



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2007

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

A Fabulous Fall 2007 Semester

The Curriculum Committee has put together an exciting variety of courses and lecturers for the fall 2007 semester. Courses begin on September 7 and run through October 26. For your convenience, classes will be held in various venues throughout Berkshire County. See the catalog for complete details or visit our website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org.



Harry Sheehy



Danielle Steinmann



Sigmund Tobias

MONDAY

BCC & Canyon Ranch

Today's Headlines – James Cotter, Moderator

Class Actions: A Powerful Force – Larry Greenapple and Hope Hagler

When Crime Paid: Brigands and Builders in the Age of Barons –

David Auerbach

*Ultralongevity: The Science of Staying Healthy** – R. Butler, M. Liponis,

D. Rainone, L. Reamer, J. Rossman, K. Sprague

TUESDAY

Simon's Rock

Comparative Constitutions – Carl Goodman

The Spanish Civil War Through Film – Peter Podol

WEDNESDAY

Clark Art Institute & Williams College

Sports in Our Lives – C. Cruz, S. Lewis, J. Moore, D. Paulsen, H. Sheehy, M. Whalen

The World and Beyond – David Park

Statistics: A Guide to the Unknown – Richard De Veaux

Creative Incubation – M. Cassin, N.M. Matthews, K. Price, D. Steinmann,

J. Stomberg

Frontiers of Science – Lois Banta, Ronadh Cox, Amy Gehring

THURSDAY

Hancock Shaker Village

Critical Issues – H. Greene, D. Jonathan, M. Kaplan, D. Paul, E. v.P. Smith

Dashiell Hammett and Lillian Hellman: A Hard-Boiled Duo – Phyllis Jaffe

*The Iliad of Homer** – Charles Fuqua

FRIDAY

BCC & IS183 Art School

Learning From Instruction: New Insights – Sigmund Tobias

A Survey of American Literature: Part I – James Kraft

Great Libraries of the World – Christina Gibbons

*Thoughts on Art: IS183** – D. Bellow, U. Grannis, P. Lefferts, W. Wendt

EVENING CLASS – TUESDAY

Morris School, Lenox

John Marshall: Definer of a Nation – Walker F. Todd

*Please note that the FLEX PASS does not cover the courses with an asterisk because of limited class size, facility limitations or the need for continuity.

OLLI Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photo will be on the cover of the Winter 2008 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 15, 2007

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

Visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for further details.

Photo Contest Winner

Bob Desrosiers of Pittsfield, an active OLLI at BCC member, submitted the winning photo entitled "October at Windsor Reservoir" which appears on the cover of the Fall 2007 OLLI Catalog. It was taken with a Canon FTb SLR with a 50 mm lens at F8 and 1/250 on Kodachrome slide film. The slide was subsequently scanned via a Nikon film scanner.

President's Message

More than thirteen years ago, Tom and Judy Easton imagined an organization offering stimulating adult learning experiences and opportunities for social interaction. With the help of Presidents Hank Payne of Williams College and Barbara Viniar of Berkshire Community College, necessary details were worked out. The first meeting of a small group of Berkshire County residents was held on June 16, 1994, at the Easton's home in Lenox. The result of their efforts was the formation of Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (BILL).

Under the direction of our past seven presidents, Tom Easton, Len Stolzberg, Anne Dulye, Norman Avnet, Arthur Sherman, Paul Flaum and Mona Sherman, BILL grew to more than 800 members. We became an important educational addition to the community, gained not-for-profit status, offered more than 50 courses during three academic semesters, instituted a Distinguished Speaker Series and an extensive Special Events program with day trips to museums, theaters and historical sites.

On July 1, 2007, BILL became affiliated with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and OLLI at BCC was formed. It is part of the Office of LifeLong Learning at BCC, and we will be working with Dean Bill Mulholland, continuing to offer the wonderful courses and educational trips you have come to enjoy. Important in helping us understand the organization's future is the word MORE. As a direct consequence of receiving a grant from the Osher Foundation, we will be able to offer MORE classes, covering MORE subjects, taught in MORE locations throughout the region, during MORE hours of the day and evening to a MORE diverse group of mature adults.

