At a recent Lunch & Learn, Brandeis’s new first lady, Kathy Lawrence, spoke to us with great enthusiasm about her work as a literary archivist. The audience was spellbound as she discussed her research into the lives of Henry James, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Caroline Sturgis, whose biography she is currently writing. Her fascination with this era and these people began at NYU, where she wrote a dissertation on Margaret Fuller, her personal hero. It led her to the Harvard archives where she discovered unpublished love letters between Emerson and Caroline Sturgis, a treasure trove which was considered quite a find in the literary world.

Kathy was brought up in Beverly Hills, the second daughter of a Russian immigrant who started his life in America as a vaudeville tap dancer but whose devotion to education led him to a law degree earned while working as a tailor in the costume department of Paramount Studios. Her family lived in a home formerly owned by Betty Grable, and she was married in the backyard of that estate. As a young girl, Kathy studied ballet for many years with the famous Russian ballerina Tatiana Raboushinska. Her father didn’t want her at Beverly Hills High so she went to Harvard Westlake, a private school that emphasized a classical education, and then on to Yale, where she met Fred Lawrence at the Hillel Society. Although that fortuitous meeting changed her life, she has some small regret about not going to Brandeis, because her father was an early supporter of the school after meeting Abram Sachar on several occasions in the Los Angeles Jewish community.

Prof. Lawrence, who will be teaching a class on Henry James in spring 2012, will be a marvelous addition to our Brandeis community in her dual role as faculty member and President’s wife. Her former students at George Washington University were universal in their praise for her passion for her subject and her inspiring teaching style. In her own words she sees “literature as a map to a deeper understanding of our own lives” and feels her work is “like living imaginatively in history.”

Kathy feels her years as a scholar have helped her understand what it is to be part of an academic community, and is looking forward to supporting President Lawrence in his effort to bring Brandeis to greater heights. They both believe that Brandeis has unlimited potential and see it as the “jewel in the crown of the American Jewish community.” She will have a role in making the campus feel like family by fostering a nurturing atmosphere. Their children, Miriam and Noah, both writers, are euphoric to be part of this community.
**Gift Funds Committee**

*by Myra Snyder*

The Gift Funds Committee has been working steadily on expanding our committee and planning our next programs. Recently, we have upgraded our Web access and made it more user-friendly; developed a contribution envelope to make it easier to send in gifts; and started to plan parlor meetings to inform our newer members about our gift funds. Over the summer, we will be developing a new brochure to portray the expanded role of the committee in incorporating the Reisman Operations Fund alongside the BOLLI Endowment Fund.

The wonderful news that the Endowment Fund is no longer underwater and can be used to support our annual budget is thanks to the generous contributions of our supporters, whether made in recognition of others or as straight gifts. We are particularly grateful to the following members of the BOLLI Leadership Society for their generosity:

- Joe and Hope Albert
- Diane and Stuart Altman
- Les and Beverly Blicher
- Beth and Michael Davis
- Bill Fink
- Ron and Sandi Levy
- Bob and Cynthia Pill
- Mike Segal and Carol Glantz
- Arlene and Howard Weintraub
- Dick and Bette Winer

All of these donations help us to close the gap between our current balance of about $1.3 million and our goal of $2 million.

We are considering offering to install donation plates on the coat hooks in the Gathering Place. Your input to this idea is welcome.

If you have any questions, please call Myra Snyder 508-259-3966, or speak to a committee member: Neil Bernstein, Beth Davis, Frank Davis, Barry David, Ron Levy, Audray Rosenberg, Mike Segal, Irwin Silver, Sharon Sokoloff, or Myles Weisenberg.

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**Adventurers on Stage**

Twenty-two BOLLI Adventurers enjoyed a March 11 trip to The New Rep Theatre in Watertown to see a contemporary adaptation, set in suburbia, of Ibsen’s classic, "A Doll’s House." After a tour backstage, director Bridget O’Leary had Bobbe Vernon and Pete Reider read from the play three times, each time with a different emotional rendition.

The next Adventurers trip to the Lowell Mills Historic National Park will take place Tuesday, May 10.
MEMBERSHIP TRENDS
by Richard Glantz

Every semester, the Banner prints a table of membership numbers. But a table, especially one extending over ten years, by virtue of its very density hides understandings that leap to the fore by seeing the same numbers in a different format.

