



# Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WINTER 2012

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

## Wonderful Winter 2012 Semester

From January 17 through February 29, OLLI will be offering a variety of new and exciting courses. Break the winter doldrums and register for classes! Please see the Winter 2012 Catalog for complete details or visit our website at [www.BerkshireOLLI.org](http://www.BerkshireOLLI.org).

### TUESDAY

Triplex Cinema, Great Barrington & Lenox Library

*Tuesdays at the Movies: Billy Wilder* – Howard Arkans

*Winston Churchill: Greatest Man of the Twentieth Century?* – William Vogt

### WEDNESDAY

Lenox Library

*Through the Eyes of Children: Portrayals of Childhood in Adult Short Fiction*

– Alexandra Tinari

*Showcasing the Berkshires* – Crispina French, Guido's Team, Daniel Mazursky,  
Susan Sellev, Barbara Zheutlin

*The Short Fiction of Franz Kafka* – David Fine (Limit 15)

### THURSDAY

Lenox Library

*Today's Headlines* – David Orenstein, Moderator

*European Art History* – Jerome Connoy

*Writing Our Stories: Memoir and Short Story Writing* – Efreem Sigel LOTTERY (Limit 8)

### FRIDAY

Lenox Library

*Frontiers of Medicine* – Margaret Hassett, Laszlo Tamas, David Winger, Jacqueline Wu

*Science Conversations: Behind the Headlines* – Panel



Lecturers: Alexandra Tinari  
William Vogt



## OLLI Photo Contest

**PRIZE:** The winning photos will be on the cover of the Spring or the Summer 2012 Catalog, and the winner will receive a 1-year free membership to OLLI.

**THEME:** Berkshire area spring or summer scene

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

**DEADLINE:** January 7, 2012

**SUBMIT:** E-mail attached photos to [Bob.Desrosiers@gmail.com](mailto:Bob.Desrosiers@gmail.com).  
Visit [www.BerkshireOLLI.org](http://www.BerkshireOLLI.org) for further details.

## Photo Contest Winner – Winter

The photo "Misty Morning" appears on the cover of the Winter 2012 Catalog. It was taken by Betsey Farber of New York City at her home in Southfield with a 17 mm lens at 1/125 sec, f/5.8.

## President's Message

Dear OLLI Members,

You recently received a letter from me requesting your financial support for OLLI. During these trying financial times, I hope you will be as generous as possible.

There are several ways to help OLLI throughout the year:

- Tax-deductible contributions may be made in honor of a special occasion or in memory of someone deceased. OLLI will send an acknowledgment to the appropriate person noting that a contribution has been received. These contributions should be made payable to the BCC Foundation noting in the memo line that they are for OLLI.
- You can give an OLLI membership, also tax deductible, as a gift for the holiday season. These gifts are payable to OLLI at BCC. The gift certificate with your name on it will be sent to the recipient.

*All contributions should be sent to the OLLI office.*

A Leadership Development Seminar was held in September to help the Board of Directors do a better job for OLLI. Led by Larry Robbins and Howard Shapiro, the seminar gave us a better understanding of what makes a good leader. We are very grateful to Larry and Howard for sharing their expertise with us.

This has been a good year for OLLI. The Annual Art Show was a great success. Special Events, OLLI "Outdoors" and the Distinguished Speakers Series programs were excellent and well received. The courses for the fall semester were popular, and now we look forward to a stimulating winter semester for those members who stay in the Berkshires and brave the snow. I am one of those people, and I look forward to joining you in classes.



