

B.I.L.L. BOARD

SPRING 2002
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NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR LIFETIME LEARNING

Spring 2002 Semester

The Curriculum Committee has once again put together an exciting and varied array of courses and lecturers to "whet" your appetite. Seventeen courses will be offered at several locations: BCC Main Campus, Canyon Ranch, Clark Art Institute, Simon's Rock College of Bard, and Williams College. Courses begin on April 15 and run through May 29. Refer to the catalog for exact times and dates. The courses and locations are:

MONDAY – BCC Main Campus, Pittsfield
Globalization: Menace or Opportunity? – Willis A. Bussard

Today's Headlines: News of the Week – Phil Lewis, Moderator

Moral and Ethical Issues in a Changing World – H. Sandick, Moderator, R. Allardyce, P. Arlos, H. Greenstein, I. Kronenberg, N. Nejaime, E. Vines, R. Weingarten

Egypt: The Amarna Period – Lenore O. Congdon

TUESDAY – Williamstown

At the Faculty House, 968 Main Street

Landmark Supreme Court Cases – Gary J. Jacobsohn, Mark T. Reinhardt
At the Clark Art Institute

Biography III: Saints and Sinners – G.T. Crane, J. Lowell, M. MacDonald, J.E. Mahon, Jr., I. Newton, J. Stern

The Vienna Connection – B. Allen, L.E. Heon, R. Rand, D. M. Rothschild

WEDNESDAY – BCC Main Campus, Pittsfield

The World of Wilde – Diane Hitter

Classic American Short Stories – Mario Caluori

Architecture: From Victorianism to the Death of Modernism – Abraham Sperling

THURSDAY – Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington

The Dynamic Earth – Michael Bergman

The Sounds and Development of Modern Jazz – Karl Easton

American Modernism – Bernard F. Rodgers, Jr.

Looking Inward: 6 Sessions in Wisdom – Andrew Flaxman

FRIDAY – BCC Main Campus, Pittsfield

Theatre of the Absurd – Margaret Dietemann

Let's Go to the Movies – Ruth Levin

FRIDAY – Canyon Ranch, Lenox

Future Medicine – S. Beling, C. Johnson Geyer, M. Heyman, M. Liponis



Deborah Rothschild, Lecturer



Phil Lewis, Moderator

Special Events for 2002

March 16: Boston Ballet – Wang Center, Boston

April 10: Pequot Museum and Research Center – Mashantucket, CT

May 15: New York Botanical Gardens – New York

June 18: New Britain Museum of American Art – New Britain, CT
Hillstead Museum & Gardens – Farmington, CT

June 27: Ron K. Brown/Evidence – Jacob's Pillow, MA

October 6: *King of Hearts* – Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT

October 26: Walden Pond and Concord, MA

November 17-19: Salem and Marblehead, MA (2 nights)

Game Night



WEDNESDAY
March 13, 2002

7 pm at the Quality Inn, Lenox

What's your game? Bridge, Scrabble, Backgammon? Come and have fun with other B.I.L.L. members.

\$6 pp — includes coffee and cake
For reservations call 413-499-4660, Ext. 456

Mamma Mia!



PHOTO BY ARLINE BRESKIN

On a rainy October 20, B.I.L.L. members headed off to Boston in two buses. To pass the time, they viewed the fall foliage or watched one of the videos provided, *That's Dancing!* or *That's Entertainment!* Because the buses arrived early, some members took a walk to the Public Garden while others made a quick visit to the Newbury Street stores.

At noon we met at Maggiano's Restaurant for a family style Italian lunch, and then walked to the Colonial Theater to see *Mamma Mia!*, a musical based on 27 ABBA songs. Although many of us had to ask our children what or who ABBA was, we enjoyed the lively music and dancing.

