DEFINING THE CHARTER OF THE NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL

by Bonnie Alpert

BOLLI’s Interim Advisory Council (IAC)—consisting of standing committee chairs Diane Becker, Myrna Cohen, Joyce Hollman, and Myra Snyder; and members Bonnie Alpert, Ed Finerty, Charlie Raskin, and Arlene Weintraub—has coalesced into a fine working group. (Curriculum chair Naomi Schmidt, as well as newly appointed Membership chair, Bonnie Lass, will join the group once the new Advisory Council Charter is in place.)

Since late August, the IAC has met a number of times—by ourselves, with our director, Avi Bernstein, and with the Brandeis president and provost. We are striving to advance the three-fold goal of moving forward with a robust Advisory Council charter, addressing members’ current questions and concerns, and ensuring a collaborative relationship with Brandeis administration.

The considerations regarding the charter that the Interim group and Avi are addressing include the Advisory Council’s size, composition, and meeting frequency. Given that BOLLI is a member-driven program, the charter will specify that the chairs of the six standing committees—the main groups that shape our program—will be voting members. Among other charter-related considerations is whether additional constituents at BOLLI, such as affinity groups, also might have voting representatives, and what role non-committee chairs on the Advisory Council will play.

To provide a direct channel for member feedback during this transitional time, the IAC and Avi have asked former Council member Bob Lebowitz to be our liaison to the general membership. Bob has met with over 150 BOLLI members, in groups and individually, collecting their questions and concerns. We are grateful both to Bob for the many hours he has contributed toward facilitating discussion and amassing feedback and to the BOLLI members who asked for clarification on a variety of issues. These issues cluster in several areas:

- roles of Council, committees, and director
- member input
- BOLLI’s relationship with Brandeis.

With these questions in hand, the IAC and Avi collaboratively developed a “Frequently Asked Questions” document, which was sent to all BOLLI members.

Additionally, in September President Fred Lawrence and Provost Steven Goldstein invited the Interim Advisory Council to meet with them in the president’s office. We began the one-hour session by introducing ourselves and telling about our individual histories at BOLLI. Next, we reviewed and answered questions about the outstanding aspects of our program, reiterated that we represent the membership, and affirmed that we look forward to collaboration with Brandeis administration. Then, the President and the Provost told us how proud they are of BOLLI, and they described our key position in the Brandeis strategy of multi-generational life-long learning that is exemplified by the Rabb School of Continuing Education, of which BOLLI is a division.
DEAR BOLLI, ...

*(From time to time, members send us letters with suggestions and concerns about BOLLI matters. We are happy to consider these, within our space constraints. —The Banner)*

The View of the Resigners

The members of the Council who have resigned their positions are unanimous in their desire to see BOLLI restored to its former system of governance. We are also realistic enough to know that will not happen. However, it is everyone’s wish that sufficient accommodation can be made so that going forward there will be mutual trust and a renewed spirit of collaboration and conviviality.

Shared governance is the basic operating principle at many OLLIs. The line of responsibility varies, from little member participation in decision-making to the stronger model in effect at BOLLI until recently.

In 2010 the Guidelines under which BOLLI operated were revised and approved by the Vice-Provost and Brandeis Legal Counsel, giving the Council some key responsibilities: establishing standing committees and task forces; gathering information from the members about their needs and concerns; making some policy decisions.

After the former director left there was a many-month void while a search for a new director was conducted. During that period, Joel Kamer, Council Chair, provided strong BOLLI leadership. In 2012, with a new provost and a new director, Avi Bernstein, new structures and procedures were implemented in a way that did not reflect the collaborative spirit that we know as BOLLI. Over time, the atmosphere became more contentious. Council members were told that they had overstepped their bounds, though no specifics were ever given. A task force report suggesting ways to address the results of a member survey was largely ignored by the Director. In our view, well-meaning questions and constructive critiques were viewed by the Director as a personal affront.

