NEW BRANDEIS PRESIDENT FAVORS INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

by Phyllis Pressman Cohen

The eighth president of Brandeis, Frederick Lawrence, will be formally inaugurated on March 31, 2011; but he has been on the job officially since January 1. Despite the fact that he had been in office for only a month, he graciously agreed to be interviewed for the Banner.

Fred Lawrence’s esteem for lifelong learning programs began long before he arrived on our campus. His mother, a teacher of Shakespeare, was involved in adult learning and teaching until she was in her 90s. He credits her longevity and her zest for life at that age in great part to the opportunity to stay vital and mentally active.

Although the core of the student body is 18-22 year-old undergrads, President Lawrence believes that it is a great benefit to all Brandeis students to have the BOLLI group of experienced, interested, and knowledgeable people with whom to interact. He fully supports our efforts to mentor and guide SID and Business School students; our participation in campus art and drama offerings, lectures, and in research studies; and our eagerness to continue learning. He is in favor of more intergenerational programming as he feels we should be fully integrated into the Brandeis community and should search out even more ways to participate and engage in the rich offerings at Brandeis. As with a family, he views Brandeis as being fortunate to have a multi-generational community.

President Lawrence comes to us from George Washington University, where he was dean of the Law School and Professor of Law. He is considered to be one of the nation’s leading experts on free expression, civil rights, and bias crimes and has lectured extensively on these issues. He has also studied bias crimes law in the U.K. He is the author of Punishing Hate: Bias Crimes Under American Law which examines bias-motivated violence and how it is dealt with in American law. Not surprisingly, he serves on the board of directors of the Anti-Defamation League.

Fred Lawrence is an enthusiastic, congenial, well-rounded man who enjoys hiking, old movies, professional sports, and singing. His open style is reflected in his blog blogs.brandeis.edu/president. His wife of 30 years, Kathy, is an academic specializing in 19th century American literature (and speaker at our March 17th Lunch-and-Learn). They have two children: Miriam, 26, who has an MFA in creative writing and currently has a fellowship at University of Michigan, and Noah, 23, who is applying to law schools and will spend the summer in Israel as a speech writer for Tzipi Livni. The Lawrences are currently living in Cambridge.
Welcome back to BOLLI! And welcome to our 20 new members. We are happy to have you with us, and we look forward to your participation in all of the activities which BOLLI has to offer. A record number of classes—46—are being offered this spring. I’m certain there’s something for everyone.

We’ve made a few changes as a result of suggestions by our members and various BOLLI committees. First, we’ve reduced the maximum size of classes from 25 students to 22. This has the double benefit of reducing crowding in full classrooms and allowing for more participation in class discussions. Second, to mitigate the rush and crush when classes change, we’ve added five minutes to the change-over time at 10 and 3. These changes should make the classroom environment more comfortable.

For the first time, we held the Winter Rapaporte Seminars in our own facility on Turner Street. We broke another record for attendance with 62 participants. [See page 3 for reviews of seminars]

In the realm of new activities, we began a new seminar in February with Brandeis doctoral candidate Gil Harel teaching a course on Mozart which he had previously presented at NewBridge. That seminar filled up almost immediately, and we are contemplating repeating it this May. The availability of our own facility on our own time schedule was paramount in our being able to view Middle Eastern films Carol Shedd obtained for showing to BOLLI members on Fridays in January and February. [For more Friday plans see article on page 6]

On a different tack, I’d like to update you on the changes in the election process at BOLLI. I addressed the topic in an email to all members a few weeks ago, but it’s worthwhile reiterating it here. In the past, BOLLI elections required two candidates to run for every opening on Council. As the years went by, this turned out to be burdensome; in particular, well-qualified candidates who lost an election were reluctant to run a second time. A task force had studied the issue; and they, in addition to a number of past Nominating Committees, suggested moving to a slate process for elections. The current Council invited interested parties from prior years (on both sides of the issue) to its November meeting, and then debated the question in both November and December. In December, by a two-thirds vote, the Council changed the Guidelines to have the Nominating Committee prepare a slate of candidates for Council (i.e., one person for each open position), while also allowing any eligible member of BOLLI to run for election by submitting a petition signed by a small number of members. In addition, the elections will be held a couple of weeks earlier in the spring semester. Contact Carol Shedd, committee Chair, if you would like to be considered for election to the BOLLI Council.

