

B.I.L.L. BOARD

SUMMER 2002
VOLUME 10
NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR LIFETIME LEARNING

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
Electrical Energy in the U.S.: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – Thomas J. Blalock, J. Keith Nelson
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 Segan
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



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



New England Conference of ILRs

Arline 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.

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.



B.I.L.L.BOARD

Bonnie Desrosiers, *Editor*

Peri Caverly, *Editorial Assistant*

Marge Lewis, *Proofreading Assistant*

Wilma Michaels, *Proofreading Assistant*

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 Lostrangio

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

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 Preservations 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 Feltser	Mort Josel	Wilma Michaels	Helen-Mary Shaffer
Stephanie Beling	Helen Fink	Sandra Josel	Enid Michelman	Art Sherman
Ruth Bemak	Milton Fink	Judy Joseph	Jim Michelman	Mona Sherman
Walter Bemak	Virginia Finn	Chet Kalm	Jack Napp	Gladys Shirley
Mona Berg	Marilyn Flaum	Philip Kaminstein	Judith Napp	Margaret Silverman
Annette Bernstein	Paul Flaum	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	Paul Stein
John Brooks	Joyce Freundlich	Gertrude Knepper	Joan Olshansky	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	Norma Reiner	Terry Weaver
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Ileen Cohen	Ruth Grenoble	Kitty Levitan	James L. Rosenberg	Marjorie Weinstein
Len Cohen	Ralph Gutmann	Marge Lewis	Tom Rouse	Julie Weiss
Lillian Cohen	Dolly Harte	Phil Lewis	Dorothy Rowe	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 Cotlowitz	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	
Bob Desrosiers	Barbara Herrick	Anne Lostrangio	Carol Sabot	

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 Jaeschke'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 Avriet

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B.I.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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