Thanks to Rose Foster, Liz Katz, Sue Gorham, and Arline Breskin for arranging this trip. — Eileen Linton

Convocation May 29, 2002

Bernard R. Rodgers, Jr., Vice President and Dean of Bard College and the Dean of Simon's Rock College of Bard in Great Barrington since 1987, will be the speaker at B.I.L.L.'s Convocation on May 29 which will take place at BCC in Room K111 at 1 p.m.

Before coming to Simon's Rock, Dr. Rodgers was a special assistant to the chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago and an assistant director of the Commission of Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. He is the author of *Philip Roth* and *Philip Roth: A Bibliography* and has published essays and reviews on modern and contemporary American literature and culture.

President's Message

This is a very exciting time for B.I.L.L.!

Simon's Rock College of Bard has now joined Williams College and Berkshire Community College to become our third sponsor school. This, in conjunction with our recently developed close relationship with the Clark Art Institute, provides an exceptionally strong underpinning for our cultural and educational programs well into the future.

I am equally pleased to report that the Board of Directors has accepted many of the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee. A summary will be included in our first Annual Report to be available at the end of our fiscal year; this Annual Report being one of the recommendations.

Also included in the recommendations were steps to broaden the scope of high quality educational opportunities, to improve curriculum and facility scheduling, and to improve opportunities for member interaction and participation. A new Extended Travel Committee has been created and steps taken to achieve a better understanding of the demographics, capabilities, and interests of the membership. We reviewed our relationships with sponsors and affiliated institutions, facility needs, and financial and administrative structures.

We are indebted to these Committees and to the Board for the patient and extended efforts they made to deal with the myriad of complex and sometimes controversial issues. Clear to all of us was that we have a very stable, very successful platform from which to explore new, exciting concepts aimed at enhancing the value of membership.

The fall '01 semester was very strong and very well attended. The Special Events programs, including the annual New Year's Brunch, were exceptionally well organized and many were over-subscribed. The winter '02 semester smashed all previous records for winter registrations (up over 70 percent), and the new concepts for scheduling spring '02 courses should allow a record number of registrants to participate in a very rich educational program. Field trips are also on the schedule. For the first time, our winter film program was held at the Triplex Cinema, and an active program of member social events was implemented. The editorial and artistic quality of the catalogs and B.I.L.L.BOARD continue our focus on quality in all we do.

We look forward with great anticipation to the Annual Meeting at the end of May with our outstanding guest speaker Dr. Bernard F. Rodgers, Jr., Vice President and Dean of Simon's Rock College of Bard.

This is a great time to be part of B.I.L.L. Its importance as a meaningful part of the cultural and educational life of the Berkshires is increasingly being recognized in the community. The key to it all remains the members who actively staff the volunteer committees that make B.I.L.L. run. Why not join them?

Thank You, Quality Inn

B.I.L.L. thanks the management of the Quality Inn, located on Route 7 in Lenox, for providing us with an ideal location for winter programs, and for its welcoming hospitality, accessible parking, and comfortable classroom.

B.I.L.L.BOARD

Bonnie Desrosiers, *Editor*

Home (413) 442-5490

e-mail bdesros1@berkshire.rr.com

Peri Caverly, *Editorial Assistant*

Marge Lewis, *Proofreading Assistant*

Wilma Michaels, *Proofreading Assistant*

Clubs

Bridge? Hiking? Chess? Books? Writing? Music? Acting? Food? Wine?

The concept of B.I.L.L. is to provide educational opportunities and social interaction among the membership.

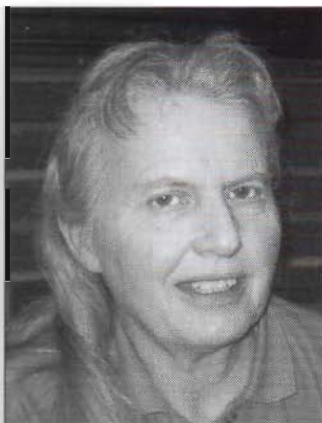
During long range planning studies, we found that other ILRs (Institute for Learning in Retirement) support an array of clubs and activities beyond the usual special event offerings. One of the recommendations from the Membership subcommittee was that we explore the level of member interest in the formation of various clubs as a means of bringing people of like interests closer together. Are you interested in joining with others to form a club?