We hope everyone is enjoying the classes, lectures, and the “extra activities” during the second semester in our new home.
King Richard II
by Phil Radoff

Another January, another brilliantly led Shakespeare seminar. Prof. William (Billy) Flesch returned for his sixth successive year to present The Tragedy of King Richard II.

The only one of the plays written entirely in verse, King Richard II was a superb vehicle for Flesch to demonstrate Shakespeare’s mastery of the playwright’s craft along with the beauty of his poetry. We came to see the similarities as well as the differences between the flamboyant Richard and his foil and nemesis, the stolid Bollingbroke, whose mastery of tactics exceeds Richard’s own and ultimately topples him. Act by act we witness Richard’s decline. We see him first as preening monarch, secure in the certainty that he rules by divine right. But as Bollingbroke succeeds in winning the allegiance of faction after faction, Richard vacillates between the extremes of hubris: Not all the water in the rough rude sea Can wash the balm from an anointed king and despair: All souls that will be safe, fly from my side. Finally, imprisoned in the castle at Pomfret and ever more magnificent in his poetic expression, Richard confronts the certainty that he has lost his crown, his queen and his liberty, and presently will lose his life.

As always, the class benefited from Billy’s encyclopedic knowledge of Shakespeare and his delightful digressions into other areas of literature, film, and the arts that illustrated and—dare we say it?—Flesched out the significant elements of the play.

Will next January bring another exploration of a Shakespearean masterpiece under Prof. Flesch’s able guidance? One hopes so.

Mammoth Cheeses and Burning Flags:
Civil Liberties in the United States
by Natalie Taub

In an exciting intersession course Dan Breen, a lawyer, a history professor, and an instructor in the Legal Studies department of Brandeis, led 24 fascinated BOLLI participants through a brief history of some of our most important freedoms and a discussion of relevant Supreme Court cases supporting and defining these freedoms.

As an introduction to our appreciation of our personal rights, the course began with a focus on eminent domain, the theory underlying the circumstances under which private property can be taken by the state. We continued by studying four of the liberties included in the Bill of Rights: freedom of worship, freedom of speech, equal protection of the law, and the right to vote. We learned how these liberties had been defined by the courts and the status of these liberties today.

Dan began each class with a lecture describing the history and the philosophy behind the liberty of the day. We gained new insights into the development of ideas of government from the time of the unlimited power of the Kings through the incorporation into our constitution of the concept of equality introduced by philosophers such as Locke.

The class reading assignment for each day was a Supreme Court decision which contained the issues relevant to the discussion. With Dan’s leadership we examined the development of the law regarding this freedom, the understanding of the freedom and how the Supreme Court reasoned its way to its decisions, and how today’s polarized society and our conservative court might change the interpretation of this freedom in the future.

All in all, an excellent course.
End of life decisions, entitlement to organ transplants, selection of embryos for implantation, power to make medical decisions for those not competent to do so—these and other challenging subjects were explored in the fall semester BOLLI class Law and Bioethics. With excellent reading materials, guidance from two expert SGLs, and motivated participants, the discussions were lively, stimulating, and informative. Charles ‘Buzzy’ Baron shared information and thoughts from the legal perspective, and Milton Heifetz contributed insight from his knowledge and experience as a neurosurgeon.

Challenging readings were provided each week from both points of view. Class members were persistent in their efforts to understand the legal and ethical considerations involved in the outcome of complicated life situations.

Among the issues discussed were:

- Who has the right to decide for a person who is developmentally delayed whether or not to undergo an operation which would remove his kidney in order to save the life of his brother?

