By Phyllis Pressman Cohen

On a sunny but very cold March morning, I met with Stephen Reiner, a long-time member of the Brandeis Board of Trustees, in the coffee shop at Shapiro Campus Center. Steve is an attorney and a businessman and as a Board member is chairman of both the annual giving and the budget/finance committees. He has spent his adult life working in the not-for-profit sector, helping to heighten visibility and raise money for many programs in the Jewish community.

We spoke of the numerous changes that have taken place on campus since we both were students here so long ago. As a Trustee since 1976, Steve has had a hand in many of these changes. One of the many roles a Trustee has is to approve the location of new buildings, and since Brandeis is land-locked this has proved to be an enormous challenge. Some past decisions not to buy adjoining properties haven’t worked out, and the need for expansion is constantly under discussion.

Since Fred Lawrence became President, a strategic plan is being developed that is designed to be a framework for decision-making for the next five years and beyond. This very ambitious plan is aimed at balancing the core values of the University with realistic restraints on assets. Reiner believes it is part of Brandeis’ uniqueness that it offers the advantages of a small, liberal arts college blended with the resources of a world-class research university. However, research is expensive and bleeds away money from the college. Pending federal grant cuts from sequestration and an uncertain economy also affect planning. The Brandeis alumni population is relatively young and unable, for the most part, to make huge gifts to the school, so it must rely on the support of the American Jewish community, for whom Brandeis is a great source of pride. The strategic plan points out that “the college age population is beginning to shrink… and a growing percentage of the college-age population are Asian and Latino/Hispanic.” Reiner said the dichotomy of being non-sectarian while also maintaining the Jewish flavor and values on which the school was founded is another major challenge facing the Board.

Despite these challenges and the demand on resources, Reiner feels that having a lifelong learning program on campus is valuable. He does not see BOLLI as a drain on the University, as BOLLI is self-supporting. The concept of learning-in-retirement is gaining strength, as demonstrated by the fact that most synagogues, churches, libraries, community centers, and senior communities offer courses or lectures. All of these compete with BOLLI for members. Brandeis has hired a new Director of Communications, and Steve expects more publicity for BOLLI as well as for the University itself.
The highlight of February’s Council meeting was the presentation by Michaele Whelan, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, who spoke about BOLLI’s strategic position within Brandeis and in the lifelong learning “marketplace”. She expected that the Brandeis Board will approve a strategic plan emphasizing “a highly interactive, intergenerational community” as a key Brandeis asset.

Dr. Whelan emphasized that as BOLLI looks toward long-term viability, we need to increase our connection to the university, and that this integration with Brandeis should be visible and promoted.

She highlighted some of the ways that BOLLI can accomplish this, including:

- participating in campus life and being visible at Brandeis events
- mentor a student at the Hiatt Career Center
- join with a group of students on a special action project
- engage in social justice dialogue with students
- participate in a Mandel Distinguished Lecture Series
- attend a performance of the Lydian String Quartet
- becoming ambassadors for Brandeis and for BOLLI within our local communities
- taking pride in being part of Brandeis University.

Reminder: BOLLI members can access the date and agenda for the upcoming Council meeting, as well as minutes of past meetings, by clicking on “Council” at the Member Site.

We are pleased to report that almost 50% of the BOLLI members have supported the Gift Funds over the past two years. The goal is to reach 100% participation. We thank all of your for your support. Please help us reach the goal of 100%.

-- The Gift Funds Committee

The BOLLI Banner has made a few changes to its format. The front page was redesigned to give prominence to our Web site URL and to our affiliation with Brandeis, while at the same time acknowledging our tie to the Osher Foundation. At the bottom of the front page is a line highlighting some of the articles elsewhere in the issue.

Please let us know your reactions to these changes. We welcome your suggestions to make the BOLLI Banner even more inviting. In fact, the format changes we did make were in direct response to members' suggestions.
MEMBERSHIP TRENDS
by Richard Glantz

Who Are Our New Members?

Boston
Manuel Rosenberg
Brookline
Marie Hoguet
Jeki Levi
Cambridge
Joseph Cohen
Concord
Jenny Rankin
Framingham
Judy Greenberg
Jeff Kitchen
Jamaica Plain
Phyllis Freeman
Lexington
Laura Krich
Lincoln
Steven Perlmutter
William Sahlein

Natick
Jack Curley
Needham
Marcia Rosenberg
Miriam Rovner
Marvin Silverberg
Paula Silverberg

Sudbury
Edward Feldman
Waltham
Tom Norris
Alan Pinshaw
Wayland
Nancy Morton

Newton
Carl Lazarus
Ralph Madsen
Rose Madsen

Worcester
David Levitin

"Total Members" = active + associate + inactive
(Inactive category eliminated as of Fall 2012)

