

B.I.L.L. BOARD

◆ *Newsletter of the Berkshire Institute For Lifetime Learning* ◆

Winter 1997 • VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 1

President's Message

State of the B.I.L.L.

As we begin a new year, 1997, the third year of B.I.L.L. programming, I would like to review with you the state of our institute.

The first of our Winter Lecture Series on January 17th with more than 90 of us participating was a resounding success. Based on this and the high degree of interest in the upcoming February and March lectures, this series will become a permanent part of our agenda.

Curriculum is in great shape. Ten courses will be presented during the Spring Semester. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at BCC and on Thursdays at Williams College. In addition to new offerings and new lecturers, the spring will offer sequels to former popular themes, *The Magic of the Berkshires #2* and *Music: The Voice #2*. Finishing touches are all that is required to complete curriculum for the Fall Semester which will include a new course in the popular series of "Great" historical events. There is activity to develop a course in *Alternative Medicine* for the spring of 1998.

The Special Events Committee is firming plans for a trip to Kykuit on June 16. Several additional events of interest are being evaluated for the balance of the year.

We are fiscally sound, our membership continues to grow, our committees remain vital, and the media has been very responsive to publish news releases expertly prepared by our PR people.

Our sponsors, BCC and Williams College, continue to generously support our organization and our membership continues to provide the energy necessary for our success.

1997 should prove to be a year of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Len Stoltzberg

From BCC's President

Dear B.I.L.L. Members:

I would like to thank those of you who sent contributions to the BCC Foundation Scholarship. We are on our way toward this year's goal of \$176,000 in matching funds from the state. On behalf of the college and the students who will benefit from your gifts, thank you.

Barbara Viniar

New Years Brunch 1997

On Wednesday, January 1, 85 B.I.L.L. friends shared a scrumptious Brunch at Restaurant 218 in Lenox. It was a feast fit for a King. Starting with Champagne Mimosas, the menu included the usual fare: eggs, sausage, waffles, smoked salmon and fruit salad as well as the unusual, creamed chicken, the best meat balls in the world, roast potatoes and rice pilaf, pasta, green salad, cakes and on and on. The choices seemed endless.

Each table was decorated with balloons and streamers set upon a Styrofoam stand upon which had been placed the B.I.L.L. logo. The room looked like a Hollywood set all thanks to Arlene Breskin who designed and made the sensational centerpieces.

The holiday spirit was enhanced by piano music and a sing-a-long to end the festive afternoon.

Welcoming remarks were made by Chairperson of the day, Judy Easton, President Len Stoltzberg and founder Tom Easton. The event was planned by the Special Events Committee under the able direction of Chairperson Lillian Cohen. Helping to make the day a huge success were committee members: Rita Marokko, Marge and Gerry Light, Helen Andersen, Toby Fumento and Fran Dichter.

Starting at 11:30, the festivities lasted until after 2:30. Even the weather cooperated--clear and crisp. All agreed, it was a wonderful way to begin the New Year.

First B.I.L.L. Winter Program A Hit

Good speaker, good food, good company - it was all there. The first lecture-luncheon in B.I.L.L.'s winter series was a resounding success.

Almost 90 B.I.L.L. members braved the freezing weather on January 17th at 11 AM to hear Armand Feigenbaum, a pioneer in the field of quality control and Pittsfield resident, speak about the impact of economic globalization.

In the course of sharing many stories about his travels and experiences around the world, Armand highlighted the entrance of Asian countries as key players in the marketplace. After an interesting Q & A, lunch was served. Everyone left exclaiming their delight with the program and resolving to reserve promptly for future speakers.

Thanks go to Elliot Vines and his committee, Norman Avnet, Bob Chandler, Ann Dulye, Judy Korostoff, Art Sherman, Mona Sherman and Harriet Vines.

Second Winter Program

Another Success -

Tina Packer - Artistic Director of Shakespeare and Company spoke to another full house on Thursday, the 13th, of February. Ms. Packer charmed the audience. We are so lucky to be graced by the presence of such a delightful woman and to have her company in the Berkshires.

