BRANDEIS GRADUATE STUDENTS HELP BOLLI PROGRAM

AMERICAN POETS OF THE 20TH CENTURY
by Ed Selig

In Ruth Baden’s absence for surgery, Mike Murray, a graduate student at Brandeis in the field of literature, agreed on short notice to step in and conduct the class she had prepared to present at BOLLI. The syllabus for Enjoying Four Great Poets was hers but Mike readily adopted it as if it were his own and presented it to the class with infectious enthusiasm and total engagement.

From selections of poems that we read aloud, we encountered and tasted the boundless optimism of Walt Whitman, the brooding, witty mind of Emily Dickinson, the light yet steely touch of Elizabeth Bishop, and the astonishing variety of Robert Lowell’s work. Mike elicited participation from everyone and expressed genuine interest in all our points of view. We recalled having read some poems by those authors for the first and only time during our undergraduate days. What a difference our lifetimes of experience have made in how we perceive and understand those poems today! Certainly, the avid group participation enriched Mike’s engaging and thoughtful presentation.

When Mike told us that he aspired to become a high school English teacher, we gave him some leads to pursue. He has all that it takes to turn on teenagers to the joys and insights of literature. Would that all our high schools were staffed by teachers of such quality and dedication as Mike embodies.

THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF W. A. MOZART
by Bob Lebowitz

Gil Harel, a fourth-year doctoral candidate in Musicology at Brandeis and a gifted teacher, led this superb seminar. Readings were from Robert Spaethling’s book, Mozart’s Letters, Mozart’s Life. Gil sent us our YouTube listening assignments via email, along with a listening guide he had prepared. In class we listened to the selections as he helped us follow the projected score. We also watched portions of the movie Amadeus, and we discussed what was fact and what was fiction. After several classes, Gil sat down at the piano and played a Mozart sonata as we left the room.

From the reading and discussions in class we learned, among many other things, that Mozart was an amazing musical prodigy, composing by age six and already playing difficult keyboard pieces. His father, Leopold, quickly recognized his son’s prodigious talent and both encouraged and exploited his son’s monumental gift. Mozart had perfect auditory recall: he could hear a piece of music once, and then transcribe or play it perfectly. He seemed to write music effortlessly, composing it in his head, and then writing it down without changes. Tragically, Mozart died at age 35. He was buried in an unmarked communal grave and no mourners were present at the graveside.

Gil Harel’s Mozart seminar marks an auspicious beginning for BOLLI’S new “Enhancement” program.
**Building Bridges, Creating Memories**

*by Sandy Traiger*

Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Ghana, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan—just some of the countries that our SID students at the Heller School hail from. Studying here in a two-year grueling Masters Program, they come with high hopes, very little knowledge of the U.S. (except from the movies), and a great deal of culture shock from the moment they arrive.

Imagine being away from friends, family, and familiar surroundings, having to adjust to a new language, new customs, new habits, harsh weather, and a highly demanding study program—all at once. That’s where we BOLLI members enter. We have become their “international friends.”

Last year we celebrated two holidays within a month’s time: Thanksgiving and Chanukah—holidays which are often unknown to our students. In the photo, Enka from Mongolia is lighting the Chanukah candles at our family celebration. She knew nothing of Jews or Jewish holidays; but she joined right in, even participating in the Chanukah swap.

Traditions, food, and welcoming families have brought us together in ways we never expected. BOLLI host families offer comfort, friendship, and encouragement to our SID students.

Ruth Housman’s student Gertrude, from Ghana, attended two Thanksgiving dinners and hugged everyone in sight. Phyllis Cohen hosted Abubakar from Nigeria, who described his country, his life, and his hopes for the future. Phyllis’s two teen grandsons hung on his every word. A young Chinese woman, Grace, told us of her conversation with her mother. “I told her I meet a lot of Jewish people. They are so nice to me. And they eat a lot of Chinese food.”

At Judy Cohen's post-Thanksgiving dinner for students and host families, a new iPad had us all mesmerized as we traversed the globe, actually viewing our students' homes in Mongolia, Ghana, Belarus, India, and Argentina. We shared a very special excitement and spirit. As Judy has said several times, “They are my children; I love them. We are friends and we trust one another.”

