



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

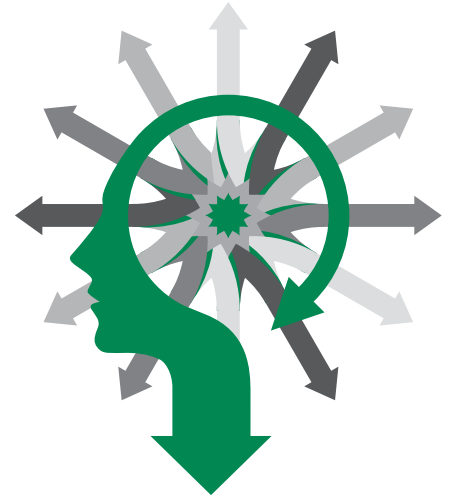
SPRING 2016

PARTNERS WITH WILLIAMS COLLEGE, BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK & MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Celebrate Spring with OLLI

The spring semester begins on April 8 and continues through May 24. The Curriculum Council has put together an exciting and eclectic array of courses and lecturers. Classes will be held throughout the county, at the following locations: BCC Pittsfield **BCC**; Berkshire Museum **BMP**; The Clark **TCW**; Frelinghuysen-Morris House, Lenox **FML**; BCC South County Center, Great Barrington **SCC**; Spirited, Williams College **WCW**.

Please refer to the spring 2016 Catalog or visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for more details.



MON.	<p><i>Great Decisions</i> – James Cotter – BCC</p> <p><i>The History of Gangs</i> – William Sturgeon - BCC</p> <p><i>Shakespeare’s Comedies</i> – Richard Maturro – BCC</p> <p><i>Aspects of Jazz: Vocal Tradition, Rhythm and Composition</i> – T. Atchison, P. Coombs, R. Evans, T. Murray, S. Rosen, R. Suters – BCC</p>
TUES.	<p><i>The Bright and Dark Sides of Soccer</i> – Alan Rubin – SCC</p> <p><i>Today’s Headlines</i> – Leonard Tabs – SCC</p> <p><i>Theatre Out Loud: A Play Reading Workshop</i> – Karel Fisher – SCC</p> <p><i>Getting Hooked on Fly Fishing</i> – William Travis, Henry Sweren, Ben Woods – BCC & other locations</p> <p><i>Voices from the Berkshire Edge</i> – David Scribner, Marcie Setlow – SCC</p>
WED.	<p><i>Beyond Photography: Training Your Creative Eye</i> – Thaddeus Kubis – various locations</p> <p><i>Let’s Go Baja California</i> – WCW</p> <p><i>The Art of Observation</i> – Jock Brooks & Herbert Diamond – TCW, BMP</p> <p><i>The Power of Narrative</i> – Leyla Rouhi – WCW</p> <p><i>Contemporary Music</i> – E. Golin, I. Perez Velasquez, S. Dankner, Z. Wadsworth, W. A. Sheppard – WCW</p>
THURS.	<p><i>Birding in the Berkshires</i> – Ed Neumuth – BCC and other locations</p> <p><i>Passionate Song: The Story of King David</i> – Rabbi J. Breindel – BCC</p> <p><i>The Garden Motif in Literature</i> – Wende Greenberg – BCC</p> <p><i>Kubrick Country</i> – Dan Valenti – BCC</p> <p><i>Watching Dance with a Dancer’s Eye</i> – Megan Reisel – BCC</p>
FRI.	<p><i>Enriching Your Modern Art Experience</i> – Kinney Frelinghuysen – FML</p> <p><i>Berkshire Theatre 2016: An Insider’s Preview</i> – Karel Fisher, Barbara Waldinger, Nancy Vale – BCC</p> <p><i>Our Current Healthcare System Decoded: What You Need to Know</i> – G. Josephson, B. Liptzin, W. Mertens, D. Salvatore, S. Sweet – BCC</p>

Call for Photos of Berkshire Autumn

OLLI invites photographers to submit photos of autumn in the Berkshires for our fall catalog cover contest. Images should be color, high-resolution JPGs or TIFFs (at least 3 MB) and horizontally oriented. Please email submissions to OLLI@Berkshirecc.edu. The contest winner will receive a free one-year OLLI membership and their photograph will be on the cover of the Fall 2016 OLLI catalog. The deadline for submissions is May 6.

