Reinharz Reviews BOLLI Experience Over the Past Decade

by Phyllis Pressman Cohen

On the occasion of BOLLI’s Tenth anniversary, the Banner interviewed Jehuda Reinharz to learn his feelings about the program, his contributions to it, and what he considers to be his Brandeis legacy as he prepares to leave the Presidency. Dr. Reinharz is quick to credit the creation of the Brandeis Adult Learning Institute to Bernie Reisman. However, if Bernie was the father, Jehudah certainly was the midwife, breathing life into the program with his encouragement and enthusiastic support. Though at first skeptical, mainly because he was not sure how to maintain the quality of a peer-led program, he quickly became convinced when the orientation meeting was packed with a standing room only overflow crowd and he saw the hunger for continuing education in an underserved population of retired people.

BOLLI has become even more than he had envisioned: well run, well led, highly professional with group leaders who quickly emerged, eager to share their affinities for all types of subjects from art and literature, history and music, to science and technology. He believes the benefits to Brandeis have been numerous; notably BOLLI sponsorship of the career mentors program, the Friends program for graduate students from abroad, and the integration of faculty as Lunch-and-Learn speakers and Rapaport Seminar leaders. He is delighted with how the lifelong learning model has developed. It was in great measure due to his friendship with Bernard Osher that the program was awarded a million dollar grant and with that gift came the name change to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis.

When he assumed the presidency at Brandeis in 1994, things were not in great shape (for reasons he preferred not to enumerate); and there was demoralization among the faculty and student body. Under his leadership Brandeis’s image and reputation have risen in the world of academia; and equally important, he brought back many donors who had left in the ‘80s. Even in the recent economic downturn all pledges and commitments have been honored.

The recent economic crisis notwithstanding, the University is poised for greater achievements. The quality of students has improved, with the largest application pool ever this year. The infrastructure is slowly being modernized with many buildings which were originally meant to have only a limited lifespan being replaced. All this needs to be done to attract outstanding faculty and students. Brandeis now has the energy and élan to take it to even greater heights. “It has been a great ride for me,” he said, “I consider it the biggest learning experience

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of my life, the most interesting job I have ever done or will do.”

Reinharz foresees a trend toward non-traditional students—such as BOLLI—and the integration of technology into the teaching process in all aspects of the university curriculum. He envisions a “brick and click” combination whereby some students could spend two years on campus and two years learning on the Internet. This would further serve international students, the handicapped, and veterans, while also allowing students to build relationships with professors.

Many folks retire at age 66 but Reinharz has chosen to embark on a new venture as the president of a major foundation. He and his wife Shula will continue to live in the Boston area. Although he could not divulge it yet, the name of the foundation will be revealed by the time this article is published.

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**OPEN FORUM: NEW INITIATIVES**

*by Carol Fischman*

The Open Forum, held on Tuesday, March 23rd, showcased the productive work of BOLLI members serving on committees.

Robert Cohen, Chair of the BOLLI Council, provided updates on a wide range of the projects that BOLLI members have been busy working on during the year:

- the revised guidelines
- the technology taskforce
- the travel program
- dialogues with the Brandeis administration
- the first electronic election for Council seats.

Of particular note, the proposed guidelines amendments, which were described in detail in the April 2010 issue of the Banner, also contain amendments adding term limits for committee membership. Although the Council votes on the guidelines, BOLLI member comments will be solicited on any proposed substantive changes.

Robert also urged the membership to support the travel program put together by Renée Ross.

Lois Silver, Chair of the Gala Committee, enthusiastically urged everyone to come to the party to celebrate BOLLI’s 10th anniversary on Thursday May 13th at the Usdan Center. Dinner, wine, and entertainment—all for $35 per person!

The new Chair of the Endowment Fund, Howard Weintraub, gave a very personal talk about his experiences as a new member of BOLLI and the value of lifetime learning which inspired him to take on the challenge of raising $750,000 over the next several years to add to the BOLLI endowment. This would bring the endowment up to our goal of $2 million, thereby eliminating our annual deficit.

The breadth of interest on the part of the attendees, including members new to BOLLI, was evident to everyone in the room.

