“Affordable housing is a moral imperative and I’ve tried to live my life that way,” Charlie Raskin observed as he accepted the first “Local Housing Heroes” award from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership this past July.

Chosen from 1300 people who serve on local housing boards throughout the State, Charlie was recognized for his tireless and effective leadership advocating low income and senior housing in Wayland, the town where he resided with his late wife Kathy for fifty years. Charlie was a member of the Wayland Housing Authority for eighteen years. During some of that time he served as its Chair.

An unexpected phone call sparked Charlie’s passion for affordable housing. Charlie’s mother lived in state-subsidized housing for about seven years. When she died, recalled Charlie, the Chair of the Wayland Housing Authority said, “I owed him because my mother had had such a great life there. I agreed and so I joined the board.”

During his tenure he oversaw millions of dollars worth of preservation and modernization of public housing. Advocating for this cause was often a challenging and politically difficult task that required lobbying at the legislature and sensitive interactions with many civic groups.

Charlie helped create a non-profit organization to foster the concept of aging in place. He is particularly proud of publishing, in coordination with the local library, a directory describing services that already exist for Wayland’s residents. Such information, Charlie reasoned, would make life for seniors “more meaningful and reasonable.”

One of those services—distribution of free medical devices such as walkers—is provided by Charlie himself! When a resident needing such a device calls the Council on Aging or Parmenter Community Health, the request goes to Charlie who personally delivers it from a collection of equipment that he keeps and maintains.

Every Saturday morning, Charlie attends Torah class at Congregation Beth El in Sudbury. Four to five other mornings each week he can be found in the pool at the Longfellow Club practicing water aerobics.

Recently, Charlie moved to Framingham, where he is enjoying his new home at a complex managed by Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly.

Reflecting on his very full schedule and myriad activities, Charlie, now 82, said that he stays involved not merely to keep busy. “It’s about learning and associating, making new friends, and expanding my world.”
In response to the member survey this September to which 74% of active members replied, the BOLLI Council voted to institute a new class schedule in the Spring 2012 semester.

The class day will begin at 9:00 A.M. instead of at 8:30 A.M., and the last class will end at 4:45 P.M. instead of at 4:30 P.M. This is because 27% of the respondents would not take a “highly appealing” course offered at 8:30 A.M., while only 15% would not take a “highly appealing” course offered at 3:10 P.M.

Class length will remain 85 minutes. Although the new day will start 30 minutes later and end only 15 minutes later, the extra 15 minutes will be made up “internally.”

This revised schedule is not set in stone for future semesters. If it doesn’t work, the issue will be revisited.

Those people who would like to see the survey results in detail can follow the link that was in the BOLLI Bulletin.

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**Gift Funds Committee**

The year has begun with tremendous energy for the Fall campaign. A parlor meeting was held on September 21st at the home of Helen and Bob Lebowitz. Their gracious hospitality was the setting for an informative and interesting discussion, during which Carol Shedd shared the background of BOLLI’s beginning.

A workshop is planned for the BOLLI community at Turner Street on Monday, November 14th to assist folks in their end-of-the-year tax planning. Michael Swartz, the Associate V.P. of Brandeis, will share his expertise at that meeting. Please notice the insert in this Banner for concrete information.

If you have any questions, please contact Myra Snyder at Bailey-sny@comcast.net
The first week of classes in September ended with our first “Fridays with Friends” meeting, an event highlighting the social aspect of the BOLLI program. Longtime BOLLI members Ken Rosenfield and George Berkowitz told an audience of about 50 people many interesting stories about their World War II and Korean War experiences at this meeting, which was under the broad umbrella of the Enhancement Committee.

Ken and George have a lot in common—both lived on Wessex Road in Newton, both dated the same girls, both enlisted in the Armed Services serving in the Pacific arena, and both opened restaurants in the Boston area. George started the Legal Seafoods empire and Ken owned Kens at Copley. But with so much in common, they didn’t meet each other until they both became members of BOLLI.

Ken and George had more than their early backgrounds in common. Their military experiences gave them a great deal of responsibility at an early age, which they feel matured them quickly and helped develop their critical reasoning abilities; they both learned from their exposure to foreign cultures and returned to America with a deep appreciation of our country; they both still have flashbacks of the scenes they witnessed. And they both lost colleagues in the war, people they still remember well.

Ken was with the Air Transport Command. As a sergeant based in Kunming, China, he maintained and repaired radio equipment in planes and flew to various parts of China, delivering needed goods to troops. We learned of his exciting and hair-raising experiences on his way to China through intermediate stops in South America, Africa, and India. Once at his final destination in China, Ken narrowly escaped death: a buddy requested they switch flights for a trip over the Himalayas and that plane was never seen again.

George enlisted in the Marines at 17 with the reluctant permission of his mother. He underwent training at Dartmouth College, where he studied Mandarin Chinese and rose in rank to Lieutenant. Since the war ended just as he had completed his training, he was put in charge of repatriating Japanese and Korean soldiers from China to their native countries. After WW II he agreed to join the National Guard and once again served his country for a year during the Korean War.

