



OLLI

Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

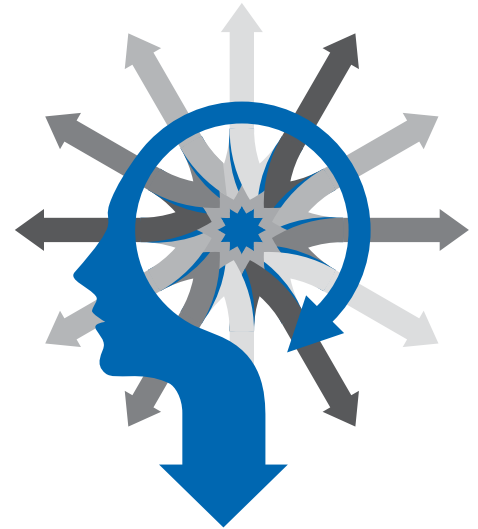
WINTER 2017

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

Active Winter Semester Will Keep You Warm

OLLI's curriculum committees have arranged more than a dozen courses for the winter semester. Courses begin on January 10 and end March 3. See the Winter 2017 Catalog or visit berkshireolli.org for more details.

CLASS LOCATIONS: **BMS** = Berkshire Music School, 30 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield; **CONTE** = 78 Center St. Pittsfield; **MUSEUM** = Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street, Pittsfield; **SCC** = BCC South County Ctr. 343 Main St. Great Barrington; **TRIPLEX** = Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St. Great Barrington



TUES.	<p><i>Tuesdays at the Movies: Great Parodies</i> – Arkans – TRIPLEX</p> <p><i>On the Job: Reading Short Stories Out Loud</i> – Young – SCC</p> <p><i>Travel Photography</i> – Kubis – SCC</p> <p><i>Cracking the Medieval Glass Ceiling: Women Writers of the Middle Ages</i> – Smith – SCC</p>
WED.	<p><i>Today's Headlines</i> – Orenstein – CONTE</p> <p><i>The Many Faces of Addiction</i> – O'Leary – CONTE</p> <p><i>International Folk Dancing</i> – Herzig – BMS</p> <p><i>Ovid & Virgil</i> – Keller – CONTE</p>
THURS.	<p><i>Bach is Back – Or Was He Really Ever Gone?</i> – Stark – CONTE</p> <p><i>The Apples of Our "I": iPhone Photography and iPad Paintings</i> – Lipkowitz & Lipkowitz – CONTE</p> <p><i>Ancient Writing Systems</i> – Tinari – CONTE</p>
FRI.	<p><i>Science Conversations</i> – Segal & Bluhm – MUSEUM</p> <p><i>Advances in Medicine</i> – Kyneret, Hanan & Hyman – MUSEUM</p> <p><i>A Picture is Worth More Than a Thousand Words: Understanding Visual Perceptual Phenomena</i> – Wollman & Pollack – MUSEUM</p>

Call for Photos: Spring & Summer in the Berkshires

Want to share your scenic photos of Berkshire area spring or summer scenes? The OLLI Spring/Summer 2017 Photo Contest has begun. The winning photos will be on the cover of the Spring or Summer 2017 catalog, and the winner will receive a one-year free membership to OLLI. Please submit photos no later than January 9, 2017, in digital format (jpeg, tiff, png), 3.2 mega-pixels or greater, full-aspect. Limit of five photos per person. Email images to olli@berkshirecc.edu.

Photo Contest Winner

Anna Klocke won the most recent photo contest. She is an OLLI member from Lee. Her photo of a winter landscape appears on the cover of the Winter 2017 OLLI Catalog. Congratulations, Anna, on winning a free yearlong OLLI membership!

President's Message

We have just completed a most successful fall semester. Twenty-two courses were attended by 356 members. The winter semester will begin in January, and we look forward to another successful registration period.

Our present membership count stands at 1,050. In August, OLLI held an Open House. In September, OLLI held a New Members Reception that was hosted by Chelly and Lance Sterman and was attended by over 75 first-year members. Another Open House, in support of the upcoming winter semester, will be held in December. We hope these events will improve the retention rate and increase our membership. I extend heartfelt thanks to the Membership Committee, volunteer Faculty, and the Stermans for their contributions in producing these events.