## OLLI's Curriculum Council

The Curriculum Council is responsible for designing and implementing a coordinated program of courses for each of the four semesters of the OLLI academic year. The council is composed of the following positions/individuals:

President of the OLLI Board of Directors – Sandi Rubin  
Chair of the Arts Committee – Betsey Selkowitz  
Co-chairs of the Literature Committee – Rudy Hoeltzel and Hope Hagler  
Co-chairs of the Science Committee – Anthony Segal and Andrew Fisher  
Chair of the Social Science Committee – Arthur Sherman  
Editor of the OLLI Catalog – Bonnie Desrosiers  
Chair of the OLLI Media Committee – Joseph Gerard  
Chair of the OLLI Distinguished Speakers Series Committee – Wendy Robbins  
Executive Director – Barbara Hochberg

These individuals work together to ensure that each semester offers varied topics at diverse geographical sites, while addressing instructors' wishes concerning scheduling and audiovisual support. The council is the place where each of the four curriculum committees—Arts, Literature, Science and Social Science—come together to finalize semesters and to share future plans. OLLI's catalog editor is an essential member of this group, working closely with curriculum chairs to make certain that the instructor forms are submitted in a timely manner each semester. These forms provide the information needed by the editor and the Catalog Committee to produce the course entries in the semester catalogs.

The Curriculum Council members each represent a distinct area of OLLI operations and their cooperation within the council is responsible for our robust academic calendar.  
— Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director

## Upcoming Events and Lectures

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

*Capitals of Art* with Michael Cassin, Thursdays at The Clark

**MARCH 8** • Bruges in the 15th Century

**MARCH 15** • Rome in the 16th Century

**MARCH 22** • Madrid in the 17th Century

**MARCH 29** • London in the 18th Century

### OLLI "OUTDOORS"

**JANUARY 9** • Cross Country Skiing at Notchview Reservation, Windsor

**JANUARY 21** • OLLI Pool/Billiard at the Otis Recreational Center

**FEBRUARY 13** • Snowshoe Hike at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Lenox

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**JANUARY 5 – 13** • Trip to Cuba – contact Arline Breskin 413.446.4102

**MARCH 6 and/or 13** • The Tom and Mary James/Raymond James Financial Art Collection, St. Petersburg, Florida

Look for e-mails about these events.

## Getting to Know Stacy Wallach

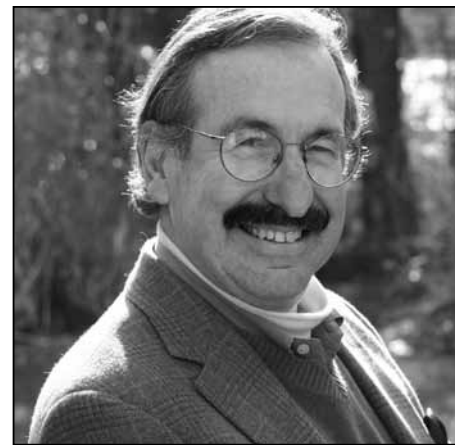
### STACY IS A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS!

He is a lifelong student of history, a former Manhattan litigator, a retired real estate executive and, at present, an adjunct professor at Pace University Law School. Stacy earned a BA, *magna cum laude*, at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania where he majored in history, political science and economics. He then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and practiced law in New York City.

In his mid-forties, Stacy served as Senior Vice President, general counsel and member of the Board of Directors of the Edward S. Gordon Co., a leading commercial brokerage firm, and then as Senior Managing Director, Brokerage Operations/New Jersey at CB Richard Ellis, Inc., the largest commercial real estate services firm in the world. For many years, he volunteered his time as a New York City Small Claims Court arbitrator and Federal District Court mediator.

Stacy is a frequent OLLI lecturer. His diverse background, his extensive research into historical time periods, his love of PowerPoint illustrations to enliven his lectures and his dynamic personality combine to make his OLLI courses exciting, stimulating and popular. He particularly enjoys delving into an unusual thread or theory in a specific time period and has taught courses including *A Look at America's Birth: 1788 to 1805* and *The Gilded Age: The Emergence of Modern America*. He is currently preparing a course for the spring 2012 semester on a little known but critical incident early in World War II when Germany might have had its best opportunity to win that war.

A guest lecturer for the Distinguished Speakers Series, Stacy's topic was *From Ironic to Iconic: An Idiosyncratic Look at the History of Manhattan Skyscrapers*, which he will also present in January at the annual



meeting of the New York State Bar Association in New York City.

