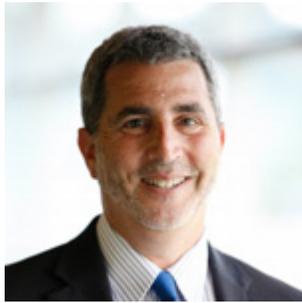




MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Building Strong Communities of Learning



Avi Bernstein
BOLLI Director

The BOLLI Academic Year 2014-2015 saw continued growth in member benefits and--in particular--in the number of opportunities for BOLLI members to learn together. I am particularly pleased that this learning extends to mind, body, and spirit. We witnessed the number of faculty lectures taking place in our space skyrocket thanks to our BOLLI Lectureship Program and the knowledge and enthusiasm of Brandeis lecturers. Our partners at the Gosman Sports Complex delivered a magnificent first edition of "Muscles & Movement," an exercise class designed for the needs of older adults. And to top it all off, our study group leaders created supportive and informative conversations with each other. I marvel at all of this as it unfolds and am delighted to count myself as a learner among you!

Greetings to the BOLLI membership! I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you and learning more about BOLLI in the past year. The more I learn, the more impressed I am!

The variety and quality of the programming is remarkable as is the commitment of the membership. I am proud to represent BOLLI throughout the Brandeis community.

Here's to another year of learning and friendship!



Karen Muncaster
Vice President for the
Rabb School

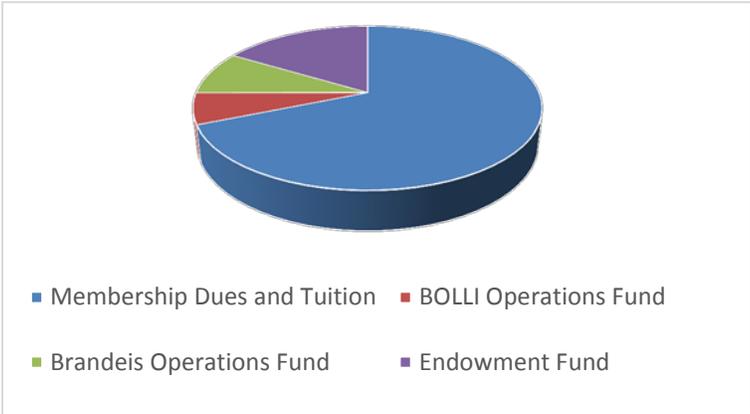


Advisory Council

The 2014-2015 BOLLI Advisory Council met monthly throughout the Fall, Winter and Spring terms to plan, recommend and consult about our programs and activities. The Council is composed of program chairs, and liaisons to you, the BOLLI community. This past year we have adopted two initiatives to bolster our on-going program. First, we have expanded to a four-day week course schedule to allow for our core curriculum classes to begin and end at times that are more suitable to the needs of our members and study group leaders. Second, we have established a Coordinating Committee to allow for the interface of the Curriculum and Study Group Support Committees to improve support of our study group leaders and to continue to assure a quality learning experience for our members. We look forward to continued energetic activity on behalf of our membership to insure that learning and friendship will continue to thrive and reach new heights during 2015-2016.

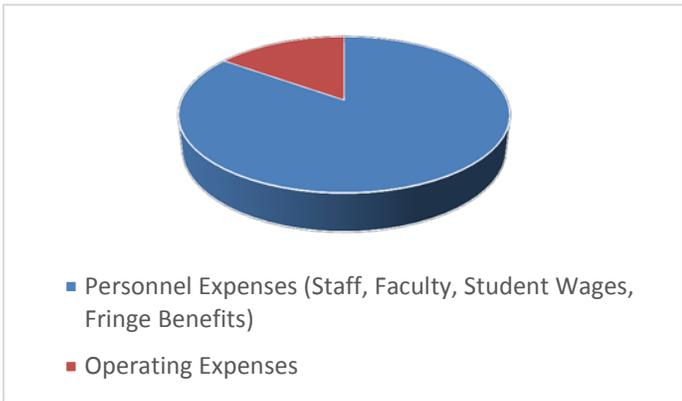
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Where the money comes from...



| Income | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Membership dues & tuition | \$249,283 |
| BOLL I Operations Fund | \$22,307 |
| Brandeis Operations Fund | \$31,341 |
| Endowment Fund | \$59,460 |
| TOTAL | \$362,391 |

Where the money goes...



