

BALI Banner

Brandeis Adult Learning Institute

FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Sharon Sokoloff



BALI is thriving! *Thank you.* BALI's success is directly related to the degree to which you take ownership of the program. The most obvious types of involvement include leading study groups and serving on BALI committees. But BALI is also enriched when members give to the program in unique ways.

Here are a few examples.

At the start of this semester, two members led walking tours of Brandeis during the lunch hour—to rave reviews. We have two informal “pilot programs” developed by BALI members that are taking place in the BALI Gathering Place. Members of the BALI Technology Task Force are running a “computer roundtable discussion group” on Wednesdays after L&L. Three other members are leading a discussion group on fiction in current issues of *The New Yorker*, on the first Thursday of every month.

During one member's first semester at BALI, he created a computerized database of BALI Study Groups and Study Group Leaders encompassing the program's first five semesters. He continues to update the database each semester. This is a powerful and useful tool for the Curriculum Committee in doing its work. He has also developed a similar database for the L&L Program.

One of our members developed and conducted a competitive bidding process for our shuttle van that ultimately saved the program \$7,500. We used that money to buy an LCD projector for use with computers and more and better tables and chairs. Two members assisted Carol Allman Morton and the Brandeis Procurement Department to select the best projector to meet BALI's needs.

A member invited his boyhood friend to speak at BALI. As a result, we are now planning the first BALI-sponsored campus-wide program, a lecture to be given on May 12, 2004 by former Governor and Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis.

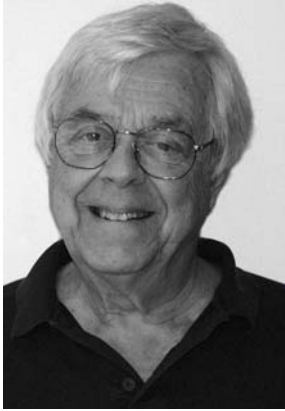
There's more. A member donated the flowered tablecloths in the Gathering Place. More than ten members have shopped for the supplies needed to provide coffee, tea, and snacks at BALI. Many come in early to help with the daily BALI set-up, and others bring in homemade treats. At least a dozen members have worked in the BALI office. Five people assisted during our registration period when Carol was on her honeymoon.

Another member not only designed our Lunch & Learn mugs—the first BALI product—but also worked with the University to produce the mugs.

Many others have made other, equally meaningful contributions. As one member said, “Some can do a lot, some can do a little; but everyone can do something”. Thanks in advance for all those “somethings.”

FIVE GOLD STARS

by *Bob Russo*



Five gold stars on a red background fastened to the front door. A monument? A mausoleum? A concrete obituary to a generation?

A few hundred yards from the comings and goings of busy shoppers on Route 9 sits a nondescript windowless building, the capstone of the history that shaped us

all, a collection of World War II memorabilia.

Each of us entered with a bit of trepidation, not knowing exactly what to expect, each of us with our own individual memories of the time, as we reconnected with this turning point in our lives. After passing through an electronic metal detector, we signed in, and received an orientation about this private collection.

I was struck by the large flags, posters, and banners hung on the high, brightly lit, white walls, as the background sounds of music and speeches from the Third Reich played. This was the beginning of a maze through this torturous time, with each room a collection of death, now neatly encased in glass. We saw mannequins dressed in uniforms. We heard the voices of Roosevelt, Churchill, Hitler, and Hirohito, with words of warning, encouragement, triumph, and defeat.

I shuddered as I gazed at a whip no longer tearing at searing screaming flesh but sitting as a relic, while in the corner of the room was a mannequin dressed

in a pinstriped uniform resembling the pajamas worn in the concentration camps. Though we were familiar with this history, the small room reminded us of the suffering that we humans are capable of causing each other.

At times along the way, our conversation would be light; and then suddenly we would become completely silent as each of us gathered and sorted out our thoughts and emotions.

The Sherman tank was the largest and most visible piece in this collection, but the displays of the various documents and compelling personal letters gave the collection meaning and emphasized this dark period in history.

Together we went through the entire museum, but I doubt if any of us really finished. One could easily spend endless hours reading and contemplating, sorting and filing thoughts of this time. Reluctantly we headed out the door, some pausing to question the curator, others more eager to be free of this place.

As the door shut behind me I could still hear the muffled voices of the past, voices that somehow never go away.