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The **BOLLI Banner** is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:

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Banner archive: [www.brandeis.edu/bolli/banner/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/bolli/banner/index.html)
A WALK IN THE PARK: ROSE KENNEDY GREENWAY

by Richard Glantz

The Greenway is no vast expanse like the Boston Common or Franklin Park. It is a narrow corridor squeezed between opposing lanes of traffic, a cousin to downtown Commonwealth Ave. The sounds are firetruck and ambulance sirens, not bird chirps. However, points of interest along its path make the Greenway well worth traversing. One can do it in twenty minutes; but stopping to explore the landmarks, plazas, and intersecting parks along the way could easily lengthen the time to an hour or more. The Greenway enhances the notion of Boston as a walkable city by directly connecting the North End with Chinatown.

To experience the Greenway in its one-mile entirety, begin at the Haymarket T station (Orange or Green lines). Take the exit to Sudbury St., walk straight to the intersection with Cross St.—don’t miss the magnificent Zakim Bridge on the left—and turn around to face the green park leading to the North End.

Soon, on the right is Haymarket itself, where there are fruits and vegetables for sale at bargain prices. Further along, on the left, is Columbus Park; and on the right, a carousel (June through October, $3).

From Long Wharf catch a water taxi to the airport or link up with the Harbor Walk [to be covered in a future issue of the Banner – ed.]. At Milk St. is the Aquarium on the left; and directly ahead, the Rings Fountain, a child’s delight of water fountains squirting from a flat paved surface that invites wading by the youngsters (in the summer). Don’t neglect to look back and up to see the landmark Custom House tower. Now look down and read the pavers in the Mothers’ Walk dedicated to loved ones. The path curves to the right, with the striking Federal Reserve ahead. At South Station bear right along Surface Rd. to reach Chinatown. Dim sum is served from 11 A.M., or walk back to the North End for Italian fare.
Friends Around the World
by Lyn Weiner

In 2004, the International Friends Program began with 44 Heller students from the Sustainable International Development Program (SID) and 35 BOLLI members. This program has become one of BOLLI’s most popular activities. In addition, the program continues to strengthen the bond between BOLLI and the university as a whole. Over the years, 399 Heller students have participated, enjoying friendship with BOLLI members and expanding their understanding of American culture.

The students are mature and independent, having left families (often spouses and children) in their commitment to make the world a better place. Heller School keeps them very busy. Their time available to the International Friends Program is limited more by their busy schedules than by ours.

Currently, there are 72 SID students from 36 countries, representing four continents:

- Afghanistan
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Burma
- Cambodia
- China
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- India
- Indonesia
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Libya
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Papua New Guinea
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Tibet
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe

Those of us who have a Friend have many tales to tell. Our relationships with the graduate students at the Heller School in the SID program have been astounding. The events we have shared have varied—Friends decide what they want to do. There are the phone calls requesting information; i.e., How long will the snow stay on the ground from a one inch storm or Where can I buy Chinese groceries? There are the trips to New England sites and the opportunity to share the fun of apple picking and the awe of a museum trip. And then there is the trip to Building #19 to help someone buy a first pair of boots. There is an opportunity for quiet friendship over a cup of coffee. There is a sharing of cultures at brunches in our homes, at Thanksgiving and at the monthly Cultural Nights that the students conduct. All this results in a mutual love and respect between people from opposite ends of the world. The experience defies description.

Open Wide and Say Ahhh
by Naomi Schmidt

The Internet is a fine resource for health and medical questions, but it is sometimes difficult to know which locations have the most trustworthy and up to date information. Here are some pointers to reputable and useful Web sites that you can turn to with confidence:

- health.nih.gov: National Institutes of Health, the nation’s medical research agency
- cdc.gov/travel: Centers for Disease Control web site with information on overseas travel
- mayoclinic.com: Mayo Clinic, easily searchable for symptoms and diseases
- americanheart.org: American Heart Association, understanding and managing your cardiovascular health
- heathub.org

Remember, however, that your physician, who knows your medical history and situation, is the best source of information in your particular case.
“If there’s one message that I’d like you to bring back,” says Roy Dawes, Director of Museum Operations of Brandeis’s Rose Art Museum, “it’s that the Museum is open to visitors and expects to stay open.” Dawes, promoted from Assistant Director to Director in the wake of Michael Rush’s departure last summer, is quick to dispel one of the two widely-held misperceptions about the Museum: that the Rose has either closed or is about to close its doors. “No, indeed,” he says. “I am committed to seeing the Museum remain open, and I believe the University is as well.” (The other misperception is that the suit initiated last year by members of the Board of Overseers to enjoin the closing of the Museum and the sale of its paintings has been resolved. Dawes is understandably reluctant to comment further on that subject.)

