still available. We also post on local listservs throughout the week to



share items of particular interest. If you ever feel you're receiving too much, look for the Unsubscribe link at the bottom of the message.

Osher at Dartmouth is vibrant, and offering all types of events and courses for our members. Help us keep Osher moving by encouraging your friends, neighbors, former colleagues, and family members to get involved, whether by becoming members or joining us for a single event such as a lecture.

We are always looking for new Study Leaders; maybe your neighbor or a family member would like to offer a course for us! Please contact us with your ideas!

Be sure to sign up for the America's Music City trip from October 29 through November 5, or any of the day-trips featured on our website; these trips are open to all, so you can travel with a loved one or a friend! We are really working to offer new and innovative programming and hope you will share these opportunities.

Whether it's a course, a lecture, a day trip, extended travel, a tech café, or even just to stop by and say hello, we hope to see you soon!!

Lisa King, Director



VISITING THE FIBER MILL

"So many steps to make yarn!"
"Labor intensive,"

"Such complexity!"

These are just a few of the observations made by the members of Osher's Special Interest Group (SIG) "Crafting for Charity" as they toured The **Junction Fiber Mill in White** River Junction on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. The group took time off from making charity items to visit the local fiber mill and learn more about spinning fibers. One of the owners, Amanda Kievet, graciously walked us through the mill. She explained each machine and its purpose, answering questions as they arose. When the tour ended, the members had an opportunity to purchase yarn and pose for a picture.

As I watched the process, I reflected on chats with my paternal grandmother, who spun wool. All the steps Amanda showed us, which are now done by machines, were done by hand by my grandmother, further making me realize how much she did, out of love and necessity, many years ago.

The mill hosts monthly Open House events where you can take a tour and shop their selection of locally spun yarn. Between the amazing hospitality and the beautiful yarn, it is worth the stop!

Gail Fancher, SIG Coordinator

Like all Osher SIGs, Crafting for Charity is open to all members. Contact the Osher office for more information.

and pose for a picture.

Members of Crafting for Charity pose for a photo during their visit to The Junction Fiber Mill.

Call for Poets and Writers, cont.

Club and featured BetsyVickers and Elayne Clift (among others), both current Osher Study Leaders. In 2015 Osher held its first Book Fair featuring eighteen published Osher poets and writers.

The last in-person Lit Night was held in 20219 before the DOC House closed for renovation, and then the Pandemic hit. Lit Night was on hold until resuming on-line in 2022 featuring Hilary Llewelyn Thomas, Rai d'Honoré, Daly Walker, and Carol Westburg. For over thirteen years Lit Night has featured approximately SIXTY Osher poets and writers.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Osher at Dartmouth, I thought it would be fitting to publish an anthology of Osher poets, writers, and artists. The anthology was personally rewarding, giving me the opportunity to work closely with talented Sarah Chamberlin. I hope we can do something similar in the future.

There is now a new group of Osher poets and writers. Osher would like to update its list of published poets and writers and include those who have knowledge or experience in publishing. There are Osher poets and writers we may still not know and would like to know! Please send your information to Osher staff (email osher@dartmouth.edu) so we can include your name on the Osher website. Osher wants to hear from you. Meanwhile, I hope to see you in the fall at the next Lit Night.

Pam Ahlen, Chair, Special Events



Pam Ahlen, Special Events

Friends of Osher, cont.

currently able to do. For this reason, I

wanted to encourage others to support

Osher so we can continue our vital

work."

"I took my first of many Osher/ILEAD courses nearly twenty years ago and got hooked. I am pleased to support the grant effort because I believe that Osher courses and associations have made an immeasurable contribution to my life."

And from new donors who rose to the challenge:

"[A] challenge or matching fund always instills interest from would be donors."

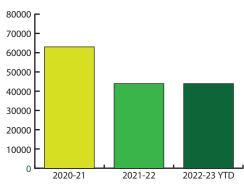
"I like the idea of the Challenge Grant, and it was the reason for our first time Osher donation."

For members who prefer to budget their giving over an extended period, we now offer two extended payment options: a gift installment spreads your donation amount over a set number of payments, or a sustaining giving plan that makes regular contributions throughout the year. Dividing your annual gift into a number of smaller payments

can help with monthly budgeting; a number of members have chosen to use one of these options.