Both Ken and George are consummate storytellers, and the audience was mesmerized by their remarks.

There will be another Fridays with Friends program on December 9th when Peter Schmidt will talk about growing up in Germany during and after WW II. For more information about the many Enhancement Committee sponsored events this Fall, be sure to check the BOLLI Bulletin which you receive by email every Friday.
MENTORING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENTS
by Judy Cohen

In September, fifteen BOLLI members were welcomed to a Social Networking event by students at the Brandeis International Business School (IBS) and by Scholar-in-Residence Charles Housen and Associate Dean Marcia Katz.

The BOLLI / IBS connection gives these young graduate students an opportunity to practice their social skills with Americans and share with BOLLI members their backgrounds and their aspirations.

YOUR STUDY GROUP SUPPORT COMMITTEE
by Peter Schmidt

Shortly before the beginning of the semester, the Study Group Support Committee (SGSC) hosted both a New-SGL Orientation and an SGL Gathering. At the latter, Sophie Freud gave the Bill Rachlin Memorial Presentation, with heartfelt personal observations on her teaching experiences at BOLLI, followed by an instructive exercise in classroom introductions. The semester is off to a good start.

The SGSC, among its other responsibilities, matches a liaison to each course. These liaisons are available to SGLs to provide assistance in whatever way they can—to consult, to advise, as an open ear for teaching ideas, and also to help with the occasional classroom problem.

Such problems, although infrequent, do occur. How can you, the class member, help? The first and best choice is always to speak directly with the SGL, and as soon as possible. They’re always open to thoughtful comments. But please differentiate between matters of style and matters of substance. Occasionally we hear that “this course is terrible,” only to have someone else say that “this is a great course.”

Now what if you’re too shy or too uncomfortable to speak with the SGL? Talk with your SGSC liaison or anyone else on the committee; we’re listed on the BOLLI Member website. Finally, if you’re not a class member and have heard about a problem, what is the worst thing that you can do? That’s easy: spreading second- and third-hand rumors, so please do resist that temptation. Let respect and consideration be your guide.

The Study Group Support Committee—we’re there for the SGL and for you.
YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

by Harris Traiger

Our Heller School student, a bright thirty-something woman from Xian in central China, came with us to a meeting of the Lexington Historical Society for a presentation on the three waves of Chinese immigration to the U.S. The talk was followed by a Chinese buffet from a nearby restaurant. That year Christmas Eve fell on a Friday, and our Temple had a wonderful Chinese meal following the service. Our Chinese student joined us at the Temple for the service and the dinner, and she thoroughly enjoyed it all.

Several days later she spoke with her mother back in China, who wanted to know about her studies and life at Brandeis University. She told her mother about the school and her studies, adding that most of the people at the University, as well as most of the people she had met outside of the University, are Jewish. Never having met a Jewish person and knowing nothing of Jewish people, her mother asked what Jewish people are like.

The student told her that they are very nice; they look like everyone else, and they act like everyone else, except for one thing: they eat Chinese food all the time!

WANT TO LEARN? TEACH!

by Naomi Schmidt

The semester is well under way and we’re enjoying a diverse and stimulating group of courses, ranging from metaphysical poetry to technological innovations, and from Buddhism to the literature of sports. We welcome back seasoned Study Group Leaders and happily greet those who are teaching at BOLLI for the first time.

But what about next semester, and the semesters after that? To keep our program vibrant and exciting, we need to be continually feeding the pipeline of SGLs and bringing new and different course topics into the curriculum. Just think about all the potential classes that we might offer if some new SGLs were to step forward—Gilbert and Sullivan, Edgar Allan Poe, contemporary literature, Sherlock Holmes, and science in the news, are just a few that come to mind. Many of you who are reading this article have deep interests that you might develop into a BOLLI course, with a little bit of help.

Many of our SGLs have expertise in the field that they are teaching, but just as many are simply sharing their passion for a particular topic with their fellow BOLLI members. There are bound to be more potential SGLs among you than we on the Curriculum Committee are aware of, and we encourage you to think about what you might like to share with a group of intelligent, articulate, and stimulating study group members.

There is no better way to explore a subject in depth than to teach it, and there are few sources of satisfaction greater than that which comes from leading a group of peers in learning together. If you’d like to talk with someone on the Curriculum Committee, please contact the Chair, Alorie Parkhill (aloriebp@verizon.net), or any other committee member: Donna Carlton, Tamara Chernow, Mitch Fischman, Jane Kamer, Fran Peters, Kay Sackman, and Naomi Schmidt.
The Things We Did Last Summer…

by Sandy Traiger

BOLLI came alive during this past spring and summer. With our own space and the help and inspiration of the Enhancement Committee, our members filled the calendar, entertaining us and enlightening us.

We started with Mark Becker (Elaine and Jeff Becker’s son) who came in from Los Angeles to present his award winning film, Pressure Cooker. Ruth Baden gave us an inspirational poetry reading from her newly published book, East of the Moon, Gil Harel led a delightful “Music by Mozart” week-long seminar, and Norma Radoff conducted two enjoyable jewelry workshops.