The Special Events Committee has been very busy producing a baseball event at Wahconah Park, a presentation by the South Korean Cultural Society, a trip to New Britain Museum, and the annual OLLI Brunch followed by a play at Barrington Stage. Our Distinguished Speaker Series ended its season of 10 lectures in October, and I'm pleased to announce we had record attendance for the entire series. The annual Art Show/Silent Auction was held over Labor Day Weekend in the Lenox Town Hall. Both the attendance and the auction proceeds reached new highs.

A new highlight this fall is the introduction of Shared Interest Groups. Fifteen of these groups have been formed, and most have started to meet. Consult the OLLI website for information. Thanks to all these committees, chairs and volunteers for their continued great work.

Our new website is up and fully operational. The site gives access to members for the latest information, the ability to register and pay for courses, the ability to renew membership, and the ability to make donations. Members are encouraged to go on the site and register at <https://berkshireolli.org>.

Our annual fundraising appeal letter has arrived in your homes. Membership and course tuition cover only a portion of our total operating budget, so this appeal is necessary to continue delivering courses, special events and lectures, as well as the Shared Interest Groups. Please be as generous as you can, and remember your contribution is tax-deductible, much needed, and greatly appreciated.

— Lenny Tabs

OLLI Launches Planned Giving Program

To better secure its future, OLLI has recently launched a Planned Giving Program. A planned gift is a long-term investment in the important work that OLLI does.

It can take the form of a simple bequest in a will of cash, appreciated securities through which capital gains taxes can be avoided and which can result in significant tax advantages, or a share of one's assets. It can also take the form of a charitable remainder trust (CRT) that names OLLI as a beneficiary.

Under a CRT, the creator or creators (or anyone else) can be named to receive an income for a period of years. Thereafter, the remainder goes to a named charity or charities favored by the creator, such as OLLI. The pre-

ferred option depends on many factors including the size and type of assets involved and the donor's financial needs.

A legacy gift can be structured in many ways. It can be added to OLLI's Endowment for specific purposes such as a lecture series or a scholarship fund, which might include naming opportunities. Or it can be used for operating expenses. Whatever you might choose, it will help OLLI continue to benefit the next generation's retirement community.

OLLI has already received its first planned gift. It is from Nancy Vale, a long-time member, volunteer and lecturer for OLLI. Nancy originally hails from Chicago, but moved to New York City to pursue a career as an actress. She studied with Lee Strassberg and appeared off-Broadway and on television. Her late husband Michael was also an actor. Nancy and Michael became interested in the Berkshires and, at a friend's sug-

gestion, purchased the Apple Tree Inn in Lenox, which they renovated and co-owned for three years.

Thirty years ago, Nancy and Michael set up a CRT and recently designated OLLI as one of the beneficiaries. Nancy explained that she designated OLLI because "OLLI does so much for so many. It is an organization unlike any other. Older people need social connection, and they need to keep their minds active. They get this and more through OLLI." She said that she chose the Berkshires as a place to retire because of OLLI. "OLLI has enhanced my life ten-fold. Were it not for OLLI, I would not have chosen to spend six months of every year here."

As Chair of OLLI's Development Committee, I hope there will be many other far-sighted and generous people who will make similar gifts, either as a CRT or as a simple bequest in their will. Prospective donors should discuss the various legal mechanisms with their attorneys or financial advisors. For more information, please contact the OLLI office or srubin67@verizon.net.

— Sandi Rubin



Nancy Vale, planned giving donor

OLLI Members Perform with Williamstown Theatre Festival

As a part of its new Performing Arts Initiative (PAI), OLLI and the Williamstown Theatre Festival (WTF) have formed a new cooperative arrangement for theater production and performance. This past summer, the first cycle gave OLLI members an opportunity to participate in WTF's 2016 production of *Orpheus in the Berkshires*.

