

## INTRODUCING MARY ANN SLIWA

*by the Banner Staff*

Have you met Mary Ann Sliwa, our new staff person at BOLLI? If not, look for her any Tuesday or Wednesday at Gosman. You'll recognize her because she's younger, always wears a warm and friendly smile, and exudes bundles of energy. She is a perfect addition to our dedicated and hard-working director and assistant director, Sharon Sokoloff and Carol Allman-Morton.

Mary Ann's background includes a B.S. in Special Education from the University of Virginia and an MSW from Simmons College, where Sophie Freud was one of her professors. Although Mary Ann grew up in Buffalo, she has made the Boston area her home for many years.

As a medical social worker, career counselor, and ESL teacher, she found her greatest interest to be community building. At the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, she sponsored the student interest groups, linking them with faculty, alumni, and the larger community. While teaching adult ESL, she helped form student leadership teams to explore an area of interest, thus gaining knowledge, which was presented to other students in the program and across the state. She was

named Teacher of the Year in 2006 by the Massachusetts Alliance for Adult Literacy.

Mary Ann is married and lives in Dedham. Her daughter is a high school senior, so any advice about colleges is welcome. Her interest in gourmet cooking is counteracted with serious exercise (she has run the Boston Marathon). She enjoys nature and can often be found outdoors since she is missing the shopping gene. She loves to read, is a long-standing member of the book club at the Dedham Library, and wants to hear about what you've been reading.



Mary Ann remarked that she is struck by the vitality of BOLLI members and appreciates the warm welcome she has received. She is looking forward to getting to know us better and the feeling

is reciprocated. So, if you have not yet had the delightful experience of meeting Mary Ann, be sure to introduce yourself the next time you see her in the Gathering Place.

Mary Ann's thought for the day: "*Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.*" –Søren Kierkegaard.

# OLÉ TO OUR LADY OF SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA

by Ruth Antonoff



*Gene Kupferschmid*

Do you look forward to taking a course with a Study Group Leader who is vivacious, extremely well informed, and able to involve class members in animated, interactive discussion? Then be sure to register for a class led by Gene Kupferschmid.

Gene was born in Germany and was fortunate to have left with her family while an infant. She attended elementary school in Chicago, high school in Arizona, and undergraduate college in New York. After marrying, Gene and her husband moved to Argentina for three years. She taught high school there until they returned to the United States, where Gene attended graduate school in Boston (while raising three children).

Gene taught in the Romance Language and Literature Department at Boston College for thirty years. She has written fourteen Spanish textbooks, published by major publishing houses. Many of these are still sold by Amazon today.

## **CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS**

Gene's special interests are reading voraciously (books she never had time to read while working) and traveling extensively to places—the stranger the better—among which are Central and Southeast Asia, Sri Lanka, Australia, and every country in Latin America and Europe.

Since joining BOLLI, Gene has led four exciting courses: *Latin American Jewish Writers*, *Latin American Relations with the United States*, *Latinos in the United States*, and currently, *The Spanish Civil War*. She spends most of her summer researching, reading books and articles, and screening documentaries which enhance her courses. She is indeed a dedicated scholar and teacher. At the end of each semester, class members wait impatiently to hear which course she will lead next. Gene enjoys BOLLI tremendously and loves working with adult learners.

The BOLLI Endowment Fund Committee presents an evening of music and community

### **Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra**

Neal Hampton, conductor

Beethoven Symphony #3 (Eroica)

Nov. 29 (7:30 P.M., light refreshments) in Slosberg Recital Hall

Tickets are \$15 and may be obtained at Gosman Tuesdays and Wednesdays or at the BOLLI Office

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

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# SKIN CANCER

by J. Lawrence Dohan, M.D.



Microscopic features define dozens of different skin cancers with various behaviors. The two seen most often are basal cells and squamous cell cancers, named for the type of abnormal cells involved. The third type, malignant melanomas, are abnormal pigment (melanin)-producing cells.

Cancers are tissues which escape from their usual specific forms and functions. They may have immortal, uncontrolled growth with invasion and destruction of other tissues. They may also produce toxic products.

