



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2010

PARTNERS WITH WILLIAMS COLLEGE, BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK & MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Fascinating FALL 2010 Semester

The Curriculum Committee has been hard at work and has come up with an outstanding roster of courses for the Fall. Courses will be offered at various venues beginning September 13 and continuing through November 3. Please see the Fall 2010 Catalog for specific times and locations. Visit our website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org for more details.

MONDAY

BCC Pittsfield and Great Barrington

Avian Trajectories: Where Birds Are Going in Time and Space – Richard Ferren
Today's Headlines – James Cotter
America 1936 to 1945: Scenes, Stories and Perspectives – David Auerbach
A Critical Look at the American Civil War: 1860 to 1865 – Stacy Wallach

TUESDAY

Bard College at Simons Rock; Canyon Ranch

A Survey of American Literature: Henry James and W.E.B. Du Bois – J. Kraft
Canyon Ranch: Brain Fitness – Diane Dillon, Mark Gerow, Heather Giordano, Tereza Hubkova, Jeff Rossman, Chrissey Wellington
Made in America: The Triumph of 20th Century American Choreographers 1920 to 2010 – Allison Tracy
Sometimes the Little Guy Wins: Battles of the American Revolution – Stanley Applebaum

WEDNESDAY

The Clark; Bennington Museum; Williams College; MCLA

Human Impact on the Environment – Daniel Shustack
The Short Stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne – Lea Newman
The Role of Law in American Democracy – Philip McKnight
The One and the Many: Reflections of Diversity in Western Religions – D. Buell, E. Dekel, G. Hedreen, T. Huff, P. Low, B. Rubin, M. Stackhouse
Good Vibrations: The Chaotic and Cacophonous Woodwind Family – S. Bodner, F. Hebert, C. Jenkins, S. Martula, S. Walt
Encountering the Tales of the Genji: 1,000 Years Later – Shinko Kagaya

THURSDAY

Hancock Shaker Village; Housatonic Valley Association

Get to Know the Housatonic Watershed – Alison Dixon
Tudor-Stuart England: 1485 to 1714 – David Hosford
Mythology – Paul Flaum
The Civil War in Fiction: A Sampling – John Toffey

FRIDAY

BCC Pittsfield

The Art of Cooking: Italian Cuisine II – Howard Arkans
Architectural Gems: Selected Sites – B. Blonder, J. Brooks, S. Haas, F. Rudolph and D. Rudolph, J. Weber and L. Weber, D. Wedlick
Unforgettable Performances of Puccini Operas – Peter Podol



Stanley Applebaum



Philip McKnight

Fall Photo Contest Winner

Betty Sartori of Cheshire submitted the winning photo which appears on the cover of the Fall 2010 Catalog. The photo was taken in Clarksburg, MA, with a Nikon D80 camera, 68 mm equivalent lens, F5.3, ISO 100 at 1/800 sec.

Winter 2011 Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photo will be on the cover of the Winter 2011 Catalog and the winner will receive a 1-year free membership to OLLI.

THEME: Berkshire winter scene

SPECS: Digital format (jpeg, tiff, bmp), 3.2 mega-pixels or greater

DEADLINE: September 24, 2010

SUBMIT: E-mail attached photos to Bob.Desrosiers@Gmail.com.

For further details visit the OLLI website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

President's Message

Programs and activities for the 2010/2011 OLLI year are ready to begin and the semester looks as though it will be outstanding. Courses will include *A Critical Look at the American Civil War; Mythology; The One and the Many: Reflections of Diversity in Western Religions; Human Impact on the Environment; The Short Stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne* and many more. OLLI's four curriculum committees: science, social science, arts and literature, have worked hard to plan these exciting courses.

The OLLI Board welcomes three new members—Ruth Degenhardt, Robert Rosen and Ronald Stewart. We look forward to their new ideas and participation. At the same time we want to thank the three outgoing members of the OLLI Board—Stan Applebaum, Alexandra Warshaw and Susan Crampton—for their support and contributions. I know all three will continue to be active members of OLLI and contribute when called upon. Stan will be teaching a fascinating course called *Sometimes the Little Guy Wins: Battles of the American Revolution*. It is not to be missed.

In addition to the courses, interesting Special Events and Distinguished Speaker programs will continue to be offered throughout the year. In an effort to save on postage and to “go green,” we will not be sending notices through snail mail. To be aware of these programs, please be sure to read your e-mail messages from OLLI.

Membership continues to grow at a steady pace. We have over 950 members—almost reaching our goal of 1,000. When we reach 1,000 members, we will be able to apply for a second \$1 million endowment gift from The Bernard Osher Foundation. Please help us reach that goal. Recruit new members! Renew your membership! Enjoy our eclectic offerings!