Spring 2016 Photo Contest Winner

Jane McWhorter of Great Barrington submitted the winning photo for the Spring 2016 OLLI Catalog cover. It was taken at a pond in Great Barrington. Jane is a graphic artist/photographer who designs the OLLI catalog and newsletter. She teaches workshops on Digital Photography, Adobe Photoshop and InDesign at BCC South County Center.

President's Message

Our fourteen winter semester classes have been completed. I'm pleased to report that our enrollment and attendance increased over prior years.

We held an Open House to attract new members this past December at the Whitney Center for the Performing Arts in Pittsfield. Total attendance exceeded 100 OLLI members, instructors, and prospects. It produced 17 new OLLI memberships. I extend heartfelt thanks to the Membership Committee for their hard work to produce this event and to our OLLI instructors for their interesting presentations. Our membership currently stands at 1,035. Our goal is to end the fiscal year on June 30 at 1,050 or more.

Our next Open House will be held at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox on Tuesday April 5, from 10 to 11:30 am, to preview our spring semester. Attendance by OLLI members is most welcome. Also, mark your calendars for the evening of May 27, when OLLI will hold its Annual Meeting followed by the Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture. I hope to see a large turnout.

On a sad note, I am sorry to inform you that Warren Hagler, Co-Chair of our Distinguished Speakers Series, passed away in Florida in December. Warren was an energetic, dedicated and long-time volunteer and contributor to OLLI. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Hope.

As all of you know, OLLI courses, events, trips, and lectures are all created, organized, and implemented by our outstanding volunteers, and we are very grateful for their efforts. If you are interested in joining a committee or in teaching a class on a favorite subject, kindly call our Executive Director, Megan Whilden, at (413) 236-2192 for further information. — Leonard Tabs

2016 Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture to Feature Author and Columnist Joe Klein



Every May, OLLI presents the annual Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture, created by former OLLI President Arthur Sherman in memory of his wife Mona, who was also a former OLLI President and founder of OLLI's Distinguished Speakers Series. The Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture is held after our annual meeting and is free and open to the public.

This year we are excited to host bestselling author and *TIME* magazine columnist Joe Klein. Joe is the author of seven books, most recently *Charlie Mike: A True Story of Heroes who Brought their Mission Home*. As "Anonymous," Klein wrote *Primary Colors*, a best-selling and critically acclaimed novel inspired by the 1992 political race. Klein has written articles

and book reviews for *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *LIFE* and *Rolling Stone*. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former Guggenheim fellow, he has a weekly *TIME* column, "In the Arena," which covers national and international affairs. A book signing will follow his lecture.

The 2016 Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture will be held on Friday, May 27 at 6 pm at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in downtown Great Barrington. OLLI's annual meeting, also free and open to all, will be held beforehand at 5 pm, also at the Mahaiwe.

OLLI Leadership Academy Returns

OLLI is a member-run organization. With over 150 volunteers, OLLI members design curriculum, teach classes, organize special events, edit the catalog and newsletter, and serve on our board and our committees. For many members, becoming an active OLLI volunteer has been the gateway to new friendships, new experiences and new knowledge.

To give prospective volunteer leaders the information and training they need, OLLI established the Leadership Academy in 2012 and will offer it again this June. Held on Monday mornings from 9am to 1pm, the Academy provides training in leadership skills, non-profit operations, OLLI policies and procedures. It even includes Monty Python's hilarious video on how *not* to lead a meeting.

