

sTILLife



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Summer 2005, Vol. 7

Mel Prague Presented 2005 TILL Volunteer Recognition Award

On June 9, 2005, **Mel Prague** received the third annual Volunteer Recognition Award at the TILL Annual Meeting and Reception held in Carmichael Hall. (Previous recipients of the award were Sondra Szymczak 2003 and Kenneth Fettig 2004.) Mel was presented a crystal plaque by Ken Fettig who read aloud the award citation.

*To Mel Prague, the Third Recipient of the Volunteer Recognition Award - 2005
TILL proudly acknowledges and appreciates the compassionate volunteer effort and exemplary support provided by its members.*



Mel Prague (right) receiving the award from Ken Fettig.
See page 3 for a Profile of Mel Prague

Congratulations Mel and thank you!

Invitation to be a Guide for Tisch Lincoln Exhibit Lincoln Memorabilia Sought for Exhibit

Tisch Library is extending an invitation to TILL members to volunteer as guides for the **Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation Exhibit** from October 12 through December 2, 2005, to assist with general questions regarding the Exhibit & the Library. For example: "How long will the Exhibit be here?" "Where can I get more info?" "Is there anything else to see while I am here today?" We are not asking volunteers to answer history-related questions, so in-depth knowledge of the Exhibit topic is not required. We plan an Information Session on October 6th at 2:00 pm for TILL individuals who are interested. We will meet them in the lobby, provide an orientation of the library and exhibit, and finish with a Q&A period and light refreshments. While it is impossible to anticipate the busiest hours/days that patrons will visit, we will be quite happy to have TILL volunteers on hand at any time that work for them during Tisch Library hours. (See Lincoln Exhibit article, page 6.)

Call for Lincoln Memorabilia. We would be very pleased to have an opportunity to review authentic items regarding Lincoln, slavery, local history, and/or the Civil War period for possible inclusion in a Tisch Lobby exhibit. Be assured that any items used will be in a locked exhibit case.

For information: Stephanie St. Laurence, 617-627-3182

Stephanie.StLaurence@tufts.edu

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The Director's Corner



My dear friends,

Hope you are all "cool" and enjoying perfect #10 days wherever you are this summer. Here in the office a festive aura has begun as we enthusiastically make plans for our Fifth Anniversary year. They say "time flies when you are having fun" and I must say that it was just last week that we celebrated the New Year. So many good things have taken place during these past years that will be highlighted during the entire year. For now, I want to announce that we decided to celebrate our anniversary with a Lecture and Arts Trio Series, the first one on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., a Halloween concert/lecture program presented by Pianist Melody Fader and Violinist Lynn Bechtold. The duo has been performing together since 1999. Ms. Fader holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the Juilliard School. Ms. Bechtold holds degrees from New England Conservatory, Tufts University and the Mannes College of Music, where she was a graduate student of Felix Galimir.

Their program includes appropriate ghostly and macabre selections by Liszt, C. Saint-Saens, Bela Bartok, Ives, and C.W. Gluck among others. Refreshments will also be provided at a small charge. The second L & A Series will be held in January 2006, and the final program in April 2006. We hope you will all join us on October 29th and if you come in costume, you will receive a special prize. More information will be forthcoming about the entire Series within the next month. This anniversary year we plan to honor everyone's birthday and request that when you receive the Lecture and Arts Series booklet, you complete and return the birthday information form by snail mail or email; optional is the birth year. We hope you agree that celebrating your birthday or that of another Osher LLI friend is a fun way to say how glad you are to be a member of our very special program. During lunchtime the third Friday and Monday, once a month, we request you save room for dessert beginning the opening week of classes, September 16 and September 19. Everyone having a September birthday will be asked to light a candle. Also note that we will NOT be offering lunches this fall term, but morning coffee and tea will be provided as always. Well, my dear friends, don't get too much sun, relax, and know that we eagerly anticipate your arrival in September with what we hope will be a "banner" year for one and all.

