Looking Ahead to Fall 2003

The Curriculum Committee is putting together a wide array of stimulating courses and lecturers for the fall 2003 semester — something for everyone. Watch your mail in early July for the catalog.

ARTS
Arts and Letters of France — John Brooks, Nicole Desrosiers, Peter Low, Simon Wainrib
Music in the Berkshires — Phyllis Curtin, Ronald Feldman, Andrea Goodman, Mark Ludwig, Kevin Rhodes, Joseph Silverstein
10 Minute Plays — Dennis Krausnick, Nina Shengold, David Smilow
Great Books/Great Films — Paul Smilow, Moderator

LITERATURE
Very Short Stories — Alexander "Sandy" Drescher
Reading Charles Dickens — Paul Stein
Attention Must Be Paid: American Drama Since 1946 — Phyllis Jaffe

SCIENCE
The Living Cell and Disease — Robert McInerney, Sandor Wax
Celestial Navigation, GPS and Inertial Guidance Systems — Brian McCue, Andrew Miller
History and Biology of Australia — C. Barre Hellquist

SOCIAL SCIENCES
The Law and Literature of the Environment — Philip McKnight
Today’s Headlines — James Cotter, Moderator
Crafts in the World Market — June Nash
The Home, the Workplace and the Community — Abraham Sperling
The Rhinequist Court and Civil Liberties — Stephen Gottlieb
The Civil War — Paul Flbaum, Stuart Murray, Rick Wilder
So You’re a Grandparent: Child Development and the Role of Parents and Grandparents — Claudia Shuster
Optimal Aging — Kristine Huffman, Mark Liponis, Carl Pratt

Dates To Save

SPECIAL EVENTS
June 26: Flamenco Republic — Maria Pagès, Jacob’s Pillow
June 30: La Traviata — Berkshire Opera, BCC
July 2: La Traviata — Berkshire Opera, Chapin Hall, Williams College
July 10: New York City Ballet — A Midsummer Night’s Dream, SPAC
Aug. 8: The Game — Barrington Stage Company, Sheffield
Sept. 3: Historic Deerfield Village, MA
Sept. 14: Very Good Eddie — Jerome Kern, Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT
Oct. 8: Nine Armenians — Miniature Theatre of Chester, Chester, MA
Nov. 3: Rembrandt Exhibit — Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

SPECIAL PROJECTS
June 2: Memory and Aging: What’s Normal, What’s Not — Paul Solomon, BCC
June 9: First Ladies of the White House — Edmund Sullivan, BCC
June 16: Afghanistan Since the Fall of the Taliban — David Edwards, BCC
June 28: Contemporary Glass Today — Kenn Holsten, Marc Leach, Tom Patti, Berkshire Museum
June 30: Voices and Visions of Islam — Alfred Ivry, BCC
July 24: A Day at Jacob’s Pillow
Aug. 9: Anatomy of an Exhibition — Brian Allen, Berkshire Museum
Aug. 15: The Diary of Ann Frank — Carol Gilligan, Larry Graver, Bernard F. Rodgers, Moderator

Have a Wonderful Summer!
President's Message

For the past two years I have been privileged to serve as President of B.I.L.L., and the experience has been wonderful. Participating at this level in the growth of this unique organization has allowed me to meet many members and lecturers and to see the enthusiasm and the growing friendships among our many fabulous volunteers.

We have run a good race. We completed a long-range plan and used it to guide our continued phenomenal growth. We leave B.I.L.L. flexibly structured to meet the future — administratively sound and financially healthy. Strong committee structures are in place and staffed by a growing cadre of members who assure continuity and forward thinking. The concept of a formal annual report was initiated and has been well received. Our relationships with our sponsor schools have never been stronger, and we have successfully reached out to many cultural venues.

Members have enrolled in record numbers, responding to the quality and diversity of the curricula, the class venues and the special events.

The Curriculum Committee has developed special projects offering single-day lectures and forums that have met with standing room only acceptance. They hold great promise for further development of B.I.L.L. educational programs.