For example, the "Total Membership" chart clearly reveals the jump in spring enrollment after BOLLI began to offer 5-week courses in addition to its standard 10-week courses.

The "New Members" chart underscores the difficulty we have attracting new members in the spring.

What patterns do you see?

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**Total Membership**

Source: BOLLI Office

**New Members**

Source: BOLLI Office
Eight New SGLs at BOLLI This Spring
by Naomi Schmidt

This semester has brought a wealth of new individuals leading courses at BOLLI, some from within our own community and others new to our organization. We welcome Gerry Berenholz, Dan Blechman, Ed Finerty, Barbara Keller, Michael Milman, Ed Selig, Faye Snider, and Verne Vance to the roster of those who find great satisfaction in sharing their own passions with others. Course topics range from the vast tundra of Siberia to the microcosms of our ecosystem, and from the wisdom of the Talmud to the wit of George Bernard Shaw.

Gerry Berenholz (A History of Siberia and its People) is new to BOLLI this semester, but has been an SGL at HILR (Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement), where she originally taught a version of this course. Starting with zero knowledge of the subject, preparation took her almost two years of study. Not wanting to waste all the effort that she had put in toward her Harvard class, Gerry offered to share her information and extensive preparation with our own community. We hope that Gerry decides to stay with us and perhaps teach the course on American Indians in U.S. history that she has taught at HILR.

Dan Blechman (The News of the Week) had perhaps the most difficult task of all, as his subject matter changed from week to week as events unfolded, both nationally and worldwide. Having spent 58 years in the business world, where training and teaching were always a major part of his job, Dan has been a BOLLI member for three years and agreed to volunteer to lead a study group as his way of further participating in the program.

Ed Finerty (The Tipping Point: Welcome to the World of Trends) has been a BOLLI member for a number of years, and felt that after all these years of taking what others had to offer him in the courses that he took, he wanted to give back by leading a study group himself. Having found a book that fascinated him, after spending a semester in the Learn and Lead class here at BOLLI he has embarked on his path as an SGL. Ed is also on the slate of new Council members, and so is giving back to the community in more ways than one.

Barbara Keller (The Ecology of Ecosystems) is a plant ecologist with a Ph.D. in the field from BU. Barbara states that she decided to teach this five week course because of a lack of ecological literacy in our culture, which leads to a lack of understanding among most people of how ecosystems support human life. She expects to find an eager audience among the intellectually curious population at BOLLI, and looks forward to sharing her appreciation of the beauty, intricacy, and inter-relatedness in ecosystems.

Michael Milman (Opening the Talmud) is new to BOLLI, and is delighted to be introduced to a community founded on curiosity, openness to new ideas, and the desire to learn. He states that the Talmud is filled with life excitement, poetry, and wisdom, and yet so few people outside the world of yeshivas know about it. Although coming to the subject from a traditional perspective, he welcomes and encourages the expression of all traditions, religious beliefs, and opinions, as they contribute to a richer learning experience.

Ed Selig (Two Twentieth Century Poets: Robert Frost and W.B. Yeats) decided to teach this course because he wanted to get back to his first love from college days, English and American poetry. Having taught environmental law to graduate students concerned with credits and grades, he finds it much more enjoyable to facilitate discussion among older adults who are taking the course because the subject matter appeals to them, and who bring to the table a lifetime of relevant experience, mature understanding, and judgment.

Faye Snider (The Importance of Place in Creative Writing) enjoys the circularity of teaching; i.e., expanding her own knowledge as she imparts information and invites feedback from members. She appreciates BOLLI members’ warm receptivity to the topic of place and their willing...

[continued on page 5]
ness to explore writing personal narratives prompted by the readings. A licensed clinical social worker and former psychotherapist, Faye has tried to impart some of what she has learned about the practice of writing non-fiction, and continues to grow and learn as she selects readings to explore in depth with the class. **Verne Vance** (*Beyond “My Fair Lady”: George Bernard Shaw and the Comedy-Drama of Ideas*) is a retired corporate litigation attorney and former Newton alderman, and sees leading a course on Shaw as a wonderful change from his legal and political careers. He finds Shaw’s humor to be brilliant, and the way he uses it to create thought-provoking comedies to be unparallel-ed. Verne also teaches courses at LLRC (Lifelong Learning at Regis College) and looks forward to continuing to lead classes here at BOLLI. He has already discussed two further courses with the Curriculum Committee that he’d like to teach in the future.