- Can a couple, not able to conceive on their own, choose an embryo with specified characteristics to implant?

- What are the rights of the unborn?

Milton shared relevant experiences from his medical practice and the difficult decisions he had to make. His point of view was clearly stated and revealed the conviction of his decisions. Both SGLs set a classroom atmosphere in which participants were expected to be open-minded and empathetic even though they disagreed with others. Because there are no simple answers to most of these highly loaded ethical questions, the process for handling issues through weighing the various aspects of the situation and seeking ways to negotiate decisions was emphasized.

Buzzy and Milton chided each other about their professions, but it was clear that the respect in which they held each other contributed to meaningful and well-rounded discussions. They met in 1988 at a right-to-die conference where they were panel members. Although they agreed and disagreed on matters, they hit it off and began offering courses together at Boston College.

Speaking of teaching at BOLLI, Buzzy said, “It’s wonderful—like a dream come true. Students come to class because they want stimulation. It is a treat to have people in the class who can bring life experiences into the discussions. There are no exams or grades.”
Now that we are entering our second semester in our new home, it is time to look back and thank all those behind the scenes who helped us achieve a successful transition. Every step of the way, members aided us. A very valuable service was the investigation of furniture prices, which allowed the Transition Team and staff to make decisions and save money. The Procurement staff at Brandeis then spent hours helping in this endeavor. Once we were moved in they came by repeatedly to evaluate the work set-up in our new office and make helpful suggestions. Did you know that monitors can throw off heat at temperatures up to 90°? We now turn them off every night.

Packing up ten years of accumulation in Gosman and the little white house was accomplished over two days with the help of a truck and three strong men. Meanwhile, a team of Brandeis custodians helped us prepare Turner St. for the move-in, and a permanent custodian was assigned to us. Some early BOLLI risers have met this hard-working gentleman, who shows great initiative. The Brandeis audiovisual staff were great contributors to our success. They designed the Gathering Place and classroom set ups, ran the cables for broadcasting during Lunch and Learn, added the assisted listening devices and two wireless access points. You may have noticed the devices in every room, donated by our colleagues in Summer School.

Our student workers were on the ground (literally, taping down power cables) and running. They are multitalented and dedicated young people, adept and patient in meeting the SGLs’ audiovisual needs.

We hope the same sense of community working together will help us meet our future challenges as we continue to grow in our new space.

**Name Change**

One of the five standing committees at BOLLI, the Resource Committee has changed its name to Study Group Support Committee to be more descriptive of the services it provides.

**$implified Giving**

We have simplified the giving process. There is now a single committee for the Bernie Reisman Operations and the BOLLI Endowment Fund. The first fund covers current expenses beyond our annual operating budget in order to improve the quality of our program. The EF is for long-term program sustainability. Gifts build principal; and as it grows, our annual draw increases and boosts our annual budget. (A $1 million endowment yields up to $50,000 a year for our annual budget.)

Both funds are important for the vitality, continuity, and quality of our community. As of January 31, 2011 we have $1,275,189 in the Endowment Fund and $34,638 in the Bernie Reisman Operations. Our goal for the Endowment Fund is $2 million.

What better way to express your appreciation of all the work that keeps our community fresh and exciting than generously supporting it.

Any questions, please call Myra Snyder, Gift Fund Committee Chair, at 508-259-3966.
Dear BOLLI, ...

BOLLI-West

It may be true that there is no place like home, but the La Jolla CA vicinity in the winter is an excellent second choice. BOLLI snowbirds Joan and Allan Kleinman, Bernice and Steve Baran, and Eileen Mitchell and Ed Goldberg are enjoying deep blue sunny skies, moderate temperatures, sunsets over the Pacific and, importantly, the Osher Program at UCSD. They were happy to gather for dessert with Renée and Al Fine and Charlie Raskin, who were visiting in the area. [These are only some of the BOLLI members enrolled in Osher at UCSD for the winter months – Ed.]

