Annual Meeting Set for June 12th

The Osher Institute’s annual spring luncheon/meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th. The event will be held at the Hilton Milwaukee River on Port Washington Road from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm. Singer Stephanie Kasper is the featured entertainer. (See accompanying article.)

A mere twenty dollars get you a choice of Braised Beef Tenderloin Tips, Broiled Fillet of Salmon, or Chicken Supreme, along with salad, vegetable, rice, rolls and sherbet. Members who plan on attending and have not yet registered, should fill out the registration form with this newsletter and return it, along with payment, to the Osher office by May 29th.

Special thanks to Chris O’Brien and her committee for arranging such a special venue at such a good price.

Stephanie Kasper: A Passion for Song

Stephanie Kasper retired from elementary teaching in 1999 and, in her words, “hasn’t looked back.”

The Milwaukee native went to college in Denver and returned to Milwaukee with a degree in Latin American studies. She then entered a special UWM internship program to get her teaching certification and spent the next 25 years in elementary classrooms in Milwaukee Public Schools, spending her last nine years at the Dover Street School in Bay View.

Like any self-respecting pre-retiree, she had a “bucket list” ready when she left teaching. She can’t remember all the exotic places, all the grand schemes now. She’s discarded them for a new career.

One of the first things she did after retiring was take a trip to Reno, Nevada. As she boarded the plane for the return flight home, she heard an exchange between some fellow travelers. Friends were seeing off two women who were flying with her.
President’s Message

Let’s consider language. Think about words. Now, did you? could you? think about language without using words. There’s a long existing debate about that. I was drifting through the April 21st issue of the New Yorker and began to focus on the uses and values of words. Words are used to create humor; think of the captions on cartoons. Words describe and inform. It’s because of words that we can describe the past and ponder the future or even understand the directions of a recipe. Words cajole, implore and persuade. Think about the use of language in the current political campaigns. The mentioned issue of the New Yorker in the “Talk of the Town” feature has a discussion on “misspeak”. Did you know that its first use was in Chaucer? The cadre of reporters with notepads and microphones who follow any public figure is daunting. Would any of us want such constant and complete exposure of our statements, mumblings and musings? I think not. We all do, however, affect our experiences and infect our relationships with our comments. We should be aware of the power of our language.

What words do you use to describe your experiences in Osher events? Do your experiences bring you fulfilling, satisfying, even joyful thoughts? Do you share these positive values of membership with others? Would you? We’re in the process of revising the bylaws to reflect the changes made to become an Osher organization. Words again. At last year’s luncheon I commented that a primary meaning of “guild” was that it was a medieval organization used for training and evaluation. Institute is defined as an educational organization founded to promote some cause. We treasure our history, but it is our past and no longer defines us. Our future is limitless. Our boundaries can be defined by our next best idea. Put your ideas into words. Spring is a time for growth and bloom. What image of Osher graces your thought canvas? Put it into words, and share it with us. We’d love to have a column or feature idea submitted for publication in the next issue.

Terry Rozga
Of Geezers and Nautiluses: The Naming of Newsletters

by Mary Mulroy

Over the course of the past year, as our organization has morphed from the Guild to the Osher Institute, there’s been a bit of discussion in the halls of Hefter about changing the name of the newsletter. The euphony and comforting alliteration of Guild Gazette just disappears when you substitute Osher.

Your Board, however, has been unable to come up with a name worthy of this enterprise. More than one person has sniggered and then suggested Geezer Gazette. Someone thought Nautilus – the extraordinary ship in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* – sounded impressive. And it did. Jules Verne described his ship as a “masterpiece containing masterpieces.” And we’d certainly like the publication to explore exciting new mental regions. However, further discussion revealed that nautiluses, having survived relatively unchanged for millions of years, represent the only living members of the subclass Nautiloidea, and are often considered to be living fossils. A geezer by any other name... Not so impressive.

