Martine Meyer: Honorary Minister of French Culture
by Mary Mulroy

The scholarship fund that was recently established to honor Martine Meyer and her good friend Martha Best describes the dedication, excellence and high standards embodied by these “landmark teachers” who taught together for over 40 years in UWM’s French Department.

Certainly anyone who spends any time with Martine Meyer today would also remark on the capacious enthusiasm this small, strong woman brings to her personal and professional life. Whether talking about her daughter Stephanie and granddaughter Kenza, good friends like Martha Best and Jo Anne Corrigan, or the former students she runs into all over the city, you sense the value she puts on her personal relationships. Likewise, her enthusiasm for Milwaukee and UWM make you want to take a second look at these often under-rated cultural troves.

Meyer’s personal life began on the edge of the Sahara desert, where she was born in 1929 to a French mother and Algerian father. Her early schooling was in Casablanca, but when it came time for college, post-war Northern Africa offered little in higher education and France was still in disarray. So Meyer came to the U.S. at 17 and studied English literature at Smith College.

Soon after her arrival at Smith, a girl came into her room and asked if she wanted to play soccer. “I had never played soccer in my life, but I said ‘sure’.” When they got to the playing field, she was told “You’re the goalie.” “And I asked the girl next to me, ‘what do I do?’ And she said, ‘well, stand there and catch the ball’. And at one point I did actually catch the ball. And of course then I had to yell ‘What do I do now!’”

While Meyer failed to pursue a soccer career, she did keep saying a cheerful “sure” to a lot of other adventures that led her finally to the east side of Milwaukee where she leads Osher’s French special interest group. (And she points out that though her athletic prowess never really blossomed, her ten year old granddaughter Kenza is a valuable player on the Hartford Avenue School’s soccer squad!)

After Smith, Meyer returned briefly to Morocco, but soon had to get a new visa to return to the U.S. to take a graduate assistantship in Madison. A few years later, her alma mater asked her to fill in for the faculty resident at Smith’s French House who was going on sabbatical. “And I said sure.” Meyer taught at Smith for one year, where, as the resident “mademoiselle” she was treated royally. “They brought me breakfast in bed.”

Although asked to stay on to teach at Smith, Meyer returned to Madison and marriage and eventually a Ph.d. in French. When Meyer’s then husband took a job at Allis-Chalmers in 1956, they moved to Milwaukee.

Continued Page 9
Traditionally, March has been depicted symbolically with an icon of blowing wind. We think of it as the beginning of a transitional season. Politically, we’ve been told we’re in a period of change. We’re therefore surrounded by a physical environment and an emotional and financial atmosphere that’s in flux. Classically change creates tension. Uncertainty is uncomfortable. As you’re all aware, we, as an organization have also been in a period of adjustment. Did any of you notice anything significant in the report of the survey of members that was in the last issue of Outlook? I was impressed that 74% of the respondents were taking short courses and about a third of them were active in Special Interest Groups. There seemed to be general satisfaction with the programs and the social opportunities that are being offered. Over 98% of the responding members read the newsletter. That’s astonishing, and also means that this is a great way to reach most of you.

Now, why bring this up in the context of change? Because 69-92% of you are not interested in volunteering for anything else. Maybe it’s time to paraphrase JFK. Ask not what your organization can do for you; ask what you can do for your organization. Yes, we are doing fine. We’ve expanded programs. We’ve added locations. We’ve introduced summer offerings. We’ve grown in numbers. We’re on track to achieve our established goals. The burden of this growth has been carried by the same dedicated group of individuals who’ve had to work harder and longer. We need help. We know that there is a lot of leadership skill and talent in our membership. First, only about 30% of the members responded to the survey. We need to know more about the other 70%. It requires just a few hours a month to work as a member of a committee or as a representative to the board. You could do that. Some of you have backgrounds or interests that could be translated into short course subjects. We need more member directed courses. Maybe you could volunteer to be the coordinator of an ethnic course similar to this year’s Polish Potpourri. We’re looking for people to direct courses on Hispanic, Italian, German, Chinese, etc., cultures. If we haven’t offered anything that interests you, you can make it happen.

We’re planning some workshop opportunities to encourage and train those of you who are hesitant to step forward. Yes, we need you, and I invite you to thoughtfully consider what you can do to increase your participation.
Indian Study Trip  
and Tour  
*July 11-25, 2009*

Immerse yourself in Irish culture with a 15-day summer school experience plus day tours and a weekend trip sponsored by UWM School of Continuing Education with Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

Beautiful Trinity College was founded in 1592 and is rated in the top 100 universities in the world. It is located in the heart of downtown Dublin. The college is home to the Book of Kells, Oscar Wilde Center and Samuel Beckett Theater, among other famous attractions. Here you will take daily seminars in various parts of Irish culture from Irish language and literature, to Irish art, theater and cinema, and Irish politics, society and history. Fascinating events, such as the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl, theater performances, and a trip to the Irish Museum of Modern Art will take you around the city of Dublin while you learn about Irish culture. You will also visit the Dáil Éireann, home of the Irish House of Representatives, to learn about Irish politics first-hand. Additional day trips will take you to other historic regions of Ireland such as the city of Belfast and County Meath.