Expanding the BOLLI Footprint

by Naomi Schmidt

Now that we have been in our new home for a number of months, we have come to appreciate the benefits of having our own space for more than just two days a week and 20 weeks a year. Mondays at Turner Street are now filled with committee meetings, the Rapaporte Seminars have taken place on our home turf, and additional activities such as the February Mozart class and the Friday series of Middle East films have been added to our intersession schedule. Opportunities for new learning experiences and convivial occasions continue to present themselves, with an example of the latter being a Pot Luck social being planned for some time in the spring.

Other ideas under discussion include hands-on workshops that may not fit into our normal course catalog, outside speakers, and our own SGLs giving a shortened version of a regular BOLLI course. Some of these programs would be free, while others would charge to cover costs or honoraria to outside speakers.

A working principle of the committee is that we should not allow this new gift—having our own space and unlimited time—to lead us into making rash decisions and filling the time and space just because it’s there, without thinking carefully about a program’s “value added.” Quality activities that might attract new members or bring in spouses of current members are what we should be aiming for.

Lois Silver, Chair of the committee, expresses their goal as “expanding the BOLLI footprint,” and looks forward to hearing ideas from the general membership about how we might do so while retaining the quality and spirit of conviviality that we so much appreciate.
One of the benefits of being a BOLLI member is seeing in advance the schedule for the 14th Annual Film Festival of the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University—and getting a good deal on the ticket price. Note that the festival is being held in March, not April, this year. Prices are $8 each for seniors; a 14-movie J-Flix pass is $70. Tickets can be ordered by mail, fax, Internet, or telephone. Click on jewishfilm.org/filmfest/2011/tickets.htm for ordering details, fees, and forms. The films—all Massachusetts or New England premieres—will screen at the Wasserman Cinematheque on campus.

Wed., Mar. 2 (7 P.M.)
The Matchmaker
Haifa teenager learns about life, love, and loyalty working as a detective for a mysterious Holocaust survivor.

Thu., Mar. 3 (7 P.M.)
Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray
Documentary of the Jews who fought for both the Confederacy and the Union. Some prominent Jewish voices cited the Torah to justify slavery, while others led the abolitionist movement. Sam Waterston voices Abraham Lincoln.
[Followed by Q&A with the filmmaker and Brandeis Prof. Jonathan Sarna, editor of “Jews and the Civil War”]

Sun., Mar. 6 (1:30 P.M.)
Singing in the Dark
Concentration camp survivor suffering from traumatic amnesia becomes a singing sensation.

Sun., Mar. 6 (4 P.M.)
Gruber’s Journey
Italian pro-Fascist journalist searches for a Jewish doctor named Gruber amid the increasingly sinister bureaucracy of Nazi-occupied Romania.

Sun., Mar. 6 (7 P.M.)
Wed., Mar. 10 (7 P.M.)
Precious Life
Palestinian baby from Gaza requires bone marrow transplant in an Israeli hospital. With war imminent, this documentary chronicles a race against the clock.

Mon., Mar. 7 (7 P.M.)
Nazi Doctors
Psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton discusses how ordinary doctors in Auschwitz became murderers.
[Special Guest: Dr. Robert Jay Lifton]

Wed., Mar. 9 (7 P.M.)
Grace Paley: Collected Shorts
Documentary about feminist and anti-war activist Grace Paley, whose stories celebrating the daily lives of women are classics of American literature.
[Followed by panel discussion with filmmaker Lilly Rivlin, Sylvia Barack Fishman, Co-Director of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, and Brandeis Prof. Joyce Antler]

Sat., Mar. 12 (5:30 P.M.)
The Human Resources Manager
When a foreign worker at Israel’s largest bakery is killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem, an HR manager leads an awkward funerary road trip that includes the dead woman’s rebellious son, a pesky journalist, corrupt politicians, and an eccentric Israeli consul in this dark comedy Winner of five Israeli Academy Awards.

