

BOLLI Banner

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

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

Vol. 11 Number 3 November 2010

SILLERMAN CONTEST WINNERS

by *Phyllis Pressman Cohen*



BOLLI is proud to count among its members two people who, as part of a six-member team, recently placed second in a contest on ideas to increase student philanthropy that was sponsored by the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy at the Heller

School. Judy Abrahams and Steve Landy were approached by their SID student Masoud Joya to work with the team.

The team had only six weeks to formulate its submission. They began with a brainstorming session where Steve and Judy's life experiences were a valuable asset for the students as they considered and discarded several overly ambitious ideas before choosing a program that could be marketed to the freshman class. The team believed that by getting first-year students excited and engaged in philanthropy, a core group would develop who would be committed for their entire college career and into later life. It was hoped that the culture of giving would eventually spread to other clubs and organizations on campus. Their proposal suggested using existing philanthropic and community service structures on campus and social media as mechanisms to promote, celebrate, and facilitate philanthropy. The name they chose for their program was **Give!**

Since one of the goals is to establish philanthropy as a core university value, the proposal recommends that the introduction of the program be by the President or a dean to give it more weight.

The students' research had shown that philanthropy is greater if people are personally involved with the charity in some way. Personal contact leads to greater personal investment, and interest is sustained longer. Thus it is part of the proposal that Brandeis's *Community Involvement Fair* be utilized to introduce the first-years to local organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Special Olympics, and the JCC. Social media could help develop a culture of giving by highlighting peer involvement.



Judy Abrahams and Steve Landy

Incoming students would form teams based on their dorms. At the end of the year the campus would unite in a Celebration of Philanthropy Day featuring both philanthropists and beneficiaries as guest speakers—plus a display of student essays, videos, and pictures to reinforce the impact of their giving.

The group's proposal earned a \$1500 prize for the students.

Judy and Steve say they enjoyed their interactions with the students tremendously. Beyond BOLLI, they both have other ties to Brandeis: she is a graduate and he is the father of a grad. They felt this was a great opportunity to contribute to the University.

How to ACE A JOB INTERVIEW

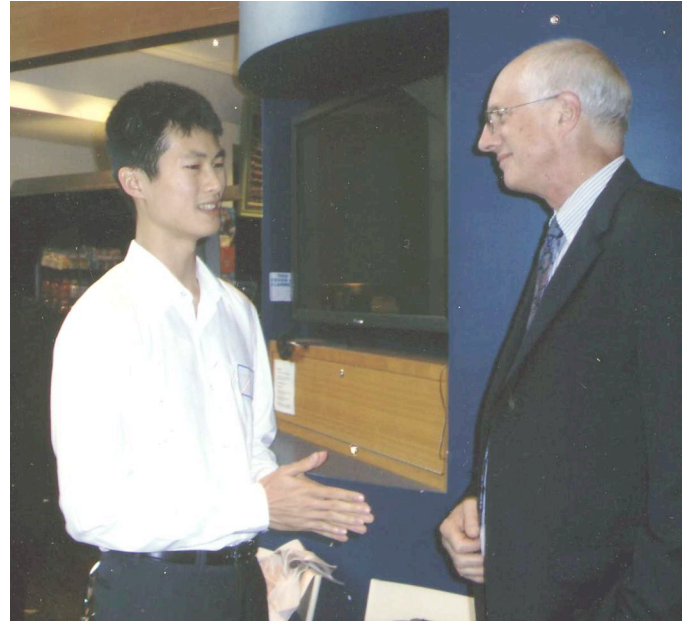
text and photos by Judy Cohen

Most BOLLI members are past this stage in their lives; but for students from foreign countries, it is a fearful milestone.

Last month, two dozen BOLLI members attended a social networking event at the International Business School at Brandeis along with over fifty IBS students. The purpose of the gathering was to help the IBS graduate students prepare for an upcoming job fair by introducing them to American cultural practices in the job interviewing process.