| Expenses | |
|--|------------------|
| Personnel Expenses | \$238,073 |
| Operating Expenses | \$42,764 |
| Support Services Assessment <i>*Administrative fees to Brandeis</i> | \$81,554 |
| TOTAL | \$362,391 |

| Operations Fund Disbursements | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Student Ambassador Program | \$17,000 |
| Lecture Honoraria | \$2,623 |
| 60 Turner Street Improvements | \$1,171 |
| Fitness Courses | \$820 |
| Fund Administration | \$693 |
| Total | \$22,307 |

Our Current Financial Strength

Operations Fund Balance: \$57,326
 Gifts to this Fund support on-going operational expenses for BOLLI.

Endowment Fund Balance: \$1.75 million
 Gifts to this Fund support the administration of the BOLLI program at 60 Turner Street.

MEMBERSHIP & OUR LEADERS

BOLLI Points of Pride

- In FY 15, lifelong learners traveled to BOLLI from **50 different towns**, ranging from Winchester to Cotuit, including 25 members from Waltham itself.
- The BOLLI Banner Member Newsletter completed its **fifteenth publication season**, all under the leadership of veteran BOLLI member and publisher, Richard Glantz.
- BOLLI welcomed over **100 new members in FY15**.
- **More than 15% of BOLLI members** rolled up their sleeves and volunteered to build BOLLI! Thank you – you are amazing!



ADVISORY COUNCIL

July 2014-June 2015

Bonnie Alpert...Liaison to Marketing Communications Working Group
 Arlene Bernstein...Curriculum Committee Chair
 Susan Bradford...Member Liaison
 Myrna Cohen...Enhancement Committee Chair
 Fara Faramarzpour...Liaison to the Technology Working Group
 Ed Finerty...Liaison to Intergenerational Groups
 Joyce Hollman...Study Group Support Committee Chair
 Ron Levy...Lunch & Learn Committee Co-Chair
 Charlie Raskin...Membership Committee Chair
 Nancy Rawson...Member Liaison (January-June)
 Peter Schmidt...Member Liaison (July- December)
 Arlene Weintraub...Liaison to Affinity Groups

COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

July 2014-June 2015

CURRICULUM

Co-Chair: Arlene Bernstein
 Co-Chair: Tamara Chernow

LUNCH & LEARN

Co-Chair: Mimi Halperin-Maya
 Co-Chair: Ron Levy

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Charlie Raskin

STUDY GROUP SUPPORT

Chair: Joyce Hollman

ENHANCEMENT

Chair: Myrna Cohen

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Liaison: Bonnie Alpert

TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

Liaison: Fara Faramarzpour

Thank you!



Highlights from our Spring 2015 Membership Survey

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Spring 2015 surveys. We were thrilled to receive 151 responses. When you respond to a BOLLI survey, you help move BOLLI forward!

- 50% of those surveyed who worked for a large employer are ready to help with BOLLI outreach to their former HR department. Let's work together!
- Almost 70% of those surveyed report that they listen to WBUR at least once a week. BOLLI is currently pursuing partnership opportunities with this great media outlet.
- More than a third of those surveyed indicated that they would be willing to help provide stimulating presentations, either directly or by recruiting a speaker.

We've formed an Advancement Working Group!

The primary mission of our new Advancement Working Group is to seek funds to improve the quality of life at 60 Turner Street. We plan to focus especially on cooperative ventures with the university to customize our space for the learning needs of older adults.

BOLLI members share a love of learning -- this brings us together! That's where our new Advancement Working Group comes in. Working with Director Avi Bernstein and Rabb School Vice President Karen Muncaster, we intend to improve the quality of our learning at 60 Turner Street through improvements to the BOLLI space. Please see the *Wall Street Journal* article in the succeeding pages for just one of several ideas about how we can customize our space for the next chapter of our BOLLI lives.

Will you join us for an organizational meeting on Friday, November 20, from 10 to 11:30a at 60 Turner Street?
Please RSVP to Matt Medeiros at 781-736-2992 or mmedeiros@brandeis.edu.

Ruth Bramson, Chair
Avi Bernstein, Director

Fara Faramarzpour, Chair, Technology Working Group
Charlie Raskin, Treasurer



From the *Wall Street Journal* August 28, 2015

A Technological Godsend to Counter Hearing Loss

The 'hearing loop' is a remarkable advance, but all too hard to find in the U.S.

