



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2008

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

OLLI's Fall 2008 Semester

You Won't Want to Miss It!!

Twenty-one courses in the **arts, sciences, literature and social sciences** will be given in various venues throughout the county for ease of access. Varying in length from four to six weeks, they will be presented in lecture, seminar, hands-on and videoconferencing formats, and for the first time a Saturday course is being offered. Courses begin September 11 through November 6. See the Fall 2008 Catalog for details.

MONDAY

Canyon Ranch
BCC Pittsfield & Gt. Barrington

Canyon Ranch: Energy Medicine – K. Clady-Giramma, J. Doucette, D. Hampton, T. LePine, T. Plunkett
Today's Headlines – James Cotter, Moderator
My Body, My Mind: Critical Health Issues in Our Mature Years (VC) – Jesse Spector, M.D.
A Survey of American Literature: Part III (VC) – J. Kraft

TUESDAY

Simon's Rock, Gt. Barrington

Re-Imagining China: Historical Geography, Cultural Politics and Globalization – Christopher Coggins
20th Century Yiddish and German Jewish Writers – Richard Macht
The "All-Time" Greatest Films From Spain – Peter Podol

WEDNESDAY

The Clark, Williams College
MASS MoCA, Bennington Museum, VT

Contemporary Art Made Easy – S. Cross, D. Markonish
The Poetry of Robert Frost – Lea Newman
The Silk Road – G. Crane, W. Darrow, G. Dreyfus, H. Edwards
Elections 2008 – Paul Flaum
Frontiers of Science: Discovery, Development and Function of Human Medicines – C. Lovett, D. Richardson, T. Smith

THURSDAY

Hancock Shaker Village
Morris Elementary School, Lenox

Tragic Business Failures – Larry Greenapple
With Hands to Work and Hearts to God: America's Communal Utopias – C. Goodwillie, T. Burdick
Dashiell Hammett and Lillian Hellman: A Hard-Boiled Duo – Phyllis Jaffe
"Free" Energy: How Do We Get It? – D. Burton, O. Holmes
John Maynard Keynes: The Shaping of the Modern World (Evening) – Walker Todd

FRIDAY

BCC Pittsfield, Iris Gallery, Gt. Barrington

The Art of Cooking: Italian Cuisine – Howard Arkans
HIV/AIDS: Behavioral Interventions That Work in Developing Countries – P. Aucoin, A. Fisher, R. Intres
Photography and Perception – G. Cherin, A. Collins, S. Donaldson, K. Emerling, D. Ricci, C. Steiner

SATURDAY

Simon's Rock, Gt. Barrington

What You Need to Know About Mushrooms – Donald Roeder

(VC) Videoconferencing

OLLI Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photo will be on the cover of the Winter 2009 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 14, 2008

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

For further details visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

Photo Contest Winner

Betty Sartori of Cheshire, MA, a member of the Berkshire Museum Camera Club, submitted the winning photo entitled "Harvest Time" which appears on the cover of the Fall 2008 Catalog. The photo was taken with a Nikon D80 at ISO 100. F7, 1/800 sec. at Ioka Farm, Hancock, MA.

President's Message

After a very successful first year, we are proud to announce that the Osher Foundation has approved funding for a second year for OLLI at BCC. We have increased our course offerings by over 30 percent, initiated a summer semester, video transmitted a course between Pittsfield and Great Barrington and continued our outstanding special events and distinguished speakers' series. We recently approved new bylaws which allow us to operate with an Executive Director within our new framework as an OLLI. Wow, that's a lot of stuff for one year!

Under the new bylaws all but two Board members are elected by the membership. The only non-elected Board members are the past President and the Dean of LifeLong Learning from BCC. Also, the new bylaws provide for new committees organized in a more efficient manner.

Barbara Hochberg and I attended the national meeting of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes this past April in Phoenix. There are over 119 OLLIs around the country. We attended seminars on topics from stimulating volunteering to developing innovative programming. We came back with many ideas for making OLLI at BCC one of the most successful in the country. We are unique in that our OLLI has a vast geographic area with course offerings at multiple facilities.

