Echoes of Cold War

by Susan Chaikin

The Cold War, an ideological conflict, was the most significant and long lasting stage of American/Soviet relations. The Americans believed that Capitalism and Democracy were inevitable and universal, appropriate for all people and all places. The Soviets believed that Communism was inevitable and universal, appropriate for all people and all places. Thus, both ideologies were structurally similar and global in nature. This “phony” (non-military) war had a ripple effect and affected our lives and culture on a multitude of fronts. Its legacy has permeated our history. According to David Engerman, associate professor of History, it has permanently shaped the nature of our government, our institutions, our politics, our economy, our technology, our intellectual life, and our society. For example, our military became greatly expanded and our government grew. All this occurred in an attempt to ensure that our way of life was protected.

David Engerman was extremely articulate. We were in awe of the depth and breadth of his knowledge. It was fascinating to see the juxtaposition of his research as a scholar and the comments by those in the class who had actually experienced the times we were studying. We all left with a greater appreciation of history and how events interweave and interlock with each other.

Modern Art

by Naomi Schmidt

Participants were treated to an energetic and thought-provoking presentation of various aspects of the subject given by Peter Kalb, assistant professor of Art History. The course was framed around the examination of “incidents in the history of modern art,” and each day’s lecture introduced specific examples of artists who broke with past conventions.

Kalb started by looking at the introduction of realism and modern reality into art, and posed the first of many challenging questions to the class participants: why were paintings by Courbet (The Painter’s Studio—A Real Allegory, 1855) and Manet (Olympia, 1863) rejected by the Paris Salon? The in-depth discussion and varied opinions that ensued were representative of the rest of the course, as it proceeded to treat other proposed answers to the question of “what is art,” with examples from cubism and Dada, abstract expressionism, pop-art, and happenings of the 60s generation. The course culminated with a visit to the Rose Art Museum to view the current exhibit of works by conceptual artist John Armleder.

Although there was polite disagreement as to our appreciation for and the value of some of the more controversial works that we studied, there was unanimous agreement that Kalb’s in-depth knowledge, engaging lecture style, and encouragement of class participation made for an exciting and extremely worthwhile learning experience.
Dear BOLLI, …

English Tutors

Once each week I go to the Fitzgerald School on Ashe Street in Waltham to work with children who come from homes where English is not the first language. Learning to read and write in English presents special challenges.

Their teacher is looking for more people willing to give 45 minutes one morning each week to listen to the individual reading of three children. She will attempt to assign the same children weekly so the volunteer has the opportunity to “make friends.”

These kids are adorable. Please help them.

-- Elaine Dohan

New Affinity Group

For over a year now, HILR has had a “walking” group. They find different locations within an hour or two of Boston that have well-marked, and not difficult, hiking paths. I think this would make a great add-on for BOLLI. Any walkers out there who might be interested in forming such a group please contact me either at BOLLI or by phone or email, and we can set up a time to meet to talk about the possibilities.

-- Carol Shedd

BOLLI Endowment Fund Donation Form

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Please cut out, complete, and mail to:
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Classroom Highlight

Len Heier’s class on digital photography

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Vol 8 Number 1 - 2 - August 2007
Patient safety is the primary concern of the anesthesiologist† and the nurse anesthetist††. The monitoring devices used to continuously follow the physiological condition of the patient, and the performance of the anesthetic machine, are reliable. High quality training programs, board certification following the training years, and then continuing medical education (50 hours per year mandated in Massachusetts) ensure that anesthesiologists stay up-to-date in knowledge and skills.

The dominant safety factor during the administration of an anesthetic is the astuteness of the anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist in observing and evaluating all the available medical data, and responding promptly to correct any abnormalities. Many of the drugs used in anesthesia, either alone or in combination, are potent and by interacting with one another or with drugs the patient may be taking for pre-existing medical conditions, can profoundly alter normal physiological functions. Such interactions require careful monitoring and expert management.

Preoperatively, the anesthesiologist will interview and examine the patient, evaluate all the information in the patient’s charts, answer all the patient’s questions, and explain to the patient what nursing care to expect in the Recovery Room. The anesthesiologist may also consult with the patient’s physician or surgeon.

There are two methods of administering anesthesia:

1. General anesthesia, where the patient is unconscious (not asleep)
2. Regional anesthesia, which involves injecting local anesthetic agents by spinal, epidural, or other routes, with the additional use of tranquilizers to make patients drowsy. When this technique is used the patient is able to speak with the doctors and nurses during surgery or the delivery of a baby.

Complications do occasionally occur during anesthesia, as they do in all medical and surgical specialties, but currently we have the best methods for ensuring safety that have ever existed in our specialty, and the pursuit of perfection continues to be our goal. The very old, the very young, and the very sick are cared for very well.