Leadership Academy training is provided at no charge for up to 15 members each year. We invite applications from all OLLI members who would like to take an active role in contributing to OLLI's continued success. Watch your inbox for a call for applications. For more information call the OLLI Office at 413-236-2190.

— Megan Whilden.

Strategic Plan Adopted

The OLLI Board of Directors has adopted a new strategic plan that will chart the organization's way forward for the next three to five years. It sets out a comprehensive, forward-looking set of goals for OLLI. For each goal, it sets specific strategies, assigns a responsible staff person or OLLI committee and projects a time frame.

The plan was produced by a Strategic Plan Committee, led by Carl Shuster and Howard Shapiro. The committee conducted an extensive review of current factual information, including the changing demographics

(continued on next page)

(Strategic Plan continued)

and needs of the retirement population in the Berkshires. It also examined OLLI's past and present policies and held an open meeting with OLLI members. One of its key findings was that vast and underutilized human resources are available within the OLLI membership.

The plan sets forth the following overall objectives:

- Provide diverse offerings, in a variety of venues, of quality programming to meet the needs of the current and future membership.
- Assure the prudent management of all funds in accordance with OLLI's budgetary goals and provide a platform for the long term achievement of OLLI's mission.
- Grow the membership so that OLLI has a sufficient revenue stream to accomplish its goals and objectives.
- Broaden marketing to the population at large with the goal of attracting more people to OLLI membership and to program participation.
- Create the opportunity for OLLI members to be involved in activities that support the community and improve relationships with our partners and the Berkshire community at large.
- Improve the opportunity for membership participation in the functioning of OLLI through committees, board and leadership roles.

Many of the strategies outlined in the Plan are already being implemented. Copies of the new plan are available at the OLLI office.

Special events

The OLLI snowbird Special Events Committee is planning a wonderful afternoon in Sarasota, Florida on Thursday, March 24. The participants will be among the first to visit the Ringling Museum's newly renovated Asian Art Wing and enjoy a guided tour of *Samurai: The Way of the Warrior* exhibit, followed by a luncheon.

Winter Open House Draws 100



PHOTOS BY SUSAN GELLER

The well provided food table draws a crowd.



Clockwise starting above: Norah Bresnahan and Tom Koelle register guests.

Science Co-Chair Tony Segal and Board Member Tom Koelle.

Executive Director Megan Whilden shares a moment with Adele Cukor.

Leon Nesis and Board Member Shirley Shapiro.



OLLI's Community Engagement and Mentoring Program

OLLI is supporting expansion in a new direction: community engagement. The goal is to marshal the considerable human resources that exist within OLLI for the benefit of the Berkshire community. Carole Siegel and Claudia Shuster are leading this effort.

The first step has been to revive the OLLI/BCC Mentoring program, now renamed "OLLI/BCC Mentoring for Success." The program creates ongoing personal relationships where OLLI mentors share their knowledge and skills with students from Berkshire Community College. Each mentor makes a commitment to connect with his or her mentee in person at least once each month as well as via emails and phone calls. On the BCC side, the program is serving motivated students who plan to continue college after BCC. Kari Dupuis, a BCC faculty member in human services, has identified the BCC students with help from BCC faculty and staff.

Currently fourteen mentor-student pairs are meeting. The OLLI mentors have specific professional expertise and are matched with BCC students who have a similar interest. For example, a retired teacher is working with a BCC student who plans to teach. Other pairs are focused on art therapy, business, corporate management, engineering, law and medicine. Carole and Claudia hope to encourage more OLLI members to volunteer as mentors for the next academic year.

OLLI NEWSLETTER

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Robert Sterling Clark and the Institute He Founded

Robert Sterling Clark, founder of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, was born into the Gilded Age in New York City in 1877. His wealth was derived from his grandfather Edward Clark's extensive estate. Valued at about \$50 million, it included property in Manhattan and Cooperstown, NY, as well as a great art collection. Sterling and his brother Stephen inherited both their family's wealth and a passion for art collecting.

