



# Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

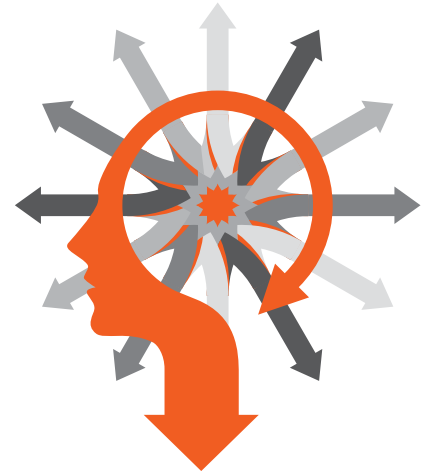
FALL 2015

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

## Wide Ranging Fall Semester Offerings

Courses begin on September 16 and run through October 28. The Curriculum Committee has assembled an eclectic array of more than 20 courses offered at various locations throughout the county. See the Fall 2015 Catalog or visit [www.BerkshireOLLI.org](http://www.BerkshireOLLI.org) for more details.

**CLASS LOCATIONS:** BCC Pittsfield **BCC**; Bard College at Simon's Rock **SR**; Hancock Shaker Village **HSV**; BCC South County Center, Great Barrington **SCC**; Spirited, Lenox **SPL**; Williams College **WC**; Williamstown locations **WTN**.



## Photo Contest

The OLLI Winter 2016 Catalog Photo Contest has begun. Why not submit some of your photos of Berkshire area winter scenes? The winning photographer will win a one-year free membership to OLLI.

The deadline for submissions is September 25, 2015. Photos must be in digital format (jpeg, tiff, png), 3.2 mega-pixels or greater and in horizontal aspect. Not more than five photos per person, please. Email to [bob.desrosiers@gmail.com](mailto:bob.desrosiers@gmail.com). Visit [www.berkshireolli.org](http://www.berkshireolli.org) to see previous winning photos.

## Fall Winner

The winning photo appears on the Fall 2015 Catalog cover and was shot by Christy Butler from Cheshire. The photo shows a keystone arch railroad bridge in Middlefield that dates from 1840. Originally, seven of these stone arch bridges were built, and each was set without mortar. Amazingly, two are still in active use today.

MON.

*World War I: The Second Year, 1915* – Greig Siedor **BCC**  
*Today's Headlines* – James Cotter **BCC**  
*Three Perspectives on Late 20th Century American Life: John Cheever, William Kennedy and Raymond Carver* – James Kraft **BCC & SCC**  
*Melville and Millay: A Study in Sensual Authorship and a Look at Artistic Reincarnation* – J. Peter Bergman **BCC**

TUES.

*Famous Trials That Helped Shape America and Her Institutions* – John Pollok **SR**  
*Collage Cards* – Marney Schorr **SCC**  
*Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre* – Elizabeth Young **SR**  
*Writing Your Story: An Introduction to Memoir* – Vivian Dorsel **SCC**  
*Wee Drams of the Great Spirits of the World* – Jim Nejaime **SPL**

WED.

*Shakespeare and the Law (Revisited)* – Philip McKnight **WC**  
*Modernism vs. Traditionalism: Art in Paris, 1888-89* – Barbara Waldinger and Jock Brooks **WTN**  
*Frontiers of Science* – Colin Adams and Kevin Jones **WC**  
*The World of MASS MoCA: What's Next* – Joe Thompson, Denise Markonish, Susan Cross and Sue Killam **MassMOCA**

THURS.

*Preservation in Pittsfield* – John Dickson **HSV**  
*George Bernard Shaw: Playwright, Poet, Puritan, Socialist, Fabian, Dreamer* – Nancy Vale **HSV**  
*AC Power or DC Power?* – George Gela **BCC**  
*Vietnam: The Oft-Told, Untold and Forgotten Stories* – Stacy Wallach **BCC**

FRI.

