THE 0 IN OUR NAME IS FOR Osher

by Joan Kleinman

Bernard Osher is passionate about education.

“My four siblings and I had the benefit of a college education—an opportunity unavailable to our parents who emigrated from Russia and Lithuania to America,” he explains. “I decided early on to support scholarships for people who desired education but had severely limited financial resources. I know what a big difference higher education makes in a person’s life—enhancing career choices, earning power, and self-esteem—and I would like to help as many people as possible to have that chance.”

Founded in 1977, the Bernard Osher Foundation facilitates this goal through gifts to colleges and universities with a special emphasis on re-entering students. Since 2000, the Foundation’s assistance to programs for mature students has sustained 119 lifelong learning programs and a National Resource Center. BOLLI received three $100,000 grants between 2004 and 2006 and, in 2007, a $1 million endowment gift with a $50,000 bridge grant. The Foundation also supports three programs in integrative medicine and benefits many cultural institutions.

Osher attributes his success in business to his parents’ example of hard work and commercial acumen. His father, Samuel, inspired his ongoing philanthropy. “His warm manner put people at ease, and he always assisted those in need. I like to think that I am continuing a family tradition that he set in motion many years ago.”

Osher says, “It is not my manner to press others into giving to charitable causes, but I do hope that my philanthropic activity has a multiplier effect. All of us learn by example. When we see someone doing something constructive, we often think, ‘I should be doing this myself.’”

Osher has four siblings but no heirs. By design, his Foundation will spend down its resources rather than exist in perpetuity. Osher serves as the Foundation’s treasurer and is fully involved in its grant-making decisions. In 2007, Business Week cited Osher for lifetime giving of over $800 million.

Born in 1927 in Biddeford, Maine, Osher graduated from Bowdoin College and ran his family’s hardware and plumbing supply store. He began his career in banking and investing at Oppenheimer and then became a founding director of World Savings, the second-largest savings institution in the U.S. after it merged with Wachovia. Osher purchased the auction house, Butterfield & Butterfield, managed its growth to the fourth

[continued on page 2]
BERNARD Osher [continued from page 1]
largest in the world, and sold it to eBay in 1999.

Osher is a collector of mid-19th to mid-20th centu-
ry American paintings, a serious student of opera,
and an ardent fly fisherman. He hikes and skis,
surfs when in Hawaii, and started piano lessons at
the age of 80.

Judaism is important in Osher’s life; particularly,
he is guided by the ideals of tzedakah (charity) and
Tikkun Olam (repair of the world). In San Francisco,
where he lives, he belongs to a conservative temple
and is active in the Jewish Community Federation.

The Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Founda-
tion contributes to Jewish programs in the San
Francisco Bay area and in Maine, and it funds sig-
ificant scholarships at most of the universities in
Israel.

Osher is married to Barbro Osher, Consul General
for Sweden in California and Chair of the Bernard
Osher Foundation’s board of directors.

For more information, including a list of Osher
Lifelong Learning Institutes, visit
www.ohrerfoundation.org/index.php?index

Don’t Leave Home Without It

Are all your BOLLI colleagues using these
— but not you?
These custom bookbags are still available
Only $12 each
Check with Phyllis Cohen at safft@comcast.net

Reconstructing Turner St.

“Two goes somewhere in the a/c”

cartoon by Bob Russo

The BOLLI Banner is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:

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Carole Grossman, Co-Editor

Phil Radoff, staff writer
Naomi Schmidt, Archivist
Andy Thurnauer, Secretary

Len Heier, photographer
Phyllis Pressman Cohen and Joan Kleinman, contributing writers

Banner archive: www.brandeis.edu/bolli/banner/index.html

Vol 11 Number 2 - 2 - October 2010
**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE**

*by Naomi Schmidt*

We all know that the institution of marriage has changed dramatically since the mid-nineteenth century, but few of us have ever studied its history in detail. Eleanor Jaffe and Marjorie Roemer are this semester offering a course titled *Women’s Fate: The Cinderella Story Meets the Sexual Revolution*; and those of us in the class will never look at marriage in the same way again, whether the institution itself or our own relationships.

Who doesn’t know the Cinderella story, whether from the Brothers Grimm or the Disney version, with the ending having the beautiful young woman marrying Prince Charming and living happily ever after? This fairy tale, which suggests that these two lived a life with no ensuing tensions or complications, provided the jumping off point of our first class discussion. Subsequent classes have treated examples of real life marriages (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dickens) and fictional ones (Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* and others), as well as essays by various writers who have explored the shifts and changes that have occurred in the relationships between men and women since Victorian times.

Eleanor’s working life included teaching English at the high school level—being a school guidance counselor—and working as a psychotherapist and social worker. Marjorie has had a varied career teaching at both the high school and university level, and earned a doctorate in English and American Literature from Brandeis.

