LIFELONG LEARNING WEEK PROCLAIMED IN MASSACHUSETTS

by the Marketing Task Force

With more than 1,270,000 people over age 60 living in the Commonwealth, and estimates that these numbers will more than double between now and 2050, the need for Lifelong Learning programs is evident. Since BOLLI is one of the leading such centers in the state it seemed fitting that we should lead the movement to devote a week to celebrate our program. So we set out to request the governor to designate a Lifelong Learning Week. Myra Snyder volunteered to ask her friend State Senator Cynthia Stone Creem to sponsor our petition.

Senator Creem submitted our petition to the right people in Governor Patrick’s office. The Proclamation designated March 4 –10, which happens to be our first week of classes this year, as Lifelong Learning Week. Senator Creem took the further step of having the Senate issue a congratulatory Citation to BOLLI for advocating for lifelong education and for an annual week dedicated to it. Both documents—now framed—will hang on a wall in Turner St.

On March 1, 120 people came together to celebrate BOLLI’s role in this Proclamation. A delightful brunch of bagels, fruit salad, pastries, muffins, tea, and coffee was provided. The crowd was welcomed by Phyllis Pressman Cohen, who described the many elements that it took to make a program like BOLLI run smoothly. The recognition that we are an essential part of the Brandeis community and have our own dedicated space has enabled us to schedule events beyond our regular classes. Phyllis thanked the committees, the staff, the devoted study group leaders, and volunteers of all kinds who ensure a rewarding experience.

Senator Creem spoke about the value of lifelong learning to the community and presented the two state documents to Council president Joel Kamer. Joel added his welcome to the group and introduced vice-provost Michael Whelan, whose remarks emphasized the importance of BOLLI members as mentors to many of the undergraduate students. Marketing task force member Bonnie Alpert read congratulatory remarks sent by Kali Lightfoot, executive director of the Osher Lifelong Institutes National Resource Center, who was unable to attend because of the blizzard in Maine.

Our final speaker was Richard Freeland, Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education, who spoke about the decrease in state financing for public higher education and its deleterious effect on the future work force.

We hope the Proclamation and the event will raise awareness of BOLLI’s amazing program and the wonderful opportunities it offers to seniors for enjoyment and enrichment of their lives.
ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

by the Marketing Task Force

As part of BOLLI’s gala to celebrate Gov. Patrick’s Proclamation of Lifelong Learning Week, we held a “visioning” exercise to discover ways in which we can strengthen our program’s ties to both Brandeis and the wider community as well as further enrich our already stellar offerings of courses, lunch and learn programs, and other activities.

The themes that emerged emphasized becoming active: collaborating in learning and doing with students and others, staying atop the issues of the day, working to improve our world, and maximizing opportunities to exercise our bodies and minds.

Here is a brief synopsis of members’ visioning contributions. What activities would interest you? Which do you think would add further value to the BOLLI program? Please send your feedback to Carol Fischman at mrmrsfish@verizon.net.

Speakers / Forums / Study Groups
• For BOLLI members (and Brandeis students?)
• Political forums, debates on key election issues
• Social justice seminars on the issues in public discussion
• Forums exploring what society values and what government should fund
• Studying banking and finance, and technology’s role in our economy
• “Stock pickers” club
• More courses on the arts

Activism
• Involvement in social justice projects (with Brandeis students?)
• Connecting with senior lobbying groups
• Establishing a “volunteer opportunities” information service
• Contributions to charities from our purchases at local merchants, Amazon

Intergenerational Activities with Students and Others
• Becoming patrons of student art
• Playing music together
• Presentations by international students about their countries
• Activities with children and grandchildren

Connecting with Brandeis Departments
• Increased involvement in arts programs, Rose Art Museum

Physical Fitness
• Increasing awareness and greater utilization of Brandeis gym and exercise facilities
• Physical fitness programs specifically for BOLLI members

BOLLI Journal Arriving Next Month
A selected compendium of prose, poetry, and photography by BOLLI members

The sixth edition of the BOLLI Journal will be arriving in early May. Some extra copies will be available for purchase for those who did not reserve one on the Spring registration form.