The many unique opportunities for social interaction and access to cultural venues afforded by the dynamic special events program continue to enhance the quality of B.I.L.L. membership. Extended, course-related domestic and international travel was initiated and will grow in the future as an important adjunct to the educational/social purposes of B.I.L.L.

At this writing, B.I.L.L. membership has exceeded 1,000. New members have been welcomed at a special reception. Programs such as Game Night and the Annual B.I.L.L. Picnic were successfully initiated and should develop well in the future and plans are being formulated to celebrate B.I.L.L.'s tenth anniversary in 2004.

The professionalism of our public relations and media efforts, B.I.L.L.BOARD and course catalogs reflect great credit on the organization and the committees who work so diligently to bring them to fruition.

An exciting initiative was begun in conjunction with Berkshire Community College and the Pittsfield schools to allow members to serve as mentors. This project, now in its developmental stage, will give B.I.L.L. members the chance to utilize some of their enormous latent talent to help a variety of students in need. If it evolves successfully, it will represent a major contribution by the membership to the community.

A growing, increasingly diverse B.I.L.L. membership requires innovative, interesting and accessible programs. It requires significant management skills to integrate so diverse and complex an operation, run almost entirely by volunteers. The ability to provide this kind of leadership clearly resides in the newly nominated slate of officers. B.I.L.L. is very fortunate to have this talented group take over the helm.

Serving as B.I.L.L. President has been a pleasure for me, one that I sincerely thank you for allowing me to enjoy.

Art Sherman

Beguiled Again

On February 2, members of B.I.L.L. traveled to Albany where we attended a performance of Beguiled Again, a musical revue celebrating many of the love songs of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. Over 50 songs from Broadway musicals and the silver screen were performed by a cast of six talented, professional actors who sang and danced like the best Broadway hoofers.

The Capital Repertory Theatre, with its small stage and excellent seating arrangement, was an ideal setting for this intimate, audience-friendly show. A humorous look at the sources of creativity for Rodgers, the melodic composer, and Hart, the witty, sardonic lyricist became the background through which the sophisticated songs of the '30s and '40s were so delightfully presented. We wanted to hum along with the familiar music. From Poor Little Rich Girl in 1925 to The Boys from Syracuse and Pal Joey in 1940, Rogers and Hart were literally the "golden boys" of Broadway.

Romance was in the air, and a wonderful time was had by all. As we left the theatre, everyone was smiling.

— Barbara Greenbaum

Thank You

B.I.L.L. thanks the Clark Art Institute for providing 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.

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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, 186 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.