*The Art of Cooking Italian Cuisine* – Howard and Sue Arkans **BCC**  
*Architectural Gems: Selected Sites* – 12 instructors **VARIOUS SITES**  
*Epidemics: Past, Present, Future* – Andrew Fisher, Anthony Segal, Dr. Esteban DelPilar **BCC**  
*William Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom and Toni Morrison's Beloved* – Nancy Travis **BCC**

## OLLI Board Elects Tabs, Shuster

As recommended by the Governance Nominating Committee, the OLLI Board has elected Leonard Tabs as President of OLLI at BCC. Carl Shuster was elected as Vice-President. Each will serve a term of two years.

### Meet Lenny Tabs, the OLLI Board President

OLLI's new president, Leonard (Lenny) Tabs, and his wife, Ellen, got involved with OLLI after they moved from Manhattan to West Stockbridge in 2008. Lenny has led the Headlines current events discussion group each spring and fall since 2009. His faithful following appreciates his depth of knowledge, wry humor and ability to draw out a broad range of opinions. He has also served on the OLLI board since 2014.



Now, having stepped up to the president's chair, Lenny will draw on his knowledge of the organization's membership and programming challenges as well as his professional and administrative experience. Before retiring in 2006, he was the Chief Financial Officer of Fortunoff, the legendary retail company, where he served for 25 years.

"I took the [OLLI] job because I feel I can be the bridge to a newer and better OLLI, one faced with demographic challenges," Lenny says. Those challenges include, he says, increasing membership by attracting baby-boomers as they retire and move to the Berkshires. He also wants to "improve our technology with a newer and more robust, interactive website." Working with OLLI's executive director, Megan Whilden, he also wants to "adopt new pathways of outreach."

Lenny and his wife have made many friends through OLLI, and he hopes to develop new ways OLLI members can make new friends through a wider scope of OLLI activities including special events, social events and course offerings.

"OLLI members and other Berkshire residents have interesting backgrounds and can further enrich our curriculum and programming," Lenny says. He greatly appreciates OLLI's successful academic partnerships, as well as all its cultural partners. He feels "passion for the role OLLI has played" in his own life and wants to ensure that it continues to benefit others. — Selma Williams

### From the Executive Director

OLLI at BCC is well-known for the quality and variety of its classes—more than 60 a year—and for special events and trips. But OLLI has also presented an array of fascinating speakers. The speaker at the first annual meeting in 1995 was MASS MoCA Executive Director Joe Thompson. Over the past 20 years, OLLI members have heard from humorist Roy Blount, Jr., award-winning journalist Linda Ellerbee and Shakespeare & Company founder Tina Packer. The annual Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture has also sponsored several nationally known speakers.

Ten years ago, OLLI retitled its speaker presentations as the Distinguished Speakers Series. The series has flourished, first under founding chair Mona Sherman, then under Sigmund and Lora Tobias, Larry and Wendy Robbins, and today under co-chairs Warren Hagler and Lois Lenehan. All of OLLI's speakers, like our course instructors, give freely of their insight and expertise, and we are all enriched by their wisdom. Thank you to the over 100 speakers who have enriched our lives over the years and to the OLLI members who have organized our speaker series. — Megan Whilden

## Fall Open House on August 22

Join us Saturday, August 22, from 10 to 11:30 am for the Fall Open House, a new OLLI tradition. Enjoy refreshments, meet fall instructors and hear a preview of their courses, and catch up with old friends at the beautiful Daniel Arts Center on the campus of Bard College at Simon's Rock, 84 Alford Road in Great Barrington. The event is free and open to the public.

### Distinguished Speakers

Currently chaired by OLLI members Warren Hagler and Lois Lenehan, the OLLI Distinguished Speakers Series is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. All talks are held at the Koussevitsky Arts K-111 Lecture Hall at Berkshire Community College. Registration for each talk is \$10 for OLLI members, \$15 for non-members, and free for youth 17 and under and for Berkshire Community College students and staff. To register by phone, please call 413-236-2190. Pre-registration is encouraged, but you may also pay at the door, if space is available. All events are at 10:30 am.