Source: BOLLI Office
BOLLI members have expressed interest in gaining a better understanding of our financial relationship with Brandeis University. The following table offers an overview of BOLLI’s sources of revenue and categories of expense across the three most recent fiscal years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2012-13*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants, gifts, &amp; endowments</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues and tuitions</td>
<td>$312</td>
<td>$297</td>
<td>$308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$337</strong></td>
<td><strong>$357</strong></td>
<td><strong>$373</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>$285</td>
<td>$274</td>
<td>$281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services assessment</td>
<td>$52</td>
<td>$83</td>
<td>$92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$337</strong></td>
<td><strong>$357</strong></td>
<td><strong>$373</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several items are worth explaining in detail. First, after FY2010-11, “Grants, Gifts & Endowments” includes a draw on the Osher Endowment Fund. Brandeis University has a contractual obligation with the Osher Foundation to expend the fund at an annual rate of about 5%, calculated on a three-year average. This obligation, however, did not come into effect until FY2011-12, when, after the 2008 financial crisis, the fund was finally valued above its original principal. Second, Brandeis makes an assessment on BOLLI’s non-endowment revenue, as it does on each unit of BOLLI’s parent body, the Rabb School of Continuing Studies.

Some members express surprise that Brandeis assessed BOLLI $83,000 for support services in FY2011-12, and is projected to assess $92,000 in the current fiscal year. They recall that between FY2008-09 and FY2010-11 the support services assessments averaged around $50,000.

Since FY2006-07, Brandeis has assessed Rabb about $2 million annually. BOLLI’s assessment contributes to this aggregate amount, although Rabb’s other two units provide a larger percentage of the total return. Not that BOLLI’s contribution is always small: for four years running, BOLLI was assessed more than $100,000 (FY2004-05 through FY2007-08). Even in ’07-08, however, the year of BOLLI’s highest participation in the Brandeis assessment, BOLLI provided only 6% of Rabb’s total return to Brandeis of $1,982,815. This historical perspective on BOLLI’s financial relation to Brandeis puts BOLLI’s FY2011-12 assessment of $83,000 in appropriate perspective. This number is less than the average assessed over the last eight years, and only $13,000 more than the average assessment since BOLLI’s inception.

As members have become more aware of the financial relationship between BOLLI and Brandeis, they have asked what BOLLI receives in return. First, Brandeis provides us with a home, both our Turner Street quarters and our Old South Street offices. Note that the facility cost alone (i.e. rent, renovation, utilities, custodial, and maintenance) could run as high as $300,000 per year by current market standards.

Second, the university supplies numerous essential support services, including Public Safety and Emergency Services, the Registrar (on-line registration), Financial Services (fund management, accounting, reporting), Legal Counsel (liability management), Senior Administration (Vice-Provost Michaele Whelan’s office), and Information and Technology Services (on-going A/V, library, and Web support). Our $92,00 projected assessment for FY2012-13 is just a fraction of the value of services that we receive from Brandeis.

[Want to delve more deeply into BOLLI’s financials? See the financial forums notice on page 6. –Ed.]
What Does the Curriculum Committee Do?

by Naomi Schmidt

In early January and late June, BOLLI publishes a course catalog listing more than forty classes that members may select for the upcoming semester. The task of selecting courses falls to the Curriculum Committee, a group of BOLLI members who have the responsibility of finding new SGLs and soliciting proposals from returning ones. The Committee helps to edit the proposals and chooses those that it believes will offer members a balanced and varied curriculum.

We are pleased that this semester we were able to offer a wide variety of courses, including twelve in Literature, nine in History & Government, three each in Art, Music, and Science, and two each in Philosophy, Religion, and Writing. Five courses are part of an eclectic group labeled Society. Our usual Current Events, Learn & Lead, and Scene-iors classes round out the list.

We try to strike a balance between bringing back popular classes that may have been filled in a previous semester, and offering classes that are new to BOLLI. While we value our experienced Study Group Leaders, at the same time we continue to look for new ones, both from among our BOLLI members and from non-members who have proposed interesting topics.

Recently the Curriculum Committee held an Open House that had the dual objectives of describing how we work and soliciting ideas for the types of courses and specific topics of interest to members. We plan on sharing with the membership a “topics wish list,” based on suggestions from the Open House, and hope our members will both add to the list and consider submitting course proposals on some of the topics.

We are always eager to hear your suggestions for new courses and especially encourage you to talk with us. Please contact naomischmidt@comcast.net if you have an idea about a class that you think you’d like to lead.

“T dispense wisdom; he handles consumer electronics”

cartoon by Sam Ansell
Improvements to 60 Turner Street
by Alorie Parkhill

We’ve only been in our new home for a short while, but we have been working earnestly to improve our surroundings. Perhaps we’ve been too quiet about it, so here’s a list of what we’ve done and what’s underway.

