

BOLLI Banner

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

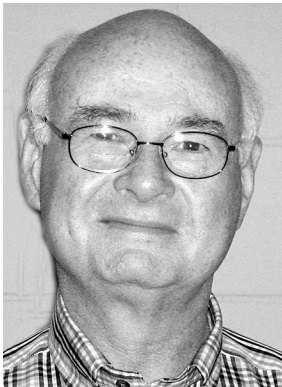
Vol. 11 Number 1 September 2010

WELCOME!

by Joel Kamer, Council Chair

Welcome to our new members

Sixty-six new members are joining BOLLI this semester; they will be easily recognizable by their pink nametags. [See the list of new members by home town on page 6 – Ed.]. If you are a returning member, please introduce yourself and make our new members feel welcome. And, if you are a new member, you will notice that some people will have green nametags to indicate that they are members of the BOLLI Council; you should feel free to introduce yourself to them as well as to other members.



Welcome to our new home

We are now in a space we will not be sharing with others, and we are moving from a two-day to a three-day-a-week program. Although the configuration of four classrooms surrounding the large Gathering Place is not precisely the arrangement we had before, it is very conducive to bumping into friends as we move from class to class, have lunch together, or attend Lunch and Learn presentations. Of course, this is a change from what we're used to—a big change; and with that change comes opportunity. We now have room for growth in our program.

As BOLLI enters its second decade, I can think of nothing more exciting than beginning that decade in our own space. Our BOLLI community and all of its activities will continue as we have known them. Remember how exciting it was when you moved out of your parents' home into your first apartment or home? Remember how exciting it was to have your own space? That's the excitement I feel as we work to make this space our home. We, the members, are BOLLI—and that remains the same.

Review our new guidelines

Another change coming to BOLLI is the implementation of our new Guidelines, which are essentially our by-laws. Over the past year a committee headed by past Council Chair Robert Cohen reviewed and discussed every sentence, every phrase, and every word in our Guidelines, in order to revise them so they reflect both actual practices and best practices. The Council has reviewed the committee's recommendations, and it has made some slight adjustments; but before Council approves the revised Guidelines, it invites all BOLLI members to comment on them. Earlier this month we emailed all members a copy of the proposed Guidelines, along with explanatory material. Please contact me or any other Council member with your questions or comments. You can reach me at jvkamer@brandeis.edu.

Enjoy the start of BOLLI's second decade!

International Friends

WANTED

Individuals with an appreciation and respect for others, to form a social and cultural relationship with an international student at the Heller School of Sustainable International Development. No experience necessary. Training will be provided as needed by fellow hosts, and support will always be available. Hours are flexible and are determined by your individual student/host relationship, as your own schedules allow.

Many bonuses obtained: friendships, fun, learning about other cultures, and the joy of sharing.

For further information, or to request a host application, contact Lyn Weiner at Lynwei@verizon.net or Steve Baran at Bara437853@aol.com

Curriculum

Teaching is one of the few sacred relationships left in a crass secular world.-Theodore Roethke

Want to try it out? Proposals for Spring '11 are due 11/29. If you intend to submit, let us know by 11/5. For more information, contact Alorie Parkhill at aloriebp@verizon.net

The Banner wishes to announce some changes in our staff.

First, we note the resignations of Charlie Raskin and Carol Shedd. Charlie has been on the Banner longer than anyone else, and we are grateful to him for the spark he has brought to our meetings and to the boundless enthusiasm he has carried over to the membership to encourage them to read our little newsletter. Carol also has been on the Banner for a long time, and she has been a source of reasoned steadfastness when discussions became heated. We wish them both well in their future endeavors.

New additions to the Banner staff are Phil Radoff and Andy Thurnauer. Many of our readers already know these individuals and respect them for their common sense and their humor. We welcome Phil and Andy to our hard-working committee.