Please let me hear from you either by mail addressed to Art Sherman, President, at B.I.L.L., Berkshire Community College, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or by e-mail at gdmads@aol.com. We will use this input to decide how best to proceed and will let you know the results.

Class Managers Wanted

B.I.L.L. is an organization that works because of its volunteers. B.I.L.L.'s instructors give their time and energies to make our courses worthwhile experiences. We also need volunteers to serve as class managers. This involves little more than arriving a few minutes early and being available during class to assist the instructor as needed.

In June, there will be a meeting of volunteers to review class management procedures. This is a way you can make a contribution to the success of B.I.L.L. If you are interested in serving in this capacity in the fall of 2002, contact the B.I.L.L. office at 413-449-4660, ext. 456 or e-mail: smack@cc.berkshire.org. As soon as a date for the meeting has been set, you will be contacted. See you in June.



Getting To Know You

DR. LENORE CONGDON

Lenore Congdon, a 38-year resident in the Berkshires, has given four different, well-received courses for B.I.L.L. — all related to Egypt. Her pre-occupation with Egypt began at age five and has never ceased. She has made six study/photographic excursions to Egypt, her last in 1990.

Dr. Congdon is a dedicated student and a true scholar. She earned her Ph.D. in Art History at Harvard, and her thesis, *The Caryatid Mirrors of Ancient Greece*, was published in 1984. She has

contributed many scientific articles about ancient Greece and Egypt to journals including the *American Journal of Archaeology*, *Archaeology*, and *KMI*.

From 1956 to 1959, she taught in Turkey where she also took part in an archaeological excavation. In the '80s and '90s she gave a course on ancient Egypt at BCC, and a course at Williams College, each of which was offered four times. She has lectured at the Berkshire and Springfield Museums as well as at several schools.

Dr. Congdon's drive for knowledge and her compassion for the ancient and modern people of Egypt are thoroughly captivating. It was fascinating to hear her talk about what has been happening to the country in recent years as a result of the population explosion, the effects and present dangers of the Aswan Dam, the loss of flood plains, the food and soil crisis, and the effect of soluble salts on vital archaeological sites.

B.I.L.L. members will have the opportunity to enroll in her upcoming course, *Egypt: The Amarna Period*, scheduled for the spring 2002 semester. Incidentally, lacking comprehensive texts on the period in question, Lenore creates and hands out a booklet including maps, literature, histories, and assorted topics about that period. She thoroughly enjoys giving B.I.L.L. lectures. — Karl Easton

WAMC "Media Project"

At the Country Club of Pittsfield on December 7, B.I.L.L. played host, for the fourth time, to the recording of the WAMC "Media Project." The Round Table regulars were Alan Chartock, SUNY Professor of Political Science, Chairman and Executive Director of WAMC, and columnist for *The Berkshire Eagle*; David Scribner, Editor of *The Berkshire Eagle*; and Clarence Fanto, Managing Editor.

Their discussion considered both the attitudes of the public towards the media and the responsibilities of the media in this time of uncertainty. Since September 11, people are relying more on the media for information. Some reports indicate an increased confidence in the government; others show a willingness of the public to relinquish some civil liberties in return for added protection from the government. The panelists made it clear that the media should not be a mouthpiece for the administration. It is the media's responsibility to present both sides of important issues.

A lively question and answer period followed the broadcast, and the event concluded with a delicious brunch. — Dot Rowe



Clarence Fanto, David Guistina, Producer,
Alan Chartock, David Scribner

New Year's Brunch 2002

A wonderful start to the New Year! B.I.L.L. members and guests enjoyed the delightful presentation of food and great entertainment at the Country Club of Pittsfield.



