



sTILLife

Spring 2004, Vol. 4 No. 2

A Publication of Tufts Institute for Lifelong Learning, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts

sTILLife

Selected Newsletter Name

Congratulations to John Russell for submitting *sTILLife*, the winning name for our newsletter. There were a number of delightful suggestions but by unanimous agreement the Executive Board selected *sTILLife* as a name capturing the spirit of our lively and sophisticated community. When asked if the name had been a “stroke of a genius,” John Russell replied: “I wish it had been a stroke of genius...I sat there asking myself how the letters **TILL** might be slotted into something and, voila, there was *sTILLife*. Little did I realize that it was so filled with meanings. A periodic still life snapshot of life at TILL. Yes, there's still life in us old goats. And much more....”

Honorable mentions go to Judith Dortz, Daniel Hritzay, Julia Kramer, and Sondra Szymazak. We are using Daniel Hritzay's *TILL the MIND* as the title for our book column (page 3). Thank you to everyone who submitted names.

Sharing and Caring

Each day I enter the TILL office, I am smiling. Why? That's easy; I love my work. I am blessed with people who share and care beginning with Amy, our staff assistant, Stephanie, our Fletcher assistant, and everyone who either chairs or volunteers on a committee or as a study group leader. The zest and intellectual excitement I experience is because of all of you. I thank you for being responsible, caring and committed individuals. TILL would not be if it wasn't for your generous interest and effort. We need everyone's dedication and support to prevail whether it be on a committee, or as a volunteer study group leader. No man is an island but part of the whole...



I have listed on page 8 the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all TILL members who either chair or coordinate a committee with the hope that as soon as you read this message you will pick up the phone or sit at your computer and pledge some of your time, whatever and whenever you can to show you care and are willing to share. They will be glad to highlight their committee's function.

Thank you in advance for your steadfastness and responsibility as you answer our call for your ongoing participation.

My best regards,
Marilyn Blumsack, Director

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Hospitality Committee by Ginny DeAngelis

Fall is a beautiful time at Tufts. This past fall, I walked to my TILL classes each morning. Walking invigorated me so that I could sit mesmerized for the next two hours participating in my classes. Towards the end of November, the invigorating walk became quite cold, and the campus didn't look quite as wonderful under the dreary November sky, but when I entered Aidekman Art Center, I immediately brightened because each morning I was greeted with such an array of food and drinks.

The Hospitality Committee of TILL outdid themselves this fall. Every morning and noontime, the students

were enticed with wonderful food and beverages. Food seems to set a tone. It makes you feel welcomed and comforted, especially after a cold walk across campus.

The Hospitality Committee, under the chairpersonship of Linda French and Dorothy Bethel, added to the ambiance that is TILL. This was the first year that they were on the Hospitality Committee. At the beginning there were blown fuses and other minor disasters, but after a few weeks they learned the system. Many mornings, students were greeted with beautiful flower arrangements from Linda's garden. Monday's food was supplied by the dining services at Tufts, and the Committee set it up using TILL's

tablecloths and urns. On Fridays the Committee supplied the food. Linda and Dorothy asked fellow student volunteers to bring in muffins, bagels, or homemade goodies. Dorothy kept a calendar of the volunteers who signed up to bring food on a specific day. She reminded volunteers by calling them ahead of time. Angelina Paison and Marie Murray were especially supportive helpers. The group's work culminated with two luncheons the last week of class, which were outstanding.

Both Dorothy and Linda deserve great praise. They made TILL a more social and pleasurable experience for all of us. They felt it was a delightful experience that allowed them to meet many people. Consider joining the Hospitality Committee at some future date.

Study Group Leaders
being recognized at the
Fall 2003 End-of-Term
Luncheon.



TILL Members enjoying
the Fall 2003 End-of-Term
Luncheon.

An Elephant in the Room?
by **Sondra Szymczak**

When Tufts College was founded in 1852, P. T. Barnum, founder of the Barnum and Bailey Circus, was named a trustee. There is no evidence that he ever attended a board meeting, but the College was always on his mind. He endowed the Barnum Museum of Natural History in 1884 on campus and contributed stuffed animal exhibits whenever animals died at the circus.



describe something “huge.” (Try looking it up!)