Where do we go from here? We will continue to offer outstanding special events and distinguished speakers. The Cultural Partners program is unique among OLLIs and will continue to afford us many benefits including great courses and discounts for our members. We are certainly fortunate to be in an area so rich in diverse cultural offerings.

Our educational partnerships with four colleges are also unique among OLLIs allowing us to tap into many areas of expertise. Peer-taught courses by retired OLLI members who are experts in many fields enrich our curriculum. We have offered not only lectures but seminars such as Nabokov's *Lolita* in the spring semester, gardening at Seranak in the summer and Italian cooking in the fall. The Curriculum Committee continues to be innovative.

This year our major goals are to increase both our membership and volunteer participation. We now have approximately 800 members and hope to reach the one thousand mark. A task force is being formed to achieve this goal.

We also need our membership to be more active. My call to you is to find an area of interest and let us know about it, encourage your friends to join OLLI, participate in more OLLI programs and events and join a committee. Our committees will welcome you. Pick up the phone. Call our office. Send us an e-mail. However you do it, we need your assistance and input.



OLLI NEWSLETTER

Editor: Wilma Michaels

Assistant Editors: Peri Caverly and Marge Lewis

Proofreaders: Norman Avnet, Bonnie Desrosiers, Marilyn Margolis, Sandi Rubin, Helen-Mary Shaffer

Editorial Staff: Joanna Fribush, Judy Katz, Art Sherman

Board of Directors 2008 – 2009

Howard Arkans, *President*
Norma Leavey, *Vice President*
Norman Michaels, *Treasurer*
Sandi Rubin, *Secretary*

Stanley Applebaum • Arline Breskin
Marilyn Brimberg • Leonard Cohen
Richard Degenhardt • Bonnie
Desrosiers • Robert Desrosiers
Phyllis Epstein • Joseph Gerard
Wilma Michaels • Arthur Sherman
Lora Tobias • Alexandra Warshaw

Barbara Hochberg, *Executive Director*
William Mulholland, *OLLI at BCC*
Liaison

Upcoming Events and Lectures

AUGUST

- Berkshire Opera, *Secrets of the Sky & Sea*
- Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary Canoe Trip
- Berkshire Opera, *Le nozze di Figaro*
- Chester Theatre Company, *Tilted Windows* and Brunch at the Antique Railroad Station
- DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES:
 - Nancy Mowll Mathews, *Founding Fathers and Their Model American Sons*, Williams College Museum of Art
 - Phyllis Jaffe, *Writers of the Algonquin Round Table*
 - William Gouveia, *Pharmaceuticals, Science, Policy and the Role of the Pharmacist*

SEPTEMBER

- Fruitlands Museum (Bus Trip)

OCTOBER

- Yiddish Book Center & Smith College Museum of Art (Bus Trip)

Flyers with specific information will be mailed to you.

Event information is also available at www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

OLLI at BCC is Alive and Flourishing!

CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 3, 2008

The meeting was held this year in the beautiful theater at Barrington Stage. President Howard Arkans welcomed members of OLLI at BCC and thanked the many volunteers and administrators who made this first OLLI year such a success. He particularly thanked Art Sherman—the moving force behind the formation of OLLI at BCC. He introduced special guests from BCC including: Paul Raverta, President; Fran Feinerman, Dean of Academic Affairs; Jeff Doscher, Dean of Institutional Advancement; Deb Cote, Director of Human Resources; and Bill Mulholland, Dean of LifeLong Learning and Workforce Development and OLLI's liaison.

Julianne Boyd, Artistic Director of Barrington Stage, warmly welcomed the audience to her "home." Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director of OLLI at BCC, then introduced the guest speaker, Kali Lightfoot, Executive Director of the OLLI National Resource Center at the University of Southern Maine.

