“Age cannot wither her nor custom stale her infinite variety.” So begins Enobarbus’s paean to the magnificence of Cleopatra, as he explains to Caesar’s minions why Antony will never give up his Egyptian queen.

In this “Romeo and Juliet for adults,” asserted Prof. William Flesch in his fifth successive and hugely successful Rapaporte seminar, Shakespeare set himself the challenge of ennobling these larger-than-life historical figures without masking their intrinsic flaws. As Flesch explained, Shakespeare freely departed from Plutarch’s historical narrative whenever necessary to bring his audience the drama of this middle-aged pair whose love affair shaped the fortunes of Rome and Egypt.

To be sure, Cleopatra seeks to keep her political options open as Antony’s star wanes, and Antony rages at Cleopatra’s apparent faithlessness even as he unhesitatingly contracts a marriage of convenience with Caesar’s sister. But these lapses from perfection do not diminish the abiding love that each has for the other. Our hearts cannot but be moved by their passing, even while logic compels us to acknowledge that the world was better served by the Pax Romana ushered in by the defeat and death of this peerless pair.

Thank you, Billy, for bringing this drama to life. It doesn’t take a soothsayer to predict you’ll be back next year to Flesch out another Shakespeare play.

The American health care policy is understood best after studying the cultural, sociological, and political issues surrounding it, according to Prof. Michael Doonan of the Heller School. Prof. Doonan described the influence of historical circumstances of our nation’s birth, federalism, states’ rights, individualism, and their effects on American ideology up through today’s debate. We discussed our ideas about the current legislative process and the evolving details of national health reform, including Medicare, Medicaid, and State health policy.

Doonan, a member of Clinton’s Health Care Task Force as well as Kerry’s legislative aide, superbly framed the debate complexities and clarified holes in our health care policy. He outlined the three pillars of our system as cost, quality, and access. Money, power, and system stakeholders inhibit a people-centered approach. Our hi-tech approach to medical care causes us to spend the greatest amount on the sickest to the detriment of preventative measures. Issues relating to integrating our medical care towards a “highest quality, lowest cost” managed approach were discussed as an alternative to our fee-for-service system. The Massachusetts health care system represents an experimental approach to a national system.

Prof. Doonan focused us toward the ultimate goal of “better quality at no increase in cost.” We were honored to learn from him.
Planning for Tomorrow

by Robert Cohen

Shortly after becoming the Council Chair, I appointed a task force to review our governing Guidelines and propose changes to them. This task force has now met fifteen times and diligently worked to produce a set of guidelines that truly reflects the workings of BOLLI in a straightforward and easily understood manner. Although their work is not yet completed, there are a few significant changes that I will share with you now. I do so because some of these changes have already been accepted by the Council and may govern our upcoming election. Among these changes is one that will allow for the Chair to have a two-year term in lieu of the current one-year. Another changes the title from Vice Chair to Chair-elect, and provides a succession plan to allow for a smoother transition following an election. Still another provides for the holding of the election electronically—and this will be implemented at this year’s election. The task force will shortly complete its work, and the new guidelines will be submitted to the Council for its imprimatur. Following the Council’s okay, the Guidelines will be submitted to the Brandeis Vice Provost for her approval. They will then be submitted to a vote of the membership for final approval. I think that you will agree that even though the new Guidelines may not be perfect, they are a significant improvement.

I would like to remind the membership that the agenda for the monthly Council meeting is posted on-line. If there’s something about BOLLI you think is lacking or should be changed, take action. You are invited to attend Council meetings, voice your opinion and give us your ideas. Also note that the Lunch & Learn program for Tuesday, March 23rd is an Open Forum, which provides another opportunity for members to address issues of interest to them at BOLLI.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has begun consideration of candidates for the April election to the BOLLI Council. Six nominees will be chosen to fill three vacancies. If you would like to be a candidate or would like to recommend another member as a candidate, please contact any member of the Committee listed below by March 5th:

Les Blicher Renée Fine Marty Nichols Sharon Sokoloff
Robert Cohen Ed Finerty Bob Pill
Barbara Rosenbaum finds it most satisfying to learn something new about a subject she is interested in and then share it with others. In her Fall 2009 course, *The President’s Role in Foreign Policy: Nixon to G.W. Bush*, Barbara’s interest was contagious; and her knowledge and organizational skills made the class stimulating and fast moving.

