WELL...HELLO, BOLLI!

It’s so nice to have you all where you belong! You’re looking swell—and going strong! It is truly a “banner year” at BOLLI. As of September 15, our membership total of 395 included a record high of 70 new faces who are joining us from a wide geographic area, including Old Saybrook, CT!

Acton: Louise Higginbotham, Susan Sekuler
Arlington: Harold Forbes
Ashland: Elizabeth Hurley
Bedford: Marcia Robinson
Belmont: Amelia Brock, Jerry Mechaber
Boston: Barbara Berke, Dorene Nemeth
Brookline: Gillian Rogell, Bill Rosenberg, Alice Shabecoff, Philip Shabecoff, Norman Spack, Ruth Spack
Cambridge: Beverly Garrett, Judith Warren
Chestnut Hill: Phyllis Wilker, Richard Wilker
Concord: Clarice Patton
Harvard: Nancy Smith
Holliston: Kim Adkin
Hopkinton: Nancy Branz
Lexington: Monika Berg, Sally Castleman
Lincoln: Tim Bornstein, Erica Bronstein, Ruth Wales
Marblehead: Harriet Brand, Gila Namias
Needham: Steven Asen, Claudia Greenfield, Roberta Myerov, Monique Roth,

Needham (Cont’d.): George Santicioli
Newton: James Allaire, Marjorie Arons-Barron, Joan Belson, Barry Benjamin, Maria Bueche, Erika Cohen, Victoria Falk, Toni Frederick, Stephen Goldfinger, Alan Goodman, Manya Harrison, Carolyn Potts, Caroline Schwirian, Lawrence Schwirian, Ronald Silberstein

Old Saybrook, CT: James Kiehm
Reading: Ruth Kupfer
Sharon: Randi Tillman
Tyngsboro: Marty Schecter
Waltham: Sandra Clifford, Suzanne Hodes, Sue Perdew
Watertown: Lynne Brandon, Edwina Chyet, Marie Danziger, Jyl Lynn Felman, Elana Marsland, Cindy Wentz
Wellesley: Marjorie Stanzier
Weston: Marilyn Hirsch, Miriam Soybel
West Roxbury: Dan Fritz
Winchester: Jonathan Adler
Woburn: Alfred Reich, Kiala Reich
ESPECIALLY INTERESTING GROUPS

BOLLI’s member-generated Special Interest Groups round out our weekly schedule of classes, Enhancement Committee presentations, and Lunch and Learn Lectures. Open to all, they provide opportunities for like-minded participants to explore a variety of common interests together. Meeting times and activities can be found by checking the BOLLI events calendar on the website, or the online Bulletin, or by emailing the groups’ organizers for details. Don’t see your special interest listed below? Any member can start a Special Interest Group. Contact Administrator Megan Curtis for help getting underway.

Le Groupe Français lit les meilleures œuvres de la littérature française classique et contemporaine par des auteurs célèbres--en français. Le groupe serait heureux d’accueillir de nouveaux membres compétents en français, mais le nombre des membres du groupe est forcément limité. Meetings are held every two weeks. Contacts: Barbara Apstein, bapstein@verizon.net, and Phil Radoff, plradoff@yahoo.com.

New Yorker Fiction Salon meets weekly throughout the year to enjoy great literature in the form of fascinating fiction as well as delightful discussions--and lots of laughs. Discussion leadership is shared by members of the group. New members are always welcome. Contact: Sandy Traiger, sandyharristraiger@verizon.net.

Play Reading “Round Table” meets every six weeks to read a play aloud together. The group chooses either comedic or serious works from past as well as contemporary playwrights. Copies (from the Minute-man Library System) are provided, and there is no need to read ahead of time. Contacts: Bonnie Alpert, bonniealpert@gmail.com, and Sue Wurster, susanlwurster@aol.com.

Poetry Circle meets monthly to share the pleasure and intrigue of encountering contemporary poets and their work. Some members have spent years cultivating their interest in poetry while others have read very little--all are welcome! Discussion leadership is shared by group members. Contacts: Charlie Marz, cmarz@rcn.com, and Arlene Bernstein, albern99@verizon.net.

Scene-iors Acting Troupe meets weekly to prepare solo, paired, and/or small cast scenes that will be presented in “staged reading” style at the end of BOLLI’s fall term. No experience is necessary; memorization is not required; and performance before the BOLLI audience is entirely voluntary. Contacts: Sue Wurster, susanlwurster@aol.com, and Eileen Mitchell, emitmail@comcast.net.