A consultant was hired to facilitate interaction between Director and Council. The end result was a directive from the Provost’s Office—with no input from Council—laying out a new structure for the organization. The 2010 guidelines were dissolved, and the Director and the Provost’s Office established a new BOLLI Advisory Council. The consultant’s report that a subset of the Council “refuses to recognize the organizational framework” that exists for it at Brandeis, and “as a result are not able to consider alternatives to their current perception of their role” was deemed inaccurate and insulting by many Council members.

In June, 2013, Mike Segal, then Council Chair, resigned, citing an absence of collaboration and the elimination of policy-making authority as his reasons. Five Council officers, plus others, took what they considered to be a principled stand and resigned after the Provost’s directive. We believe that the strength of BOLLI is in its members and we will continue to support its values and spirit.

-- Alorie Parkhill, Steve Messinger, Jane Kamer, Peter Schmidt, Mike Segal, Richard Mansfield
A REFLECTION ON MY FIRST YEAR AT BOLLI

JOY, REGRET, HOPE, AMBITION

by Avi Bernstein

My official role at BOLLI is managerial; however, I draw at least as much energy from my teaching background for the demands of BOLLI leadership as I do from my past management experience. In other words, I come joyfully to my work at BOLLI in large part because of my love affair with humanistic learning. Ask any BOLLI member who has made the mistake of mentioning a philosopher, novelist, or historian in my presence. (Invariably I have questions!) You could say I’m a professional irrepressible lifelong learner. Imagine my pleasure in having discovered BOLLI, the most impressive peer-led adult learning organization I have ever encountered in my twenty-five years in the lifelong learning field. It is a privilege to be associated with it, and to help build it with BOLLI members.

Asserting BOLLI’s value to Brandeis, and vice-versa, has been the leading theme of my tenure to date. I am proud to say we have already begun to realize meaningful connections and substantial benefits hitherto unimagined. You have probably noticed the online course registration that came courtesy of the Brandeis Registrar. You may also be aware that twenty BOLLI members and twenty Brandeis undergraduates now pursue weekly intergenerational dialogue in our Gathering Space, thanks to a new partnership with the College of Arts & Sciences. However, what most of you probably do not know is that currently a number of BOLLI members are helping to mount a pioneering debate tournament November 9 in collaboration with the award winning Brandeis Academic Debate and Speech Society. This effort will benefit educationally disadvantaged youth of Cambridge and Somerville. And these collaborations represent only the beginning of what we can accomplish together.

I do have regrets. During my first year, BOLLI lost seven highly valued Council members in the course of a dispute with Brandeis about BOLLI governance. A number of people blame me. I especially regret that some of the former members of the BOLLI Council felt disrespected and demeaned by the way the dispute unfolded. It is my desire to extend a hand of friendship to these seven leaders and to others who felt hurt by this past summer’s events, and to resume our work together in mutual respect and collegiality.

Perhaps most importantly, I have great hopes and ambitions for BOLLI. In future reports I will share thoughts about these hopes and take care to invite your input. At this juncture, however, let me say only this much: I fully understand the limitations of 60 Turner Street. When I allow myself to dream, I imagine a BOLLI community perched somewhere on the main Brandeis campus, light streaming through the windows, and connections with Brandeis people and programming pervading daily life. If we will it, and work towards it, perhaps it is no dream.

Let us not forget amidst this intoxicating vision, however, how special BOLLI is, just as it is, at this very moment. BOLLI’s uniqueness and value reside neither in its books, nor in its staff, nor even in its physical plant. BOLLI is its members and the journey of learning they take together. This concept—BOLLI as a way of life—captures what being BOLLI’s director has meant to me in my inaugural year.
A CONCEPT OF LEADERSHIP AT BOLLI
by Ilana Levine

In my role as Program Administrator at BOLLI, I have been particularly interested in various aspects of learning throughout life, so in the spring of 2013, as part of my graduate studies for an M.A. in Sociology (which I received in May), I interviewed six volunteer leaders in the BOLLI organization. I hoped to answer the question, “How do members of lifelong learning institutes become leaders in their organizations?” I wanted to know why these individuals had initially become interested in assuming leadership positions. Specifically, I tried to learn whether they had made independent decisions to become leaders, or whether others had asked them to take on leadership roles. I hoped that by studying the paths that these six leaders had followed I could help identify and support other emerging leaders for BOLLI.