Getting to Know Arline Breskin... Encore

In 1998, Arline Breskin, chair of the Special Events Committee, was highlighted in this column because of the important work she did for the BILL organization. Now in 2010, Arline and the work that she does continues to be an important component of the OLLI organization. She and her committee members are responsible for all the varied and insightful trips OLLI offers and for the delicious food served on those occasions.

Arline, a graduate of Tufts University, began her career as an Occupational Therapist working with children in an orthopedic setting. Later, while living in Westchester County, she started a catering business. She and her late husband, John Koffel, whom she met at tennis camp, were together for thirty-one years. They moved to Berkshire County in 1995 and remodeled their beautiful Lee home themselves. Between them there are 7 children and 13 grandchildren living all over the world.



In recognition of Arline's many and tireless achievements since the last interview, she was asked by the Northeast Region of the Elderhostel Institute of Learning in Retirement to present two workshops on running and planning special events: one in Portland, Maine, and the second in Salem, Massachusetts. She presented these programs with her former committee co-chair, Ann Dulye.

Asked why she continues to do this job for OLLI, Arline said “it is because our committee is creative, democratic and we have a good time. Each success drives the

next round of events, and trip evaluation comment sheets are always gratifying to read. Serving as committee chair has forced me to become a computer expert. I learned because I had to and now I am grateful. Most of all, I have enjoyed meeting new people: those who take the trips and the contacts I have made at the museums and other venues we visit.”

The Special Events Committee has scheduled two trips for its members in the fall: a walk through Saratoga's Revolutionary Battlefield to enrich the fall course *Sometimes the Little Guy Wins: Battles of the American Revolution* and a trip to Hyde Park to enrich *America 1936-1945: Scenes, Stories and Perspectives*.

Arline says “The joy of the job is having members participate by attending the events.”

Let's keep Arline happy!

—Marilyn Margolis, Associate Editor

OLLI NEWSLETTER

Editor: Sandra Rubin

Associate Editor: Marilyn Margolis

Assistant Editors: Peri Caverly, Marge Lewis, Wilma Michaels,

Elizabeth Tierney

Editorial Staff: Norman Avnet, Joanna Fribush, Judy Katz,

Helen-Mary Shaffer, Art Sherman

Annual Convocation and Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture

OLLI's Annual Meeting was held at The Colonial Theatre on May 21, 2010. Howard Arkans, President of OLLI, opened the proceedings by welcoming members and thanking OLLI's cultural partner, The Colonial Theatre, for hosting the event. He introduced OLLI Executive Director, Barbara Hochberg, who thanked the volunteers whose efforts and support help the organization. She also acknowledged the contributions of OLLI's Educational Partners, addressing not only their assistance in making facilities available for classes, but also for their instructional and technical support.

President Arkans then called the Business Meeting to order. He acknowledged Bob Desrosiers for his ongoing technical contributions to OLLI, noting his efforts in establishing the Video Conferencing System. He pointed out that OLLI's membership has grown to 952, but the organization needs 1,000 members in order to apply for a second endowment gift of \$1 million from The Bernard

Osher Foundation. He encouraged all assembled to recruit new members.

Norman Michaels, OLLI treasurer, presented the Financial Report and projected a surplus of \$56,340 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

President Arkans next presented four resolutions, each of which constituted changes to the OLLI at BCC Bylaws. The first resolution refers to the fact that the Executive Director is responsible both to the BCC Lifelong Learning and Workforce Development Deans and to the OLLI at BCC Board of Directors; the second resolution states that the President of the Board shall preside as Chair of the Executive Support and Appraisal Team and be a member of the Governance Committee; the third change states that the Legal Advisor can serve as the only non-voting ex-officio member of the Board; and finally all reference to a Parliamentarian shall be eliminated from the Bylaws. The changes were passed unanimously.

President Arkans next presented the slate of new and existing members

of the OLLI Board of Directors which includes new members: Ruth Degenhardt, Robert Rosen and Ronald Stewart and existing members: Marilyn Brimberg, Bonnie Desrosiers, Joe Gerard, Norma Leavey, Norman Michaels, Wilma Michaels and Arthur Sherman. A vote was called and the slate was approved unanimously.