Barnum’s major attraction from 1882-1885 was Jumbo, a 12 foot tall Sudanese elephant purchased from the London Zoo when size and “teenage hormones” deemed him a potential threat to the children that flocked to see him. Jumbo immediately became a celebrity in the US, and his name was added to the dictionary to

When Jumbo was hit by a train and killed in 1885, Barnum had the hide stuffed and the skeleton reassembled, and sent these exhibits on a national tour. In 1889, the hide was brought to Tufts and presided over the reading room in Barnum Museum

surrounded by other Barnumiana. Although there is no scientific proof, it was widely believed that a student not quite prepared for an exam would pass if he or she dropped a coin or two into Jumbo’s trunk. Many alumni feel that Jumbo shared their diplomas. In any event, the coins covered the costs of periodic taxidermy services. A fire in Barnum Hall in April 1975 destroyed Jumbo for a second time. The elephant statue that now stands between Ballou and Barnum Halls was purchased by the Class of 1958 from Benson’s Wild Animal Farm in New Hampshire to represent Jumbo until a life-sized sculpture is obtained. Jumbo continues to be Tufts’ mascot and alumni proudly call themselves “Jumbos.”

TILL the MIND

***A Gesture Life* by Chang-rae Lee**
Riverhead Books 1999; paper 2000. 356 pp.

Reviewed by Tania Friedman

A Gesture Life is about Frank Hata, a Japanese man born in Korea, living in the outskirts of New York City. He is the proprietor of a medical supply shop that he runs with efficiency and courtesy. However, he is the outsider.

This is the story of a man who always does the correct thing. He blends in and does not bring attention to himself. As the story unfolds one begins to understand some of his personal burdens. During WWII he was a Japanese soldier who fell in love with a comfort girl. While he tried to save her, he ultimately failed. He also has an adopted daughter from whom he is estranged.

As the story develops, one realizes the high price Hata has paid as an outsider who has always tried to conform. It is a deeply felt presentation that will remain with the reader long after the book is put down.

Chang-rae Lee has received many awards including the Hemingway/Pen Award and the American Book Award for his first novel *Native Speaker*. He lives in New Jersey and is director of the MFA program at Hunter College in New York City.

Want A Kiss?

Return your TILL lanyards to our recycle box at the reception desk outside Alumnae Lounge when classes are in session. Otherwise, drop it at our office or, noting your name, mail to

TILL
039 Carmichael Hall,
Medford, MA 02155

You will receive your sweet reward.

sTILLife is published three times a year, fall, winter, and spring.

Editor: Marilyn A. McCaffrey.
Photographs: Sondra Szymczak
Desktop Publishing: Stephanie Schmidt
Submit letters to the editor and articles to mmcc13@comcast.net

Spotlight on Study Group Leaders by Fred Laffert

Denise Doherty Pappas has taught memoir writing at TILL in past sessions and will teach **Write On!: Advanced Memoir Writing** this spring. She has taught English for 30 years since receiving a B.A. from Simmons with a double major in Art History and English and a M.A.T in English from Brown. She also has an MBA from Simmons. She has taught at Medford High School, Winchester Community School, and is currently teaching English at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Denise became involved in teaching memoir writing when she took a year off from her career to write a memoir. So many people expressed an interest in memoir writing and wanted to know how to do it that she began helping others and teaching it. She enjoys the interaction with and between group members and seeing them struggle with, and surmount, the difficult and emotional situations that they are writing about. The praise and summaries presented at the TILL luncheon show that the group members share these feelings.

Denise is married and has two sons, but still finds time for activities beyond family and career. She has been a guide at the De Cordova Museum in Lincoln. Currently, she works as a parent mentor in post-placement adoption counseling, helping to monitor progress in an open adoption

environment.

Jeff Schiffman was born in and grew up in New York. He attended Columbia University and graduated with a B.A. in English, later receiving a graduate degree in Communications from Boston University. He has spent most of his time since 1961 as a resident of Massachusetts and worked in the radio, television and telecommunications industries in both the creative and management areas. During his career he worked at channels 4 and 7 and the Westinghouse and CBS corporations. He has also had college level teaching experience.

Since 1986, he has occupied his time with writing, consulting and following his many special interests, which include spending time with his four grandchildren. He has volunteered in the political arena and supports and attends the arts. Other hobbies include traveling and cooking.

Jeff first became involved with TILL last year when he took a course. This year he became a study group leader with Bob Watson for the **All That Jazz: Jazz and Society 1920-1939** study group. They tried to convey both a sense of the music and the times that both shaped it and were shaped by it. He believes that taking a TILL course is good preparation for becoming a study group leader and recommends that path to others.

An Invitation to Use the Lunder Fitness Center by Roger LaFauci

The Tufts athletic facilities are an exceptional value for TILL members. They are free of charge with your TILL membership. The Lunder Fitness Center is located in Cousens Gym Complex at 161 College Avenue. The indoor facilities include a gym, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a sauna, and a first class indoor track for running or walking. There is a room with free weights and a separate room with up-to-date aerobic equipment (bicycles, stairmasters, treadmills, ellipticals, etc.) as well as a complete series of Nautilus-type equipment to work individual muscles.