The risk of dying from anesthesia (as distinct from dying from an underlying disease) is less than 1 in 200,000 anesthetic procedures. The fear of regaining consciousness before the operation is over is much more common than its occurrence, and your anesthesiologist will undoubtedly reassure you of that. With the monitoring equipment now in use, and a well trained anesthesiologist taking care of you, the chance of waking up during an operation is rare.

The knowledge accumulated within the domain of anesthesiology has expanded greatly in the last fifty years or so, and anesthesiologists now reach well beyond only the operating room, recovery room, and obstetrics department. Anesthesiologists contribute to the medical management in Pain Clinics, Respiratory Care, Cardiac Care, Intensive Care, Interventional Radiology, and other special departments.

†A Board Certified anesthesiologist has graduated from college and an accredited medical school, successfully completed an anesthesiology residency, passed the Board exams, and continues to participate in continuing medical education.
††A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist is a registered nurse who has completed a course in anesthesia and is licensed to provide anesthesia services. In Massachusetts a CRNA is required to practice under the medical direction of a physician.

TO YOUR
GOOD HEALTH

August 2007
ANNUAL MEETING

by Joan Kleinman

With emotional tributes from international students and thoughtful reflections on years past and years to come, with cookies and sweets, and with conviviality and conversation, BOLLI’s annual meeting on May 14th capped what Council Chair Ron Levy called a “very, very good year.”

Having completed its seventh year, BOLLI is now maturing into a self-sustaining entity as it weans itself away from yearly Osher and Werner-Dannheisser grants. This spring’s launching of the three million dollar BOLLI endowment fund began the move towards financial sustainability. Seeded primarily by a $1,000,000 endowment gift from the Osher Foundation, the endowment will be funded further from member contributions and grants from other sources. In their comprehensive financial report, Director Sharon Sokoloff and Council Chair Ron Levy also explained that BOLLI’s short term stability relies on tuition and fees and that full-time tuition will increase for the first time in five years by about 5%. In addition, study group leaders will pay half the membership fee—up from no fee—but keep first-choice privilege for course selection.

A new contingency admissions policy has been formulated; with enrollment now at a near maximum capacity, admissions may need to become selective. The complex course lottery system will be automated this fall. Our new mentoring program will strengthen bonds with the University. The Council will engage this fall in “scenario planning,” a technique to anticipate and prepare for what BOLLI might look like in three to five years.

Three talented and accomplished women from Brandeis’s Sustainable International Development Program (SID) captivated their audience with personal stories of coming to study in an unfamiliar country. Hosted by BOLLI members through the efforts of the International Friends Committee, they thanked their BOLLI families for warm companionship as well as for practical help:

- Abla Tsolu plans to return to Ghana to continue her work providing affordable housing and rehabilitation for mentally ill adults. She recalled happily spending most weekends with Bob Russo and his family working on arts and crafts projects.

- Ugo Amanyeiwe, a surgeon from Nigeria whose goal is to manage programs in international health policy, noted that it took three years to organize her work obligations and raise the money to come to Brandeis. Once here, she responded to an ad for housing in exchange for driving a carpool for two children. Thus began an extraordinary relationship with her BOLLI family, Steve and Judy Abrahams, whom she extolled for their unbounded help when she developed a serious vision problem.

- A lawyer from Sri Lanka, Shamila Dalawatte, has practiced in the fields of human rights, environmental law, and labor law; but she needs a Masters degree to move into a decision-making position. Many of us appreciate Shamila for preparing the urns of coffee we enjoy at the Gathering Place, but Shamila thanked BOLLI and especially her BOLLI friend Sandra Ginsburg for assuaging the loneliness she felt and incorporating her into a community.

And indeed, the vibrant slide show of SID events, students, and BOLLI friends presented by Len Heier and Richard Glantz made tangible the spirit of the caring, close community that is BOLLI.

Face Book Update

We’ve taken our pictures and written our personal statements. Face Book v1 will debut in the fall. It will be an on-line membership list with each member’s photograph. It will be searchable by various fields such as first name, last name, city, or even by a key word in the personal statement.
Do We Give or Do We Receive?

by Ron Levy

What, exactly, is our relationship with Brandeis University? Do we give, or do we receive? What would a balance sheet look like? Are we a net donor, or net debtor? Let’s examine these questions.

There are two principal areas where we are donors: money and intra-campus programs. As discussed in previous issues of the Banner, in the Open Forums, and at the Annual Meeting, BOLLI is a net annual contributor of the “profit” we generate through our operations. This contribution is expected to average about $14,000 per year since BOLLI began. (Actually, if we paid the budgeted custodial costs, we would average a small deficit!)

We are very proud of our successful intra-campus programs, which represent a significant contribution of our volunteer time plus some funds from our budget. Our International Friends program, in cooperation with the Sustainable International Development program at the Heller School, connects international students with host BOLLI families. Last year, we hosted 73 students and gave them a home away from home and an introduction to our culture and hospitality.