As for the future, Dawes notes that the Museum’s budget has increased in recognition of the need to increase staff. He plans to hire a Director of Education whose dual mandate will be to integrate the Museum into the academic life of the University and to further the outreach programs to the community outside the University. He is also looking for someone to fill the position of Registrar and Collections Manager, and notes with considerable satisfaction that his posting of these positions has attracted wide interest despite the controversy of the past year. Dawes attributes this response to the Museum’s reputation as possessing the finest collection of contemporary and modern art in New England. In the meantime, Dawes, himself a painter of note in the greater Boston area, has little time for anything but the pressing administrative work of the Museum. Fortunately, student volunteers have helped greatly to reduce the work load; and he expects to rely on occasional visiting curators until a full-time curator can be hired.

Dawes envisions a succession of large-scale exhibits once the current show is taken down. In this regard, he wants to use the two main floors of the Rose to display the Museum’s own collection, while the smaller Lee gallery would continue to display video art. He plans to use the vast spaces of the Foster wing to feature the works of important contemporary artists on loan from sources outside the Museum’s collection, and notes that the response to proposals for such loans has been encouraging.

For the foreseeable future, the Museum will remain open from Tuesday through Sunday between the hours of 12 and 5 P.M., free-of-charge to all comers. Student volunteers are also available to provide guided tours for groups of sufficient size. In short, the Museum has come a long way from the days when it displayed the sarcastic “ATM” sign posted by some unhappy students. Instead, as Dawes sees it, the future of the Rose is as bright as the colorful banner dominated by one of its enthusiastic vendors, proudly displaying the name for all to see: the Rose Art Museum.

Council Election

These members were elected:
Myrna Cohen
Bob Lebowitz
Mike Segal

May 1st Deadline!

10th Anniversary Gala Dinner
6 P.M., Thursday, May 13th
Get your form and check to the BOLLI office now
TEAM TEACHING

We beam with pride at the atmosphere of conviviality that infuses BOLLI, but the real test is how our members respond in times of stress.

Below are two brief articles which describe the class experience when a Study Group Leader becomes ill. Ken Rosenfield was a member of Ruth Jacobs’s class when she had to step aside, and Alorie Parkhill is the Chair of the Curriculum Committee who faced a dilemma when Marc Schwarz was hospitalized. Each class tackled the problem differently, depending on the requirements of the class and the expertise of the class members: in one class the SGL was replaced by a Brandeis graduate student and in the other class the SGL was replaced by rotating class members.

**RUTH JACOBS**
*by Ken Rosenfield*

When graduate student Kevin Donnelly was asked by BOLLI Director Sharon Sokoloff to take over the *Creative Writing* class, he hit a home run on the first pitch. Facing thirteen prolific memoir writers is not easy. However, the class liked him immediately as a temporary replacement for an ill, much-admired Ruth Jacobs.

Kevin, a graduate of the University of Missouri, is here at Brandeis completing his Ph.D. dissertation on the History of Intellectual Foundations of Science.

Kevin says he is enjoying the intimacy of the class, the discussions driven by the class members, and the writing quality of the members. In return, his critiques of writings have been very helpful.

We are pleased that Ruth’s hip is mending, and she has returned home from the rehabilitation center. We are looking forward to seeing her again at BOLLI in the fall.

**MARC SCHWARZ**
*by Alorie Parkhill*

Crises are a universal experience. We face them personally, organizationally, nationally. What truly warms the heart is when people step forward, willingly, to help problem-solve when we are taken by surprise.

Recently, a respected SGL, Marc Schwarz, was hospitalized with pneumonia. He had been teaching a Wednesday class, *More Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem*, involving famous crimes, presented through film, and the motives behind them. On the Tuesday before the class, a small group met to decide how to handle Marc’s likely absence for the semester. Class members quickly stepped forward to fill the breach. Mike Segal found a movie on Leopold and Loeb, and he facilitated discussion the next day. Peter Colarusso and Robert Cohen agreed to plan and lead future classes based on Marc’s syllabus. The cooperation of the class with this arrangement made for a relatively seamless transition.

Everyone involved deserves kudos for their quick response and willingness to find a felicitous solution to a difficult problem. We applaud this kind of BOLLI spirit and deeply appreciate the many helping hands in our program.

Our best wishes go out to Marc for a speedy recovery.