Basal cell skin cancers account for half of all human cancers but are not included in cancer statistics because they rarely kill. They are common in sun-exposed areas, gradually replacing normal skin and then ulcerating. Sometimes they may be seen as a large ulcer or the complete loss of a nose.

Squamous cell skin cancers are also common and are found in areas of sun-damaged skin. These sometimes spread into lymph nodes and colonize more distant sites.

Malignant melanomas are usually black with disorganized shapes. They may be multicolored or have no pigment at all. Early diagnosis with wide resection yields 95% cures, but late diagnosis can result in a lethal, incurable, metastasizing cancer. Having a close relative with melanoma, previous skin cancers or numerous large nevi (moles) marks a person with higher risk of melanoma.

Brown spots on sun-exposed skin may be lentigo (freckles) or nevi. These with benign features need not be treated. They will be removed for microscopic study if needed. Biopsies are not perfect but are the most accurate means of defining any one lesion. Seborrheic keratoses are common benign growths which often look like a piece of mud stuck on the skin. None of these are removed to prevent cancers. They are removed or biopsied because they look malignant or have non-normal appearance.

Alterations of DNA occur regularly and are more frequent when exposed to radiation. Ultraviolet light and x-rays are the two most common sources. Damaged cell nuclei may result in malignant changes after many cell divisions so that sunburn may be a factor in a cancer sixty years later. X-radiation of acne was successful fifty years ago but is implicated in multiple skin cancers now. DNA

repair may become less effective in senescent cells. Immune surveillance which eliminates malignant cells is impaired by sun exposure. It is also inhibited by immune suppression from disease or medication. Retired people who go to

Florida to play golf may then experience an increased number of skin cancers.

People at risk need to educate themselves to look for suspicious spots and use prudence in relation to skin damage by radiation. They seldom need to be reclusive, but they should avoid tanning lamps. They need hats, glasses, clothing, and sunscreen. Sunscreens today are readily available and should be used before going outside. The SPF factor relates to UVB wavelengths, but they all screen UVA as well. SPF over 15-30 adds negligible protection.

For more information on this topic, click on: [mayoclinic.com/health/skincancer/DS00190](http://mayoclinic.com/health/skincancer/DS00190)

## **TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH**

### **Lunch & Learn Follow-up**

Dr. Charles Jacobs provided the Banner with these Websites, all of which he mentioned in his talk:  
[camera.org](http://camera.org)                      [honestreporting.com](http://honestreporting.com)                      [littlegreenfootballs.com](http://littlegreenfootballs.com)  
[davidproject.org](http://davidproject.org)                      [jihadwatch.org](http://jihadwatch.org)                      [memri.org](http://memri.org)

# BUILDING BRIDGES

by Arnold Messing



Four years ago, while attending Tanglewood in the Berkshires, Lyn Weiner learned of a wonderful program they had for hosting visiting summer student musicians. Our ever-alert Lyn thought the program might be adaptable to BOLLI. She floated the idea past BOLLI's Director, formed an *ad hoc* committee to study and adapt the concept, and recruited Steve Baran as co-chair of the committee. That

began the International Friends Program, a program which linked BOLLI to the foreign graduate students enrolled in the Sustainable International Development Program (SID) of the Heller School at Brandeis, one which has grown and deepened into one of BOLLI's most popular activities. Secondly, the program has served an important role in strengthening the bond between BOLLI and the University.

The International Friends Program matches a BOLLI member with a Heller SID student to provide a source of cultural exchange for the matched pair and to serve as a local family resource for the student. (Some BOLLI members take on more than one student.) The program has blossomed from 44 students and 35 BOLLI friends in 2004 to 74 students and 57 BOLLI friends in 2006. This year's enrollment, while not yet complete, may be even greater—a testament to the program's wide appeal. There are foreign students participating from 27 countries and Puerto Rico this year:

Afghanistan	Kenya	South Africa
Burma	Laos	South Korea
China	Mexico	Sudan
Columbia	Mongolia	Taiwan
Congo	Nigeria	Tanzania
Ecuador	Pakistan	Tibet
Ethiopia	Philippines	Uganda
Ghana	Russia	Viet Nam
India	Rwanda	Zimbabwe

The program allows each family and student to build their own individual relationship according to their needs and availability. Lyn calls the resulting bond “an amazing experience.” Over the years her own students have come from Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, and Zimbabwe. She has remained in touch with several of them past graduation: “They are really family,” she says. The students appreciate both the wider exposure to American life and the comfort of a local “family,” which is so important to those who have come from cultures where family and respect for elders are core values.