Irwin Silver and Zhuyi Fan



Chang-Hsin Fan and Richard Mansfield

Dean Bruce Magid was an enthusiastic participant. He was grateful to the members of BOLLI who were willing to share their lifetime work experience with students who are just starting out on their careers. The Mentor Committee thanks the BOLLI members who came to this event.

Mark your 2011 calendar

Spring semester: February 22nd to May 5th (no classes 4/19-21)

Fall semester: September 13th to December 1st (no classes 9/27-29 and 11/22-24)

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

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MEMBERS OPEN FORUM

by Andy Thurnauer



The discussion at the October Open Forum centered on two topics: (1) the transition to our new location and (2) BOLLI's finances for the past fiscal year. Neil Bernstein, head of the BOLLI Transition Team, started things off with a report on the transition and followed that with a Q&A period. The team has been gathering feedback from BOLLI members about their concerns and has worked with staff on crafting solutions. (Please continue to send your concerns to Charlie Raskin at ckraskin@comcast.net.)

Regarding the issue of **acoustics**, Neil noted:

- Contractors have modified the intake vent in the Orange Room to reduce noise
- Four microphones are available for classroom use by SGLs
- Eight assisted listening devices are available during presentations in the Gathering Place
- Please do not hold loud conversations just outside classrooms while classes are in session.

In regard to **comfort and safety**, Neil pointed out:

- The furniture in the Gathering Place has been rearranged in response to members' requests
- SGLs may temporarily rearrange the table set-ups in their classrooms to suit their particular needs
- At all times, aisles in the Gathering Place must be kept clear
- We are working on a plan for people to leave the building in case of emergency, including a fire drill
- Fire marshals have been assigned to ensure order and safety for all members during emergencies, particularly those with disabilities in mobility.

Addressing other concerns, Neil explained:

- Handicapped parking is available both across the street (29 spaces) and behind our building (4 spaces)
- A privacy screen will be installed in the men's room
- We are looking into placing comfortable chairs and vending machines in our area
- We are looking into how to make the screen in the Gathering Place fully visible to all
- A Decoration Committee is needed to help beautify our space (contact Neil if you wish to be Chair).

Council Chair Joel Kamer delivered a financial report for the fiscal year July 2009 through June 2010. BOLLI ended the year with a net surplus of \$9,086, which was forwarded to the University following standard Brandeis practice:

Tuitions and fees ¹	\$292,762	Payroll and benefits ³	\$213,327
Grants and funds ²	\$47,454	Operating expenses	\$74,776
		Indirect expenses	\$43,027
Total Revenue	\$340,216	Total Expenses	\$331,130

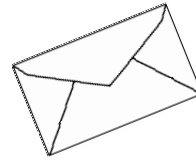
¹ Includes fees from the Hebrew Senior Life courses (\$17,500) and Rapaporte Seminars

² The Bernie Reisman Fund continues, but the Werner Dannheisser and Osher grants have been expended. The Endowment Fund has been "under water" but hopefully will become available again soon

³ Includes payments to the professors, graduate students, and undergraduates who work for BOLLI, as well as to our three staff members

During the Q&A period, one member asked why Face Book was taken down and when it will reappear. Joel responded that it was deemed insecure by the Brandeis IT department, but the Council wants to see it resurrected. A task force headed by Len Heier will address the matter.

DEAR BOLLI, ...



Former Member and Popular SGL

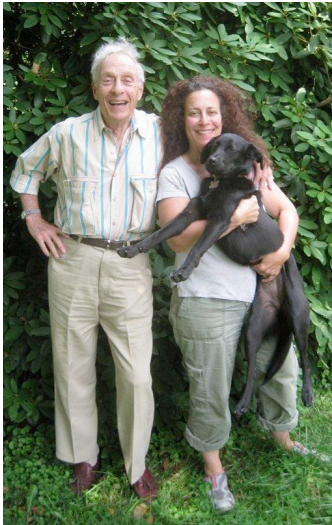


photo by Dan Proctor

Jim Robbins, daughter Dale, Ladybird

We have a terrific OLLI program (attached to U of A) here in Green Valley, 20 miles south of Tucson.