The Committee



FRIENDS!



FAMILY!

FOOD!



PHOTOS BY BOB DESROSIERS, BONNIE DESROSIERS, and WILMA MICHAELS

PHOTO BY GICOR



The Hillsmen



FUN!

ENTERTAINMENT!



GOOD TIMES!



Stephane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt

verbatim version of the Bach Double Violin Concerto where Django swung away like a Bach possessed by the jazz virus.

Only in the supercharged atmosphere of the Paris of the thirties could such a fusion between the two poles of my musical passion become a reality. No wonder that, in the words of the great American expatriate Josephine Baker, something in my head keeps singing: "J'ai deux amours, mon pays et Paris!" I have two loves, my homeland and Paris!

— Simon Wainrib

Simon Wainrib, professor at Simon's Rock College, has taught numerous courses in music for B.I.L.L.

Paris and Jazz in the Thirties

After a century of neglect by the arbiters of American culture, jazz has finally been received into the mainstream and is being hailed as the truly American musical art form. It is interesting to note that elsewhere in the world such a label graced American jazz long before its recognition in its homeland.

When I grew up in Paris in the thirties, the local radio stations were broadcasting a constant stream of jazz recordings. Not only were they playing swing, the core of radio fare in the U.S. at the time, but programs also dealt with the history of ragtime, the blues, and the traditional roots of this exotic intruder into European music.

In addition, there was plenty of live jazz performed in Paris. Many visiting American artists invaded Europe in droves as they discovered miraculous relief from the Jim Crow attitudes that

plagued them at home. And many French musicians were fast babbling away in this foreign language as if it were their own.

The center of jazz activity in Paris was the Hot Club de France where budding as well as established jazz musicians would meet, exchange ideas, and play music together. The Club had developed a quintet that soon acquired world status and is still a monumental landmark in the annals of jazz. Its two stars were the violinist Stephane Grappelli and the gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt. On their numerous recordings, they created a new sound — mellow, refined, gently sophisticated — but also replete with the fervent intensity and rhythmic drive of the true jazz tradition.

This was all heavenly nectar for my youthful thirst, the same thirst with which I was imbibing the music of Bach at the weekly concerts that dotted the Parisian scene. And then the miracle occurred. Grappelli and Django, assisted by a black jazz violinist from Chicago, recorded a

December Duet

On a balmy December day, more like spring than winter, 76 B.I.L.L. members went on a fabulous trip to Boston. In the morning the group attended a rehearsal of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The program included works of Bartok and Beethoven with guest artist Dubravka Tomsic as soloist in Beethoven's *Piano Concerto Number Four in G*. This was a truly memorable occasion as Seiji Osawa was conducting his last B.S.O. rehearsal.

Then on to a photo exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts called, *The Look: Images Of Glamour and Style*. This was primarily a retrospective of the work of Horst P. Horst and Hoyningen-Huene, two of the most prolific and influential photographers of the last century. Their work encompassed examples of fashion and society in the thirties, forties, and fifties and used as models personalities from the world of fashion, art, film, and high society.

— Dolly Harte and Sue Gorham

B.I.L.L. Website

B.I.L.L. maintains Internet web pages at Berkshire Community College's site: www.cc.berkshire.org (look under Lifelong Learning). The page topics include Course Offerings, Special Events, President's Message, Officers and Committees, Instructor Form, Membership Application, and B.I.L.L. contact information.

Thank You, Clark Art Institute

B.I.L.L. thanks the Clark Art Institute for providing us with a wonderful place in which to hold our classes. The auditorium is spacious, comfortable, and offers much-appreciated media equipment.

A special thanks to Judy Ensign, our liaison with the Clark, who has taken care of our scheduling and media needs most graciously.

