

B.I.L.L. BOARD

SUMMER 2003
VOLUME 11
NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR LIFETIME LEARNING

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

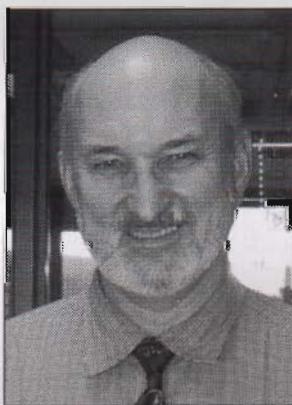
The Home, the Workplace and the Community — Abraham Sperling

The Rhenquist Court and Civil Liberties — Stephen Gottlieb

The Civil War — Paul Flaum, 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



Andrew Miller, Lecturer



Paul Flaum, Lecturer

Dates To Save

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 26: *Flamenco Republic* — Maria Pagés, 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.



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 '30's and 40's 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.

B.I.L.L. BOARD

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B.I.L.L. 2002 – 2003 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, 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 Josel	Norman Moskowitz	Roberta Shapiro
Stanley Applebaum	Edith Evans	Sandra Josel	Patricia Moynahan	Priscilla Shepherd
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Walter Bemak	Paul Flaum	Rhoda Kaminstein	Harold Nelson	Carl Shuster
Donald Bernstein	Rose Foster	Elsa Karr	Lucille Nickerson	Claudia Shuster
George Bissell	William Fox	Judy Katz	Kathy Noto	Paul Smilow
Joyce Boschen	Joyce Freundlich	Bob Kerbel	Joan Olshansky	Turbi Smilow
Arline Breskin	Joanna Fribush	Judy Keshner	Richard Onken	Elske Smith
John Brooks	Eleanor Geller	Larry Klein	David Orenstein	Judy Spencer
Ilse Browner	Michael Geller	Philip Knowles	Susan Orenstein	Paul Stein
Don Calman	Joe Gerard	John Koffel	Jane Phelan-Falcone	Jack Stern
Barbara Caplin	Arline Gilbert	Judith Korostoff	Larry Phillips	Jane Stevens
Peri Caverly	Ron Gilbert	James Kraft	Phyllis Phillips	Leonard Stolzberg
Eleanor Chandler	Roz Goldstein	Margo Krupp	Pauline Pierce	Lillian Sturm-Katz
Robert Chandler	Howard Gorham	John Leavey	Margaret Poutasse	Morris Terry
David Citrin	Susan Gorham	Lynne Leavitt	Norma Reiner	Ann Trabulsi
Roslyn Citrin	Barbara Greenbaum	Augusta Leibowitz	Suzanne Rosen	Dorothy van den Honert
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Ileen Cohen	Norma Greenfield	Marjorie Lewis	Barbara Roth	Harriet Vines
Len Cohen	Dale Grimshaw	Phil Lewis	Bill Roudebush	Joyce Vorman
Lenore O. Congdon	Francis Harrington	Irene Lichtenstein	Tom Rouse	Terry Weaver
Janet Cook	Dolly Harte	Barbara Liebert	Francine Rubenstein	Anita Weinstein
Judy Cromwell	Barbara Hartman	Marge Light	Jack Rubin	Jerome Weinstein
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Bonnie Desrosiers	Maureen Hickey	Maddy Mayor	Phyllis Sandrew	Eileen Young
Fran Dichter	Diane Hitter	Helen McCarthy	Audrey Schlanger	Evelyn Zwerner
Judith Dillon	Joyce Hovey	Bob McInerney	Alvin Schneiderman	
Genevieve Driscoll	Marilyn Hunter	Bernard Mehl	Myrna Schneiderman	
Ann Dulye	Kay Jaffe	Norman Michaels	Carole Schwimmer	
Karl Easton	Phyllis Jaffe	Wilma Michaels	Elenore Selin	

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.

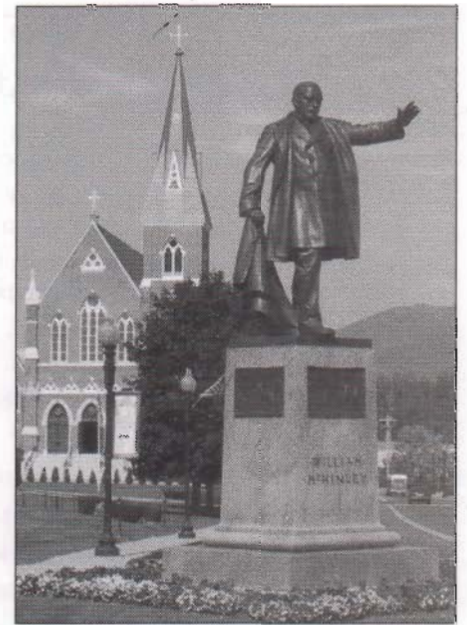
On a cool October day in 1903, two years after McKinley's assassination, people had gathered in the square in front of the splendid new Adams library where McKinley himself had been present when the cornerstone was laid several years earlier. Townspeople felt a kinship with him. During his several visits, 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

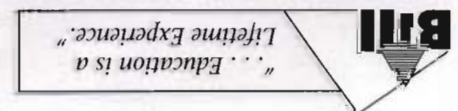
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B.L.L. adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination towards its members and students and will admit all those who apply regardless of race, religion, color or national origin.

B.L.L. Sponsors:
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