The idea for WTF to expand its community involvement began with Laura Savia, WTF's Associate Director, and Lucy Thurber, an Obie award-winning playwright. The 2016 program involved OLLI and other community and school groups. During the first phase OLLI members and BCC students wrote scripts and took part in theater exercises conducted by Thurber and Savia. Choreography assistance came from Rick and Jeff Kuperman.

In the next phase, local participants joined with WTF cast members to prepare for the performance of *Orpheus in the Berkshires*. Playwright Lucy Thurber's creative vision was to bring the Orpheus myth to our Berkshires, and Lucy included some ideas in the script that had been generated during the earlier workshops.

Under Laura Savia's perceptive directing, the play continued to evolve during the month of rehearsals in Williamstown. The cast included both professional actors and WTF apprentices. OLLI participants gained an appreciation for the wide variety of skills needed for a theatrical production, including music composition and directing, set design, lighting and sound, costumes, make-up, choreography and stage managing.

When the play was staged in July,

over 75 individuals performed as actors or musicians. OLLI performers included Grace Breckenridge, Karel Fisher, Barbara Mahony and Karen McNulty. The production was a theatrical success and each performance played to a full house.

A repeat is anticipated in 2017, and details will be announced by OLLI. For more information about participating, contact Director, Laura Savia: community@wtfestival.org.

— Karel Fisher



The cast of Orpheus in the Berkshires

PHOTO BY DANIEL RADAR

*Happy
Holidays*

**to all our
OLLI
members
and their
families**

Executive Director's Message

Dear OLLI members,

We hope you've had a chance to visit our new website at BerkshireOLLI.org and register for classes and events online. It's easy and very secure—you can even renew your membership online!

We upgraded our website and added online registration to make your life easier and to make the OLLI office more efficient. By registering online, you help ensure we can spend more time working to make your OLLI the best it can be.

This semester we've added a special incentive to encourage you to give online registration a try. Everyone who registers for winter OLLI classes online will be entered into a drawing for a one-year Berkshire Museum family membership.

If you haven't registered yet, take advantage of this fun opportunity to win tickets and help the OLLI office out at the same time. See you online!

— Megan Whilden

OLLI's First "University Day" a Success

A new OLLI initiative called "University Day" held its first session on August 17 at the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) in Great Barrington. A classroom packed with OLLI members heard from two fascinating speakers, one from the institute itself and another visiting from the Council on Foreign Relations.

AIER is an 80-year-old nonprofit research institute located on a lovely campus in the hills above Great Barrington. The first speaker was Polina Vlasenko, Ph.D., a Research Fellow in Economics at AIER. Dr. Vlasenko explained her current research which concerns the interaction between recessions and joblessness. Based on data from 1949 onwards, she has found that early recessions were followed by boom periods with considerable job growth. In contrast, the three most recent recessions were followed by weak job growth and sustained periods of unemployment. Dr. Vlasenko discussed why this change might have occurred, including whether companies are behaving differently, whether consumers are behaving differently, and whether

there is a difference between a "simple recession" and a "structural recession."

Following an excellent lunch provided by AIER and remarks by retiring State Senator Ben Downing, the group heard from Adam Segal, Ph.D., Director of the Digital and Cyberspace Policy Program at the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Segal is the author of *The Hacked World Order: How Nations Fight, Trade, Maneuver, and Manipulate in the Digital Age*. His book describes the increasingly contentious geopolitics of cyberspace. Dr. Segal also currently writes for the blog, "Net Politics."

Dr. Segal shared three "big thoughts" with OLLI members. First, nearly every electronic device today is connected to the internet, and therefore nearly everything can be hacked, including automobiles. Second, nation

states are the most capable hackers, although they have been somewhat restrained so far. Finally, dominance over the internet is likely to shift from America to Asia, if only because of demographics. Dr. Segal also distinguished several

flavors of hacking, including criminal, spying, cyber-conflict (which causes harm to computers) and cyber-war (which causes physical damage or death). He also reviewed several barriers to investigating and preventing cyber-attacks, including muddy laws applicable to these conflicts. Finally, he concluded that security is improving in

some ways, with consumer awareness increasing and with some basic norms beginning to evolve regarding state espionage of private companies. Given its initial success, you can probably expect more University Days in the future.