**Members of OSHER are eligible for a $175 discount on the total trip cost.** Registration and deposit requested by March 23 with final payment due June 1.

To learn more, contact tour leader Anne O’Meara at (414) 227-3311 or aomeara@uwm.edu.

India  
A Journey of Discovery and Understanding  
*February 25-March 13, 2010*

India is a place of striking contrasts—wealth and poverty, hi-tech and ancient, urban overcrowding and rural serenity. The most striking, though, of all India’s contrasts is the country’s diverse array of religious beliefs and practices. Join Kim Beck, Director of Arts, Humanities and Science, on a journey to the heart of northern India where many of the world’s major religions intersect. Along the way, visit the sacred places of the world’s oldest organized religion, Hinduism, including Varanasi along the Ganges River; the ashrams of Rishikesh; the striking Laxmi Marayan Temple in Delhi; and Mathura, birthplace of Lord Krishna. Discover the rich, Islamic heritage of India—the second largest Muslim country in the world. In Lucknow, experience the elegant Bara Imambara; Delhi’s Jama Masjid, one of the world’s largest mosques; and the not-to-be missed Taj Mahal—the greatest love story ever built. Experience Sarnath, the place where Buddha first preached Dharma after his enlightenment and a sacred site for Buddhist pilgrims; the Baha’i Lotus Temple, one of the most remarkable buildings in all of India; and the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the sacred site revered through the endless prayer and song by Sikhs. A special feature of the tour will be the frequent opportunities for presentations and interactions with devotees of each religious practice.

**Learn More**

**Attend a free, no obligation information meeting on Wed., June 17 from 6:30-8pm at the UWM Hefter Conference Center. To RSVP contact Kim Beck at 414-227-3321 or kcb@uwm.edu.**
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) offers area residents a variety of unique educational experiences. Unless otherwise indicated, events are free. For a full schedule of UWM events, you can go to www.uwm.edu. Click on the “Quicklinks” button at the top of the page and go to Event Calendar. In the meantime, here’s a sampling of events to whet your appetite.

**Peck School of the Arts**

**Open House**  
**Saturday, April 18, 2009; 10am–4pm**  
**Kenilworth Square East**  
2155 N. Prospect Ave.  
Stop in at the Kenilworth Square East Building, the Peck School’s facility a mile south of the main campus, in conjunction with Gallery Day to check out our latest creative research. Faculty, staff and graduate student studios, project rooms and temporary spaces will be open for viewing, as will the Inova/Kenilworth gallery; plenty of performances and activities throughout the day.  
**Free**  
Call 414-229-4308

**Music**

**String Academy of Wisconsin Spring Concerts**  
**Saturday, March 21, 2009: 10am & Noon**  
**UWM Recital Hall**  
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
Students in the String Academy of Wisconsin, the Peck School’s pre-college partner, offer two spring concerts.  
**Free**  
Call 414-963-4729

**An Evening of Opera Scenes: Shakespeare in Opera**  
**March 27-29, 2009; 7:30pm**  
**Peck School of the Arts Recital hall**  
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
Pre-concert talks: Professor Emeritus Corliss Philpbaum offers a talk 45 minutes prior to each performance. **UWM Opera Theatre** presents an evening of scenes from opera and musical theatre inspired by the comedies and tragedies of the Bard of Stratford-upon-Avon, including musical versions of “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” “Romeo and Juliet,” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” by the composers Hector Berlioz, Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Giuseppe Verdi and Rodgers and Hart. Pieces will be performed in the original languages and are directed by voice faculty members.  
**Tickets: $10 general/$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.**  
Call 414-229-4308

**UWM Wind Ensemble & Symphony Band: Reflections in Art**  
**Friday, April 3, 2009; 7:30pm**  
**Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts**  
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
The Wind Ensemble, conducted by John Climer, and the Symphony Band, conducted by Scott Corley, offer a concert. The Symphony band performs *Jargon for Percussion Ensemble & Band* by Fisher Tull; *Resting in the Peace of His Hands* Symphony No.1 (The Lord of the Rings) with graduate conductor Megan Sweeney. The Wind Ensemble performs *The Solitary Dancer* by Warren Benson, Scott Corley conducting, and Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*.  
This concert is part of the American Sounds Project, a year-long chamber music undertaking designed to connect the American masterpieces of the past to the music, musicians and composers of the future. For a listing of events, visit: arts.uwm.edu/americansounds.  
**Tickets: $10 general/$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.**  
**Call: 414-229-4308**
The Florestan Duo
Monday, April 6, 2009; 7:30pm
UWM Recital Hall
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.
The Florestan Duo, Stefan Kartman—cello, and Jeannie Yu—piano, will perform the complete works for cello and piano by Beethoven. These works include five sonatas and three sets of variations. Pre-concert talk by Dr. Timothy Noonas at 7:00pm.
Tickets: $10 general/$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.
Call 414-229-4038

