Fabulous Spring 2015 Semester!

The spring semester begins on April 13 and continues through May 22. The Curriculum Council has put together an exciting and eclectic array of courses and lecturers for you. Classes will be held throughout the county. Please refer to the spring 2015 Catalog or visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for more details.

CLASS LOCATIONS: BCC Pittsfield BCC; Bard College at Simon’s Rock SRG; Berkshire Museum BMP; The Clark TCW; Frelinghuysen-Morris House, Lenox FML; Hancock Shaker Village HSV; Mason Library, Great Barrington MLG; BCC South County Center, Great Barrington SCC; Spirited, Lenox SPL; Williams College WCW.

MON.

Judaism and the Gospels BCC & SCC – Rabbi Ivan Caine
20th Century American Poetry BCC & SCC – James Kraft
Jazz: The Continuing Story BCC – T. Atchison, R. Evans, S. Rosen

TUES.

Today’s Headlines SRG – Len Tabs
At Risk Youth: Latest Research & View from the Field SRG
– Adam Hinds
Whence Our Words? An Exploration of the Sources of English SRG
– Stewart Edelstein
Lift Your Spirits! SPL – Jim Nejaime

WED.

Great Decisions TCW – James Cotter
The Art of Observation TCW & BMP – Jock Brooks, Herbert Diamond
On the Ayn Rand Cult and the Libertarian Mind WCW
– Gene Bell-Villada
Dance: An Affirmation of Life WCW – Sandra Burton, Erica Dankmeyer, Tendai Muparutsa, Janine Parker
Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology MLG – Sarah Reedy

THURS.

Birding in the Berkshires BCC – Ed Neumuth
Greenwich Village, 1913: Suffrage, Labor, and the New Woman HSV
– Barbara Waldinger
Sex, Magic and Riddles: Lilith the Demoness and Other Women of Wonder HSV – Rabbi Josh Breindel
Industrial Archaeology in the Berkshires HSV & other locations
– Bernard Drew, Charles Flint, David Pierce

FRI.

Enriching Your Modern Art Experience FML – Kinney Frelinghuysen
Shakespeare’s History Plays BCC – Richard Matturro
What’s Behind That Image? The Development of Art Therapy BCC
– Marney Schorr
Wildflowers of the Berkshires BCC & other locations
– Charles Quinlan

OLLI Summer Preview

We can’t wait until summer returns to the Berkshires! Join us for our summer semester, June 1 to June 29. Featured courses include Boots on the Ground: Promoting Stability and Peace in Conflict Zones with UN & NATO Advisor Brenda Oppermann; Shakespeare on Film: The History Plays with Richard Matturro; Current Latin American Issues with two-time Fulbright scholar and Latin American expert Professor Martin Weinstein; and more. Expect a summer OLLI course catalog in your mailbox in May!
**President’s Message**

As I write this letter, classes for the winter semester have almost ended. I am pleased to say that this is a banner semester. We have more than 100 new members and we are setting a new record for the number of people enrolled in classes. This is particularly significant because so many of our members head south for the winter. It is good to know, for those who stay behind and face the Berkshire wind and cold, that there is a place to go, meet up with neighbors and bask in the warmth of learning and friendship.

Megan Whilden, our formidable Executive Director, has been very busy putting OLLI on the map. There have been newspaper articles, radio and public access television interviews and more ways in which OLLI has become better known in the county. These, together with the efforts of our Membership Committee led by Shirley Shapiro, have been the catalysts which increased our membership.

We have exciting things coming up. Please put OLLI on your calendars for the week-end of May 22-24. We will have our Annual Meeting on May 22, followed by the Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture; the OLLI Art Show and Silent Auction on May 23; and a continuation of the Art Show on Sunday, May 24. I hope to see you there.

This will be my last letter to the members as President of OLLI. These have been four very special years for me as OLLI has evolved into the very outstanding organization it is today. I want to thank our members for their support. Of course I will still see many of you at courses and activities. OLLI will continue to be an important part of my life.

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**Meet an Instructor**

**ADAM HINDS**

Adam Hinds is a new instructor for OLLI. His winter course, *Introduction to the Modern Middle East* met at Kimball Farms to a full house. Adam grew up in Shelburne Falls, Mass, near Greenfield, and he has returned to the U.S. after more than 10 years in the Middle East.