In addition to presenting OLLI courses, Stacy volunteers at the Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic) in Lenox. He enjoys tennis, hiking, biking, skiing and, most of all, being with his family. He also has a great concern for those people sometimes overlooked in our community.

We at OLLI are fortunate to be the recipients of Stacy's knowledge and enthusiasm for teaching history.

— Fran Wolk, Editorial Staff

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## President Raverta—Thank You and Farewell

**WHEN** The Bernard Osher Foundation insisted that the independent corporate entity Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (BILL) become an integral part of an acceptable institutional parent as a condition of becoming an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), it was Paul Raverta, President of BCC, who very quickly grasped the major favorable impact this would have on the long-term future of lifelong learning in the Berkshires. When asked, he unhesitatingly agreed to accept BILL and merge it into BCC as OLLI at BCC.

**WHEN** the Osher Foundation expressed concern about academic programming and the financial management capabilities of what would become the first major regional community college in their star-studded galaxy of top educational institutions in the country, it was President Raverta who pulled together

the appropriate staff to prepare an outstanding summary of what BCC is all about. It very quickly allayed any concerns within the Osher Foundation, and today BCC stands with the best educational institutions in the country as the home of a very successful OLLI.

**WHEN** it became necessary to develop a mutually satisfactory Affiliation Agreement involving BILL, BCC and the BCC Foundation, it was President Raverta who was instrumental in cutting through many complex issues to assure that the excellent educational and operational management developed within BILL was suitably incorporated into the merged entity. He has, in the years since, provided strong leadership and support throughout the college and, as a result, OLLI at BCC has grown and received major financial



support from The Osher Foundation; support which assures the long-term viability of lifelong learning in this community.

Those of us who worked diligently to bring about the transformation from BILL to OLLI

at BCC are sincerely grateful for the strong leadership provided by President Raverta in making this all possible. OLLI at BCC wishes him and his family many years of good health and much enjoyment in their long-delayed retirement. He takes with him all of our good wishes and the certainty that he leaves a legacy that will not be forgotten.

— Art Sherman, Editorial Staff

## Story Musgrave

Astronaut Story Musgrave's life is filled with facts and deeds that seem beyond reality; but this information came from e-mails and website links from the astronaut himself.

Story was born in 1935 on a dairy farm at the Linwood Estate in the Glendale section of Stockbridge, now the location of the Norman Rockwell Museum. As a 5 year old, he remembers lying on his back on the plowed fields looking at the stars. "I didn't have any idea what a star was. I didn't have any knowledge. It was just awe and wonder." By age 10, he had built river rafts, worked on farm machinery, operated combines, had driven tractors and trailers and by age 13 he repaired them.

Story's early school life was not successful in the usual sense; he hated school, got in trouble, dropped out of St. Mark's School, a boarding school in Southborough, Massachusetts, and joined the Marines in 1953. He credits the discipline of the Marines with providing the foundation for his future work. He loved planes and mechanics and developed a desire for higher education. When he learned that Syracuse University had a program for servicemen, he took and passed the Massachusetts high school equivalency test and was accepted at Syracuse for the class of 1958.

That was only the beginning of his higher academic achievements. He earned graduate degrees in mathematics, computers, chemistry, physiology, literature and psychology, and he has a medical degree from



Columbia University Medical School.

During Story's medical internship in 1964, he read that NASA was looking for scientists to join the astronaut corps and so he discontinued his internship in order to study aerospace physiology. He realized "I was a spaceperson, that's me...from aviation education to medicine. I could see that everything I've done in life, I can apply to this new job." He joined NASA in 1967, and was one of 11 people selected out of 4,000 applicants. His new job involved work on spacesuit technology and testing and developing shuttle software and other research. In 1983, he took the first of his six space flights where he could test and use the spacesuits he had designed.

