

# B.I.L.L. BOARD

◆ *Newsletter of the Berkshire Institute For Lifetime Learning* ◆  
Spring, 1996 • VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 2

## President's Message

### *Visits to California Learning Center*

Like many of B.I.L.L.'s members, Judy and I, had a chance to enjoy warmer climate for awhile this winter.

Besides missing some Berkshire Blizzards, this afforded some extra special opportunities. We usually try to visit the local Institute for Continuing Learning Centers in cities that have a group like B.I.L.L. and are one of the almost 200 members of the Elderhostel Institute Network.

We have been met with great courtesy and enthusiasm and have shared experiences with members and officers. We have also learned how other Institutes handle problems common to all of us.

Some Institutes have let us sit in on a class and have been eager to share information about courses with us.

Being a part of Elderhostel also affords B.I.L.L. members the chance to participate in their Study-Travel programs. They have many such trips yearly to U.S. and international destinations. BCC also sponsors a similar type travel program through Travel-Learn. If you would like more information on either program write to Sharon Mack at the B.I.L.L. Office at BCC.

Tom Easton

## Graham Conducts Music Course

**Will Graham**, Chairman of the Opera Dept. at Boston University School for the Arts, will lecture on "What Constitutes 'A Great Voice?'" on Tuesday, May 14th in the B.I.L.L. class, "The Art of Making Music". Mr Graham graciously consented to take over the class for Phyllis Curtin within hours of her withdrawal as speaker in our Spring semester due to her unexpected need to have knee surgery.

## Spring Annual Meeting

**Dr. Harry Payne**, President of Williams College, co-sponsor of B.I.L.L. will be the main speaker at the Spring Convocation, Tuesday, June 25, 1996 at BCC in Robert M. Boland Theater, Koussevitzky Arts Center at 1 p.m.

All B.I.L.L. members and friends are urged to attend to vote on the new slate of B.I.L.L. officers for 1996-97 and participate in the on-going B.I.L.L. program.

Hosts and hostesses will serve refreshments following the program.

## Annual Dues

In early June, the Finance Committee will be mailing bills to all members for the annual dues, which are \$30 per person for the fiscal year July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997. A few people have already sent their checks and have been duly credited.

For future reference, if a new member joins B.I.L.L. after the end of the Fall semester, the fee will be half of the current annual rate for the balance of that fiscal year.

## Record Registration for Spring Classes

Participation in Spring Semester classes is projected to set a new high in enrollment. As of March 15, with registrations continuing to pour in, 250 B.I.L.L.ers had registered for 350 classes. This average of 1.53 classes per participant exceeds our previous high of 1.28. Our ranks continue to grow and now number 475. The most popular courses this semester are - The Art of Making Music, The Media, Stages of a Play and the Magic of the Berkshires. Courses which are tailored for smaller groups to encourage and allow for more discussion are nearing full enrollment. We are in for an exciting semester.

There are spaces available for all Spring Courses except the Music Classes on Tuesdays. Registration will be accepted by mail until and including opening day of the Spring Session, Tuesday, April 16 at BCC Cafeteria.

## Spotlight on B.I.L.L. Volunteers

Meet **Elliot and Harriet Vines**, a most unique couple. They hail from Great Neck, N.Y. and have been full-time Berkshire residents since 1989 retirement.

Elliot taught and was District Director of Physical Education, Athletics and Recreation in the Herrick, N.Y. school system for many years. He coached football, basketball, baseball and tennis and is about to become the coach of the girls tennis team at Monument Mountain High School! He's an ombudsman for Elder Services of Berkshire County and a member of the "Tanglewood Ready Team".

Harriet was director of career development at York College of C.U.N.Y. She's published a book: **Bridges to Success: Finding Jobs and Changing Careers**, and during her last two years with the city university, created and produced the first all-university job fair which was held at the World Trade Center and attracted thousands of students and over 200 employers. Since moving to the Berkshires Harriet has been a counselor on the Rape Crisis Hot Line and spent several years formulating the program for the "Real Men Don't Rape" billboards we saw in 13 different Berkshire locations during the last several months. She works at the Botanical Garden and edits the newsletter for the Tanglewood Volunteer Association.

Tennis, biking, walking, cross-country skiing, gardening and Blaze (their beloved golden retriever) add further riches to their lives. In between they have managed home exchanges to Australia, London, and New York City, and visits to their children and four grandchildren. Their comments about B.I.L.L.: "It has grown and been more successful in a short period of time than anyone could have imagined. The courses are diversified with something for everyone.

Thank you, Elliot and Harriet Vines, for being here!

## Spring Special Events Monday, April 15, 1996 - Culinary Institute of America

*Get on board!!*

Bus trip to CIA, located in Hyde Park, N.Y. on the banks of the Hudson River, a college training institute for aspiring chefs from all over the world. Members will tour culinary classrooms, campus and have lunch in one of the three outstanding restaurants operated by the students. There is still **room available** - contact Sharon Mack at BCC.

## Tuesday, June 11, 1996 - Summer Home of Robert Todd Lincoln

A tour of the HILDENE summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, the home of his descendants until 1975. The 24 room Georgian Revival Mansion filled with original furnishings is enhanced by formal gardens in the majestic Green Mountains of Vermont. Of special interest is the 1,000 pipe organ in the house, the carriage barn and a slide show. Also, a tour of the historically restored famous Equinox Hotel. Time for lunch and shopping. Reservation flyers will be mailed to all members a month in advance of date.

A September trip to the Pleasant Valley Audubon Society, and a December visit to the Berkshire Eagle offices and production facilities are in the planning stages. The Spring will feature a tour of the Berkshire Cottages. Save January First for the Annual New Year's Day Celebration!

## Correction

Our Spring Course Catalog and our news release in the Berkshire Eagle incorrectly spelled the name of our guest lecturer, Barbara Allen., who is leading the session "Our English Roots: Architecture of the Berkshires; the Cottages of the Guilded Age". In addition, background information "Professor of Art History at Clark Art and Berkshire Museums" applies to Arlene Leven, another guest lecturer in the same Magic of the Berkshires Course, and not to Barbara Allen.

**Barbara Allen:** Curator and Educational Coordinator at Berkshire County Historical Society for eight years. Bachelor's in History and Education from Alfred University. Presently working on a MLS at SUNY, Albany.

## Volunteers Step Forward

B.I.L.L. needs *You!* Again, we need to know who among us would be interested in being **study group leaders, facilitators or committee members.**

If you are interested, please provide the following information: name, address, phone number, a brief paragraph describing the subject you are prepared to present or the special area of interest in B.I.L.L. activities.

Leave your information with a B.I.L.L. Committee Member at the Annual Spring Meeting or mail to B.I.L.L., BCC, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

## Random Notes:

### Library Hours at BCC & Williams College:

BCC - you may use resources and borrow books

Mon - Thurs. 7:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Friday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

phone 499-4660 ext. 201

Williams - you may use resources, books may not be borrowed

Mon - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 1:00 AM

Fri. & Sat. 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM

phone 597-3131 to verify hours.

### Lunch Time

BCC cafeteria is a pleasant place to meet your B.I.L.L. friends for lunch on class days. Located on the ground floor it has elevator access. Look for B.I.L.L. tables.

### Parking - B.I.L.L. and Student designated areas.

Members are to display the B.I.L.L. parking card when attending classes or meetings. There is one special parking area when parking for B.I.L.L. - right side along the BCC entrance road before you reach the main buildings, look for B.I.L.L. posted signs or you can park in ANY unrestricted parking space.

B.I.L.L.  
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*"... Education is a lifetime activity."*