NEW DIRECTOR FOR ROSE

by Phil Radoff

At the age of 35, Christopher Bed- ford, the Rose Museum’s new director, is surely among the young- est museum directors in the Greater Boston area, if not the entire coun- try. Bedford, who was born in Scot- land and maintains UK citizenship, comes to Brandeis from senior curatorial positions at several promi- nent—and larger—museums, including the L.A. County, the Getty, and, most recently, Ohio State’s Wexner Center for the Arts. As museum director, he will continue to play a curatorial role while taking on the added responsibilities of management and fund-raising.

Bedford was attracted to the Rose by the strength of its contemporary art collection, which he considers the fi- nest on the east coast outside of New York. He expects to mount as many as nine shows in a typical year, and is pleased that the collection’s depth will enable him to display multiple works by individual artists.

To stay abreast of developments in contemporary art, Chris travels fre- quently to Los Angeles, New York, London, and Berlin; regularly meets with artists in their studios; and maintains contact with curators, artists, critics, and scholars. His first love is paint- ing, particularly that of the post-World War II era, but his interests extend to all media.

As the museum’s reputation grows, Bedford in- tends to increase staff and add works worthy of the collection. In considering possible acquisitions, Chris will rely in large part on his own assured sense of artistic merit, informed by a broad know- ledge of the contemporary art scene. He is mindful of the place of art as social and political commen- tary and expresses a particular appreciation for artists whose works are socially relevant.

Building on the strength of the collection, Bedford expects to attract a wider audience to the museum from within and outside the Brandeis community.

He wants the Rose to be per- ceived as an artistic “beacon to the public” through the quality of its exhibitions, promoted by his con- tacts with others in the art world. He expects to achieve a thorough integration of the museum into the Brandeis academic and social life. He wants the Rose to be seen as an important resource, not only for the Fine Arts and Art History departments, but for the univer- sity as a whole.

BOLLI is fortunate to have en- gaged Chris Bedford as a Lunch and Learn speaker for March of 2013. BOLLI members will also be pleased to learn that he sup- ports the gallery interpretation sessions led by Dabney Hailey, Director of Academic Programs, that many of our members have enjoyed.
COUNCIL REPORT
by Bonnie Alpert

The BOLLI Council voted to implement several changes to enhance the BOLLI experience.

Two supplements to our Activities Membership offering should encourage new members to join at any time, accommodate some continuing members’ schedules, and facilitate participation in BOLLI activities between terms:

**Prorated Activities Membership**
New and continuing members who have not registered for a BOLLI membership during the normal registration period can become Activities Members at any time during a semi-annual period. A fee discount of 33% and 67%, respectively, will apply after the fifth and the tenth weeks of classes. (The semi-annual periods run from August to January and February to July.)

**Special Benefit to New Members for Prepayment**
Prospective new members who pay their membership fees before the normal registration period will receive a free Activities Membership for the remainder of the then-current semi-annual period and may immediately begin attending enhancement activities.

A slight schedule change will better accommodate the needs of fourth period SGLs:

**Change in third period start and end times**
Fourth period SGLs had only ten minutes to set up their AV equipment after third period ended. Since this was not enough time, third period now starts and ends five minutes earlier than before (1:40 to 3:05) giving fourth period SGLs a full fifteen minutes to set up before the start time of 3:20. Third period SGLs who need more than ten minutes after Lunch & Learn ends at 1:30 can set up between 12:05 and 12:30. The end of the class day remains 4:45 P.M.

Additionally, Council members expressed the desire for member feedback on trips and activities:

- Do you have a travel destination to propose for a BOLLI / Grand Circle travel program offering? Please send your suggestions to Mike Segal.

- Since BOLLI has its own dedicated space, we can consider evening and weekend activities to enhance our programming. Please send suggestions for categories of programs we could consider offering to Steve Messinger and Arlene Bernstein.

**WANTED! YOUR WRITING and PHOTOGRAPHY**
Submissions for the next edition of the BOLLI Journal are now being accepted. Send your stories, poems, essays, memoirs, or photographs to Joan Kleinman at joankleinman@rcn.com. Be a part of this excellent volume of creative work by BOLLI members!

The BOLLI Banner is published by the Banner Editorial Committee:
Richard Glantz, Publisher
Brenda Gleckman
Jane Kays, Co-Editor
Phyllis Pressman Cohen
Len Heier, photographer
Bonnie Alpert, Council liaison

Banner archive: [www.brandeis.edu/bolli/banner/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/bolli/banner/index.html)
Cold, Cruel, and Beautiful

by Joan Kleinman

At the beginning of Gerry Berenholz’s course, *A History of Siberia and Its People*, most participants knew very little about that vast region comprising over 10% of the earth’s land mass. They pictured Siberia as “uncivilized,” a “gulag,” or “just a wasteland of permafrost.”