The two SGLs first met during Marjorie’s first semester at BOLLI, when she enrolled in Eleanor’s course on the immigration experience. When they decided to plan a course to be taught together, they looked for a subject that might combine their two backgrounds to good advantage. The topic that they arrived at combines Marjorie’s study of literature and Eleanor’s work in counseling and therapy.

Marjorie speaks about the power of co-facilitating. “It seems to me that having two people lead has many advantages. For the leaders there is a real opportunity to share, to work closely with someone else, to have your own ideas tested, extended, interrogated, and enriched. For the group, I should think there is an advantage in having two voices instead of one in that facilitating role. It models collaboration and, I hope, opens the door to even more collaboration on the part of the group.”

Eleanor agrees that two heads are better than one. She says, “It is a pleasure intellectually to share ideas and watch them grow and develop in ways I might not have anticipated, but it is also incredibly less onerous to share responsibility with the right person.” This team-teaching model has been successful in other courses as well, and it is one that other potential SGLs might consider adopting.

Class discussion continues to be lively and illuminating; and as we all introduced ourselves to each other at our first class, we were astonished to find that we had close to 1,000 years of marital histories among us, providing a rich source of experience with which to compare our fascinating reading material.
DEAR BOLLI, ...

Former Member and Popular SGL

I'm glad to hear that everything is going well at BOLLI. Please say hello to all my friends there. I miss them and BOLLI. I am involved with the Lifelong Learning Program at Arizona State University here, but it is not as well-developed and run as the program there.

It's not clear that anyone ever gets used to the heat here. My adjustment is to drink my wine a little colder. I'll drink a glass to you all tonight.

Best,

-- Ed Caldwell
[via Charles Raskin]

Need Help Hearing in the Gathering Place?

We have eight personal "Assisted Listening Devices," which amplify the sound produced at the podium in the Gathering Place. We will make a brief announcement, prior to the Lunch and Learn speaker, asking you to raise your hand should you want one. We had great success with them in the film course on Thursdays with the sound from both the SGL's microphone and the DVD player.

See Mary Ann or Ilana for more information.

The BOLLI "Scene-iors" are Back Again for Their Second Season!

WHAT ----- Dramatic reading of Agatha Christie's The Patient
WHEN ----- 3:30 P.M., Thursday, December 2nd (last day of BOLLI semester)
WHERE ----- Geller Room, Hassenfeld Building
WHO ----- Ensemble of 9 BOLLI members, some newcomers and some veterans!
WHY ------ If you need a reason or want more info see Eileen Mitchell or Becky Meyers
Looking for the blue sign

The Gathering Place empties and fills throughout the day

491 coat hooks for winter?

Staff squeezed in

Video feed into satellite room
REQUEST FROM THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
by Alorie Parkhill

Classes, Classes, Classes! They fill up our lives and minds, and we are extremely grateful to receive proposals for all kinds of ideas.

The Curriculum Committee's biggest task is to seek out offerings for BOLLI, for both 5-week and 10-week classes. You might want to consider teaming up with a partner to co-lead a course. We relish receiving your proposals and spending time considering them. We are also available to help you with workshops and mentoring.

However, we do need to know how many proposals we will be receiving, soon enough to review them judiciously. It can be quite a shock to receive new proposals on the deadline day.

Therefore, we are asking anyone who intends to submit a proposal to let us know that intent by November 5. Nothing needs to be fleshed out. Just email the Chair, Alorie Parkhill, at aloriebp@verizon.net, of your plan to submit; we will assign a CC liaison to help you with the process. Actual proposals are due on November 29, and the new form is on the BOLLI web site.

Many thanks for helping us out.

SGL ORIENTATION
by Peter Schmidt

The SGL Orientation on September 14, one week before classes, was hosted by the Resource Committee (RC) and attended by almost forty SGLs, RC members, and staff. Opening welcomes acknowledged the dedicated work of all the SGLs, especially the six new ones, and the great variety of courses in this, our twenty-first semester. They also alluded to the excitement of giving the first courses in our new home as well as being prepared for unanticipated startup glitches.

The highlight of the Orientation was the second Bill Rachlin Memorial Presentation by Lois Ziegelman, a teaching stalwart at BOLLI since 2003. Besides fond reminiscences of Bill and her own BOLLI experience, she presented aspects of her teaching philosophy and style, much of which engaged the assembled group afterward in substantive discussion of the use of syllabi and discussion questions as they apply to the variety of course types and teaching approaches at BOLLI. Clearly, one size does not fit all.

Besides the Orientation, a significant part of Resource Committee’s work is to match the courses with classroom assistants and with RC liaisons. The latter stand ready to assist the SGLs with any classroom concerns through contact with them, and with a classroom visit early in the semester, all in the interest of enhancing the classroom experience for both SGLs and class members. In this way the RC complements the Curriculum Committee (CC): the CC works with the SGLs through course proposal and acceptance, and the RC works with the SGLs during the delivery of the course.