The BOLLI Scholars program brings graduate and post-graduate students to our classrooms, offering them teaching opportunities during their time at Brandeis. Actually, this is a win-win situation, as our members benefit from state-of-the-art research and learning that the Scholars bring to our courses.

What can we expect in the future? We are in the planning stages of a mentoring program, where our extensive professional and corporate experience can help Brandeis undergraduates consider and prepare for a variety of careers. We are also exploring how we can connect with the athletes whose space we share at Gosman, either as team boosters or as individuals.

On the receiving end, we benefit first and foremost from the considerable support and advice we receive from Michaele Whelan, the Vice Provost, and from Brandeis Development. We also benefit from having access to many Brandeis facilities and programs, including our new home on Old South Street. We can use the extensive library system, the athletic facilities at Gosman for a very modest fee, and eat at the campus restaurants. We are offered discounted or free tickets to the Rose Art Museum, campus concerts, Spingold and area theaters, the Brandeis Jewish Film Festival, and other locations. We are invited to the popular Meet the Author series, to the Crown Center for Middle East Studies events, to the Women’s Studies Research Center events, and to the Brandeis in the Berkshires summer program. The Brandeis faculty is a source of speakers for our Lunch & Learn program and our Brandeis at BOLLI seminars.

I am hard-pressed to decide who benefits most from BOLLI’s presence at Brandeis: the university or our members. However, I am certain that we should not overlook the richness of value-added options that will be available to us in the coming school year, over and above our wonderful curriculum and related activities. See you on the tennis court, or at the theater, or enjoying a meal at The Stein, or…”

New Leadership

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Lunch & Learn: Irwin Silver & Star Zieve
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Vol 8 Number 1
August 2007
Tuning in to Modern Music

by Carole Grossman

BOLLI encompasses scholarship, teamwork, and conviviality. All were very much in evidence in the fall 2006 and spring 2007 courses Who’s Afraid of 20th Century Music? led by an outstanding husband and wife team, Naomi and Peter Schmidt.

Naomi and Peter met as graduate students in Physics at Columbia University in 1963 and married in 1967.

Peter became an assistant professor of physics at Brandeis in the 1970s and later moved to a career in private industry as a machine vision engineer. Naomi taught math in a community college, taught computer science at Brandeis in the 1970s and 1980s, and then worked at Brandeis and M.I.T in the field of academic computing, helping faculty use information technology in teaching.

Peter became interested in contemporary classical music in the 1960s. Naomi just tolerated her husband’s tastes in modern music until the past few years, when she made a deliberate attempt to listen and learn more. After becoming a BOLLI member in 2003, she tried to get Peter to join her. He was motivated after being asked at a dinner party, “If you were to teach a course, what would it be?” This was his trigger—he would co-teach modern music with Naomi at BOLLI!

With Naomi’s teaching skills honed in the Learn and Lead course and her knowledge of the difficulties experienced in learning to enjoy contemporary music, she was an excellent partner for Peter. Keying off their own CD collection, they set up an eBoard with links to interesting articles and music. Peter says the hardest part in planning this course was choosing the composers and works to include. They tried to pick works that were most representative of different styles. Excerpts ranged from the lyrical and melodic to dramatic to raucous and gnarly! Class responsibilities were divided, with Peter introducing the more difficult composers and Naomi presenting the more accessible ones. A BOLLI scholar, Annergret Klaua, enriched the class’s understanding of technical terms with demonstrations on her violin.

Class members were at different levels of musical ability, experience, and knowledge, which made discussions very interesting. Starting with more familiar composers like R. Strauss, Debussy, and Satie, the class then read articles and listened to 12-tone pieces by Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern, followed by innovative but less dissonant compositions of Stravinsky, Bartok, and Hindemith. Works of Messiaen, Britten, and Ives were followed by those of contemporaries such as Cage, Wuorinen, Glass, Bernstein, Reich, Bolcom, and Golijov. With the BSO under James Levine and visiting musical groups introducing contemporary works, this course allowed many of us to become aware and comfortable with innovations, eager to experience more.

We are looking forward to future courses led by Naomi and Peter, together or individually. Naomi is offering Invitation to the Dance this fall. Peter is thinking about a new course, Five Physicists Who Changed the World View. The Schmidts’ scholarship, leadership skills, and enthusiasm will be terrific assets in any class they lead.
Walking in Wellesley

by Tamara Chernow

If you like to walk on nature trails that are easily accessible and don’t require long car trips to get to, then Wellesley is the place for you. The town has a network of 25 miles of trails marked with color-coded arrows.