■ **September 12 – Joan Del Plato**, Ph.D., Professor of Art History at Bard College at Simon's Rock. *Art and Politics in 1939 Nazi Germany*.

■ **September 19 – Cornelia Brooke Gilder**, co-author of *Houses of the Berkshires 1870-1930* and *Hawthorne's Lenox*. Her lecture topic will be *Past Private Gateposts: Up Winding Drives of Historic Country Houses in the Berkshires*.

■ **October 3 – Chris Coggins**, Ph.D., Professor of Geography and Asian Studies at Bard College at Simon's Rock. *God Mountains and Fengshui Forests: Folk Conservation Systems and Ecological Sustainability in China*.

## The Knox Trail and the Noble Train of Artillery



In the winter of 1775-1776, George Washington had placed the British under siege in Boston, but the shortage of arms left the patriot cause in great jeopardy. Henry Knox, a 25-year-old volunteer in the Continental Army, conceived the extraordinary idea of hauling artillery from Fort Ticonderoga, near Lake Champlain in New York, to Boston. Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold had earlier captured Fort Ticonderoga, and the artillery there could strengthen Washington's fledgling army. Washington accepted

the idea and appointed Knox as a colonel in charge of this venture. Knox wrote to Washington, "I hope to be able to present to your Excellency a noble train of artillery."

Knox and his brother arrived in Ticonderoga on December 5th. They mobilized a corps of men, assembled a flotilla of flat-bottomed boats, prepared 40 special sleds, gathered 80 yokes of oxen and disassembled the artillery to make it transportable. On December 25th they began the hazardous 300 mile trip with 59 cannons, some

weighing 5,000 pounds apiece. The path led across rivers, over mountains and through unmarked wilderness, all while enduring severe winter storms. Fortunately, local villagers and Indians often provided help and shelter and Knox was able to recruit men and horses along the way. Today Knox's feat seems not only amazing but historians see it as a key event that probably saved the Revolution.

Knox's noble train reached Massachusetts at Alford on January 10, 1776, proceeded east through the

Berkshires, generally along current routes 71, 23 and 20, and reached Cambridge on January 24th. By March Washington had installed the artillery in Dorchester Heights overlooking British General Howe's troops in Boston. Howe looked up, saw the artillery and evacuated the city, giving the American cause a major victory. March 17th is still celebrated annually as Evacuation Day in the Boston area.

Both Massachusetts and New York states have placed engraved monument markers along the trail: 30 in New York and 26 in Massachusetts. The Berkshire markers are in Alford and Egremont on route 71 and Great Barrington, Monterey and Otis on route 23. Local historical associations have made other markers along the trail and have exhibits in their town museums. The Otis Historical Commission runs trail hikes along the route to commemorate the event.

Henry Knox fought through the Revolutionary War, became a general and later commanded West Point. In 1785 he became Secretary of War of the Confederation and served in that position in Washington's first cabinet. He died in Maine in 1806.

— Joanna Fribush

## Annual Meeting Features Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture Speaker Mike Barnicle

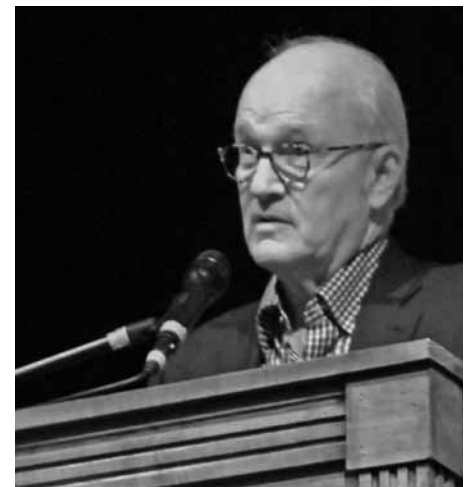
Attendance was at record levels for OLLI's annual business meeting and the annual Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture in May.