Your gifts have ensured that Osher has been able to meet the many

Total Gifts Received, 2020-current



challenges which confronted us over the past three years—the Covid pandemic; moving out of DOC House that Dartmouth had scheduled for renovation: establishing a new home that is both inviting and suited to new ways of delivering courses to members. To achieve these goals, we have drawn \$123,268 from the Friends fund, as well as \$165,150 from other reserves. The expenses met from the Friends fund are shown in the chart, broken out into the cost of moving from DOC house, the cost of construction of the offices and classrooms, new

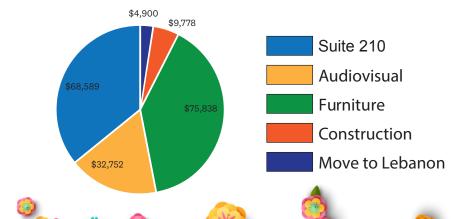
furniture and equipment, and the HyFlex audiovisual system installed in classroom 3A. In addition, we are on the verge of completing an agreement to add more classroom and socialization space, together with a library, on the second floor at One Court Street in Suite 210. We have earmarked \$68,589 from the Friends fund for this project, shown as Suite 210 in the chart below.

We are now well into the 2022-23 Friends campaign. A \$10,000 gift from an anonymous donor got the appeal off to a great start and we are now more than halfway to our \$80,000 goal for the year. A huge thank you to all who have donated this year.

As the worst of the Covid pandemic abates, the staff and members of your Leadership Council look forward to seeing many more members enjoy our home at One Court Street where you can come to meet friends, take a course, borrow a book from our library, or explore something new.

lain Sim, Chair, Fundraising Working Group

EXPENSES





In early 2020 Study Leaders John Sanders and Jim Wooster had a problem in presenting their Great Decisions course. They couldn't fit into a discussion-oriented room all the members who wished to sign up for their popular course. Hearing about something called "Zoom" that John's brother was using in his teaching, they adopted it to extend the walls of the classroom to accommodate more people. And then came Covid.

With remarkable success, Lisa King and her staff were able to take many Osher courses, including Great Decisions, online, which they did as Covid concerns eliminated in-person meetings. Great Decisions survived as a viable course, as did a host of other courses during that early pandemic period as online classes provided an alternative to no classes at all.

Fast forward to 2023, where courses are now presented in three distinct modalities: in-person only, entirely on zoom, or HyFlex (hybrid flexible; in-person and Zoom participants attend class simultaneously). Our use of the HyFlex format in classroom 3A at One Court Street hit its stride during the fall 2022 and winter 2023 terms.

In fall 2022, we offered eight courses in the HyFlex format, enrolling 147 members with an average of 18 participants in each course. In winter 2023, we offered seven HyFlex courses accommodating 177 participants, averaging 25 participants per course.

Though technologically advanced and offering features that would be impossible without it (e.g., recording classes for viewers watching at other times), this format does not work for everyone. Classes-at-a-distance, without

personal contact between participants, is not always appreciated or desired.

This is where Osher at Dartmouth has proven its staying power. Offering classes in-person only, or with zoom or HyFlex when study leaders are ready to try it, has allowed us to stay focused on the CONTENT rather than LOGISTICS of classroom management. And the walls of the classroom keep expanding, an exciting prospect for our basic premise that learning is good and should be shared widely.

At the start of the 2022 Fall term, the staff addressed a few technical hiccups in the HyFlex system, such as occasional feedback in the mic/speaker setup and screen sharing anomalies. HyFlex instruction is slightly more complicated than strictly teaching over Zoom, and the Study Leader experience in the fall term revealed specific areas where Leaders could use more training and support.

Osher Graduates to HyFlex, cont. In response, Sarah Chamberlin produced an illustrated manual that provides more specific directions on how to "manipulate" the various room controls. Cam Moore and Steve Shama, co-Chairs of our Study Leader Support subcommittee, have been working closely with staff in posting extensive technical guidance and teaching recommendations on our website. Tackling the intricacies of this new technology in a classroom setting has not been easy, but our staff and Study Leaders have consistently risen to the occasion.

In their HyFlex course feedback, participants have made a few specific recommendations concerning the use of this technology. One that stands out is the role of "Class Monitor", a volunteer position introduced when we first began offering Zoom courses. This role is based on the "Class Rep"

system that we used in the past, but the Monitor role has evolved into a position in which that volunteer can help ensure class participation and provide other assistance. The Class Monitor acts in addition to the traditional Class Rep volunteer; who has separate duties related to the physical classroom.

So what do our members think of all this? One student wrote, "Thank you to the Study Leader, and to Dartmouth...

This is an excellent class, and the use of the HyFlex has worked perfectly."