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**Carol Allman-Morton is Leaving**

Carol Allman-Morton is going to part-time status and will be leaving BOLLI. While Carol has been integral to BOLLI since 2001, and she’s built a majority of the basic infrastructure of our program, her full life is in Northampton and the Berkshires now—all except for BOLLI. She is ministering in Great Barrington’s UU Church and will be working at another job as well.

Sharon Sokoloff and Mary Ann Sliwa, with assistance from Brandeis HR and Michaele Whelan, are searching for a Program Coordinator. Joel Kamer, incoming Council Chair, will be meeting with candidates as part of the process. We anticipate that Carol will remain on board for a while in order to help facilitate the transition.
School’s Out, But BOLLI is Active All Summer

Theatre Group
The theatre group has arranged to see the musical Curtains on Sunday, August 15th at 2:00 P.M., performed in Wellesley at MassBay Community College by the Newton Country Players, followed by talk-back and dinner. Total cost will be known later.

New Yorker Fiction
The New Yorker Fiction discussion group meets Wednesdays June 2nd to August 11th at 10 A.M. in Heller 163 (no meeting 6/16); and from August 18th to mid-September elsewhere on campus. Park in Tower Lot, across from the Heller School.

Brandeis in the Berkshires
9th Annual Summer Lecture Series
Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, Massachusetts
Tickets: $16 (call box office: 413-637-3353)

Hear from world-class experts this summer on contemporary topics:

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<td>Jul. 11</td>
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<td>Bill Schneider ’66</td>
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<td>Jul. 18</td>
<td>Technology</td>
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<td>Aug. 1</td>
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<td>Health Care Reform</td>
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For all the details, go to: brandeis.edu/programs/berkshires/lectures.html

BOLLI members tell us these programs are winners—especially if you spend time in the Berkshires.

Yoga
Once again we are very fortunate to have Sandi Levy offering yoga classes to BOLLI members over the summer. Details will follow when place and time have been arranged.

Summer Rapaport Seminars
June 14th-18th

[Sharon to supply missing names]
SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER
(Brandeis Tickets: 781-736-3400)
Unless noted otherwise, events are free and open to the public

Sat., May 1 (8 P.M.)
The Irving Fine Society Ensemble
Nicholas Alexander Brown, director
Fine Fantasia for String Trio
Fine Serious Song: Lament for String Orchestra
Debussy Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
Copland Appalachian Spring

Sat., Jun. 5 (8 P.M.)
Lydian String Quartet Summer Festival
Dvořák Cypresses, set 1
Schumann Quartet in A Minor, Op. 41, No.1
Brahms Quartet in B-flat, Op. 67
$15 for BOLLI members with i.d. in advance;
$20 at the door

Sat., Jun. 12 (8 P.M.)
Lydian String Quartet Summer Festival
Dvořák Cypresses, set 2
Schumann Quartet in A Major, Op. 41, No.3
Brahms Quartet in C Minor, Op. 51, No. 1
$15 for BOLLI members with i.d. in advance;
$20 at the door

Sun., May 2 (4 P.M.)
Sol y Canto
The heart and soul of Sol y Canto lie in its rich vocal harmonies, sumptuous Spanish guitar, and irresistible ballads and Latin rhythms.

CAMPUS-WIDE

Sun., May 2 (1 to 5 P.M.)
Throughout the afternoon, more than 200 actors, singers, dancers, and musicians perform across the Brandeis campus, with art-making activities for the whole family. Last year’s event drew an estimated 3,000 people. Experience the power of art as transformation at this great Brandeis tradition. Free and open to the public.

Brandeis is invaded by creatures from Big Nazo, the international group of visual artists and puppet performers. Their hilarious larger-than-life characters include renegade circus family contortionists, a giant three-eyed robot percussionist, break-dancing police officers, blob-like go-go dancers and a charismatic lab rat and his giant man-eating chia pet. Free and open to the public.

SHAPIRO CAMPUS CENTER THEATER

Sun., May 2 (1 P.M.)
Master puppeteers, the Tanglewood Marionettes, have enchanted audiences throughout New England with their international folk tales. This afternoon's performance of "The Dragon King" includes a behind-the-scenes demonstration of how the marionettes are made and operated. 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 Campus 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

The King of Navarre and his three feckless lords swear an oath to scholarship and no contact with women for three years. When the Princess of France arrives with her female entourage, their vows are challenged, igniting one of Shakespeare's most flamboyantly intellectual comedies.