Writers Guild brings together those who love to write and are eager to improve their poetry, drama, short stories, fiction, and creative nonfiction. The group meets weekly to write, share, critique, and explore ideas. Contacts: Sue Wurster, susanlwurster@aol.com, and Maxine Weintraub, maxinebernice@comcast.net.

The BOLLI BANNER is published by the Banner Committee: Phil Radoff, Managing Editor
Nancy Alimansky, Editor-at-Large Susan Posner, Archivist
Na’ama Ansell, Articles Editor Andy Thurnauer, Secretary
Sam Ansell, Articles Editor & Cartoonist Sue Wurster, Production Editor
Len Heier, Contributing Photographer

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CHANGES AT THE BANNER

By Phil Radoff, Managing Editor

With this issue, The Banner announces a num-
ber of changes in the staff of our newsletter. As
the spring term drew to a close, we said farewell
and thank you to three members of our staff:
Richard Glantz, Brenda Gleckman, and Barbara
Rabinovitz. To replace them, we are pleased to
welcome four new members.

Our new staff members bring a wealth of expe-
rience to The Banner. Nancy Alimansky, a pop-
ular SGL, is an artist and jazz aficionado whose
2015 book, Echoes of Highland Jazz: Swingin’
in the Boston Suburbs, is available on Amazon.
Na’ama Ansell, a long-time professional pho-
tographer, has a passion for photojournalism;
her work has appeared in local and national
publications. Sam Ansell designed, wrote, and
illustrated the newsletter for the company he
headed and is now an accomplished blogger
and resident cartoonist. Sue Wurster, former
teacher, speech coach, and school yearbook/
newspaper advisor, has taken on the daunting
task of producing The Banner.

These changes in staffing led us to reconsider
the distribution of tasks required to produce
our newsletter, and that reconsideration, in
turn, prompted us to redefine our various titles,
as shown in the masthead.

Will there be further changes? Undoubtedly.
Don’t be surprised if you see the re-emergence
of Letters to the Editor, editorials, other fea-
tures, and, of course, more cartoons!

What will not change is that The Banner will
continue to be available in both print and
electronic editions, at least for Volume 16. And
we on the staff will, of course, do our best to
maintain the same high level of quality that our
predecessors achieved. BOLLI members expect
that of us and deserve nothing less.
BOLLI’S FALL PROGRAM

By Arlene Bernstein and Tamara Chernow, Curriculum Committee

As BOLLI’s 16th year begins, the Curriculum Committee is pleased to welcome our new and returning members to our program of stimulating academic courses, interesting Lunch & Learn speakers, Enhancement presentations, fitness classes, and a wide assortment of other activities. With the recent addition of summer and winter Lecture Series and seminars taught by Brandeis faculty, BOLLI has become a year-round learning community.

This fall, our curriculum features an invigorating program of 47 courses. Striving to provide a broad array of stimulating topics, offerings include the art of the Northern Renaissance, a history of Siberia, the Vietnam War, current Supreme Court cases, James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, Canadian literature, “Voices from the Middle East,” Boston architecture, as well as fiction and memoir writing.

Our new four-day schedule of three periods a day enables us to offer the same number of course periods per week while allowing classes to start at 9:30 in the morning and end at 3:45 in the afternoon, thus avoiding both traffic jams and winter darkness.

The Enhancement Committee is proud to sponsor presentations by Study Group Leaders that take place on Mondays in the time slot between second and third periods. Lunch and Learn programs featuring outside speakers will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. BOLLI members may once again select from a menu of low-cost lunches delivered by a local restaurant.

As a year-round learning community, we are continuing to offer our winter and summer term Lecture Series taught by Brandeis professors and doctoral candidates on a variety of topics, including history, music, literature, and film. These free lectures received rave reviews and were expanded from two in the winter to three in the summer. A fitness class, first offered last spring, has expanded to two sections which meet on Wednesday mornings. Committee meetings will take place on Friday mornings, and Special Interest Groups will meet on Friday afternoons. The weekly *Bulletin* will include details about these groups’ meetings and activities.

