



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WINTER 2013

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

Winter 2013 Semester at a Glance

Beginning January 15 and continuing through February 22, OLLI will be offering a variety of new and exciting courses for the winter semester. For your convenience, classes will be held at locations with easy-access parking. Register for classes now! Please see the Winter 2013 Catalog for complete details or visit our website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

TUESDAY Triplex Cinema, Great Barrington & Lenox Library

Tuesdays at the Movies: Vincente Minnelli – Howard Arkans
The Short Fiction of Bernard Malamud – David Fine, Elizabeth Young
From Monet to van Gogh: A History of Impressionism – Jerome Connoy, Moderator

WEDNESDAY Lenox Library

The Epic of Gilgamesh: An Ancient Masterpiece from Mesopotamia – Alexandra Tinari
Showcasing the Berkshires – Richard Bourdon, Jenny Hersch, Jennifer and Philip Leahy, Jackie Moffatt and Marjorie Powell, Annie Selke, Michael Tesoro
The Canterbury Tales: A Fourteenth Century Road Trip – Laura Smith

THURSDAY Lenox Library

Frontiers of Medicine – Bruce Evenchik, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Paul Rosenthal
Science Conversations: Behind the Headlines – Panel
Eisenhower: A Successful President or a Moral Failure? – Stacy Wallach

FRIDAY Lenox Library

Today's Headlines – David Orenstein, Moderator



Lecturers: Annie Selke
Jerome Connoy



OLLI Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photos will be on the cover of the Spring or Summer 2013 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. Please send high resolution photos.

DEADLINE: January 6, 2013

SUBMIT: E-mail attached photos to Bob.Desrosiers@Gmail.com. Visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for further details.

Photo Contest Winner – Winter

The photo "Horse and Sleigh" appears on the cover of the Winter 2013 Catalog. It was taken by John Morse of Stockbridge with a Canon EOS digital camera at 1/250 second, f/13, ISO 200.

President's Message

This has been an exciting few months for OLLI. In June we held our first Leadership Development Program (LDP) to encourage future leaders to learn about BILL/OLLI—its history, strengths and challenges. As a result of this program, which took place once a week throughout June, we put together a cadre of members who have assumed various positions in our organization. We plan to hold the LDP bi-annually. If you have any interest in participating in a future LDP, please call OLLI's Executive Director Barbara Hochberg for more information.

Another outcome of the LDP was our recognition of the need to start a development committee. While it is true that we have an endowment of \$2 million, the rules established by the Osher Foundation stipulate that we may not use the principal of this fund; only the *income* that it generates. This has not been sufficient to cover OLLI's needs. The Development Committee has been asked to raise an additional \$40,000 this year so that we will not operate at a deficit. OLLI at BCC must take an active role in raising funds. To do this, we need the help of all our members.

Next year, 2013/2014, will mark BILL/OLLI's twentieth anniversary. An anniversary committee is putting together a yearlong program of events to mark the occasion. I am delighted to announce that Dr. Leon Botstein, president of Bard College, will be our kick-off speaker in September 2013. The closing event will be held at the Cranwell Resort in May 2014. If you would like to work on any of the anniversary festivities, please call Barbara.

I have attended many committee meetings over the past few months, and it is terrific to see how volunteers are working to meet their committee goals. Our fall semester just ended, and our winter semester is about to begin. I look forward to seeing and meeting you at our winter classes!

Sandra Rubin

OLLI's Leadership Development Program

OLLI at BCC recently completed its first Leadership Development Program (LDP). Thirteen OLLI members were invited to participate in the program which was held in June. The program sites included BCC and Williams College, two of our Educational Partners, a local country club and the Norman Rockwell Museum, one of our Cultural Partners.

The main objective of the LDP was to provide those with leadership potential in-depth information about all facets of OLLI and to encourage as many participants as possible to serve as leaders. With this in mind, we invited speakers from the non-profit sector who provided insight into how OLLI could continue to grow as an important component of life in the Berkshires. The speakers discussed our relationship with the BCC Foundation, our place in the Berkshire non-profit world and the importance of fundraising and marketing. We began with a detailed history that explained how our predecessor organization, Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (BILL), was founded and its evolution into OLLI.