Elected to the OLLI Board for a second term were Lile Deinard, Norman Michaels, Wilma Michaels, Sandi Rubin, Art Sherman and Carl Shuster. Peter Bluhm and Carole Siegel were elected for initial terms of two years. Norman Michaels gave the Treasurer's report. Chair Sandi Rubin thanked departing board members including Howard Arkans, Bonnie Desrosiers and Wendy Robbins.

The members approved several minor bylaw changes. One encourages

social interaction. Another defines the rules for calling a special meeting of OLLI members. A third concerns board meeting frequency and notices.

The Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mike Barnicle to more than 400 attendees. As always, this lecture was open to the public and honored the memory of Mona Sherman, former OLLI Board President. Barnicle, who is a veteran of 35 years of print and broadcast journalism and a Massachusetts native, currently appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* television program. His talk, titled "Optimism: America's Most Ignored Asset," discussed how



social media diminish our collective institutional memory as a nation. He also told amusing stories about friends and political figures including Tip O'Neill, several Kennedys and President Obama.

## Special Events

### Upcoming Events

**Sept. 9. Bus trip to Boston and the Edward M Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate** ■ Visit this institute which educates the public about the Senate and encourages next generation leaders to engage in the civic life of their communities. In the afternoon, visit the John F. Kennedy Library and hear Paul Flaum speak about the Kennedy men.

**Tuesday Night Square Dancing** ■ Introduction to Western Square Dancing at Pittsfield South Congregational Church, South Street, Pittsfield, South Street, Pittsfield, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13 and 20, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

**Oct. 11. Barrington Stage & Brunch** ■ Begin with a delicious brunch at Berkshire Community College where your elegant buffet will be prepared by OLLI volunteer chefs. Listen to Phyllis Jaffe discuss *Veils* by Tom Coash, a play about a Muslim African-American student who travels to Cairo for a year abroad and becomes enmeshed in religious politics and the Arab Spring. Then attend a matinee performance of *Veils* at Barrington Stage Company.

**Oct. 28. Bus trip to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT** ■ The museum has completed the first phase of a \$33 million renovation. Visit the permanent collection and its significant holdings of French and American Impressionist paintings, Hudson River School landscapes, modernist masterpieces and contemporary works. Also see the new contemporary art galleries and a new exhibit *Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls*.

**Jan. 13, 2016. Norton Gallery of Art, Palm Beach, FL** ■ View *This Place: Israel Through Photography's Lens*, an exhibition that explores the complexity of Israel and the West Bank, through the eyes of 12 internationally acclaimed non-Israeli and non-Arab photographers.

**March, 2016. Helga Weill-Apeit Center for Asian Art at Ringling Museum in Sarasota, FL**



*Above: artist Shawn Fields displays his painting "Jousting" at Buggy Whip Marketplace in Southfield, Mass.*

*Below: Audrey Shlanger and Joan Brotman at Jacob's Pillow*



*Above: Curran and Koelles at the Pittsfield Suns opening night*



## Getting to Know our OLLI Instructors

**John Pollok**

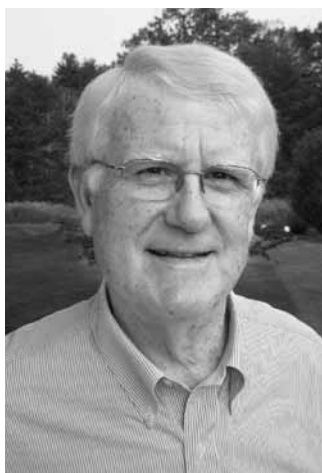


John Pollok is a retired lawyer who will be offering his fourth OLLI course this fall. John has previously taught OLLI courses on the “mob,” the Bill of Rights, and the best and worst Supreme Court cases. This fall, John’s course will cover famous American trials including the free press from Peter Zenger to Daniel Ellsberg. It will also cover the notorious shooting of Sanford White by Harry Thaw, Sacco and Vanzetti and the Scopes monkey trial.

