

B.I.L.L. BOARD

Newsletter of the Berkshire Institute For Lifetime Learning
SUMMER 1997 ● VOLUME 5 ● NUMBER 2

Farewell, but not Goodby:

President's Farewell Message

The past year has been a fast paced and enriching year for me and I hope it has been the same for you. I was fortunate to inherit a solid organization structure, expertly put into place by our founders, Tom and Judy Easton, and to have the support of energetic and creative Board Officers, Committee Chairs, Committee Members and a multitude of committed individuals. This enabled us to build on past successes, to provide more options for learning in retirement and to provide increased opportunity for peer interaction.

I have a confession to make. I, and the Board Officers, et al, are worriers. We worry about numbers. What's the membership count? What percentage of the membership has enrolled in one or more classes? How many have registered for the trip to Kykuit? How many have signed up for the Winter Lecture? What's the enrollment in our first scheduled classes at Williams College? Do the assigned classrooms have sufficient space for everyone registered? Etc. Etc. I'm pleased to let you know that the numbers for this past semester met and in most instances exceeded our expectations.

The highlights of the past year have been the superb curriculum and very qualified guest lecturers, the highly successful launching of our Winter Lecture Series, the well received inauguration of courses at Williams College (including the option of an appetizing buffet lunch at the Faculty Club), the significant increase in Special Events and the expanded opportunity to interact with fellow BILL Members.

Although I may have added a few more gray hairs, I have met many new wonderful people and had a very positive experience. Thank you for your part in making BILL a model of excellence for ILR's.

Len

AT SPRING MEETING

Slate presented and adopted

OFFICERS	TERM
President <i>Ann Dulye</i>	2 Years
1st Vice-president <i>Norman Avnet</i>	2 Years
2nd Vice-president <i>Ilse Browner</i>	2 Years
Treasurer <i>Walter Leon</i>	2 Years
Secretary <i>Judy Easton</i>	2 Years

BIO'S FOR BILL BOARD

Ann V. Dulye - President

Having retired to the Berkshires after 45 years as a journalist and Publisher in the Hudson Valley of New York State, I focused my energies on a new vocation called "Volunteering". Tanglewood was my first introduction to this new role. Judy and Tom Easton were among my newest of friends, and with them came the birth of BILL. As an original

member of the organization, and working with the various committees these past three years, it is exciting to become the first women President, an honor I had received in my career as the first woman President of the New York Press Association.

Norman Avnet - First Vice President

Brooklyn born and educated Eagle Scout. Cornell University Botany major. University of Rochester Medical School. Pediatric radiologist. Academic career Tufts, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, N.Y. Medical School. Chairman of Radiology Berkshire Medical Center, Professor of Radiology University of Mass. Retired, Former board member Jacobs Pillow, Berkshire Museum, Jewish Federation of Berkshires. Financial Secretary B.I.L.L., Temple Anshe Amunim, Berkshire Art Association. Gardener, cook, skier, history buff, fisherman.

Ilse Browner - Second Vice President

Received my BA from Vassar and my MA in Physical Chemistry from Cornell, then did much career switching - chemical research, child raising, running an electronic instrument business, writing and editing, financial consulting. Favorite volunteer job for 34 years: heading the Vassar Scholarship Booksale in Westchester County, NY which collected and sold 40,000 books yearly. Now delighted to be doing the Lenox Library Booksale. Joined BILL soon after it was formed and incautiously volunteered for the Curriculum Committee; have been its Chairman for the last two years.

Walter Leon - Treasurer

Born and raised in New Rochelle, NY, just "45 minutes from Broadway". Became an Air Force navigator in WWII, then to RPI for an engineering degree. Came to Pittsfield in 1956 with GE, but finished my career with General Systems Co. and its challenging consulting experience. Golf, tennis, travel and grand children fill the retirement gaps along with B.I.L.L.

Judy Easton - Secretary

Tom Easton - President Emeritus

FOUNDERS

Tom and Judy Easton have a 44 year history of cooperation on projects. At first it was setting up house and raising a family which consisted of one son and a dog in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts. Careers made up an important part of their lives- Judy in Education and Tom in Business. Their hobbies included reading, politics, travel, golf, art, music, and the love of continual learning. Upon retirement, they discovered Lenox in the beautiful Berkshires. They were about to live happily ever after except there was no Institute of Lifetime Learning. So in 1994, they founded BILL and are now living lives of complete contentment splitting their time between the Berkshires in the summer and California in the winter. They consider themselves among the luckiest people in the world.

Fall 1997 Semester to Start Early:

September 9 - October 24

The early Fall Schedule should make it possible for those of you who leave us or take trips in October, to attend most classes in your chosen courses.

Sometime during our last semester the number of B.I.L.L. members leaped beyond the 500 mark. Such confidence in our young institute and its offerings presents a challenge to come up with ever more interesting, worth while and varied courses. So the Curriculum Committee once again applied its collective fertile imagination, converted its ideas into nine courses, and is now proud to present the following preview to you:

Tuesdays: Headlines: Once more unto the breach with strong opinions by all class members, encouraged and abetted by Moderator Dr. Jack Rubin.

Great Escapes: Another Priscilla & Jack Stern event! We will hear about The Exodus; Dunkirk; The Underground Railroad; The Irish Potato Famine; the Dalai Lama's Escape; The Puritans & Huguenots.

Wednesdays: Issues in American History: Paul Flaum returns by popular request to discuss Sectionalism, Agrarianism, Immigration, becoming a World Power, and more.

The Murder Mystery: Carole Owens, who writes mystery novels herself, will discuss Agatha Christie and her fellow practitioners. Other Berkshire County mystery writers will be her guests.

Joan of Arc: Julie Lowell will share with us her knowledge of Joan's life and how various writers treated her story; Joan's fate will be discussed in the context of the cultural history of France of her day.

Thursdays, once more at Williams (The success of last semester's Day at Williams did not go unnoticed!)

At the Sea's Edge: Prof. William T. Fox calls his course "A Naturalist's View of the Coast". It will include ocean storms and tides and rocky coasts and life amidst all this.

Masters of 20th Century Architecture: Prof. E.J. Johnson will include Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Louis I. Kahn, Robert Venturi and Charles Moore, and Frank Gehry.

Fridays: Health & Healing: Non-traditional Medicine. Practitioners of Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Nutritional Support, Acupuncture and Energy Fields will explain their fields.

Barbaric Yawp: The Poetry of Walt Whitman: Paul Stein, who last taught Henry James' ghost stories at BILL returns by popular request to be our guide through passages from Whitman's work; what it meant then and what it means today.

And now I am stepping down after two years of a challenging and most rewarding term as Chairman. My thanks go to all those - and you know who you are! - who have helped me along the way. It's been a great trip. I leave you in the good hands of Eleanor Sack and her Vice Chairman, Anna Pollock.

Ilse Browner, Curriculum Committee Chairman

B.I.L.L. Annual Meeting-Big Success

Almost two hundred B.I.L.L. members, guests and community representatives gathered on June 4, 1997 at the Robert M. Boland Theater at Berkshire Community College for the Fourth Annual B.I.L.L. meeting.

Outgoing President Len Stozberg welcomed all and then

proceeded with the Agenda. It included remarks from Alexandra Warsaw, Dean of Community Service and Economics Development at B.C.C. and from Nancy McIntire, assistant to the President of Williams College. Both educational institutions are the sponsors of B.I.L.L.

By-Laws amendments were approved and it was announced that B.I.L.L. is donating \$3000 to the scholarship fund at B.C.C. (a gift matched by state funds) and \$1000 to Williams to help begin the "American Reads" program.

A new slate of officers, headed by Ann Dulye as President, was elected. Her fellow officers include Norman Avnett (1st V.P.), Ilse Browner (2nd V.P.), Walter Leon (Treasurer) and Judy Easton (Secretary). Directors at large are Bob Chandler, Jack Rubin, and Arthur Sherman, for two years, and Jerry Light, Sue Phillips, and Ann Pollock for one year.

Committee reports came from Walter Leon (Finance), Judy Easton for Lil Cohen (Special Events), and Ilse Browner (Curriculum) who gave a preview of the Fall Semester.

Upcoming Special Events include trips to S.P.A.C., Hyde Park (including Valkill and the Vanderbilt Mansion), and a trip to Boston in November to a rehearsal and the Picasso Exhibit.

Julie Weiss introduced keynote speaker Marge Champion - Actress, Director, Choreographer - and Berkshire neighbor. She acted and danced in many film musicals and on the stage during the heyday of the American Musical theater and then choreographed and helped direct many more.

She showed a film which included vignettes from her television appearances and excerpts from her many films. She continues to pursue her professional interests. She is an active Board member of Williamstown Theater Festival, Jacob's Pillow and is on the Advisory Board to the Berkshire Theater Festival. She has also been on the Board of the Tony Awards Nominating Committee.

Her presentation showed that Marge Champion is still a champion! She is a wonderful addition to our B.I.L.L. community.

Sue Gorham

Winter Lecture Series

Welcome breaks in the long, cold Berkshire winter were provided for B.I.L.L. members this year with the inauguration of the B.I.L.L. Winter Lecture Series. With lecture-lunches in January, February and March, the series emerged as a highly successful intellectual/social bridge between the regular B.I.L.L. semesters.

The series was launched with Dr. Armand Feigenbaum of Pittsfield, an expert on world trade, discussing the emerging economies of nations in the Pacific Rim. In February, Tina Packer, artistic director of Shakespeare & Co., discussed the work of that theatrical company. In the concluding lecture in March, TV commentator-producer Linda Ellerbee spoke about her career and her journalistic beliefs.

The first two lectures, held at Lenox 218 Restaurant, drew capacity crowds of more than 90 members and guests. Knowing that the final lecture would exceed that number, B.I.L.L. scheduled it at the Berkshire Hilton, where more than 130 attended.

The Winter Lecture Series committee has already begun planning for next winter, when at least three lectures will be scheduled, with locations to be decided.

Bob Chandler

SPOTLIGHTS

Curriculum Committee Chairman - Eleanor Sack

One could call this a short profile of a long and busy life. My husband and I, shared 55 wonderful years with our children, Beth and Richard. They are married and now have children of their own. My three grandsons are xxxxxxxxxx of great joy, love and many surprises. A lot happens in 55 years. My husband and I shared among other interests, a passion for boating and travel. Drawn by its history, culture and archeology, we spent five years living in Mexico. Our business frequently took us to Europe (we had a factory close to Florence) of course, I loved the fashion shows in Paris! I was founder of the North Shore Child Guidance Association, which continues to service four school districts on the North Shore of Long Island. I serve on its board of directors for several years. I served as chairman of the Education Committee during the planning and building of the Wheatly Jr. - Sr. High School on the East Williston School district on L.I. I served as chairman of the Greater New York Women Division of the United Jewish Appeal and was a member of their Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and the board of the Joint Distribution committee.

Curriculum Committee Vice-Chairman - Anna Pollack

Anna moved to the Berkshires in 1947 because her husband accepted a position with General Electric. She is originally from Washington, DC, and her husband is from New York City. They have four children, three of whom are married, and they have four grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 years old to seven years old (three girls and one boy). Anna worked as a psychiatric social worker at the Berkshire Mental Health Center as Director of Outpatient Services, a position that was 50% clinical and 50% administrative. She retired in 1987. Presently she serves as Chairman on the Board of Health in Lanesboro where she resides. She loves to learn new things, including keeping up with Title V (the sanitary code). She is also a master gardener and belongs to the Master Gardener Association (along with Len Stolzberg) and answers the "botanical hotline". Her other interests are playing bridge and taking BILL courses. She is very much looking forward to co-chairing the BILL Curriculum Committee.