Sterling's life was adventurous. After graduating from Yale in 1899, he joined the U.S. Army, serving in the Philippines and in China, and earned a Silver Star fighting in the Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901). He then settled in Paris where he began collecting art and where he met Francine Clary, an actress in the Comedie-Francaise, whom he married in 1919. Sterling bought a home in a fashionable section of Paris and had it renovated to include a "galleria" for his favorite paintings. Sterling's request to Stephen for a group of these favorites that had belonged to their parents—including works by Millet, Stuart and Inness—started a dispute between the brothers that lasted for decades.

In Paris Sterling collected art, read books and pursued his love of horses by riding daily in the Bois de Boulogne. This idle life came to an abrupt end with the beginning of WW I. Fluent in French, he rejoined the U.S. military, becoming a liaison officer between the American and French forces. During the war his art collection was in storage and escaped destruction.

After the war the Clarks decided to establish a part-time residence in the United States, while still maintaining homes in France. Sterling leased an 18-room apartment in New York City at the present site of the Waldorf-Astoria



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLARK

Hotel. He also purchased many acres in Cooperstown, near his family's home.

The Clarks worked together in selecting art. Although they worked with dealers, they were mainly inspired by their own tastes and interests and at first focused on Italian, Dutch, and Flemish Old Master paintings. Later they turned to more recent artists like John Singer Sargent, Edgar Degas and Pierre-Auguste Renoir and then, after 1920, to French Impressionism and the Barbizon School. Although Sterling had disdain for art historians and a desire to stay out of the public eye, as his collection increased and his private residences became overcrowded, he considered creating a museum.

Sterling first considered New York City, but he feared that an atomic bomb attack might target the city during a third world war. He thought Cooperstown was too remote for public access. Sterling had never been to Williamstown, but his family had deep connections to Williams College, his grandfather Edward's alma mater. Sterling's grandfather and father had both been trustees, and the family had constructed Clark Hall on the campus. Sterling recognized the benefits of locating a museum in the beautiful Berkshires close to the prestigious college, and in 1950 the site was set.

In 1953 the Clarks attended the cornerstone laying ceremony of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. Francine cut the ribbon on opening day, May 17, 1955, and two

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Thank you to our OLLI Donors

OLLI at BCC depends on the generosity of its members and supporters. Thank you to all those listed below who supported the annual Fund for OLLI and the Mona Sherman Fund in its last fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

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* Deceased

For information on making a bequest to OLLI or including OLLI in your will, please contact OLLI Executive Director Megan Whilden at 413.236.2192 or mwhilden@berkshirecc.edu.

OLLI Instructors

Karel Fisher

Teacher, Dramatist and World Traveler

Karel Fisher has had a lifelong passion for the theater. She studied at Columbia University where she majored in anthropology and also took many drama courses. After Columbia, Karel joined the Peace Corps and was sent to the Philippines to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). There she discovered that teaching by drawing on theater and role playing made her students more comfortable with spoken English.

Other foreign adventures and professional experiences followed after Karel's marriage to Andy, whose work in public health took them to India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Kenya. In these countries Karel again taught ESL using her effective dramatic techniques, and she also worked in national museums. Returning to the United States, Karel worked in theatre in both the New York metropolitan area and Washington, D.C. and participated in drama workshops with Olympia Dukakis. In addition to her love for the spoken word, she is a talented writer who experiments with poetry, short stories and scripts.

Karel taught literature and drama in Washington, D.C. for a program affiliated with American University prior to moving to the Berkshires. During their many travels, Karel and Andy had always considered a family residence in Richmond to be their home base. They moved there permanently in 2005 and have been active in OLLI ever since. Karel serves on the Literature Committee. Karel and Andy have a daughter and a granddaughter in Ohio.