My ten-year stint teaching Shakespeare came to a close April 2010.

With this note I send an open invitation to all Brandeis members to come visit AZ. Find out why Mark Antony said, "this is my space."

Remember, you don't shovel sunshine and you don't mow sand.

--Jim Robbins

635 S. Park Ctre. Ave #1201
Green Valley, AZ 85614
520-393-6575
4jimrobbins @laposadagv.net

Still Among the Missing

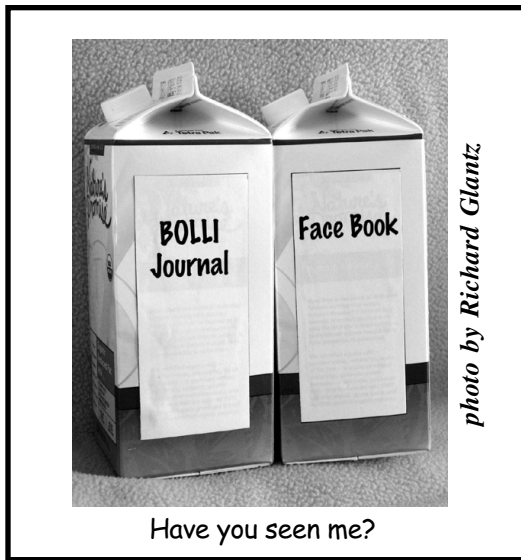
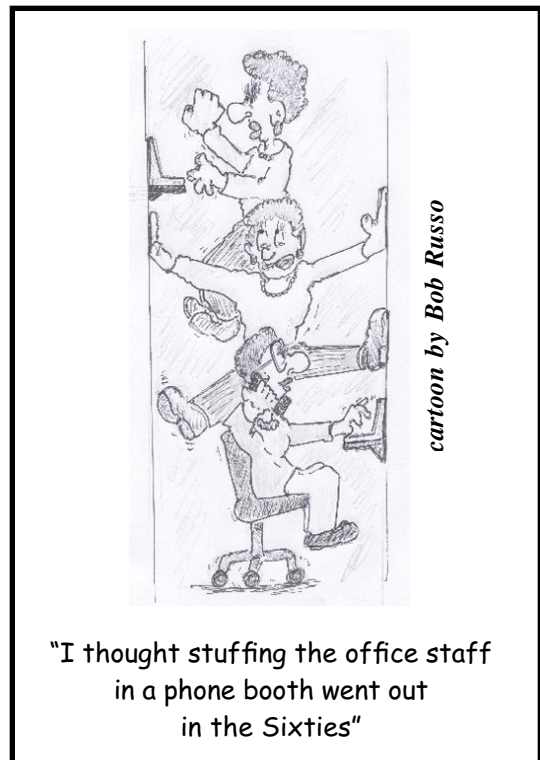


photo by Richard Glantz

Reconstructing Turner St.



cartoon by Bob Russo

Thank you, Nathan Rome!
for building the platform
for the coffee percolators



#1 IN THE #2 BUSINESS

by Richard Glantz

photos by the author and Allan Kleinman

What happens when you press down on that chrome lever on your toilet? BOLLI members wanted to know, and they filled up the Adventurers tour in the first two days after registration opened. Thirty-six lucky members found comfortable seats in a large bus in J-Lot at 8:15 on a chilly Friday morning.

You may recall that the Boston Harbor used to be a filthy, polluted body of water. It took an order from a Federal judge to get the state to clean it up and a Massachusetts governor to move project responsibility from the MDC to the newly created MWRA. The new waste treatment plant on Deer Island in Boston harbor has been a tremendous success, resulting in kudos from across the country and around the world.

