Looking Ahead to Fall 2002

The Curriculum Committee is putting together a wide array of stimulating courses and lecturers for the fall 2002 semester — something for everyone. Watch your mail for the catalog this summer.

ARTS

Forgotten Masters: An Alternative History of Theatre — James L. Rosenberg
Der Rosenkavalier and Salome by Richard Strauss — Manfred Hecht
19th Century American Art and Culture — Maureen J. Hickey
Changing Times, Changing Museums — Ann Mintz

LITERATURE

Three Modern American Poets — Sharon LaBranche
Great Books/Great Films — Elliott Vines, Moderator
The Faust Legend: Part I — Walter Bemak
Those Naughty Victorians — Phyllis Jaffe
On Walden Pond — Paul Stein

SCIENCES

From Quaking Aspens to Sugar Maples: Forest Succession in New England — William T. Fox
Your Immune System — Sandor Wax, Robert McNerney
Light, Color, and Vision — Jefferson Strait

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Origins of the Cold War — Karen Merrill
Today's Headlines — James W. Cotter, Moderator
Wine Appreciation 102 — Jack Rubin, Moderator
Great Awards — Karl Easton, Paul Flaum, Barbara Greenbaum, Philip Knowles, Jack Rubin, Michael and Nancy Vale
History of Food: An Overview — Francine Segal
Freedom on the Edge: Conflicting Demands of Freedom and Order in the American Experience — David L. Auerbach
World War II: You Are There — Judy Katz, James McAllister, Loet Velmans, Harriet Vines, Simon Wainrib
Optimal Aging — Kristine Huffman, Carl Pratt

New England Conference of ILRs

Arlene Breskin (left), Special Events Committee Chair, and Ann Dulye (second from right), past President of B.I.L.L., made a Special Events program presentation as part of a panel at the Northeast Convention for Institutes for Learning in Retirement held in Salem, MA, in March.

HOLD THIS DATE!

Picnic with B.I.L.L. at Tanglewood

SUNDAY, JULY 21
New York Philharmonic
Kurt Masur, Conductor
Yefim Bronfman, Piano
ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM

Events for 2002

June 18: New Britain Museum of American Art — New Britain, CT and Hill-Stead Museum & Garden — Farmington, CT
June 27: Ron K. Brown/Evidence — Jacob's Pillow
July 18: New York City Ballet — SPAC
August 5: Turn of the Screw — Berkshire Opera Company
October 26: Walden Pond and Concord, MA
November 17-19: Salem and Marblehead, MA (2 nights)
December 15: King of Hearts — Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT

Have a Wonderful Summer!
**President's Message**

This issue of B.I.L.L.BOARD contains a list of members who are responsible for the continued growth and development of B.I.L.L. — look it over carefully. You will see people you know. Is your name on the list?

Think for just a moment and ask yourself this question. How is it possible to achieve the following with only one full-time employee?

- Development and implementation of about 50 high-quality courses each year in the Arts, Literature, Sciences and Social Sciences; catalog publication; exploration and selection of venues; classroom scheduling and management at a variety of facilities.
- Development of about 20 Special Events programs each year requiring oversight including scheduling, ticketing, transportation, and food planning.
- Creation of a film series, lectures, social interaction programs, outstanding publications, public relations, media efforts, a website, and the inception of an extended travel program.
- Support of sponsor organizations and B.I.L.L.'s support of cultural venues throughout the Berkshires.
- Administration and related support for over 920 members who occupy well over 2,200 classroom seats and approximately 1,500 special event slots each year.

The answer to the question is in the dedicated work of the people whose names we are proud to list in this issue of B.I.L.L.BOARD. It is through their efforts that B.I.L.L. is able to enrich our lives and contribute something useful to the community. It is through their efforts that our dues and fee schedules are among the lowest of any major ILR and the quality of our programs is of the highest order.

Thank you, Volunteers.

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**From Pittsfield to Pequot**

The trip in April to the Pequot Museum and Research Center in Mashantucket, Connecticut, afforded an incredible opportunity to learn the story of the Pequot, "People of the Waters That Are Never Still." The museum is built on a north-facing slope overlooking a cedar swamp on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation. Its glass and steel structure offers 85,000 sq. ft. of permanent exhibits.

Beginning some 75,000 years ago with the Wisconsin Glacier's shaping and reshaping of the land, the museum's exhibits convey the pre-history that determined how the tribe developed the synergistic relationship that benefited the land as well as the people.

Before European contact, the Pequot were living in a number of unfortified villages near the Connecticut coast. A replica of a Pequot Village is one of the highlights of the museum. A self-guided audio tour depicts daily life through the use of life-sized figures, clothing, and artifacts in a realistic water and woodland environment. Many aspects of pre-contact Pequot life, i.e., caribou hunting, tool making, and farming are presented.

The idyllic family-centered life revealed in the Village is dramatically shattered when we later view a film The Witness — the story of the 1637 massacre of all but a handful of the Pequot in a village in Mystic. Other exhibits depict the effects of European contact. The estimated 95 percent decimation of the Pequot is a searingly sad indictment of culture clash.

In an informative slide presentation and talk, Kevin McBride, Director of Research for the Pequot Center, discussed methods to authenticate the exhibits and spoke about the many archeological digs in the area. Ironically, the very poor land eventually allocated to the tribe proved to be wetlands that are ideally suited to preserving artifacts.

The better-known Foxwoods Resort Casino, located close to the Pequot Museum, partly subsidizes the telling of the tribe's story. — Anne Losstrangio

This trip was an outgrowth of the winter semester 2002 course, The Mohicans of Berkshire County, taught by Lion Miles.

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**Another Invitation to the Dance**

**Saturday, March 16, 2002**

On the way to see the Boston Ballet, we viewed a video about George Balanchine loaned by Norton Owen, Jacob's Pillow Director of Preservation and Archives. The video pointed out the efforts by the heirs of Balanchine's ballets to ensure the integrity of his body of works.

We arrived in the city with time to shop before partaking in a delicious lunch at Maggiano's. A short walk took us to the Wang Theater for a matinee performance of Slaughter on 10th Avenue, Corybantic Ecstasies, and Rodeo.

What an impressive company! The dancers, costumes, music, lighting, and scenery were all outstanding. The Wang Theater is a stunning, baroque renovation paid for by Dr. An Wang who made his fortune by developing and producing calculators and computers.

On the way home, our “bus attendants” passed out apples, bottled water, and chocolate mints. Judging by the evaluations, the day was hugely successful.

— Arline Gilbert
B.I.L.L. 2001 – 2002 Volunteers

B.I.L.L.’s strength and vitality comes from its corps of active, committed volunteers — the people who plan the courses and special events, recruit lecturers, keep our membership growing, help in the office, publicize our activities, communicate with our members, supervise class arrangements, provide leadership, and pitch in wherever help is needed. These are the men and women, 193 strong, who gave B.I.L.L. their time, energy, creativity, and skill during the past year. We hope we included everyone. They are our engine and our fuel, and we give them our thanks.

