

# BOLLI Banner

A Brandeis University Program  
www.brandeis.edu/bali  
781-736-2992

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

September 2004

## NEW NAME — NEW OPPORTUNITY

by Sharon Sokoloff

*More than anything, BALI/BOLLI members have been asking us who and what “Osher” is. Here are answers to some of the questions.*



*What is our new name?*

Formally, our new name is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Brandeis. You may have heard a number of names over the past few months; for example, “OLLI@Brandeis”. After consideration and conversation with The Osher Foundation Director, we are

using the name BOLLI informally, as it provides an expressive and smooth transition for our program from BALI to BOLLI.

*How much money did we receive and what will it be used for?*

We received a grant of \$100,000 for the 2004-2005 academic year. Approximately 50% of the grant is being used to support the Director’s position this year. This is “budget relief” for the University, as it relieves Brandeis of an expense they have to pay whether or not our program brings in enough revenue to cover our expenses. The rest of the money will be used for: 1) new computers, a second digital projector, and other audio-visual equipment, 2) a part-time graduate student worker, and 3) a Brandeis faculty emeritus consultant. The student and consultant will work with us to build a “Faculty Emeritus Development Program” through

which we will recruit Brandeis emeriti as potential BOLLI course leaders.

*Why did we change our name for “only” \$100,000?*

Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz led this fundraising effort. While the President had many choices within the University where to direct Mr. Osher’s philanthropy, Dr. Reinharz chose our program because of the quality of our program and Mr. Osher’s interest in lifelong learning. This initial grant from the foundation for \$100,000 is a beginning. We now have the opportunity to apply for more significant funds next spring, on the magnitude of an endowment for our program. This is our goal.

*Who is Mr. Osher and how did he make his money?*

Bernard “Barney” Osher is a well-known patron of the arts and education in the San Francisco Bay area. I think his story is amazing. Mr. Osher grew up in Maine where he ran his family’s hardware and plumbing supply store. He then took an unpaid position at Oppenheimer & Company in New York to learn the workings of Wall Street brokerage. Subsequently, he moved to California, bought a small savings and loan, Golden West, and soon thereafter, World Savings. Eventually, he purchased the fine-art auction house of Butterfield & Butterfield, grew it into the fourth largest auction house in the world, and sold it to eBay in 1999. Mr. Osher is also a collector of American paintings of the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

# CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

by *Ken Rosenfield and Carole Grossman*



It's Thursday. The Romans called it *Jovis Dies*, known in ancient Greece as Zeus Day.

We cross the threshold to the meeting room and we drop the mantle that mortals wear to enter into the turbulent world of Greek gods. May Athena grant us the wisdom to know their ways.

Waiting for us, our leader, our teacher,  
Len Aberbach, the knowledgeable mortal  
we follow into this world of  
immortal gods and many "godded" mortals.

The room fills with the sounds of bustling papers,  
shuffling chairs and books: Homer's *Iliad*, Hamilton's *Mythology*.  
If one listens carefully one can sense the presence of  
ancient Greece and all its gods, goddesses and heroes.

There is Zeus who reigns, holding the golden reins  
of his horses: with their flared, mist breathing nostrils,  
flowing manes, hooves silently pounding,  
Powerful Zeus manipulating clouds to conceal his movements.

There is his wife Hera, his children Athena, Apollo, Aphrodite,  
immortals involving themselves in the battles of Greeks and Trojans fighting  
a ten-year war to retrieve beautiful Helen, wife of the Greek King Meneleas,  
wrongly abducted by the Trojan Prince Paris, King Priam's son.

Skillfully, Len Aberbach guides us through the long battles:  
horse drawn chariots charging into the fray; long bronze tipped spears  
flying through the air, guided or deflected by unseen gods;  
woundings and killings described in vivid, bloody detail.

Len takes us on this centuries long journey with Homer.  
We learn to recognize the emotions that drive the heroes and their gods.  
Through Len we learn life has changed, but living has not.  
Men dream of glory, death with honor,  
but dreams of glory can turn into nightmares.  
Perhaps Athena heard us and helped us enter this ancient world.

