The BOLLI Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was established in May 2006 by Sy Raboy, working with the University Development Office.

Why do we need an endowment fund? Currently, BOLLI’s revenue comes from a number of sources: members’ fees and tuition, Osher Foundation grants, and the Werner Dannheisser Testamentary Trust gift. By the end of the fiscal year 2009, BOLLI will face the loss of $100K in annual grant and gift monies. Our goal is for the income from the EF to replace the revenue we will be losing, revenue which now supports important programs such as International Friends, BOLLI Scholars, and a wide range of technology purchases.

Director Sharon Sokoloff is working with the University to acquire other gifts and grants. The purpose of the EF, however, is for BOLLI to become as financially viable as possible over the long run.

What is the current EF balance? Almost $30,000.

How often do we get an accounting of the Fund’s performance? There will be a yearly accounting by Brandeis, with information reported at the Annual Meeting.

Who has day-to-day control of the EF? Control rests with the Director of BOLLI in concert with others at the University, e.g., the Provost, the Budget Office, and the Development Office.

How much income will the EF produce? Like all endowments on campus, approximately 5% of the EF principal a year will accrue to the BOLLI operating fund. The larger the principal, the larger the amount we receive each year.

Can the income accrue to principal? Yes, for amounts in excess of the 5% annual return.

What are we doing to attract contributions to the Endowment Fund? A committee has been formed under co-chairs Sharon Sokoloff and Ron Levy to oversee fund-raising. Members initially are Michael Berger, Les Blicher, Frank Davis, Sally Glickman, BobPalter, and Sy Raboy.

What types of donations can we anticipate? Some initial ideas include: life cycle events such as honoring a birthday, wedding, or bar mitzvah; cash contributions, recognition gifts; legacy gifts; annuities; charitable remainder trusts; and annual appeals.

Can I specify what my donation will be used for? Donations of $50,000 or more can be “directed”.

Will detailed information on the EF be available? Expect descriptive material early in 2007. The committee will work with the Brandeis Development Office to draw up the proper gifting documents.

Right now, how do I make a donation to the EF? Write a check payable to Brandeis University, put BOLLI Endowment Fund on the memo line, and mail to Carol Allman Morton in the BOLLI office.
Please Be Seated

by Carol Shedd

Many of you have mentioned the absence of the chairs and couches from the overhang outside the Gathering Place. New ones are on the way, thanks to our healthy relationship with the University.

Unlike many other Life-long Learning Institutes, the President of Brandeis, Jehuda Reinharz, has taken an interest in BOLLI from its inception. Over the last six years he has met with the founding committee and the Council, he has spoken at the annual meeting, and has even sat in on one of our classes. At the October Council meeting, Sharon told of an unexpected visit to BOLLI at Gosman last Spring by Pres. Reinharz, Peter French, the Chief Financial Officer, and Marty Krauss, the Provost. As they walked through the building, Sharon mentioned that the overhang balcony usually had chairs so members could congregate there between classes. However, since they were in old and bad condition they had recently been removed. The President asked the CFO, “What can we do about this?” The outcome is that the University is paying for new furniture for the overhang that will benefit Brandeis athletes and BOLLI members. The chairs and small couches have been ordered, and soon the balcony will once again be a comfortable place to meet with other members. You may even now be sitting on one of the chairs reading this issue of the BOLLI Banner.

Joan Kleinman to Run Face Book Project

The Face Book is under development and scheduled to debut in the spring. The Face Book is a list of all BOLLI members along with their pictures, brief individual statements, and contact information. When fully implemented, users of the on-line version will be able to search the list by first name, last name, or city, as well as scroll through the entire list. If you have not had your picture taken, watch for opportunities early next semester.

The Face Book project is coordinated by Joan Kleinman with a committee consisting of BOLLI members Richard Glantz and Len Heier, Bruce Narasin, Assistant Director Carol Allman Morton, and Brandeis technical staff person Ian Rifkin.

The BOLLI Banner is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:

Richard Glantz, Publisher
Tamara Chernow, Co-Editor
Carole Grossman, Co-Editor
Carol Shedd, Secretary

Len Heier, Photographer

Banner archive: www.brandeis.edu/programs/bali/Banner%20Archive/index.html

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The Napoli Room was overflowing as over 100 BOLLI members turned out for the first of two Open Forums this semester. Council members, Chairs of the standing committees, and the Director and Asst. Director were present to answer questions. Ron Levy was MC.

Among the topics brought up:

**Physical plant improvements**
We are still waiting for furniture for the balcony, and we have requested CCTV for Lunch and Learn sessions. We’ve also requested that the screen in the Napoli Room be raised for better visibility.