By David G. Myers

The first time I clicked on my hearing aids' telecoils, it seemed like magic. It was 1999 and my wife and I were sitting in a historic abbey on Scotland's Isle of Iona. I had gradually become hard of hearing and had gotten my first hearing aid in my 40s, and the abbey wasn't built with acoustics in mind. The amplified voice of the worship leader caromed off the stone walls, reverberating into a fog by the time it reached my ears.

Then my wife noticed a sign with a capital T and an outline of an ear, which indicated that the abbey was wired with a "hearing loop" that could magnetically transmit sound from the PA system to the telecoils in my hearing aids. When I flipped the switch to turn my T-coils on, the fog instantly dissipated. I could hear a crystal-clear voice speaking seemingly from the center of my head. The experience took me to the verge of tears.

Hearing loops are now ubiquitous in Britain. They're in churches and auditoriums, at tens of thousands of ticket windows, post offices and pharmacies and in every London taxi. At spacious Westminster Abbey, with my hearing aids' microphones turned off and my T-coils turned on, I hear better than most in the audience.

After that epiphany on Iona, I became an evangelist: Why not loop America? Theaters and other public venues in the U.S. generally offer "assistive listening" devices. But that typically requires people with hearing loss to locate, check out and wear a conspicuous headset. I recently asked my local movie multiplex in Holland, Mich., how often these headset units get used. The reply: "Once per month, per theater."

That's a shame. Some 48 million Americans have hearing loss in one or both ears. For my mother it was socially isolating. She quit going out, except to church, where, amid others, she heard little. I can sympathize. When I remove my hearing aids I have a near deaf experience. In the gym locker room, the banter goes nearly silent. In bed at night, my wife's voice from the adjacent pillow is indistinct.

But unlike my mother, I am served by new ear-opening technologies. My hearing aids suppress background noise and amplify only the sounds I need. I can wirelessly transmit phone calls and (This illustration not in the WSJ article) stereo music to them from my smartphone. I even looped my home TV room. With a simple press of a button, muffled sound becomes clear, thanks to the wireless speakers in my ears.

(Continued on next page)



The challenge for hearing loops in the U.S. is inertia—existing installations of less convenient technologies are often already in place. Adding a hearing loop which involves running a coil of wire around the circumference of the coverage areas, costs money: several thousand dollars, perhaps, for a modest-size church or auditorium.

The airport 35 miles from me in Grand Rapids, the second largest in Michigan, looped both of its concourses and 15 gates and now broadcasts boarding and delay announcements directly to hearing aids. The cost to install the system was a little more than \$130,000—not a lot, in the grand scheme of things. Picking up the magnetic signal requires a \$2 telecoil, which came standard on 72% of the hearing-aid models sold in the U.S. last year and all cochlear implants.

With support from the Hearing Loss Association of America, the American Academy of Audiology, and other hearing loop advocates, the technology is spreading throughout the U.S. Nearly every worship place and auditorium in my community now has one, including at Hope College, where I work. One of America's largest hearing-loop installations is the 12,200-seat basketball arena at Michigan State University.

In New York City, subway fare booths are now looped, as are the new Nissan taxis and several Broadway and Lincoln Center theaters, including the Gershwin and Rodgers. In Washington, D.C., hearing loops now include the chambers of the Supreme Court and the U.S. House of Representatives.

On July 29 a committee of the U.S. Access Board recommended looping individual subway and railcars, if it proves technically feasible.

All of this represents a huge step forward for people with hearing loss. A survey last year published in *Hearing Review* asked 866 people to rate the performance of their hearing aids or cochlear implants using a 10-point scale. The average response was 4.9 in a non-looped setting and 8.7 in a looped environment.

It's easy to find similar stories. One person, after turning on his telecoil for the first time, said that it "felt like God was talking." Margaret Newton, the business manager of suburban Chicago's 882-seat Marriott Theatre, reports that after installing a hearing loop, she began to receive thanks from attendees after every performance. "I cannot begin to tell you the amazing difference this has made," she says.

With momentum now on the side of the hearing loop, I happily foresee a future my mother could not have imagined. Hearing loss need not be debilitating or isolating. As a campaign by the Hearing Loss Association of America says, "Get in the Hearing Loop." Hear ye! Hear ye!

Mr. Myers is a psychology professor at Hope College in Holland, Mich., and the author of "A Quiet World: Living With Hearing Loss."