Now those preconceptions are being dispelled. With Gerry as tour guide across both time and space, the class is studying the history of Siberia from the Mongol invasion in the mid-to-late 16th century to the present. The students are meeting the indigenous inhabitants and the people who went there willingly and unwillingly, visiting Siberia’s modern cities, and appreciating that this is a region overflowing with 90% of Russia’s natural resources, including oil, timber, water, diamonds, natural gas, and gold.

Gerry’s interest in such a remote part of the world developed serendipitously. During a project consulting with the Indian Health Service in the western United States, she became intrigued with and began to study American Indian history. That study led her to trace the trail of Native Americans back across the Bering Strait land bridge to Siberia, from which the ancestors of North American Indians came to this continent about 12,000 years ago. Her curiosity piqued, Gerry delved into Siberia itself.

Professionally, Gerry works in public health, specializing in the classification of diseases and intentional and unintentional injuries. These uniform classification codes are used by organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, and the World Health Organization. Gerry has a Masters degree in Public Health and is a Registered Health Information Administrator.

Gerry says that she really enjoys teaching. She delights in her students’ surprise and amazement as she unravels the often cruel and difficult history of Siberia’s development, contrasted with the beauty of the land. Participants appreciate her enthusiasm and her detailed preparation and wide knowledge. They value the excellent PowerPoint presentations that augment the reading and include a myriad of pictures she has collected as she has taught her popular course both at Harvard’s HILR and at Brandeis’s BOLLI.

A WRITERS’ FORUM will be offered during winter break!

Bring your poetry, short stories, memoirs, and whatever ramblings you may have scribed!

Enjoying an environment of mutual respect, Writers’ Forum will provide an opportunity to share, obtain peer review, and occasionally receive instruction upon request. The structure of the hour and a half is small-group work. Groups at times may be organized by genre or instructional needs.

We will meet each Wednesday from 10 until 11:30 from December 12th through February 27th with the exception of December 26th, when Brandeis will be closed.

Contact: Karen Wagner at blauaugen@comcast.net or Laurel Brody at la.brody@comcast.net
The Brandeis Strategic Plan, now in its final stages of development, will emphasize that the University has a great story to tell, and will need to excel in telling it in the coming years. Among the most important chapters of this story is the tale of the University’s namesake, Justice Louis Brandeis, a model of the educated citizen and an exemplar of a politically engaged American life. BOLLI, I want to suggest, has an important role in telling this story because we, as much as anyone on our campus, are walking in the Justice’s footsteps.

The first and most basic observation to make is that Justice Brandeis was an advocate of adult education in the ethical tradition of the European Enlightenment; he properly belongs to the great company of Western theorists like Immanuel Kant and Moses Mendelssohn, for whom education was an ethical instrument and the birth-right of every adult. Take one of his most famous judicial opinions, *Whitney v. California*. While primarily concerned with the proper limits on free speech, *Whitney* also bears powerful witness to the Justice’s faith that education— inquiry, investigation, debate— would prevail over demagoguery, fear, ignorance, and incitement. For Brandeis, in a well-ordered society the limits on speech would be few, the faith in the power of dialogue great. “If there be time to expose [falsehoods] through discussion…[and] avert evil by the process of education, [then we will discover that] the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.”

Second, we should notice that Justice Brandeis’s vision for adult education was egalitarian, a fact that distinguishes him from even his most progressive Enlightenment predecessors. Kant, a fearless advocate for patience and reason in politics, was nevertheless a myopic anti-Semite. Moses Mendelssohn, an impassioned champion of individual conscience, was no champion of educational opportunities for 18th century girls and women. By contrast, Justice Brandeis not only extended enlightened thinking on education, but also expanded the number of beneficiaries it could touch, insisting that a “broad and continuous education” was the right of every citizen. Today we would name what he was suggesting life-long learning.

Finally, in light of Brandeis University’s historic commitment to social justice (and its extension and amplification in current drafts of the strategic plan), it is important to notice that Justice Brandeis himself regarded access to life-long learning as a matter of justice. Not only should the upper class have access to higher education, Brandeis insisted, but every class. Offering one of his most impassioned disquisitions on education as a public good at Faneuil Hall, July 4, 1915, Brandeis roared that the work day and the work week must allow leisure time to even the most unlettered workman in order that he could advance his education. Leisure time of this sort is not “idleness,” Brandeis urged his Boston audience. It is an affirmation of life, where life means not merely existing, but truly living and flourishing, and doing so because of the “satisfaction which can come only from the full development and utilization” of one’s human faculties.

The life of Justice Brandeis, then, touches us at BOLLI as much as any other unit of the university. We make the learning at Brandeis University “broad and continuous.”

Perhaps our first act of support for Brandeis and for BOLLI in the era of a new strategic plan can simply be to learn a little more about the life of our remarkable namesake, and to be the ones to tell the tale.