So we are reaching out to members and asking for your input. Send us your suggestions. The name doesn’t have to have Osher in front of it, as in, for instance, the Osher Oracle. It could be something like Learning Links: the newsletter of the UWM Osher Institute.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Phone, fax, or email the Osher office with your ideas for that “ineffable effable Effanineffable Deep and inscrutable singular Name.” If your title is picked, you’ll get a coupon worth $30.00 for an Osher or Arts and Humanities program.

(Editor’s Note: I’m not as sanguine as I once was about finding a good title. When I checked online to see what other Osher groups had done, it seemed like most of them had opted for the Osher or OLLI Newsletter. Clear, but inelegant.)
New Course Formats for Fall

The Osher short course committee is trying something new this fall. They’ve purchased two DVD-based courses from The Learning Company and will be offering them in the fall and spring sessions.

Great American Music

The first is “Great American Music: Broadway Musicals” taught by Bill Messenger from Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute of Music. Singer, song-writer Stephanie Kasper will lead the discussions following each lecture.

Messenger is a musician himself and takes to the piano to illustrate insights, techniques, and subtleties of composition. Participants will also hear rare recordings of groundbreaking artists such as Nora Bayes, the singer selected by Cohan to record his unofficial World War I anthem, “Over There,” and Fanny Brice, the great star immortalized in Funny Girl. You’ll hear contemporary recreations that reconstruct the sound of early musical theater, as well. The program also includes recorded interviews that take you behind the scenes of some of Broadway’s biggest hits and most memorable moments.

“Great American Music: Broadway Musicals” is more than just an immersion in musical nostalgia. Professor Messenger ranges across the entire culture of which music is a part, explaining the intricacies of musical composition and song construction—and how they were used to create specific effects—as well as the social and historical backdrop against which musical theater needs to be considered.

You’ll learn, for example, how Jerome Kern dealt with what was perhaps Broadway’s first attempt to use music’s technical subtleties as a way to suggest time and place when he was writing Show Boat, deliberately incorporating into his music for "Ol’ Man River" a five-note pentatonic scale often used in Negro spirituals.

There’s also a great "Grand Old Flag" story. While today it’s one of George M. Cohan’s most memorable songs, it was greeted with dismay and anger when Cohan introduced it in his 1906 musical, George Washington, Jr., with its original and affectionate title and lyric, "You’re a Grand Old Rag." Though Cohan quickly rewrote the song in the form we know today, sheet music for the original version—at a time when sheet music was immensely popular—had already reached stores all over New York City. Visiting one store after another, Cohan managed to retrieve almost every copy, burning them and replacing them with the new version. Today, there are only a half-dozen very valuable copies of the original in existence.

Museum Masterpieces: The Louvre

The second offering from the Learning Company is “Museum Masterpieces: The Louvre,” with art critic and historian Richard Brettell. This 12-lecture series begins with an overview of the Louvre’s colorful history as royal palace, art academy, and national showcase. Then Brettell explores some of the most beautiful and renowned examples from the museum’s remarkable collection of European paintings from the late medieval period through the early 19th century, including masterworks by Raphael, Caravaggio, Leonardo da Vinci, Watteau, Rubens and Vermeer. Short course co-chairs Darlene Roberts and Ruth Kurensky will lead the discussions following each 30 minute lecture.
Your journey begins with a tour of the Louvre itself. A famously massive structure, the Louvre can be intimidating to a first-time visitor—and even to those who have already walked its many halls and corridors.

Professor Brettelloffers an overview of this complicated structure, highlighting the most popular galleries and departments. You’ll also get a guided tour of the building’s colorful past as it has grown and changed from a palace to an art academy to a public museum over the course of its 800-year history. Here’s a sampling of the fascinating facts you’ll learn:

- The original building that stood on the site of the modern Louvre was constructed as a walled defensive castle in the 12th century.

- France’s King Henry IV linked the original Louvre with the Tuileries, the palace of Catherine de Medici.

- Many of the treasures of the Louvre’s collection of ancient art can be traced from Napoleon’s conquests.

You’ll also learn about the most recent development in the Louvre’s construction, which transformed these sprawling buildings into a unified museum and included the addition of the famous pyramid entrance designed by acclaimed American architect I. M. Pei.

Each lecture opens with a featured work, a representative masterpiece that serves as an anchor for the discussion to follow. Through these featured works, Professor Brettell introduces many of the relevant themes and historical issues that will dominate each lecture, and demonstrates how close observation of an artist’s techniques and compositional style can enhance our enjoyment of these paintings. From there, Professor Brettell expands on these themes and topics by exploring other key works from the same period or region. The lectures also serve as an introduction to art appreciation, as Professor Brettell demonstrates some of the most rewarding methods for examining these masterworks.

Watch for the fall short course catalog to sign up for these special topics.

Correction: Exploring the Milwaukee Public Museum

The flyers that were sent recently about the Osher Summer Program Offerings contained an error in the dates for “Exploring the Milwaukee Public Museum.” The first class is Thursday, June 5th (NOT the 15th) and will be held at the Museum. Subsequent dates were correct: Thursday, June 11th (at the School of Continuing Education) and Thursday, June 19th (back at Museum).

To Join the Osher Lifelong Institute call 414-227-3222 for membership information.
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<td>5  9:30 Spanish - (I)</td>
<td>6  9:00 Computers - (I)</td>
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<td>11:30 Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon Hilton Milwaukee River - (E)</td>
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May – June, 2008

For complete information about Special Interest groups, call the Osher Office at 414-227-3222.
Unless stated otherwise, all meetings will be held on the first floor of the Hefter Center: 3271 N. Lake Drive; At the corner of East Hartford Avenue and North Lake Drive.

LANGUAGE:

FRENCH: Prof. Martine Meyer 414-964-3717
Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

ITALIAN: Silvana Kukuljan 414-332-4427
Every Tuesday, 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m.

SPANISH: Tony LoBue 414-962-2395
Every Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

SPANISH CONVERSATION:
Pat Ulman 414-332-2956
Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

BOOKS:
Cathy Morris-Nelson 414-352-2839
Third Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Meet at Shorewood Library – Lower Level

May 20: “Three Cups of Tea”
by Greg Mortenson

June 17: “Away”
by Amy Bloom

COMPUTER USERS’ GROUP:
Peter Lee 414-202-6312
Every Friday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Meet at Shorewood Library – Lower Level

GOLD STAR MYSTERIES:
Beverly DeWeese 414-332-7306
First Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Meet at Shorewood Library – Lower Level

May 1: “Bangkok Tattoo”
by John Burdett
“Jar City”
by Arnaldur Indridason

June 5: “Thunder Bay”
by William Kent Krueger
“Virgin of Small Plains”
by Nancy Pickard

HISTORY:
Susan Comstock 414-291-9436
Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

May 14: “Power and the Presidency”
Edited by Robert A. Wilson

PLAY READING:
Ruth Allschwang 414-223-4986
Second and Fourth Fridays, 10:30 – Noon

POETRY:
Ruth Allschwang 414-223-4986
First and Third Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon
Over 30 people gathered at the Heifer Center on March 7th to hear two nationally recognized authors read from their works. Robin Hemley, Director of the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa, got a lot of laughs with his excerpts from *DO OVER: A Middle Aged Man Takes a Second Shot at Youth’s Disappointments.* Cris Mazza, who teaches in the Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago, took a more serious approach and moved the audience with portions of her latest book, *Waterbaby.* The writers were in Milwaukee to participate in the Sixth Annual Spring Writers Festival sponsored by UWM’s School of Continuing Education.
**Welcome New Members**

Allen, Lee M., 414-964-3562  
Beaman, Maureen, 414-332-8332  
Johannsen, Eileen, 414-351-2435  
Marsh, William, 414-529-4621  
Mike, Patricia, 262-886-6704  
Plunkett, Gwen, 414-352-1241  
Rzezotarski, C. George and Rzezotarski, Darlene Wesenberg, 414-224-0789  
Schuelke, Robert, 262-251-7409  
Tomasini, Ilona, 262-786-5793

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**Osher RideShare**

There are a few members who occasionally need a ride to Osher-sponsored events. If you are willing to offer a ride to Osher activities you are planning to attend, please call or email Cathie Sanders at 414-227-3366 (csanders@uwm.edu) or Kathy Czerniakowski at 414-227-3222 (kathycz@uwm.edu). If you wish to designate a particular geographical area that you would like to stay within, please do so. Office staff will keep a small database of people willing to help out and when requests come in, they will check to see if any of the drivers listed are signed up for the particular event and give appropriate names and numbers to those needing rides.