**Future admissions policy**
There was strong sentiment across the room to continue to have an open admissions policy, although specific priorities in the case of our reaching a membership limit are yet to be determined. The Membership Committee is researching this issue and will report to the Council with recommendations in February. The goal is to have a policy in place in time for Fall 2007 registration.

**Course assignment and lottery systems**
The new policy of allowing enrollment in only one lotteried course was questioned. The response was that although this policy may not seem fair to some particular individual, it was introduced to promote equity. The anticipated automated course assignment software might improve the process. A suggestion was made that the method of choosing classes be changed from the current system of listing three alternatives to each of two courses to a single sequence of preferences. Members were encouraged to provide more specific preference information on their application forms.

**The four-class day and lotteried classes**
Fifty-nine percent of members responded to the survey on the new four-class day. The data is being analyzed by a special task force, and a report will be presented to the Council in December with findings and recommendations. There are indeed more lotteried class in the middle two time slots, and the Council prefers that courses that are given in those favored time periods one semester be moved to either an early or a late time slot when given the next semester.

**The Bernie Reisman BOLLI Fund**
We don’t know how much money is in this fund and how donations are being processed by the Brandeis Development Office. Some funds have been disbursed as scholarships to BOLLI members. The BOLLI Office is working with the Development Office to get an accurate accounting. People making contributions to the fund are cautioned to clearly mark their checks as going to the Reisman BOLLI fund. Elaine Reisman recommended that some of the money in the Fund be used for the International Friends program, which would be consonant with the intent of the Fund to encourage diversity in the BOLLI experience.

There will be two more Open Forums in the Spring. Members may send questions, suggestions, and comments to the Council via the BOLLI Web site at [brandeis.edu/programs/bolli](http://brandeis.edu/programs/bolli), clicking on “Login” (enter User Name: bolli and Password: 2004). Then click “Email Council” to initiate a message. Alternatively, members may send email directly to the current Council Chair at ronlevy@comcast.net.

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The SGL Resource Committee would like to thank everyone who responded to the mid-term questionnaire. The reason for the early questionnaire is to provide the Study Group Leaders with an opportunity to address concerns, if any, in their courses.
Shingles

by J. Lawrence Dohan, M.D.

We say “shingles” or “Zoster” because the full term Herpes Zoster elicits the gasp, “Oh… Grandma has a venereal disease?” Zoster is a proliferation of varicella (chicken pox) virus in a nerve where it has been long dormant. The initial infection is chicken pox. Shingles is the return of chicken pox limited to one nerve, thus causing the characteristic distribution of small blisters or sores in a limited area on one side. Pain precedes and accompanies the eruption as the involved nerve is injured by the virus and the body’s reaction against it. Shingles is more common, and more painful, in people over the age of sixty. It is also more common in people with immune deficiencies such as HIV-AIDS or lymphomas, and in people recovering from cancer therapies or therapies to suppress host-transplant reactions. The infected person produces viruses which can then infect susceptible people with chicken pox, but never with shingles. Most of us are immune and are not at risk. Untreated shingles will heal in one month, but pain may persist for weeks, months or years.

Oral therapy for Zoster is most effective if initiated during the first or second day. It is virtually free of side effects, so it is safe to begin at first suspicion. The longer the delay, the less the benefit. The pills are used for one week. They will reduce the healing time, reduce the long-term pain, and quickly reduce the amount of virus shed from the skin. The generic pill, Acyclovir, is cheaper but must be dosed five times a day. The newer pills, Valtrex and Famvir, are dosed three times a day and are sometimes more effective because of better blood levels.

Pain relief, when needed, may be delivered by the usual Tylenol, NSAIDS, aspirin, anticonvulsant meds, analgesic patches, and others. The most effective, easiest, and safest control of pain during and after shingles is Doxepin cream, a prescription that can be used as long and as often as needed.

The new vaccine, Zostavax, costs $150 and reduces by 50% the risk of shingles. It is not yet determined how long the benefit may persist. People with intact immunity who have experienced “shingles” within a few years do not need it. Because it is an attenuated live vaccine containing fourteen times more virus than the chicken pox vaccine, it is not safe to use in people on prednisone, cancer chemotherapy, or in those having leukemia or AIDS. The high incidence of Zoster in normal people over age sixty means that the older the person, the greater the potential benefit from the vaccine.

[The author is the husband of BOLLI member Elaine Dohan – Ed.]

BOLLI Adventurers

BOLLI members sit in the House of Representatives during a tour of the State House
Miracle at Philadelphia

by Joan Kleinman

It was the summer of 1787. Inside the Pennsylvania State House on Chestnut St. in Philadelphia, delegates from twelve of the American states engaged in the overwhelming task of forming a government that would strengthen the union of those states into a viable nation. Despite oppressive heat, the doors and windows were closed so discussions could remain private and unfettered.