The BOLLI Banner is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:
Richard Glantz, Publisher
Carole Grossman, Co-Editor
Susan Posner, Archivist
Len Heier, photographer

Phil Radoff, Staff Writer
Naomi Schmidt, Co-Editor
Andy Thurnauer, Secretary
Phyllis Pressman Cohen and Joan Kleinman, contributing writers

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

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A CELEBRATION OF BACH

by Phil Radoff

“Soli Deo Gloria.” Bach dedicated all of his music solely for the glory of God, but we in the terrestrial sphere are fortunate to be able to listen to it as well. Many of us discovered (or rediscovered) Bach’s music in an excellent five-session survey presented by Gil Harel, whose recent Mozart seminars were also well received by BOLLI members.

Speaking without notes and often illustrating his points at the piano, Gil introduced a cross-section of Bach’s music, from the sacred cantatas of his years in Mühlhausen and Weimar, to the instrumental music of his stay in Köthen—including the magnificent Chaconne for unaccompanied violin—to the dramatic splendor of the St. John and St. Matthew Passions, composed for Easter service in Leipzig. We came to understand and to admire this deeply religious genius as he stubbornly refused to abandon the profundity of counterpoint for the lighter harmonies that had become fashionable in the Prussian court of the French-speaking Frederick the Great. We felt Bach’s personal triumph in successfully improvising a three-voiced fugue on a lengthy chromatic theme designed by Frederick to embarrass Bach before the German musical literati.

Aided by Gil’s explanations, tailored to suit both the musical dilettante and the more sophisticated listener, we gained insight into Bach’s mastery of the art of counterpoint while enjoying the beauty of his creations. It is fair to say that by the end of the course, most of the participants were firmly of the view that in the musical pantheon, first there is Bach…and then everyone else.

WINTER PHOTO GALLERY

Michael Schwartz from Brandeis conducted an Educational Workshop for the BOLLI community on information regarding end-of-the-year taxes.

Allan Kleinman, Eileen Mitchell, Ed Goldberg, Charlie Raskin, Bobbe Vernon, and Joan Kleinman gathered for dessert following a lecture at UCSD in La Jolla in mid-January. Charlie and Bobbe were visiting after spending a week at the International Film Festival in Palm Desert.
Fridays with Friends

by Elaine Dohan

Bennie Geffin grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, the son of Lithuanians who immigrated in the 1920’s in the face of anti-Semitism. As an introduction to his talk about his own youthful experiences there, he gave us a bit of the history of that country.

The Afrikaners, who traced their ancestry back to Europe of the 1600’s, were represented by the Nationalist Party. When they won the 1948 election in South Africa, they instituted many new and more severe laws to ensure that there would be no mixing of the races and that their country could never be ruled by black Africans. They coined the term “Apartheid” to describe their goals. These laws controlled where the blacks could live, be educated (minimally), and work. The Africans were also required to carry passes at all times. In addition, a number of Nazi sympathizers who were members of the Nationalist Party became members of the Cabinet. Blacks and Jews were prohibited from joining the Nationalist Party.

The African people saw the Afrikaners as their worst enemies, and there were riots and shootings until the 1990’s when the Apartheid laws were repealed and free elections were held.

This history lesson led into a description of the experiences of Bennie’s own family, who were welcomed by the British and into a large circle of friends within the immigrant community. Born in 1935 into a comfortable middle class family, he had a black nanny, but his childhood contact with non-whites was minimal. Although classes in his all white boys’ school were taught in English, students were also required to be fluent in Afrikaans. Bennie regarded his medical education in Cape Town, where many of his fellow students were non-whites, as excellent. The university produced skilled clinicians who were respected everywhere, and all patients, although segregated by color in separate wards, received good care.

When he finished medical school Bennie moved to the U.K. for study and travel. It is our good fortune that Mass General and Harvard coaxed him even farther from his remote homeland, leading him to Massachusetts and now to BOLLI.

Candidates Nominated for Council

The Nominating Committee believes the essential traits of a good candidate are:

- Familiarity with BOLLI culture
- Leadership ability with a willingness to take an executive role on the Council
- Strategic thinker
- Team player and good listener who is respectful of others and their opinions and ideas
- A doer who is willing to take on responsibility and tasks
- Ability to commit to the time demanded of Council members

We are pleased to announce that the following candidates have accepted their nominations:

Alorie Parkhill          Charlie Raskin          Peter Schmidt

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MEMBERSHIP TRENDS
by Richard Glantz

Upper pair of lines: total BOLLI membership count.; lower pair: new BOLLI members.