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**Coffee & Conversation**

Friday, May 30  
9:30 am – 11:00 am  

Hefter Center  
*SW corner of Lake drive and Hartford Avenue*

*Phil Rozga & Bill Marsh*  
*Sinikka Church & Carol Parkes*  
*Join Us*  
*Bob Gersk, Phil Rozga & Bill Marsh*
One of the friends shouted out at the last minute, “Now you girls stay out of trouble.” One of the departing women turned around and called back in disbelief: “Get in trouble. We’re going to MINNEAPOLIS!”

On the plane ride back Stephanie wrote her first song, “It’s Hard to Sin in Minneapolis.” She had discovered her passion.

She couldn’t get over how much fun she had with her first songwriting venture. So when she saw a songwriting course in the School of Continuing Education catalog that appeared in her mailbox upon her return, she jumped at the chance to enroll.

The course was taught by local musician John Seeger and marked the beginning of a long-term friendship and collaboration. Kasper has taken at least five more courses and workshops from Seeger, one of which took her and fellow songwriters to Nashville where she met record producer Richard Bennett and one of his musicians, Phil Lee.

When Kasper turned sixty, she started auditing classes for free at UWM. She began with a voice class from Valerie Errante who she credits giving her a great foundation in singing. She went on to take other classes in music and theater.

Kasper had also been doing some volunteering in retirement. One of the places she volunteered was with Music at KK where she met Joyce Parker of Joyce Parker Productions. Parker offered a variety of classes and, for about 10 months out of the year, produced free concerts for the community, anything from opera to classical guitar. Kasper had taken some of the classes and Parker invited her to perform some of her songs at one of the community concerts. Kasper found she liked it. Since then she’s done other shows for Parker, singing her own material, as well as that of such American composers as Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and Richard Rodgers. She’s also formed a professional association with Parker’s husband, Gary Alan, who is her accompanist.

Kasper will be performing some of her own work at the Institute’s June meeting and luncheon, as well as some favorites from the American musical stage. While her own work does include other humorous lyrics, such as an obvious Milwaukee favorite, “Beer Brought Us Together (A Court Order Tore Us Apart)”, she also writes ballads and even some “darker” pieces.

June will be busy for Kasper. She won a scholarship to the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music for this year and has a cabaret performance there on June 9th – pretty good for a girl who didn’t make chorus in high school.

### Officer 2007-2008

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<th>Role</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Terry Rozga</td>
<td>414-332-4052</td>
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<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Open Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mary Kelly</td>
<td>414-964-6429</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Betty White</td>
<td>414-962-0810</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Alice Kuramoto</td>
<td>262-241-0266</td>
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<td>Leadership &amp; Dev. Co-Chairs</td>
<td>David Wallace</td>
<td>414-247-8610</td>
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<td>Peter Lee</td>
<td>414-202-6312</td>
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<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>Phil Rozga</td>
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<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>Chris O’Brien</td>
<td>414-228-8199</td>
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<td>Short Courses Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Darlene Roberts</td>
<td>414-962-7039</td>
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<td>Ruth Kurensky</td>
<td>414-961-0427</td>
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<td>Special Interest Group Representatives</td>
<td>Ruth Allschwang</td>
<td>414-223-4986</td>
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<td>Catherine Morris-Nelson</td>
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### UWM SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION STAFF

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Cathie Sanders</td>
<td>414-227-3366</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:csanders@uwm.edu">csanders@uwm.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>Kathy Czerniakowski</td>
<td>414-227-3222</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kathycz@uwm.edu">kathycz@uwm.edu</a></td>
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Annual Meeting Set

Thursday, June 12
11:30 – 2:30 pm at the
Hilton Milwaukee River,
4700 N. Port Washington Rd., Glendale

Entertainment by
Stephanie Kasper