The Museum of World War II can be contacted via email: mas@museumofworldwar2.com

Fax: 508-651-7698 or Tel: 508-651-7695

Monday through Friday 10:00-5:00

An appointment is necessary, and directions to the Museum will be given. There is no charge or donation requested.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Thanks to the effort of the Projector Task Force (**Carol Allman Morton, Richard Glantz, and Bob Palter**), BALI now owns the latest in digital projectors. The new projector casts a substantially brighter beam, has outstanding color fidelity, and is whisper-quiet.





NEW YORKER DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, Nov. 6th at 12:15

Topic: In the October 27th issue, *Love Snares*,
by Louise Erdrich

Location: Large multipurpose room

COMPUTER ROUNDABLE

Wednesdays, 2:05 to 3:20 P.M.

Bring your computer questions to the BALI
Technology Task Force
Location: The Gathering Place

LYDIAN STRING QUARTET

by *Katherine Raskin*



The beautiful Lydian String Quartet, founded in 1980, continues its mission of exploring two centuries of music from Mozart through Webern. Beethoven is heavily featured this season, with quartets from the span of his creative life.

Robert Koff, now professor emeritus of the Music

Department at Brandeis, was a founding member of the Juilliard Quartet and left it to come to Brandeis to help form the music department. The Lydian String Quartet was his creation.

The current members of the quartet are:

Daniel Stepner, *violin*

Judith Eissenberg, *violin*

Mary Ray, *viola*

Joshua Gordon, *cello*

The quartet has played internationally in England, Russia, Armenia, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, and throughout the USA. They have won awards and grants of many foundations, including the American Society of Composers, Arrangers and Producers, Awards for Adventuresome Programming, Mazer Grants from Brandeis, and a New England touring grant from NEFA, as well as a number of grants from the Aaron Copland Foundation.

The quartet's goals are to continue to perform and

record notable works, to give residencies at colleges and in conjunction with established concert series, as well as to spread the name of Brandeis University as a serious research institution with a strong dedication to the arts.

From 1995 to 2000, the Lydian String Quartet emphasized string quartets by American composers. During these five years, they played, recorded, and/or commissioned over 60 works by Americans. In the year 2000, they gave three concerts celebrating Jewish musical culture. This year, in addition to their regular series at Slosberg Auditorium at Brandeis, they are playing all four of John Harbison's string quartets at Emanuel Church in Boston, as well as beginning a two-year cycle of all sixteen Beethoven Quartets at the Center for the Arts in Natick.

The 2003-2004 season marks the third year of the Lydian String Quartet's five-year project, featuring "Vienna and the String Quartet". Each concert juxtaposes classical and modern masters of Vienna, featuring music of Hayden, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Wolf, Schönberg, Webern, Berg, and others, as well as selected non-Viennese works. The season began in early October. Other dates include: January 17, February 7, and April 17.

LSQ concerts will be preceded by a 7:00 P.M. lecture. Each concert begins at 8:00 P.M. Free parking is available at Slosberg Music Center at Brandeis University. BALI members are invited to attend at \$5.00 per ticket. It is a wonderful way to spend an evening at Brandeis!

PRO CHOICE

by *Marty Nichols, Membership Committee Chair*



Prior to each semester, members receive registration materials requesting the listing of three choices per course. Despite the statement “failure to provide alternative course selections will not increase your chances of receiving your first choice and may limit your admittance to alterna-

tive choices”, many members still fail to give additional choices. Some comments on the policies the Membership Committee uses in making class assignments may help members understand why the application asks for choices, and why it is in their self-interest to provide them.

Each term, limitations on class size result in some courses having more applicants than can be admitted. Study group leaders are granted their first choice for any semester in which they lead a course. Continuing BALI members are then given priority over newly admitted members, and a lottery is used to determine which members are placed in these courses. Members are never placed in an oversubscribed class simply because alternatives are not listed. When a member fails to provide the requested alternative choices, it is possible that the distribution of applicants or luck in the lotteries will result in placement. But when choices turn out to be oversubscribed, bad luck in the lotteries along with an insufficient number of choices means that the Committee must put the application aside and move

on with the assignment of continuing members who have supplied alternatives and lastly the newly admitted members. Thus, while it is not compulsory to list alternatives to each course, doing so increases the likelihood of being placed in a desired class, and maintains the priority over newly accepted members.

This semester BALI was able to successfully place 99% of all continuing members who gave their requested choices. When it became apparent during the assignment process that there was a member who did not have a class, despite having provided alternatives, the Director telephoned and asked that member to select among those classes still open. Continuing members who were not assigned classes because of a lack of alternatives received notification the following week in the regular assignment mailing. By that time, all continuing members who gave the requisite choices (or did not, but were lucky) and most of the new members had been placed. Placement was now on a first-come, first-served basis; and class openings were considerably limited.