Who Are Our New Members?

We include the list of home towns to help old friends find each other.

Amherst
Anna Treston

Burlington
Myrna Saltman

Lexington
Persis Ballou

Wayland
Linda Brooks
Mary Mendler
Israel Micheali

Andover
Herb Kazer

Chestnut Hill
Rachel Dibner
Emily Stahler

Needham
Gloria Kornfeld

West Newton
Joyce Lazarus

Belmont
Eva Roos

Concord
Arnold Roth

Newton
Ella Bikson
Sandra Butzel
Jeff Freedman
Harriet Gould
Gerry Wexler

Westwood
David Schreiber

Boxborough
Joel Friedman

Marjorie Friedman
Karin Segal

Groton
Mary Jennings

Stow
Claire Macy
Carole Sureau

Winchester
Linda Fossier
Carol Seplowitz
Howard Seplowitz

Brookline
Joanne Spector

Edythe Salzman

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

by Naomi Schmidt and Andy Thurnauer

In an effort to improve the course registration process, a new form was introduced for the Spring 2012 semester, along with a new method for assigning members to classes. The goals were:

• to increase the fairness of the system by giving as many people as possible their first or second choice in classes
• to make the five-week courses more available and accessible
• to eliminate the confusion caused by separate lists for Course 1 and Course 2
• to allow members to designate some constraints on their schedules, such as keeping all courses on the same day.

The new form asked members to list all their desired courses in a single list in order of preference, and Round 1 in the assignment process used the computer to randomly order the list of registrants and put each person into a preferred first course.

The success of this method was borne out, in that every member got into a first course that was high on the member’s preference list. Over 90% actually got into their first choice, with all but two people getting into one of their highest two choices. This was far superior to the older method, under which a number of people did not get into any of their chosen courses. By the end of this round of assignments, three classes had been totally filled, and all the other courses were still available to members as a second course, to be assigned in Round 2.

This second round was done by hand, with a group of individuals from the Membership and Curriculum committees stepping through the list of registrants, which had been reordered using another set of random numbers. As each member’s data was examined, the next course on the person’s list was assigned, when possible in accordance with the optional constraints that were listed on the registration form. The more choices that a person had listed, the higher was the probability that he would be put into an available second course.

By the end of this round, fifteen courses had been totally filled. Those individuals who had listed fewer than the requested number of choices ran the risk of not getting into a second course if their random number was unfavorable. In this case, they would be able to select a second course from classes that were still open by contacting the office after the notification letters were sent out.

Credit for the success of this process goes to a number of people, starting with a task force headed by Jeff Becker and Elaine Dratch, whose charge was to suggest improvements to the registration process. Their proposals were then brought to the Membership Committee, and in December a group chaired by Alorie Parkhill and Richard Mansfield was formed to design a process that would address the four goals stated at the start of this article.

Thanks to a complex Excel spreadsheet created by Peter Schmidt, much of the process was able to be automated, with the Parkhill/Mansfield task force doing the manual work of assigning a second course.

Ilana Levine is pleased to report that, unlike in past semesters, she has received almost no complaints about the outcome of the new registration procedure. In her estimation, this pilot has proved to be a success, and we will continue to make improvements to the process as we go forward.

Gift Funds Committee
How about honoring your family or friend with a gift to BOLLI?
Use the envelope enclosed in this issue of the Banner or go on-line to BOLLI’s Web site.
SEARCHING FOR A NEW BOLLI DIRECTOR

by Joel Kamer

The first step in our search for a new Director of BOLLI was the creation of a Search Committee. The committee members are:

- Michaele Whelan, Vice Provost [Chair]
- William Flesch, Professor of English and frequent Rapaporte Seminar leader
- Joel Kamer, BOLLI Council Chair
- Margie Lachman, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Initiative on Healthy Aging
- Ilana Levine, BOLLI Program Administrator
- Mike Segal, BOLLI Council Chair-elect
- Gwenn Smaxwell, Director, Brandeis Summer School
- Myles Weisenberg, Vice President, Institutional Advancement

The position description was reviewed and updated by the committee. The BOLLI Director runs our program through shared leadership with BOLLI members, manages the BOLLI staff, is responsible for the financial soundness of BOLLI (budget, fund raising, etc.), builds member community, and is the interface with the Brandeis academic community. A number of years of relevant experience and an advanced degree are requirements for the position.