With our new partner in education, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), we expect to offer a course presented by MCLA faculty in the near future. Innovative styles of instruction will be available through a greater use of technology helping MORE people take courses offered in distant places. We will be utilizing cable TV and two-way television MORE than in the past. We will be developing new courses, trips and activities which will allow us to add another dimension to our offerings. MORE, MORE and MORE.

With the resources from the Osher grant, we have hired a part-time Executive Director, Barbara Hochberg, who will assist us in pursuing new cultural partners in education throughout the area in addition to helping with the overall operation of OLLI. She will also support our volunteers' efforts and will enhance our current relationship with our supporting colleges and cultural partners. We will be able to provide to our members MORE services than before.

We continue to depend on our volunteer committees—the backbone of our organization. Become involved in OLLI; consider volunteering. We need your help to succeed!

I look forward to serving as President. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

Stephen Radin

Upcoming Special Events

AUGUST: Berkshire Opera Company, *La Bohème*, The Colonial Theatre Monday, August 20 at 2 p.m. or Wednesday, August 22 at 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER: Museum of Contemporary Art and Duck Boat Tour, Boston (Bus Trip)
Mt. Everett Wildlife Sanctuary (Hike)

OCTOBER: Chester Theatre Company, *Dear Liar* and Brunch at the Railroad Station, Chester

Getting to Know Stephen Radin



Some people have great timing in life, and Steve Radin seems to be one of them. Since his tenure begins on the day BILL becomes OLLI at BCC, he will be its first president.

A former teacher of math, science and computer education, principal and citywide administrator for the NYC Board of Education, Steve is the primary author of 18 books about technology education. He was an adjunct assistant professor at St. John's University, Brooklyn College and The College of Staten Island for seventeen years.

In 1969, Steve was the first in the U.S. to teach middle school classes using computers. He created and served as the first president of the Association of Computer Educators Inc., an organization of teachers and administrators who used computers in schools.

Steve accomplished all of this in spite of the fact that he is dyslexic. The arrival of his first Radio Shack computer, in the early years of the development of this technology, enabled him to relearn the reading process—good timing again.

As an administrator for the NYC Public Schools, he was responsible for designing computer training centers for 60,000 teachers and for supervising the staff that designed the computer education curriculum for all subjects and grades. He and his staff trained teachers, administrators and secretaries in NYC's 1,100

Continued on back page

Convocation/Annual Meeting June 6, 2007

Tributes, accolades and a very enthusiastic community spirit characterized the last BILL Convocation and first OLLI at Berkshire Community College (OLLI at BCC) Annual Meeting on June 6 at The Colonial Theatre. BILL President Mona Sherman welcomed the large audience and



*Mona Sherman
Outgoing BILL President*



*James Ruberto
Mayor of Pittsfield*



*Paul Raverta
BCC President*



*Ben Downing
State Senator*

introduced many special guests including Pittsfield Mayor James M. Ruberto, BCC President Paul Raverta, State Senator Benjamin Downing, BCC Dean of LifeLong Learning and Workforce Development Bill Mulholland, Executive Director of The Colonial Theatre David Fleming and OLLI at BCC's new part-time Executive Director Barbara Hochberg.

Mona described our new affiliation with BCC and with The Bernard Osher Foundation. We join 112 other lifelong learning institutes from Maine to Hawaii also funded by the Osher Foundation. Through the hard work of Arthur Sherman, a Past President and Curriculum Committee Chair, we received a \$100,000 grant from this organization enabling us to continue to expand our educational programs. Further funds, up to \$1 million are anticipated.

Senator Downing spoke of the importance of lifelong learning and of how the affiliation of BILL with BCC affects different age groups as they work together to enrich their lives and their community. He pledged his full support of our efforts and congratulated BILL on its past history and present success. Mayor Ruberto stressed the significance of BILL to the city of Pittsfield, pointing out that BILL has given energy and enthusiasm to the city during its revitalization period. He congratulated BILL on its new Osher and BCC

affiliation. BCC President Raverta welcomed the OLLI affiliation and discussed its importance to the growth and development of BCC. He presented a slide show highlighting the recent expansion of their programs which includes collaboration with Berkshire Health Systems, technical schools and colleges. BCC's own lifelong learning division, a significant component of its educational program, will be strengthened through its relationship with OLLI.

directors-at-large; all were elected by the members present along with the 165 proxy votes collected. The resolution to amend the BILL bylaws and create OLLI at BCC as of July 1, 2007, passed.