The Center is generally opened Monday through Friday 7:00am – 10:30pm; Saturday 10:00am – 7:00pm; and Sunday 10:00am – 10:30pm. However, the schedule is subject to change, so call prior to going. The busiest times are at lunch and late in the afternoon. I have not used the track or gym, but find that the aerobic and weight facilities meet my expectations.

Athletic attire is required when using the Fitness Center. Lockers and showers are available, but you need to have your own soap, towel, and lock. Entrance to the athletic facilities is only through the ramp door entrance at 161 College Avenue. Parking is available at the Tufts garage with a short walk to the gym.

A free Fitness Orientation is available for anyone who would like a general introduction to the Lunder Fitness Center. A qualified supervisor will give you a 20-minute tour of the facilities and answer any broad questions you may have. Make your appointment by calling the Personalized Performance office at 617.627.2181.

I hope to see you there.

Classes without Faces by Don Gervich

Since 1978 I have led writing classes in classrooms—with bodies and faces and voices. It seems the natural way to conduct a course, with real live people.

Then in the spring of 2003, Tufts offered me an opportunity to hold a writing class via the internet. I developed a concept for Write Your Life Story, and looked forward to learning new educational software and how to manage a class on the world wide web.

The educational software is Blackboard, an application that organizes web courses. It is intuitive and easy to master the basics—as all software SHOULD be. To prepare for the class, I placed a number of documents on the Blackboard site: documents about character, scene, vocabulary, plot, and dialogue—the essential elements of good writing (fact or fiction). I posted a description of the course; a communal exercise called Miniature Autobiography; and a list of My Favorite Memoirs.

As the class approached, I emailed all students to inform them of the course structure. My first surprise was that I needed to teach people how to navigate the Blackboard program. Most people were experienced with the internet, yet every application has its quirks. I also asked people to choose a once-a-week time for our virtual classroom: a live experience where we could communicate all at once. The virtual classrooms became a terrific success. Once students got the knack of typing and reading comments, we had an explosion of ideas and emotion.

Originally, I thought people must see and hear one another to establish an intimate bond. Yet I soon

discovered that the same humor and feistiness in live classrooms appears in an online classroom. We debated; we supported; we critiqued. I had one intriguing revelation... this was a writing class, and our communication was ALL in writing—our stories and our emails and our virtual classroom. We not only wrote more, but we came to know one another ENTIRELY through our writing. It was a pure literary experience!

Students sent their stories to each other via email. We exchanged comments and questions on stories through email. Even though we had students in Colorado, California, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, we obliterated distance.

Except for one drawback. Due to the time differences, our European friends were unable to participate in the virtual classroom. So while we dissolved the problem of distance, the problem of time intruded.

Now, after conducting two Write Your Life Story courses with Tufts' Institute for Lifelong Learning, I can proclaim...

Benefits of a web based writing course.

- All communication — stories, email, and virtual classroom—are WRITING.
- Students can read stories and comment on them anytime.
- People can participate from home, with no time lost for commuting.
- Limitations may be irrelevant (one student had hearing problems, not a problem for us).
- Comments from student-to-student are often more thoughtful than in live classes, since writing is our sole means of discussion.

In addition to Tufts, I have been teaching autobiography and short story writing at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education (Cambridge, Massachusetts) since 1978. I am also a Writing Coach & Editor who works with individuals on their memoirs, autobiographies, and fictional projects. To reach me with questions about the web course, please contact me at doncory@earthlink.net or at (617) 924-1348.

Bragging Rites

We would like to highlight the accomplishments and activities of TILL members in *sTILLife*. One TILL member recently placed first in an athletic contest. Two others have had papers accepted for publication. Another celebrated a four-generation family get-together. Have you received an award, taken an interesting trip, won a race or an election, performed in a concert or play, marked a memorable anniversary, given a talk, published an article or book, or inherited a fortune? Let us know so that we can brag about you in our next issue of *sTILLife*. Help us make our newsletter a publication that TILL members will look forward to reading.

Mail your items to:
Marilyn McCaffrey, Editor
45 Webster Road, Lex 02421
mmcc13@comcast.net

We Need YOU!

Do you have

Desktop Publishing Skills?

We need someone to put *sTILLife* into a desktop publishing program.

Please contact the *sTILLife* Editor or TILL Director.