— Peter Bluhm



Dr. Adam Segal, cybersecurity expert

PHOTO BY PETER BLUHM

The Music Inn

Gone but Not Forgotten

The Music Inn of Lenox no longer exists, yet the name conjures up wonderful memories from the 1950s to 1970s of jazz and folk music in the Berkshires. Stephanie and Philip Barber, a young New York City couple, came to the Berkshires in the late 1940s with the vision of establishing a venue for such live music. At the time jazz and folk musicians performed in smoky clubs and bars, not "respectable" places.

The Barbers bought part of the Wheatleigh estate, adjacent to Tanglewood, and founded the Music Inn in July 1950. Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and Alan Lomax performed at the opening season's Jazz

Festival concert, with about 60 people in attendance. The Barbers also hosted discussions among jazz and traditional musicians, educators and critics. These lively "Roundtable" sessions later developed into the Music Inn's School of Jazz, where musicians of various types played together and explored common roots. Charles Mingus once exclaimed there "I have roots, man, I have roots!"

The Music Inn opened during the McCarthy years, which Stephanie labeled "The Frightened '50s." Many jazz and folk artists were blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the Barbers wanted to create a refuge for them. In the Music Inn's first season, Pete Seeger, a suspected Communist, was edged

out of a photo by a New York Times photographer. Stephanie boldly intervened, saying "without Seeger, there will be no photo." The photographer relented.

African-American musicians frequently appeared at the Music Inn, but they were often excluded from lodging in the local area. Stephanie housed them on the property and always fostered an environment that "harbored a racial and cultural harmony where music was all that mattered."

Throughout the 1950s the Music Inn expanded to include the Music Barn, and much larger audiences began coming to see artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Dave Brubeck, Ethel

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Early poster for the Music Barn

Waters, The Weavers and Louis Armstrong. As popularity surged, neighbors increasingly expressed concerns about noise and behavior during concerts.

The Barbers sold the Music Inn in 1959, but it continued to operate under new owners. Audience attendance grew into the thousands and many of the original big names returned. In the early 1960s, Joan Baez introduced a then unknown young singer, Bob Dylan. Arlo Guthrie opened the 1970 season, echoing his father Woody's inaugural concert 20 years before.

As the 1970s progressed, crowds became rowdier, the feeling of peace diminished, the grounds fell into disrepair, and the original spirit of the Music Inn was lost. August 26, 1979 was the turning point. An Allman Brothers concert attracted an overflow crowd, and violence erupted as hundreds tried to storm the gates. Soon thereafter a local court issued an injunction against further concerts, and the Music Inn closed. Sadly, the end of the Music Inn era was poles apart from the Barbers' original vision of a bucolic venue of musical and cultural harmony for all people.

— Joanna Fribush

Thank You to Volunteers

OLLI's strength and vitality comes from committed volunteers—people who plan courses, special events and projects, recruit lecturers, keep our membership growing, help in the office, communicate with members, supervise class arrangements, and pitch in wherever help is needed. These are the men and women who gave OLLI their time, energy, creativity and skill since 2014. They truly keep OLLI going, and we give them our thanks. We hope we included everyone.

