During our semester break progress has been made at BALI, much of which can be directly attributed to Carol Allman Morton and a few special men and women.

While you were gone, BALI implemented its second-generation database, one of the most critical aspects of BALI’s infrastructure. The database enables us to track our members, mail and email to you, keep track of our finances, and enroll you in courses. BALI’s original database, built in less than a month before BALI started, worked quite well “considering”, mostly because Carol continuously “tweaked” it to meet our needs. But our goal for the past two years has been to build a second-generation database to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. For many months Carol worked with our contractor, InResonance, to oversee the construction of the new database.

Carol also worked with the Technology Committee and new Website Task Force to advance on-line facilities. Together they developed an online BALI calendar. You can find it by going to www.brandeis.edu/bali and then clicking on the BALI calendar link. Thanks to Len Heier, the calendar provides information about BALI meetings and activities, and links to the Brandeis website where their calendar can be viewed, making the schedule of all Brandeis programs accessible.

There are more projects under development by our competent “techies” and Carol. One notable project is the development of a computerized “randomizer” which we will use to conduct lotteries when assigning members to over-enrolled study groups. Thanks to Joel Kamer for providing leadership for this project.

While you were gone we reached out to virtually all Brandeis emeriti, with the assistance of Leon Jick, exploring their interest in leading study groups in the future. We also worked with Milton Kornfeld, Associate Dean of Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, to bring Brandeis students working on their dissertations into BALI classes.

We are beginning BALI’s relationship with “Sustainable International Development” and the “International Student Scholar Organization” to create mutually winning programs between international students at Brandeis and BALI members. To further this relationship, we are forming the University Coordinating Committee.

BALI’s second literary Journal will be published soon, thanks to Renée Fine and her committee.

And, in addition to welcoming back all of you, I have the pleasure of greeting 53 new members to BALI. Welcome everyone. Learn, enjoy, and may the warmth of the BALI community help thaw the remnants of this frosty winter.
How the BALI Banner is Put Together

by Richard Glantz, Publisher

Got to finish this article, and e-mail it to the BALI Banner editors.

Uh, oh! Nice piece, but the author is not a great typist.
Too many spaces between words.
There’s one paragraph here that doesn’t make sense; I’d better call the author.

What did you mean by…? OK, now I understand. While you’re on the phone, let’s fix up that paragraph.

By the way, we would like a picture of you to accompany your article so readers will recognize you. Can you arrange with our staff photographer to have an informal portrait made?

Of course, if you don’t like the result, he will be happy to try again.

Uh, oh! Now we’ve got too many words to fit both the author’s picture and the author’s words on a single page. Let’s see if we can edit the text down and still retain the voice of the author.

Now match the piece against the BALI Banner’s Style Guide, to provide uniform appearance:

Title in Capitals font, set at 14 points
Body in Times Roman, set at 12 points
Author credit in Times Bold Italic
Inter-paragraph spacing set to 9 points
-fi and -fl set in ligatures

Article still won’t fit. How about double-column layout?

Article still won’t fit. How about judiciously hyphenating this line?

Article still won’t fit. How about replacing a long word with a short one?

Article fits, but has meaning changed? Verify with author.

Assemble draft final copy and email to entire staff to proofread.

We meet as a group just before we put the BALI Banner to bed.

Which article goes on which page? Are all pages filled? Does the result have eye appeal?

OK, just a few minor changes tonight; and we can go to press tomorrow.

Complete the work order for the printer.

Persuade the printer to run the job promptly.

When can we meet again to decide on the next issue of the Banner?

OK, then when will the publisher send out the draft final copy? the editors complete their work?

What columns will we run next issue? Who is responsible for these columns?

What BALI members could write a special column for the next issue?

Adjourn for lunch.

Do you have an idea for an article penned up inside you? Do you have an Internet location that’s worth sharing? Let the Banner staff know, at BALIBanner@aol.com
NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

by Bud Elliott, Council Chairman

The BALI Council has been meeting during the winter break. Many exciting things have been happening.

Open Meetings
Council meetings are now open to non-Council members, who may attend as observers. Several BALI members have visited, and they have told us that they found the meetings interesting.

Nominating Committee
The Council Nominating Committee will soon be reviewing applicants to run for the Council. If you have an interest, contact the Chair, Richard Glantz, at glantz@alum.mit.edu. This is a valuable service members can provide, and I have personally found working on the Council most gratifying.