As you enjoy this term’s courses, lectures, and other activities—and as you socialize with old and new friends—keep in mind that what makes our program so successful is the active participation of our members. If you would like to get involved in committees or other BOLLI activities, contact either Susan Bradford or Helen Lebowitz, Member Liaisons. You might even consider offering a course yourself. The Curriculum Committee will be happy to hear your ideas. You’ll get even more out of BOLLI if you get involved!
MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO

By Naomi Schmidt

A successful addition to BOLLI this past spring was the new fitness program at Gosman Athletic Center. Negotiations between BOLLI Director Avi Bernstein and Assistant Director of Athletics Jim Zotz led to two new offerings: Muscles & Movement and Yoga. (For many years, Sandi Levy’s yoga classes had a devoted BOLLI following, and it was good to see the return of such a program.) These fitness courses expanded BOLLI from an academic program dealing with members “from the head up” to a wellness program taking us below the shoulders.

Two points prompted Avi to pursue this initiative. The first was his awareness, from both media reports and discussions at the annual Osher Conference, of the importance of physical exercise in retaining cognitive function and extending the quality of life among seniors. The second was his desire to demonstrate the benefits of BOLLI’s presence on a university campus by increasing our collaboration with Brandeis.

Jim Zotz has long had a deep, personal interest in lifelong fitness programs to help seniors feel stronger and more confident. That interest led to conversations with Bernie Reisman during BOLLI’s formative stages at Brandeis, but he credits Avi for approaching the staff at Gosman and spearheading this effort. Avi, in turn, appreciates Jim’s tenacity in making this collaboration work.

Comments from members’ written evaluations praised Brittany Nachamie, the Brandeis undergraduate who led the Muscles & Movement class. Although two generations younger than BOLLI members, she understood our group, chose exercises to accommodate every level of aptitude, and was careful to demonstrate a number of options for many of the exercises in order to give each individual just the right degree of difficulty.

Brittany, a certified Personal Trainer, states that she learned much from leading this class. She learned how to modify what she does with younger participants and, in the process, gained a new perspective on working with older individuals. She was impressed by the positive attitudes of class members. Participants appreciated being able to exercise with people they knew, finding it fun to see old friends in a new setting.

Muscles & Movement moves to the dance studio this fall and has been expanded to two sections. While yoga may return in the future, M&M turned out to be better suited, at this point, to the range of fitness levels and experience of the participants.

More good news lies in the program’s parking accommodations. Instead of parking in J Lot with a shuttle van to transport participants to and from Gosman, members may park behind the gym. In addition, for an annual fee of $100, a BOLLI member can purchase a community membership providing access to all Gosman facilities, including the swimming pool.

The fitness program can help BOLLI members realize the classical ideal of healthy minds in healthy bodies.
STANDING ROOM ONLY  Summer Seminars

By Sue Wurster

It was standing room only as BOLLI-ites settled in for a Tuesday morning screening of *The Boys from Syracuse*, the first installment in Harvard Research Fellow Michael Booth’s seminar, “Shakespeare in Hollywood.”

Hollywood’s version of the 1938 Broadway hit is based on *A Comedy of Errors*, which is itself based on two works by Roman playwright Plautus. Booth says that the play provides the first example in the English theater of characters trying to keep track of what other characters know and when they know it, or what he refers to as “meta-representation.”

Bernstein’s *West Side Story* version of *Romeo and Juliet* was next, followed by a modern-day *Twelfth Night* with an Anglo-Indian cast, the only film shown that kept Shakespeare’s language intact. *Omkara*, a 2006 Bollywood adaptation of *Othello*, provided a powerful finale.

“I like to look at Shakespeare as an artist, writer, and thinker,” Michael says. “What interests me most are what could be called ‘cognitive’ issues or the intellectual pleasure that Shakespeare’s plays offer audiences and how those issues work. I’m writing a book about this, so stay tuned!”

Before taking off for Berlin as a Hertz Traveling Fellow, Jared Redmond treated BOLLI scholars to “Classical Music and Social Protest,” focused on “the ways in which composers inscribe their social messages in their work.” Today we think of protest as being aggressive and violent, but, until the 20th century, composers used satire and critique to put across their messages in order to avoid censure or persecution.

Believing that art should mirror the complexity of God’s act of creation, William Byrd (a “closet Catholic”) added lines or “voices” to the plain-chant sanctioned during the Reformation. That complexity, however, was deemed “too elite,” leading to a brief suspension of his church contract in 1569. Some suggest that Mozart’s “freelance” operas also represent class struggle. “*Don Giovanni* may not be protest, *per se,*” Redmond says, “but it is certainly a complex and ironic morality play echoing dark social themes.”