After earning a graduate degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts, Adam worked on political campaigns, first for Congressman Olver and then for Senator John Kerry’s campaign for President. After 2004, Adam took a position with the United Nations, which brought him to Iraq. He worked in Iraq, with minor breaks, from 2005 to 2011. One major assignment was to help draft a new constitution, a task that involved determining the role of Sharia Law in the Iraqi foundational document. He also negotiated between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Government of Iraq over disputed internal boundaries. In 2011, after the Arab Spring, Adam worked for the UN Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process. While based in Jerusalem, he spent time in Cairo, Beirut and Amman. Still later, Adam worked with UN Special Representatives for Syria, including Kofi Annan to attempt a cease-fire, and then successive Envoys to eliminate Syria’s chemical weapons program.

After leaving the UN, Adam chose to return to the Berkshires. He now works for the City of Pittsfield, where he manages a project relating to youth and gang violence. After all that time in hot, dry climates, Adam is quite pleased to be back in Massachusetts where he takes time to enjoy skiing and mountain biking.

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**Executive Director’s Message**

Hello OLLI.

Spring is coming and so are terrific classes, speakers, special events and more designed by and for our members. If you are new to OLLI, welcome! OLLI is a vibrant and successful organization led by its eager and hardworking volunteer members. We invite you to get involved and volunteer for one of our many committees, join the newsletter staff or help out in the office. We’re even planning an OLLI radio show and would love your help.

We have some exciting new programs coming up this year. We have begun a new partnership with the Berkshire Athenaeum to offer free technology workshops exclusively for OLLI members. And our presence online has expanded significantly. We are now on Facebook, have a blog, and will be offering online registration very soon.

Another new partnership is with “Lift Ev’ry Voice,” a biennial festival celebrating African-American heritage and culture in the Berkshires and beyond. Look for some exciting summer programming in concert with Lift Ev’ry Voice this year.

As always, I encourage you to share your ideas and suggestions about OLLI with me. I can be reached by email at mwhilden@berkshirecc.edu or at 413-236-2192. And if you are interested in getting more involved, I am happy to help find the perfect opportunity for you! — Warmly, Megan

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**OLLI NEWSLETTER**

*Editor:* Peter Bluhm  
*Assistant Editors:* Judy Katz, Sandi Rubin, Myrna Schneiderman, Rose Scotch, Ruth Weinstein  
*Editorial Staff:* Arline Breskin, Mary Anne Cicchillo, Ruth Degenhardt, Magda Gabor-Hotchick, Marilyn Margolis, Marie Milazzo, Elizabeth Rosenberg, Helen-May Shaffer, Harriet Shair, Arthur Sherman, Selma Williams  
*Feature Writer:* Joanna Fribush  
*Contributor:* Wilma Michaels
Samuel Harrison

Reverend Samuel Harrison, a leading African-American spokesman for equal rights in pre- and post-Civil War America, lived in Pittsfield for many years. Born a slave in 1818 in Philadelphia, Samuel and his widowed mother were freed in 1821 by their abolitionist master, John Bolton. They moved to New York City, where he attended school and also learned the shoemaking trade. Samuel’s youth illustrates the importance of those abolitionists who enabled his education. At age 18 he entered a school in Peterboro, New York, run by abolitionist Gerrit Smith. This school offered a “classical education for young blacks,” and it was here that Harrison developed a love of learning and a deep interest in religion. He continued his studies at the Western Reserve College in Hudson, Ohio (now Case Western Reserve in Cleveland), another school run by abolitionists. Samuel was that school’s first black graduate, and he made education for other blacks a priority throughout his distinguished life.

Harrison became a minister known for his fiery sermons on equality, which he delivered at both black and white churches. In 1850 he became the first minister of the Second Congregational Church in Pittsfield, founded because blacks were unwelcome in white churches. As the Civil War began, Harrison championed the rights of blacks to serve in the Union Army, and his efforts eventually led to thousands enlisting. In 1863 Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew appointed Harrison as Chaplain of the black 54th Infantry Regiment of Massachusetts, the first black infantry of the war. The right to fight, however, did not include the right to equal pay, and Harrison took up this cause. At Harrison’s urging, Governor Andrew asked President Lincoln to end this discrimination. In 1864 Lincoln signed a law creating equal pay for black soldiers.