Last, we acknowledge with great sadness the death this past summer of Kathy Raskin, a long-term member of the Banner who could spot a missing period from across the room. Her perceptive skills will be sorely missed. We cherish our memory of Kathy, and we extend our deep sympathy to her husband, Charlie.

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

Tamara Chernow, *Co-Editor*

Richard Glantz, *Publisher*

Carole Grossman, *Co-Editor*

Phil Radoff, *staff writer*

Naomi Schmidt, *Archivist*

Andy Thurnauer, *Secretary*

Len Heier, *photographer*

Phyllis Pressman Cohen and Joan Kleinman, *contributing writers*

Email us at:
BALIBanner@aol.com
Next deadline:
10/1/10

Banner archive: www.brandeis.edu/bolli/banner/index.html

INTRODUCING ILANA

by Sharon Sokoloff



Ilana Levine, our newest staff member, is a breath of fresh air, a quick study and a hard worker with many skill sets and personal characteristics that make her a tremendous asset. She began her job the last few weeks of the spring 2010 semester, part-time, and became full-time just after the semester ended.

Ilana is from New Haven, CT and is a Brandeis alumna. After graduating in 2009, she adventured to Australia for four months on her own. To me, this is awesome.

When Ilana applied for the Program Coordinator position at BOLLI she stated her professional goals were “gerontology and higher education.” Can you imagine? We asked, “Why the study of aging?” She told us that it was always natural for her to be with older people and working in this growing and important field also seemed logical when she was in school. Interestingly, Ilana’s mother is an elder-law attorney and this too played a role in her professional direction.



Ilana Levine

she has “always been interested in people and how they work.” Her minors were Social Justice and Social Policy because she is interested in “big institutional change.” Ilana is already exploring her options to continue her education at Brandeis, one course each semester leading toward a master’s degree. Following in the footsteps of her family and family ethic, her goal is to “make a difference in people’s lives” — which she is already doing at BOLLI.

Here are some of Ilana’s fresh perspectives of BOLLI and her experience in the community to date. “I love BOLLI! The people are so intellectually engaged and caring.” She observes how much BOLLI members contribute to the world, working for their chosen causes, about which they are passionate. She sees the program as special in how it fills a tremendous potential void for members, many of whom have retired from rich work lives, whether professional careers, volunteer-driven contributions, or other. And, like many of us, Ilana sees the community and the deep, rich, meaningful friendships that develop in it as the heart of the program.

Ilana’s major at Brandeis was Sociology because

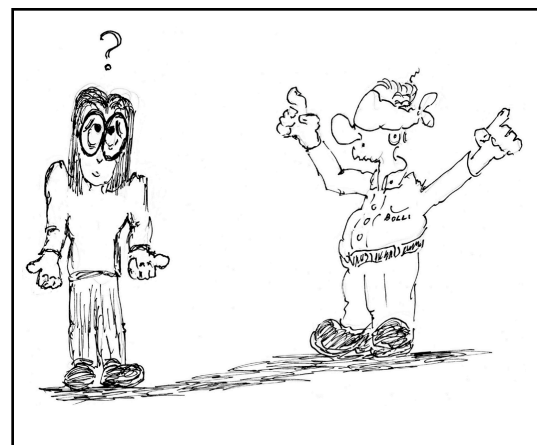
Welcome Ilana. It’s a gift to have you with us.

BOLLI Journal

Submissions are now welcomed for the next edition of the BOLLI Journal. Send your stories, memoirs, poems, and photographs to Joan Kleinman at joankleinman@rcn.com following guidelines described on the BOLLI website brandeis.edu/bolli/members/committees/journalsubmissions.html

Remember, too, that the Spring 2010 Journal is still available on the BOLLI member website. Enjoy and be inspired!