My very best,

Marilyn

Great Decisions Host Fletcher Speakers: Part II

The spring 2005 Great Decision Study Group led by **Jerry Kornreich** enjoyed a stimulating and knowledgeable group of speakers from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Alejandra Ruiz-Dana, a Fletcher student, coordinated this program. Five of the Fletcher students were profiled in the spring 2005 issue of *sTILLife*. Here are the profiles of the other five speakers.

Ashish K. Bhatia is majoring in Development Economics and International Trade. Prior to Fletcher he worked for a commercial bank in New York, helping to outsource one hundred jobs to India. He has a B.S. in Economics and International Business from NYU's Stern School of Business.

Elizabeth Chalecki is a Fletcher doctoral student specializing in environmental security issues. Her goal is to work as an analyst for the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Elizabeth's educational background includes the University of Notre Dame, Boston University, and the University of Toronto.

Mikael Lurie, interested in the intersection of religion and human rights, holds a B.A. in Politics and Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis specializing in the political economy of Burma. He interned in Israel/OT as a human rights observer for the Palestinian yearly harvest in the West Bank.

Marta McLellan for the past two years has taught Oral English at Anshan Normal University in Liaoning Province, China. She has studied in Japan, and interned at the Carter Center in East Timor, and the National Democratic Institute in Washington, D.C. Marta, a 2002 graduate of Birmingham-Southern College with a double major in Asian Studies and Political Science, plans a public service career in international development and legal reform in China.

Genhua Wang, from China, has worked for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for nine years, four of them spent in the Embassy of Egypt. Genhua obtained his B.A. in International Economics from the School of Economics at Fudan University, Shanghai.

Spotlight on Study Group Leaders by Fred Laffert Jr.

Mel Prague

Mel Prague was born in Boston and has lived all of his life in Boston or Brookline. He attended Boston schools, graduating from Boston Latin in 1941. During World War II, he was stationed in England with the 8th Air Force. He flew in thirty-five missions over Germany, France, and The Netherlands.



After the war, Mel attended Tufts on the G.I. Bill and graduated in 1948 with a degree in Economics. Since he was married, he and his wife lived in Stearns Village, a housing development for married students located to the right of Cousins Gym on the current site of the Eliot-Pearson school. Later he attended Harvard Law School, graduated and passed the Bar, and practiced law for thirty-five years before retiring. He and his wife have two sons and a daughter. One son and his daughter joined him as Tufts graduates, while the other son graduated from Connecticut College.

None of this, of course, explains how Mel came to be a TILL Study Group Leader presenting art courses. That comes from a life-long interest in travel, during which he and his wife would visit art exhibits. He began to take slide photographs of the art, where permissible, and continues to do so. He estimates his current collection to be about 45,000 slides.

Mel became involved in TILL in April of 2000, and has served on the Curriculum Committee. He began to share his collection of slides with us by leading a study group on Van Gogh, Goya, and Degas in the summer session. He has since led study groups on Van Gogh and on the French Impressionists.

Mel's other interests are gardening, cooking, and walking (up to six miles a day, weather permitting). He also attends annual reunions of his bomber group each fall and continues to add to his collection of art slides.

Marie Murray

Marie Murray was born in Somerville and lived there throughout her school years. She graduated from St. Clement High School (just south of the Tufts campus on Boston Avenue) in 1946 and from Regis College in 1950 with a degree in English Literature. By 1953 she was married and accompanied her husband to Germany where he went as part of the Department of Defense Dependent School System. They remained in Europe, principally Germany, for the next thirty-nine years, returning to the United States (and Somerville) in 1992 at his retirement. While in Germany, Marie taught as a substitute in the Dependent School System. She also taught English classes for German women.



Marie and her husband have five children, all of whom were brought up in Europe. Currently, three of their daughters remain there and their son and one daughter are in the U.S. She has thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her son lives in Arlington and is the closest. Her daughter lives in NY and the others have established their lives in Germany.