The administration at the Heller School is equally enthusiastic about the International Friends Program. Both Assistant Dean Doris Breay and Assistant Director Mary Brooks work with the Committee and with the SID students to plan cultural evenings of food and entertainment, Boston tours, family brunches, and other special events are held during the school year.

Lyn remains amazed at the success of her initiative, “I never dreamed of the program's phenomenal success when I started the program.”

A tour of the Stata Center has been added to the BOLLI Adventures MIT Museum trip scheduled for Thursday Dec. 6th. Registration information will be sent to members by email.



# YOU TOO CAN BE A STUDY GROUP LEADER

by Myrna Cohen

We hope your commitment to and interest in BOLLI will lead you to consider becoming a Study Group Leader (SGL). BOLLI is the perfect place to share your interests with others. You can propose a topic from a wide variety of academic subjects from cosmology to the arts to current events. We suggest that prospective SGLs obtain support from a member of the Curriculum Committee in preparing their proposal. This step is crucial, especially for new SGLs, to generate an awareness of what is required in presenting a successful course to the BOLLI membership.

Another way to learn about developing a course is to enroll in *Learn & Lead: How to Become a Study Group Leader*. The instructor will also be available outside of class to work on your ideas and your course proposals.

Pick up the SGL Proposal Form in the office or click on [proposal form](#) near the bottom of the members Web page. Return the completed application as an email attachment by November 12th.

If we believe that some modifications might make the course better, a member of the Committee will contact you within a week or so of your submission and will work with you to help make your course the best it can be. The Committee will get back to you with our decision on your proposal by December 10th.

So try it! It's fun and rewarding to share what you have gained over the years with others. If you have any questions, please contact Myrna Cohen.

The Curriculum Committee looks forward to hearing from you!

# AND YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE

by Donna Carleton

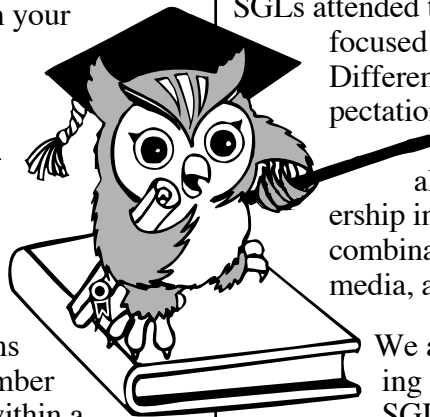
Once your course is accepted, members of the Resource Committee are available to assist you throughout the semester with the details involved in giving your course. We provide you with a classroom assistant to help you with the mechanics of running the course as well as a liaison who can offer support and answer individual questions as they arise.

The Resource Committee works with SGLs even before classes begin. We host an Orientation Get-together for Study Group Leaders beforehand, and we follow up about a month into the term by hosting an Air and Share Get-together.

For example, for the current Fall term, thirty-one SGLs attended the Orientation session, which focused on the topic "Different Strokes for Different Folks: SGL and Participant Expectations." There were break-out groups to discuss class expectations, physical set up, content material, and leadership involved with lecture, participatory, combination lecture/participatory, multimedia, and SGL facilitation formats.

We also hosted an Air and Share meeting in mid-October. The format allows SGLs to raise topics of interest and share a discussion with other SGLs. Although there is no formal agenda, past Air and Share meetings have covered interim student feedback, final student evaluation, class presentations, and classroom techniques which work and those which don't.

The mission of the Resource Committee is to offer support to SGLs in order to provide members with optimal learning experiences in their BOLLI courses. We welcome the opportunity to interact and learn from our talented SGLs.