Second and third choices need not be on the same day or in the same time slot as the first choice. Just give us enough choices, in your order of preference, to allow us to place you in two classes that do not meet at the same time.

If you do not list choices because you are unwilling to take any other class, please tell us. We will try to assist you so long as it does not disadvantage other members. Be pro choice and help yourself.

A CHOICE

by *Sherm Okun and Len Heier*

For those of us who are inveterate Googlers, it is hard to concede that there might be a search engine as good as—or possibly better than—Google (www.google.com). But now we have Teoma. If you go to www.teoma.com, you can conduct a search just as quickly as on Google and with comparable results. Teoma doesn't yet have all of Google's advanced features. However, it does give useful suggestions to narrow your search, and it provides additional links to other knowledgeable sources.

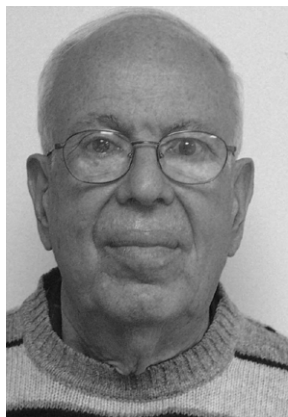
LOCATION!

LOCATION!

LOCATION!

HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE EBOARD

by *Bill Rachlin*



Like Brandeis University, or the United States government, or, say, Jenna Jameson, you too can have your own website. I had not previously considered this, having limited my computer explorations to e-mail and searching the web.

Then came an offer I couldn't refuse. The BALI

Technical Task Force (TTF—Chairman, Marty Greenfield), was established this year to introduce modern technology, especially the computer, into classes, committees, and other BALI groups. Using my course in Medical Ethics, along with Len Heier and Sherm Okun's course in Technology, the TTF wanted to explore two questions. First, could a computer tyro (me) set up a mini website called an "eBoard"? Second, would such a site be useful for course assignments and readings?

The eBoard is an electronic bulletin board, divided into five sections (in effect, five bulletin boards), on which the owner can post notes, which the reader can retrieve and print out with a couple of clicks. For privacy, the owner may require a password. The bulletin can be a composed Word-document, or an article retrieved from the web or scanned into the computer. Each of the five boards can be specifically named and posted; for example, a student might name the sections *English, History, Math, Music, and Chemistry*; and keep the subjects separated. Total capacity is 20 megabytes (more than 800 articles like this one).

One has a choice of six colors (green, blue, brown, purple, red, and teal) for the board and five (yellow, aqua, lime, pink, and sky) for the individual bulletins. The type may be regular, bold, or italicized. The notes can be set up so readers can write about them.

Len directed me to the user-friendly **www3.eboard.com**, which provided a few easy instructions; and within three minutes I had a functioning eBoard. All this for \$39/year. The first question was answered: one doesn't have to be a computer whiz to set this up.

As for utility, it saves the effort of supplying hard copies to members and is a convenient way for a committee to exchange ideas between meetings. All the student has to do is click on to the web site, and get the class information. Harry Veron, chairman of the Curriculum Committee, posts course proposals on his eBoard. The committee members can comment, thereby creating a running dialogue and accomplishing much of the work before a meeting.

TECH TALK

I post my bulletin(s) every Wednesday evening for next Wednesday's class. Results: of 33 class members, four without computers receive hardcopy. Of the remaining 29, seven cannot connect either physically or psychologically with the eBoard; three of them receive my communications as attachments to regular e-mail, the other four receive hardcopy. Thus, 25 of 33 members receive handouts electronically, either on eBoard or via email, a success rate of 76 %—quite acceptable for the first weeks of a new venture. I predict a bright future for eBoards in BALI.

The **BALI Banner** is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:

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CALENDAR OF CAMPUS EVENTS

compiled by Charles Raskin

SPINGOLD THEATER

781-736-3400

(tickets are half priced with a BALI ID)

Nov. 18-23 (*Laurie Theater*)

Don Quixote Brandeis University and The Double Edge Theater partner to create a unique version of Miguel Cervantes's classic tale. The play endeavors to reach beyond the realm of the word into the more hidden territories of humanity: imagination, rhythm, passion, and spirit.