Stephen Radin took the podium as the first president of OLLI at BCC. He recounted the history of BILL from its founding in 1994 describing the achievements of each past president. He asked both former and new Board members to stand and be recognized.



*Joe Gerard
Second VP*

*Marilyn Flaum
Secretary*

*Stephen Radin
President*

*Howard Arkans
First VP*

After President Mona Sherman called the meeting to order, she invited Arthur Sherman to the podium and presented him with an award for his leadership in securing the Osher grant. He expressed gratitude to the people at Williams College, BCC and BILL who worked with him to make this happen. David Orenstein gave the financial report for Treasurer Norman Michaels who was out of town. Past President Paul Flaum presented the slate of officers and

The meeting concluded with a history of The Colonial Theatre by David Fleming. Built in 1903, during the Gilded Age, it was proof that Pittsfield had "arrived." George M. Cohan called it his "favorite theatre in the world." The Depression led to its closure as a performance theater in 1937. It then served as a movie house from 1937 to 1952 when George Miller bought the building for use as a retail store. Thanks to his vision, the theater was saved and very recently restored.

Members and guests were invited to tour the theater and enjoy refreshments in the lobby. Special Events Chair Arline Breskin and her committee prepared a marvelous assortment of food and drinks.

The feeling that OLLI at BCC had "arrived" permeated the halls.

— Joanna Fribush, Editorial Staff

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

Formerly Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (BILL)

For 13 years, as BILL, we have taken pride in our growth and program quality. In 2004, we became aware of a unique organization that would allow us to expand the scope of our programs and offer members new options for learning and for participating in exciting projects and programs. We saw this as a means to assure BILL's long-term financial and administrative security.

Over the last two years, a team of BILL's Board members has worked diligently to affiliate with The Bernard Osher Foundation in San Francisco. In 2007, we were successful. BILL received a major grant which can provide up to two or three years of \$100,000 annually followed by an endowment of at least \$1 million (possibly \$2 million if membership exceeds 1,000).

Bernard Osher established the Osher Foundation in 1977. With resources of many hundreds of millions of dollars, it currently supports 112 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes from Maine to Hawaii with a National Resource Center located at the University of Southern Maine.

The terms of the award require us to become a part of one of our sponsor schools and to adopt the Osher name and logo. Berkshire Community College, with its long-term commitment to lifelong learning, was pleased to welcome OLLI at BCC and worked with us to develop an affiliation agreement allowing us to maintain current modes of operation with potential significant administrative support from the school. BCC is one of a small number of two-year colleges in this network, and the management and key staff of BCC are committed to doing everything possible to assist us.

The initial Osher grant of \$100,000 covers the first year of a multi-year program. During the coming fiscal year, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may match half of both the Osher grant and the assets BILL gave to the college as part of the

formation of OLLI at BCC.

The Osher Foundation expects us to produce constructive new achievements well beyond what we are currently doing. The funding is to be used for growth and development—not as a means of funding our current budgets and programs.

OLLI at BCC has three basic goals—membership growth, expanded programming and increased community/member interest and support through contributions and grants. To implement these, we are planning to:

- hire a part-time executive director to assist in the overall operation and the direction of our programs;
- conduct a retreat attended by the OLLI at BCC Board of Directors, officers and members to define our approach to these programs and initiate a review of the work of other OLLIs;
- conduct professionally run regional focus groups within Berkshire County and environs to determine the nature and extent of interest in courses and programs and to identify sources of local cultural support;
- increase the number and locations of classes, special lectures and events;
- develop programs to offer during “quiet times” (between current semesters) to attract part-time and summer residents;
- introduce new seminar courses to supplement the current lecture-based curriculum with assistance from Brandeis, Harvard and others;
- expand relationships with current sponsor schools (Williams College, Bard College at Simon's Rock and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts) that have committed to support OLLI at BCC as they have supported BILL in the past;
- explore the introduction of live, interactive video conferencing and other technologies;