**CLASSROOM  
HIGHLIGHTS**

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

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# IN MEMORY OF IRVING BRUDNICK

by *Jehuda Reinharz*  
*President, Brandeis University*

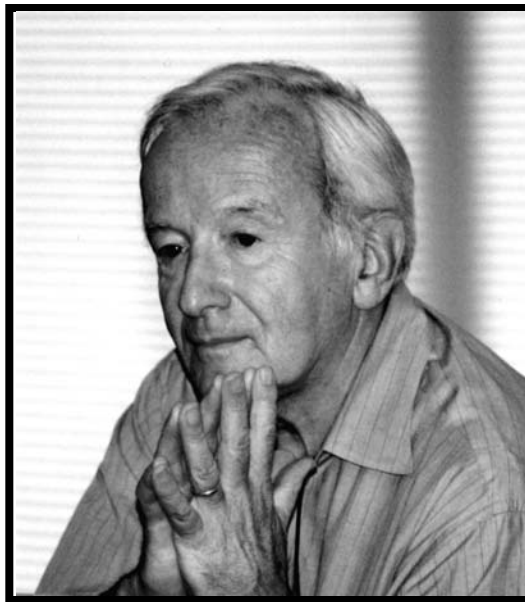
Irving “Shim” Brudnick was a man who made a big difference with his life.

Irving was a giver. He gave in many ways. One of them was his thoughtful and deeply caring philanthropy in partnership with his wife Betty. Having witnessed Irving’s contributions to Brandeis, however, it seems he gave even more with his spirit and intellect.

In our world here at Brandeis, Irving was the Founding Council Chair of the Brandeis Adult Learning Institute (BALI), now the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Brandeis (BOLLI). Beginning in 1999, Irving and BOLLI Founding Director Bernie Reisman, Ph.D., ’70, were an ideal team.

Irving brought his enthusiasm, wit, creativity, and intellectual vigor, hallmarks of who he was, to the design and implementation of our lifelong learning institute. Thanks to Irving and Bernie’s joint leadership and passion, Brandeis is now the home of a thriving, intellectually stimulating, and rigorous program. The energy, conviviality and caring in the BOLLI community are almost palpable. This warm feeling is another reason the program has succeeded in such a short time. We thank Irving and Bernie for this too.

In addition to contributing to the founding of the program, Irving led BOLLI courses that illustrate his intelligence and passions. His courses included *Faith and Reason: Are They Compatible?* (built around his lifelong interest in Maimonides, the *Kabbalah*, and *The Apocrypha*.) He so loved learning and teaching. Irving also led courses at Harvard’s Institute of Learning in Retirement (HILR) and the Senior Academy of the University of South Florida in Sarasota.



*Irving S. Brudnick, 1926-2004*

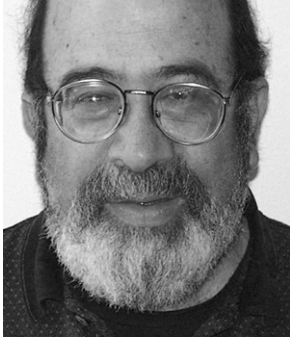
In May 2003, at BOLLI’s second Annual Meeting, I presented the “Brandeis Award” to Irving for his contribution to the University in spearheading the development of BOLLI with Bernie.

Irving and Betty’s philanthropy to Brandeis and the Greater Boston community is extensive and demonstrates their humanistic values and empathic natures. In 1998, they contributed to the Brandeis Coexistence Endowed Fellowship following the Dalai Lama’s visit to University that year.

We at Brandeis, particularly the BOLLI community, will miss Irving “Shim” Brudnick. His legacy lives on. May his memory be a blessing to his wife Betty, their three children Richard, Judy, and Amy, and to our community.

# THE 2004 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

by Ed Goldberg



Bob Palter and I joined 33 of our fellow BOLLI members participating in the newly launched BOLLI inter-session program.

Last June, Brandeis Professors Bob Art and Dan Kryder led a series of interactive lectures on “The

2004 United States Presidential Election: Domestic & Foreign Policy Issues”.

Bob felt that “although advertised as a primer for the upcoming election, the course was really a gourmet’s banquet on today’s world situation as it affects the United States. For the history buff or concerned citizen it was a feast not to be missed.” There was a wonderful melding of lecture and interactive discussion at an amazingly high level.