The Wellesley Trails Committee has an excellent Web site as part of the town’s site. Descriptions and maps of the trails can be printed from this site or a map of all the Wellesley trails can be purchased at the Town Clerk’s office for $5. The information available on the Web site includes directions for getting to the trails, where to park, level of difficulty, and suggested walks. The network of trails provides walks for all ages and levels of experience. There are fairly level trails along waterways, ponds, aqueducts, and roads that are easy to walk; and there are woodland trails over rougher terrain with elevation gains that are more demanding.

For those wanting a very easy stroll, the Brook Path is a pleasant walk on level and partially paved paths (with benches) along the Caroline and Fuller Brooks. This trail parallels Washington St. from Wellesley Hills to Dover Rd. but avoids the congestion and traffic of the downtown area as it meanders through backyards, giving walkers a view of local real estate as well as nature. The length of the path is 2.3 miles—one way.

For more adventurous walkers who actually own hiking boots, the Esker Trail is much more challenging and takes you along a steep, high esker in the Town Forest and at the highest point is 80 feet above Longfellow Pond. This trail connects to the Charles River Path and other trails.

If you are really adventurous—and feeling very energetic—you can try the Wellesley Grand Tour, a spectacular 10.3-mile loop around Wellesley's trails network which includes the Brook Path, Crosstown Trail, Charles River Path, Sudbury Path, and Guernsey Path. Most of your walking will be on trails through woods or along aqueducts, with only 2.3 miles along roads.


In addition to town trails, Elm Bank Reservation, one of the most recent parkland acquisitions of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, is located in Wellesley. Elm Bank consists of 182 acres of woodlands, fields, and old estate property and is surrounded on three sides by the Charles River. Visit http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metropolitan/elmbank.htm for a map and directions. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society is based at Elm Bank and consists of a 36-acre horticulture and education center, including a delightful children’s garden.

Finally, there is a trail going around Lake Waban on the Wellesley College campus that provides wonderful nature views, a topiary garden, and a pair of swans. Also on the campus are botanical gardens, an arboretum with walking paths, and extensive greenhouses for a taste of nature on rainy days.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Vol 8 Number 1 - 7 - August 2007
CULINARY CAMPUS

by Katherine Raskin

BOLLI members are very fortunate to be welcome at the various eating places on the Brandeis campus. I have visited many of them and would like to recommend them to other BOLLI members.

For a gracious dining experience, I recommend The Faculty Club, located across from the Rose Art Museum. It is open weekdays for lunch from noon to 2 P.M. Reservations should be made in advance by telephoning 781-736-4280. The salad bar is my favorite but you can also order from the extensive menu. Wine is available, and both the food and drinks are very reasonably priced.

If you wish to enjoy a casual meal, the campus offers a number of other venues:

• The Stein, located at ground level in the Sherman Student Center, is quiet and offers table service for lunch and dinner. The Stein serves appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers, pasta, entrées, desserts, and drinks, including beer. Lunch and dinner are served weekdays, with dinner available until midnight Thursday to Saturday.

• Downstairs in the same building, Sherman Dining Hall (a large student cafeteria) offers all-you-can eat dining at a fixed price. Glatt Kosher and non-kosher foods are available, featuring pizza, grilled items, cooked-to-order omelettes, and traditional fare. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are offered daily, with breakfast from 7 A.M. on weekdays.

• The Java City Café is located in the new Schneider Building, part of the Heller School. It is self-service and features freshly brewed coffee, espresso, and other drinks, sandwiches, snacks, pastries, salads, and fresh fruit. It is open daily.

• Near the Goldfarb Library, downstairs in the Usdan Student Center, is the Usdan Café. It serves “food court” style, with stations named Tortilla Fresca, Home Zone, and Salad Garden. The newest additions to this location are Nature’s Balance, dedicated to vegetarian and vegan entrées and sides for healthy and tasty meals, and The Melting Pot, featuring recipes from around the world. This café is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A weekend brunch is offered as well.

• Another food court in Usdan is The Boulevard, with stations named Grille Works, Bene Pizza and Pasta, Montague’s Deli, and Liquid Lunch. For the late-starter, it opens at 11:00 A.M. weekdays.

• Einstein Bros. Bagels is located in the Shapiro Student Center, adjacent to the Brandeis bookstore. It offers bagels, pastries, sandwiches, hot and cold beverages, and the usual chips and snacks. Open weekdays from 8 A.M. to 2 A.M.—no, not a typo—and Sundays from 7 P.M.

BOLLI members usually bring their own lunch to Gosman or stop at the Deli on South Street to buy a sandwich or salad. But if you want to try something new or are on campus for a meeting or at the library in-between classes, visit one of the dining venues described above. Why not try these interesting campus restaurants when you take advantage of invitations to the many Brandeis events offered to BOLLI members—plays, lectures, concerts, or art events. Stop at the main gate to get a parking pass and directions to all of the buildings.

For phone numbers and hours, go to www.brandeis.campusdish.com