Who were these men, their backgrounds, their philosophies? What bonds did they share as recently independent Americans? What interests divided them as representatives of diverse states, some of which were large, some small, some slave-owning, some not, some industrial, some agricultural? Over what major issue did they almost disband? How were their decisions shaped by experience with the British model of government?

In Peter and Barbara Benfield’s course, Building the U.S. Constitution, we explore the answers to these intriguing questions. The Benfields guide us through contemporary historical accounts as well as diaries and correspondence of the delegates. We hear the founding fathers’ arguments in their own words by reading from the only complete record of the actual debates written each day by James Madison. We see how every Article was debated, revisited, voted, and revoted. Particularly intriguing are the alternatives that were considered and rejected. What if, for example, a council of three formed the Executive office or if the President had been granted unrestricted veto over the Legislature? What if only property holders were allowed to vote or if Congress were unicameral with one vote for each state?

The Benfields’ course evolved from their experience teaching in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan under two recent Fulbright grants. Peter taught American constitutional and tax law, and Barbara used the Constitution to facilitate teaching English. Since the Presidents of both Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have very extensive power, the Benfields’ students were especially interested in the American system of checks and balances and in the Constitution’s pervasive concern with protecting individuals from unrestrained powers of their rulers.

Working in Kyrgyzstan on 9/11, the Benfields had to leave that country prematurely. Then, in 2003, they were in Kazakhstan when the Iraqi war began. In that rather uncomfortable time, as American students in Kazakhstan protested against the war, Peter felt “compelled to present an analysis of the Iraqi war as if it were a law case,” presenting facts and history and arguments for and against the invasion while trying to use the situation as an object lesson in the right of American citizens to express themselves freely. “Now,” quipped Peter, “Barbara and I don’t want to travel any more, as each time we do it seems that a conflict breaks out!”

Peter retired from law practice and taught as an adjunct at B. U. Law School. Barbara, a molecular biologist, worked at M.I.T.’s Center for Cancer Research. She has been captivated by the Constitution’s little known but exciting story. We have to be in awe, she noted, of what these men accomplished in just four months, that summer of 1787.
Stan Davis has led a life that has evolved since retirement more than it has changed. After graduating from Brandeis University he went on to Washington University in St. Louis, where he received a Ph. D. in sociology. From there Stan taught at the Harvard Business School, Boston University, and Columbia University. He left the academic life to enter the business world as a consultant, an author, and a speaker.

Stan has written articles for Harvard Business Review, Forbes, Time, Fast Company and numerous other international business magazines. He has authored or co-authored well over a dozen books, some for the business world, some for the general public. His Blur: the Speed of Change in the Connected Economy was an international best-seller.

Upon leaving the business world, Stan didn’t give up writing but changed tack once again as he started a project to give voice to young immigrants in America. He is interviewing young people from diverse lands—China, Israel, Iran, Chechnya, and several countries in Latin America and Africa—and is planning to share their experiences of adjusting to life in America in a future book.

Stan continues a long-held interest in designing and executing startlingly beautiful, intricate needlepoint projects. These artistic works are on a completely different level than most of the needlepoint with which we are familiar. He has done over sixty pieces, about three a year, using his own original designs as well as interpretations of paintings by Picasso, Matisse, Gauguin, Monet, and others.

In his busy life, Stan still has time to take courses both at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement and BOLLI. But he finds that his long-practiced activities of swimming, writing, and needlepoint put him into a meditative state—focused and relaxed at the same time, thereby enhancing his life and work.

The Web has useful mapping sites. One of the most interesting is http://www.zillow.com. Enter an address, and bring up any house on street and satellite maps. You will learn its current estimated worth and can watch changes in value each week. Specifications are given, such as year built, lot size, number of bedrooms, and number of bathrooms. If there have been recent updates or additions, these specifications can be modified and a new estimate created. A link reveals recent sales prices and specifications of comparable houses in the same zip code. This information is especially valuable to those selling or buying homes. It also allows homeowners to track the value of one of their most important assets.

Mac owners should be aware that they need to use the Firefox browser, not Safari, to access Zillow.
**No Rest for the Weary**

*by Sharon Sokoloff*

Recently a BOLLI member said to me, “Many people have no idea what you do. They see Carol working but don’t really see what you do.” Hence, I decided to use this Banner article to give you an idea of what *this* lifelong learning institute (LLI) director does.

One thing I do is talk with you. You are smart, interesting, and funny. Moreover, there is no better way for me to find out how BOLLI is doing. You tell me what is going right and what is not. You keep me focused.