These changes reflect your suggestions and comments through member surveys and hallway conversations, and we welcome feedback for improving our ever-evolving space at Turner Street.

Projects Completed

Gathering Space
- Five new large comfortable chairs added
- Plants added
- Three laptops purchased
- Overhead projector added
- Snack table relocated for ease of classroom access/egress
- Table congestion eliminated at Gathering Place entrance (except during opening weeks)
- File cabinet consolidated into one short cabinet (for SGSC/SGL files)
- Handouts for classes consolidated onto a hanging file system

Classrooms
- Ventilation and air circulation equipment installed in the Purple and Blue rooms
- Ventilation pipes in Orange and Gold rooms redone to eliminate cold air drafts
- Classrooms beautified with exhibits of member photographs
- Sound panels added to Orange room
- Room thermostats relocated for improved temperature control in Gold and Orange rooms

Entryway
- A large vertical “BOLLI” stenciled on the stairway wall
- A Founders Board displayed outside Megan’s office, with tributes to Bernie Riesman and Sharon Sokoloff
- Poster boards installed, organized by subject matter, and all wall flyers eliminated

Projects Underway
- Testing a multi-directional microphone for the classrooms to make it possible to hear everyone
- Relocating cabinets now in the Purple and Blue rooms to allow safer egress and more space
- Organizing and concealing storage of tables and chairs
- Possibly instituting a lending or exchange library
- Holding more art shows, featuring the works of a particular artist
- Purchasing two more laptops

Financial Forum

The financial data in the article on page 4 will be discussed with the BOLLI membership in greater detail in two open forum meetings led by Director Avi Bernstein. Two former Council chairs and the current Council financial representative will be present to add their comments and perspective to the discussion.

The meetings will be held at BOLLI (60 Turner Street) on:
- Friday, April 12, 12:30–2:00 P.M.
- Thursday, April 18th, 3:10–5:00 P.M.
We have a winner! Naomi Schmidt, painstakingly examining the features of these young faces, matched two of them to two of our BOLLI members, Sandi and Neil Bernstein. Her prize is the gift of a lunch at the Brandeis Faculty Club with the entire Banner staff.

If we miss the freshness of our youthful faces, let this be a consolation:

Youth is a gift of nature. Age is a work of art.—Stanislaw Lec
SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER
(all concerts in this venue are free to BOLLI members)

Sat., Apr. 13 (8 P.M.)
University Chorus and Chamber Choir
James Olesen, director
Music of Mozart, Bach, and Jerome Kern

Wed., Apr. 17 (noon)
Brandeis Early Music Ensemble
Sarah Mead, director
(performance at the Mandel Center)

Sun., Apr. 14 (7 P.M.)
Brandeis University Wind Ensemble
Thomas Souza, director
A Touch of Jazz

Sat., Apr. 20 (8 P.M.)
Brandeis University Jazz Ensemble
Bob Nieske, director
Music of Sun Ra

Music Fest ’13
Share the excitement, energy, and passion of Brandeis Music, as the Brandeis Early Music Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Improv Collective, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Choir, and University Chorus come together to host an all-afternoon extravaganza of music, food, conversation, and fun. This delicious collection of musical styles, foods, and discussion is sure to stimulate your ears, your mind, and your palate!

LEONARD BERNSTEIN FESTIVAL OF THE CREATIVE ARTS
(see full program on brandeis.edu/arts/festival/attendees/index.html)

Fri., Apr. 26 (8 P.M.)
Late Night with Leonard Bernstein
Jamie (Bernstein’s daughter), hostess
Amy Burton, soprano
John Musto and Michael Boriskin, piano

Sun., Apr. 28 (1–4 P.M.), Lower Campus
Big Nazo
Mutant puppet-creatures and masked musicians

Sun., Apr. 28 (1 P.M.)
Shapiro Campus Center
Tanglewood Marionettes

Sun., Apr. 28 (3 P.M.), Great Lawn
Sol y Canto
Rosi Amador, singer
Brian Amador, guitar
Keala Kamahewa, bass
Tim Mayer, saxophone
Renato Thoms, percussion

SPINGOLD THEATER CENTER

Thur.–Sun., Apr. 25–28
Orestes / Iphigenia at Tauris
Written by Euripides  Directed by Eric Hill  Performed by graduate and undergraduate students

This production is the culmination of a year's collaboration between theater arts and classical studies in studying and translating the texts, training in Indian narrative dance with the Navarasa Dance Theater, and, finally, performing the text. Eric Hill was drawn to the way these two stories can be presented as twin visions of an ancient storyteller, a goddess perhaps, who tells us the story of the creation of the world that climaxes with the creation of the Furies. $15 for BOLLI members.

Next issue ➢  Author deadline: 4/19/13 • Newsstand: 5/14/13