Website Task Force
We have established a Website Task Force, headed by Len Heier, who has put together a wonderful team. As a first step, they created a BALI Calendar on our website, www.brandeis.edu/bali. Any member can now see a schedule of current and future activities, including committee meetings, BALI events, and our current term calendar. Included are links to the Brandeis website so that our members can find events on campus available to us, such as plays, concerts, lectures, and exhibits.

Technology Committee
Our new Technology Committee, headed by Marty Greenfield, has been working with some of our SGLs to have much of their class information available on a dedicated website. This will have many benefits, not the least of which will be the savings in paper and other costs. Course syllabi and some readings will be on the class sites, links might be available to related sites for more advanced information, and the leader will be able to update information. I saw a demonstration and was impressed. This may sound a little esoteric or even frightening to some of us, but those who have already used it tell me it is terrific. Little by little, we will all be involved, so hang on for the ride!

Curriculum Committee
The Curriculum Committee is the heart of BALI and does a wonderful job of scheduling 24 classes each term. As of this writing the spring term hasn’t started and they have already met to work on the fall program! Chair Harry Veron tells me that to meet their goal of providing a variety of courses led by qualified leaders (SGLs) they need members with interest or expertise in a field to contact them and explore the possibility of leading a class. If you feel the slightest bit inclined towards this, or are even curious, contact Harry at hveron@aol.com and explore it. Don’t be shy. You won’t be making a commitment unless you wish to. A new committee is being formed to work with SGLs and to provide advice, training, and assistance in teaching.

Have a wonderful term. I look forward to seeing you all in the Gathering Place.

DEAR BALI, . . .

In the previous issue, Matthew Ruggiero proposed a Spring benefit concert. The replies received by the BALI Banner were in favor of his proposal. We have communicated this to the Council for their action. [– the Publisher]
Drama: The Dysfunctional Family

by Joyce Norris Chartor

It’s hard not to be passionate in Lois Ziegelman’s Theater Class because Professor Ziegelman is passionate about theater, acting, words, playwrights, and listening to the sound and pulse of the play. I had the fortunate experience of being in her class: “Drama: The Dysfunctional Family”. We read, acted out, and discussed: Tennessee Williams’s The Glass Menagerie; Euripides’s Medea; Edward Albee’s Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf and Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House. The women in these plays are complex characters, sometimes infuriating, sometimes sympathetic and vulnerable. They show the range of human emotions and the potentially outrageous parts of ourselves that we dare not act out.

Lois Ziegelman has long, expressive hands, an eager face and a palpable inquisitiveness and passion for teaching. Her vocal production assures us she’s been “on the boards” at various points in her life. Her readings are filled with fervor and dynamism. Her enthusiasm for the subject and her dramatic voice and body let us know that this is decidedly not a lecture class but an interactive and active experience.

For those of us who were brave enough to act out scenes with our classmates, the text of the play was brought to life in a new way that is more accessible than just reading the play. In fact, Professor Ziegelman encouraged us often to put our plays down and watch and listen to the scene. When a scene is performed, listening to the human voice and watching the bodily gestures greatly enhance the experience of reading a play.

Professor Ziegelman is captivating, drawing you in to her world and into the world of the characters. One is reluctant to let the class go at the end of the term, and I enthusiastically look forward to taking future classes with her.

Lois Ziegelman has a Ph.D. in English Literature from Brandeis University and both an M.A. in Comparative Literature and a B.S. in Speech and Theater from Boston University. She is a professor emerita at Framingham State, where she taught drama and world literature for 31 years. A recipient of five fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, she has studied, taught, and performed works ranging from classical antiquity through the 20th century.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Lois Ziegelman has a Ph.D. in English Literature from Brandeis University and both an M.A. in Comparative Literature and a B.S. in Speech and Theater from Boston University. She is a professor emerita at Framingham State, where she taught drama and world literature for 31 years. A recipient of five fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, she has studied, taught, and performed works ranging from classical antiquity through the 20th century.

LISTEN UP

by Carole Grossman

Are you a person that enjoys multitasking? You may like listening to a best seller like The Da Vinci Code or a classic like Anna Karenina during a road trip or commute. If so, www.audible.com has thousands of audiobooks for sale. In addition to adult and children's books, public radio programs like “All Things Considered” are available, as are newspapers and magazines in digest form.

