

BOLLI Banner

A Brandeis University Program
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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

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FOSTERING CONVIVIALITY

by Elaine S. Reisman

BOLLI will begin its ninth year this fall, an appropriate time to look back and review how we began. BALI, as it was known in 2000, was the vision of Brandeis professor Bernie Reisman. After retiring in 1999, he wanted to develop a program for mature adults looking for intellectual stimulation and the opportunity to make connections. Retirement programs were beginning to spring up throughout the country. Most programs focused on academics. With guidance from other programs such as HILR, he took a step further and developed the idea that this would be a place where people could gather socially as well as intellectually. The aim was to build community.

At the top of his list of priorities and values, and as an integral part of his life-long work, Bernie Reisman has fostered conviviality. In both his personal and professional lives, Bernie has successfully offered leadership in developing an atmosphere of caring and support.

As a young boy growing up in the Bronx, Bernie was the natural leader among his friends. They formed a street club and this group has kept in contact with each other, but their celebration of 60 years of friendship was aborted by Hurricane Katrina.

Bernie received his B.A. at CCNY and M.S.W. at Western Reserve University in Cleveland where he 'picked up' Elaine. The two moved to Chicago where Bernie was a youth leader in a JCC, moving

on to direct two of the branches. In 1967, Bernie won a competition for the Muhlstein Fellowship, which enabled him to come to Brandeis to study at the Florence Heller School and earn his Ph.D. He stayed on at Brandeis for thirty years as the founding director of the Hornstein School of Jewish Communal Service. The ripple effect of his influence is felt all over the world as his students work in Jewish communities. In addition, he was invited to give workshops and speak in many communities nationally and internationally. Retirement in 1999 was an opportunity for new creativity. When Bernie presented his vision for BALI to the University, President Jehuda Reinharz supported the venture. Sharon Sokoloff came on to work with Bernie as his assistant.

An open house was held on a hot day in 2000. Bernie was nervous that no one would come. The Napoli room was reserved and publicity sent out. The day came and people kept

arriving. It was necessary to open up another room and still there was standing-room only. Although the air conditioning had gone off, the program had to be held in two rooms, and refreshments ran low, BALI was up and running the following fall.

Bernie's dream has come true. BOLLI grows stronger every year with stimulating classes and lectures, exciting extras, and a wonderful sense of conviviality and community.



Bernie and Elaine Reisman

photo by Mohammed Sylla

THE ANNUAL MEETING

by Phyllis Pressman Cohen



The BOLLI Annual Meeting on May 8, 2008 began with an hour devoted to noshing, socializing, and viewing the work of many artistic BOLLI members. This initial exhibit, organized by Bud Elliott, offered a wonderful opportunity for members to become acquainted with the hidden talents of their colleagues in the fields of photography, sculpture, painting, and jewelry making.

After opening remarks by Ron Levy, outgoing Council Chair, Sharon Sokoloff introduced Susan Wawrzaszek, the Chief University Librarian, emphasizing that hearing a guest speaker from Brandeis gave us an opportunity to be more involved with our host university. Considering that Boston College has discontinued its lifelong learning program, the support we receive from Brandeis administration and faculty is essential to the continuing growth and development of BOLLI. Ms.

Wawrzaszek gave an interesting overview of the history of Brandeis and then focused on the library itself which, when founded, had only 2,000 volumes and currently has 1.2 million volumes.

The SGLs and other volunteers so vital to the operation of the program were acknowledged and thanked. Various committee chairs spoke briefly describing their responsibilities and thanking their members. Nancy Rawson, speaking for the Membership Committee, said September 10th has been designated for the new member orientation. Information for all committees is available on the BOLLI Web site and the membership is invited to contact any of them with comments or concerns.

Michaele Whelan, Brandeis's vice provost for academic affairs and BOLLI liaison to the University, gave a brief presentation and presented an award to Ron Levy. BOLLI Director Sharon Sokoloff noted that because we are at capacity, she, in conjunction with the Planning Committee, is investigating other program opportunities for those times when BOLLI programs are not occurring. "We must re-examine ourselves as an institution," Sharon said, "and we must begin the process of renewal." This theme was echoed in the later remarks of the new Council Chair, Len Aberbach.

Arnold Messing gave a financial report explaining our fee structure, operating budget, and the importance of members' contributions to the BOLLI Endowment Fund, which is beginning to impact the budget favorably with donations totaling over \$100,000. He presented Carol Allman-Morton with a generous check as an expression of our appreciation, recognizing her continuing value to the community and congratulating her on her upcoming ordination as a Unitarian Universalist minister.