In a talk scattered throughout with wit and humor, Kali Lightfoot explained the origin and progress of the Osher project and its expansion to 119 OLLIs nationwide. It began in

1962 when the first Lifelong Learning Institute was established at the New School for Social Research in NYC. Gradually other educational organizations formed their own institutes. The University of Southern Maine formed the Senior College Initiative that was funded by the state. Later, to their delight, Bernard Osher, a philanthropist from San Francisco, endowed them with \$2 million. In 2004, the National Resource Center for Osher, headed by Ms. Lightfoot, was organized to facilitate connections among OLLIs nationwide and to answer questions and furnish models for organizations.

A business meeting followed the speaker. President Arkans remarked on OLLI at BCC's unique program of Cultural Partners, the 32 percent increase in the number of course offerings, the new summer program, hands-on learning courses for this fall and the initiation of our live, fully interactive course offerings between two distant classrooms. Before the



Kali Lightfoot

end of the coming year, the next grant of \$100,000 will be forthcoming. We have been asked by Osher to apply for a \$1 million endowment in January 2009. President Arkans noted that an increase in membership from

our present 800 to 1,000 is needed to apply for a second \$1 million endowment, and we will be making a major effort to reach this goal.

Norman Michaels, Treasurer, presented the financial reports. He announced that the Executive Director will be working 3/4 rather than 1/2 time starting July 1.

The Treasurer's report, the revised Bylaws and the new Board of Directors were approved unanimously by the membership present.

The audience was entertained by Berkapella, a talented group of music students from BCC. Refreshments were prepared and served by the Special Events Committee with Chair Arline Breskin supervising. OLLI balloons decorated the podium and the reception area adding to the upbeat mood of the Annual Meeting.

— Marge Lewis, Assistant Editor

Videoconferencing a Success!

Using equipment purchased under the 2007 Osher grant, our OLLI at BCC Information Systems Committee installed a Polycom videoconferencing system to connect a classroom at BCC's main campus (Hawthorne 207) with a second classroom at BCC's South County Campus (Room S7) in Great Barrington. The system provides live, two-way closed circuit TV between the classrooms and also allows transmission of very high quality video for graphics and PowerPoint slides.

For our first videoconferenced class, we enlisted Stan Applebaum

who enthusiastically presented a well-structured and graphics-rich six lecture series on Joseph Stalin. Stan was able to interact with his audiences and field questions during and after class from participants at both the "near end" (originating) and "far end" (receiving) class locations. OLLI members reacted very favorably to the videoconferencing style of delivery.

With Internet Protocol (IP) videoconferencing, our H207 classroom can be connected to any site in the world which is suitably equipped and, unlike telephone line connec-

tions, there's no cost beyond the initial equipment purchases. This coming fall semester, OLLI at BCC will conduct two more videoconferenced classes between H207 and the South County Campus.

For the future, we are exploring the possibility of jointly conducting live, interactive classes with our other Educational Partners in Berkshire County and perhaps even with other OLLIs such as those at UMass Boston and at the University of Missouri.

— Bob Desrosiers, Chair
Information Systems

New Bylaws for OLLI at BCC

Getting the Osher grant and becoming an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) has required us to integrate our operations into BCC, to initiate new programs and technologies and to work towards evolving a new governance and operations structure to include the Executive Director's position.

For several days this past fall, 46 OLLI members met as a Retreat Committee to explore these issues. It strongly recommended that we deal effectively with institutional and managerial integration including revising the OLLI bylaws by clearly defining the roles of the Board, the President and the Executive Director. Additionally, the bylaws are to provide a more democratic, more transparent, more member accessible organizational structure—one that would provide a greater degree of organizational planning and member participation.

To achieve these goals, a nine member subcommittee was appointed by the President. It worked throughout the winter to accomplish these objectives. The members were: Howard Arkans, Norman Avnet, Don Calman, Bob Desrosiers, Paul Flaum, Phil Lewis, Shirley Shapiro, Mona Sherman, Elliott Vines, Arthur Sherman (Chair) and Howard Shapiro, an invaluable consultant to the committee's work.

The subcommittee's unanimous recommendations were overwhelmingly adopted by the Board of Directors and the membership at the Annual Meeting.