Sat., Mar. 12 (8 P.M.)
Gainsbourg
Biopic of Jewish singer and provocateur Serge Gainsbourg, from his childhood in Nazi-occupied Paris through his painting and musical careers and his romantic entanglements with, among others, the ravishing Brigitte Bardot and Jane Birkin. Shot through with wit, sensitivity, and unique surrealistic touches, this film is one of a kind and not to be missed.

Sun., Mar. 13 (1:30 P.M.)
Cabaret Berlin: The Wild Scene
Mesmerizing and thoroughly entertaining assemblage of archival film, sound, and visual culture offers a front row seat to Berlin’s Weimar Republic cabaret scene.

Sun., Mar. 13 (4 P.M.)
Liquid of Life
In this funny documentary, meet a cross-section of Israeli characters, including the director of Magen David Adom. And learn how to mix the perfect Bloody Mary.

Clementine
Shaking his own family tree in this beautifully-crafted documentary, man discovers a pioneering kibbutznik filmmaker, a Czarist army officer, a Nazi-trained blacksmith, several war heroes, and a much-missed father.

Sun., Mar. 13 (7 P.M.)
Mahler on the Couch
Gustav Mahler’s tempestuous wife Alma seeks passion in the arms of the young, dashing architect Walter Gropius, which sends a tormented Mahler to Sigmund Freud for consultation. Film score is pure Mahler.
[Special Guest: Detlef Gericke-Schoenhagen, Director of the Goethe-Institut in Boston]
 кроме как указано, билеты бесплатные.
Билеты можно приобрести по телефону по номеру 781-736-3400 ($2 комиссия)
или в кассе кампус-центра Шапиро, которая открывается в 12:00, понедельник–суббота.

Опера Сцены
Лидиан Струнный квартет
Ронда Райдер, гостьевая контрабасистка
Шуберт *Vоиtеlе du Temps*, Op. 163, D.956
Этот концерт состоится в Мандел Центре

Музыкальный Брейк: Представление Мира
Представление лучших артистов мира
Это редкая возможность услышать эпический вид п'ансори и sanjo исполненные ветеранами.

Новой Йорк Стратусоф Сингерс
Харольд Л. Розенбаум, основатель и художественный директор
Этот состав становится ведущим исполнителем современной хоровой музыки. Хотя хор исполняет музыку всех периодов, его акцент на портретном, исполнении и записи музыки американских композиторов.

Брандейс Вокс Студенты Генеральный Рекитал
Студенты Дж. Олесена, П. Деллай, П. Вольфа, и Дж. Мастоотс

Сат., Мар. 12 (8 P.M.)
*Simon Shaheen and Friends*
Палестинский композитор, уда и скрипач Симон Шахеен один из самых значимых арабских музыкантов, исполнителей, и композиторов его поколения.
$5 для BOLLI членов с ID, в advance
$10, на двери

Вс., Мар. 20 (3 P.M.)
*Opera Scenes*
Дж. Олесен, П. Деллай, П. Вольф, Дж. Мастоотс, руководители
Второкурсников в генеральной репертуарной программе

Те, Мар. 23 (noon)
*Lydian String Quartet*
Ронда Райдер, гостьевая контрабасистка
Шуберт *Vоiтelе du Temps*, Op. 163, D.956
Этот концерт состоится в Мандел Центре

*ROSE ART MUSEUM*

*through Apr. 3*
*WaterWays*
(в Галериях Файнберг, Роуз и Ли)
Экспозиция состоит из работ из коллекции Роз, которые используют воду как основной материал, метафору, и музу.

*through May 22*
*Regarding Painting*
(в Фостер Винг)
Экспозиция показывает работы, которые долгое время хранились в архиве, а также выставляет работы, которые считаются лучшими в коллекции.

*WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER*

*through Mar. 10*
*Insatiable: Our Rapacious Appetite for More*

Этот выставочный проект включает работы более чем 40 художников, которые изучают нашу сатанистскую жажду излишь и ее последствия.

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