- upgrade the website and produce video recordings of major programs for local TV stations and adult care facilities;
- expand our relationships to include other Berkshire Compact for Higher Education members and reach out to RPI, Bennington College and Albany colleges to broaden our educational support relationships;
- pursue comprehensive multi-media marketing programs to enroll additional members;
- increase efforts to seek additional member contributions and community grant support;
- monitor progress toward achieving our basic three objectives by initiating mid-course corrections as needed; and
- submit a year-end report to Osher as a basis for continuing funding.

This is an ambitious, challenging program involving a commitment to growth and creativity. The ultimate goal of the Osher Foundation is to give each OLLI a “kick start” toward a positive future to meet rapidly changing needs for adult learning opportunities.

We need to look with the same vision toward developing our own long-term financial stability and growth if we are to continue to receive the Osher Foundation support.

— Arthur Sherman, Past President
Osher Proposal Coordinator

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: Carl Brown,
Joanna Fribush, Judy Katz,
Art Sherman

GETTING TO KNOW *continued*

schools to use computer technology to maintain records. As if that weren't enough, he also secured tens of millions in grant money for these schools.

After retirement in 1995, Steve and his wife Helen moved to Great Barrington; in 2005 they relocated to Pittsfield. They are the parents of two married children and the proud grandparents of Allison and Abigail.

Always a volunteer, Steve served on many boards in Great Barrington and currently serves on many in Pittsfield. He was appointed by Mayor Ruberto to sit on the Pittsfield Cable Commission. He has served as First Vice President of BILL and Director-at-Large.

Steve, we look forward to working with you as our first president of OLLI at BCC, and we wish you "good luck."

— Marilyn Margolis, Editorial Staff

Fallow Deer Farming

In 1987, about the time we were contemplating retirement from the business world, my wife Helene and I bought a 200 acre farm in Berlin, NY. We then began to think about what to do with all that acreage. We come from Brooklyn, NY, and farming was furthest from our thoughts.

Coincidentally, we read an article about a German baron who had come to this country and started the first deer farm in the USA on 400 acres of land overlooking the Hudson River. The article described his fallow deer farming operation—it sounded appealing. We arranged for a visit: Helene to tour his mansion and I to discuss deer. Ultimately, we bought our first deer and signed on for a three-day "how to" training program.

Since we were weekenders, the relatively undemanding fallow deer worked well for us. During the growing season they were self-sustaining on pasture grass and water; during the off season they needed only hay, corn and water. In both seasons they required a small daily amount of a mineral supplement. We "inherited" a local man who handled the needs of the farm and spent twenty to thirty minutes daily caring for the animals when we were not there.

We enclosed about 20 acres for the deer using eight foot high wire fencing, electrified at the top and bottom to keep out coyotes. We engaged a New Zealand fallow deer expert to lay out our pastures and deer-handling facility. Then we sat back and waited for the arrival of our first animals—six guaranteed-pregnant does and a breeding buck. Nature did its thing from that point, and we ended up with a herd of 125 beautiful, healthy bucks, does and fawns.

We realized that left alone, nature would overwhelm us with animals, and so we developed a plan to market animals and/or venison, first to restaurants then to health food retailers and ultimately at farmers' markets. We thoroughly enjoyed playing "Ma and Pa Kettle" to unsuspecting city folk. After five years of going to market, we sold a great deal of venison but then tired of the effort and reduced our herd to five animals—just enough to keep the grass cut. We are now looking for our next adventure. Skydiving?

— Don Calman, OLLI at BCC Member

E-mail: OLLI@Berkshirecc.edu

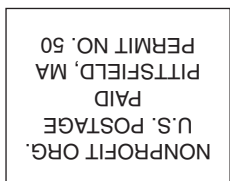
Website: www.BerkshireOLLI.org

Phone: 413.236.2190

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

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