In Bob’s opinion “there was a left-wing or liberal bias, but considering the university setting and background of BOLLI, this was to be expected.” On the other hand, I felt that the presentations were very even-handed and were more focused upon historic content than polemics. It was fascinating to learn about the initial rally effect and the subsequent fall-off of support for U.S. presidents immersed in a war. Similarly, it was interesting to hear of the public’s tolerance regarding casualties.

Each day’s session had a different tone:

Monday: The United States and the Middle East: domestic and international aspects—*awesome*

Tuesday: Overview of domestic and foreign policy factors in Presidential elections—*frightening*

Wednesday: Grand strategy: the purposes of American power—*fearsome*

Thursday: The U.S. and Europe: what is going on? —*mind expanding*

Friday: The 2004 Election: campaign strategies, battleground states, and the divided electorate: Can anyone make a difference?—*convergence*

Here are some sound bites from the course:

- The Middle East: it is just as important to manage problems as to solve them
- No 20th century war was of political benefit to an incumbent President
- Only 42% of Soviet fissionable material is locked down
- Defending US homeland is #1 goal, followed by preservation of the great powers and access to oil
- Historic purpose of NATO: “Keep Russians out, Germans down, and Americans in”
- Terrorists were historically ethnic nationalists; now they are religious fundamentalists
- US foreign bases, access to oil, terrorism, great power relations, global economy, rogue states, and conservation are inextricably linked.

The daunting tasks facing the winner of the 2004 election were made clear in the context of the troubling times in which we live.

Give and take was remarkable, far above expectation, as BOLLI members gave and received much respect *vis-à-vis* the faculty. Both Kryder and Art were enthusiastic and approachable. Participants were thoughtful and well-reasoned, and the debates created an energy that enhanced learning.

Obviously, Bob and I felt the course was excellent!



Two different *New Yorker* Short Story discussion groups will meet at 2 P.M. in the Gathering Place, after Lunch and Learn. This is our second year.

Wednesday with Eileen Mitchell: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1.

Thursday with Elaine Dohan and Lenore Goldstein: Sep. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 18.

At each meeting we will read the short story posted online the previous week at:

<http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/content/>

We share moderating & presenting the author's background. All BOLLI members welcome.

# STUDY GROUP LEADERS RESOURCE COMMITTEE

by Dick Lucas



The Council recently established a Study Group Leaders Resource Committee (SGLRC). The mission of the SGLRC is to offer support to potential and active SGLs in order to provide members with the optimal learning experience in their BOLLI courses. In accordance with this

mission, the committee's initial goal to establish responsibilities and duties has been completed and implementation has started. The committee's duties include conducting the annual SGL orientation, offering relevant workshops, mentoring first time SGLs, and at their request, consulting with SGLs over any concerns they may have.

The activities of the SGLRC are performed in concert with the Curriculum Committee and are consistent with BOLLI's goal of continuous quality improvement. The committee is in its pilot stage, feeling its way, flexible, and open to changes indicated by its experiences.

The members of the SGLRC are:

Carol Shedd (Chair)	Judy Cohen
Myrna Cohen	Stan Davis
Lenore Goldstein	Dick Lucas
Phyllis Markowitz	Bill Rachlin
Nancy Rawson	Elaine Reisman
Guy Weyl	Sharon Sokoloff
Harriet Kahn (Council liaison)	

Your ideas, thoughts, and feedback are welcomed.

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## BOLLI ADVENTURES

BOLLI Adventures will offer guided trips both on and off campus. Typical tours include museums, performing arts centers, gardens, and historical sites. Lunch is usually an optional addition. Tours are open to all BOLLI members.

Destinations planned for the fall semester include the DeCordova Museum, Gore Place, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. For further information, contact Tamara Chernow, Elaine Dohan, or Eileen Mitchell.



*25 people enjoyed a guided tour of Mount Auburn Cemetery and lunch at a nearby Greek restaurant during our first field trip.*

### Computer Bar

The Technology Committee will be hosting a Computer Bar in the Gathering Place beginning the 2nd week of the semester and running all day on Wednesdays and Thursdays to demonstrate our BOLLI Calendar, Website, and eboards. Please visit with us!

# THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS

by *Leona Curhan*



The fifth year of lifelong learning at Brandeis promises to be exciting and energizing. We have a new name, a new Council, and new officers:

Sy Raboy	Chairman
Michael Berger	Vice-chair
Dick Winer	Secretary
Bob Palter	Finance.

News from the Council includes:

- The number of registrants for this Fall reached the highest level ever in our short history, 372. In addition, we achieved 111% of targeted budget revenue.

- The *BOLLI Journal* mailed to members this summer was acknowledged as a huge success. Thank you, Renée Fine and George Berkowitz.
- The Curriculum Committee and the Council set priorities for courses to be offered as follows:
  - 1) new courses by new Study Group Leaders
  - 2) new courses by previous SGLs
  - 3) repeat of courses that were oversubscribed.
- The Membership Committee is working on computerizing the lottery process for course assignments.
- Many members responded to the invitation to become hosts in the international students' friends program, Sustainable International Development Students. More host families are needed. Contact Lyn Weiner at lynwei@rcn.com or Steve Baran at baran437853@aol.com.

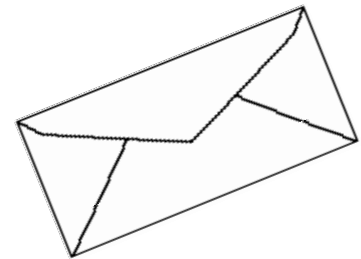
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## DEAR BOLLI, . . .

### Woodwind Concert

An open letter to Matt Ruggiero:

Thank you, Matt, for the wonderful end-of-term woodwind concert on May 18th, a first for BOLLI. The Mozart pieces played by talented musicians on double sets of wind instruments and a bass were delightful and so unusual. The consensus of those attending was that it was a terrific musical event and a rare opportunity to enjoy socializing with BOLLI friends while enjoying good food and drink. As conductor and organizer of this concert, you provided us with a memorable time. Thanks again for making the evening possible. Now we can hope that end-of-term concerts can become a tradition!



-- *Tamara Chernow and Carole Grossman*

### Committee Chairs

<b>Banner</b>	Richard Glantz	<b>SGL Resources</b>	Carol Shedd
<b>Curriculum</b>	Norm Weizer	<b>Scholar Program</b>	Phyllis Markowitz
<b>Development</b>	George Berkowitz	<b>Strategic Planning</b>	Dick Lucas
<b>Hospitality</b>	Eveline Weyl	<b>Technology</b>	Sherm Okun
<b>Int'l. Friends</b>	Lyn Weiner & Steve Baran	<b>Volunteers</b>	Myrna Cohen
<b>Journal</b>	Renée Fine	<b>University Relations</b>	Leona Curhan
<b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b>	Bob Russo & Sylvia Band	<b>Website</b>	Len Heier
<b>Membership</b>	Joel Kamer		

# THE REST OF WALTHAM

by Tamara Chernow

There is more to Waltham than Brandeis. Now that you've discovered how to get to Waltham to attend BOLLI, why not sample some of the city's other cultural, entertainment, and culinary offerings?



## Museums

**Charles River Museum of Industry** [www.crimi.org](http://www.crimi.org)

Explore the inventions that powered America into the modern age — steam engines, generators, timepieces, machine tools, bicycles, automobiles. Learn about the geniuses who perfected them. (781-893-5410)

**Waltham Museum** [www.walthammuseum.com](http://www.walthammuseum.com)

Learn about Waltham's history with a special focus on the city's early automobile manufacturing, military, sports, and business history. (781-893-8017)

## Historic Houses

**Gore Place** [www.goreplace.org](http://www.goreplace.org)

The early 1800's estate of a former Massachusetts governor features a 22-room mansion, gardens, and a farm with heritage animals. (781-894-2798)

**Stonehurst: Robert Treat Paine Estate** [www.stonehurstwaltham.org](http://www.stonehurstwaltham.org)

The only example of architect H. H. Richardson's country house design open to the public. Landscaping was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. (781-314-3290)