Art

Foundations Exhibition X: Public Art
April 10-17, 2009
Closing Reception: April 17, 5-8pm
UWM Union Art Gallery
Mon.-Wed. & Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm; Thurs. 12-7pm
2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., 2nd floor
The Foundations program provides first-year visual art and film students with a broad background in skills and concepts, and is a time of artistic and personal development. Students from the departments of Film and Visual Art will exhibit work created in their first year of study at UWM. This year’s theme is “Public Art.” Foundations Exhibition X is work that has been planned and executed with the intention of being sited or staged in the public domain, usually outside and accessible to all.
Free
Call 414-229-6310

Metals! 09
April 16-May 6, 2009
Opening reception: April 16, 6-8pm (Juror’s choice awards will be announced at 7pm)
Inova/Zelazo (The Mary L Nohl Galleries)
Mon.-Fri. 7am-8pm; Sat. 7am-5pm
2419 E Kenwood Blvd., 2nd floor
An annual exhibition of work by students in the metals area, juried by Kim Cridler (UW-Madison).
Free
Call: 414-229-5070

Theatre

Oedipus Rex
March 3-8, 2009; 7:30pm
Mainstage Theatre
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.
This centuries-old story of the politics of power and the personal struggle of a man pitted against his own fate continues to resonate today. Oedipus’s search for truth becomes an obsessive search for self-knowledge that ends in triumph and tragedy that is both personal and epic.
Tickets: $15 general/$9 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.
Call 414-229-4308

Lab/Works
March 25-29, 2009; 7:30pm
Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508
1925 E. Kenilworth Pl.
This modern masterpiece by Nobel laureate Dario Fo probes the mysterious death of an anarchist who falls from a window while being interrogated by officials. Beneath the sharp satire and physical comedy lies a timely question: just how far can we go in the war against terror? The Lab/Works series focuses on the heart and soul of theatre: acting. Without elaborate sets and costumes, Lab/Works showcases UWM acting students doing what they do best, in established plays as well as in thought-provoking new work.
Tickets: $5
Call: 414-229-4308

Hair
April 21-26, 2009; 7:30pm
Mainstage Theatre
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.
The first rock musical on Broadway transformed American musical theatre. Great rock and roll anthems and ballads—The Age of Aquarius, Let the Sun Shine In and Hair among others—express a celebration of life, love and the vitality of youth.
Tickets: $20 general/$12 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff
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Special Interest Group Notes
March – April, 2009

For complete information about Special Interest Groups, call the Osher Office at 414-227-3222. Unless stated otherwise, all Special Interest Group meetings will be held at the Hefter Center – First Floor Library.

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:
Coordinators:
Bob Diggelman  414-964-3569
Inga Bauer  414-332-1648
Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

BOOKS:

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

Mar. 17: “Rabbit, Run” by John Updike
Apr. 21: “The Sea, The Sea” by Iris Murdoch

GOLD STAR MYSTERIES:

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

Mar. 5: “Winter Study” by Nevada Barr
   “Snow Blind” by P. T. Tracy
Apr. 2: “Pure in Heart” by Susan Hill
   “Secret Hangman” by Peter Lovesey

HISTORY:

Marilyn Walker  414-332-8255
Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

“How Measuring America” by Andro Linklater

Mar. 11: pp 1-48
Mar. 25: pp 48-89
Apr. 8: pp 89-133
Apr. 22: pp 133-176

PLAY READING:

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

POETRY:

Ruth Allswchang  414-223-4986
First and Third Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon
Out and About
Notes from the Executive Director

- Spring courses are off to a great start. You still have time to sign up for courses starting in April or May. Give us a call at 227-3222, if you need a program catalog.
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute made a donation to the David S. Wallace Memorial fund at Whitefish Bay High School.
- Watch your mail for a flyer with summer program offerings. We are planning several courses for July and August such as: A walk in Lake Park, a tour of Wehr Nature Center and Botanical Gardens, and an opportunity to join scientists on the UWM Research Vessel.
- Welcome to all New Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Members!

Martine Meyer cont.