After the war, Harrison lived and preached in several northern cities. He returned to the Second Congregational Church in Pittsfield in 1872, where he remained until his death in 1900. The statement from the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal” inspired the Reverend’s sermons and writings throughout his life. In 1877, he wrote An Appeal of a Colored Man to His Fellow Citizens of a Fairer Hue in the United States, in which he despaired that the end of slavery was not the end of inequality. Harrison surely should be credited as a founding leader of the civil rights movement. His voice sounded as “A Trumpet at the Walls of Jericho,” which is the title of an excellent 2005 documentary of his life, starring Ossie Davis.

Harrison’s memory and accomplishments were honored with the establishment of the Samuel Harrison Society House at 82 Third Street in Pittsfield. This National Historic Site will officially open in the summer of 2015. Harrison and his wife and children are buried in the Pittsfield Cemetery.

— Joanna Fribush

Getting to Know a Board Member

THOMAS KOELLE

Tom Koelle has always been enthusiastic about education. On his first day of school in Astoria, Queens, he was disappointed that the teacher did not immediately start teaching him to read. Later, Tom expanded his horizons beyond his “Archie Bunker” neighborhood by attending City College of New York (CCNY) on a New York State Regents scholarship. After college he taught math and physics in a high school in upstate New York. The computer revolution then lured him into the systems and data processing world. He worked at Citibank for twenty-two years, retiring in 2008 as Vice President of Data Processing with specific responsibilities for the bank’s mega data centers.

Influenced by his father who was a foreman in a bakery, Tom is a serious bread-maker and a bit of a foodie. He and Ro enjoy traveling, including to Sarasota, Arizona and the Amalfi Coast. He and a friend once rented a Jaguar XKE in order to tour Scotland and its renowned distilleries. Tom’s interests extend to gardening, reading (especially the classics) and OLLI. “A neighbor sold me on OLLI,” Tom reported, “and I have enjoyed taking courses, participating in events and volunteering at the art show and silent auction.” He and Ro value the camaraderie and many friendships made through OLLI. “OLLI has been the perfect fit for me,” says Tom, as he assumes his new OLLI board responsibilities.

— Ruth Weinstein
The OLLI Annual Meeting will be held on Friday May 22nd, at the Colonial Theatre in downtown Pittsfield. The annual meeting begins at 4:30pm, and will be immediately followed by a reception in the Colonial Theatre lobby. The Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture, featuring renowned journalist Mike Barnicle, will begin at 6pm. These events are free and open to the public.

The annual meeting is an important time for OLLI members to review the work of the organization during the past year and to learn of the Board of Directors’ plans for 2015–16. The election of members to the Board of Directors will also take place.

The Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture series was created in memory of one of OLLI’s most dynamic leaders. Mona Sherman served as President of the OLLI Board and helped lead the transformation from the Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (BILL) to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Past lecturers have included former Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis, Jane Velez-Mitchell, Douglas Brinkley, Rikki Kleiman, Mika Brzezinski, and Mark Halperin.

This year’s speaker will be Mike Barnicle, a veteran print and broadcast journalist, radio personality, and social and political commentator. A regular on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, Mike is best known for his street-smart, straightforward commentary and writing style that gives voice to “every man.” A Massachusetts native, Mike has written more than 4,000 newspaper columns for the Boston Herald, New York Daily News and The Boston Globe. Mike rose to prominence with hard-hitting and often heart-wrenching columns that closely followed the triumphs, travails and ambitions of Boston’s working and middle classes. His articles and commentary have also appeared in Time magazine, Newsweek, The Daily Beast, The Huffington Post, ESPN The Magazine and Esquire. Over more than 35 years in journalism, Mike has received numerous print and broadcast awards, including honors from AP, UPI, DuPont Columbia and National Headliner Awards.

Don’t forget to add OLLI’s annual meeting to your calendar for Friday, May 22nd, beginning at 4:30pm, as well as the following reception and Mike Barnicle’s lively commentary on current events.

**Distinguished Speaker Series**

The Distinguished Speaker Series, led by Warren Hagler and Lois Lenehan, has scheduled the following events. Each will occur at Berkshire Community College, room K111, from 10:30 am to noon.

**MAY 2** • Dori Katz, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Modern Language and Literature at Trinity College. Looking for Strangers; a Journey in Belgium to Recover a Wartime Childhood.