From Ticonderoga to Dorchester

The Knox Trail

After their costly victory at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, the British were firmly in control of Boston. By November, newly appointed General George Washington with 18,000 New England militiamen had Boston under siege. Washington was in a favorable position on the Dorchester heights overlooking the city but lacked the artillery needed to exploit this tactical advantage. Earlier, on May 10, 1775, the Americans, led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, had surprised a sleeping British garrison at Fort Ticonderoga at the southern end of Lake Champlain and had quickly captured that fort with its numerous artillery pieces.

Henry Knox, a former Boston bookseller who had now become an adjutant to Washington, suggested to the General that the heavy cannon at Fort Ticonderoga be procured. Washington agreed. He promoted Knox to colonel and dispatched him to organize the transport of those artillery pieces to Boston.

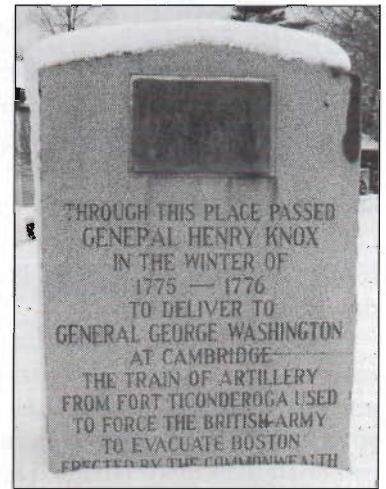
Knox arrived at Fort Ticonderoga on December 5, 1775. Some 59 cannon and mortars were selected for shipment. The largest gun, a 24-pounder, weighed 1,800 lbs. The pieces were moved overland by ox cart the short distance to the northern end of Lake George, and then in difficult passages by sailing barge to the present site of Lake George Village. Knox wrote to Washington:

I have had made forty two exceedingly strong sleds & have provided eighty yoke of oxen to drag them . . . — the rout [sic] will be from here to Kinderhook [southeast of Albany] from whence into Great Barrington Massachusetts Bay & down to Springfield.

Knox needed help from the weather; he had to wait for the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers to freeze and for snow in order to move the sleds. It snowed 2 feet on Christmas, but the rivers didn't freeze sufficiently until January (one cannon was lost through thin ice on the Mohawk River). He crossed the Massachusetts border above North Egremont, then into and out of Great Barrington along the path of the modern Route 23 to Westfield. He arrived in Cambridge on January 24, 1776.

With the Fort Ticonderoga guns, Washington began to bombard the British positions and ships. On March 17, 1776, accompanied by more than 1,000 Loyalist refugees, the British departed for Nova Scotia. This date is still celebrated as Evacuation Day (as well as St. Patrick's Day) by present-day Bostonians.

Washington's leadership and Henry Knox's perseverance and logistics management, coupled with good timing and luck, had forced the British to leave Boston. At a time when American successes were few, this single event helped greatly to energize and inspire the Revolution. — Bob Desrosiers