After graduating from Brooklyn College and earning an M.A. in English Literature, Barbara moved to Massachusetts and worked in health care policy for the Commonwealth. Deeply involved in the subject, she worked with leaders of health care agencies, which triggered an interest in large public program management. This led her to the Kennedy School at Harvard, where she received a Masters in Public Administration with a specialty in Health Care Policy. In 1981 she became the Director of Jewish Vocational Services. Through the 25 years of her leadership, the agency grew substantially in size, in the scope of services offered and client populations served. Her successful leadership philosophy demands that the dynamic organization adapt to changing societal needs, develop programs to address them, and skills to implement them.

Barbara has developed two courses. The first was *Terrorism and Counter Terrorism*, which she taught at HILR. While preparing it, she was struck by what she saw as strategic failures in government policy. She began to study how Presidents make foreign policy decisions, asking:

- What are the characteristics of Presidential leadership?
- How does a President’s background influence how he sets priorities and makes foreign policy decisions?
- How does a President articulate his vision to his team; and, more importantly, how does he inspire them to action?

And so, this second course on Presidents and their foreign policy was born and introduced at BOLLI. Barbara was pleased that the class was open and accepting of differing opinions, often leading to lively discussions. She stressed that the successful President has a vision that he can articulate; and equally as important, the leader must have a team that understands and embraces this vision in order for it to be successfully implemented. We saw what happened when there were failures to communicate and lead. Many in the class, including Barbara, found their minds changed about several of the Presidents we thought we knew so well. She said, “we learned together.” It was an exceptional learning experience!

We all look forward to having Barbara develop another course; and we are confident that it too will be interesting, thought-provoking, and relevant to the politics of the day.
Who Are Our New Members?

We include the list of towns where people are from to help old friends find each other.

**Brookline:**
- Joann Breuer
- Susan Krinsky

**Chestnut Hill:**
- Rona Cohen

**Hudson:**
- Sheila Davison

**Lincoln:**
- Suzanne Art

**Natwick:**
- Pamela Tomasetti

**Needham:**
- Iris Kingsbury
- Evvy Teres

**Newton:**
- Marilyn Bernstein

**Shrewsbury:**
- Janet Wiseman

**Sudbury:**
- Barbara Herman
- Craig Parkhill

**Waltham:**
- Na‘ama Ansell
- Samuel Ansell
- Nan Feldon

**Wellesley:**
- Beverly Kosloff

Remember, new members will be wearing pink name tags. Please introduce yourself and make these new members feel welcome.

Snacks a Lot

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of members the past two semesters when we asked for snacks for the Gathering Place. We will continue this practice. You will receive by email the dates when each class is assigned to bring in snacks. Costco, BJs, and Trader Joe’s items are all welcome.

High-Voltage Man Transformed

by Phyllis Pressman Cohen

From time to time the Banner features members for whom retirement is a time of renewed energy and vigor and an opportunity to enrich their lives.

**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Bob Pill has chosen to re-invent his life not only with participation in BOLLI on the Lunch and Learn Committee, the Nominating Committee, and as chair of the Theater Group, but with volunteering in several different areas of the community. After 45 years of shepherding a family electrical supply business through good times and bad, this Boston area native has invaluable experience that can be brought to every phase of life.

He spends many hours each week tutoring math in Newton and Boston, both at the elementary and high school levels. Third and fourth graders benefit from his kind and patient ways. You can feel his enthusiasm as he discusses the kids he tutors at Parkway Academy for Technology and Health, who are among the more focused Boston high school students. Enrolled in a college preparatory course, they often need extra help to get over the hurdles of an urban environment and to help propel them to a successful life.

Beyond tutoring, Bob is on the Providers Committee for *Newton at Home*, a program to enable Newton residents to age comfortably, safely, independently, and with peace of mind in their own homes, which his wife Cynthia, also a BOLLI member, helped to found. Once a month he is a back room production assistant at Newton Public TV. Temple Shalom benefits from Bob’s ideas and energy as he serves on their “Ani v’Atah; changing our world together” committee.
Brandeis is in a period of extraordinary change. Given all that is in flux, people at every level of the University are affected. The radical nature of the times both tests our confidence and propels us to assess our program: where are we and where do we want to go to improve? Change provides opportunity.