Third Guest Speaker - Linda Ellerbee

Our third speaker, on Saturday, March 22, 1997, is Ms. Linda Ellerbee, who heads her own successful television production company, Lucky Duck Productions; producing children's programming of such high quality that, for three consecutive years the Television Critics Association honored for her outstanding achievement. For over twenty five years, Ms. Ellerbee has earned a reputation as a pioneering, highly respected and outspoken journalist, gaining wide notability as a network news correspondent, anchor, writer and producer. She has received all of television's highest honors, including several Emmy, Peabody, Cable ACE and Columbia Dupont Awards. Her first book, *And so it Goes*, remained on the NY Times best seller list for five months. Recognized as the most candid portrayal of television news ever written, it is used as a textbook in more than 100 colleges and universities across the country. Ms. Ellerbee will talk with us about journalism in today's world.

It is obvious why we are very proud to have Ms. Ellerbee speak. This is a unique opportunity to meet with an exceptional person, have the chance to ask questions after the presentation and to join with the speaker and membership at lunch, following the session.

Register - Register!!

B.I.L.L. Spring Semester 1997

We extend a warm welcome to all new members who will be taking classes for the first time and welcome back our old members some of whom will be attending their fifth semester - starting their Junior Year, so to speak.

Something new, in addition to offering classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at BCC in Pittsfield we shall hold Thursday classes at the Williams College Faculty-Alumni House in Williamstown. Lunch will be available on the Sun Porch of the Faculty Dining Room.

Our courses will again cover a great variety of subjects from ancient art to the latest in brain research. Our lecturers for this semester are drawn from our membership, from the community at large and from the faculty, both retired and active, of Williams College.

For the sake of fairness we shall hold a lottery on March 15 (when early registration closes) for any oversubscribed courses. Losers may choose to be put on a waiting list while they register for their second choice. Registration on a first-come first-served basis for open courses will then continue until the end of the first week of classes.

Most courses will consist of six weeks of classes although the semester itself will extend over seven weeks due to holidays and exam week at BCC. Please note the exact dates of the courses you are taking! Not all classes given on the same day are scheduled for the same dates.

Isle Browner
Curriculum Committee Chairman

Point and Click to B.I.L.L.

Harlan Williams has been put in touch with the Head Programmer at Williams College and they are developing a Web Site. We will be able to access information, search the news, learn about Cultural/Social and Travel Programs, Link up with other Institutes, read the catalogue, have a calendar of Events. This is a very exciting project which will keep us on the frontline of the Electronic Age.

Healthy Savings

All Members of B.I.L.L. are now eligible for Corporate Membership Rates at Berkshire West Athletic Club (BWAC). Present members of BWAC can convert their present membership to realize the benefits of the corporate rate structure. For further information, contact BWAC 413-499-4600.

Winter Wonderland -

Where did you stay? What did you do?

The awesome stillness of the gorgeous Antarctic day, drifting among towering icebergs is suddenly broken by the crackling of the Zodiac driver's lapel radio. "Orcas blowing about one quarter of a mile and to starboard". This, from the bridge of our ship the Academic Sergey Vavilov.

The shattering sound of the almost simultaneous starting of four Zodiac engines at various points in Paradise Bay; the Great Whale Chase begins. "I see them", someone shouts, and there they are! Six of them, several blows, then they sound. "Where will they come up?" Orcas sound for about six minutes and move fast. We head for where we think they'll come up and we wait, engine idling.

The six minute, breath-holding eternity ends with, "a fin over to the right." Sure enough, six of them about 30 yards in front of the Zodiac and coming straight for us, proposing as they come past, not four feet away from the Zodiac.

What beautiful animals!! Black and white with a touch of yellow on their undersides. And huge!! It's hard to believe, looking at them gracefully going by, that they are at the top of

the Antarctic food chain. Several days earlier, we had seen several of them attacking a huge humpback whale on the surface. It dived and was not seen again.

Our Elderhostel group of 77 added minimally to the only 50,000 people who have ever been to Antarctica. We filled our Russian ship to capacity; the crew was very nice, so were the accommodations. The lectures were terrific. The penguins really defy description. Their social structure and life cycle are amazing. The elephant, leopard and crabeater seagulls are everywhere. These were not animals in a zoo. You walked among them and they ignore you. The way penguins bond so that they can find their mates among thousands of look-alikes is amazing. It's fun to watch them "think" when someone blocks their "highway" to or from the water.

The Wandering Albatross, with its 10-12 foot wingspan that doesn't flap its wings for days on end as it glides over the water. The skuas who attack penguin chicks and eggs patrol the rookery with an ominous patience.