OLLI members enjoyed Karel's first play reading workshop entitled "Three Pulitzer Prize Winning Dramatists: Arthur Miller, William Inge, and Tennessee Williams," and will be delighted to know that she's teaching a similar course this spring, "Theatre Out Loud." This time, she will use short plays, each of which can be read and discussed within one class session. She also lends her talents to OLLI's new Performing Arts Initiative.

Here in the Berkshires, Karel's short play, "Stepping On My Head in Dr. Scholl's Sandals," was performed by both Town Players and Women's Action Movement Theatre (WAM). Her poems have been published in the Berkshires and in Washington; and when she has the time, Karel includes art work and dancing among her hobbies.

— Linda Halpern



(Kinney Frelinghuysen continued)

Kinney is the Director of the Frelinghuysen Morris House and Studio (FMH&S) in Lenox, next to Tanglewood. FMH&S is the former home of Kinney's aunt and uncle, American Abstract artists Suzy Frelinghuysen and George L.K. Morris. As a fulfillment of Suzy's and George's mission to educate the public about abstract art, it is open seasonally and has a superb collection of European and American Cubist Art. Visitors can view work by Suzy and George as well as that of their more famous contemporaries such as Picasso, Braque, Leger and Gris.

Originally from New Jersey, both Kinney and his wife, Linda, met in France where Kinney was a student and Linda was visiting as part of her work as a producer for WOR radio in New York. They were introduced by mutual friends and their first date was a tour of Versailles. Today Kinney and Linda have two adult sons, Thomas and John. For recreation, Kinney enjoys rowing, walking, birdwatching and biking. He and Linda spend most of the year in the Berkshires but also travel occasionally to Winter Park, Florida, where he finds more time to paint.

Kinney enthusiastically helps people appreciate modern art and has given tours of FMH&S for some twenty years. He has thoroughly enjoyed teaching two courses for OLLI in which he has been able to convey his love of modern art to his students. Through effective, hands-on techniques he guides them to a fuller understanding and appreciation of what is admittedly a very difficult art form. Employing such innovative exercises as having students use a sketch pad to trace the contours of some of the shapes within existing artworks, Kinney reports he can "see the change start to happen" as students quiet their verbal side and open up their visual side. His most recent OLLI course, says Kinney, was "one of the most exciting educational experiences" of his life. — Peter Bluhm

Kinney Frelinghuysen

Artist and Curator

Kinney Frelinghuysen is a painter who not only lives every day surrounded by modern art, but also enthusiastically shares his passion for that art. He grew up in Princeton, New Jersey and graduated from Bowdoin College. He also has a degree from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. Kinney has shown his work in New York galleries and locally at the Sanford Smith Gallery in Great Barrington. His paintings have been acquired by many private collectors, including the late Malcolm Forbes and art critics Hilton Kramer and Roger Kimball.

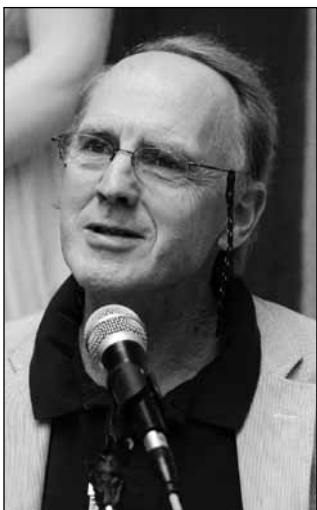


PHOTO BY LINDA FRELINGHUYSEN



Ed Neumuth Birdman of Washington

Ed Neumuth was born in the Bronx in 1945 and was an avid Brooklyn Dodgers baseball fan. Ed went to Providence College, enrolling in the pre-med program, and finished in three years with a B.A. in biology. He then went on to the University of Pennsylvania to study veterinary medicine. After completing his degree in 1970, Ed moved to Boston's south shore joining a large practice that primarily treated companion animals. He remained there for three years, taking advantage of the proximity to the ocean to study the natural history of the coast while living in a cabin next to a deserted cranberry bog. When he learned that the bog was going to be developed he accepted a position in the Berkshires and moved to the town of Washington.