The major issues underlying BOLLI’s state of affairs include:

- The financial collapse which hit Brandeis particularly hard
- The resignation of Jehuda Reinharz, an unfailling champion of BOLLI. It will take time to identify our next president and for him or her to settle in.
- BOLLI’s $60,000 endowment draw (nearly 20% of our budget) is not accessible to us until the endowment is no longer “underwater”
- Issues related to space for the program
- Growth in the marketplace for adult education — no surprise given demographic trends

I am highlighting the theme of change and transition to assure you: (1) BOLLI’s leaders and staff are assessing our status and working on many fronts to deal with our challenges, and (2) this transition is an opportunity to both honor our past and create a successful, meaningful future for our learning community.

There is another reason to think about organizational change and transition, viz., to frame it as normal and a powerful impetus to improve by innovating, renewing, and refreshing our program.

Change is situational and external, e.g., new space, new leader. Transition is internal, a psychological process we go through to come to terms with a new situation. Transition is often a much longer and more challenging process than one would think. It is often accompanied by discomfort or anxiety.

I appeal to you to work with us through our transition by naming losses and disappointments, re-framing them as opportunities, and reinforcing the changes as a new beginning so that our organization will continue to be vital, creative and meaningful.

You are BOLLI. We want and need your input. Please share it.

Spring Adventure Trips

Thursday, March 25th
Lyman Estate Mansion and Greenhouses, Waltham
Includes a talk on the architectural history of the house, a tour of the house and historical greenhouses, and lunch at the Brandeis Faculty Club.

Thursday, April 15th
Longy School of Music, Cambridge
Observe a master class, including a discussion session with the students and faculty, followed by a tour and lunch at the school.

Friday, April 30th
Isaac Royall House and Slave Quarters, Medford
Through artifacts, architecture, and history, explore the links between independence and slavery at this 18th century Georgian mansion and slave quarters. Lunch at a nearby restaurant.
Keep Our Program New and Vibrant

by Naomi Schmidt

A glance at this semester’s catalogue reveals many familiar SGL names, along with a handful of newcomers to that role. In order to keep our program fresh and vibrant, the Curriculum Committee is always looking for colleagues who haven’t yet led a class but who might be interested in doing so.

If you’re enthusiastic about the idea of proposing a course but need some help finding a topic, try looking at the classes that other OLLIs are offering. Here are a few that you might look at for ideas:

- Northwestern: sgs.northwestern.edu/forms/OLLI_catalog09-10_final.pdf
- University of Illinois: olli.illinois.edu/courses/

If you’re adventurous enough to explore more OLLIs, go to usm.maine.edu/olli/national/, click on Find an OLLI Near You, and then choose any state to see the programs located there. You can then browse through their online catalogs, and perhaps something will ring a bell for you.

One way of easing into leading a class is to collaborate with a friend who shares your interest in a topic. For assistance with preparing a proposal, contact CC Chair Alorie Parkhill at aloriebp@verizon.net.

Here are five reasons to become an SGL:

⑤ Delving deeply enough into a subject to be able to teach it is the best way to learn about it.
④ It’s a great feeling to be able to impart your own knowledge and/or lead a lively discussion.
③ You bypass the Lottery to get first choice of classes, plus a discount on tuition.
② As a member of the basic core of BOLLI, you are working to improve and expand our offerings.
① It’s fun!

Finally, even if you don’t plan to be an SGL, we want to hear your ideas for new topics for classes.

GALA CELEBRATION

10 YEARS!

BOLLI

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

FUN! * FOOD! * FRATERNIZE!

Entertainment by Professional in the Brandeis community

MAY 13, 2010 6 PM $35 PER PERSON
LEVIN BALLROOM, UDSDAN STUDENT CENTER

$12 each
Limited availability, so act now.
Check with Phyllis Cohen at saffta@comcast.net

Vol 10 Number 4 March 2010
Rare Blooms at the Rose
by Elaine Adler

Every museum has a stash of hidden paintings that rarely see the light of day. The Rose at Brandeis is no exception. Even those who frequent the museum would have no clue of its remarkable collection of over seven thousand 20th and 21st century works from Europe and the United States. Many were donated from private sources over the years; some were obtained directly from up-and-coming artists such as Robert Rauschenberg, Adolph Gottlieb, and Roy Lichtenstein when they were young and unknown. The Rose’s current exhibit, Works from the Collection, brings over 120 works into the light.