Treasure Hunt from J-Lot



cartoon by Bob Russo

“I don’t know where it is, either”

TIMELINE OF BOLLI'S FIRST DECADE

by Naomi Schmidt

As BOLLI moves into its second decade, we look back at some of the milestones of our first ten years:

1999–2000	Planning year: first meeting of Planning Group, led by Bernie Reisman, Director, and Irving Brudnick, Council Chair Infamous BALI Open House: 400 people, not the expected 50, attend Sharon Sokoloff is hired as Assistant Director under Bernie Reisman
2000–2001	BALI starts in Gosman athletic facility with 267 member and 17 courses BALI newsletter (as yet unnamed) publishes its first issue Six committees are formed: Curriculum, Membership, Lunch & Learn, Public Relations, Hospitality, and Finance Bernie Reisman retires as Director; University hires Sharon as Director
2001–2002	Carol Allman hired as Administrative Assistant Course Lottery is conducted for the first time BALI website is unveiled BALI Journal's first issue is published
2002–2003	Shuttle service is instituted between J-Lot and Gosman President Reinharz directs a \$250,000 gift to BALI from the Werner Dannheisser Testamentary Trust for use over five years
2003–2004	First Summer "Intensive" Program, on the 2004 national election, is held
2004–2005	BOLLI receives initial \$100,000 grant from the Osher Foundation, and changes its name from BALI to BOLLI Resource Committee to support SGLs is formed International Friends Program is inaugurated, matching BOLLI members with SID students BOLLI Scholars program starts, matching graduate students with SGLs Carol Allman is promoted to Assistant Director
2005–2006	First Learn and Lead course is offered, to assist members in developing new courses and becoming SGLs First Winter "Intensive" Program, on <i>King Lear</i> , is offered
2006–2007	BOLLI receives \$1,000,000 endowment from the Osher Foundation BOLLI class schedule moves from three time slots per day to four
2007–2008	BOLLI office moves from a trailer to restored old house on Old South St. Mary Ann Sliwa is hired as Administrative Assistant First Art Show of members' works takes place at BOLLI Annual Meeting
2009–2010	BOLLI celebrates its 10th Anniversary at a Gala attended by 265 people
2010–	BOLLI program space moves from Gosman to Turner St.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT THE BOLLI ADVENTURERS

by Carole Grossman



BOLLI is more than just study groups, as evidenced by activities such as the New Yorker and Current Events discussion groups, the International Friends program (SID), and the Scene-iors drama group. These affinity groups were started by members who followed the

example of one of the earliest "value added" activities, the Adventurers.

Inaugurated by Tamara Chernow, Elaine Dohan, and Eileen Mitchell in May 2004, the first event was a docent-guided tour of the magnificent Mt. Auburn Cemetery. These three have spent many hours previewing interesting places and nearby luncheon venues, arranging informative talks as well as tours. They have organized and led forty trips, three to four each term. Our sincere thanks go to Tamara and Elaine as they now retire from the Adventurers to pursue other BOLLI activities. This fall Eileen will continue with Carol Fischman and Suzanne Art.

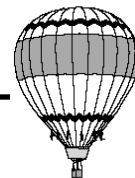
Since 2004 the Adventurers have visited museums, historic houses, gardens, libraries, schools, court-houses, sanctuaries, churches, the State House, and WGBH. Trips were educational, lively, and unique experiences.

Special highlights over the past six years included:

- **Beauport** in Gloucester, to learn its history and architecture and to enjoy its ocean views
- **Moakley Courthouse**, where a BOLLI Scholar talked about the Bill of Rights
- **Trinity Church**, where BOLLI member Carol Shedd was the docent
- **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**, with BOLLI member Lois Ziegelman as guide
- **John Adams Courthouse**, to hear a retired Appeals Court judge
- **American Meteorological Society**, to hear a talk on climate change
- **Longy School of Music**, to hear the head of the Opera Department introduce the singers and musical offerings at a master class
- **RISD Museum** in Providence, to see the Chihuly glass exhibit
- **Currier Museum of Art** in Manchester, NH and the Frank Lloyd Wright House nearby

Many trips filled up quickly. Some were so popular that they were offered a second time by other BOLLI volunteer coordinators. The organizers felt rewarded by all the positive feedback from participants who gained new insights, saw new venues, and met new people.