Simply download a software program, Audible Manager, to gain access to the file you wish to purchase and then transfer the file to your hard drive. Listen at your computer, burn to CDs, or transfer to a mobile player such as Otis MP3 or Apple's iPod.
Moving Into the “Digital Age”

by Sherm Okun and Len Heier

We will be digressing from the usual “Tech Talk” in our column this month to tell you about BALI’s continuing advancements in the field of technology.

BALI is moving into the digital age with a bang! In December, the BALI office sent an email to approximately 100 members who had agreed to register “electronically”. The message directed these members to BALI’s Web site where they could read and/or “download” (i.e., transfer) to their computer, the Spring 2004 program materials. The Web site provided an application form in both Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat (PDF) formats to be printed on their computer and returned to the BALI office with their course selections. As a result, considerable savings in staff time, paper costs, and postage were achieved.

These “electronic” members did not receive a printed copy of the December Banner, which was mailed to the rest of the community with the registration package. Therefore, the Banner was produced in Adobe PDF format and sent to these members via email. Henceforth, the Banner will be produced in both paper and electronic formats; and the current and prior electronic versions will be available on the BALI Web site.

Those of you who took the authors’ “Current Technology Issues” course or Bill Rachlin’s “Ethical Considerations in Modern Medicine” class last semester were introduced to a new method of distributing handouts via an electronic bulletin board. (Bill described this “eBoard” system in the November 2003 Banner.) This semester, a larger group of Study Group Leaders will be using the eBoard facility. These SGLs were kept busy over the winter attending classroom training sessions hosted jointly by the BALI Technology Committee and the Curriculum Committee. They have been diligently organizing and preparing their materials in electronic format for posting on the Web. It is expected that this facility will effect greater efficiencies and cost reductions into the process of distributing class materials.

Other changes are afoot. The Curriculum Committee uses an eBoard to keep track of and evaluate course proposals. And both the Curriculum and Technology Committees use a “list server” hosted on the Brandeis computer network to keep track of email correspondence among their members. Future Internet projects under consideration are automating BALI class registration and making BALI documents available on the Web.

As reported in the Council column [page 3], we have created and published a Web-based calendar which lists all BALI activities and which includes a link to the official Brandeis website where a calendar of culture events can be found.

In addition, the Technology Committee has contacted several other adult learning programs to share experiences and ideas on using computer technology for both administrative and educational purposes. In late February, four members of the Technology Committee met at Harvard with their counterparts from HILR, Boston College, and Tufts. We were interested in how these schools addressed computer literacy among their membership, particularly in a classroom setting. We’ll report on this meeting in a later column.

There will be a walking tour of the Brandeis campus on Thursday, March 4th. Meet Eileen Mitchell in front of Gosman (weather permitting) at 12:20 P.M. The tour includes a lunch stop (bring or buy). Tour will end around 1:30 P.M.

☛ No tour on Wednesday!
In concert with President Jehuda Reinharz’s vision of a “Connected University”, an exciting new program, the BALI Scholar Award, is being initiated this spring at BALI.

Director Sharon Sokoloff, Council Chair Bud Elliott, and members of the University Coordinating Committee met with Milton Kornfeld, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, to introduce this program to five bright and enthusiastic graduate students who attended the meeting. This terrific program will enable interested graduate students to partner with Study Group Leaders where there is a good subject fit. The recipients of the BALI Scholar honor will receive stipends from resources earmarked for innovative academic initiatives through a gift from the Werner Dannheisser Testamentary Trust Fund that BALI recently received.

In expressing his enthusiasm for this joint initiative, Dean Kornfeld notes:

“As scholars and faculty in training, Brandeis graduate students can enrich BALI by adding a perspective that brings recent scholarship and insights to bear on the issues being explored in BALI courses. Graduate students, as co-teachers [the actual nature of the teaching partnership will be determined together with the Study Group Leader], will add an academic perspective that will help sharpen a course’s focus and broaden the knowledge base that is shared by the participants. The graduate students are also a resource for the Study Group Leader and the course participants. Finally, I think the graduate students, confronting the questions and trying to help teach a group of very informed people, will be in an environment where they will learn how to communicate more effectively and enhance their teaching skills. Looking to the future, this program may enhance BALI’s reputation as a place for provocative, stimulating dialogue; and learning will grow in ways that greatly strengthen the program”.