Our tour guide was an engineer. There was almost no question he could not answer. What a pleasure!



Brick buildings reflect an arched motif throughout



Windmills spin in the winds of Boston harbor



Noxious chemicals — careful!



Egg-shaped “digesters”



You don't want to fall in



For more information, click on
mwra.state.ma.us/03sewer/html/sew.htm

Public tours are available, but advance registration plus a photo ID are required. Telephone (617) 660-7607, or email Nadia.Caines@mwra.state.ma.us.

MORE CHANGES COMING TO BRANDEIS

by Sharon Sokoloff

As if we aren't experiencing enough change at BOLLI! We're almost at the end of our first semester in our new home at 60 Turner Street. Just writing those words—*our new home*—still astonishes me. Having moved in, we are at Stage 2 of the process of adjusting to a new place. This period is about identifying and fixing obvious problems, honing operations, and simply living here to become more comfortable and at home in the space.



Brandeis is also going through fundamental changes this year, changes that will impact BOLLI and the rest of the Rabb School of Continuing Studies, of which we are a part. Beginning with the obvious, Jehuda Reinharz, Brandeis president for nearly 17 years, officially steps down at the end of 2010. Jehuda has been an outstanding champion for our program. Among many other things, he is responsible for giving BOLLI our own dedicated space. Fred Lawrence, our new president, begins his tenure on January 1, 2011.

One of the most important current activities at Brandeis is the work of the *ad hoc* Administration Structure Advisory Committee (ASAC), created to evaluate the University's administrative structure. The intent of the committee is to plan for Brandeis's long term by thinking about what is working well for the University and what will benefit from improvements.

How will the ASAC impact the Rabb School? Rabb is the fourth school at Brandeis, the other three being Arts & Sciences, Heller, and International Business School. Rabb itself comprises three programs: Graduate Professional Studies (GPS), Summer School, and BOLLI. The common thread that binds our programs together is that we all serve "non-traditional" students. Given that Rabb has a different focus than the rest of the campus, it is still unknown to many constituents on campus.

These constituents are becoming increasingly aware of the Rabb School because we have a strategy of targeted contributions to the University.

GPS, for example, is an innovator in developing (and sharing with other schools on campus) academically-rigorous distance learning courses as well as the use of new teaching and learning technologies. GPS is so ahead of the curve in this area that they were commended by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges during the most recent re-accreditation process.

BOLLI's inter-generational programs, including International Friends and opportunities for graduate students to teach in different settings, are valued contributions. Through these activities, deans, faculty, and students have become familiar with BOLLI.

And so, as BOLLI experiences Stage 2 of our move to our new home, the Rabb School is working to elevate our status, while it strives to attain representation and an active voice—creating parity with the other three schools on campus.

New Yorker Fiction

The New Yorker Fiction discussion group will meet during intersession on Wednesdays at 10:15 A.M. in the Blue Room at 60 Turner St. on:

December 8, 15, 22

January 12, 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16

Join us for great reading, challenging discussions, and lots of laughs.



FIVE-DAY WEEK

by Naomi Schmidt

Our move from Gosman to 60 Turner Street has opened up a range of possibilities for how BOLLI can evolve. We've gone from shared space to our own home, and from a very limited number of class hours to a potential for five days a week of varied activities.

The Council has appointed a committee to explore our options in this new environment. It is chaired by Lois Silver, who has given it the working name *The Committee to Explore the Expansions of the BOLLI Model*. It currently consists of five Council members, but plans are to expand it to include other members as well.

Ideas being explored range from the very simple to the more complex. An example of the former is the addition of five minutes to the transition time between classes. More complex is an exploration of what activities we might schedule on Fridays. Possibilities include day-long seminars and non-academic workshops and events.

Lois states that it is important as we evolve to retain the sense of community that has always made BOLLI so special. The committee is eager to receive suggestions from the membership for new ways to expand our activities to cover the five days available to us, but Lois also reminds us that everything we add to the program has a ripple effect, involving staffing and cost. New additions to the program need to be thought through carefully.