Mark your 2011 calendar

These dates are not firm, just tentative. But they are worth placing in your calendar in pencil:

Winter Rapaporte Seminars: second week in January
Spring Semester: February 22nd to May 5th
(no classes 4/19-21)
BOLLI OFFERS MORE THAN CLASSES
by Andy Thurnauer

Most of us joined BOLLI for its fascinating course offerings and Lunch-and-Learn lecture series. How wonderful to learn that BOLLI offers so much more:

- Affinity Groups
  - Adventurers (field trips)
  - New Yorker (discussion of short fiction)
  - Scene-iors (play-reading)
  - Theater/Dinner trips
  - Yoga classes
- Mentor Program: members provide undergraduates with career guidance
- The Journal: juried collection of members’ creative writings and photographs
- International Friends Program: match-ups with foreign graduate students at the Heller School

Furthermore, because BOLLI members are part of the Brandeis community, we have access to:
- University libraries
- lecture series (Meet the Author, Global Affairs, etc.)
- movie screenings
- more than 300 arts events each year
(For Brandeis arts event listings, go to www.brandeis.edu/arts/index.html)

An additional benefit is the many discounts offered to members. On-campus discounts include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brandeis Event</th>
<th>General Price</th>
<th>BOLLI Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concert Series: single ticket</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>season pass (package of 6)</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Series: single ticket</td>
<td>$18-20</td>
<td>$5 discount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>season pass (package of 4)</td>
<td>$55-65</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Film Festival</td>
<td>varies</td>
<td>discounted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosman Gym (includes locker &amp; parking)</td>
<td>not offered</td>
<td>$100/year*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(* valid for BOLLI members 65 and over)

When buying tickets for cultural events off-campus, check if a student discount is offered. If it is, present your BOLLI student ID. Some box offices will accept the ID, e.g., the Gardner Museum; some will not, e.g., the MFA. Here is a sampling of institutions that recognize BOLLI members as students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Off-campus Institution</th>
<th>General Price</th>
<th>BOLLI Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gardner Museum</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Contemporary Art</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Lyric Opera</td>
<td>varies</td>
<td>50% discount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Modern Orchestra (A-level seat)*</td>
<td>$52</td>
<td>$26</td>
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</table>

(* contact Margaret Lias at milas@bloom.org in advance of the concert for special price)

Retail outlets sometimes offer student discounts as well. Significant savings can be made by taking the 10% student discount that Apple offers to BOLLI students. Student discounts may also be available for newspaper subscriptions and other “educational” and “cultural” products. Don’t be too shy to ask. You too can benefit from the discounts that accompany membership in BOLLI.
## SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

(For individual prices and tickets, call Brandeis Tickets: 781-736-3400)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Oct. 29</td>
<td>3 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>DeisKeit Klezmer Ensemble</strong></td>
<td>Brandeis music students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Nov. 13</td>
<td>8 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Fretwork: Birds on Fire</strong></td>
<td>Music for viol, from the first printed music in Venice in 1501 to music composed for them today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Nov. 14</td>
<td>4 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Brandeis University Chamber Choir</strong></td>
<td>James Olesen, director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Music of English Renaissance composer William</td>
<td>Byrd, including <em>The Mass for Four Voices</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Nov. 14</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Brandeis University Wind Ensemble</strong></td>
<td>Thomas Souza, director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><em>Out of this World</em>—music from outer space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Nov. 21</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra</strong></td>
<td>Neil Hampton, conductor</td>
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<td>Featuring winners of the 2010 Concerto Competition</td>
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<td><em>Hindemith Der Schwandroher</em></td>
<td>Hannah Saltman, piano</td>
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<td><em>Liszt Hungarian Fantasy</em></td>
<td>Sang-Hee Min, piano</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Sibelius Symphony No. 1</em></td>
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## SPINGOLD THEATER

For tickets, click on 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

**Nov. 18–21**

**Sunday in the Park with George**

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by James Lapine

Directed by Scott Edmiston  
Musical direction by Todd Gordon

## WOMEN’S STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20–Dec. 16</td>
<td>9 A.M.–5 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>No Man’s Land: The Women of Mexico</strong></td>
<td>An exhibit of photography by Dana Romanoff</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>The series of photos explores the changing role of women left behind in rural towns of Oaxaca, Mexico, after their husbands and sons travel to the U. S. in search of work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., Oct. 26</td>
<td>12:30–2 P.M.</td>
<td><strong>Observing the Observer:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Understanding Ourselves in Field Research</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Book signing and talk by Shulamit Reinharz in the Goldfarb Rapaporte Treasure Hall</td>
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## ROSE ART MUSEUM

Tuesdays through Sundays 12–5 P.M.

**WaterWays**

An exhibit exploring art that utilizes water as subject, metaphor, and muse. William Kentridge’s video *Tide Table* will be a centerpiece.

**Regarding Painting**

An exhibit emphasizing paint as an act and an object. Shown in the Foster wing