The meeting concluded with back to back presentations by Ron Levy and Len Aberbach. Ron both literally and figuratively took the monkey—a stuffed toy—off his back and handed it to Len, whose expectations and goals for his term in office can be found elsewhere in this issue.

The BOLLI Banner is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:

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WELCOME

by Len Aberbach



As the new Council Chair, I want to welcome all members, new and returning, to the Fall 2008 semester. At the May Annual Meeting, I commented on my hopes and expectations for BOLLI and the Council during my tenure. I want to reiterate

and share these thoughts with you.

Much of the Council's focus for the forthcoming year will be on BOLLI having grown and matured to where we are at membership capacity. However, we must continue to add new members as a key component of continuous renewal and revitalization. Fortunately we have a moderate and highly predictable drop out rate each year, which, in conjunction with our recently enacted membership policy modifications, will facilitate this effort. The current membership is a self-selected group that values continued learning, intellectual stimulation, and a strong sense of community with like-minded people. We have all chosen to be part of BOLLI because we believe in renewal and revitalization for ourselves. The leadership of the program—our director, staff, Council, and committee heads—must provide for satisfying these membership expectations. Challenges include adding a few courses in the limited space we control and thoughtfully incorporating a few new value-added programs to the many that already exist. A planning committee of the Council has identified potential programs for consideration. Additionally, all of our committees will continue examining their operational processes with the aim of continuous improvement and the establishment of succession plans.

One important aspect of the BOLLI experience is our sense of community that is enhanced by mainly being in one location. Another is the shared recognition of the importance of volunteerism as a core component of the community bond. Members who are not yet involved with the many volunteer activities that make BOLLI work so well should think about their skills and interests and sign up. When requests go out for volunteers for a one-time or short-term need, it represents an opportunity to get started on the volunteer track and provide much needed assistance to the entire community. So when the call comes, please try to respond.

Finally, I want to share my views on the criticality of the BOLLI Endowment Fund to our long-term success and well-being. With the \$1 million Osher grant as a base, the fund will grow with our contributions, our success at attracting grants, and the investment success of the fund's money managers. Over time the fund will provide increased financial security, allow us more choices and options in value-added programming, and allow us more latitude and discretion in upgrading and enhancing equipment and the quality of many of our activities. Please consider supporting the Fund on a regular basis at any level you find appropriate. We have an Endowment Fund Committee that works closely with the Development department of Brandeis, focusing on larger grants and contributions from individuals and organizations that have the means for that level of gift. The two approaches are complementary and allow the entire community to participate in this important effort.

I hope you will all have an outstanding fall term, and I look forward to meeting and talking with you.

2008-2009 Leadership

COUNCIL OFFICERS

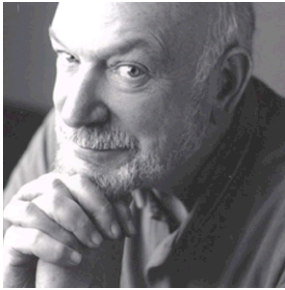
Len Aberbach (*Chair*)
Bob Cohen (*Vice-Chair*)
Judy Cohen (*Secretary*)
Arnold Messing (*Financial Liaison*)

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Curriculum: Myrna Cohen
Membership: Nancy Rawson
Lunch & Learn: Irwin Silver & Star Zieve
Resource: Donna Carleton

BOLLI BANNER POLICY AND PRACTICE

by *Richard Glantz*



The BOLLI Banner Committee aims to provide information relevant to the BOLLI community through periodic issues of the **BOLLI Banner**, encouraging submissions from many voices in the membership and administration.

The Banner publishes three types of articles. First, the Banner publishes articles that we believe are of particular interest to the BOLLI membership. Almost every issue has a calendar of campus events, many of which are free or at a substantial discount to BOLLI members. Additionally, during the 2007-2008 year, we published a monthly column by the Council Chair and another monthly column by the Director. Every issue contains notices about the activities of affinity groups, such as the *New Yorker* fiction discussion group, the Yiddish Circle, the Adventurers, and the Shutterbugs.

Second, with a community of near-500 members, the Banner strives to publish articles which allow members to know one another better. We run regular columns on study group leaders and on members who have developed new post-retirement avocations. Photographs are a key element in knowing one another. With the special talents of staff photographer Len Heier, the Banner publishes photos of subjects and authors of major articles. These photographs are carefully posed by Len, with the result in some cases that authors have requested enlargements for framing.