Dec. 3 (*Main stage*)

Concert by **David Broza** This guitarist/composer sings English, Hebrew, and Spanish. With his flamenco and salsa-tinged folk-rock melodies and keen talent for breathing musical life into sensual snippets of poetry, Broza is a formidable musical force of nature.

SHAPIRO CAMPUS CENTER

Nov. 15, 8:00-11:00 P.M.

Neal Simon's comedy **Biloxi Blues**

A sheltered Jewish kid is sent from New York to a Mississippi training camp where he faces bigotry, homophobia, self-doubt, sex, and the fear of battle overseas. It's a comedy! (or is it?)

ROSE ART MUSEUM

781-736-3434

Sep. 11 to Dec. 7

Lois Foster Wing - **Painting⁴**

Four artists take the medium of painting "to the fourth power". Instead of traditional easel paintings, they create painted environments for a surprising and engaging journey.

Sep. 11 to Dec 7

Rose Bldg. - **Abstract Expressionism**

Discover highlights of the Brandeis Art Collection by such expressionists as Franz Kline, Robert Motherwell, Willem deKooning, and others.

Sept. 11 to Dec. 7

Mildred Lee Gallery - **bad touch**

Combining an abundance of approaches and processes by artists from around the world, "bad touch" reinvestigates drawings as a unique and personal medium.

MUSIC AT THE ROSE

Nov. 12, 7:00 P.M.

Musical performance by artist **Jimmy O'Neal** and D.J. **Richard Devine**, in conjunction with Painting⁴

LECTURES AT THE ROSE

Nov. 5, 7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Gallery Talk by featured artist Ingrid Calame, in conjunction with Painting⁴.

Nov. 15, 2:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

Gallery Talk by curator Raphaela Platow on Painting⁴.

Dec. 3, 7:00 P.M.

Lecture by Visiting Prof. David Anfam on Abstract Expressionism.

WEDNESDAY CONCERTS AT NOON

Goldfarb Building

Nov. 5 and Dec. 5

A mini-concert by the **Lydian String Quartet**

Nov. 19

Chamber music by students of Judy Eissenber's chamber music class

SLOSBERG RECITAL HALL

Nov. 8, 7:00 P.M. lecture; 8:00 P.M. concert

Lydian String Quartet

Beethoven: Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2

Eric Chasalow: First Quartet (1990)

Brahms: Quintet in F min. for Piano and Strings, Op. 34
with guest pianist Boris Berman

LUNCH AND LEARN FOR NOVEMBER

compiled by Max Potter

Nov. 5th

Impact of Hospital Mergers on Health Care

Samuel Thier, M.D. Former CEO, Partners Health care Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, renowned research scientist, and, above all, former President of Brandeis.

Nov. 6th

A Guide for Philanthropy for Individuals

Ron Ancrum. President of Associated Grant-makers of Massachusetts, and one long-involved with charitable fund raising in New England.

Nov. 12th

Recasting Reconciliation Through Culture and the Arts

Cynthia Cohen. Director of coexistence research and international collaborations for the Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence, with a panel of her students at the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis.

Nov. 13th

Building a Criminal Justice System

Joshua Dohan, Esq. Public defender and director of the Youth Advocacy Project created in 1992 to protect and advance the legal and human rights of children.

Nov. 19th

Differentiating Alzheimer's from Senior Moments

Jim Wessler and Diane Isenberger. Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts.

Nov. 20th

The News Media in the 21st Century: Information or Infotainment

Mark Jurkowitz. Media critic for the *Boston Globe* and frequent panelist, "Greater Boston".

Nov. 26th and 27th

No BALI. Thanksgivingweek.

Dec. 3rd

120 Days in Deep Hiding: Outwitting the Iraqis in Occupied Kuwait

Robert Morris, DMD. Dentist who worked for many years in Kuwait to improve dental care will discuss his book with the same title as this lecture.

Dec. 4th

Take Two on Forensic Science

Arthur Reis, Jr., Ph. D. Associate Provost, and Associate Vice President for Development and Lecturer in Chemistry at Brandeis. Repeat speaker, but additional material.

SPECIAL LECTURE

Wednesday, December 3rd, at 2 P.M.

Following Lunch-and-Learn, in the same Napoli Room, Natalie Taub's class, "Water and the Politics of Water" will have a guest speaker.

Fred Laskey, Executive Director of the MWRA, will present a slide show on the **History and Future of Water in Massachusetts**. Natalie is opening the class to all BALI members, "We all know that water is our most precious resource. Please join us for this important discussion."