# FLY ME TO THE MOON

by Joan Kleinman

What do you do if your friends are learning to play golf but you are not interested? If you are Beth Mazer, you earn a pilot's license instead! This is what happened about 15 years ago.

Beth's husband, Fred, a physician, had been doing physicals for FAA personnel. Ironically, Fred himself was afraid of flying. His patients proposed a cure: become a pilot. So he did— and loved it! Beth sat in the cockpit, observing and absorbing. Taking the next step, she became licensed and instrument-rated and flies her own plane, a four-seater Piper Dakota.



At ground level, Beth ran a successful catering business for thirty years with a friend she met as a graduate student in psychology at BU. But catering is a seasonal business, Beth explained, allowing time to develop other interests.

And there are many. Visiting Beth's house, you know immediately that she is a collector. Fine art work of every ilk lines the walls of her spacious

home, and pottery or glassware decorates every possible surface. Each piece has a history and a story about the artist. "I'm a craft show junkie," Beth confessed, "I like the personal connection to each artist."

Beth loves gadgets. "What's your favorite?" I asked. Without hesitation, she demonstrated Slingbox on her laptop. Beth's summer house in Maine has no cable TV but Slingbox allows her to remotely watch on the computer whatever is playing at her Lexington home.

"I hardly ever watch TV without knitting," Beth mused, as she showed me an intricate sweater she was making for one of her three grandchildren. And then we were talking about playing mahjong and tennis and antiquing until finally, amazed by her versatility and broad array of interests, I exclaimed "Is there *anything* you don't do?" "Well," Beth said, "I *am* learning to golf now, and I even have my own set of clubs."

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

# NOW YOU SEE IT—NOW YOU DON'T

by Frank Benjamin

Disposable diapers, disposable razors, disposable cameras — now, disposable credit cards. Termed *virtual* credit cards by the industry, consumers typically call them *one-shot* or *single-use* credit cards.

If you are leery of buying an item on-line because you are afraid hackers will capture your credit card number, you can use virtual credit cards instead. These are one-time use credit card numbers that are linked to your physical credit card, but they are valid only for one purchase. Only you and your card-issuer know your real number; the on-line merchant does not.

## MONEY TALK

While Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover promise zero liability if credit card holders are victimized by fraud, the inconvenience to replace stolen cards or deal with fraudulent purchases remains a burden.

Most major credit card issuers offer virtual cards, but they do not do a good job of publicizing it.

Note that these surrogate numbers will not work in instances where you make a purchase on-line with a virtual card but then have to present a physical card when picking up the item, like a rental car, a theater ticket, or an Amtrak ticket.

# GENDER DIFFERENCES AT BOLLI

by Naomi Schmidt



“Why do women shy away from taking science courses at BOLLI, while men are largely absent from literature classes?” This question was recently posed to me, and before attempting to answer it I decided to look at the data to see just how skewed the representation of males and females has been in these two types of classes.

It is important, first of all, to know that the active membership over the past two semesters has been steady at about 35% male and 65% female. However, if we look at enrollments in thirteen literature classes that were offered during the Spring and Fall of 2007, we find the numbers to be 16% male and 84% female. In fact, there was one literature class with zero males and two with only one member of that gender. We can compare that with data from eleven science classes given since Spring '05, where there were 59% men and 41% women.

These numbers include two health-related courses, *You: An Owners Manual* and *Topics in NEJM*, both of which had many female members. But in non-health-related classes there is a marked gender difference, with two women out of a class of 16 in one case and three women out of a class of 17 in another.

Much has been written about Larry Summers's remarks last year in which he speculated about the reasons that fewer women than men are world-class scientists. On a much more personal level, it

is interesting to wonder why at our stage in life there appears to be such a difference as to what classes we choose and in what fields we continue our lifelong learning.

Another question of gender differences arises when we look at BOLLI Study Group Leaders. Here the breakdown by gender has hovered around 60% men and 40% women, in spite of the fact that the proportion of men and women members is nearly the reverse. Moreover, among the men who have volunteered to lead a Study Group, many have chosen a topic that is unrelated to their professional field, while among the women SGLs a much larger fraction have given a course closely related to their pre-retirement careers. One can speculate about the reasons for this, and the *Learn and Lead* class that Myrna Cohen and Sharon Sokoloff have offered since Fall 2005 has encouraged more women (myself included) to take a step beyond the obvious and follow their avocation rather than their professional experience in proposing a course.