Third, the Banner runs articles that need not be solely about BOLLI. For example, there are periodic

columns about medical matters, financial insights, and legal issues that pertain to our demographic. This issue contains an article about places to eat on campus and another about new buildings on the Brandeis campus.

The next step in the publishing cycle is fitting articles and notices onto the page, adding clip art, inserting appropriate photographs, and devising headlines that will attract readers. During the final page-fitting process, articles may need to be trimmed. Nonetheless, it is a core Banner principle that edited articles must retain the voice of the author.

In a typical year, seven eight-page issues are published: three during each semester and one during the summer. The author-to-newsstand cycle is three-and-a-half weeks. Because of the length of the publishing cycle, the Banner is not an appropriate medium for time-sensitive notices.

We encourage members who want to write for the Banner. Please email us at BALIBanner@aol.com or contact the publisher, Richard Glantz. Articles must be relevant to the membership (as judged by the Banner Committee), concise (about 500 words), neither works of fiction nor of commercial intent, and punctual (author deadlines are published in red on the BOLLI Calendar on the Web site). We do edit articles for spelling and grammar errors, and for clarity of expression.

The **BOLLI Banner** has become the organ of record for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis. Copies are distributed in the Gathering Place to active members, mailed to inactive members, sent to the Brandeis administration and to the Osher Network, and archived on our Web site.

BOLLI Awards Scholarships to Waltham Residents

In conformance with the BOLLI Guidelines, last term BOLLI offered two scholarships to Waltham residents recommended by the Brandeis Community-Engaged Learning Initiative to allow them to join the BOLLI community. We will continue to offer two scholarships in the upcoming term.

JUST KEEPS ON GOING

by *Davida Loewenstein*



How many of us, in recognition of pioneering work, have a building named in our honor? The *Gertrude M. Webb Learning Center* at Curry College does just that.

Active in BOLLI since its inception, Dr. Webb, or *Gertrude* as she is known to her BOLLI classmates, recognized early in her teaching career that some seemingly bright children could not read, write, or spell. Even worse, ignored by teachers and ridiculed by classmates, these children often became behavior problems and ultimately school drop-outs. In 1937, Gertrude began working individually with one such student, using her own techniques to combat the then little-known condition of dyslexia.

From then until now, Gertrude just hasn't stopped. The decades that followed have been a kaleidoscope of activity: seven children of her own; a 16-year member of the Waltham School Committee; an earned Ph.D.; founder and president of the Massachusetts Association for Children with Learning Disabilities; president of the Waltham League of Women Voters. And all the while she taught, teaching learning-disabled students, teaching teachers how to teach the learning-disabled, and, perhaps most important,

developing innovative teaching programs that have become models for others.

Among the most significant developed by Gertrude is Curry's *Program for the Advancement of Learning*,

the first program in this country for college-able, language-disabled students, one which provides the opportunity to bright students with language deficits to fulfill their potential.



Gertrude Webb

A steady stream of grateful graduates of that program continue to seek out Gertrude to thank her for the change she has made in their lives. Indirectly, the ripple effect of her teacher training programs has touched the lives of thousands more.

Today, at 92, Gertrude still isn't stopping. Not only does she head the Webb International Center for Dyslexia, she is a trustee of the Bemis Lecture Series, and she pens a weekly parental advice column, *Ask Dr. Webb*, in the Waltham newspaper. In her spare time, Gertrude takes piano lessons!

In her own words, "One of the greatest rewards of my work is just seeing the changes in people who had no hope and establishing hope within them and seeing what they can do."

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CAROL ALLMAN-MORTON ORDAINED

by *Carol Shedd*

Seven of the ancient wooden pews in the Old Ship Church in Hingham were filled with BOLLI members, there to celebrate the ordination of Asst. Director Carol Allman-Morton to a ministry in the Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, June 22. Officers and ministers of the UU Church of Wakefield, where Carol grew up, and the UU Old Ship Church, where she served as intern minister, praised Carol's compassionate, intelligent, and hard-working dedication.