Marker at intersection of Rt. 7 and Rt. 23, Great Barrington

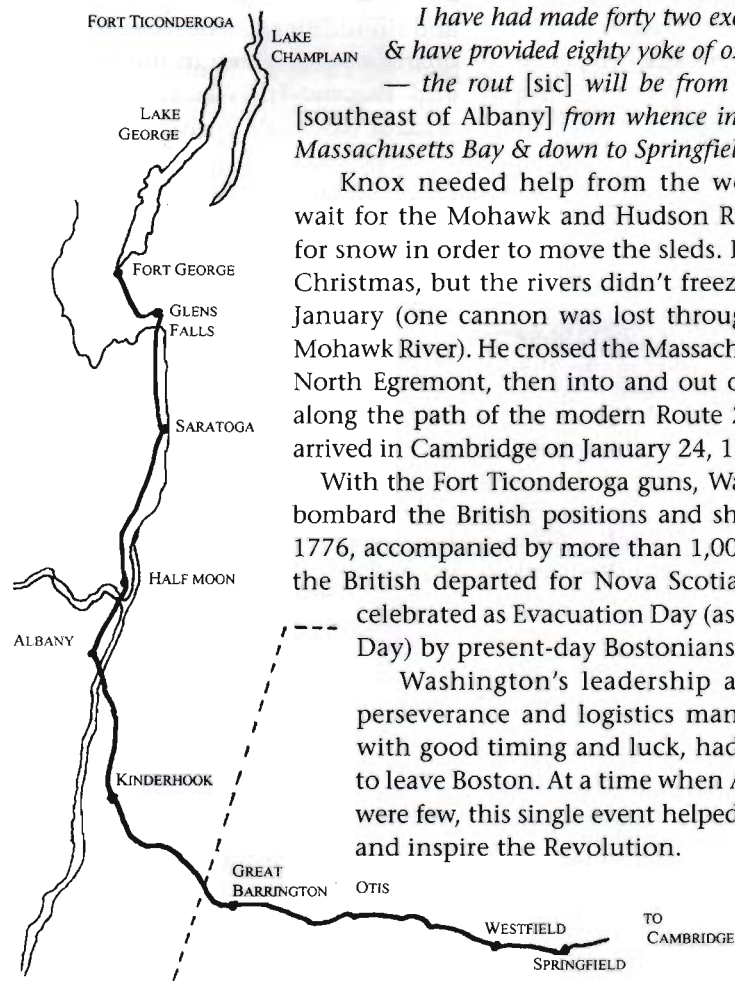


Plate Tectonics and the Geology of the Berkshires

Six hundred million years ago the Berkshires lay under water near the edge of North America and the Proto-Atlantic Ocean known as the Iapetus Sea. Carbonate sediments and sand were laid down during this time. Offshore to the east, volcanic activity formed island arcs much like present-day Japan.

Over 400 million years ago forces inside the Earth shifted, and this ancient sea began to close. As it did so it became shallow, and sulfur and carbonate-rich mud remained behind. North America and Africa collided, and great mountains formed much like today's Himalayas. Intense heat and pressure squeezed and folded the sediments metamorphosing the carbonate sediments into Stockbridge marble, the sand into Cheshire quartzite, and the mud into Walloomsac schist and marble.

By 200 million years ago internal forces again shifted, and Pangaea, the ancient supercontinent, began to split as the Atlantic Ocean opened up to our east. Block faulting produced lava flows in what is now the Connecticut



M. Bergman holding a piece of gneiss

River valley. Meanwhile, mechanical and chemical erosion diminished the great height of the mountains. A gentle uplift of the whole region hastened erosion forming the New England peneplain that we know today as the rolling hills of southern New England.

Today we are left with many reminders of this geologic story. The relatively soft and soluble marble eroded quickly forming the paths of the Housatonic and Hoosic Rivers. The more resistant quartzite can be seen in the Berkshire and Taconic Hills as can the very ancient basement gneiss. An old and

buried talc mine in Wahconah Falls State Park reminds us that sea water was nearby during the metamorphism; a process known as metasomatism creates talc and serpentine when rocks are heated and pressurized in the presence of water. The power of the forces that caused metamorphism is evident at Shelbourne Falls where one can see the banding and folding of the rocks. The basaltic lava flows that accompanied the opening of the Atlantic are with us on Mt. Tom, and the sedimentary rock sandstone laid down in the Connecticut River valley during the Jurassic period contains dinosaur fossils and footprints.

For such a small area, the Berkshires has an amazingly rich and varied geologic history. And yet, it can all be understood within the context of plate tectonics — the paradigm that guides modern earth science.

— Michael Bergman

Michael Bergman is a professor at Simon's Rock College and will be offering a course in the spring 2002 semester entitled The Dynamic Earth.

B.L.L. adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination towards its members and students and will admit all those who apply regardless of race, religion, color or national origin.

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