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

Tuesdays at the Movies: Great Parodies – Arkans – TRIPLEX
On the Job: Reading Short Stories Out Loud – Young – SCC
Travel Photography – Kubis – SCC
Cracking the Medieval Glass Ceiling: Women Writers of the Middle Ages – Smith – SCC

Today's Headlines – Orenstein – CONTE
The Many Faces of Addiction – O’Leary – CONTE
International Folk Dancing – Herzig – BMS
Ovid & Virgil – Keller – CONTE

Bach is Back – Or Was He Really Ever Gone? – Stark – CONTE
The Apples of Our “I”: iPhone Photography and iPad Paintings – Lipkowitz & Lipkowitz – CONTE
Ancient Writing Systems – Tinari – CONTE

Science Conversations – Segal & Bluhm – MUSEUM
Advances in Medicine – Kyneret, Hanan & Hyman – MUSEUM
A Picture is Worth More Than a Thousand Words: Understanding Visual Perceptual Phenomena – Wollman & Pollack – MUSEUM

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!

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.
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.

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 deferred 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 suggestion, 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.

— Lenny Tabs

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 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

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.

The Special Events Committee

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— Sandi Rubin
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

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

(continued on next page)
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.

Debra and Daniel 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'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.”