At this point, this initiative is on-track to establish connections between graduate students and Study Group Leaders with the goal of enhancing our already superb courses. We anticipate that all BALI participants and the BALI Scholars will reap the benefits of this innovative and exciting program; and that as we expand this effort, BALI’s curriculum will be enriched.
The Council has decided to expand the Hospitality Committee and establish new functions for it. Instead of being responsible only for morning coffee and cake, it will take on additional and essential roles in BALI. The Committee will be responsible for the social aspects of planning, arranging, and managing events such as the following:

1. The annual meeting
2. New members get-together and orientation meetings each term
3. End of term events
4. Coffee and cookies etc. in the Gathering Place
5. Other BALI social events as they may occur.

The Director’s office will advise and assist the committee for these functions.

We expect this to be a very active and essential committee which will start functioning immediately. It will need quite a few members to share the planning, the work and also to act as hosts/hostesses at the events. We hope that both men and women will join this committee.

This will be an excellent opportunity for new members to “get their feet wet” as active participants in the activities of BALI.

Contact Bud Elliott at Belliox319@rcn.com or 617-244-8920 or Sharon Sokoloff at bali@brandeis.edu or 781-736-2171.

The New Yorker Discussion group will meet on the 3rd Wed. of each month, beginning Mar. 17. The meetings will take place in the Gathering Place after L&L. Interested in an additional Thurs. session? Meet Eileen Mitchell in the Gathering Place on Thursday, March 18th at 10 A.M.

Has your email address changed? Please send the new address to: callman@brandeis.edu
Without your correct address, we can’t keep you posted on upcoming events.

The BALI Banner is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:

Richard Glantz, Publisher
Tamara Chernow, Co-Editor
Elaine Dohan, Co-Editor
Carole Grossman, Secretary
Charles Raskin
Katherine Raskin
Max Potter, Council liaison

Email us at: BALIBanner@aol.com

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“*It's either a very, very early retirement or she's got a great surgeon*”
Calendar of Campus Events
compiled by Charles Raskin

SHAPIRO CAMPUS CENTER
781-736-3400
(tickets $5 in advance; $6 at the door)

Mar. 4, 5, 7 (8 P.M.); Mar. 6 (2 P.M.)
The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife
Brandeis Players presents Charles Busch’s comedy
about the inner workings of an allergist and his
slightly neurotic wife.

Mar. 26, 28 (8 P.M.); Mar. 27 (2 P.M.)
Pajama Game
Tympanium Euphonium presents Richard Adler and Jerry
Ross’s musical about a group of workers in a pajama
factory. Great music and great fun!

WEDNESDAY CONCERTS AT NOON
Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Building
Mar. 3 and Mar. 24
A mini-concert by the Lydian String Quartet

SLOSBERG RECITAL HALL
Mar. 5 (8 P.M.)
Music of Irving Fine
(founder of Brandeis Music Department)
Oboist Peggy Pearson and Winsor Music.
Reception will follow.
Free and open to the public.

Mar. 14 (7 P.M.)
Maya Goldin-Perschbacher
cello and Jason Cloen, piano.
Free and open to the public.

Mar. 28 (7 P.M.)
Brandeis Wind Ensemble
in concert under Director J.
Darren Maule.
No strings attached!
Admission: $5; Seniors: $2.50

Two Responses to
Mel Gibson’s THE PASSION
Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Building
Mar. 9 (7:30 P.M.)
Prof. Reuven Kimelman, Department of Near Eastern Judaic Studies at Brandeis University
Prof. Philip Cunningham, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning and Adj. Professor of Theology at Boston College

Presented by the Catholic and Jewish chaplains at Brandeis

WOMEN’S RESEARCH CENTER
Klutznick Gallery
Feb. 2 to Mar. 6
Nine from Waltham Mills
A collection of works by 9 female artists from the
Waltham community

ROSE ART MUSEUM
Mar. 10 (7 P.M.)
Private Passions: Collecting Contemporary Art
Amy Cappellazzo, International Specialist
Head of the Contemporary Art Department at
Christie’s of New York

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