**MAY 9** • Julianne Boyd, Ph.D., co-founder and Artistic Director of Barrington Stage, Pittsfield. From Selecting a Season to Opening Night.

**JUNE 13** • Lawrence Snyder, Ph.D., Director of Cyber Security Programs at Bay Path University, Longmeadow, MA. Cybersecurity, Identity Theft, Privacy, and Social Engineering Threats: What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself.

**JUNE 27** • Jeremy Yudkin, Ph.D., Professor of Music at Boston University and Visiting Professor of Music at Oxford University; author of Understanding Music and Music in Medieval Europe. His lecture topic will be Starting Out: How Composers Create Beginnings for Great Compositions.

**JULY 11** • Laura Hansen, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California. When Good Companies Go Bad: Deviance and Crime in American Corporations.

**AUGUST 15** • John Delano, Ph.D., Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus at the University at Albany in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. NASA’s Search for Life Beyond the Earth: Are We Alone in the Universe?

**SEPTEMBER 12** • Joan Del Plato, Ph.D., Professor of Art History at Bard College at Simon’s Rock. Art and Politics in 1939 Nazi Germany.

Special Events

The OLLI Special Events Committee, led by Arline Breskin, organizes special events and educational trips for OLLI members and their guests throughout the year.

A major event will take place on Saturday, April 25 at 11:00 am in the Berkshire Community College cafeteria. OLLI will participate in an event featuring an authentic Korean meal, a reenactment of a traditional Korean wedding ceremony, and a screening of films about Korea’s art and culture as well as its growing place in the world economy. Enjoy a lunch of Korean specialties such as bibimbap, bulgogi (marinated BBQ beef), seafood and kimchi pancakes.

A Taste of Korea is presented by the Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project, a nonprofit organization that promotes Korean history and culture. The project headquarters are in Seoul, Korea, and it has branches in the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Seats for A Taste of Korea, including the Korean luncheon, are $15 for OLLI members and Berkshire Community College students and staff, and $20 for the general public. To register, please call 413-236-2190 or visit www.berkshireolli.org to download the flyer to mail in with payment. Seating is limited, so plan to register early.

THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE has also scheduled the following events:

**JUNE 5** • Wahconah Park. Opening night Pittsfield Suns.

**JUNE 25** • Jacob’s Pillow. BC Vancouver in Ted Shawn Theater.

**SEPT. 29 and OCT. 6, 13 and 20**. Introduction to square dancing.

**OCT. 11** • Barrington Stage Play and Brunch. Veils by Tom Coash.

The OLLI Faculty Appreciation Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 12, in the Berkshire Community College dining room. This annual event is an opportunity for OLLI to honor and thank the many instructors who generously contribute their time and talent to lead our classes in the summer, fall, winter and spring semesters.

For the eighth consecutive year, this event will be chaired by OLLI volunteer Adele Cukor. Adele coordinates everything from invitations to decorations and from menu to seating. Her warmth and enthusiasm help make the evening a special occasion. Over 80 instructors and their guests will be invited, along with more than 50 curriculum-related committee volunteers and OLLI Board members.

OLLI thrives because of all of its classes, and the annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner is one way we extend our thanks to our instructors who work so hard to provide us with the varied and intellectually stimulating courses we offer each year. They are the very heart of our program, and we look forward to toasting them on May 12.
Thank You, Lecturers

OLLI’s courses and programs succeed because many people are willing to make a tremendous effort to share their expertise. All our lecturers, moderators and panelists—both members and non-members—are volunteers. Many have led more than one course. The following lecturers led courses during the spring, summer and fall of 2014, and the winter of 2015. We thank all of them for their commitment to OLLI at BCC.

Art Show and Silent Auction

OLLI’s Sixth Annual Open House, Art Show and Silent Auction will open with a wine and hors d’oeuvres reception on Saturday, May 23 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Art Show viewing and Silent Auction will continue on Sunday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These events are free and open to the public and will take place at the Welles Gallery located in the Lenox Public Library.

The Art Show will exhibit entries from OLLI members. The Silent Auction will feature opportunities to bid on merchandise from retail establishments, on works of art and jewelry, restaurant meals and other delightful items. The Art Show is co-chaired by Tom Koelle and Ron Stewart, and the Silent Auction is being chaired by Lois Lenehan.