All our holidays have become very special as we celebrate them together. My conclusion is that we, the host families, benefit most of all.

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

- Tamara Chernow, Co-Editor
- Richard Glantz, Publisher
- Carole Grossman, Co-Editor
- Phil Radoff, Staff Writer
- Naomi Schmidt, Archivist
- Andy Thurnauer, Secretary
- Len Heier, photographer
- Bob Pill, Council liaison

Phyllis Pressman Cohen and Joan Kleinman, contributing writers

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Who Are Our New Members?

We included the list of towns where people are from to help old friends find each other. (Members who are officially “new” but who had been members in the recent past are not shown.)

Belmont: Judy Cotton
Framingham: Wendy Seadia, Judith Spivak
Newton: Janet Brandwein, Carolyn Chernoff
Waltham: Lora Brody

Chestnut Hill: Joan Gordon, Barbara Spark, Kosta Tsipis
Lexington: Jane Eckert
Sudbury: Alexis Magid, Mary Mansfield
Weston: Elaine Finestone, Annette Somers

Lincoln: David Clapp, Pearl Rinkoff
Westwood: Jerel Cathey

CAST OF “THE FULL MONTY” BARES ALL FOR THE THEATER/DINNER GROUP

by Bob Pill

Forty-seven enthusiastic BOLLI members and partners enjoyed a good-natured spoof on the male psyche at the Sunday, March 6th performance of The Full Monty at the Turtle Lane Playhouse in Newton. The well-executed singing, dancing, and story made for a delightful and fun event on a warm winter afternoon. Lots and lots of laughs.

After the performance the full cast of over 20 members sat on the stage and engaged in a Q&A session with the BOLLI group for about half an hour. Each member of the cast was wholeheartedly into answering our questions and telling us about him or herself. Their passion and love of acting was clearly apparent.

After the show we reconvened at Bertucci’s Italian Restaurant in Newton Corner, where we enjoyed a sumptuous family-style four-course meal with an offering of four entrees along with camaraderie and pleasant conversation.

The next event will take place on Sunday, April 3rd, with the Boston Conservatory performance of The Mikado, followed by dinner at Legal Seafoods in the Prudential Center.
Welcome back to familiar faces, and a warm hello to those just joining us:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring '08</th>
<th>Fall '08</th>
<th>Spring '09</th>
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<td>485</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>17</td>
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</tbody>
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**BOLLI Adventurers Spring Trips**

**Tower Hill Botanical Garden**
- Lecture and slide show of well-known European gardens that inspired Tower Hill
- Tour of the gardens, with explanation of their design and the European influence
  - coordinated by Suzanne Art

**Lowell Mills Historic National Park**
- Trolley and walking tour, Boott Cotton Mill, and the Mill Girls’ Boarding House
- Historic river, canal, and locks
- Intriguing life stories
  - coordinated by Eileen Mitchell

**BOLLI Photographers Mount Campaign**

In an attempt to beautify our new quarters, one Monday morning when there were no classes, three BOLLI members hung their works. (Tricky with concrete walls.)

Arthur Sharenow’s digital photos in the Blue Room

Richard Glantz’s prints from film in the Gold Room

Joel Freedman’s digital prints in the Orange Room
**The Making of a Curriculum**

*by Alorie Parkhill and Naomi Schmidt*

Have you ever wondered about the process by which the intriguing and wide-ranging set of courses in the BOLLI course catalog comes into existence?

Your Curriculum Committee (CC) makes it happen. We start to work creating a roster of study groups for the next semester, even before the current term has had its first week of classes. Working from a long list of past, current, and potential future SGLs, CC members contact individuals who might be interested in offering a course.

We also look toward bringing in people who are not yet BOLLI members but who have a passion in a particular subject area and an interest in teaching a group of adult learners. We work with those individuals who respond positively to help them refine a topic, a syllabus, and a course description. The final decision is made after the last week of the semester.

The CC strives to achieve a balance among subject areas, but we find that we are often heavy in some areas and weak in others. For example, we realize that our membership would like to see more courses in the Visual Arts and we are constantly on the lookout for potential SGLs in that area. Expanding our options in Science is another of our goals. Although some subject areas such as Literature are more represented than are others, perhaps that is not a negative, as such courses tend to appeal to our constituency.