During their years in Europe, they traveled a lot, covering most of Europe, including Eastern Europe when it was possible to do so, even before the fall of Communism. They also traveled as far as India and China. She still likes to travel and continues to do so through Elderhostel.

Marie also likes to read and it was during a visit to the Somerville library that she saw a poster about TILL. She started by taking study groups and later became a Study Group Leader. To date, she has led a group teaching German and one on Great Books. This Summer Session, she was scheduled to lead one on James Joyce's *The Dubliners*. In addition, she works on the Hospitality Committee which contributes so much to the enjoyment of the TILL sessions.

I hate flowers -- I paint them because they're cheaper than models and they don't move.

Georgia O'Keeffe 1887-1986)

Profile of TILL Member

by Ginny DeAngelis

Unlike the undergraduate college experience, people arrive at TILL with interesting and diverse personal and professional backgrounds. TILL students are one of the most interesting parts of the program. They bring their life experiences to enhance their study groups. As a group they are positive and enthusiastic life-long learners. One such student is **Jean Bellow**.

Jean retired two and a half years ago, and decided to take a few classes to explore new areas that she always wanted to look into but never had the time for. Even though she is not an alumna of Tufts, she started TILL in the winter session last year and has been hooked ever since. Jean finds that she has gravitated toward history courses—history of art, ancient history. She finds TILL not only intellectually stimulating, but also has found her classmates to be friendly and interesting. She likes the structure of the program, which includes classes, the Lunch and Learn series, and group activities. Jean contributes to TILL as chairperson of the Lunch and Learn committee.

Jean has lived in Cambridge for the last 34 years and has a son and daughter-in-law who live nearby, whom she thoroughly enjoys. She occasionally works as a consultant for her son's company. Jean has many interests. She has been singing with the Brookline Chorus for the past 15 years and has been very involved with Chorus administrative activities. The Chorus has recently incorporated, and Jean will be on the first Board of Directors.



Jean Bellow

Jean loves any activity that takes her outdoors such as hiking, walking tours, gardening, and swimming. She also works out at a local gym regularly

Jean lived in rural California during the late '60s where she volunteered in the United Farm Workers' office for Cesar Chavez during the grape boycott. When she returned to Massachusetts, she worked for the Children's Defense Fund under Marian Wright Edelman. Exposure to such charismatic and interesting leaders led Jean into a career as a senior manager in children and family services.

Jean's last job was at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children where she ran a large statewide program for Department of Social Services foster and pre-adoptive families. The program provided support services to the families such as sending foster children to summer camp and providing training, childcare, and overnight respite for parents.

Jean looks forward to many more study groups at Tufts in the future. TILL is happy to have her as a member.

TILL Library Orientation

"We encourage all study group leaders and study group members who wish to take advantage of this wonderful Osher LLI's benefit and learn how to use the Tisch Library more effectively." Marilyn Blumsack

The Tisch Library will be offering workshops in early September to orient TILL students to the library and to familiarize them with the basics of library research, including tips on how to search the library catalog and full-text journal databases. The workshop will begin with a brief tour of the physical space, followed by a class in the Electronic Resource Center (ERC). Please register for the library orientation by Sept. 9 by contacting:

Laura Walters, PhD
 Head of Reference & Collections, Tisch Library
 Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155
 617-627-2098/617-627-3002
laura.walters@tufts.edu

TILL Library Orientation Dates

September 12	10:30 -12:00 pm
September 13	1:00 - 2:30 pm
September 15	10:30 -12:00 pm

TILL the MIND

Book Review by Tania Friedman

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson.

Random House, 2003; Vintage paper 2004, 484 pages.