The topic of gender differences is always fascinating, whether among children who chose to play with trucks vs. dolls or among college students and young adults choosing careers. It is still pertinent at our stage of life to think about why we opt for literature vs. science classes at BOLLI or whether or not we take a risk and actively lead a class or prefer to remain learners rather than teachers.

So, Gentlemen, how about trying a drama or short story class next time around? And Ladies, think about electing a class in an area of science that is new to you. It's never too late in life to start going counter to gender stereotypes.



## A Man on the Isle of Sark

Missed the opportunity to buy a DVD of the movie shown at Lunch-&-Learn on October 10th? You can purchase a copy from member Barry David for \$19.95 or you can order it directly from the speaker by contacting him at [peterkrieger@sympatico.ca](mailto:peterkrieger@sympatico.ca) or at [www.virage.ca](http://www.virage.ca)

# CALENDAR OF CAMPUS EVENTS

*compiled by Charles Raskin*

## SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

Nov. 7 (8 P.M.)

### **Musica da Banda Portuguesa**

Thomas Souza, director  
Music of Manuel Canito, composer of Portuguese  
wind band music  
\$5 for BOLLI members with i.d.

Nov. 18 (3 P.M.)

### **Brandeis Jazz Ensemble**

Bob Nieske, director  
Groove Party. Program to be announced.  
\$5 for BOLLI members with i.d.

Nov. 10 (7 P.M.)

### **Lydian String Quartet**

- Astor Piazzolla *Four, for Tango*
- David Rakowski Piano Quintet *Disparate Measures*
- Beethoven *Quartet in B flat Maj., Op.130*

Pre-concert lecture at 7 P.M. by Daniel Stepner  
\$10 for BOLLI members with i.d., in advance

Nov. 18 (7 P.M.)

### **Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra**

Neal Hampton, conductor  
Beethoven Symphony #3 (Eroica)  
\$5 for BOLLI members with i.d.

Nov. 30 (8 P.M.)

### **Erin McKeown**

From elegant pop to all-out rock, sweet electronics to witty swing, Erin McKeown has packed a ton of music into her young career. With a singer's natural gift and a guitarist's serious chops, McKeown leads her band through their paces on songs new and old, fast and slow, boisterous and reflective. McKeown pioneers her own style of punk cabaret pop. Ryan Fitzsimmons opens.  
\$10 for BOLLI members with i.d., in advance; \$15 for BOLLI members with i.d., day of show

## WASSERMAN CINEMATHÈQUE, SACHAR INTERNATIONAL CENTER

James Carroll's

### **Constantine's Sword**

Nov. 8 (8 P.M.)

Screening and conversation with the author and director

The story of a former Catholic priest on a journey to confront his past and uncover the roots of religiously inspired violence and war. His search reveals a growing scandal involving religious infiltration of the U.S. military and the terrible consequences of religion's influence on America's foreign policy. Carroll focuses on Christian anti-Semitism as the model for all religious hatred, exposing the cross as a symbol of a long history of violence against Jews (and recently, Moslems). Free admission.

## SPINGOLD THEATER

Check with the box office (781-736-3400, option 5) for tickets  
Remember, BOLLI members receive a substantial discount

### **The Three Musketeers**

Nov. 8-10, 14-17 (8 P.M.) and Nov. 10, 17, 18 (2 P.M.)

Double Edge Theatre returns to Brandeis after their sold-out run of *Don Quixote (the UNpossessed)* in 2003 to create a new piece based on Alexandre Dumas's swashbuckling tale of swordsmen, seduction, royalty, revenge and one cranky Cardinal. This production promises to be full of adventure for both actors and audiences as they journey together on missions of honor, mischief and romance. Now in its 25th year, Double Edge Theatre has toured internationally with their unique brand of ensemble physical theatre, combining daring feats and stunning imagery to elevate the possibilities of what can happen in a theater.