The speakers included Kali Lightfoot from the OLLI National Resource Center, who discussed the Osher Foundation and the OLLI network, and Laurie Norton Moffat, CEO of the Norman Rockwell Museum, who discussed the critical importance of non-profit boards and volunteers. Adam Falk, president of Williams College, shared his thoughts on educational leadership and OLLI in particular.



First Leadership Development Program Participants

The LDP was conceived in 2011 by Art Sherman, then chair of the OLLI Governance Committee, in response to the need to fill Board of Director positions. President Sandra Rubin and I worked with Art on this project. Critical to the development of this program were OLLI members Larry Robbins and Howard Shapiro. Larry, a former director of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Teaching and Learning, and Howard, who had operated a consulting business that provided non-profits with services related to board development and training, led the group in numerous activities related to board responsibilities, conducting meetings and developing strategies.

Outstanding participant evaluations and the filling of vital committee chair positions by members of OLLI's first leadership development class attest to the success of the LDP. We now have new and energized leadership in our Development, Public Relations, Mentoring and Membership Committees. In addition, we have new support on two of our curriculum committees and, perhaps most important, the potential for new board members.

— Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director

Getting to Know Ellen Kennedy

PRESIDENT OF BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Everyone calls me 'Ellen,'" says Ellen Kennedy the newest president of Berkshire Community College (BCC)—the staff, students, faculty and friends. Born and bred in Massachusetts, she grew up in Lynn. Her education is in the state as well: a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (formerly North Adams State College), a Master of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard. Her doctorate, on which she is currently working, will be from Northeastern. She juggles her studies while running BCC and, as she says, she "looks forward with joy to every day!"

She is married to an attorney and has a 22-year-old son. A voracious reader, she reads books about entrepreneurship and, her secret pleasure is to read novels recommended by her son. Ellen's favorite exercise is golf—but there's little time for that now. She has also traveled the globe.

Ellen is the seventh president of BCC succeeding Dr. Paul Raverta and under whom she served as Vice President for Administration and Finance and then, upon Raverta's retirement, as interim president. In June, after extensive searching, the

Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Ellen president of BCC with the confidence that she will continue Raverta's successes and, building upon these, will bring new successes further enhancing BCC's fine reputation. Susan Lombard, past chair of the BCC Board of Trustees, remarked that the "college and community will benefit from her collaborative leadership style."

Addressing the economic needs of the college community and preparing students for the workforce are her goals. The college's associate degree and certificate programs prepare students to transfer to baccalaureate institutions or to enter the workforce. Ellen passionately encourages students to complete the two-year programs because on a resume or during an interview, this shows that the student has the determination to take the community college education seriously. There is a new national focus, she says, that appreciates the "nimbleness" of the community college to connect with the workforce and the business community. Ellen, in turn, recognizes change and new demands to which the college must react.

OLLI and BCC have strong and mutually valuable relationships, she says. For example, OLLI donates



\$5,000 so that the BCC library can purchase books honoring the 5 percent of the student body celebrated at the Honors Convocation held in the fall. The technical expertise of OLLI's Information Systems Chair Bob Desrosiers and the mentoring program are other "gifts" OLLI gives BCC. Then there are the intangibles: interaction with the community that BCC would not have if it were not for OLLI members and the vitality and life experience that seasoned learners share.

The door is always open to Ellen's office; her heart is always open to whomever needs her; her intelligence is always open to what is new and exciting that will benefit BCC and its students. The years ahead have such great promise for BCC. Ellen Kennedy's vision, affection and knowledge will be there still as she "looks forward with joy to every day!"

— Marge Lewis, Assistant Editor

Science Committee Update

You don't have to be a scientist to understand the beautiful, mind-awakening world presented by OLLI science courses. It may even help if your science and math background is a tad on the weak side. You'll have the enormous pleasure of lots of "aha" moments.

Each year the nine-member Science Committee puts together approximately 12 to 15 courses on an eclectic range of topics. Some courses provide a broad introduction to a scientific field; others delve into specialty areas such as fractals, the working of the brain and the flora

and fauna of the Berkshires. Several science courses have become regulars and are repeated each year. For example, *Science Conversations: Behind the Headlines* discusses articles in the science section of *The New York Times*. *Birding for Beginners* is a popular course that meets six times in the spring at various parks and introduces participants to the great variety of birds either resident here yearlong or that migrate through the Berkshires from as far as the tip of South America.