We enjoyed an informative film series on the Middle East presented by Carol Shedd, then on to an Israeli Film Festival led by Harris Traiger and Dee Burstein, giving us a diverse picture of Israeli society. Eddie Goldberg informed us on ways to be a successful patient, and will do this again later in the year. Marc Schwartz taught a four-session class on the revered British Royalty.

The BOLLI Theatre Group attended the Drowsy Chaperone at the SpeakEasy Stage, preceded by a picnic lunch, and the New Yorker group continued its weekly analysis of the magazine’s short stories. A weekly Current Events group, led by Beth Davis, Patty Goldman, and Peter Benfield, gave us perspectives on politics, finance, and people in the news, and a new Hebrew Conversation group, Chug Ivri, begun in April by Harris Traiger, went through the summer and will continue throughout the year.

Midsummer brought us even more. We enjoyed a musical film, Working, based on Studs Terkel’s book, presented by Bob Pill. Then came David Bisno’s brilliant exposition on the U.S. Supreme Court. Eddie Goldberg presented a fascinating appraisal of “the Convoluted Path to Hiroshima”, and he led a thought-provoking discussion of its planning, rationale, and ethics. Our end-of-summer Book Club, featuring Ann Patchett’s State of Wonder, was superbly moderated by Lois Ziegelman.

The Back-to-School Brunch was attended by over 160 people, giving us the opportunity to meet friends before the start of classes.

Having experienced so many stimulating programs and happy memories, we find ourselves looking forward to our next long break.
MEMBERSHIP TRENDS
by Richard Glantz

The upper pair of lines is the total BOLLI membership count for Fall and Spring. The lower pair of lines is the count of new BOLLI members for Fall and Spring.

Elevator Speeches

An elevator speech is a short presentation used to quickly and simply introduce yourself in the time it takes an elevator to reach your floor—about 30 seconds to two minutes.

In January, we need BOLLI members to meet with and to help Brandeis students in the International Business School practice their elevator speeches in preparation for a forthcoming jobs fair where they will meet potential employers.

If you would like to participate in this event in January (5:00–6:30 P.M., date to be announced), please contact any member of the Mentor Committee or Judy Cohen, Chair.

French Conversation Group

A dozen BOLLI members gathered in September to discuss formation of a French conversation group. The attendees come from a variety of backgrounds with varying French skill levels: some studied French in high school or college and visited France as tourists, others were teachers of French, a few grew up in homes where French was spoken.

Members of the group hope to practice and improve their French through reading and discussing news articles and brief literary excerpts as well as general interchange of ideas and opinions.

If you might be interested in joining us, contact one of us for more information: Barbara Apstein (bapstein@verizon.net), Phil Radoff (plradoff@yahoo.com), or Richard Mansfield (mansfieldassess@comcast.net).

Future meetings will be held on Mondays or Fridays.
Sat., Oct. 29  (8 P.M. concert; 7 P.M. lecture)
**Navarasa Dance Theater**
Presented by MusicUnitesUS
The company’s dancers devise stories using classical Bharatanatyam dance of India, Western modern dance, martial arts, and contemporary text, presented with comic timing and innovative staging.

Sun., Nov. 6  (3 P.M.)
**Naoko Sugiyama, piano recital**
Liszt *Sonata in B min.* , S.178
Debussy *Pour le Piano*, L.95
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*

Sun., Nov. 6  (7 P.M.)
**Brandeis University Chorus and Chamber Choir**
James Olesen, director
Music of the 17th century, featuring Carissimi’s *Jephte*, a musical setting of a story from the *Book of Judges*. “Plorate Israel,” the work’s final chorus, has retained its fame over the centuries for its powerful expression of a nation’s grief.

Sat., Nov. 12  (8 P.M.)
**Exsultemus**
Music for Voices and Viols by Byrd, Gibbons, and Tomkins

Sun., Nov. 13  (3 P.M.)
**Birth of the Duo**
Joshua Gordon and Randall Hodgkinson, cello piano duo
Beethoven *Seven Variations on the theme “Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen”* from Mozart’s *Magic Flute,* WoO 46
Beethoven *Sonata in G minor, Op. 5 no. 2*
Arthur Berger *Duo (1951)*
Beethoven *Sonata in D major, Op. 102 no. 2*

Sat., Nov. 19  (8 P.M.)
**Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra**
Neil Hampton, director
Elgar *Enigma Variations*
Berlioz *Roman Carnival Overture*
Faure *Violin Concerto*, Daniel Stepner, violin

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**SPINGOLD THEATER**
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

Nov. 10–12  (8 P.M.) and Nov. 12  (2 P.M.)
**Comedy of Errors**
Written by William Shakespeare Directed by Bill Barclay

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**WOMEN’S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER**
through December 20

**Embodied**
Laurie Kaplowitz, painter, and Stacy Latt Savage, sculptor

Artists’ Slide Talk, Thur., Nov. 3  (6:30 P.M.)
Panel Discussion: Female Body in Contemporary Art, Thur., Nov. 17  (2 P.M.)