

B.I.L.L. BOARD

◆ *Newsletter of the Berkshire Institute For Lifetime Learning* ◆

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What started as a wisp of an idea has blossomed into a full-fledged institute with 270 members. And amazing as that is, it's not the whole story.

Real excitement has been seeing you, the membership, take ownership. Your enthusiasm and eagerness to work, learn, and participate in B.I.L.L. activities was a desired outcome; its happening a major achievement.

We are all learning how to do this together, and mistakes are inevitable. When they occur, be sure to contact us so we can work them out together.

The Eastons, Phillips, and Avnets attended an Elderhostel convention in Salem, MA of institutes like B.I.L.L. Comparing notes made us deeply aware of all the work still to be done.

We learned that the social aspect of the institute is vitally important to its success. This newsletter, "B.I.L.L. BOARD," is part of our response to that dynamic. I know Ann Dulye, Bob Phillips, and their committee will welcome your ideas, suggestions, and help.

In fact, B.I.L.L. needs the help of a graphic artist or "wannabee" and *pro buono* accountant. If you can help us out, please get in touch.

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CURRICULUM EXTRA

In addition to the courses noted at our October meeting, *Cosmos: A 6-Day Tour Of The Universe; Making Economic Sense Of The News; Who Are Our Leaders?* (Six guest lecturers); *New England Voices: Readings in Selected Poetry*; and *From Page To Stage* (Macbeth), we are privileged to announce that three exciting courses have been added to the roster for our first semester.

They are *The Hollywood Musical*, a film course; *Art, Mind & Change*, a look at how the creation of works of art is affected by social change and the psychology of the artist; and *Know Your Berkshire Opera!*, the experts' analysis of the two operas to be offered summer '95.

Here's a preview of just one. We will share in the inside story (in words and music) of Mozart's *Così fan Tutti* and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* in a lecture/discussion course featuring four distinguished instructors.

Joel Revson, Artistic Director of the Berkshire Opera will do a double session on *Così*. Dr. Irwin Shainman, former Chair, Williams College Music Dept. and former Conductor of the Berkshire Symphony, will lead us through *Rake's Progress*; Donald Gifford, Professor Emeritus of both English and American Studies at Williams, will bring insights

(Cont.)

(Pres. Letter)

events committee have come up with some interesting adventures for us, starting next spring.

Sue Phillips, Paul Stein, and Elliott Vines, curriculum committee chairs, are putting together a great spring program. A brief outline of some of the courses appears in this newsletter. Catalogues and registration materials will be mailed mid-February. To ensure fairness, a blind draw will be used to select attendees whenever the demand exceeds seat availability. Additional information will be in the catalogue.

Thanks to all of you for your participation in B.I.L.L. and best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year.

Tom Easton

SPECIAL EVENTS

One of B.I.L.L.'s membership perks is the Special Events program. Trips are being planned for historic Deerfield, a special event at Tanglewood, and lectures by noted faculty at area colleges. Additional low-cost activities are being explored.

(Curriculum)

into Stravinsky's librettist, famed poet William Auden; and Dr. Rafael Fernandez, just retired Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Clark Museum, will broaden our understanding by describing Hogarth's work and its influence on Stravinsky.

Many members have expressed interest in a current events or public affairs course, such as *Great Decisions*. If you or someone you know would like to lead one next fall, call Elliott Vines, 637-4036.

OUR FIRST REGISTRATION!

After the Course Catalogues are mailed, and members make their selections and return their registration forms, a major job for the Membership Committee begins.

Who will be taking what? When? Where? BCC staff will serve as registration consultants to B.I.L.L., working with Don Kirkpatrick and his sub-committee consisting of Len Stolzberg, Dolly Harte, and Bunny Drescher.

The next general Membership Committee meeting will be Jan. 5, 1995 at BCC, 2 PM, Rm. G10.

INFORMATION AT ANY TIME, CALL B.I.L.L. (413) 499-4660 Ext. 642

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