OLLI science courses have been enormously fortunate to draw upon the outstanding faculties at Williams

College, BCC and Simon's Rock, local organizations and OLLI members, many of whom have years of experience in a wide range of scientific areas. The goal of all OLLI science courses is to provide a stimulating experience for everyone and to bring clarity and understanding to complex phenomena that shape us and our world.

For more information about the Science Committee, please contact me at a9241@aol.com or co-chair Tony Segal at ftsegal@nycap.rr.com.

— Andy Fisher, Science Committee

Winthrop Murray Crane

40TH GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

Winthrop Murray Crane, known as "Murray," Governor of Massachusetts from 1900-1903 and U.S. Senator from 1904-1913, was a grandson of Zenas Crane, the founder of Crane & Co. in Dalton. He was born in Dalton in 1853 and educated in Dalton schools, Wilbraham Academy and Williston Seminary.

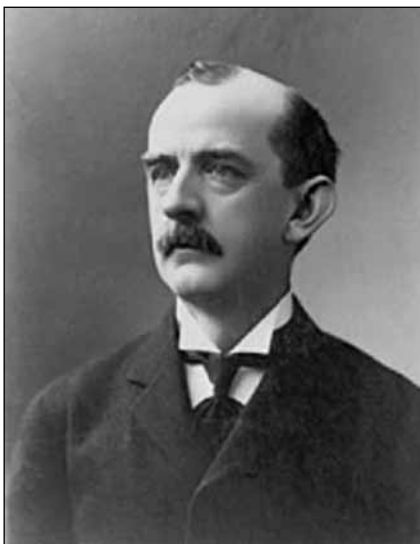
Although Crane inherited wealth and position, he worked as a rag picker in the mills to learn the paper making business from the ground up. In 1879 he scored the win that made him a Crane legend—he secured the contract for U.S. currency paper, a contract that continues to this day. Family lore tells that at the bidding in Washington, just before the deadline, Crane, who had been locked in his room by his competitors, escaped through the transom above the door and raced to the Treasury Department to submit the winning bid. He only then developed the grade of paper required.

Crane followed his grandfather's and father's leadership in the Republican Party and in extensive philanthropic undertakings. In 1896 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, and in 1899 was elected to the first of three one-year terms as governor. In 1904 he was appointed to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the death of George F. Hoar and was then elected to his own six-year term. He became a friend of President Theodore Roosevelt, who sought his advice on national issues including how to settle the coal strike in 1902. The President offered him the position of Secretary of the Treasury, which he declined.

"The Accident," a nationally famous disaster, occurred in Pittsfield in 1902. Crane had invited President Roosevelt to stay at his house while on a New England speaking tour. On April 2, 1902, after the President spoke before 10,000 people in Pittsfield, Crane and the President sat in the back seat of a horse-drawn carriage on route to the Pittsfield Country Club. The carriage was struck by an electric trolley and its passengers were thrown into the street. A secret service agent and a horse were killed, but Crane and Roosevelt survived with bruises. Newspapers reported that Roosevelt continued on his speaking tour afterward.

W. Murray Crane died in 1920 at his estate "Sugar Hill" in Dalton and is buried in the Dalton cemetery. He provided funds in his will for the building and endowing of the Dalton Community House to be used by the residents for social, recreational, cultural and educational programs. A monument in his memory was later erected near this center. Former President William Howard Taft spoke at the dedication of this monument.

— Joanna Fribush



Upcoming Events and Lectures

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

Michael Cassin, the Clark's Director of the Center for Education in the Visual Arts, titled this March/April series, *The Four Seasons*. The changing times of the year have been an inspiration for landscape painters for centuries.

Thursdays at The Clark at 1 p.m.

MARCH 7 • Primavera Plus

The Seasons in the Renaissance

MARCH 14 • Été etc. The Seasons in the 17th and 18th Centuries

NO LECTURE MARCH 21

MARCH 28 • Autumn and...

The Seasons in the 19th Century

APRIL 4 • "If Winter comes..."

The Seasons in the Modern Era

SPECIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 26 • Florida East Coast, Morikami Museum, Delray Beach

MARCH 7 AND/OR 14 • Florida West Coast, Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota

OLLI "OUTDOORS"

JANUARY/FEBRUARY • Snowshoeing and Cross Country Skiing (if Winter cooperates), locations TBA

Watch for e-mails with details about these events.



CATALOG COMMITTEE 2012-2013

Seated

Editor Bonnie Desrosiers, Arline Shalan

Standing

Executive Director Barbara Hochberg, Wilma Michaels, Marge Lewis, Lesley Rubinger

OLLI NEWSLETTER

Editor: Wilma Michaels

Assistant Editors: Peri Caverly, Judy Katz, Marge Lewis, Sandi Rubin

Editorial Staff: Arline Breskin, Mary Anne Cicchillo, Ruth Degenhardt, Joanna Fribush, Jo Ann Lancaster, Marilyn Margolis, Robert Rosen, Helen-Mary Shaffer, Harriet Shair, Arthur Sherman, Fran Wolk

A Very Special Event!

OLLI Brunch and Lecture at BCC

Barrington Stage Company Performance

Special Events Committee

*Seated: Judy Keshner, Barbara Greenbaum
Standing: Helene Calman, Bonnie Desrosiers,
Chair Arline Breskin, Turbi Smilow*



*New OLLI Members
Attending Brunch
Bernd and Helen Brecher,
Barbara Kalnins,
Stephanie Nasson,
Ruth Weinstein,
Rose Scotch*



*OLLI Chefs Ron Maitland, Larry Klein, Howie Arkans,
Carol Sabot*



Lecturer Phyllis Jaffe on Lord of the Flies

OLLI Committees and Chairs 2012 – 2013

STANDING COMMITTEES

Governance – Ron Stewart
Executive Support and Appraisal
– Sandra Rubin
Curriculum Council – Sandra Rubin
and Barbara Hochberg
Membership – Nancy McGill and
Shirley Shapiro
Information Systems – Bob Desrosiers

OPERATING COMMITTEES

Catalog – Bonnie Desrosiers
Development – Carl Shuster and
Abbie von Schlegel
Distinguished Speakers Series
– Larry and Wendy Robbins
Media – Joe Gerard
Newsletter – Wilma Michaels
Special Events – Arline Breskin
OLLI “Outdoors” – Bob Rosen
OLLI Art Show – Ron Stewart
Webmaster – Hal Shair

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Mentoring Program – Carole Siegel
and Claudia Shuster
Public Relations – Gail Palmer
Twentieth Anniversary – Howard
Arkans

Meet New Board Member Shirley Shapiro

Shirley was born and grew up in Detroit, Michigan. She studied at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees with an emphasis in special education. She later earned a second Masters in Learning Disabilities from Marygrove College in Detroit.

Originally, Shirley taught fourth grade as well as classes for emotionally disturbed children. After being appointed to a federally funded program in Developmental Disabilities, she became the head of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities in Detroit.

When Shirley and her husband Howard moved to Lansing, Michigan, in 1987, she joined the State Department of Education as a consultant in special education. She was especially pleased to be appointed by the Michigan governor to head a council on deafness and mental health. Shirley and Howard then moved to New Jersey where she became Chief of Learning Enrichment at Hackensack University Medical Center and, after seven years, became head of the Child Study Team for Ridgewood Public Schools.

The Shapiros came to the Berkshires in 1999 and bought a vacation house in Lenox; they moved here permanently when Shirley retired in 2005.

In 2006, Shirley and Howard became OLLI members. She was one of the participants in the first OLLI Leadership Development Program held this past June. As a result, she became co-chair of the Membership Committee with Nancy McGill. Shirley serves as a member of the OLLI Board of Directors.

During their busy life, the Shapiros raised a son, Rob, a surgeon, and a daughter, Carrie, a journalist. They have two grandchildren, Sammy and Lyssa. Shirley enjoys her garden, the OLLI classes she takes, being part of the OLLI Mentoring Program and being co-chair of the Membership Committee.

— Marilyn Margolis, Editorial Staff



Arts Committee Update

What lifts life above the mundane? The ARTS! The Arts Committee strives to present a broad spectrum of courses: music, fine arts, studio arts, architecture, film and even the culinary arts. The committee also arranges for visits to and from creative entrepreneurial and non-profit endeavors ranging from ice cream makers to beekeepers and alchemists.

The Arts Committee—currently composed of nine members—has a very talented and committed group of volunteers, several of whom are instructors as well as idea people. To name a few: Howie Arkans offers an

Italian cooking course and *Tuesdays at the Movies*; Jock Brooks gives OLLI art courses at The Clark and Williams College Museum of Art; Peter Podol, our resident opera guru, offers us beautiful music with passionate, knowledgeable commentary.

