



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WINTER 2009

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

Wonderful Winter 2009 Semester

From January 19 through March 19, OLLI will be offering an exciting array of new and exciting courses. Break the winter doldrums and register for classes! For your convenience, classes will be held at various locations throughout Berkshire County. See the catalog for complete details or visit our website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

MONDAY Intermodal Transportation Center, Pittsfield

- M101 *Understanding the Brain*
- M102 *The Creative Experience*
- M103 *All Music is Folk Music*

TUESDAY Triplex Cinema, Gt. Barrington & Lenox Library

- T101 *Tuesdays at the Movies*
- T102 *Travel Adventures*

WEDNESDAY Lenox Library and Shakespeare & Co., Lenox

- W101 *Today's Headlines*
- W102 *Anatomy & Physiology for the Layman*
- W103 *Finding Shakespeare*

THURSDAY Lenox Library

- TH101 *Cold Comfort Comedy: Play Reading*
- TH102 *Italian Renaissance Painting*
- TH103 *A Certain Slant of Light: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson*

FRIDAY BCC South, Gt. Barrington & Lenox Library

- F101 *Open Painting Studio*
- F102 *Great Ideas of Psychology*
- F103 *Water, Water, Everywhere: But is There a Drop to Drink?*



Sharon Mack, Moderator
The Creative Experience



SCOTT BARROW

Seth Rogovoy, Lecturer
All Music is Folk Music



OLLI Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photo will be on the cover of the Spring 2009 catalog, and the winner will receive a 1-year free membership to OLLI.

THEME: Berkshire area spring/summer scene

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

DEADLINE: January 10, 2009

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

Visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for further details.

Winter Photo Contest Winner

Steve Blanchard, a member of OLLI and the Berkshire Museum Camera Club, submitted the winning photo entitled "Snow Light" which appears on the cover of the Winter 2009 Catalog. The photo was taken after a snowfall on February 23, 2007, at his home in Interlaken with a Nikon D70 at ISO 200, 1/500 sec. at F11, zoom lens at 40 mm.

President's Message

We at OLLI at BCC are excited that we have had the most successful fall semester in our history. Our membership has increased from 800 to over 850 with a higher enrollment in courses than ever before. The varied courses were among the most interesting OLLI has ever presented with attendance at some courses overflowing the rooms. We had live interactive video from BCC main campus to BCC south campus for two courses this semester making it more accessible for those members living in South County. We also had our first hands-on cooking class in BCC's culinary lab. All in all, it has been a most successful start to the 2008-2009 OLLI at BCC season. Our committees continue to explore new and innovative programs. We are moving forward and growing; future semesters now being planned look terrific.

We received our second year Osher grant and are looking forward to applying for an endowment in 2009 that will help us continue to flourish. The Osher Foundation expects us to continue to produce new, innovative adult learning opportunities and to expand upon what we are currently doing. The money we receive from the Foundation is to be used for growth and development—not as funding for our current budgets and programs. So far, the grants have allowed us to hire an Executive Director who is engineering our improvement. They have also allowed us to videoconference courses. The endowment will enable us to continue and build on these programs and to add new ones.

What do we need? We need you! We need volunteers to help plan our courses, special events trips and speaker lectures. We need volunteers to serve on committees and on the Board. We need you to give us input. Just contact the OLLI office at (413.236.2190); let us know your interests, and we'll get you involved.



In Memoriam

Mona Sherman passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 15. She served BILL and OLLI with great enthusiasm and dedication over many years holding numerous Board positions including President, First Vice President and Curriculum Committee Chair of BILL. While continuing to serve on the OLLI Board, she and her husband Arthur Sherman, also a Past President of BILL, were instrumental in securing our affiliation with The Osher Foundation. Her contributions have had and continue to have a very significant impact on our organization. We will miss her greatly.

From The Bernard Osher Foundation

These messages of condolence about Mona Sherman were received by Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director of OLLI at BCC:

This is very sad news. Mona was a remarkable, dynamic, and effective advocate for the lifelong learning program at BCC. Please know that our thoughts are with you and your colleagues at BCC at this very difficult time. Mona will be greatly missed.

— Sincerely, David Blazeovich, Senior Program Officer

It is with great sadness that I learned from your note to David of Mona Sherman's untimely death. No one seemed more fit or enthusiastic about life than Mona.

I recall Mona's irrepressibility as she and Art approached the Foundation several years ago for consideration of support. Because we had several Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes in Massachusetts, we wanted to complete the national network geographically before providing for additional programs in a single state. Of course, Mona's perseverance and the very high quality of your program sealed the deal, and we couldn't be happier in having the Berkshire program be an Osher Institute.

Please convey to your Institute colleagues our high regard for the leadership Mona provided over the years and our deepest sympathy at her passing.

— All good wishes, Mary G.F. Bitterman, President

Upcoming Events and Lectures

Special Events

MAY • New Britain Museum of Art, Connecticut

JUNE • Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

JULY • New York City Ballet at SPAC

Distinguished Speaker Series

DECEMBER 8 • Leonard Cohen
"The U.S. Supreme Court"

MARCH 5 - 26 • Michael Cassin
The Clark Art Series (Thursdays)

OLLI NEWSLETTER

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OLLI Catalog Update

Eye-catching. Colorful. Professional. That's OLLI's course catalog published three times a year—fall, winter and spring—by the Catalog Committee. It includes information about the organization, listings and descriptions of courses, an overview of the semester schedule, class locations, registration form, member questionnaire and a list of upcoming lectures and events.