One might ask why write about a serial killer in a story about the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair. Both stories are true and they serve as a reminder of the ugliness that can exist amidst great beauty and innovation. One story is how the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair was conceived, planned, executed, and completed. The second tells of an evil serial killer, H.H. Holmes (Mudgett), who charmed and controlled the many women he killed. The author intertwines Holmes’ evil deeds with the accomplishment of some of the most talented and greatest architects and builders.

Until the Chicago Fair, the 1889 Paris World’s Fair was the wonder of the nineteenth century. The Eiffel tower constructed for the Fair, was a technological and architectural feat talked about around the world. Then the Chicago World’s Fair, which celebrated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ arrival to the Americas, changed how people thought about their cities and architecture. It brought forth the importance of aesthetics as well as introducing many innovations. Did you know that shredded wheat and the zipper had their debut at the Fair or that we sang “My country ‘Tis of Thee” but did not have a national anthem? We can thank the World’s Fair for the eight-hour workday and AC electric current. And most importantly, it introduced Braille and the engineering feat of the Ferris Wheel.

Architect Daniel Burnham was responsible for the Fair’s construction. During construction, his partner, John Root, died and he had to continue on his own. He managed thousands of workers and engineers as well as supervising Frederick Law Olmsted whom he hired to do the landscaping. The Fair had to be completed in a two-year period. While the White City was being constructed, H.H. Holmes was killing somewhere between 27 to 200 people, mostly young women. He began his crimes before the Fair, but so many anonymous young women came to Chicago to visit or work at the Fair that many of his murders went undetected.

Larsen’s popular history brings the people and events of this period to life. He balances the hope excitement and magic of the Fair as well as the dark, horrifying side of the 19th Century. This interesting true story reads like a novel.

Welcome to Dean Robert Sternberg

Please Join Us

You are invited to join a TILL committee and get involved in running our programs.

The Finance, Hospitality, Lunch and Learn, Marketing, and Membership committees, as well as a new committee planning TILL’s 5th Anniversary Lecture and Arts Series, are all looking for new members.

Contact Marilyn Blumsack, Director of TILL at 617-627-5885 to volunteer your expertise.



Robert Sternberg

Dr. Robert Sternberg becomes Dean of School of Arts and Sciences on August 15. Dr. Sternberg comes to Tufts from Yale University where he has been the IBM Professor of Psychology and Education in the Department of Psychology, Professor of Management in the School of Management, and Director of the Center for the Psychology of Abilities, Competencies, and Expertise (PACE Center), at Yale University. “Professor Sternberg is a

brilliant scholar who is also passionately committed to Tufts’ undergraduate education,” said President Lawrence Bacow. “He is well-versed in the psychology of leadership and the psychology of intelligence and learning, as well as being a man of great warmth, thoughtfulness, and humor. Tufts will benefit from his scholarship and his leadership.” TILL which operates under the governance of the School of Arts and Sciences looks forward to working with Dean Sternberg

Tisch Library to Host Lincoln Exhibit by Fred Laffert Jr



From October 12 to December 5, 2005, the Tisch library at Tufts will host an exhibit entitled **Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation**. This is a touring exhibit that will appear in only forty libraries nationwide, very few of which are in New England. The exhibit that reexamines President Lincoln's efforts to abolish slavery during the Civil War contains material from the Henry E. Huntington Library, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and was organized with the American Library Association.

It attempts to provide a compelling display of material to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds and to support library programs of outreach to the community. The Tisch Library is preparing a program that will include lectures, school tours, and various musical, dramatic and/or film presentations. The schedule will be posted on the library website when available. The exhibit is free to all.

In six sections, the exhibit traces Lincoln's life from his youth to his assassination. Each section covers a period in his life and looks at the realities that he faced in each period. Each section contains a narrative on the period, supported by a display of reproductions of rare contemporary documents and photographs. Illustrative materials such as engravings, cartoons and political miscellany are included.