We are now looking forward to the new team continuing this enriching Adventurers tradition.



Two Adventurers Trips Remain This Fall

Orchard House Oct. 15th

The home of the extraordinary Alcott family, where Louisa May Alcott wrote *Little Women*. After touring the house, we will be entertained and enlightened by actress Jan Turnquist playing the role of Louisa May.

Deer Island Treatment Plant Oct. 29th

An MWRA-led tour of the sewage treatment plant, the centerpiece of the \$3.8 billion "Boston Harbor Clean-up" known as one of America's most important environmental successes.



Who Are Our New Members?

We include the list of towns where people are from to help old friends find each other.

Andover

Bernice Wolk

Belmont

Ottavio Forte

Brighton

Terry Cohen

Canton

Arthur Pearlstein

Chestnut Hill

Barbara Cheris
Rosalyn Chyten
Arlene Feinberg
Miriam Gilman
Helaine Miller
Arnold Offen
Myrna Offen
Eleanor Samuels

Concord

Marjorie Daggett
Susan Goldberg
Harvey Lewis
Toby Saef

Framingham

Dianne Caughey
Linda Kirschner
Esta Lee Levine
Margie Nesson
Peter Nesson
Abner Salant
Norman Seifert
Stanley Shindler
Silvia Zimmerman

Harvard

Joseph Bongiardina

Haverhill

Judy Messinger

Hudson

Richard Davison

Jamaica Plain

Ellenjoy Fields

Lexington

Toby Davidson
Paul Dratche
Nannette Feurzeig
Myrna Kaye
Anne Kriebel
Carol Rosenthal

Lincoln

Susan Coppock

Natick

Nancy Amstutz
Lea Hall
Howard Wolk
Nancy Wolk

Needham

Roberta Friedman
Nancy Krieger
Judith Levowich
Paula Rosen
Sandra Tocman
Marilyn Weiner

Newton

Nancy Amstutz
Arlene Bernstein
Marianne Hudec
Nancy Marglin
Lynn Shaffer
Eleanor Shait
Norma Sloane

Sharon

Richard Schlesinger

Sudbury

Marion Tratnyek

Waltham

David Goldman
Marlene Gray
Susan Kahn
Barbara Mende
Alfred Rossow
Sherry Wexler

Watertown

Dana Kaplan

Wayland

George Brawerman
Marjorie Fishman
Shirley Jacobson

Wellesley

Harriet Goldin

Remember, new members will be wearing pink name tags. Please introduce yourself and make these new members feel welcome.

A POET AMONG US

by Phyllis Pressman Cohen

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

“Be a good girl, study hard, go to college, get married, and be a good wife and mother.” This was what mid-20th century young women were expected to do. Brooklyn-born and raised, Ruth Kramer Baden did just that, although all the while she yearned to be the Great American Writer.

After graduating Wellesley College, she married a promising young medical student and taught in Dedham. Soon she began her family and settled into a life in suburbia. But she needed more.

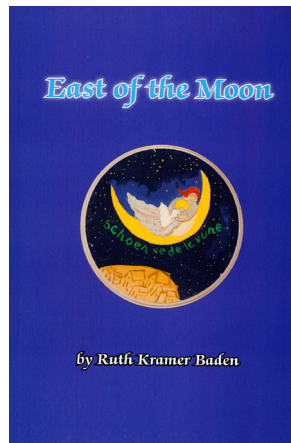
In the early 1960’s she became very interested in the second wave of the Feminist Movement. In the 1970’s she was active against the Viet Nam war. In the 1980’s, at age 50, she went to law school and then started a practice devoted to elder law which she saw as a way to help people at times of crisis.

Even while pursuing this busy life she never

stopped writing both prose and poetry. Most of her articles were about sex discrimination and stereotyping, several of which were published in the Boston Globe magazine.