What do these new bylaws provide?

- OLLI members will vote for almost the entire Board of Directors (17 of the 19 voting members) which differs from the earlier bylaws that allowed member voting for only 11 of 25 Board members with the other 14 appointed by the President without Board or member approval.
- The Board of Directors is clearly

defined as the governing body of OLLI. It will nominate candidates for future elections with nominations also proposed from the membership at OLLI's Annual Meeting. The Board will elect its own officers from these elected candidates.

- The Board will have new major planning and governance responsibilities as well as oversight of committee operations.
- An integration of several existing committees will focus on improved, more cohesive and broad-based educational programs, membership development and new technologies.

- The roles of the Board, President and Executive Director are clearly defined and consistent with the future growth of membership, programming, new technologies and the requirements of Osher funding.

With the adoption of these bylaws and with the continued support of Berkshire Community College and the Osher Foundation, the administrative and financial underpinnings of OLLI at BCC have been secured. It is now up to you, the membership, to get involved and to participate actively. — Art Sherman

Getting to Know Howard Arkans

OLLI President Howard Arkans (though he prefers to be called "Howie") claims to have three passions in his life. He is a man of many passions, but the three he is most involved with are:

1. Tennis: Howie is the 16th ranked player in the over 60 division in the New England region.

2. Education: Howie has always had an interest in continuing education which is what brought him to BILL courses in 2003. He then joined the Arts Subcommittee, became its chair, served on the Board of Directors during the transition from BILL to OLLI, became first Vice President and is now President. His vision for the organization includes more Arts courses, hands-on courses and discussion seminars.

3. Cooking: Howie just returned from his eighth trip to Italy in three years where he learned and cooked in various Italian classroom kitchens. He is giving a hands-on cooking course for OLLI this fall semester. He claims to be the "chief cook" at home, and when he left at the end of the interview, he headed off to find delicious Italian ingredients he needed for dinner.

A man of science with undergraduate and medical degrees from Stanford University, Howie did his pediatric residency at Johns Hopkins. His second career was as Medical Director for U.S. Health/Aetna in California.

Howie and his wife Sue moved to Alford in 2001. Here in the Berkshires, both volunteer at Tanglewood. In addition, Howie serves on the Executive Committee of the Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers as Vice Chair of Development. The Arkans two children and four grandchildren all live on the east coast making the move to the Berkshires an easy decision.

When asked his objectives as president, Howie listed the following priorities: The most important goal is to increase membership, to sponsor more of the wonderful Special Events for which OLLI at BCC is unique and to expand the Cultural Partners program.

We wish him well during his tenure and hope all his passions and ideas come to fruition. — Marilyn Margolis, Editorial Staff



The **FACULTY APPRECIATION DINNER** held on Wednesday, May 21, at BCC was a success! Over 75 lecturers, members and guests attended.

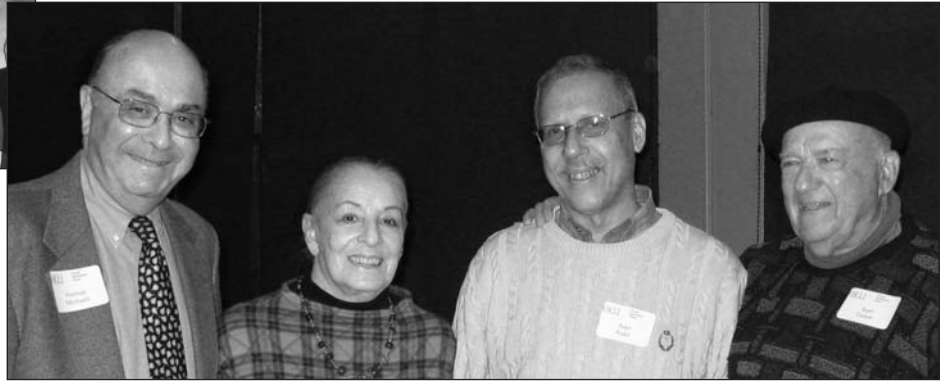
Below: Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director and Adele Cukor, Event Chair



