BRANDEIS AT BOLLI: THE WINTER INTENSIVES

LAW OF PRIVACY
by Nancy Rawson

Do we have a right to privacy? Of what does that right consist? How is it protected by the Constitution? How can we protect that privacy in an era of ever more sophisticated technologies? And how do we balance that right against the needs of national security? Does the word privacy even mean the same thing in the era of Facebook, online credit card purchases, and cell phone conversations as it did when the Constitution was written over two hundred years ago?

These fascinating issues were explored in a week of intense discussion, starting with Justice Brandeis’s famous 1890 Harvard Law Review article The Right to Privacy and moving on through several Supreme Court cases which illustrated the Court’s changing attitudes toward privacy over time. We explored how the Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure and the Fifth Amendment right against compelled self-incrimination have been interpreted to protect the individual’s right to privacy. Finally, the right to die was considered as a privacy issue—how much control do we, and should we, have over our own bodies? How are the costs to society to be measured?

Dan Breen and Sharon Fray-Witzer, lecturers in the Depts. of Philosophy and Legal Studies, led the discussion. They helped us understand how complex these issues are. It was a week well spent.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
by Naomi Schmidt

An indication of the excitement and stimulation experienced by participants in Prof. Flesch’s class on The Merchant of Venice occurred during a class break, when heated discussions of whether Shylock would actually have taken Antonio’s pound of flesh continued in the classroom, the hallways, and even in the restrooms.

Each day, Billy Flesch, Professor of English and American Literature at Brandeis, opened our eyes to new meanings of Shakespeare’s language and new interpretations of characters and motives. We learned the play consists of four parallel stories—those of Shylock, Portia, Antonio, and Bassanio—which are not all alike, but are woven into a single play by Shakespeare’s genius.

With respect to Shylock’s motivation and characterization, we came to agree that his demand of a pound of flesh was at first something purely symbolic. This turned into a real quest for revenge after his daughter Jessica’s betrayal.

The discussion in class often took off from the printed page and touched on topics as far-ranging as Elizabethan theater, the status of contemporary Jews, Biblical allusions, and even a comparison of Shakespeare’s plots with those of Hollywood.

It is said that you need to both read and see Shakespeare’s plays in order to appreciate him, as he wrote on the page but for the stage. I would add a third way: take a class with Billy Flesch!
Vino e Formaggio
by Carole Grossman

Seated at beautifully appointed round tables, guided by an informative brochure and knowledgeable Ed Caldwell and Sandy Grasfield, 42 fortunate participants enjoyed a splendid Italian wine and cheese tasting on Sunday, February 17. Ed Caldwell began by telling us that a good wine is one you like; a fine wine is one with complexity, proportion, balance, and most importantly, finesse.

We then proceeded to taste his selection of four white wines priced from $15 to $28. There was enough time to savor and compare the wines, discuss them with others, and ask Ed questions. Sandy Grasfield described the seven unusual Italian cheeses on our plates. Five of the cheeses she had selected were excellent paired with the white wines and two were particularly well suited to the four fine red wines that followed.

Each of the eight wines was made from a different varietal; most came from vineyards in northern Italy. We only scratched the surface as Ed informed us that Italy has 20 wine regions with over a million vineyards, the second largest production, following France and preceding the United States. To learn more, he recommended Matt Kramer’s book, Making Sense of Italian Wines.

This wonderful, convivial evening ended with coffee, tea, and delicious almond cookies.
SECOND FAMILY

by Joan Kleinman

Her voice quivers and tears of gratitude and joy glisten in her eyes when Judy Cohen describes her birthday party last August 16th. Over one hundred family and friends gathered at the Heller School at Brandeis University to honor Judy and to celebrate the creation of the Judith Burstein Cohen Legacy Scholarship.

The Scholarship, which funds a $2,500 annual award to an international woman pursuing a graduate degree at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, closely links Judy with the University that has been a significant part of her life. A member of Brandeis’s third graduating class, Judy sent one of her children to Brandeis, and is now back on campus as an active member of BOLLI who is deeply connected to the Students for International Development (SID) host family program.

Judy has three children: Gary, Mark, and Nancy. But at least five others call her “Mom Judy”—young women at the Heller School from Pakistan, Uganda, Tanzania, India, and Kenya whom she has gathered around her, invited into her home, and showered with care and affection. One tradition is to host her SID students for Shabbat dinner on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Her son, Gary, calls her a “one person United Nations.” Gul Shamim from Pakistan wrote in the brochure announcing the Scholarship that Judy is “A great friend who always has been a source of enlightenment and joy for me and my classmates.” And at a Heller School luncheon, Smikiwe Msipa-Ndebele (Nickie) embraced Judy with warm hugs and thank-you’s.

Judy Cohen

Nickie, a former journalist now pursuing community development work in Zimbabwe, is the first recipient of the Judith Burstein Cohen Legacy Scholarship.

Judy wants international students to have a positive and successful experience at Brandeis because she highly respects their coming, often under great hardship, to the United States and because she strongly values the importance of the reformatory work they do in their own countries. So last summer, when Judy mandated that she wanted absolutely no birthday presents, her children decided to develop a scholarship in their mother’s name that would make tangible and perpetual her spirit of generosity and outreach.

Her last birthday, Judy admits, was an important one, quickly adding that “the number has nothing to do with me.” Self-described as a “high energy person,” she retired in 1999 after a 30-year career as a middle school teacher in Newton and Walpole but still tutors afternoons in her home. She gardens, does needlepoint and other handwork, cooks and entertains, and enjoys symphony and theater. At BOLLI she has served on the Council and on various committees including International Friends and Resources.

Judy feels that this quotation, sent by her family, embodies her philosophy:

One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much was in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little bit better because I was important in the life of a child.
MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

by Myrna Cohen

The caring and concern for BOLLI members by BOLLI members can best be illustrated by the following story.

Bill Rachlin, a highly respected SGL and well-loved member, became ill during the Fall 2006 BOLLI session and was not able to continue teaching his course, You: the Owner's Manual. That day, Ed Goldberg stepped in and completed the rest of the class session. We knew the time and effort that Bill had put into designing the course and so the question became, what do we do now?

As Curriculum Committee Chair, I thought we could ask some of the physicians at BOLLI to help us out. As I met several doctors at BOLLI that week, I asked if each would become a presenter for their specific specialty, using the related chapters in the book chosen as the basis for the course. Their response was immediate; they wanted Bill to know they were glad to help. And so they became the “Friends of Bill”; and each led a class for the remainder of the semester.

The course was again offered in the Spring 2007 semester and was listed in the catalog as: “You: the Owner's Manual, a course to be led by a group of BOLLI members who were doctors”. The course was given by the “Friends of Bill”: Jeff Becker, Michael Berger, Peter Brem, Bennie Geffin, Gillian Geffin, Peter Karp, and Chaim Rosenberg.

Each week a different doctor stepped up to the plate, often referring to Bill’s work as well as using his or her own style and expertise. BOLLI looks forward to welcoming back Bill Rachlin for the Spring 2008 semester.

INTERNATIONAL BRUNCH

by Judy Abrahams and Stephen Landy

On Sunday, November 9, the International Friends Program sponsored brunches in the homes of BOLLI members. Small groups of BOLLI/SID pairs got together to enjoy each other’s company and a meal. Approximately 40 BOLLI families participated. For many SID students it was their first time in an American home.

In our Framingham home, four BOLLI families and our collective nine SID students from Mexico, China, Kenya, the Congo, Mongolia, and South Africa gathered to eat, talk, and share a little of our lives and stories. BOLLI families brought the food, and the SID students took home the leftovers.

The three hours together were delightful, filled with energy, warmth, interest, and excitement. The students were particularly interested in our Native American pottery and crafts. The three Kenyan students asked to have their pictures taken in front of a display of Masai jewelry and photography we brought home from our trip to Tanzania and Kenya last summer.

As we were driving our students back to Brandeis, one of them expressed how great a pleasure it was to have the time to relax and talk to each other as well as to the BOLLI families. She said the SID students find each other as interesting as they find their American BOLLI families and as we find the SID students. They have so little time, given their strenuous academic program, that just to chat in the relaxed environment of a home was a treat.

From talking with other BOLLI host families, we learned that everyone who attended these brunches came away with the same uplifting experience. For all of us who participate in the International Friends Program, our relationships with the SID students are a highlight of our BOLLI experience.
STRUCTURE AND ROLE OF THE BOLLI COUNCIL AND BOLLI DIRECTOR

by Ron Levy

It soon will be the annual election time at BOLLI, when active members are encouraged to vote for new Council members from a slate assembled by the Nominating Committee. Many ask about the role and work of the Council, so this article, based largely on the BOLLI Guidelines, may be helpful and instructive. I am pleased to say that Council members take their roles very seriously, engage in thoughtful and active debate, and have an exemplary attendance record.

General Responsibility
The Council is the principal governing body of BOLLI. It has primary responsibility for developing and implementing BOLLI policy as it affects the needs and interests of members. The Director is responsible for financial, managerial, and legal issues per University policy.

Council Membership
The active membership will elect 3 new councilors for 3-year terms starting in May. The Council will then have 10 elected members (9 from May 2009 on) plus the 4 Standing Committee chairs as ex-officio members. The Council selects officers from among the elected councilors: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Financial Liaison. These officers comprise the Executive Committee of the Council.

Meetings
Monthly Council meetings are open to all BOLLI members. The schedule, agenda, and minutes of meetings are posted on the BOLLI Website. Non-Council members may submit an issue for discussion, in writing, at least 2 weeks before a meeting.

Role of Committees
The Council may create any committees and task forces it deems necessary and appropriate (we currently have about 17 committees!). It also provides committee oversight, ensures program quality, ensures communication with the membership, and encourages member participation. The Council Chair annually appoints the chairs of Standing and other committees. The Standing Committee Chairs serve for a maximum of 3 years and appoint their committee’s members (8 is the recommended number), each of whom may serve for up to 5 years.

Role of the Director
The Director is a member of the Rabb School staff, appointed and employed by Brandeis University and responsible to it. The Director is responsible for the overall management of the BOLLI program and for assuring that Council decisions and policies conform to University policies.

Working Relationship
The Council is the representative and advocate of the membership to the Director and, by extension, to the University. To affect this, the Council establishes various forms of continuing communication and exchanges with the membership. The Council ensures that policies established by the Council, the Director, and the University (where applicable) will be explained to the membership and will be followed. Together with the Director, the Council works to ensure the highest quality of BOLLI programs and experience for members, and to ensure a positive environment in all aspects of the BOLLI programs.

The complete Guidelines may be found on the BOLLI Website, www.brandeis.edu/programs/bali/

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Arts and Crafts Show

Bud Elliott would like to showcase the works of members who are painters, photographers, fabric artists, woodworkers, potters, jewelry makers, etc. Members who have works they would like to exhibit or who would like to be on the planning committee, please contact Bud at 617-244-8921.

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Core Values

by Mary Ann Sliwa

I come from a background of educational and nonprofit organizations. As a result of this experience, I am always interested in two hallmarks of an organization or institution: the mission statement and the core values. Values are all around us, explicitly or implicitly. For example, every presentation at my daughter’s high school starts with Respect, Responsibility, Commitment, Performance. The Whole Foods shopping bag has its core values listed on it.

In the six-plus months I’ve been here, I’ve been curious about the “BOLLI brand” and what our core values are. I raised this point with my colleagues, Carol and Sharon, and then with Council Chair Ron Levy, who suggested we put the matters of core values before the BOLLI Council. The Council was supportive of exploring this idea and, toward that end, created a task force to do so. The task force was composed of four BOLLI members: Len Aberbach, Myrna Cohen, Joel Freedman, and Sophie Freud, plus myself as chair.

The task force met two times and worked by email between meetings. The most important outcome of our work was our presentation of a set of core values to the Council which the Council accepted at its February meeting. Our process to identify our core values began by researching whether our home, Brandeis University, had already done this work; and to our delight, it does.

The Brandeis Division of Student Affairs worked diligently on this same task some years ago and created the following circle of core values: Citizenship; Integrity; Respect; Civility; Lifelong Learning; Embracing Diversity. Our task force unanimously agreed to adopt the Brandeis circle of core values and is now working with the Council on how we will disseminate them as we work to continuously improve the sense of community in our program.

For a more detailed look at the core values we’ve adopted, please visit the Brandeis Website at brandeis.edu/studentlife/corevalue

We look forward to hearing your thoughts about this next step in our on-going process to make our community the best it can be.

Membership Numbers

BOLLI has three types of membership. Active (taking classes), Associate (Lunch and Learn), and Inactive (holding a spot for the next semester). Because of opportunities for travel, Spring inactive membership is typically larger than Fall numbers. At press time, membership numbers are:

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- Carol Allman-Morton

Membership Extras

BOLLI is more than courses, Lunch and Learn sessions, and new friends.

- Affinity groups:
  - Adventurers (docent-led tours)
  - New Yorker (discussion of articles)
  - Yiddish (speak, sing, and joke)
  - Shutterbugs (photography field trips)

- Gosman gym and pool (discount price)

- On-campus theatre, concerts, author talks, and exhibits (discount price)

- Faculty-led week-long seminars

- Brandeis Library card
Walking in Sudbury, Wayland, Concord, and Lincoln

by Charles Raskin

Sudbury, Wayland, Concord, and Lincoln have preserved some astonishing parcels of land to be used and enjoyed by the public. Take advantage of all of these trails within the individual conservation areas.

**SUDBURY**

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, 73 Weir Hill Rd., consists of freshwater wetlands stretching along 12 miles of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers and provides bird watching opportunities, walking trails, and canoeing. Another section of the refuge is located in Concord on Monsen Road off Route 62. For directions, visit [www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex).

There are about a dozen parcels of Sudbury Conservation Land with a variety of uses, including hiking, birding, boating, and cross-country skiing. For directions, a map, and descriptions of these sites, go to [www.sudbury.ma.us/services/conservation](http://www.sudbury.ma.us/services/conservation).

**WAYLAND**

The Wayland Conservation Commission has 19 major conservation areas with trails for hiking and other passive recreation. Download directions and trail maps from [www.wayland.ma.us/conservation](http://www.wayland.ma.us/conservation) or purchase maps at the Wayland Public Library for a nominal fee of 25 or 50 cents per map.

**CONCORD**

Walden Pond State Reservation includes 462 acres so that visitors may experience the pond that inspired Thoreau. In addition to walking the trails (and swimming in the summer) visitors can see the replica of Thoreau’s one-room cabin and join interpretive programs and guided tours. There is a visitor’s center at 915 Walden Street, Concord. (978-369-3254). Parking is $5, waived for those with a Massachusetts Senior Pass. Photos and more information are at [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden).

**LINCOLN**

Mt. Misery includes many hiking trails on varied terrain with a pond, open fields, a hill (not a mountain), a beach on the Sudbury River, and much more. Find it on [www321.pair.com/oaries/localattitude/mountmisery.htm](http://www321.pair.com/oaries/localattitude/mountmisery.htm).

DeCordova and Dana Museum and Park (30 acres). A large sculpture garden on beautiful grounds surrounds the museum. There is a fee only when the museum itself is open. For museum hours and directions, visit [www.decordova.org](http://www.decordova.org) or call 781-259-8355.

Flint’s Pond conservation consists of extensive varied woodlands and wetlands and was Thoreau’s first choice for his cabin; denied permission, he settled at Walden Pond. Access is from the DeCordova Museum lower parking lot. Additional parking at pull-offs along Sandy Pond Road and behind Brooks School gym.

Drumlin Farm (Massachusetts Audubon; 232 acres) is a working farm with educational programs for children and adults. There are short woodland trails as well as a farm road. The entrance is on Rte. 117. For directions, trail maps, and fees, visit [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) or call 781-259-9807.

Information and directions to many more locations for enjoying the outdoors in Massachusetts can be found at this comprehensive Website: [www.newtonconservators.org/nearbyparks.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/nearbyparks.htm).
**CALENDAR OF CAMPUS EVENTS**
*compiled by Charles Raskin*

### SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

- **Mar. 1 (8 P.M.)**
  **Evan Hirsch: Forward and Back**
  Composers look for inspiration in the music of the past, as well as in the new ideas of the present. Piano instructor Evan Hirsch presents a solo recital, exploring the music of familiar and not-so-familiar composers, both trailblazers and traditionalists. Program includes works by Hindemith and Ginastera, as well as *Variations on a Theme by Handel, Op. 24*, by Brahms.
  Free admission

- **Mar. 21 (8 P.M.)**
  **Chris Smither**
  “Smither’s finger-picked guitar lines are sleek, un hurried and insistent. and then there’s the voice —equal parts gravel and molasses. Smither’s singing sounds like a distillation of the folk and blues heroes he grew up listening to in New Orleans” – NPR
  $10 for BOLLI members with i.d., in advance
  $15 for BOLLI members with i.d., at the door

- **Mar. 22 (8 P.M.)**
  **Irving Fine Memorial Concert**
  The Department of Music’s annual tribute to its founder, composer Irving Fine.
  Featuring The Irving Fine Society, The Orpheus Singers, James Olsen, Margaret Johnson, and Kamala Soparkar.
  Free admission

### SPINGOLD THEATER

Check with the box office (781-736-3400, option 5) for tickets
Remember, BOLLI members receive a substantial discount

**The Orphan of Zhao**

- **Mar. 27-29, Apr. 6-8 (8 P.M.) and Apr. 5, 6 (2 P.M.)**
  A new adaption of a traditional Chinese folktale by Mia Chung.
  Naya Chang, director
  Yu-Hui Chang, composer
  Co-produced with MusicUnitesUs

### ROSE ART MUSEUM

- **Mar. 4 (4:15 P.M.)**
  **The Pedagogy of the Imagination**
  An interdisciplinary symposium considering the strategies for re-locating the imagination at the heart of the educational process. The full range of educational endeavors, from preschool to postgraduate programs, as well as instructional undertakings in non-western and small scale societies will be explored.

  Keynote address by Michael Armstrong, author of *Closely Observed Children* and *Children Writing Stories*.

  Topics to be explored include:
  - ways of understanding children as active producers, and not simply consumers, of cultural form
  - the emerging use of "Visual Teaching Strategy" in art museums
  - the development of published children's stories in African languages
  - the transformative potentials of social service and educational partnerships between university and community organizations, especially in developing community writing centers.