Another student commented, "[The Study Leader] did a fantastic job engaging the class both in person and on Zoom."

Challenges remain. As one student noted, "HyFlex is a difficult medium." But with great challenges come great achievements.

Richard Neugass, Study Leader & Chair, Member Communications



Above: In-person participants engage in conversation with their fellow class members online.

Left: Members of John Sanders' and Jim Wooster's spring 2023 Great Decisions class enjoy a Q&A session with guest speaker Victoria Holt.

Don't forget to stay engaged and keep your camera ON if you're joining via Zoom; your Study Leaders and fellow class members want to see your face!

HYFLEX REGISTRATION

When you register for HyFlex, you're asked to pick between the in-person participation option and the online (Zoom) participation option. This separation is intentional, as the two options are not interchangeable; if you register for in-person attendance, it means we're saving a physical seat for you in the classroom. That seat is no longer available to anyone else, not even if they're registered as a Zoom participant.

This doesn't mean that you're prohibited from transferring from one type of registration to the other; life happens, and you may find that you need to switch to online participation for one or more sessions of your course. If you decide such a switch is necessary, be sure to contact the Osher office as soon as you can. Moving from Zoom to in-person might not be possible if the classroom seats are full*, while moving from in-person to Zoom might help one of your fellow Osher members join the course from a wait-listed spot!

Enjoy your spring courses!

Sarah Chamberlin, Program Manager, Marketing & Design

*Some HyFlex courses intentionally "cap" the number of in-person attendees at a number lower than the physical capacity of the room. In other words, even if there are empty seats in the room, it doesn't necessarily mean those seats are available for use.

SO MANY EXCITING EVENTS!

We've enjoyed so many fun and engaging events over the last few months, including lectures, trips, gatherings, and more. Here are a few images from some of our winter and spring events.

HUNTING THE SCROLL WITH SPEAKER MIRANDA THOMAS SHACKLETON





On April 24, Miranda Thomas Shackleton presented "Hunting the Scroll", a HyFlex lecture providing a study of scrollwork examples in pottery throughout history.

Right:The in-person audience members enjoy the chance to follow along as Miranda instructs them on scroll drawing methods.

Left: Miranda provides an in-person demo, painting scrollwork on a pot from her studio.

LET'S TEAR IT UP: MULTI-MEDIA COLLAGES A WINTER TERM COURSE WITH GAEL CLAUSON & PATTI WARREN



Participants enjoyed the chance to explore their creativity creating collages using a variety of media.

Left: A sample of work from the class.

Right: Class members work on their individual projects in the classroom.



















HAMILTON A TRIP TO BOSTON











Osher members enjoyed an overnight to watch Hamilton in Boston on February I & 2, 2023. Participants had a chance to explore Boston in addition to watching the show.

Left, top:The audience gathers in the lobby of the Opera House. (Photo courtesy Patricia Borden)

Center, left:The stage just prior to the show. (Photo courtesy Patricia Borden)

Center, right: The front of the Citizens Bank Opera House. (Photo courtesy Patricia Borden)

Right: Briane Pinkson (I) and Hannah Darling (r) pose below the marquee for Hamilton. (Photo courtesy Linda Miller)

Left, bottom: Pastries fill the case at Bova's. (Photo courtesy Patricia Borden)

SPRING FLING CELEBRATING THE SEASON





Our Spring Fling event took place at Ava Gallery in Lebanon on April 19, 2023.

Left, top: Attendees gather in the gallery.

Right, top: Osher member Laura Schneider and staff member Diane Doe tend the bar.

Left, bottom: Program
Director Lisa King and Study
Leader Jon Gilbert Fox enjoy
some refreshments.

Right, bottom (I to r): Iain Sim, Sandra Johnson, Gary Johnson, and Hank Clarke enjoy some conversation.





SPECIAL PREVIEW: 2023 SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

China and the United States: Can Competitive Coexistence Be Maintained?

The 2023 Osher at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series could not be more relevant to the current world scene than this year's topic, and registration is open!

This year's series will take place in-person at the Lebanon Opera House in Lebanon, NH, or you can participate via livestream. The six Friday morning sessions begin on July 7 and run through August 11 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM (eastern time).

Visit osher.dartmouth.edu (under Programming) for more information!

July 7: U.S. Competition With China: How Should We Think About It?

Speaker: Professor David Shambaugh,

George Washington University

Moderator: Professor Pamela Crossley,

Dartmouth College

July 14: The Military Challenge: Is Conflict Inevitable?