*At right: Norm Michaels, Treasurer
Jacquie Easton, Guest
Peter Podol, Lecturer
Karl Easton, Lecturer*



Above: Larry Greenapple, Lecturer Warren Hagler, Guest Hope Hagler, Lecturer

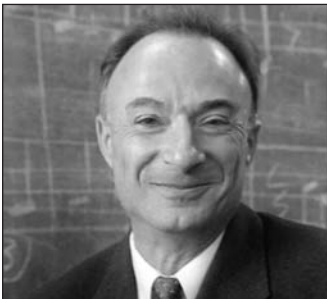


Distinguished Speaker Series

These photos are of a few of the lecturers who presented this past year. Lora and Sig Tobias, co-chairs, are to be congratulated for providing OLLI with such an outstanding array of distinguished speakers. Some of the topics included were art, music, health care, psychotherapy, finance, law and sports.



Lora and Sig Tobias, Co-Chairs



*Jeremy Yudkin, Author
Prof. of Music, Boston University*



*Dan Valenti, Author
Broadcaster, Educator*



*Laurie Heatherington, Ph.D.
Psychology Dept. Chair, Williams College*



*William Schurtman,
Trial Lawyer, Arbitrator*



*Jonathan Metsch, Dr. P.H.
Public Health Issues*



*Sheila N. Keator
Managing Director
Keator Group, LLC*



*Michael Cassin, Director
Curator of Education, The Clark*



*Joseph C. Thompson,
Director, MASS MoCA*

The "Fighting Parson" Thomas Allen

The pious and patriotic Reverend Thomas Allen, known as the "Fighting Parson," holds a significant place in Pittsfield's Revolutionary War history. Although no actual battles occurred here and Berkshire soldiers fought elsewhere, Parson Allen is credited with fanning the flame of patriotism, initiating the call to action.

Thomas Allen, a Harvard graduate from Northampton, was only 21 when he was ordained as the first Congregational minister of Pittsfield in 1764. It's interesting to note that during colonial times every town in Massachusetts was required to have a Congregational Church with a chosen town minister and a parsonage. Allen exerted political and religious influence throughout a 46-year tenure that ended with his death in 1810. That church still stands on East Street, and a marker notes the site of Allen's parsonage on the northeast corner of Park Square.

Parson Allen not only preached patriotism and separation from England but also organized defense exercises, was an army chaplain and a

leader in battles. In 1774 when the Minutemen were being formed, many of the men came from the congregational meeting house to enlist under the Old Elm on Park Square. The parson is said to have worn his uniform under his clerical robes and to have hidden his musket under the altar. Later, in August of 1777, alarmed by the call "the British are coming," Parson Allen delivered a powerful sermon urging his congregants to fight. Driving his own horse and sulky, he led the way to Bennington where they were joined by troops from New Hampshire and Vermont. Responding to taunting by the Tories, he fired the first shot in the colonists' defeat of the British at the Battle of Bennington, a major victory of the Revolutionary War.

The parson's rhetoric was not

limited to military missions. He was an outspoken advocate of Jeffersonian democracy and warned his congregants that independence from Britain was not enough; rebellion would be futile if it resulted in merely replacing one oppressor with another.

Although some congregants withdrew because they felt he "neglected God in his preoccupation with deifying Jefferson," Parson Allen never abandoned his belief that "the teachings of Christianity apply not only to individual conscience, but also

to social problems." He is remembered in Berkshire history for his outspoken ideas and gallant deeds.

— Joanna Fribush, Editorial Staff

Information gathered from articles, papers and books in the Berkshire Athenaeum's Local History Department.



Battle of Bennington Monument

E-mail: OLLI@Berkshirecc.edu

Website: www.BerkshireOLLI.org

Phone: 413.236.2190

OLLI adheres to a policy of non-discrimination and welcomes all people as members of our organization.

Partners in Education With
Williams College
Bard College at Simon's Rock
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Return Service Requested

1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 50