The committee meets at Chocolate Springs in Lenox, itself a creative Berkshire gem. We are constantly amazed at the proposals and committee member contacts revealed at our brainstorming sessions. With marvelous cultural partners and a wealth of resources not only in Massachusetts but extending to Vermont, New York

State and Connecticut—our opportunities are vast.

The committee, however, would welcome more members to contribute ideas and organizational skills to continue to provide enticing offerings for the four OLLI semesters. We welcome those ideas for courses and instructor resources whether or not you wish to serve on the committee. If you are interested in joining the Arts Committee or have a suggestion for us to consider, please contact me at bselkowitz@nycap.rr.com.

— Betsey Selkowitz, Chair
Arts Committee

OLLI Board To Seek Additional Funding

OLLI at BCC's Board of Directors has appointed a development committee to identify sources of additional funding that will further stabilize and support its present income and help defray the cost of needed new equipment and services for its members.

In its charge to the newly convened Development Committee, the board instructed the group to propose new approaches to increasing monetary support for OLLI through the annual fund drive, project sponsorships, grants and other external funding sources. Carl Shuster and Abbie von Schlegell are co-chairs; the other members are Lucy Kennedy, Pat Pollok and Len Tabs.

In its recent report to the board, the committee outlined its plans to survey the membership to determine attitudes towards OLLI's mission and its programs as well as to evaluate and

identify those services most important to its members. Focus groups will also be convened to gather members' thoughts and opinions about OLLI and its offerings.

OLLI President Sandra Rubin stated, "The board has found that fluctuations in the earnings of the endowment funded by the Osher Foundation make it necessary for OLLI to seek ways to achieve a reliable financial backup to assure a steady fiscal footing going forward and to stabilize the flow of revenue from year to year. It is a requirement of the Osher Foundation that we operate in a sustainable fashion." In addition, President Rubin pointed out that OLLI would like to obtain new and additional funds to undertake such needed projects as replacing and upgrading audiovisual equipment, enhancing scholarship support to members who lack sufficient resources

and supplementing operational needs such as web and graphic design.

OLLI at BCC's fees are among the most modest of any of the OLLI programs across the country. "In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012," said President Rubin, "because we earned approximately \$67,000 less than budgeted in endowment income, that income coupled with membership, tuition and other member fees covered only about two-thirds of the cost of administering OLLI. With the support of our membership, fresh ideas for fundraising and a strong belief that our OLLI is worth the additional work and commitment, the board is very optimistic about our task."

—Carl Shuster

Co-Chair Development Committee

DEAR OLLI

To keep our members better informed, we introduced a feature called **DEAR OLLI**. If you have questions about OLLI, send them to Wilma Michaels, newsletter editor, at wmichaels40@aol.com. The answers will come from those members who can best reply to the questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

OLLI member Martin Silver asked, "What are OLLI's dues and tuition refund policies?"

Members may obtain a refund of their membership dues if they apply in writing to the president of the Board of Directors, who makes a decision based upon the reasons for the request.

Tuition refunds are available by calling the OLLI office during the semester for which a course or flex pass has been issued. Refunds are

made if the member finds that a personal situation has kept him/her from attending class, or if, within the first two sessions, the member determines that the class is not what he/she anticipated.

— Barbara Hochberg
Executive Director

You may have wondered, "What is Lunch and Meet?"

Lunch and Meet offers OLLI members the opportunity to meet and have lunch with other OLLI members between classes at designated tables. Members can share thoughts on classes and have the opportunity to socialize.

The times and places change with each semester. A notice is sent out from the office before the start of each semester with specific meeting locations. — Sandi Rubin, President

Did you know that you are welcome to attend Board of Directors and committee meetings?

The Board of Directors' meetings are held in the General Bartlett (GB) room located on the second floor of the Susan B. Anthony Center.

If you would like to attend a board or committee meeting, please e-mail the office at OLLI@berkshirecc.edu for the exact date, time and location.

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

More Special Events

Bus Trip to The Bronx, September 6



*OLLI "Outdoors" Bike Ride, August 7
Jack Machanik, Diane Saunders, Event Leader Bob Rosen,
Andy Fisher, Linda Benton*



*OLLI Group Visit
to The New York
Botanical Gardens*



*Evelyn Zwerner and
Mary Hoeltzel on
Arthur Avenue*

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