Redmond provided a fascinating whirlwind tour of 600 years of music history. “At the end of the day, it’s all about *music;*” he says. “It’s about finding new insights and ways to reinvigorate our views of these great pieces and their creators.” Bon voyage, Jared!

Michael Booth sets up a *West Side Story* clip with a passage from *Romeo & Juliet*.

Discussion continues with Jared Redmond at the end of his final session.  Photos by Sue Wurster
A WALK IN THE PARK Greenway Revisited

By Richard Glantz

If you have not walked the Rose Kennedy Greenway, you are missing a visual treat. You will be amazed by what is above the subway tracks and the roadways buried beneath. Your grandchildren will delight in the sights and sounds and tastes.

For an article in the May 2010 issue of The Banner, we walked from the Haymarket T-Station to Chinatown. Recently, we walked the same mile the other way, from Chinatown to Haymarket. We begin at Chinatown.

Highly recommended for its fresh dim sum is Hei La Moon at the corner of Beach St. and Surface Rd. The har gao (shrimp wrapped in a rice noodle) and siu mai (pork meatball in a steamed bun) are not to be missed. Arrive before noon to avoid a wait. The grandkids will be thrilled to see finger food brought to them on wheels.

Cross the wide street to the Chinatown gate, turn right, and head through the bamboo garden. Just past the pigeon warning sign, look up to view the imposing Federal Reserve Bank. Billowing overhead, a massive web of orange-red netting (100 miles of rope in 542,500 knots and weighing 1 ton) anchored to three skyscrapers is the latest in a series of temporary public art installations.

Walk through the Rowes Wharf arch to the harbor, where ferries serve the airport and Hingham. Let the grandchildren run through the Rings Fountain and ride the magnificent carousel.

Farther ahead, on the left, is Haymarket where fresh produce is sold at low prices. Finally, arrive at the striking Zakim Bridge, grab some refreshment from a street vendor or coffee shop, and you’re ready for the trip home.
**SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER**  
*Tickets $15 for BOLLI Members with ID*

**Piano-Cello Duo**  
Saturday, October 3, 8 pm  
The critically acclaimed duo of Lydian String Quartet cellist Joshua Gordon and pianist Randall Hodgkinson performs works by Beethoven, Franck, and Louis Gordon (father of the cellist).

**Lydian String Quartet**  
Saturday, October 17,  
Talk 7 pm/Concert 8 pm  
In honor of Robert Koff, a founding member of the Juilliard String Quartet and Lydian String Quartet mentor, the quartet performs Harold Meltzer’s *Aqua*, Brahms’ *String Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, op. 51 No. 1*, and Richard Wernick’s *String Quartet No. 5*, featuring Brandeis artist-in-residence Tony Arnold, soprano.

**Dinosaur Annex Chamber Ensemble**  
Saturday, October 24, 8 pm  
The Brandeis Department of Music presents an evening with local chamber ensemble *Dinosaur Annex* to celebrate dean, professor, and prolific composer Eric Chasalow.

**SPINGOLD THEATRE CENTER**  
*Tickets $15 for BOLLI Members with ID*

**Songs for a New World**  
Sat. & Sun. Matinees at 2  
The first musical from Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown (*Parade, The Last Five Years, The Bridges of Madison County*), directed by Rachel Liff ’16, this moving collection of powerful songs examines life, love, and the choices we make. *Songs for a New World* is not simply one narrative strung together with music but a series of sixteen separate stories told entirely through song.

**WOMEN’S RESEARCH CENTER**  
For over two decades, Linda Bond’s artwork has addressed issues of social concern. In this exhibit, she both humanizes violent events and combats the numbing effects of a media-saturated culture. Bond uses not only newspaper content but also the printed pages themselves as a source of raw material to create wall installations, woven floor mats, and text-based drawings. This solo exhibition, *Reconnaisance*, will be mounted at the Kniznick Gallery.

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**SPOILER ALERT! DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS TO SPEAK AT BOLLI**

The Lunch and Learn Committee has assembled a stellar program of 30 speakers for the fall semester. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, our guests will speak and take questions from 1:00-2:00 p.m. after the 12:30 lunch break. A sampling of this term’s speakers includes: former Chief Medical Correspondent for ABC television Dr. Tim Johnson; Juliette Kayyem, Lecturer in Public Affairs at Harvard’s Kennedy School; United Independent Party leader Evan Falchuk; Tom Farragher of *The Boston Globe*; and Florence Graves of Brandeis’s Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism.