PROPOSED NEW GUIDELINES

by Robert Cohen

In what is my final Banner article as Council Chair, I am following up on my last article with greater detail about the Guideline changes that are being proposed. You may have received some of this information before this issue of the Banner appeared, but this is a case of where redundancy has merit.

The Guidelines serve to guide BOLLI in the day-to-day conduct of its affairs. They are rigid enough so that each of us knows what is expected of us and what we should expect from BOLLI. On the other hand, they are not so inflexible that there is no room to adjust to unexpected or unusual situations. The Task Force was unanimous in its recommendation, which does not mean there were not times of disagreement. But times of disagreement ended with compromise and unanimity. In making a judgement, look not just at specific provisions but at the overall result.

Among the substantive changes are:

1. Referencing the Shared Governance Model of Brandeis and its application to the Council by an introductory paragraph to Article IV
2. Modifying §4.1 to clarify the Council’s obligation to consider “…members’ views, issues and concerns.”
3. Maintaining the basic size of the Council at 9 elected and 4 ex-officio Chairs of standing committees but allowing for increase when required by a second year of a Chair’s tenure
4. Clarifying that a Council member’s term begins at end of the annual meeting following his or her election
5. Increasing the size of the Nominating Committee to 7 and mandating that 4 members are from the general membership and 2 from the Council
6. Establishing the BOLLI Director as a voting member of the Nominating Committee and a non-voting member of all other committees
7. Changing the title of Vice-chair to Chair elect and providing for succession to the position of Chair at the end of the Chair’s term
8. Allowing the incoming Chair to appoint committee Chairs before taking office
9. Prohibiting an elected member of the Council from also serving as the Chair or Vice-chair of any standing or non-standing committee
10. Establishing time limits for serving as Chair or member of any standing or non-standing committee: 5 consecutive years on standing committees; 3 years as Chair of a standing committee; non-standing committees will follow these guidelines except for special circumstances
11. Authorizing the Council Chair to create task forces and appoint members to them
12. Providing for electronic elections—this year’s will be our first to ensure the privacy of your vote.

Your comments are invited and can be directed to me or to any member of the Task Force: Nancy Rawson, Les Blicher, Barbara Webber, Len Heier, Joel Kamer, Peter Schmidt, and Sharon Sokoloff.
BOLLI ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE
EXHIBIT YOUR WORK AT THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Each exhibitor will have about three horizontal feet of space; work can be placed on tables we provide, leaned against the wall behind the tables, or on easels you provide.

- Two-dimensional items must be matted or framed and be able to stand by themselves on a table leaning against the wall.
- Three-dimensional items such as jewelry and sculpture can be placed on the tables.
- Large unframed pieces of fabric such as quilts can be hung from the low balcony overhead (no size limit for such pieces).

Interested members should email Bud Elliott at belliox319@rcn.com by April 15th with your name, email address, and the kind of work you would like to put into the show.

Join in! Our last exhibit was wonderful and well-received.
INITIAL OUTREACH TO HSL SUCCESSFUL

by Sharon Sokoloff

BOLLI is in a budding relationship with Hebrew Senior Life (HSL), which is an integrated, eight-site system of senior healthcare, senior housing, research, and teaching in the Greater Boston area. We are working with professionals at NewBridge on the Charles, the newest component of HSL, a continuing care retirement community in Dedham.

After about two years of planning with our HSL colleagues, we implemented our first semester—a pilot to build programs, learn what works, and see how to improve them over time.

We have called this program Lifelong Learning Instructorships. These instructorships are the heart of our relationship with NewBridge. Brandeis doctoral candidates are teaching six-week seminars to NewBridge residents. Doctoral students in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS) were invited to submit seminar proposals; we received 11 proposals in response to our first invitation. Dean Greg Freeze of GSAS, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs Michaele Whelan, and I reviewed the proposals and met and selected candidates. Two seminars were held in the fall and three will be conducted this spring:

**Fall 2009**

*Understanding Injustice & Strategies for Peace*
Nicole Fox, Ph.D. candidate, Sociology

*American Humor*
Ryan Wepler, Ph.D. candidate, American Literature & History

**Spring 2010**

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: His Life, His Music, and the Struggles of a Genius*
Gilad Harel, Ph.D. candidate, Musicology

*Between Friendship, Tension, and History: A Literary Analysis of Germans and Jews in the 19th Century*
Daniel Schwartz, Ph.D. candidate, Near East Judaic Studies

*The Media & Politics in the Arab-Israeli Conflict*
Jonathan Snow, Ph.D. candidate, Political Science

The Fall programs were highly successful, with scores of 9.2 and 8.5, on a scale of 1 to 10. We trained and oriented all students involved in this program, including logistics, information about demographic trends, the aging of society, adult development, and how to teach to the strengths of mature learners.

What follows is a brief list of plans for the 2010–2011 academic year:

- Offer eight Instructorships, two each season—fall, winter, spring, and summer
- Invite proposals for next year’s seminars earlier, to improve the planning process for next year’s seminars
- Implement a session in which every student leader will meet with a large group of residents to do one session on their topic, i.e., a brief talk and Q&A to reach more residents than we can with the seminars alone.

Building something new takes time in order to forge new relationships, develop infrastructure to make the program run efficiently and effectively, and identify and improve ways to better meet everyone’s goals. My goal for Year One was to succeed in establishing a foundation for a lasting relationship in which NewBridge residents and BOLLI members will benefit. **Mission accomplished!** However, there is a long way to go with many possibilities for the future.

If you have questions and/or input, please let me know at BOLLI, sokoloff@brandeis.edu, or 781-736-2171.
Mentor Committee Activities

by Judy Cohen

On November 19, 2009, our own Mort Brown, Ellen Citron, and Gerry Tishler, representing fields of law, participated in a panel discussion with undergraduates at Brandeis who are exploring careers in the law. Our BOLLI members shared their experiences and answered many “How do you…?” questions.

Sponsored by Brandeis's Hiatt Career Services, this was the first panel discussion of this year. There is no question but that this was a meaningful experience for all involved.

In addition, a pilot social-networking night took place at the International Business School on October 1, 2009. This successful gathering was followed by another on January 28, 2010, attended by fifteen BOLLI members and thirty-five IBS students.

Dean Bruce Magid was pleased members of BOLLI were willing to share their lifetime work experience with students. The event helped the IBS graduate students, many of whom are from foreign countries, hone their job interviewing skills prior to an upcoming job fair.

Behind the Scenes from the Resource Committee

by Donna Carleton

The Resource Committee (RC) is pleased to report there was an 81% completion rate (591/731) from the Fall final evaluation forms. Everyone is to be thanked for this successful level of participation.

On February 16th, the RC hosted the SGL Spring Orientation Meeting, which featured a panel format on the topic of The (almost) Trouble-free Classroom. The participants were Marlyn Katz Levenson (Literature/Language), Joel Kamer (Math/Science), Ron Levy (History/Social Science), and Phil Radoff (the Arts). The panelists shared some of their successful and challenging class experiences and also addressed topics such as the uses and abuses of technology, the mature learner, time management, and the use of a plan B. The audience enjoyed their participation in this interactive discussion.

This continued sense of cooperation and connection is reinforced throughout each semester. Each SGL is assigned an RC liaison who is available to answer questions, provide support, and communicate about relevant topics on an as-needed basis. In addition, the RC organizes the assignments of the classroom assistants who handle more of the administrative details that the SGL needs. At the end of last Fall’s semester, the SGLs were given the optional opportunity to evaluate their individual experiences. Their feedback reinforced the positive appreciation our SGLs have for the BOLLI community.

Theatre Committee

On Sunday, April 25, we will attend the 2 P.M. performance of Strike Up the Band at the Boston Conservatory in South Boston. This musical comedy—score and lyrics written by the renowned collaboration of George and Ira Gershwin with book by George Kaufman—is replete with great standards, such as Strike Up the Band, Soon, and I've Got a Crush on You. It is the story of an international incident in which the U.S.A. and Switzerland go to war over a chocolate dispute! There will be a talk-back after the performance followed by a buffet dinner at Amrhein’s in South Boston, a dining emporium with an Irish pub atmosphere.
Teaching in the Dark

by Phyllis Pressman Cohen

Bob Palter was one of BOLLI’s first members so it is fitting that we highlight his courses as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary year. These early morning gems are always completely filled even though they typically begin in the 8:30 A.M. time slot and run through two class periods. The three hours are necessary to view the film and to discuss its significance in the context of historic, economic, political, and social trends in the United States. The films provide the background information for the lively discussions which follow.

One of Bob’s goals in this year’s effort can be found in the course title, The Great Depression 1929-1942: Its Effects on American Political, Economic, and Cultural Life (and its similarities and differences in today’s America). His previous courses have helped students understand:

• how war was explained, idealized and rationalized through films of the WW II era
• why Hollywood did not confront anti-Semitism until the 1947 film Gentleman’s Agreement
• how and why the McCarthy era red scare became so frightening through blacklisting and trumped up hearings
• how the “film noir” genre evolved from the hardboiled crime fiction of the depression era.

Bob has had an addiction to the movies since he was a child and has also been fascinated with American history—particularly the years from the Great Depression to the Cold War. So after retirement from his life insurance business in 1998, and even though he had an undergraduate degree from MIT and an MBA from Harvard, he went back to school at UMass Boston to get a degree in history. Unable to get a paid teaching position that didn’t also involve being an athletic coach, he was encouraged by Sharon Sokoloff to develop a course for BOLLI.

When discussing his courses, he cautions that they are not simply the opportunity to be entertained by watching a film but rather he uses film to educate by amplifying and solidifying the circumstances he is trying to highlight. Some films are shown in their entirety while others are just excerpts. Most were made during the period under discussion. This is a course for the serious student and Bob prefers a conversation to just lecturing. He is particularly interested in contrasting events that happened previously to what is occurring now. It is an opportunity to view history through a different lens.

He finds the experience of teaching at BOLLI very gratifying and says he has learned a lot in the process. He considers it the best experience he has had in his retirement. His trademark bow tie and sport coat are an homage to his college professors; and he feels it helps to establish a different relationship with the students. These days he views most movies at home with his wife so he can avoid the gratuitous sex and violence in many previews and the endless commercials that are now a part of the movie-going experience.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Fall Semester Dates
September 21st through December 1st
No classes November 23rd or 24th

Summer Rapaporte Seminars
June 14th-18th
The BOLLI Technology Task Force (TTF) was created last summer. Its mission is to assess and plan to meet the new technology needs of BOLLI. We have several overall goals, including:

• Improve communications with members
• Bring distance-learning and social experiences of BOLLI to members beyond the traditional classroom
• Investigate, assess, and help the Resource Committee implement technologies to improve the classroom learning experience.

A good distance-learning capability will enable a new form of BOLLI class participation off the physical campus. We will be able to bring the classroom to members unable to commute to Brandeis due to illness and those temporarily living away from their Massachusetts homes. It will also enable BOLLI to expand the number of classes beyond the constraints imposed by the limited number of physical classrooms available to us. To that end, some classes could be entirely remotely conducted by SGLs sitting at their computers anywhere, including in their houses.

A number of Universities currently offer courses, and in some cases entire programs, through use of distance-learning tools. These include the University of Phoenix, MIT, Arizona State, and UMass Boston. Brandeis offers five Masters degree programs using a tool called LATTE (Learning and Teaching Technology Environment).

There are many companies that offer distance learning tools that are expected to be easily within the budgets for BOLLI courses. Their packages range from just software that provides a one-to-one connection to packages that offer much more capability and tools, such as recording sessions for later on-demand playback. We are investigating a few of these offerings and will select the one we believe to be most suitable for BOLLI.

A limited-use test of one of the distance-learning packages is being conducted during this Spring semester. Fara Faramarzpour, one of the TTF members, is using the History of the Modern Middle East class to test the concept and usability and to gauge class reaction.

We look forward to bringing this exciting new capability to BOLLI in the future.

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**The Count**

*by Carol Allman-Morton*

Our membership is generally smaller in the Spring while people are away. Welcome to our new members!

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In the past, the Banner has reviewed these films after they screened on campus. Thanks to Sharon Pucker Rivo, Executive Director of the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University, we list below the April film schedule in advance so you can be sure to get your ticket order in promptly. Prices are $8 each for seniors; a 12-movie J-Flix pass is $60. Tickets can be ordered by mail, fax, Internet, or telephone. Click on jewishfilm.org/filmfest/2010/tickets.htm for ordering details, fees, and forms. The films—all New England premieres—will screen at the Wasserman Cinematheque on campus.

Wed., Apr. 7 (7 P.M.)
**Berlin '36**
Drama based on the true story of Gretel Bergmann, a gold medal contender at the 1936 Olympics

Sun., Apr. 11 (12 P.M.)
**Einsatzgruppen: the Death Brigades**
Essential film documenting the Nazi killing squads which systematically murdered 1.5 million. Never-seen-before film and photographs, along with interviews with Holocaust survivors, perpetrators, and historians. (3 hours with an intermission.)

Sun., Apr. 11 (4:15 P.M.)
**Gevald! The Rabbi’s Daughter and the Midwife**
Two documentaries of Israel’s ultra-Orthodox Haredim. The first compares a radical anti-Zionist who opposes the secular state with another who uses the Knesset to advance his constituency’s religious agenda. The second covers a rabbi’s daughter who was denied permission to study yet became a midwife who delivered 30,000 babies.

Sun., Apr. 11 (7:15 P.M.)
**The Wedding Song**
Stunning film set in 1942 Nazi-occupied Tunisia follows the fates of two girlfriends, one Jewish and one Muslim

Tue., Apr. 13 (4:30 P.M.)
**My 100 Children**
Orphaned Jewish children found in Krakow after WW II smuggled to France and then to Israel

Wed., Apr. 14 (4:45 P.M.)
**The Peretzniks**
Alumni of the Peretz School recall their youth before the 1986 anti-Semitic campaign scattered Polish Jewry

Wed., Apr. 14 (7:30 P.M.)
**Seven Minutes in Heaven**
Brilliantly-crafted psychological thriller, Jerusalem woman struggles to reclaim her memory after a horrific bus bombing left her clinically dead for 7 minutes

Sat., Apr. 17 (8:30 P.M.)
**Eyes Wide Open**
Haredi butcher with wife and children is drawn to his sensitive young male apprentice. “The quiet and confident feature explores the conflict between sexual desire and religious obligation.” – *New York Times*

Sun., Apr. 18 (11:15 A.M.)
**Bar Mitzvah**
Believing his beloved wife is lost at sea, man re-marries a scheming gold-digger. Shock, tears, and laughs abound when his wife returns on the eve of her son’s bar mitzvah after a ten-year absence

Sun., Apr. 18 (1:45 P.M.)
**Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story**
A real life Zelig, the “give ‘em hell” owner of the *Las Vegas Sun*, Hank Greenspun, starts out as Bugsy Siegel’s PR man and ends up as a Las Vegas titan owning casinos, real estate, and a media empire. Greenspun runs guns for the Haganah and was a target of both Joseph McCarthy and the Watergate burglars.

Sun., Apr. 18 (4:30 P.M.)
**Camera Obscura**
Shy ugly duckling married to a charismatic Jew in Argentina meets nomadic photographer whose vision allows her to see herself for the first time

Sun., Apr. 18 (7:00 P.M.)
**In Search of Memory: Eric Kandel**
Biography of an exuberant researcher of the brain’s role in preserving memory, for which he wins Nobel Prize. “…an unforgettable journey” – Oliver Sacks

Don’t forget! April 7th last day to vote for Council
Three members will be elected for 3-year terms from this slate of six:

Myrna Cohen  Bob Lebowitz  Arthur Sharenow
Al Fine      Mike Segal      Arlene Weintraub

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SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER
(Brandeis Tickets: 781-736-3400)

Unless noted otherwise, tickets are $5 for BOLLI members with i.d.

Sat., Apr. 10 (8 P.M.)
Brandeis University Chamber Choir
James Olesen, director
French A Capella and More: songs for multiple voices by Fauré and Debussy

Sat., Apr. 17 (8 P.M.)
Brandeis University Chorus
James Olesen, director
Songs and Poems of Harlem: words and music by William Still, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Duke Ellington, Jerome Kern, Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson, and George Gershwin

Sun., Apr. 18 (3 P.M.)
Brandeis University Wind Ensemble
Thomas Souza, director
Swashbucklers of the South Seas: music from the treasure chests of Gilbert and Sullivan, James Hosay, and Ryohei Hirose

Sun., Apr. 25 (3 P.M.)
Brandeis University Early Music Ensemble
Sarah Mead, director
Mixed Blessings: beatitudes and benedictions from another age

Sun., Apr. 25 (7 P.M.)
Brandeis University Jazz Ensemble
Bob Nieske, director
Contemporary, classic, and improvised jazz

Mon., Apr. 26 (7 P.M.)
Contemporary Music Ensemble Korea with the Lydian Quartet
A collaborative venture of the UC Santa Cruz Pacific Rim Festival, the Lydian String Quartet, and Contemporary Music Ensemble Korea. The performance features premieres of new music incorporating both Western and traditional Korean instruments.
$15 for BOLLI members with i.d. in advance; $20 at the door

Tue., Apr. 27 (7 P.M.)
Contemporary Music Ensemble Korea with the Del Sol Quartet
The famed Korean ensemble is joined by San Francisco’s leading string quartet. Acclaimed for its imagination and bravery in exploring new ways for a string quartet to interact with audiences, composers, and other artists, the quartet is known to break traditional boundaries for classical music.
$15 for BOLLI members with i.d. in advance; $20 at the door

Thu., Apr. 29 (8 P.M.)
Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra
Neil Hampton, director
Bernstein Overture to Candide
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade
Menkin Aladdin (selections)
Free and open to the public

SPINGOLD THEATER

For tickets, click on go.brandeis.edu /BrandeisTickets or call (781-736-3400, option 5)
Save $2 handling fee by buying tickets at the box office, now located in Shapiro Student Center
Tickets are $18 and $20, less $5 discount to BOLLI members with i.d.

Apr. 29–May 1 (8 P.M.) and May 1–2 (2 P.M.)

Love’s Labor’s Lost
Written by William Shakespeare Directed by Steve Maier