During this period Ed took a break to spend a winter in Alaska where he helped a good friend in a fieldwork project designed to determine how the pipeline might impact wildlife, particularly caribou. His time in Alaska reinforced his love of the natural world. Upon returning to the Berkshires, Ed taught a veterinary technician course at Holliston Junior College in Lenox and then opened his own practice in Washington in 1980, retiring some 27 years later. While working in veterinary medicine Ed took the time to investigate all aspects of natural history, exploring the forests in his area and developing a fascination with birds. "With birds," he said, "there is always something new to discover, and the more you learn, the more you realize how wonderful they are. It's humbling."

Ed began to teach birding for OLLI because he wanted to share the wonder of birds with others—to be able to identify them and appreciate them. Questions he has his students consider include: How do birds survive the extreme temperatures of Berkshire winters? How do they take journeys of thousands of miles and not only survive but also return to their birthplaces? What is the connection between birds and their habitats? What birds are we likely to see in our area?

Given his passion for nature, it is not surprising that Ed makes time for gardening, beekeeping and fishing. He also offers a birding program at Bascom Lodge, leads a field-birding trip for the Trustees of Reservations at Notchview and is president of the Hoffmann Bird Club. He has shared his interest in bird vocalization with the sight-impaired. Ed believes that birding can help keep people healthy as they age. It challenges eyesight, hearing and memory, and walking in the woods aids balance. He would like to see more and more people participate.

— Sandi Rubin

(The Clark continued from page 4)

galleries opened that contained 33 paintings, seven sculptures and a selection of silver. Over the ensuing 60 years, because Sterling had placed no restrictions on its charter, the Clark was able to expand its buildings, campus and educational services, so that it is now a world-renowned institution.

During their last years together, Sterling and Francine lived part-time in a suite in the museum. Sterling suffered a stroke in the fall of 1955, but he did see the summer season in 1956, when his extraordinary Renoir collection was displayed. After his death in December 1956, his remains were cremated and eventually interred beneath the front steps of the museum. Francine died in 1960, and her tomb is next to Sterling's.

The museum has fulfilled the Clark's vision, as shown on the museum's cornerstone inscription: "In this place men and women will be strengthened and ennobled by their contact with the beauty of the ages." — Joanna Fribush

Meet Lucy Kennedy New OLLI Board Member

Lucy Kennedy grew up in Monson, Mass. in the Pioneer Valley. Her post-secondary education took her to the University of Michigan, then to Stanford University, where she received an MA in English, and then back to Massachusetts, where she received an MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1977. Lucy's professional career began with a stint in advertising and consumer packaged goods, working for a number of major advertising agencies and multinational corporations including Leo Burnett, BBDO, Ted Bates and Nestlé Foods. Gravitating toward financial services marketing, Lucy filled a number of roles at MetLife in New York City. As Vice President of Institutional Marketing, she worked in customer sales support and new business development. She retired from MetLife in 2010.

Like many OLLI members, Lucy divides her time between the Berkshires and another location. But instead of migrating to warmer climes, she spends the winter months in the Yorkville section of Manhattan. "I thoroughly love the Berkshires and have an affinity for New England," says Lucy. She also has a passion for history and historic preservation. In Lenox Lucy lives in a 100 year-old house and has become involved in the work of the Lenox Historical Society. Currently she is developing a website for the town's 250th anniversary celebration. She serves as a financial counselor for Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield. In addition to history, Lucy's hobbies include bridge and photography.

Lucy serves on the Marketing and Development Committee and the Web Development Committee where she helps pursue OLLI President Lenny Tabs' interest in improving technology with a new and more interactive website. As a new board member, Lucy's skills and expertise are already serving OLLI well. — Ruth Weinstein



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*Wayne Hammond, Interim Custodian of the
Chapin Library at Williams College, speaks to
OLLI students*