The OLLI office will send out a Call for Artists in March. It will explain rules for the event. Entries are limited to OLLI members.
Thank You, Volunteers

OLLI’s strength and vitality comes from its corps of active, committed volunteers—the people who plan courses, special events, special projects, recruit lecturers, keep our membership growing, help in the office, publicize our activities, communicate with our members, supervise class arrangements, provide leadership and pitch in wherever help is needed. These are the men and women—158 strong—who gave OLLI their time, energy, creativity and skill during the spring, summer and fall of 2014, and the winter of 2015. They are our engine and our fuel, and we give them our thanks. We hope we included everyone.

Christine Adams
Howard Arkans
Norman Avnet
Bob Bieniek
Peter Bluhm
Valerie Bluhm
Carolyn Brady
Barbara Brand
Arline Breskin
Jock Brooks
Joan Brotman
Ilse Browner
Helene Calman
Ann Campbell
Peri Caverly
Marlene Chautin
Mary Anne Cicchillo
Marsha Cohen
Joanne Cooney
Terence Cooney
Stephanie Copeland
Judy Cromwell
Nancy Crosson
Adele Cukor
Ruth Degenhardt
Lile Deinard
Bob Desrosiers
Bonnie Desrosiers
“All Kit” Dobelle
Judy Douville
Phyllis Epstein
Andrew Fisher
Karel Fisher
Marilyn Flaum
Paul Flaum
Rose Foster
Joanna Fribush
Audrey Friedner
Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss
Henry Gallitano
Bonita Ganot
Patricia Gazouelas
Joe Gelinas
Michael Geller
Joe Gerard

Judy Glockner
Bob Gold
Marcia Gold
Martin Goldstein
Susan Gorham
Larry Greenapple
Barbara Greenbaum
Wende Greenberg
Christopher Guidette
Hope Hagler
Warren Hagler
Janel Halpern
Benv Hathaway
George Haus
Joanne Hayes
Maureen Hickey
Paul Hickey
Lois Hill
Mary Hoeltzel
Rudy Hoeltzel +
Bruce Jacobs
Judy Joseph
Judi Kales
Judy Katz
Lucy Kennedy
Judy Keshner
Rosanna Koelle
Tom Koelle
Jo Ann Lancaster
Bill Latimer
Augusta Leibowitz
Lois Lenehan
Kitty Levitan
Marge Lewis
Barbara Liebert
John Lipkowitz
Claire Lowery
Marile Lynch
Marilyn Margolis
Michael Margolis
Louis Marhefsky
Richard Matturro
Nancy McGill
Karen McNulty
Norman Michaels
Wilma Michaels
Enid Michelman
Marie Milazzo
Don Miller
Ann Morgan
Judith Nardacci
Nancy Niremberg
Carol Nobel
Lesley Oransky
Susan Orenstein
Peter Podol
Pat Pollok
Wendy Robbins
Charlene Rosen
Robert Rosen
Elizabeth Rosenberg
Alan Rubin
Lenore Rubin
Sandi Rubin
Carol Sabot
Linda Sambel
Diane Saunders
Audrey Schlanger
Myrna Schneiderman
Rose Scotch
Tony Segal
Betsy Selkowitz
Helen-Mary Shaffer
Hal Shair
Harriet Shair
Arline Shalan
Howard Shapiro
Shirley Shapiro
Art Sherman
Carl Shuster
Claudia Shuster
Carole Siegel
Paul Smilow
Turbi Smilow
Elise Smith
George Smith
Mary Spina
Martha Stewart
Ron Stewart
Ellen Tabs

+Deceased OLLI Volunteer

Editor’s Note

This issue of the OLLI Newsletter includes some minor formatting changes. Readers are welcome to provide comments on these changes and how we might make our formats more readable and our content more interesting. Also, the Newsletter can always use good photographs of OLLI events. If you are an amateur photographer, please send us your high-quality (1 Meg or better) snapshots of OLLI events. Email comments and photos to peterbluhm@roadrunner.com.

OLLI is considering forming a photography team to take snapshots of OLLI events. These photos are used in the newsletter, but also on the web site and in other OLLI publications. If you are interested in serving on this team, contact Megan Whilden at mwhilden@berkshirecc.edu.
Board of Directors
FEBRUARY, 2015

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OLLI Board of Directors as of December 2014 and Executive Director Megan Whilden