The show is deftly organized to lead visitors through stages and styles of art, with works from modernism in the early 1900s to social realism, surrealism, abstract expressionism, photorealism, minimalism, and other recent contemporary approaches.

The paintings in the upper gallery provide an accessible peek into the evolution of the early modern movement, when artists began to push limits and shock sensibilities, making visual statements about society and the world around them. We study unfamiliar paintings (understandable, since these works have been in the dark for so long), perhaps recognizing a style, and then look at name plates that read Picasso, Leger, Severini, Cézanne, Steitheimer, Beckman, Marsh, Ben Shahn, Ernst.

The entire downstairs gallery around the pool is devoted to photography, from realistic to the surreal. Gregory Crewdson’s “Ophelia” and Sam Jury’s “Thousand Pities” stand out as they startle and surprise in their imagery and poignancy.

But the best is saved for last. We are drawn into the cavernous bright Lois Foster Gallery, awakened to an expansive sense of joy. Huge canvases reflect and complement one another with bold color and form. Innovative works by Willem de Kooning, Ellsworth Kelly, Adolph Gottlieb, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg, and Robert Motherwell, to name a few, pull us around the room and astonish the senses. Everyday scenes from the Rose’s surprisingly large collection of photorealistic paintings are mesmerizing, so real looking and devoid of the artists’ personal interpretation that we gaze in wonder. Are we looking at a painting or at the photograph used as its model?

All in all, the exhibit is a feast, an opportunity to grasp trends, twists, and turns in the minds of artists as they broke with tradition, showing us new ways to view and interpret our world. With this limited glimpse of the museum’s impressive collection of modern art, we can only hope that the Rose will blossom forever, revealing other hidden treasures in future exhibits to enlighten us.

BOLLI Members Will Hold Their Own Art Show

Show your work at the Tenth Anniversary Gala Celebration on May 13

Entry rules and submission deadline to be announced
SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER
(Brandeis Tickets: 781-736-3400)

Mar. 6  (8 P.M.; lecture 7 P.M.)
The Spiritual Music of Azerbaijan

MusicUnitesUS presents Alim Qasimov, one of the 20th century's greatest interpreters of mugham, Azerbaijan's classical vocal music. He is joined by his daughter Fargana in a residency curated by ethnomusicologist Theodore Levin of Dartmouth College and produced in collaboration with the Aga Khan Music Initiative, a program of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. $10 for BOLLI members with i.d.

Mar. 17  (3 P.M.)
Brandeis Chorus and Chamber Choir
James Olesen, director
Come hear talented Brandeis students perform beautiful music!
$5 for BOLLI members with i.d.

Mar. 21
Leonard Bernstein Scholars Recitals
(1 P.M.)  Enigma Quintet '12
(4 P.M.)  Quartet '11
(7 P.M.)  Trio '10
Free

JEWISHFILM.2010
Apr. 7 – 18
On the Brandeis campus and elsewhere. Click on brandeis.edu/jewishfilm for details.

ROSE ART MUSEUM
(Free for BOLLI members with i.d.)

Tuesdays through Sundays, (12–5 P.M.), through May 24
Works from the Collection

Curated by Roy Dawes and Adelina Jedrzejczak. The Rose presents a historic exhibition of its great modern and contemporary masterworks, representing significant cultural movements of the past five decades. On view are works by Willem de Kooning, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Morris Louis, Andy Warhol, Robert Motherwell, Helen Frankenthaler, Cindy Sherman, Kiki Smith, Philip Guston, Louise Nevelson, and Ellsworth Kelly.

The Rose Art Museum at Brandeis, 2009, a beautiful catalogue depicting the breadth of the collection, can be purchased for $48 at the museum or online at brandeis.edu/rose/publications.html.

[See related article on page 7 of this issue of the Banner. –Ed.]