In spite of their widely differing areas of interest, all eight individuals have expressed very similar reactions to their experience leading a BOLLI study group. Among their comments are the following: “The wonderful diversity and talent that exists in this group is awesome!”; “I’ve loved the joy of learning, the mutual respect, the warmth, the sense of community”; “I’m learning from them at least as much as they do from me”; “People who are interested in learning are the most wonderful people to work with.”

It’s clear that preparing and teaching a course at BOLLI has been a rewarding experience for these eight individuals, and we look forward to having others (perhaps yourself?) join their ranks in future semesters.

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**Seeking Participants Age 60+ Interested in a Focus Group on the Topic of Constructing a Rewarding and Fulfilling Later Life**

$50 Visa Gift Card

**Date/Time:** Wed. May 25, 2011 at 9:30–11:30 A.M.

**Location:** Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

For more information or to register, please call the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at 617-552-4934.
The highlight of Council’s March 21st meeting was the introduction of a new BOLLI email system. Joel Freedman of the Technology Committee proposed a single weekly or semi-weekly email message which will consolidate all non-urgent communication with the entire membership.

The mechanism chosen by the Technology Committee is Constant Contact, a Waltham-based company that would email the consolidated messages. The added-value provided by Constant Contact is a secure database, a text and photo format that provides a consistent and pleasing look to the reader, and a tracking mechanism to count how many times an Internet link is clicked by users.

Cost is about $30/month. Labor involves the Office Staff sending timely updates of the membership list to Constant Contact, plus a BOLLI member willing to spend an estimated 30 minutes coordinating input to the consolidated message.

In its elementary form, the consolidated message is a compendium of all the non-urgent notices — New Yorker Fiction, Lunch and Learn speakers for the week, Brandeis events, etc. In the enhanced form embraced by the Council, the Coordinator for the BOLLI Blast (temporary name) would select a format for the Blast and recast all notices into a common format, including typeface.

Council agreed to a three-month tryout. The initial coordinator will be Phyllis Pressman Cohen, who will select the format and run a few trial issues. She will be replaced by a volunteer who will publish the Blast on an on-going basis.

Links that the Council would like to see in every issue of the Blast would be ones to the (protected) membership list, the list of committees and their membership, and archived issues of the Banner.

In other news, Banner liaison Bob Pill tells us that:

- Joel Kamer, Council Chair, appointed Mary Ann Sliwa and Ron Levy as Co-captains of Evacuation Procedures. He also appointed Joel Freedman as Chair of the Technology Committee, replacing Len Heier.
- Council agreed to accept donations for which the donor’s name will be placed on a plaque at a coat hook, provided the Gift Funds Committee decides to go forward with such a program. [See Gift Funds Committee report on page 2]

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Theatre Group

We are pleased to announce the next event will be on June 5th at the matinée performance of The Drowsy Chaperone at the SpeakEasy Theatre in Boston, followed by dinner delivered to the theatre.

The musical is a show within a show that tells the story of a showgirl who plans to give up her career to marry an oil tycoon.

The show is rich with great music and dance routines and was nominated for thirteen Tony Awards, winning five, including best original book and best original score.

Our events have always been very popular with the BOLLI members.

We have 50 seats reserved that will be allocated on a first-come basis, so watch for the formal notice and registration forms that will be sent via email in early May.
As BOLLI classes end in the beginning of May, members will have more time for other activities. Discover some new theater experiences this summer in suburban venues near you, and enjoy Broadway shows without the Broadway prices. Go to the Web sites for prices, ordering information, and directions to the theaters.

**AFD Theatre** (Arlington)
www.afdtheatre.org
- **Table manners** May 13 – 22
  First play in *The Norman Conquests* trilogy; a farce/satire with six actors in a dining room

**Cape Playhouse** (Dennis)
www.capecplayhouse.com
- **Footloose** July 25 – August 20
  Musical about a small town turned upside down when a kid from the big city falls in love with the preacher’s daughter
- **Unnecessary Farce** August 22 – September 3
  Traditional (but contemporary) door slamming, innuendo-laden tale of mix-ups and mayhem