Following the business meeting, Lisa Starkey, Mona Sherman's daughter, introduced Jane Velez-Mitchell, the host of HLN's "Issues with Jane Velez-Mitchell" and speaker for the Second Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture. Lisa's opening remarks included a tribute to her mother and her dedication to OLLI. The subject of the Ms. Velez-Mitchell's lecture was "Addict Nation." After describing her own background and interest in the subject, she spoke of the many "addictions" from which society suffers ranging from alcoholism to drugs to food and overconsumption of consumer goods. Ms Velez-Mitchell's passion for her topic moved the audience to continue the dialogue after the meeting.

OLLI at BCC Mentoring Program

In the spring of 2009, a small committed group of OLLI members met to consider the idea of a mentoring program that would match OLLI mentors with Berkshire Community College students who were exploring career options. That meeting was followed with a luncheon to discuss the concept with senior BCC faculty from disciplines across the curriculum. Later, a similar meeting was held with BCC students to ascertain how a mentor might have benefited them.

In the fall of 2009, a pilot program was launched. Dr. Carole Siegel, an OLLI member with a great deal of professional mentoring experience, chaired the program. A Mission Statement was adopted by a committee that included OLLI members, BCC faculty and the Dean of Academic Affairs at the College. It states:

The mission is to provide BCC students who are exploring career choices with the framework for productive relationships with professionals from those career paths. These relationships will allow students to make positive connections between baccalaureate and graduate education, the world of work and their BCC experience. Students will be assisted in developing personal skills and awareness of the marketplace to assist them in making wise career decisions.

Throughout the fall and spring 2010 semesters, seven mentors worked with students to help them realize the complexities of the workplace and the options involved in careers ranging from health to education to social work. They met with students on an average of twice a month for an hour to two hours. This pilot phase encountered problems and successes

and has helped inform the evolution of the program.

The OLLI at BCC Mentoring Program must grow in a measured way. The need for professional college staff to administer the program, the need for a sophisticated training program for mentors and the desire to make sure that we launch this enterprise correctly are mandating our cautious start. For these reasons, we are not yet ready to issue an official call for mentors. If you think you might like to participate in the program, however, please e-mail Barbara Hochberg, OLLI's Executive Director, at bhochber@berkshirecc.edu. Please explain why you are interested, verify that you would be willing to attend mentor training sessions and state your career expertise.

Faculty Appreciation Dinner

The Faculty Appreciation Dinner held on Tuesday, May 25, at BCC was a success! Over 70 lecturers, Board members and guests attended. Thanks to Adele Cukor's outstanding party planning skills, the reception, room décor and dinner were superb.



*Top: Paul Flaum, Marilyn Flaum, Shirley Shapiro, Howard Shapiro
Middle: Adele Cukor, Event Chair and Barbara Hochberg, OLLI
Executive Director
Bottom: Bob Rosen, Diane Saunders, Stacy Wallach, Jennifer Kay
Right: Art Sherman, Norman Michaels, Mary Hoeltzel*

You're invited to the 2010
**OLLI at BCC
2nd ANNUAL
OPEN HOUSE
and ART SHOW**
Saturday, Aug. 21 2-5
Sunday, Aug. 22 10-2

The Welles Gallery
at The Lenox Library
Main Street, Lenox



*Wine and Hors d'oeuvres
Saturday Reception*

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OLLI Open House launches the
Fall 2010 semester. Art Show
features works by OLLI members.
Some artwork available for purchase.

For more information
call 413.236.2190
or e-mail
OLLI@Berkshirecc.edu

Meet OLLI's New Board Members

Three new people have been elected to the Board of Directors of OLLI at Berkshire Community College. Their backgrounds, enthusiasm and talents assure that OLLI will continue to be in the hands of capable, friendly, energetic and intelligent people.

RUTH T. DEGENHARDT was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. She has a strong interest in music and was awarded the Worcester Young Artists Award in her senior year of high school. She studied music at Boston University's College of Music where, as a member of the BU Chorus, she performed at Carnegie Hall at the American debut of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* under the direction of Leopold Stokowski. This, she says, was "heady stuff for a college freshman!" She later changed her major to history and wanted to pursue a graduate degree in Russian studies, but changed her plans after her marriage to Dick, whom we remember with affection and admiration. After raising her family, she studied Library Science and worked at the Berkshire Athenaeum where she became Supervisor of Local History and Genealogy, a renowned division of the library. In her spare time, Ruth enjoys photography, travel, music,



gardening, Herman Melville and cats. But she always has room for OLLI!