Information is provided by members of each of the four subcommittees of the Curriculum Committee (Arts, Literature, Science and Social Science) responsible for course development. They also complete Instructor Forms that include course content, dates, times, suggested/required readings and biographical information on each instructor.

All information conforms to a set format and is edited for clarity by committee members. The catalog is then assembled, proofread and sent to graphic designer Jane McWhorter for layout and proofread again before printing. If there is space, photos of classroom lectures and special events are included. The seasonal photo for the cover is selected from images sent in by those who participate in a photo contest each semester.

The Catalog Committee is looking for members who are interested in editing and proofreading.

It is also looking for a person or persons to become Editor or Co-editor/s of the catalog beginning with the fall 2009 edition. The work on that catalog begins in April.

If you have computer skills and are comfortable using Word, enjoy working with details, editing and proofreading consider this opportunity to oversee an outstanding publication. And most important, you will have the support of a competent, dynamic, hard-working committee.

For more information about the Catalog Committee, e-mail me at bdesros1@berkshire.rr.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

— Bonnie Desrosiers, Editor

Getting to Know Lora and Sigmund Tobias

The OLLI Distinguished Speaker Series is fortunate to have as its co-chairs the impressive and accomplished duo of Lora and Sig Tobias. Lora, who has a Masters degree in Education from the City College of New York, was a reading specialist, teacher trainer and staff developer for the NYC Department of Education. Sig, whose Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology is from Columbia University, continues his affiliation with that university as a Distinguished Research Scientist at the Institute of Urban and Minority Education at Teacher's College.

The couple came to Berkshire County for its beauty and culture becoming permanent residents in 2003. Lora's introduction to BILL was through a course she took on Nathaniel Hawthorne's short stories. She wrote a thank you note to the BILL office and was invited to join the Literature Committee. Lora has contributed to that committee and has helped to develop many courses. In the spring of 2007, Sig was a lecturer in an OLLI course, *Amazing Survival Stories*, and that fall, he presented a course called *Learning From Instruction: New Insights*.

Both Lora and Sig have interesting personal histories. Lora is writing a family memoir which she hopes to publish. She traces her ancestry to 1653 when the first family member arrived in Schriesheim, Germany, near Heidelberg. She was the tenth generation of her family to be born in this small German village. Her family fled to the U.S. from Nazi Germany in 1938.

Having also fled the Nazis with his family, Sig spent the war years in Shanghai. While there, he attended The Mirrer Yeshiva. More about his story can be learned by reading his book, *Strange Haven: A Jewish Childhood in Wartime Shanghai*, which describes his family's escape from the Holocaust in Germany and their hardships in a Japanese controlled ghetto in Shanghai. He participated in two documentary films made about the Shanghai Jewish refugee community. Sig's book will be out in paperback this winter.

The Tobias's are deeply involved in cultural and recreational activities of the Berkshires. Lora volunteers for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and co-chairs the book club at Knesset Israel. Sig is an avid skier. They have made many friends here, some of whom through suggestions and referrals, have helped the Tobias's make OLLI's Distinguished Speaker Series a success.

We appreciate Lora and Sig's efforts. — Marilyn Margolis, Editorial Staff



*Happy Holidays
and Happy New Year*

OLLI Newsletter Update

B.I.L.L.BOARD, our first newsletter, was published in December 1994 and consisted of only two pages. The acronym B.I.L.L. stood for Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning. Over the years, a professional graphic designer for layout and design was hired, the newsletter banner changed, the number of pages increased, contents went from black and white to color, paper quality improved and photos were added. In the fall of 2007, when OLLI became affiliated with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, our banner became *OLLI Newsletter*.

OLLI Newsletter is published three times a year: fall, winter and spring. The issues range in length from four to eight pages depending on the amount of information. The newsletter contains information about upcoming OLLI events, committees

and programs as well as special reports and photos of activities. Each issue includes a message from OLLI's President, highlights backgrounds of members or lecturers and may contain feature articles written by the newsletter staff about a wide variety of subjects. The Editorial Staff meets three times a year to plan upcoming issues.

The appearance, style and quality of the contents of the newsletter reflect the efforts of a very committed and long-standing editorial staff of contributing members who have been working together for many years. The editor works closely with professional graphic designer Jane McWhorter on the visual presentation including page layout, color selection and photographs. Additional members of the *OLLI Newsletter* editorial staff are President Howard Arkans

and Executive Director Barbara Hochberg.

I served as editor from the fall of 1998 through the summer 2001 issue and retook the position in the fall of 2007. The spring 2009 issue will be the last for which I will serve as editor. After that, I will stay on as a contributing member of the editorial staff.

I am pleased to announce that Sandi Rubin will be taking over as editor in the fall of 2009 and will be assisted by Marilyn Margolis. Both Sandi and Marilyn have served on the newsletter Editorial Staff for several years.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the *OLLI Newsletter* Editorial Staff, please contact me at wmichaels40@aol.com.

— Wilma Michaels, Editor

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