Carol gave her first blessing of the congregation as the Reverend Allman-Morton. She was joined, in her processional from the church, by her husband and other ministers. BOLLI members shared in the applause, adding their own thanks for her years of work with us.



photo by *Charlie Raskin*

Rev. Allman-Morton

GOING UP?

by Carole Grossman



As you waited for the BOLLI van at Gosman, did you wonder about all the construction going on across the road? Brandeis has several major capital projects underway. To the left are the three new **Ridge-wood Residence Halls**, which should be completed in the spring of 2009. They will provide 184 new beds, primarily for seniors, in apartment-style housing (one-bedroom, kitchen, and living room). Also included is a 3200 sq. ft. space for events, dances, presentations, and general student use. The environmentally-responsible design of the residences was arrived at with input from key Brandeis members and student groups.

Very near the main entrance, we can see the structural skeleton of the **Carl J. Shapiro Science Center**, a major new building of approximately 100,000 sq. ft. Teaching labs will be on the first two floors, and research space will fill floors three through five. The building will also include an electronic library, an atrium, a café, conference rooms, and interaction spaces. Move-in is scheduled for spring 2009. A second new building will include labs, a large lecture hall, and three levels of additional research laboratories. Existing science buildings will be renovated or demolished. A new entry pavilion with classrooms and lounge space will complete this project.



The **Carl and Ruth Shapiro Admissions Center**, at 20,700 sq. ft. twice as big as the current facility, is being built near Spingold. It will include a Welcome Center with displays celebrating Brandeis's history and faculty and student accomplishments, a Financial Services office, a state-of-the-art 100-seat presentation room, and a waiting area for 100 visitors. The new center should be ready by the summer of 2009.

Nearby, the Fine Arts Teaching Center will also be removed. Construction of a new **Edmond J. Safra Center for the Arts**, designed by architect Moshe Safdie and his associates, is scheduled to begin this summer, with occupancy anticipated during the fall of 2009.



Sorry, no architect's rendering available at press time.

At the campus's highest point, the **Mandel Center for the Humanities** is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010. Humanities includes fields such as literature, language, and philosophy.

With rising college costs, an uncertain economy, and job-placement concerns, the humanities has sometimes been viewed as less compelling than the health sciences, business, and technology. However, Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz has said, "In partnership with the Mandel Foundation, Brandeis intends to create a truly visionary place to restore prestige to the humanities and provide a model for other colleges and universities."

Learn more about Brandeis's major capital projects at brandeis.edu/capitalprojects/index.html

BRANDEIS AT BOLLI: THE SUMMER INTENSIVES

COMPLEXITY IN BLACK-AND-WHITE

by Phil Radoff

“Rosebud,” the last word uttered by the dying Charles Foster Kane, was also the point of departure for Prof. Paul Morrison’s in-depth survey of *Citizen Kane* and *Casablanca*. As Prof. Morrison explained, these two classic films, produced only a year apart, could hardly be more different.

In *Citizen Kane*, the 24 year-old Orson Welles, with no prior film experience but with unlimited artistic freedom and an enormous ego, broke the rules of conventional film-making to direct our attention as much to the novelty and brilliance of his camera work as to the quest to find the meaning of Kane’s last word and thereby the secret to his private persona. A series of flashbacks narrated by Kane’s closest acquaintances provides only an incomplete picture of the man. By the film’s end, the secret of “Rosebud” is revealed but we are no closer to understanding Kane’s true nature. Indeed, as Prof. Morrison explained, Kane’s “true” nature is manifold and depends entirely on the point of view of the narrator—just as Welles’s revolutionary “deep focus” film technique leaves the focus of attention in each scene to the discretion of the viewer.

Prof. Morrison noted that *Casablanca*, by contrast, is a far more conventional Hollywood film. Here, the camera is unobtrusive and the story unfolds in linear fashion. The film’s magic lies in infusing a classic love triangle with moral ambiguity and forcing the principal characters to choose between their personal desires and the struggle against evil in a war-torn world. How, we wonder, could the cynical Humphrey Bogart send the exquisite Ingrid Bergman away with her freedom-fighting husband rather than keeping her for himself? Oh, well, at least they would always have Paris.

Thank you, Paul Morrison, for illuminating these film classics, always appreciated and now a bit better understood. Here’s looking at you, Paul.



Paul Morrison

photo by Michael Lovett

GUILE OVER SUBSTANCE

by Sandy Traiger

Eileen McNamara, Professor of Journalism, gave us an inside scoop into the arcane world of news reporting. Drawing on her 30 years of experience at the *Boston Globe*, she regaled us with anecdotes, strong personal opinions, and many serious insights. The overall theme was: What is the job of professional journalists, particularly for this presidential campaign and for the future? Are they doing their job?