I work with many people, but three people play primary roles in my work life:

- Carol Allman Morton who so ably and compassionately runs the program day-to-day
- Michaele Whelan, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, my boss
- Ron Levy, the BOLLI Council Chair.

Each of these colleagues is my partner, and I am blessed with three great partners. We constantly plan, create, implement, and evaluate.

There is always something going on related to shared governance, council and committee work (approximately 17 committees), programming, and intercampus programs. Depending on the week, I participate in Council and committee meetings or meet with committee chairs or other active members. I build relationships to enhance our program. On campus, this means acting as a liaison with the faculty who lead our Intensives, and the staff of the many departments which make their programs available to us such as the Rose Art Museum, Spingold Theatre, libraries, and Gosman.

Off campus, I work with professionals and volunteer leaders in LLIs around the country and others in the professional “aging network.” Increasingly, BOLLI receives calls from programs, particularly the 92 other OLLIs, with a wide range of questions. In the past three weeks alone, I’ve spent at least two days time consulting to directors from programs in Florida, California, Illinois, and Connecticut. As I’ve shared with you before, being part of the Osher network at this time in history, a time when demographics and social trends are literally creating a “new world,” is very exciting.

Let me not forget the money. Working with Michaele, I create the annual budget. Working with Carol, we track our expenses and manage our funds. Increasingly, I work with the Brandeis Development Office to seek funding, prepare reports for our funding sources, and now, to create and build the BOLLI Endowment Fund.

Finally, this year I am co-leading two BOLLI study groups: *Learn & Lead: How to Become a SGL* with Myrna Cohen, and *Still Growing: Theories and Stories in Adult Development in Midlife and Beyond* with Meg Newhouse.

And I still squeeze in time to write this article.

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**BOLLI Endowment Fund**

BOLLI is our member-driven program. As we consider our end-of-the-year charitable contributions, let’s work to make our learning community the best it can be by giving it our support!
Dec. 2  (8 P.M.)
Early Music Ensemble
Sarah Mead, director
Concert of greatest hits, favorites, and early music standards. Bring your recorder and join the celebration!
Admission: $5 for BOLLI members

Dec. 3  (3 P.M.)
Brandeis Wind Ensemble
Thomas Souza, conductor
• Julius Fucik Florinter March
• Robert Russell Bennett Suite of Old American Dances
• Scott Watson Aesop’s Fables
• Eric Whitacre October
• Shostakovich Folk Dances
Admission: $5 for BOLLI members

Dec. 9  (8 P.M)
An Evening of Brahms
Lydian violinist Mary Ruth Ray, with cellist Joshua Gordon and pianist Tanya Bleich
• Two Songs
• Sonata in E Minor, Op. 38
• Trio in A Minor, Op. 114
Admission: $10 for BOLLI members

Jan. 20  (8 P.M.)
Impressions of Ravel
Violinst Daniel Stepner and pianist Ya-Fei Chuang
• Complete works for violin and piano of Maurice Ravel
• Gaspard de la Nuit
Admission: $10 for BOLLI members

Feb. 3  (8 P.M.)
Around the World in a String Quartet
Paquito D’Rivera The Village Street Quartet
Yu-Hui Chang Shadow Chase
Beethoven Quartet in C# Minor, Op. 131
Daniel Stepner lecture begins at 7 P.M.
Concert begins at 8 P.M.
Admission: $10 for BOLLI members

Feb. 4  (3 P.M.)
Great American Song
Brandeis University Chorus and Chamber Choir
Songs from the Broadway and movie tradition, from the great repertory of Kern, Gershwin, Ellington, Loesser, Rodgers & Hart, and more.
Admission: $5 for BOLLI members

SPINGOLD THEATER
Laurie Theater
781-736-3400, option 5

Balm in Gilead
by Lanford Wilson
Feb. 8-10, 15-17  (8 P.M.) and Feb. 17-18  (2 P.M.)

In an all-night coffee shop on New York’s upper Broadway, the riffraff, the bums, the petty thieves, the lost, the desperate of the big city come together. At the core of the play are Joe and Darlene, two young people who would seem to have the strength and the need to transcend the turmoil and ugliness of the life in which they found themselves—but are, instead, crushed by it. But their loss is absorbed in the maelstrom, as the others go on desperately seeking the joy and release and purpose in life which will, most certainly, continue to escape them.

ROSE ART MUSEUM

Dec. 2  (2 P.M.)
Clare Rojas: Hope Springs Eternal
Inside View gallery talk
Peter Kalb, Brandeis professor of contemporary art

WEDNESDAY CONCERTS AT NOON
Rapaport Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library

Dec. 6
Pam Wolfe showcases former and current vocal students in an intimate performance.
Admission: free

Feb. 7
Lydian String Quartet
Program to be announced
Admission: free