John and his wife Patricia live in Copake Falls, New York, a small town just across the border from Great Barrington and Sheffield. Previously, John worked for many years in criminal defense work in New York City. He and Pat purchased their Copake Falls property in 1995 and moved full-time to Copake in 2009. They spend winters in Naples, Florida. John and Pat are self-described “culture vultures,” and they appreciate their quick access to Tanglewood and the other arts venues in the Berkshires, as well as to those in nearby Hudson, N.Y. They have six children and 10 grandchildren. Currently John’s main hobby is local politics, where he is trying to restore economic vitality to the Copake area.

— Peter Bluhm

**Greig Siedor**



Greig (Greg) Siedor is a retired lawyer who lives in Sheffield and who instructs history courses for OLLI. Greig offered his first course in 2013, covering five selected topics from World War II. In 2014 he shifted to World War I and taught the first of six planned annual courses, one for each year of the war. This fall’s course will be *World War – 1915*. If all goes well, Greig will offer four more annual installments, ending in 2019.

Greig grew up in the Hartford area. A graduate of Yale Law School, he notes that he had many famous classmates, including Bill and Hillary Clinton. He and his wife Christine lived many years near Chicago, where Greig was General Counsel to an environmental services company. The couple moved to Sheffield in 2008 where they built a new house, and Greig fully retired in 2013. They have a son in Chicago and a daughter in the Bay Area. As of this writing, their first grandchild is due in late summer. Aside from history, Greig enjoys acting. At the TriArts Theater in Sharon, Connecticut, he had a singing role in a production of *Oklahoma*.

— Peter Bluhm

**Elizabeth Young**



Elizabeth Young grew up in Ithaca, New York, in an academic family. She majored in English at Cornell University and earned her PhD in that subject at the University of Michigan. She taught 18th century English Literature and Shakespeare at California State University in Long Beach, where she met her husband, David Fine, an English professor. When David retired, they decided to come back east. They first lived in the Adirondacks, but after spending some time in the Berkshires, they decided to make this their home. David taught several courses for OLLI. When David died within just a few years of moving here, Elizabeth began teaching for OLLI. She taught classes in the short story and will be teaching a course on *Jane Eyre* this fall.

As a result of David’s illness and the help he received from hospice, Elizabeth decided to get a Master’s Degree in Social Work at Springfield College. She trained as a hospice volunteer and worked for hospice care in Greenfield, while she went to school. She now runs the bereavement program for Hospice Care in the Berkshires. She enjoys her dual role, first as a counselor who provides some comfort, and also as a teacher who creates student enthusiasm for a subject area so dear to her heart.

— Sandi Rubin

## Faculty Appreciation Dinner

A gala banquet in May drew 104 people to the BCC dining room to honor this past year's distinguished roster of OLLI instructors. Among those attending were OLLI faculty, their guests, curriculum chairs and board members. This annual event recognizes the dedication and hard work of the instructors who give of their time to teach a wide variety of fascinating and intellectually stimulating courses. OLLI curriculum chairs graciously and informatively, and with much humor, acknowledged faculty members in their respective areas. The chairs included: Richard Maturro, Literature; Tony Segal and Andy Fisher, Science; Betsey Selkowitz, Arts; and Art Sherman, Social Sciences. Once again, OLLI volunteer Adele Cukor served as event chair, demonstrating her talent and creativity in the beautiful table settings and centerpiece decorations (including radishes and turnips transformed into roses!) and selecting the delicious dinner menu ably prepared by BCC staff and students. The good food and drink helped fuel lively and constructive conversation.