Some important issues of concern were:

- The news is becoming a profit center for the corporations owning the media, resulting in reduction of reporter pools
- News delivery is changing. Alongside mainstream media, we have the Internet, cable TV, blogs, *You Tube*, satire TV, and cell phones
- Journalistic practice is waning. Journalists must question, analyze, verify, and follow the facts.

We viewed Bill Moyers’s film, *The Buying of the War*, to understand how the press was misled and failed to verify what they had been fed by the Administration. We then turned to the presidential race, discussing the tiny gaffs that were overblown, the major issues and candidates, and whether the press showed bias.



Eileen McNamara

Photo by Richard Glantz

Guest visits from Joan Vennoch, *Globe* Op-Ed columnist, and Michael Goldman, political consultant, provided further information about the political climate and added to the stimulation of the week.

News journalism is now in a critical transition with too much reliance on official sources, often the basis of most news articles. Prof. McNamara is convinced that when journalists return to the real practice of Journalism, the public will be much better served and better informed. As for us, the consumer of the news, we must remain skeptical, cynical, and always be questioning.

CULINARY CAMPUS

by Katherine Raskin

BOLLI members are very fortunate to be welcome at the various eating places on the Brandeis campus. I have visited many of them and would like to recommend them to other BOLLI members. The Brandeis dining venues include: The Faculty Club, The Stein, the Sherman Cafeteria, Java City Café, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and three operations in the Usdan Student Center.

For a more formal dining experience, I recommend **The Faculty Club**, located across from the Rose Art Museum. It is open for lunch from noon to 2:00 P.M. and for dinner on special occasions before University-sponsored events. The soup and salad bar is my favorite but you can also order from the extensive menu. Wine is available, and both the food and drinks are very reasonably priced. Reservations are not required, but they are encouraged—call 781-736-4280.

If you wish to have a less formal meal, the campus offers a number of other restaurants. **The Stein**, located upstairs at Sherman Student Center in the Hassenfeld building, is casual and quiet. The Stein serves appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, pasta, entrées, desserts, and drinks, including beer and wine. Lunch is served weekdays from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.; dinner is served daily.

Downstairs in the same building, **Sherman Dining Hall** (a large student cafeteria) offers all-you-can eat dining. Kosher and non-kosher foods are available, including Asian food, vegetarian food, meat dishes, pastas, omelets, pizza, deli sandwiches, a salad bar, desserts, ice cream, and hot and cold drinks. One fixed price includes all you can eat. Weekdays, breakfast is served from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. and lunch and dinner are continuous from 11:30 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. (7:00 P.M. on Fridays).

Java City Café Schneider, in the new building of the Heller School, is self-service and features freshly brewed coffee and espresso drinks, sandwiches, snacks, pastries, salads, and fresh fruit. It is open from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on weekdays.

Downstairs in the Usdan Student Center is the **Usdan Café**. It serves “food court” style, with stations named *Tortilla Fresca*, *Home Zone*, *Salad Garden*, *Balance*, *Nature’s Balance* (vegetarian and vegan), *Java City*, *The Melting Pot* (international dishes), and *Split Personalities* (rotating menu). This café is open for breakfast (8:00 A.M. on weekdays; 11:30 A.M. brunch on weekends), lunch (weekdays), and dinner (every day but Friday).

Another food court in Usdan is the **Boulevard**, with stations named *Grille Works*, *Bene Pizza and Pasta*, *Montague’s Deli*, and *Liquid Lunch*. For the late-starter, it opens at 11:00 A.M. weekdays.

Einstein Bros. Bagels is on the ground floor of the green-colored Shapiro Student Center. It offers fresh bagels, brewed coffee, and pre-packaged pastries, sandwiches, and salads. It opens at 8:00 A.M. on weekdays and 11:00 A.M. on Saturday. The Brandeis Bookstore, adjacent to Einstein Bros., sells, in addition to books, T-shirts and sweatshirts in grandchild-sizes.

BOLLI members usually bring their own lunch to Gosman. But if you want to try something new or are on campus for a meeting, visit one of the dining venues described above. Why not try these interesting campus restaurants when you take advantage of invitations to the many Brandeis events offered to BOLLI members—plays, lectures, concerts, and art events. Stop at the main gate to get a parking pass and directions to all of the buildings.

For menus, hours, and phone numbers go to www.brandeis.campusdish.com