Howard Arkans	Joseph Gerard	Joanne Rosier
Alison Atlas	Susan Gorham	Alan Rubin
Charles Barnett	Barbara Greenbaum	Lenore Rubin
Jed Baumwell	Wende Greenberg	Sandra Rubin
Bob Bieniek	David Greetham	Carol Sabot
Peter Bluhm	Christopher Guidette	Linda Sambel
Valerie Bluhm	Hope Hagler	Alice Schiller
Maxine Bookless	Warren Hagler *	Myrna Schneiderman
Susan Bouplon	Janel Halpern	Marney Schorr
Barbara Brand	Linda Halpern	Rose Scotch
Arline Breskin	Phil Halpern	Anthony Segal
Jock Brooks	Barbara Hartman	Elizabeth Selkowitz
Joan Brotman	George Haus	Harold Shair
Carl Brown	Joanne Hayes	Harriet Shair
Ilse Browner	Joyce Hovey	Arline Shalan
Margaret Cahill	Bruce Jacobs	Howard Shapiro
Deborah Caine	Thomas Joseph	Shirley Shapiro
Helene Calman	Gordon Josephson	Arthur Sherman
Claudia Cass	Judith Katz	Carl Shuster
Shelley Chanler	Lucy Kennedy	Claudia Shuster
Donald Coburn	Judy Keshner	Carole Siegel
Marsha Cohen	Rosanna Koelle	Monica Sinclair
Claudia Coplan	Thomas Koelle	Turbi Smilow
Judy Cromwell	Kay Konove	Elske Smith
Nancy Crosson	Barbara Lane	Vicky Smith
Adele Cukor	Bill Latimer	Naomi Spatz
Lile Deinard	Robert Lee	Gary Stergis
Bonnie Desrosiers	Augusta Leibowitz	Chelly Serman
Robert Desrosiers	Lois Lenehan	Lance Serman
Sheila Donath	Caren Les	Ronald Stewart
Ann Dorfman	Judy Levin	Lianne Stofsky
Brenda Durrin	Michael Margolis	Ellen Tabs
Lee Easter	Louis Mascelli	Lenny Tabs
Phyllis Epstein	Richard Maturro	Theresa Terry
Richard Evans	Karen McNulty	Alex Tinari
Bill Fields	Enid Michelman	Nancy Vale
Andrew Fisher	Marie Milazzo	Carolyn Vandervort
Jacqueline Fisher	Donald Miller	Jean Walden
Karel Fisher	Ann Morgan	Barbara Waldinger
Marilyn Flaum	Judith Nardacci	Terry Weaver
Paul Flaum	Leon Nesis	Ruth Weinstein
Rose Foster	Edwin Neumuth	Donald White
Jacqueline Fowler	Virginia O'Leary	Patricia White
Elisa Frankel	Lesley Oransky	John Whitney
Joanna Fribush	Carroll O'Toole	Selma Williams
Audrey Friedner	Roger Paradis	Fran Wolk
Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss	Michael Peskoe	Joel Wolk
Henry Gallitano	Peter Podol	Bob Youdelman
Bonita Ganot	Wendy Robbins	Karen Youdelman
Michael Geller	Charlene Rosen	Elizabeth Young
Susan Geller	Robert Rosen	* (deceased)

Scenes from Recent OLLI Events



Top: OLLI members enjoy hors d'oeuvres at the Open House at Berkshire Community College.

Left: Gathering on the stairs at the new member cocktail party hosted by Lance and Chelly Serman.

Above: Handing out name tags are Judy Cromell and Ro Koelle.

Below: Michael Zdeb, Katherine Zdeb, Mary Thomas and Megan Whilden.



PHOTOS BY JOANNE ROSIER

Virginia O'Leary



PHOTO BY LINDA HALPERN

Social Psychologist and World Traveler

Can the study of social psychology change lives? Virginia O'Leary proves that it can, through her infectious enthusiasm and expertise in the subject. Her previous course, "Violence in America," fascinated OLLI members, and many will be eager to attend her winter offering, "The Many Faces of Addiction." They also can look forward to a future course entitled "Highs and Lows in the Himalayas."

Virginia grew up in Pittsfield and attended Miss Hall's School, then continued her education at Chatham College for Women in Pennsylvania. She earned her master's degree and doctorate at Detroit's Wayne State University. Her auspicious, 43-year career included teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels at Boston University, George Washington University and Harvard University. She also held department chairs at Indiana State University and Auburn University.

In explaining the field of social psychology, Virginia gives reason for optimism. She emphasizes the importance of data-driven research to explore the causes and consequences of human behavior. Advances in neuroscience have opened new doors to understanding how the

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biology of individuals intersects with social environments to influence behavior. By imparting such knowledge, Virginia hopes to promote treatments for individuals and policymaking for society.