Ruth made a promise to herself that at 70 she would retire and devote her efforts to her poetry. The fulfillment of all her dreams came this year when she published a very well received book of poems, *East of the Moon*, which is available at

ruthbaden.blogspot.com



Stimulated by her passion for poetry, Ruth has led six courses at BOLLI. These focus on what makes poetry different from prose by studying the craft of the poet, including the tools, the voice, the rhythm, the meter, and most importantly, metaphor. Her students enjoy her study groups so much that they even continue through the summer months. She feels that both she and the students have bloomed in these sessions saying, “The people who take the courses are so bright and involved. It’s wonderful to watch them get turned on to poetry.”

A PLAY WELL-READ

by Clarice Cohen

If Terence Ratigan had been at the Geller Room in Hassenfeld last May, he would have been gratified to view a sensitive and touching reading of his play *Table Number Seven* by the BOLLI Scene-iors. The small area available as the stage was cleverly arranged to reflect the decorum and restrained atmosphere of the lounge and the dining room of the Beauregard Hotel, summer 1954 in England.

The group meets Thursdays at 3:20 P.M. and is open to all BOLLI members. Contact is Eileen Mitchell at emitmail@verizon.net.

Bravo to the Scene-iors for providing enjoyable entertainment for the BOLLI community.



Cast: Leonora Feeney, Pete Reider, Bobbe Vernon, Becky Meyers [director], Eileen Mitchell, Al Fine

CAMPUS CALENDAR

compiled by Tamara Chernow

SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

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

Sat., Oct. 2 (8 P.M.)

Dinosaur Annex

Works by Melinda Wagner, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Keeril Makan, and Stacy Garrop
Pre-concert reception at 7 P.M.

Tickets are only available at

dinosaurannex.org/ticketinfo.html

Sun., Oct. 3 (3 P.M.)

Passionately Modern: Music for Cello and Piano after World War II

Joshua Gordon, cello

Randall Hodgkinson, piano

Benjamin Britten *Sonata in C major*, Op. 65

Gunther Schuller *Duo Concertante*

Prokofiev *Sonata in C major*, Op. 119

Sat., Oct. 16 (8 P.M.)

World Music Series: Group Saloum—Afro-Pop

Founded by world-renowned griot percussionist Lamine Touré, Group Saloum fuses Senegalese *mbalax* with elements of jazz, funk, reggae, and Afro-beat. Group Saloum performs original *mbalax* music highlighted by the infectious rhythms of Touré's sabar drums, drawing upon the collective creativity of some of Boston's most talented musicians

Sat., Oct. 23 (8 P.M.)

Brandeis University Chorus

James Olesen, director

Music of Mozart, including *The Coronation Mass*, K.317

Free



BOLLI members may purchase season passes for \$35 for 6 concerts by calling 781-736-3400

SPINGOLD THEATER

For tickets, click on go.brandeis.edu/BrandeisTickets or call (781-736-3400, option 5)
Save \$2 handling fee by buying tickets at the box office, now located in Shapiro Campus Center
Tickets are \$18 and \$20, less \$5 discount to BOLLI members with ID.

Sept. 20–Oct. 10

Three Sisters

Written by Anton Chekov

Directed by Adrienne Krstansky



BOLLI members may purchase season passes for \$35 for 4 plays by calling 781-736-3395

WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER

Sept. 20–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 United States in search of work. Traditionally, the woman's role was in the home, performing domestic chores and caring for the children. With their husbands and sons away, the women are now in charge of their families and finances. Some men never return and leave the women as the sole breadwinners for their households.

ROSE ART MUSEUM

Opening Oct. 7, 6 P.M.

WaterWays

An exhibit exploring art that utilizes water as subject, metaphor, and muse. William Kentridge's video *Tide Table* will be a centerpiece. A wide range of artists will be shown, from the traditional to the conceptual, including John Marin, Milton Avery, Fairfield Porter, Alfredo Jaar, Annette Lemieux, and Sally Mann