Lenore Rubin

Special Events Calendar

SUMMER	Thursday, July 24	SPAC/NY Ballet & National Museum of Dance
FALL	Monday, September 15	Hyde Park & Val-Kill, Vanderbilt Mansion
FALL	Thursday, November 6	B.S.O. Rehearsal/Picasso Exhibit - Museum of Fine Art
WINTER	Thursday, January 1	New Year's Day Brunch
WINTER	January, February, March	Lecture Series
WINTER	March	Smith College Museum & Spring Bulb Show

Captain Of The Day

It was mid-March and I was in my office in New York just beginning the crunch of tax-season (I'm a CPA) and its attendant dedication to IRS deadlines, when I received a telephone call from Fran Dichter asking me to be Captain of the Day on April 18. I had no idea what that meant, but, since it was for a good cause, said yes anyway. There would be an orientation meeting, but because it was prior to April 15, I could not attend.

I arrived at BCC at approximately 8:40 AM on the appointed day to be given my duties. My wife, who has been active in other B.I.L.L. programs, thought I was to be a facilitator whose responsibilities would last for only one class; however, I was to be Captain of the Day which required that I be present at all classes and lunch. My duties included making sure that all audio-visual equipment was functioning properly - microphones were to be properly attached to the speakers clothing so that they could be heard, the slide projector was to be properly loaded and set so that speakers who had slide presentations could use them, the lights were to be turned on, off and dimmed when necessary and the CD/tape player was to be turned on at the proper time.

During my professional day, I work with clients whose financial needs are significant and I am never apprehensive. I have worked with computers for more than twenty-five years, so that I thought that electronic equipment would be a breeze. But, given my brief introduction to audio-visual equipment, I was convinced that I could no longer turn on lights nor make a CD player work. My apprehension that something would not function properly in front of twenty-five audience members and a speaker was amazing. By the end of the day, I had attended three different lectures and everything had gone well. My relief and sense of satisfaction was great. More importantly, I had enjoyed each of the lectures even though I probably would not have selected one or more of them had the choice been mine.

When I was young, my father used to joke that after 6:00 PM, he wanted us to call him Governor. I feel that I have survived and earned the right to have my children call me "Captain!"

David Orenstein

Needed

A Few Good People

Disabled Student Services (DSS) at Berkshire Community College aims to enable students with disabilities to maximize their potential for academic success by coordinating their individual needs with support services and resources at the college. This effort is to provide a supportive atmosphere that promotes self-reliance.

In keeping with DSS's philosophy of providing a supportive environment and promoting self-reliance, there is a group of students working with DSS who require their test/quizzes be tape-recorded as an academic accommodation for blindness or a diagnosed reading disability.

The DSS Office is seeking volunteers to help facilitate the process. The Office would like to generate a list of volunteers to contact whenever a test needs to be taped. The time element for taping can be twenty minutes to an hour depending on the nature of the test.

If you are interested in sharing some of your valuable time, or would like more information, please contact the office of Disabled Student Services at 413-499-4660 ext. 220. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Tutors

The Southern Berkshire Literacy Network is looking for men and women who are willing to become trained volunteer tutors. Some of our students are Southern Berkshire residents coping with the dilemmas of functional illiteracy. Some are hoping for success in taking their high school equivalency diploma. Still others live with the stress of communicating in English when it is not their primary language. If you are willing to offer the hope that comes with literacy to your neighbors living in the towns south of Pittsfield, call us and ask about our next tutor training session.

Mary Kate Jordan

B.I.L.L.
Berkshire Community College
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5786
(413) 499-4660, Ext. 642

379 -

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 79



“ . . . Education is a lifetime activity. ”