Virginia has always strived to understand different cultures, a pursuit which academic life enabled by taking her around the world. Her great love is Nepal, and she's been to Katmandu no fewer than 18 times. She even switched her research area to cross-cultural studies in order to spend more time there, and speaks, in her own words, "intermediate Nepali." As a Fulbright Scholar there in 2005, Virginia researched the changing gender roles among women, and she taught research methods to Nepali graduate students.

During summer stays over the last decade, Virginia relished again participating in the Berkshires' cultural life, fostered during her childhood. Life came full circle when she returned to Pittsfield with her life partner, Kirk Swiss, to live here full time. Kirk is also a valued OLLI instructor, having taught "The Legacy of American Slavery."

Virginia enjoys volunteering at Barrington Stage Company and Jacob's Pillow. Saying she still "needs kids," Virginia befriends the young interns at Jacob's Pillow. She likes cooking, reading, horseback riding and, of course, taking OLLI courses. She has a son who lives in Colorado.

Virginia delights in OLLI because it's where she's met the greatest people—vital, interesting and stimulating. The same can certainly be said for her, which is why her contributions are so valued. — Linda Halpern

Daniel Wollman and Debra Pollock

Sharing a Love of Medicine and Neurology

Daniel Wollman and Debra Pollack teach for OLLI as a team. A married couple, they jointly taught last winter's OLLI course, *Matters of the Mind*. This winter they will offer, *A Picture is Worth More than a Thousand Words – Understanding Visual Perceptual Phenomena*.

Debra and Daniel each have M.D. degrees and both have done graduate work in neuroscience. Daniel also has a Ph.D. in visual neurophysiology. Debra's specialty is neurology and sleep disorders in particular. She maintains a private practice in this

subject area, and she holds three part-time jobs, all as an independent contractor. Daniel also holds several part-time jobs, but in the areas of geriatric medicine and memory disorders. He is the medical director at two skilled nursing facilities, the director of the MD geriatric residency program at Danbury Hospital and an associate professor at the medical school at Quinnipiac University.

Daniel and Debra grew up in adjoining towns of Westchester County, although they did not meet until much later in Philadelphia where Debra was in medical school and Daniel was in graduate school. They were quickly attracted to each other, and their medical interests lent their courtship some remarkable moments. Notably, their second date was at the anatomy lab at Debra's medical school, where they examined "her" (read: cadaver's) brain.

Debra and Daniel have two daughters. Joanna lives in New York City and recently graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. Caroline is a junior at Cornell. The couple also has an extended family of pets. In Connecticut they keep two cats, two chickens, two goats, a frog and a horse. The dogs Dexter and Fiona travel with them to Otis and enthusiastically greet all visitors.

Kismet brought Daniel and Debra to teach their first OLLI course. Some years ago Daniel began exploring the possibility of running a memory disorders symposium in Berkshire County. Daniel met some OLLI members at these Otis meetings and then contacted Megan Whilden. Daniel and Debra were recruited as teachers in short order.

Debra and Daniel still maintain their primary residence in Connecticut. They became second home owners in the Berkshires in 2006, acquiring a lovely waterfront property in Otis. The two homes are only 75 minutes apart by car, so they frequently spend weekends in their Otis hideaway. More Berkshires time may lie in their future as they quite like it here and the county seems to need their skills.

— Peter Bluhm



OLLI NEWSLETTER: EDITOR: Peter Bluhm. FEATURE WRITER: Joanna Fribush. PHOTO EDITOR: Joanne Rosier. ASSISTANT EDITORS: Linda Halpern, Judy Katz, Don Miller, Sandi Rubin, Myrna Schneiderman, Rose Scotch, Ruth Weinstein, Katherine Zdeb. PROOFREADERS: Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss, Marie Milazzo, Harriet Shair.



AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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OLLI's Annual Art Show Reception and Silent Auction



Clockwise from top left: OLLI members Laura Tobias and Claudia Shuster examine an item up for bid at the silent auction.

OLLI members and guests browse the auction items.

Artists Marcy Isaacson (left) and Freya Segal (right) display their collaboration: "Eyes Opaque with Terror."