[This is the first in a series of Director’s reports that will address the Brandeis Strategic Plan, currently being discussed in draft form across the Brandeis community at brandeis.edu/strategicplanning/]
**Nomad from Baghdad**

*by the Banner Staff*

Ron Levy has been on the move since he was a toddler. Before the 1930’s, Ron’s birthplace, Iraq, was not a bad place for Jews. While many were treated as second-class citizens, Jews were permitted to hold important positions in government. With the emergence of Hitler, however, the Nazi movement and serious anti-Semitism spread across Europe and the Middle East. In June of 1941, when Ron was two-and-a-half-years-old, Iraqi Jews experienced a Farhoud, a Middle Eastern version of Kristallnacht. That event prompted Ron’s father to move his family to India.

The family returned to Iraq in 1944 and was comfortable there until the following year, when anti-Semitism, family circumstances, and business conditions once again prompted Ron’s father to plan a family move to England. Before the plan could be fully realized, seven-year-old Ron was obliged to fly on his own from Iraq to London for medical treatment. During the flight, a violent storm required an emergency landing in Malta. After a delay of several days, during which the family had no word of his whereabouts, Ron arrived in London and lived with an aunt and his father until the rest of the family followed. In England they were safe.

“But then I was shipped off to boarding school,” Ron states. He missed his family, but adjusted and, upon graduation, continued his education at the University of London, earning a degree in Civil Engineering. Single and dissatisfied with his chosen profession, Ron left England for Montreal. There, he met his wife-to-be, Sandi, on a blind date. After a brief honeymoon, the pair moved to Philadelphia, where Ron attended the Wharton Graduate Business School. Upon graduation, Ron and Sandi moved to Boston for employment and have been in this area ever since, living in Watertown, Belmont, Lexington, Winchester, and now Newton.

Asked if he foresees moving again, Levy answered, “G-d knows, but I hope not.”

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**Elevator Speeches**

On Thursday, January 17th, 2013, from 5:00 to 6:30 P.M., BOLLI members will have an opportunity to help graduate students at the International Business School at Brandeis prepare for an upcoming job fair. Marcia Katz, Director of Career Services at IBS, welcomes BOLLI’s participation and believes BOLLI members serve as positive role models for the students.

This Mentoring Committee event, in collaboration with the International Business School, is an important connection of BOLLI with Brandeis. The students at IBS have an opportunity to present themselves—their interests, their strengths, their ambitions—as they rehearse their “elevator speeches” with BOLLI members. Light refreshments will be served.

If you are able to participate in this event, please respond to: Judy Cohen at judyinnorwood@yahoo.com or Joe Bongiardina at joebongiardina@earthlink.net.
BOLLI Web Site Gets a Makeover

by Naomi Schmidt

The BOLLI Web site has undergone a makeover. The new look provides a more attractive and informative site for non-BOLLI members looking for a lifelong learning program and also increases the site’s usability and utility for current members. See our Web site, brandeis.edu/bolli

The first thing you will see is that the three familiar photos on the old home page have been replaced by a slide show featuring a number of our activities and many of our members. Take a look and see if you’re in one of the pictures; if you’re a photography buff, send your BOLLI photos to Erin for possible use in the slide show, which will be updated from time to time.

The home page features our new tag line—“Where Learning and Friendship Thrive”—accompanied by a capsule description of BOLLI. A click on “Read more…” brings the reader to a page that includes not only our regular semester courses but also all the activities in our year-round program. Here, readers can continue reading about what makes us unique compared with other lifelong learning programs in the area.

The right-hand sidebar contains current highlights that will change from month to month, with BOLLI information and activities as well as events in the greater Brandeis community. The left-hand menu now has a FAQ meant mainly for non-members who want to know about our program, but current members may learn facts about BOLLI that they didn’t know before. Also on that menu is a link to our Calendar, where you can find information about Lunch and Learn speakers, Enhancement activities, and more. Check it out!

A click will take you to the Publications page, where you can read the latest issue of the Banner online (in full color) as well as an archive of previous issues. The 2010 issue of the BOLLI Journal has been moved from the “members only” site so that it is now visible to the world, and the 2012 issue will be posted shortly.

The “members only” site has lots of useful information, including a current member list, a photo page that contains pictures of our classmates, and information about the many committees that administer our program. Here you can also find the Member Handbook and BOLLI Guidelines. This page is password-protected, so if you don’t know the password, ask the next time you’re at BOLLI, or contact the office.

We’re proud of our new site and invite you to visit it. Send your suggestions for improvement to Erin at ezaremba@brandeis.edu.