The icebergs calving off the huge glaciers or rolling over, create their own thunderous roar heard for miles in the otherwise pristine quiet. It's something that has to be seen and felt---words fail.

Oh yes!! I will get to be member of the Explorers Club, thanks to a retired USN Captain who was on the lecturers and former director of the international Antarctic logistic support operations run by the US Navy out of McMurdo Sound. He is a renowned Arctic and Antarctic historian, having lived many years in the Arctic with Inuit tribes as well as many years in the Antarctic working with the late Admiral Byrd. When he's not lecturing, he's editing "The Polar Times", a publication of the American Polar Society. I joined.

Most of the people with us had been on many trips with Elderhostel or with other organizations--I think some of them never unpack. Many of you have had similar fantastic travel experiences and we would welcome input from members who have taken great trips so that we can write about them in this column and perhaps pique the curiosity of other B.I.L.L. members.

Art and Mona Sherman

Who are the Eavesdroppers? Berkshire Talking Chronicles

You may have seen some of our lectures at B.I.L.L. being recorded. We have given permission to The Berkshire Talking Chronicle (BTC) to broadcast the lectures to the print-handicapped.

Print-handicapped is a term which covers many more people than might be expected. Total blindness is only one reason a person would be considered print-handicapped. Many people have enough sight to care for themselves and their homes, yet cannot read newsprint; others may be unable to hold or read a book or travel on their own.

A highly motivated group of volunteers is responsible for on-air readings and productions such as lectures given by B.I.L.L. and aired to those with special receivers in their homes, work places, nursing facilities, etc.

There may be as many as 500 additional people attending our classes in this way. We are BRINGING INTO DARKNESS.

Ron Gilbert

Elderhostel - Northeast Conference

April 13-15, 1997

The Elderhostel Institute Network 1997, Northeast Conference for Learning in Retirement will be held in Amherst, MA April 13-15, 1997.

The aim of the Conference is to give attendees the opportunity to discover their commonalities and differences, learn from each other's experiences and discuss shared goals and concerns. Presenters will include members and staff of 52 affiliate Institutes from the Northeast region.

Conference brochures will be available in February. For more information contact, Judith Korostoff, 413-232-7020.

B.I.L.L. Communications Committee needs

your articles, good books, favorite poems, wonderful travels, etc. Please send to Sharon Mack; Berkshire Community College, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201-5786. Articles should be in by March 24, 1997.

Error of omission in Spring Catalog

F102 - The Magic of The Berkshires: Part II
Friday, May 9, Morningside Becomes Electric

Samuel Sass - Librarian, General Electric
(Pittsfield) 1945-1976

Should read - A.B., U. of Kansas; A.B.L.S., and M.A.L.S.,
U. of Michigan; Science Librarian, U. of Kansas; Senior
Divisional Librarian, U. of Michigan.

B.I.L.L. is going to Kykuit

Save The Day!! - Monday, June 16, 1997

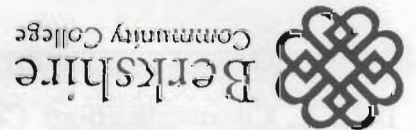
Kykuit, the home of three generations of Rockefellers is a beaux-arts villa designated by Delano and Aldrich, New York's leading country houser architects of the time. The prominent architect-decorator Ogden Codman created the elegant interiors in English Neo-classical style. The forty room mansion was completed in 1913. The principal rooms on view are largely as they were when used by Gov. and Mrs. Rockefeller and their children during the 1960's and 1970's. Furnishings include 18th and 19th century antiques, John Jr.'s oriental porcelains, Nelson's early Chinese ceramics and 20th century paintings, tapestries and prints. A collection of modern art by Picasso, Calder, Motherwell and Warhol is displayed in the gallery.

The tour will include the handsome stone coach barn housing carriages and coaches used by the family. They date from 1892. Just before World War I the barn was altered to include space for automobiles which include an early electric car, a 1916 Crane Simplex and several later models.

We will also visit the Union Church, built by the Rockefellers, with its stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, and a rose window by Henri Matisse. The tour groups will be small thus allowing a leisurely experience. Information and registration form will be sent in mid April.

Remember June 16th!

"... Education is a lifetime activity."



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