The distribution by subject of the courses that are being led this semester looks as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current events</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Govt.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(29 ten-week and 11 five-week courses)

Many of our SGLs are individuals who teach semester after semester. However, without continually adding to the roster of people who are willing to lead a course or facilitate a group, our curriculum will become less vibrant and exciting.

We are always looking to add SGLs from outside of BOLLI and also from within our community. The Learn and Lead class can help someone with potential interest in teaching to transform a particular passion into a 10-week or 5-week syllabus. Co-teaching a course with a friend is a stress-free and enjoyable way to get one’s feet wet, and there have been a number of successful instances of collaboration.

Among the benefits of being an SGL is a reduction in tuition as well as the ability to choose whatever courses one wants in the current semester, without going through the lottery. But the biggest perk of all is the sheer joy of the experience!

Please contact Alorie Parkhill, Chair of the CC, at aloriebp@verizon.net if you are interested in discussing becoming an SGL.

From infancy to toddlerhood—

The BOLLI "Scene-iors" will take another new step this spring!

We will do our dramatic reading for you at Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, May 3
**MEMBERS OPEN FORUM**

*by Naomi Schmidt*

A small but interested audience attended this semester’s Open Forum on March 9. After introducing the Council members and explaining the new election procedure, Joel Kamer, Council Chair, announced that Mary Ann Sliwa and Ron Levy are the two building co-captains for emergency evacuation of the building. They will attend a formal training program given by the University and will be aided by classroom assistants who will help out in an emergency.

Jane Kamer, Chair of the Membership Committee, encouraged people to bring guests to classes and to Lunch and Learn, as a way of recruiting new members. There is a limit of two guests per class session, and advance permission of the SGL should be obtained.

Mike Segal, Financial Liaison, presented the budget for FY2011. The projected budget through June 30, the end of the fiscal year, is $343,515. Our major expenses are salaries and benefits as well as operating expenses, of which the shuttle van is the most costly. Our contribution to the University is budgeted to be $11,030, which is 3.2% of revenue. This year our expenses will be covered by tuition and fees and almost all of the remaining money from the Osher and Werner Dannhauser grants. Contributions to the Gift funds will be needed to balance next year’s budget. Our goal is to reach an endowment fund balance of $2 million, which can generate an income of up to 5% annually.

Most of the questions from the members concerned the course selection process and the software program that is used to run the lottery and assign classes. The main concern was that if you get your second or third choice for Course #1 because of the lottery, this might change your preference for Course #2. It was recognized by both staff and Council members that the registration form and the computer program that does course assignment need improvement. Although it would be expensive to implement an entirely new system, perhaps that would be more cost-effective in the long run than just patching the current system. Joel suggested that a small group meet to formulate a procedure that would ideally meet our needs. Jeff Becker and Elaine Dratch will put together a group to look into this.

Finally, it was requested that members receive their course assignments earlier so that they can better plan the rest of their activities. In fact, this is expected to happen for next semester, with notification of fall course assignments going out in July.

**CRAFTING A CONVINCING PITCH FOR A TWO-MINUTE ELEVATOR RIDE**

*by Judy Cohen*

In January, students at the International Business School (IBS) at Brandeis met with members of the BOLLI community at a Social Networking Reception. Many of the graduate students at IBS come from foreign countries. The purpose of the reception was for the students to meet and introduce themselves to the BOLLI members as if they were networking for a position.

The Mentoring Committee, in collaboration with IBS staff, presents two such receptions during the academic year. These get-togethers are scheduled just before the students are to attend a job fair. The plan is to give the students practice in developing their “elevator speeches.”

BOLLI members who have had careers in interviewing and hiring staff have the experience that can add a practicum to the students’ class work. Dean Magid and the professors at IBS are grateful to the BOLLI participants. In turn, it is satisfying to know our experience and expertise are valued by IBS at Brandeis.
COUNCIL NEWS  
by Andrew Thurnauer

The BOLLI Council convened on Valentine’s Day for its February meeting. Bob Pill, Council liaison to the Banner, sat down with us recently to fill us in on the meeting’s decisions.

**Donations to the Bernie Reisman Fund**  
Gifts to the Reisman Fund, named in honor of BOLLI’s founder, support our operational expenses. Council decided that when members are given the opportunity to take a third course, they will be asked to consider making a donation to the fund. The donations are purely voluntary and no recommended amount is specified.