This was right at the time of the merger that created UW-Milwaukee and in that first year, enrollments rose drastically. When UWM called Madison’s French Department to recruit a teacher, Julian Harris told them they [UWM] had a great one “just down the street on Frederick Avenue.” And as they say in Casablanca, that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Meyer retired in 1994, but Letters and Sciences Dean Bill Halloran asked her to stay on to work on a newly funded partnership with a Moroccan university. So she continued at UWM for three more years. Her former status as a full professor didn’t mean much pay-wise when she came back part-time, but the annual trips to Morocco were very sweet.

Family responsibilities kept Meyer busy in those first years of full retirement, but as those pressures eased, she shifted into the rich retirement life she now leads. Her large, beautiful east side home was too big for one person, and she has happily rearranged it to accommodate daughter Steffie, granddaughter Kenza, and one glorious canine, a “golden doodle” named Sahara. She has a wide circle of friends both within Osher and in the larger French, Moroccan, and now African communities in Milwaukee. She talks about the energy the recent influx of French speaking Africans has brought into the Milwaukee community. “They come here and are so pleased to speak French. And they want their children to speak French. I think that’s helped us a great deal.”

Meyer was on the board of the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library for over 20 years, but now keeps her library work closer to home, serving on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Golda Meir Library. She’s been active in the Alliance Francaise since coming to Milwaukee, serving as president twice, once in 1957 and then again 50 years later. She’s a bit frustrated that two hip replacements in recent years have cut down on the number of times she can go to the Alliance’s weekly Casse-Croute (brown bag lunch). French speakers from all around Milwaukee – at least those who can get away in the middle of the day – gather for a parle-vous fueled by baguette sandwiches. After a nasty fall two months ago, Meyer is under strict order to avoid snow and ice, so unless it’s totally clear on Capitol Drive, she’s had to skip the Alliance.

Like many professors who have taught at UWM for 30+ years, Meyer finds former students wherever she goes. UWM students stay around. There’s even one in her Osher SIG group, a retired policeman who was in her class when an undergraduate. Meyer thoroughly enjoys her Osher students. They are a diverse group that includes two people over 90, two Ph.D.’s, the afore-mentioned policeman, and two academic staff retirees from UWM. “They are a very faithful group,” says Meyer. “Even though people are at very different levels, somehow it works.”

I suspect the alchemist is Meyer who obviously is one of those “landmark teachers.” Jacques Barzun said that “In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day’s work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years.” Luckily, in the close-knit Milwaukee community, Meyer has been able to harvest that fruit many times over.
Osher Members Enjoying their Classes

American Civil War
Facilitator, Osher member
Ted Ulman

Polish Potpourri Course
Presenter: UWM Professor Neal Pease

Save the Date

Tuesday June 16th

The Osher Annual Spring luncheon and meeting will be held Tuesday, June 16th at the Italian Community Center. Scheduled speaker is Carlos Santiago, UWM Chancellor. Details will be sent to all members.
In Memory of Hildegard Schmitz
By Inga Bauer

With a teaching as well as a business background Hildegarde was a charter member of the Guild for Learning in Retirement when it was founded in 1982. She was instrumental in developing classes and editing the bi-weekly newsletter. She was a familiar figure on campus where she audited classes from the day after her retirement on as well as in her downtown neighborhood and the restaurants that she frequented, always with a book under her arm. In 1989 she helped me with signing up for classes at the University and took me along to the Guild where the poetry group was in progress. I enrolled on the same day and never left. For many years Hildegarde remained a staunch friend, a great note and letter writer and a true role model who introduced me to many new horizons (including “the Economist.”)

Sadly, her health began to fail when she was in her upper 80’s and eventually she had to go to an assistant living facility where she died at age 96.
Welcome

New Members

Patricia Arredondo
Carrie Banks
Mary Bates
Jacquelyn Bell-Massey
JoAnne Bottum
Karen Bourdo
William Briesemeister
Ruth Caldiero
Wanetta Chartier-Fricke
Thomas Cinealis
Paula Dail
Jack Douthitt
Mary Terese Duffy
Judith Engel
Lucille Evans
Ted Finman
Jason Fricke
Vivian Galloway
Kathryn Gardner
Mary Hayes
Ruth Johnson
Daniel Jones
Cynthia Jones-Nosacek
Kenneth Klein
William Ladewig
Shirley Louthan
Ann K. Matz
Dennis M Matz
Elizabeth Moran
Margaret Murphy
Gary Nosacek
Marilyn Novak
Michael O'Leary
Ronald Ostrowski
John Owan
Laura Owan
Phyllis Pinsker
Melvin Pinsker
Gerardette Radomski
Jude Rathburn, PhD
Peter Schneck
Nell Schneider
Barbara Simon
Brian Wachowiak
Tammy Wolfe
Karen Woodbury