Tufts Cultural Events Spring 2004

Art Exhibits Aidekman Arts Center 617-627-3518

Enrico Pinardi: Metaphysics, Mystery, and Magic February

12-March 28, 2004

February 26 Gallery Talk with Artist Enrico Pinardi -Tisch Gallery 6:00pm

MFA Thesis Exhibitions – Nine Artists April 8 – 25, 2004

Opening Reception April 8, 5:00-8:00pm

MFA Thesis Exhibitions – Seven Artists and *World War I: In Graphic Terms*

May 6–23, 2004; Opening Receptions May 6, 6:00-8:00pm

For more listings:

<http://www.tuftslife.com/calendar>

<http://tuftsjournal.tufts.edu/calendar/index.shtml>

<http://www.tufts.edu/as/music/concerts.html>

<http://www.tufts.edu/as/drama/balch/index.htm>

<http://www.tufts.edu/as/gallery>

Theater Aidekman Arts Center, Balch Arena Theater - 617-627-3493

Tickets are \$10, \$6 senior citizens or valid Tufts ID. February 26: all tickets \$1.00

A Piece Of My Heart by Shirley Lauro

February 19-21 & 26-28, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.; Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 PM

Noises Off by Michael Frayn

April 15-17 & 22-24, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.; Sunday, April 18 at 2:00 pm

Music - Concert information line: 617-627-4042

March 2004

7 - Eberhard-Karls-Universität-Tübingen (Germany) and Tufts Symphony Orchestras at Faneuil Hall

Brahms's Symphony No. 4 and Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. *Faneuil Hall, Boston, 4 p.m.*

April 2004

1 - The Tufts Chorale & Tufts Chamber Singers *Homecoming Concert*

Selections by Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Gershwin, folk songs and spirituals. *Alumnae Hall, 8 p.m.*

3 - Intercollegiate Festival of African Music and Dance Ensembles

Concert by groups from MIT, Tufts, Wellesley College, and Williams Cohen Auditorium, *8 p.m. Free*

22 - The Tufts Flute Ensemble and Tufts Chamber Music Ensembles *Alumnae Hall, 8 p.m.*

Renaissance to modern music by the flute ensemble Mozart, Beethoven, by the Chamber Music Ensembles.

24 - The Tufts Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert - Program to be announced *Cohen Auditorium, 8 p.m.*

20 & 27 - TWO NIGHTS OF OPERA: The Tufts Opera Ensemble

Menotti's *Old Maid* and *The Thief* and scenes from *Magic Flute* and *Merry Wives of Windsor*. *Alumnae Hall, 8 p.m.*

28 - KINIWE: The Tufts West African Dance and Music Ensemble

Traditional dance and music *Jackson Dance Lab, 8 p.m.*

29 - A Jazz Evening with The Tufts Big Band

Traditional Jazz and Afro-Cuban Jazz. *Goddard Chapel, 8 p.m.*

30 -The Tufts 120-Voice Third Day Gospel Choir Spring Concert

Tickets are \$7 available from choir members. *College Avenue United Methodist Church, Somerville, 6 p.m.*

May 2004

1 - *Carmina Burana* The Tufts Chorale and Tufts Chamber Singers

Carl Orff's widely popular piece with two pianos, percussion and professional soloists. *Alumnae Hall, 4 p.m.*

2 - The Tufts and Boston Village Gamelans

Central Javanese music, featuring renowned gamelan master, I.M. Harjito. *Alumnae Hall, 8 p.m.*

5 - An Evening of Klezmer Music and Dance

Traditional Klezmer music and Yiddish song. Come and dance or just listen! *Hillel Center, 8 pm*

Noon Hour Recitals at Goddard Chapel Every Thursday: Free and Open to All

Goddard Chapel Noon Hour Series Spring Schedule

February 19 - Joyce Galantic, organ

February 26 - Mary Jane Rupert, harp & Cynthia Forbes, cello

March 4 - Beth Cohen, viola

March 11 - Elizabeth Leehey, clarinet & John McDonald, piano

April 1 - Ronald Haroutunian, bassoon

April 8 - Sharon Giwirtz, violin & Eleanora Peron, piano

April 15 - Michael Leonard, saxophone & Valerie Parker, piano

April 22 - Roslind Mohnsen, organ

April 29 - Owen Young (BSO), cello

May 6 - To Be Announced

**-In Celebration of Black History Month*

Brookhaven Invitation

Dear TILL Member:

You have been invited to these wonderful events at Brookhaven. Please contact the TILL office if you are interested in attending any of them so that we can give you access information.