**Gloucester Stage Company**
www.gloucesterstage.org
- **Living Together** June 9–26
  Second play in *The Norman Conquests* trilogy; a farce/satire with six actors in a dining room
  - **The Most Happy Fella** June 30 – July 17
  - **Last Day** July 21 – August 7
  - **Trying** August 10 – 21
  Musical about a romance between an older man and younger woman set in a California vineyard
- **Fiddler on the Roof** June 10–12
  Timeless classic based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem

**The Hanover Theatre** (Worcester)
www.thehanovertheatre.org
- **Fiddler on the Roof** June 10–12
- **The Most Happy Fella** June 30 – July 17
  Musical about a romance between an older man and younger woman set in a California vineyard
- **Last Day** July 21 – August 7
  Humorous dark drama taking place in a cemetery
- **Trying** August 10 – 21
  Story of a feisty secretary transcribing the memoirs of an aging judge from the Nuremberg trials
- **Fighting Over Beverley** August 25 – September 11
  War bride, her jilted British lover, and American pilot husband hash out their feelings—at 70+

**Reagle Players** (Waltham)
www.reagleplayers.com
- **Oklahoma** July 8 – 17
  Musical about romance between a cowboy and a farm girl
- **Fiddler on the Roof** August 5–14
  Timeless classic based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem

**New Repertory Theatre** (Watertown)
www.newrep.org
- **Passing Strange** May 1 – May 22
  Musical of a young man’s soulful journey from Los Angeles to Amsterdam to West Berlin
- **The World Goes ‘Round** July 10 – July 31
  Musical revue showcasing the songs of John Kander and Fred Ebb (*Cabaret; New York, New York*)

**Stoneham Theatre**
www.stonehamtheatre.org
- **42nd Street** May 15–29
  Star-struck chorus girl from a small town gets her break when the show’s star breaks her ankle
- **Sisters of Swing** June 3 – July 24
  Musical story of the Andrews sisters and their lives, loves, and career

**Turtle Lane Playhouse** (Newton)
www.turtlenlane.org
- **The Drowsy Chaperone** May 13 – June 5
  Homage to musicals of the Jazz Age, examining the effect they have on the fans who adore them

**Vokes Theatre** (Wayland)
www.vokesplayers.org
- **Grand Hotel** July 21 – August 6
  Engaging characters in this musical enjoy life in an opulent Berlin Hotel in the 1920s—before the world changes

**Wellesley Summer Theatre**
www.wellesleysummertheatre.com
- **Last Night at Ballyhoo** May 19 – June 19
  Family of Jewish Southerners tries to come to grips with its identity in a pre-WWII Christian society
- **Nine Armenians** June 2–26
  Three generations dance, cry, scream, laugh, rollerblade, play tambourines—and learn of their troubled heritage

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CAMPUS SUMMER CALENDAR
compiled by Banner staff

SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER
Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts

Sun., May 1 (talk, 7 P.M.; concert, 8 P.M.)
Lydian String Quartet

Sun., May 8 (3 P.M.)
Irving Fine Tribute concert

ROSE ART MUSEUM
through May 22
Regarding Painting
Spanning the last hundred years, the exhibition will bring to light many works long in storage as well as feature a selection of the collection's most renowned paintings.

WOMEN’S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER
through May 20
Golem & Dybbuk
Artist-in-Residence Jessica Riva Cooper will execute an original, site-specific drawing and sculpture installation that reinterprets the folkloric stories of the Golem and the Dybbuk through a feminist lens.

Brandeis Alumni College
June 10, 10 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.
All-day academic program led by Brandeis faculty
Details on http://alumni.brandeis.edu/web/special_programs/alumni_college/
Open to BOLLI members as well as Brandeis alumni
$35, including breakfast and lunch

Mozart Seminar
May 24, 31 and June 2, 7, 9
12:40-2:10 P.M.
Gil Harel repeats his popular Life and Music of W.A. Mozart
$100

Rapaporte Seminars
June 13-17
9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Prof. Naghmeh Sorabi on Iran
Prof. Dabney Hailey on Art
$185

Film Seminar
August 8-12
Prof. Billy Flesch on Film and Hitchcock
(fee not yet established)

BOLLI Journal Wants You!!
The BOLLI Journal is a beautiful reflection of the communal creativity of our members.
Be a part of the next edition to be published in the spring of 2012.
Submit stories, memoirs, poems, essays and photos to joankleinman@rcn.com by August 1, 2011.
And continue to read—and be inspired by—the current Journal found online on our website:
http://www.brandeis.edu/bolli/

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