**Status of the BOLLI Endowment Fund**  
As a result of the general decline in the stock market, the BOLLI Endowment Fund had gone “under water.” That is, its total value had fallen below the sum total of donations received. As a consequence, BOLLI was legally constrained from accessing the Fund. Fortunately the Fund is once again “above water”, and we can resume withdrawing funds as needed.

**Council Chair Term Limits**  
Council members are normally limited to serving a maximum of three consecutive years (Guideline 4.3). In the past, an exception to this rule was made, allowing the Council Chair to serve during a fourth year (Guideline 5.2). At the February meeting this rule was amended to allow a member of Council to serve for a fifth year in order to permit the member to be Council Chair for a total of two years.

**Establishment of the BOLLI Enhancement Committee**  
With the relocation of BOLLI to Turner St., an informal task force headed by Lois Silver was formed to suggest ways to utilize our new time and space. Activities recommended by her task force include films, speakers, “how-to’s,” workshops, and special events, with per-session fees ranging from $10 to $20.

Adopting the task force’s recommendation, Council established a new BOLLI Enhancement Committee to develop and oversee BOLLI activities during non-class days. [At press time, the Council Chair had not yet appointed the Chair of this committee – Ed.]

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**Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 11, 10 A.M. - noon**

**Sherman Hall in the Hassenfeld Conference Center**

A final get-together before summer

Come join your friends for coffee & goodies

• Reports of the year’s achievements
• Thanks to our SGLs
• Introductions of new Council members
• A bit of music

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**Extras on April 8th**

**Award-winning Documentary**

**Pressure Cooker**

presented by filmmaker Mark Becker

(Jeff Becker’s son)

1 P.M., $10

**Jewelry-making Workshop**

led by Norma Radoff

(Phil Radoff’s wife)

10 A.M. - noon, $8, including all materials

This workshop will repeat on April 29

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April 2011
SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

Sat., Apr. 2 (7 P.M.)

**Brandeis Wind Ensemble**

Program of emotional contrasts: despair and hope, fear and joy, ecstasy and agony, surprise and anticipation:

*The Divine Comedy* by Robert W. Smith

*Symphony No. 1* by Daniel Bukvich

*Nimrod* by Edward Elgar

*Officer Krupke* by Leonard Bernstein

Thur., Apr. 14 (8 P.M.)

**Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra**

Neil Hampton, director

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Maj., Lois Shapiro, piano

Mahler Symphony No. 1 in D Maj. (Titan)

Sun., Apr. 10 (12–9 P.M.)

**Music Ensemble Festival**

• *Brandeis Early Music Ensemble* (12 P.M.)

Music for birthdays, anniversaries, & splendid occasions

• *Brandeis University Chorus and Chamber Choir* (2 P.M.)

• *Brandeis University Jazz Ensemble* (4 P.M.)

Music of Gil Evans from the Claude Thornhill band.

—Dinner break—

• *Improv Collective* (7 P.M.)

Sat., Apr. 30 (noon-midnight)

**BEAMS Electronic Music Marathon**

Works by Luigi Nono, Mario Davidovsky, Steve Reich, Jonathan Harvey, Tristan Murail, Philippe Manoury, Kaija Saariaho, Michele Van der Aa, Joshua Fineberg, Eric Chasalow, Hans Tutschku, Thomas Kessler, James Dashow, Jacob Ter Veldhuis, John Mallia, Butch Rovan, Dennis Miller, and others.


Tickets may be purchased by telephone at 781-736-3400 ($2 handling fee) or at the Shapiro Campus Center box office, which opens at noon, Mon.–Sat.

**Laurie Theater**

Apr. 7–10

Brandeis Hillel Theater Group

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

**Spingold Theater**

Apr. 28–May 1

Brandeis Theater Company

*Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*

By Bert V. Royal

Directed by Summer L. Williams

Apr. 28-May 1

**BERNSTEIN FESTIVAL OF THE CREATIVE ARTS**

Festival guidebooks for this annual multi-media series of events will be available April 15 at the Rose Art Museum, Shapiro Campus Center, Slosberg Music Center, and Spingold Theater Center