SAVE THE DATE
The BOLLI Scene-iors Are Coming Back to Entertain You

OPENING on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at Lunch and Learn in The Gathering Place
ENCORE on Friday, December 14, 2012 at 1:30 P.M. at the Spingold Theater on campus
Analyzing the Presidential Campaign
by Eddie Goldberg

On a beautiful autumn afternoon, 67 BOLLI members and political junkies gathered at 60 Turner Street to discuss the upcoming presidential election. They were led by Harriet Starrett, who attempted to create order from chaos and light from heat. Harriet has been leading these discussions every Friday afternoon beginning October 5, and continued to do so until the Friday after the election.

As this is being written, the election is ten days away. The closeness of the election, both in time and in popular vote, was much on members’ minds. Today’s topic was foreign affairs but we hardly got to discussing that. Most of the time was spent trying to get some details of the economic plans of either candidate. No one could remember Romney’s five-point economic program.

There was continuing discussion about the presence of fear among voters, and how this is exploited by the candidates. There was consensus that voters were looking for a candidate who projected a strong macho image. Harriet’s message to us was to recall how important the movies are in molding our political opinions. Surprisingly, there was a lot of support for both candidates and a lot of regret and disappointment with Obama.

Harriet skillfully kept the discussion moving along, segueing from one speaker/topic to another. People were allowed to state their views and many in the audience got up to speak. It was fun to disagree, with no one becoming disagreeable, which is a good sign for our community.

The group made plans to meet on election night at Turner Street to follow the returns and to celebrate and/or commiserate with one another.

Take the Chill Out of Winter—Join Your Friends at BOLLI

Music: The Magical Force
Run by Jared Redmond, Presidential Fellow at Brandeis University
Week of Jan 7th-11th, 1-3 P.M. Fee: $125 for members; $175, non-members

The Human Life Course Across Cultures
Run by the very popular Brandeis professor Sarah Lamb, Professor of Anthropology
Week of January 7th-11th, 1-4 P.M. Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members

Other Desert Cities
Run by Scott Edmiston, Director of the Office of the Arts
Three consecutive Fridays, Jan 18th, Jan. 25th, and Feb. 1st from 10 A.M.-12 P.M. Included in the registration fee is a theater ticket to see Other Desert Cities performed on the Speakeasy Stage on either Jan. 26th or Jan. 27th Fee: $115 for members; $165, non-members

Othello
Run by nationally acclaimed Prof. Billy Flesch. This will be Billy’s 10th seminar!
Week of January 7th-11th, 9:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M. Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members
CAMPUS CULTURAL CALENDAR
compiled by Susan Posner

Except as noted, tickets are free.
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.
or on-line at brandeis.edu/tickets

SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

Sun., Dec. 2 (7 P.M.)
Brandeis University Wind Ensemble
Thomas Souza, director
Music derived from American folk tunes and dances

Sat., Dec. 8 (5 P.M.)
Brandeis University Jazz Ensemble
Bob Nieske, director
The music of Gerry Mulligan

Sun., Dec. 9 (3 P.M.)
Brandeis University Early Music Ensemble
Sarah Mead, director
Music to illuminate the shortest days of the year

Sun., Dec. 9 (7 P.M.)
Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra
Neal Hampton, conductor
Excerpts from Humperdinck’s opera, Hansel & Gretel
Ravel Daphnis & Chloe, suite No. 2
Tchaikovsky Overture of 1812

Tue., Dec. 11 (7 P.M.)
Brandeis University Improv Collective
Todd Hall, director

Thur., Dec. 13 (4 P.M.)
Annual Messiah Sing
Shapiro Campus Center Atrium

SPINGOLD THEATER CENTER

Nov. 29–Dec. 1 (8 P.M.) and Dec. 1–2 (2 P.M.)
The Glass Menagerie
Written by Tennessee Williams
Directed by Paula Plum
Characters drown in denial and illusion as an antidote to the pain of truth. In the character of Amanda Wingfield, Williams draws a portrait of a desperate woman refusing to accept the reality of her daughter's crippling introversion and her son's impotent artistic yearnings. It is a “memory play,” in which the characters are haunted by broken dreams yet still cling to the dreams of happiness, success, status, and, ultimately, salvation.
$5 for BOLLI members.

Feb. 7–9 (8 P.M.) and Feb. 9–10 (2 P.M.)
In the Heart of America
Written by Naomi Wallace
Directed by Janet Morrison
Fairouz, a Palestinian-American woman, searches for her missing brother, a soldier who served in Iraq. Wallace weaves a surreal plot that crosses time and space, blending and blurring the atrocities of war across countries and conflicts, from the Vietnam War to the Gulf War.
“This is not a play for the squeamish or young children, but it should be seen by everyone who has experienced war only through the lens of the media. Even more so to dispel governmental justification and patriotism as the reasons for war. The play questions what it means to be a patriot...It’s a deep immersion in the ethnic and cultural tribes of any nation or culture.”—review by K. D. Hopkins
$5 for BOLLI members.