ROBERT ROSEN, a Fellow Emeritus of The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, graduated Brooklyn Law School in 1964 and retired to the Berkshires after a 45-year career as a trial lawyer in New York. Bob was vice president of the National Employment Lawyer's New York affiliate (NELA/NY), co-chair of the Suffolk County Bar Association Labor and Employment Committee and a certified mediator for the U.S. Federal Courts and the Nassau County Bar Association in labor and employment law matters. Bob frequently lectured on trial practice in employment law and was honored by NELA/NY in 2000 with the Courageous Plaintiff's Attorney Award. Bob and his wife, Diane Saunders, are world travelers, cross-country skiers, hikers, kayakers and avid cyclists. Bob administers the town of Otis Pool and Billiard League and is involved in other community activities in Otis where he and Diane reside. Bob also writes articles on Senior Pursuits in the Berkshires; his articles have been published in *The Berkshire Eagle*, the *Country Journal* and the *Otis Gazette*. He welcomes



the exciting challenges that OLLI presents.

RON STEWART was born in Fort Lauderdale and educated at Florida State University. He retired from the federal government in 2002 after 38 years in the Social Security division after which he and Martha, his wife of 43 years, moved to Lenox. Retired? Yes. Sitting around? No. Ron volunteers at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Ventfort Hall, the Lenox Library, the Lenox Community Center and the Lenox Town Hall. He also plays tennis and takes spinning classes at the Berkshire West Athletic Club. He's been a member of BILL/OLLI for five years and has attended classes at all the venues including The Clark, Simon's Rock, the Lenox Library, Shaker Village and Berkshire Community College. An example of "lifelong learning," he brings energy and dedication to OLLI.



Art Sherman Receives BCC President's Award

Berkshire Community College's 2010 President's Award was presented at the 50th Commencement Exercises on June 4 to Art Sherman in recognition of his remarkable effort and success in obtaining support from The Bernard Osher Foundation for the transformation of BILL into OLLI at BCC. He accomplished this jointly with his late wife, Mona Sherman. Art was also recognized for lending expertise and direction toward the establishment of the mentor program for BCC students. Art is a former President of BILL.



Upcoming Events and Lectures

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

August 4 – John Stomberg

Williams College Museum of Art
The Emergence of Photojournalism in the U.S.

August 13 – Tom L. Freudenheim
Hancock Shaker Village

A World of Museums: A Life in the Museum World

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 1 – Saratoga National Park
Revolutionary War Battle Site (in conjunction with the fall class:
Sometimes the Little Guy Wins: Battles of the American Revolution)

October 10 –Barrington Stage Co.
The Crucible
Brunch prepared by OLLI chefs
Pre-theater talk, Paul Flaum

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Edna St. Vincent Millay wrote “My candleburns at both ends,” a line which in some measure captures the spirit, brilliance and philosophy of her poetry and life. Millay’s story, as reflected in her poetry, is one of adventure, self-expression, love, freedom and concern for others. She stirred her generation to defy tradition and in the twenties she became a popular poet among students on college campuses and with the Bohemian set in Greenwich Village. In 1923 she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for *The Harp-Weaver and Other Poems*. Later during the period between World War I and the beginning of World War II in Europe, she added social justice and international concerns to her themes.

Edna St. Vincent Millay was born in Rockland, Maine, in 1892. Her mother inspired her to begin writing poetry, and a children’s magazine published her first poems when she

was fourteen. At nineteen she wrote “Renascence” for a contest. She did not win; however, “Renascence” was later published in *The Lyric Year*. It was recognized by literary critics and led to her receiving a scholarship to Vassar College in 1913. She was older than her classmates and, according to *The Vassar Encyclopedia*, she developed a reputation for breaking college rules and almost failed to graduate. However, the faculty signed a petition that allowed her to receive her degree but denied her permission to participate in the graduation ceremonies even though the program included singing the “Baccalaureate Hymn” which she had composed.

After Vassar and her Greenwich Village life, she traveled in the United States and around the world writing and reading her work which included popular stories written under the pen name Nancy Boyd. In 1923

she married Eugen van Boissevain, a business man, and in 1925 they came to the Berkshires. Theirs was an “open” marriage and both had other relationships. She and her husband bought a farm in Austerlitz, New York, which she named Steepletop and where she lived until her death in 1950.

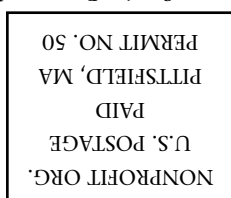


Millay’s interest in social themes remained and in her later years she wrote a book-length poem: *The Murder of Lidice* about Nazi atrocities in Czechoslovakia, which was broadcast in Europe.

Millay’s home, history and work are preserved at nearby Steepletop which was named a National Historic Landmark in 1971. Tours of her gardens and home, including the Poet’s Walk that leads to her grave, are open to the public through mid-October.

— Joanna Fribush, Editorial Staff

Return Service Requested



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