Speaker: Major General (Ret.) Zhang Li,

Senior Advisor, China Institute for International Strategic Studies

Speaker: USN Rear Admiral Michael Studeman,

Director of National Maritime Intelligence-Integration and Commander of the Office of Naval Intelligence

Moderator: Sarwar Kashmeri,

Foreign Policy Association & Host, Polaris-Live.com

July 21: The Economic Challenge: Is There a Win-Win Outcome?

Speaker: Ambassador Huang Ping, Consul-General of China, New York

Speaker: Marc Chandler,

Chief Market Strategist, Bannockburn Global Forex

Moderator: Shehzad Qazi,

Chief Operating Officer, China Beige Book

July 28: The United States' and China's Politics and Governance: Strengths and Weaknesses

Speaker: Professor Jeremy Paltiel,

Carleton University (Ottawa)

Moderator: Ellen Frost,

Senior Advisor and Fellow, East West Center

August 4: Winning Hearts and Minds: Who's Doing Better?

Speaker: Bruce Stokes, German Marshall Fund

Speaker: Professor Maria Repnikova,

Georgia State University

Moderator: Bill Sullivan, a past President of Osher at Dartmouth and retired U.S. National Security and Intelligence executive

August 11: The Way Forward

Speaker: Ryan Hass, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Moderator: Sarwar Kashmeri.

Foreign Policy Association & Host Polaris-Live.com

LETTER FROM A MEMBER



Joe (I) and Ben (r) sit and chat during a break in class. Photo courtey Bonnie Cornell.

On May 10, members of Joe's spring term class surprised him with an early celebration of his 97th birthday. Program Director Lisa King recognized Joe's 30+ years of service as an Osher Study Leader. He was one of the first instructors for ILEAD back in 1991, and has taught at least one course (sometimes multiple) every year.



One of the carrot cakes honoring Joe's 97th birthday.



Joe (and his carrot Crocs) during the birthday celebration.

Ms. Lisa King, Ms. Diane Doe, Ms. Sarah Chamberlin, Ms. Emily Urquhart Osher at Dartmouth I Court Street Lebanon, NH

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for the great care you take with Dartmouth's Osher program. The good you do at your desks each day extends far beyond the obvious. My experience is a case in point. You connected me with my favorite professor 50 years after our first class together.

In 1973, Dr. Medlicott was a professor of English at the University of Connecticut. I was a young ROTC student in his class on American Literature. He was a champion of American Lit., in a field biased toward British writers. He had the basic professorial virtues. He was a good teacher and he was a gentleman, forgiving of undergraduate errors. Beyond that, he once mentioned that during World War II he had served with the 82 Airborne. He was a paratrooper. They make movies about what he and his friends did in 1944; movies such as *The Battle of the Bulge*, *The Longest Day*, and *A Bridge Too Far*. He was that rare combination; a man of letters and a man of action.

Over the years I wondered where he settled, as one might with a favorite teacher. I was prompted with each paratrooper I met. There were many both in the Air Force and afterward. For some years I actually lived next to Fort Bragg. There were some leads even before the internet, but each one was just a cul-de-sac of disappointment.

Fifty years after that first class, I retired. Revisiting American Literature seemed like good exercise for brain health. It also would allow me to read without undergraduate distractions. I started with several easy reads, but soon enough, there it was leering down from an upper shelf: *Moby Dick*, the white whale of all English Majors. Before diving into that again, it seemed prudent to check YouTube for a little additional insight. YouTube offered one of your classes, taught by Dr. Frank Gado. Woodstock Vermont Public TV had recorded it. Osher was new to me, but Dartmouth was familiar. Dartmouth is where Dr. Medlicott was an undergraduate.

A quick check of your website showed that someone you call "Joe" Medlicott was teaching a course in the Spring Semester. Could it be the same guy? He would have to be at least...how old? I took the chance and was lucky to get into the class. I can testify that it is the same guy. He is still a good teacher. He is still a gentleman. You need not take my word for it. His Osher students provide proof sufficient. His classes fill up immediately. He has a loyal cadre of students who follow him from class to class. They enjoy his classes. They clearly respect him, and they appear to have genuine affection for him. It is easy to see why he is still teaching at the age of 96.

Some old grinch said that we should not meet our heroes. I say, pick better heroes. It has been a delight to meet Joe Medlicott fifty years later. It is a gift not given to most of us. Thank you again, ladies, for making it possible.

Yours, Everett B. Dowe, III UConn '75



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

at Dartmouth

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