Ginger Alexander  Donald Eisenstein  Harriet Jedeiken  Enid Michelman  Betsy Selkowitz
Elaine Andersen  Ed Epstein  Robert Jedeiken  Jim Michelman  Helen-Mary Shaffer
Sondra Applebaum  Herbert Eskwitt  Mort Josef  Norman Moskowitz  Roberta Shapiro
Stanley Applebaum  Edith Evans  Sandra Josef  Patricia Moynahan  Priscilla Shepherd
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Roz Avnet  Maureen Flanagan  Philip Kaminstein  Suzanne Nash  Mona Sherman
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Walter Bemak  Paul Flum  Elsa Karr  Harold Nelson  Carl Shuster
Donald Bernstein  Rose Foster  Judy Katz  Lucille Nickerson  Claudia Shuster
George Bissell  William Fox  Bob Kerbel  Cathy Noto  Paul Smilow
Joyce Bosch  Joyce Freundlich  Judy Keshner  Joan Olshansky  Turbi Smilow
Arline Breskin  Joanna Fribush  Larry Klein  Richard Onken  Elske Smith
John Brooks  Eleanor Geller  Philip Knowles  David Orenstein  Judy Spencer
Ilse Browner  Michael Geller  John Koffel  Susan Orenstein  Paul Stein
Don Calman  Arline Gilbert  Judith Korostoff  Jane Phelan-Falcone  Jack Stern
Barbara Caplin  Ron Gilbert  James Kraft  Larry Phillips  Jane Stevens
Peri Caverly  Roz Goldstein  Margo Krupp  Phyllis Phillips  Leonard Stolzberg
Eleanor Chandler  Howard Gorham  John Leavey  Pauline Pierce  Lillian Sturm-Katz
Robert Chandler  Susan Gorham  Lynne Leavitt  Margaret Poutasse  Morris Terry
David Citrin  Barbara Greenbaum  Augusta Leibowitz  Norma Reiner  Ann Trabulsy
Roslyn Citrin  Karl Greenfield  Kitty Levitan  Suzanne Rosen  Dorothy van den Honert
Cathy Clark  Norma Greenfield  Marjorie Lewis  James L. Rosenberg  Elliott Vines
Ileen Cohen  Dale Grimshaw  Phil Lewis  Harriet Vines  Joyce Vormann
Len Cohen  Francis Harrington  Irene Lichtenstein  Francine Rubenstein  Terry Weaver
Lenore O. Congdon  Dolly Harte  Barbara Liebert  Jack Rubin  Anita Weinstein
Janet Cook  Martha Hartman  Marge Light  Lenore Rubin  Jerome Weinstein
Judy Cromwell  George Haus  Eileen Linton  Abbey Rubinstein  Marjorie Weinstein
Stuart Dalheim  Joanne Hayes  Anne Lostrangio  Carol Sabot  Julie Weiss
Zoe Dalheim  Maureen Hickey  Julie Lowell  Bob Mainzer  Joseph Wheelock, Jr.
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Bonnie Desrosiers  Diane Hitter  Bob McInerney  Audrey Schlanger  Eileen Young
Fran Dichter  Joyce Hovey  Bernard Mehl  Alvin Schneiderman  Evelyn Zwerner
Judith Dillon  Marilyn Hunter  Norman Michaels  Myrna Schneiderman
Genevieve Driscoll  Kay Jaffe  Wilma Michaels  Carole Schwimmer
Ann Dulye  Phyllis Jaffe 
McKinley in Adams

When I first came to Berkshire County, I wondered how a statue of President McKinley came to be located in Adams. Why was this Ohio native honored so far away from the scenes of his early political life and his presidential campaigns? It was only recently that I found a brochure describing the dedication of the statue nearly a century ago.

On a cool October day in 1903, two years after McKinley's assassination, people had gathered in the square in front of the splendid new Adams library where McKinley himself had been present when the cornerstone was laid several years earlier. Townspeople felt a kinship with him. During his several visits, his informal style had put them at ease, and it was hard to realize that he was gone. Contributions had poured in from mill workers as well as the prosperous, and the larger-than-life bronze likeness now stood solidly on its granite pedestal — the first such memorial anywhere in the land.

A special train brought Governor Bates, former Governor W. Murray Crane and other high officials to the dedication. Veterans of the Civil War who felt a comradeship with McKinley, a fellow veteran, and the Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic were there in force. A large orchestra and a chorus of over a hundred offered a Mozart mass. Several army companies stood in solid ranks as escorts alongside those who had recently served in the Cuban and Philippine campaigns.

The crowd hushed as the dedication chairman, William Plunkett, rose to speak. The Plunkett cotton mills were a major employer in town, and it was the Plunkett family's friendship with McKinley that had brought him to Adams. In the latter years of the 1890's, the country was finally shaking off the bitterly hard times of the earlier depression, and McKinley's support of strong tariffs was popular with industrialists hoping for protection from foreign competition.

Against a background of fall colors washing over the Greylock slopes, Plunkett and others spoke of the regard that the whole country felt for McKinley. In contrast to the divisions of earlier years, he had brought the country together at a time of great promise for America. He was recalled with honest affection "for goodness, for nobility" standing as the best that the country could have chosen for a leader to fulfill the vision of the Republic.

As the last notes of The Star Spangled Banner faded away, there must have been a strong feeling of pride in the hearts of those present on that day as they stood before McKinley's likeness, his hand outstretched in benevolence as we see it today.

— Robert Hartford