His first flight was on the maiden

voyage of the space shuttle Challenger in 1983 where he and a fellow astronaut took the first memorable steps outside the spacecraft doing somersaults as they worked their way along the payload bay; in 1985 he was the flight engineer on his second Challenger mission. In 1989 and again in 1991 he was aboard Discovery involved in radiation and medical experiments; and in 1993 he was the payload commander for the famous Hubble Telescope repair mission and remembered, "that the little Linwood boy, that St. Mark's dropout, gets to do this is still a dream." In 1996 on the Columbia, his last space voyage, he worked on experiments to study the origin and composition of the stars—perhaps to find the answers to his boyhood questions—the unending wonder and search for knowledge that persists in his life today.

Story left NASA in 1997 after 30 years with the program. Since then he has continued his intellectual and physical pursuits in a multitude of activities—producing media, teaching, corporate presentations, parachuting, writing and many others.

His family includes his wife Amanda, seven children ages 4 to 50 years and three grandchildren. He now lives in Florida and makes periodic visits back to the Berkshires.

One of his favorite quotations exemplifies his philosophy, "Live in the moment, the past is history, the future a mystery, the destination unknown. Life is about the journey."

—Joanna Fribush, Editorial Staff

### OLLI NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Wilma Michaels

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Peri Caverly, Judy Katz, Marge Lewis, Sandi Rubin

EDITORIAL STAFF: Norman Avnet, Arline Breskin, Ruth Degenhardt, Joanna Fribush, Jo Ann Lancaster, Marilyn Margolis, Trudy Moskowitz, Wendy Robbins, Robert Rosen, Helen-Mary Shaffer, Harriet Shair, Arthur Sherman, Fran Wolk

**Best Wishes  
for a Happy  
and Healthy  
New Year**

# Summer and Fall OLLI Events



Members and Guests With Colonials' Mascot

OLLI "Outdoors" at Wahconah Park, August 24



Arline Breskin, Special Events Chair; Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director



Leadership Development Seminar at BCC, September 9

Art Show in Lenox, September 3  
Ron Stewart, Art Show Coordinator  
Marilyn Brimberg, Marketing Committee Chair



Brunch with OLLI Chefs, October 16  
Warren Hagler, Sal and Joan Angelo



Trip to Hyde Park, September 7  
Lunch at the Eveready Diner  
Harry Galinsky, Rose Foster, Georgette Levy, Evelyn Zwerner,  
Janice Jones-Thomson, DeWitt Thomson



# DEAR OLLI

To keep our members better informed, we are introducing a new feature in the newsletter called DEAR OLLI. If you have questions about OLLI, send them to editorial staff member Bob Rosen at [robert.rosen@verizon.net](mailto:robert.rosen@verizon.net). The answers will come from those members who can best reply to the questions. The questions in this issue originated from the newsletter editorial staff.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## *With an endowment of \$2 million, why does OLLI need to charge membership dues and class fees?*

The principal of the \$2 million endowment cannot be invaded by the terms of our agreement with The Osher Foundation. Only the income from the endowment investment can be spent in a given fiscal year. OLLI had estimated a return of 5 percent

on the endowment for this year, but in this financial climate the return will surely be diminished. OLLI must charge membership dues and course tuition to help cover its operating costs which include staff salaries and benefits, audiovisual and editing equipment, printing costs of catalogs and newsletters, postage, advertising and other instructional related expenses. — Norman Michaels, Treasurer

## *Why does OLLI charge a percentage over its discounted costs for Special Events or similar events?*

All programs and activities are structured to help defray OLLI's operating expenses. Members who take courses pay through course fees. Special Events and other programs are set at approximately 10 percent above costs for this same purpose. — Norman Michaels, Treasurer

## *What are some of the major differences among the 117 OLLIs?*

Each OLLI organization reflects the culture of its own learning community. Many OLLIs are lecture-based as is ours; others are built around the Study Group Model and some offer a preponderance of "hands on" courses. Some teach exclusively on their host campus and pay instructors from that college's programs to teach. Others have multiple sites and some, like ours, do not pay their instructors. Membership dues and tuition fees also vary widely depending upon the instructional costs.

To explore the different OLLI cultures, visit the OLLI National Resource Center site at [www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national](http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national). Go to "Find an OLLI Near You" for direct links to each OLLI website. — Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director

Return Service Requested