The job was posted in January on a number of sites including Brandeis University Human Resources, HigherEdJobs, the OLLI Network, Encore, Academic Keys, the American Society on Aging, and the Elderhostel Institute. By the end of February, 57 applicants had applied for the position; just ten days later, the number was up to 70!

The search committee has culled all of the applications and résumés to select a smaller number with whom phone interviews will be conducted. These phone interviews will reduce further the number of applicants, and decisions will be made to invite some of them in for face-to-face interviews. At the same time, we will expand the group involved in the selection process by involving more members of the BOLLI Council and more Brandeis representatives. We also expect that one or two finalists will have the opportunity to come and see the BOLLI program in operation.

The Provost will meet with the finalists in this process and, after the Search Committee and others involved in the process are consulted, an offer will be made to the top candidate.

Selecting the right individual for the Director position is of paramount importance as BOLLI continues to improve and grow— in members, in activities, in community, and in involvement with Brandeis University. We will keep all BOLLI members apprised of our progress as the process advances.

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**Faculty-Led Summer Seminars at BOLLI**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 4-8</td>
<td>9:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Paul Morrison</td>
<td>Depression-Era Movies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 11-15</td>
<td>1-4 P.M.</td>
<td>Jill Greenlee</td>
<td>Forging Political Opinions over the Long and Short Haul</td>
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<td>Aug. 6-10</td>
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<td>Billy Flesch</td>
<td>“The Maltese Falcon”</td>
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<td>Aug. 13-17</td>
<td>time tbd</td>
<td>Gil Harel</td>
<td>Jazz Survey</td>
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CAMPUS CULTURAL CALENDAR
compiled by Susan Posner

Brandeis Tickets: 781-736-3400
Remember: BOLLI members with ID receive a discount
Save $2 handling fee by buying tickets at the box office, located in Shapiro Student Center

SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

Sat., Apr. 21 (8 P.M.)
Brandeis University Wind Ensemble
Bob Nieske, director
Good Old-Fashioned Band Concert
An evening of American concert band music, featuring works by John Philip Sousa, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Percy Grainger
Free and open to the public

Sun, Apr. 22, (1–6 P.M.)
Music Fest ’12
Thomas Souza, director
Brandeis Early Music Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Improv Collective, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Choir, and University Chorus
Free and open to the public

Thur.–Sun., Apr. 26-29
Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts
program not ready by press time
see Web site brandeis.edu/arts/festival/

Sat., Apr. 28 (8:30 P.M.)
Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra
Neil Hampton, conductor
Catch a Rising Star
Walton Concerto for viola
Tchaikovsky Violin concerto
Free and open to the public

Tue., May 1 (7 P.M.)
Improv Collective
Free and open to the public

SPINGOLD THEATER

Sat., Apr. 28 (2 P.M. and 8 P.M.) and Sun., Apr. 29 (2 P.M.)

Beyond the Boundaries
Created by Susan Dibble and Tory Fair

Modern dance collaborates with sculpture and music. Part abstraction, part storytelling, and entirely original, this innovative, category-breaking event sees the performing and visual arts unite for a creative encounter beyond your imagination. Choreographer Susan Dibble and sculptor Tory Fair seek to discover how the placement of sculpture in a theatrical setting can set the stage for sound, movement, and dance.

MANDEL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

Wed., Apr. 25 (free noon-time concert)

Brandeis University Early Music Ensemble

BERLIN CHAPEL

Thur., Apr. 26 (7 P.M.)

Brandeis University Early Music Ensemble
En las riberas últimas de España
Sarah Mead, director

Spanish music in the Renaissance offered a rich palette of strong emotions: passion, longing, fervor, and jealousy seethed in oppressive heat and repressive climate. The Early Music Ensemble explores the furthest shores of Spain, where love, lust, and religious passion were often painted in the same feverish colors. Free and open to the public.