The first four sections look at the development of slavery as a political question and examine Lincoln's and contemporary attitudes toward it. They seek to provide insight into his slavery attitudes at different stages in his life up until the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, and his efforts after that to insure equitable treatment for the freed slaves. The fifth section looks at the contribution of black troops to the Union victory. The sixth, entitled Legacies, does the same for the last six months of the war and his life. The library plans to have volunteers present to assist visitors and answer questions.

The Tisch Library is very pleased to have been selected as one of the forty host locations for the exhibit and looks forward to sharing it with the entire community.

Editor's note: Fred Laffert Jr. is offering a TILL study group on **Lincoln and His Times** during the fall 2005 session.

Mark Your Calendar

September 8 at 5:30-8:30 pm

Tufts Art Gallery, Aidekman
Opening Reception for
Fall Exhibitions:

*Pattern Language: Clothing as
Communicator* and
Works by Kristin Baker

September 9, 2005

Registration Deadline for
Library Orientation (page 4)

September 27 at 7:30 pm

An Evening with Salman Rushdie

Talk, reception, & book signing.
Admission free (tickets required)
Cohen Auditorium/Aidekman
Sculpture Court

October 12 –December 2, 2005

Forever Free:
Abraham Lincoln's Journey to
Emancipation Exhibit
Tisch Library (page 6)

October 29, 2005 at 7:00 pm

TILL Fifth Anniversary Concert and Lecture

Pianist Melody Fader
Violinist Lynn Bechtold (page 2)

November 20

Deadline for Submissions to
*The Annual Journal of the Osher
Lifelong Long Institute* (page 2)



sTILLife, the newsletter of the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Tufts University, is published four times a year: fall, winter, and spring and summer. Marilyn A. McCaffrey is the editor. Submit Letters to the Editor and articles to her at stillife@comcast.net.

Photographs by Sondra Szymczak and
Ginny DeAngelis
Desktop Publishing by Roberto Porzecanski

An Invitation

Would you like to write articles, take photographs, or do desktop publishing for our newsletter?

sTILLife would welcome your contributions. Please contact the editor.

Osher to Publish New Journal

Submissions Sought

Osher is pleased to announce the inauguration of *The LLI Review*, *The Annual Journal of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes*, a new annual publication from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's National Resource Center. The mission of this peer-reviewed journal is to present original research and provide thoughtful and engaging commentary on issues related to learning among people over the age of fifty.

E. Michael Brady, Ph.D., Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine is the journal's editor (mbrady@usm.maine.edu)

Till members are invited to submit papers for publication. Research articles; critical essays; book reviews; descriptions of courses, learning activities, and best teaching practices for older adults; memoirs related to older adult learning; brief fiction related to teaching and learning in later age; and poetry are the topics requested. Maximum word length varies from 750 words for book reviews up to 7500 words for critical essays. Only manuscripts that have not been published elsewhere will be considered.

The Submission Deadline for papers is November 20, 2005, with publication set for late spring 2006. For further information request a copy of the Call for Papers from the TILL Office.

TILL Calendar

Winter Session

January 23rd to February 17th

Spring Session

March 20th to May 12th

Summer Session

June 5 to June 8th

Visit the new TILL website:

<http://ase.tufts.edu/lli>

NEWS from the TILL Community

Bob Wohlgenuth traveled to Madagascar this summer to visit his daughter who is in the Peace Corps there.

Herb Wasserman: I am a guide on the Lexington Battle Green and also a steward with responsibility for maintaining the conservation land in Lexington. I play the classical guitar. I play lots of tennis, run my Lab (yellow) Retriever in the woods, and do vegetable gardening. This summer I am swimming, kayaking, and reading in Wellfleet.

Hannah Simon: I continue to spend lots of time helping out my daughter and son-in-law, a very busy two-career couple, by providing "back up" care for our grandchildren aged 6 and 8. We can do this because we live within one mile of each other. It is fun. We also continue to enjoy our Huntington and New Repertory Theater subscriptions.