Marilyn Blumsack

Brookhaven Concerts:

- Mar. 24 Music Program: Kevin Farley, "The Irish Music Guy" 7:30 pm
- Mar. 26 Classical Concert: Mary Barry, pianist 8:00 pm
- Mar. 31 Classical Concert: Frederick Moyer, pianist and Nancy Green, cello 7:30 pm
- Apr. 7 Vocal Concert: The Moonlighters 8:00 pm
- Apr. 15 Classical Concert: The Squibnocket Trio 7:30 pm
- Apr. 22 Vocal Concert: Darby Tench, et al "April in Paris" 8:00 pm
- Apr. 29 Vocal Concert: In Choro Novo 7:30 pm
- May 12 Vocal Concert: Needham Retired Men's Club 2:00 pm
- May 17 Concert: The Cambridge Symphony Orchestra 7:30 pm

Brookhaven Programs/Lectures/Events:

- Feb. 24 Music Appreciation Course with Charles Chandler, "Neglected Gems" 4:00 pm
Note: Music Appreciation course continues for the next ten weeks.
- Feb. 29 Lex. Historical Society Meeting – Lecture: David Crew, "History of Rt. 128" 3:00 pm
- Mar. 3 Lecture: Will Holton, "Historic Boston Partnerships – Part Two" 7:30 pm
- Mar. 9 Art Lecture: Jane Blair of Art Matters, "Watercolors" 11:00 am
- Mar.10 Lecture: Fleming Meeks, Editor of Smart Money Magazine 8:00 pm
- Mar.18 Lecture & Live Demo: Maya Ruettinger-Cruciana, "Barn Owls" 7:30 pm
- Apr. 20 Art Lecture: Jane Blair of Art Matters, "Goya" 11:00 am
- May 18 Art Lecture: Jane Blair of Art Matters, "Cassatt and Degas" 11:00 am
- May 20 Lecture & Live Demo: Maya Ruettinger-Cruciana, "Red Tail Hawk" 7:30 pm

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Office Hours:

Academic Year Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Summer Hours

(mid May through Labor Day):

Monday - Thursday 8am to 4pm

Friday 8:30 to 12:30 pm

TILL Director

Marilyn Blumsack, Director
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Staff

Amy Capasso
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TILL Calendar 2004

Spring Term:

March 26-May 17

8 Consecutive Mondays and Fridays

10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. 1:15-3:15 p.m.

Summer Session:

June 7-10, 2004

4 Consecutive Days

9:30-11:30 a.m. 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Fall Term:

September 20 - November 12

8 Consecutive Mondays and Fridays

10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. 1:15-3:15 p.m.

TILL Hosts ILR Meeting December 5, 2003



Left to Right: Diane Crowley, Dartmouth; Sharon Sokoloff, Brandeis; Marilyn Blumsack, Tufts; Nancy Rawson, Brandeis.

Tufts Institute for Lifelong Learning hosted a meeting of directors and members from five other ILR/LLI organizations in New England on December 5, 2003, at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Brandeis (BALI), Boston College (BCILR), Beacon Hill Seminars (BHS), Harvard University (HILR), Dartmouth College (ILEAD) and Tufts (TILL) were represented. TILL delegates were Marilyn Blumsack, Director, and Mel Berstein, Ken Fettig, Robyn Gittleman, Bobbie Knabble, Marilyn McCaffrey, John Russell, Maralyn Segal, Ruth Sidd, Sondra Szymczak, Miles Uhrig.

The all-day meeting organized and chaired by Marilyn Blumsack offered an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and sharing of exemplary procedures. The thirty-five attendees discussed governance structures, selection of study group leaders, curriculum diversity, special events, social activities, and future directions. The day was so successful that plans are being made for a meeting in the fall. Everyone complimented Marilyn Blumsack for the well-organized program and agreed that the day was not only productive but also enjoyable.

Committee Chairs

Curriculum Committee:	Jayson Brodie	508-358-7472	irmabrodie@cs.com
Special Sessions:	Joanne Valeriani	781-395-7863	jmval@webtv.net
Finance Committee:	Gresh Lattimore	781-861-8690	glattimore64@hotmail.com
Membership Committee:	John Russell	781-729-8129	johnroerussel@comcast.net
Lunch and Learn Committee:	Linda French	617-489-3656	fwfrench@aol.com
Communications:	Marilyn McCaffrey	781-862-1491	mmcc13@comcast.net
Hospitality Committee:	Linda French	617-489-3656	fwfrench@aol.com
Marketing Coordinator:	Jack Kraemer	781-444-9176	jackandmarionk@aol.com

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