If you have some ideas that you'd like the committee to consider, please get in touch with Lois.

L&L ALL THREE DAYS

by Carole Grossman

Kudos to the Lunch and Learn Committee for again providing an excellent series this fall. Our change to three days of classes has prompted the group to alter the scheduling of programs for the spring 2011 term. In the past, the Committee generated a list of eighteen to twenty speakers and entertainers each term for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Starting February 22nd, the Committee plans to present speakers or programs on all three days of classes.

There will be three speakers the first week. During each of the remaining nine weeks, two speakers will be staggered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Committee, co-chaired by Diane Becker and Patty Goldman, is working closely with Star Zieve, the lead person in creating programming for the nine additional days. These events will include some presentations by BOLLI members.

Much work is involved in arranging for almost fifty Lunch and Learn programs. The Committee is attempting to maintain a balance in the choice of subject matter, drawing from the sciences, arts, politics, the media, history, and the environment. Every effort is being made to maintain a gender balance. The absence of honorariums for the speakers is another constraint. The enthusiastic response of our members to this fall's programming reflects the many hours that have gone into planning the Lunch and Learn programs. We are certainly looking forward to the expanded schedule for our spring semester.

Suggestions are always welcome. Contact any Committee member listed on the BOLLI Web site.

Winter Rapaporte Seminars

January 3-7, 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Prof. William Flesch

Richard II

Back by popular demand for his sixth winter seminar on the plays of Shakespeare

Dan Breen, J.D., Ph.D.

**Mammoth Cheeses and Burning Flags:
Civil Liberties in the United States**

The Bill of Rights and the Supreme Court

Cost is \$185, and space is limited

CAMPUS CALENDAR

compiled by Phil Radoff

SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

(For individual prices and tickets, call Brandeis Tickets: 781-736-3400)

Sat., Dec. 4 (8 P.M.)

Early Music Ensemble

Sarah Mead, director

La Mantovana—music from the Gonzaga Court at Mantua in the time of Monteverdi

Sat., Jan. 29 (8 P.M.)

Chamber Music Recital

Daniel Stepner, violin

Donald Berman, piano

Frank Kelley, tenor

Sun., Dec. 5 (7 P.M.)

Jazz Ensemble

Bob Nieske, director

Music of Thelonius Monk, arranged by Oliver Nelson

Sun., Feb. 13 (7 P.M.)

Brandeis University Orchestra and Chamber Choir

James Olesen, director

Wed., Dec. 8 (4 P.M.)

Annual Messiah Sing

Brandeis University Chorus, Chamber Choir of Brandeis, Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra, and the audience join in for Handel's *Messiah*

This event will take place in the Shapiro Student Center Atrium

SPINGOLD THEATER

For tickets, click on brandeis.edu/BrandeisTickets or call (781-736-3400, option 5)

Save \$2 handling fee by buying tickets at the box office in Shapiro Campus Center

All performances \$10

Feb. 17–20

Little Monsters



In this workshop-style production on the heels of last season's successful *Cocktail Time in Cuba* is a new play from Maria Alexandria Beech, member of the Dorothy Strelsin Writer's Group at Primary Stages in New York.

Possibly gifted poet Sara and her hypochondriac mother live a squalid, small existence; but that does not keep Sara from seeking a relationship and a way up and out of her New York studio apartment. In her pursuit of the perfect mate through Internet dating, she learns whether she is really looking for herself, her history, and her story. Be part of the creation of a new play by participating in one of the post-show discussions with the playwright and other members of the creative team.

WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER

through Dec. 16, (9 A.M.–5 P.M.)

No Man's Land: The Women of Mexico

An exhibit of photography by Dana Romanoff

The series of photos explores the changing role of women left behind in rural towns of Oaxaca, Mexico, after their husbands and sons travel to the U. S. in search of work.