Elaine Andersen  Bonnie Desrosiers  Scott Herrick  Julie Lowell  Eleanor Sack
Rena Asci  Fran Dichter  Maureen Hickey  Bob Mainzer  Herbert Sandick
Norman Avnet  Jean Drees  Diane Hitter  Ron Mandler  Evelyn Sass
Roz Avnet  Genevieve Drisco  Marilyn Hunter  Arlene Martin  Audrey Schlanger
Joyce Bacharach  Ann Dulye  Alan Jacobs  Helen McCarthy  Alvin Schneiderman
Frances Balter  Karl Easton  Eileen Jacobs  Bob McInerney  Myrna Schneiderman
Paul Barbeau  Herbert Eskwitt  Kay Jaffe  David McKearnan  Carole Schwimmer
Kenneth Beam  Lorraine Feldman  Phyllis Jaffe  Norman Michaels  Elenore Selin
Mavis Beam  Michael Feltzer  Mort Josef  Wilma Michaels  Helen-Mary Shaffer
Stephanie Beling  Helen Fink  Sandra Josef  Enid Michelman  Art Sherman
Ruth Bernak  Milton Fink  Judy Joseph  Jim Michelman  Mona Sherman
Walter Bernak  Virginia Finn  Chet Kalm  Jack Napp  Gladys Sherman
Mona Berg  Marilyn Finn  Philip Kaminstein  Judith Napp  Margaret Silverman
Annette Bernstein  Paul Flaim  Rhoda Kaminstein  Judith Nardacci  Paul Smilow
George Bissell  Andy Flaxman  Elsa Karr  Barbara Nelick  Turbi Smilow
Barbara Bliss  Steffi Fletcher  Judy Katz  Harold Nelson  Elske Smith
Joyce Boschen  Rose Foster  Bob Kerbel  Lucille Nickerson  Judith Stein
Arline Breskin  Sarah Frankland  Judy Keshner  Isabel O’Brien  Peter Stein
John Brooks  Joyce Freundlich  Gertrude Knepper  Joan Olsensky  Jack Stern
Ilse Browner  Joanna Fribush  Philip Knowles  Richard Onken  Leonard Stolzberg
Linda Buxbaum  Arline Gilbert  John Koffel  David Orenstein  Mort Sussman
Don Calman  Ron Gilbert  Judi Korostoff  Susan Orenstein  Ruth Swart
Helene Calman  Seymour Gilbert  Irv Kronenberg  Helen Perkel  Morris Terry
Barbara Caplin  Mae Glazer  Margo Krupp  Larry Phillips  Shirley Tremblay
Peri Caverly  Howard Gorham  Lynne Leavitt  Phyllis Phillips  Dorothy van den Honert
Eleanor Chandler  Susan Gorham  Gus Leibowitz  Pauline Pierce  Elliott Vines
Robert Chandler  Barbara Greenbaum  Paula Leonard  Anna Pollock  Harriet Vines
David Citrin  Norma Greenfield  Arline Leven  Margaret Poutasse  Sandor Wax
Roslyn Citrin  Howard Greenstein  Ed Levin  Pauline Pierce  Terry Weaver
Elizabeth Clark  Ruth Greenoble  Ruth Levin  Phil Lewis  Jerome Weinstein
Ileen Cohen  Arlene Greenwood  Kitty Levitan  Marge Lewis  Marjorie Weinstein
Len Cohen  Ralph Gutmann  Marge Light  Irene Lichtenstein  Julie Weiss
Lillian Cohen  Dolly Harte  Ruth Levin  Phil Lewis  Joseph Wheelock, Jr.
Lenore O. Congdon  Robert Hartford  Irene Lichtenstein  Francine Rubenstein  Norma White
Janet Cook  Martha Hathaway  Barbara Liebert  Jack Rubin  Philip Yedinsky
Madison Crotolowitz  George Haus  Marge Light  Lenore Rubin  Eileen Young
James Cotter  Joanne Hayes  Erna Lindner  Abbey Rubinstein  Evelyn Zwerner
Beatrice DaSilva  Aleva Henderson  Eileen Linton  Barbara Rupprecht  Carol Sabot
Bob Desrosiers  Barbara Herrick  Anne Lostrangio 
Reflections on my Garden

When I was seven, I grew tomatoes on our fire escape; at ten I became a junior gardener at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; at sixteen I went to the Ag School at Cornell and worked on a farm in the summers.

Gardening is my personal challenge and joy. In February the catalogs arrive, and I must decide whether or not to decrease the size of my plantings. Usually I procrastinate until May or June and then, in desperation, go to Jæschke’s or the farmer’s market and buy plants. Each year I plant too many tomatoes!

On this cold winter day, my wife Roz used a few of our potatoes in a soup. What a good feeling, cooking with our own potatoes in February. There are still a few onions in the refrigerator, but I used the last of the winter squash last week.

A few years ago, Roz convinced me that I grew too many vegetables and should change one area into a mulched annual garden. The last two years I planted a heavily mulched, decorative vegetable garden. It worked! I used sweet potato vines as under planting and filled in with red, green, and Savoy cabbage plants, decorative kale, celery, cauliflower and Swiss chard. Because of the fertilizer, mulch, and good watering, the plants were unusually lush.

I grow most fruits including apples, pears, and peaches. I grow dwarf apple trees because they are much easier to prune and spray — work that must be done religiously in the Berkshires in order to harvest decent fruit. Of course, $30 at Bartlett’s would give me all the fruit I need, but the beauty of growing my own apples would be lost.

The small fruits I grow are probably the most successful. Blackberries are faithful producers, but my favorites are raspberries. We eat them plain, with sweet cream, sour cream, or ice cream, and use the residue of the pickings to make jam that produces a magnificent aroma and flavor. I consider myself the “king” of Pittsfield raspberry growers. Roz, though, is not a good picker — she prefers to graze.

Like all gardeners, I plan for next year by planting bulbs and perennials to keep alive the dream of flowers in the spring and summer.

B.I.L.L. members are welcome to visit my garden.

— Norman Avnet