— Ruth Weinstein



*Clockwise from top right: Adam Hinds and Betsey Selkowitz; Shirley and Howard Shapiro; across the dining hall at BCC; Tony Segal, Stuart Edelstein, Lynn Edelstein and Megan Whilden*

PHOTOS BY SUSAN GELLER



*Above at the Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture: Arthur Sherman, Steve Thaxton (Executive Director of the National Resource Center for OLLIs), Mike Barnicle and Lisa Sharkey (daughter of Mona Sherman)*



PHOTOS BY SUSAN GELLER

*More from the Faculty Appreciation Dinner, clockwise from bottom right: Mary Trevor Thomas and Richard Matturo; Ted Murray, Richard Evans and Nina Evans; Karel Fisher, Ellen Tabs and Patricia Pollok*

## In Memoriam

**Ann Dulye** An original member of OLLI (then known as BILL), Ann Dulye passed away on April 22, 2015. Ann was a pioneer in business, a supporter of the arts, and a champion for continuous learning. Before coming to the Berkshires, Ann served 45 years as a journalist and publisher in New York's Hudson Valley. She was the first woman president of the New York Press Association, the first woman named to the National Press board, and the first woman to serve on the admissions committee at the United States Military Academy at West Point. After retiring to the Berkshires, Ann became BILL's first woman president. Thereafter, she served for many years on the Special Events committee. Ann felt great pride at having participated in BILL and OLLI, and many OLLI members will miss her dedication and friendship.

**Peri Caverly** Persis "Peri" Caverly passed away on July 17, 2015. Peri was a much valued and beloved member of the Newsletter Editorial Staff for over seventeen years. She served as an assistant editor and contributed a great deal as both an editor and writer, relying always on her great depth of experience as a teacher of English.

**OLLI NEWSLETTER:** Editor: Peter Bluhm. Feature Writer: Joanna Fribush. Assistant Editors: Judy Katz, Don Miller, Sandi Rubin, Myrna Schneiderman, Rose Scotch, Ruth Weinstein. Proofreaders: Ellen Antoville, Mary Anne Cicchillo, Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss, Marie Milazzo, Harriet Shair, Selma Williams.



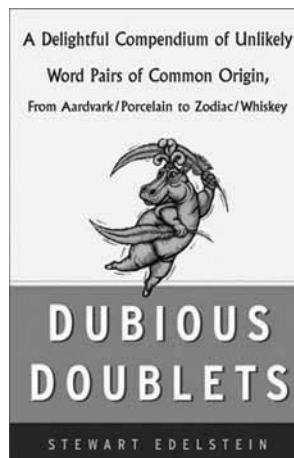
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## Work by OLLI Authors and Artists

**Stewart Edelstein** is a new OLLI instructor this year. His first course was based in part on his earlier book *Dubious Doublets*, which takes the reader on an enchanting tour of the tangled roots of English by exploring the evolution, lineage and proliferation of words. Beginning with pairs of seemingly unrelated modern English words, what he calls “dubious doublets,” Edelstein traces them back through the millennia to reveal not only their common roots, but also the living thoughts that link these improbable pairs. One reviewer said Edelstein “unpacked the treasures words have gleaned from their travels” and suggested viewing the book as “Pooh’s take” on the OED. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003.



**Karel Fisher** recently had three poems in the Arrowhead publication *Red Barn, a Collection of Poetry*, Winter/Spring 2014-2015. The poems were “The Alchemy of Dreams,” “Tanka,” and “Protecting the Peonies.” The volume is available at Arrowhead, Herman Melville’s historic homestead on Holmes Road in Pittsfield.

**Susan Geller** recently had two photos selected for publication in the new book *Tanglewood Picnics* by Gina Hyams.

The Newsletter is happy to note publications by OLLI members. If you have published in any genre, please send the title, publisher, date of publication, a brief synopsis of the work and ordering information to [peterbluhm@roadrunner.com](mailto:peterbluhm@roadrunner.com).