John Russell is spending the entire summer, with no respite, preparing to lead his fall study group **Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights**. He is working mostly on the beach at North Truro.

Eleanor Linter spent July in her old farmhouse in Northern Vermont with as many family members and friends who could visit. My family is pretty well scattered over the U.S. and abroad, and summer in Vermont is when we have our informal reunions. Then in August I expect to spend some considerable time preparing for my **Let's Enjoy Opera!** course. I plan to go to Glimmerglass again this year and will stop for a concert at Tanglewood on the way home.

For the third year, **Fred Laffert** volunteered at the BankAmerica Championship the week of June 20-26. Other than that, he has been working on his own golf game, which sorely needs it.

Dotty Burstein: I hope to take in some chamber music concerts in Boston, Cambridge, and NYC as well as prepare for my fall TILL course, **Lives and Careers of 20thC Women Musicians**. The office needs cleaning out so that I can use it, and as usual I run the family "cab service" for my son and his friends! My husband and I love to take a few days in NH at the Franconia Inn, not far from a house where Robert Frost and his family lived and farmed during WWI. The hiking is good in the White Mountains, and the food at the Inn is incredibly delicious.

One of the joys of summer for **Mel Bernstein** is getting the brutal winter and delayed spring behind him and simply enjoying the outdoors. Laura and I traveled to Philadelphia and Gettysburg in late June to visit Revolutionary and Civil War historic sites. Early in August we go to Quebec City and its countryside for a week's bike tour. For TILL's fall session, I am looking forward to leading a new 4-week study group, **100 Years of American Humor**, a shorter version of my 2003 course on British and American humor.

Hannah Simon reports that on April 29, **Sally Rogers** hosted a reunion of the members of the wonderful study group, **Searching for the Face of God**. Everyone had been sorry to see this class end last spring, and we had talked about wanting to meet again. **Sally, Ken Nimblett, Patricia Budd Kepler** (our great study group leader) and I decided to try to arrange this. Our "classmates" responded enthusiastically. Twelve of us enjoyed a great potluck lunch and some stimulating conversation along the lines and issues we had talked about in our study group. We will meet again to consider forming an ongoing discussion group.

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Come Celebrate our 5th Anniversary Year!

Fall Session: September 16– November 14, 2005

Mondays 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

Let's Enjoy Opera II!
 Dickens' *Great Expectations*
 Conversational Italian
 Rising Anti-Americanism

Study Group Leaders

Eleanor Lintner
 Dorothy Dudley
 Camille Mazzoni
 Gresh Lattimore

Mondays 1:30—3:30 p.m.

Beyond Orphan Annie:
 Rethinking Adoption Through Literature
 Abraham Lincoln: His Life and Times
 Searching for the Face of God
 World War II in the Pacific

Denise Pappas
 Fred Laffert
 Patricia Budd Kepler
 Ken Fettig

Fridays 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

From Monet to Today, a Concise History of Modern Art
 Outside/Inside: Stories Told from Unique Vantage Points
 Lives and Careers of 20th C Women Musicians
 Contemporary Debates of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Bob Wohlgenuth
 Jane Katims
 Dotty Burstein
 Devin D. Jessee

Fridays 1:30—3:30 p.m.

Dialogue into Spanish and Spanish Culture
 Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights
 Great Decisions 2005

Joanne Valeriani
 John Russell
 Jerome Kornreich

Mini-Study Groups (four weeks each)

Mondays: September 19, 26, October 3 and 17 1:30—3:30 p.m.

Make Me Laugh – Please! (first four weeks)

Sondra Szymczak

Mondays: October 24, 31, November 7 and 14 1:30—3:30 p.m.

One Hundred Years of American Humor:
 What Makes People Laugh (second four weeks)

Mel Bernstein

Distance Learning Study Groups (eight weeks)

The Ethical and Legal Aspects of the New Genetics
 Writing Fiction

Ronnee Yashon
 Sibyl Johnston

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