**The Lyman Estate** [www.spnea.org](http://www.spnea.org)

Known as "The Vale", this late 18th century country estate has grounds and historic greenhouses which are open to the public. Special plant sales and workshops are held throughout the year. (781-891-1985)

## Performing Arts

**Hovey Players** [www.hoveyplayers.com](http://www.hoveyplayers.com)

A community theater since 1936 presenting a variety of plays during their September to May season. A Shakespeare comedy is included this year, plus a play by the creator of "Six Feet Under". (781-893-9171)

**Bowles Performing Arts Series at Bentley College** [www.bentley.edu/campuslife/bowles/](http://www.bentley.edu/campuslife/bowles/)

This season's performances run the gamut from chamber music and drama to a traditional Irish celebration. (781-891-2000)

**Reagle Players** [www.reagleplayers.org](http://www.reagleplayers.org)

Revivals of musicals and music revues, including special holiday events. They are sponsoring a three-day theater trip to New York in November. (781-891-5600)

## And More

**Embassy Cinema** [www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)

This theater features first-run independent and foreign films, restored classics, and non-traditional studio fare. (781-893-2500)

**Waltham Mill Artists Association** [www.wmaastudios.org](http://www.wmaastudios.org)

Two old textile mills on the Charles River have been rehabilitated by four artists' collectives. The works of 75 artists can be seen during their annual open house during the first weekend of November.

**Waltham restaurants** [www.waltham-community.org/restaurants.html](http://www.waltham-community.org/restaurants.html)

This Website provides a complete list of restaurants by type of food and price, with many reviews.

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**LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL**

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# CALENDAR OF CAMPUS EVENTS

*compiled by Charles Raskin*

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ETHICS, JUSTICE, AND PUBLIC LIFE

(details at [http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/news\\_and\\_events/events.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/news_and_events/events.html))

Oct. 4 (7 P.M.)

### **American Election Dilemmas, Int'l. Context**

George Ross of Sociology, Doris Brey of the Sustainable International Development program, & an ethicist

Oct. 25 (5 P.M.)

### **An Islamic Solution to the Arab-Israel Impasse**

Prof. Jacob Lassner of Northwestern University

Oct. 20 (5 P.M.)

### **Globalization, Trade, & Justice**

Ira Shapiro '69 and Frank Garcia, BC Law.

Talk followed by small discussion groups over light dinner at 6 P.M. (Dinner reservations: 781-736-8577)

Oct. 26 (2 P.M.)

### **The Impact of Standards and High-Stakes Testing on Students with Disabilities**

Symposium featuring Lauren Katzman and Tom Hehir from Harvard Graduate School of Education

## WEDNESDAY CONCERTS AT NOON

Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Building

Oct. 6

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

## FACULTY LECTURES AT NOON

Shapiro Campus Center

Oct. 25

### **Robert B. Reich**

former Secretary of Labor and professor at the Heller School,

will read from his book *Reason: Why liberals will win the Battle for America*

which argues that liberals will regain control of America because the American people are tired of the intolerance of the radical conservatives, "Radcons", and their interference with private morality

## EPSTEIN HALL

(Women's Studies Research Center)

781-736-8102

Oct. 1 – Nov. 7

### **REACH FOR THE STARS**

Exhibition of unique ceramic plates designed by local and national celebrities, artists, and community leaders.

Local designers include Nancy Schön (creator of the *Make Way for Ducklings* sculpture in the Boston Public Garden), Scott Prior, Judy Kensley McKie and Todd McKie, and Aaron Fink.

Celebrity designers include Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Marian Heard, Jay Leno, and Keith Lockhart.

The plates will be auctioned off during a November 10 special reception to benefit REACH (Refuge, Education, Advocacy, CHange), a domestic violence agency serving 27 Greater Boston communities.

Oct. 12 (12:30 P.M.)

### **Kabbalah**

Today there is a flowering of interest in the *Kabbalah*. When did this phenomenon begin, and why does it fascinate so many? Does Jewish meditation lead to enlightenment?

Oct. 14 (12:30 P.M.)

### **Filmmaker Laurie Kahn-Leavitt**

Discusses her new film series about the lives of extraordinary, ordinary women in the American past. She is currently spending time digging in the archives, winnowing down a list of several hundred possible topics for a series of 10 new films.