My research at BOLLI showed that that the individuals’ willingness to lead was influenced by whether they felt a sense of “leadership identity.” The volunteers I interviewed had all developed a sense of leadership identity in their working years. They said things such as:

- I was always a leader
- I was considered one of the company’s top supervisors
- I had a large department reporting to me
- I created something where there was nothing
- I assumed a leadership position
- I was a leader by example.

The other important theme I found was that the interviewees had been repeatedly asked to become leaders, either by friends or staff persons at BOLLI. Some examples from the interview transcripts were:

- an acquaintance pulled me in
- it was important that I was asked
- I was asked to be Chair—otherwise I wouldn’t have raised my hand
- I was asked to join the committee after another member recommended me
- an SGL acquaintance encouraged me to become an SGL
- colleague suggested I get more involved
- a friend asked me to head up a certain committee;

and, most amusingly,
- I was “ripe for the picking.”

Thus, my research indicated that individuals who become leaders at BOLLI undergo an experience that I call an “identity-based connective leadership process.” This is a two-stage process that starts with people who already have a sense of leadership identity (the first stage). They generally had been leaders either in previous volunteer work or in their careers. These individuals, already self-identified as leaders, then connected with, and were recruited by, others in their networks to assume leadership roles at BOLLI (the second stage). Some of the individuals had doubts about taking on leadership roles, but all of them agreed to it when convinced by others with whom they had collegial connections.

I believe it is important to both the individuals and to BOLLI to understand the process of leadership ascension. Such an understanding can help individuals to utilize their leadership skills to remain fulfilled in retirement; at the same time, it can benefit BOLLI by assuring that their immense talents contribute to the program.
A VISIT TO BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

by Phil Radoff

Recently, I met with Rosemary Reinhardt, director of the Boise State University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Osher-BSU), which began five years ago. Reinhardt, whose background is in arts management, had served for several years as special assistant to the BSU president, turning around troubled programs.

Osher-BSU presents interesting contrasts, as well as some similarities, to BOLLI. For example, it has more than 900 members, who pay an annual fee of $70 (plus a small amount per class). There are fewer classes than BOLLI offers—19 in the current fall catalogue—but they cover a wide range of topics, from global economics to the music of Brahms to the decline of salmon in the Northwest.

Most courses run two to four weeks from September to December or January to May. Each weekly session lasts two hours, with a short break. Most members take three courses per term.

Osher-BSU also offers its members a free lecture series throughout the term, like our Lunch and Learn program. Guests are welcome to attend, depending on space availability. There are also special interest groups for those interested in hiking or foreign films, as well as “special events” similar to our BOLLI Adventures.

Significantly, Osher-BSU classes are not led by members, but are presented—by BSU faculty or by outside experts in their respective fields. The class format is rather like BOLLI lecture-demonstration courses, although the presenters do provide some opportunity for questioning and limited discussion. Presenters are paid $250 per two-hour session.

Another key difference is that of governance. Osher-BSU does not assign the task of course approval to a committee of the members, as BOLLI does. Rather, it is the director who has the final say on courses to be presented. Indeed, much of her work is devoted to contacting potential presenters and making decisions on course topics.

On the other hand, Rosemary does not operate in a vacuum: she meets regularly with four member-based programming committees, each with expertise in particular subject areas, and with a member-based advisory board that has total visibility into all programmatic and financial aspects of Osher-BSU’s operations. Indeed, she tells me that she happily seeks advice from members of her board, many of whom have had considerable professional experience in financial matters and related subjects.

Rosemary is assisted by two paid part-time workers—a program coordinator and an administrative assistant—plus various member volunteers.

Osher-BSU classes are held in two spacious and well-equipped first-floor classrooms, one seating 200 persons, the other 50, in a new building just off the main BSU campus. The rooms are dedicated to Osher-BSU—a requirement of its Osher grant—and are therefore available every day of the week. The larger classroom overlooks the Boise River.

Osher-BSU enjoys rent-free facilities, but otherwise is self-sustaining. It does not make an annual contribution to the university, but it does pay quarterly fees for graphic design services and for registration assistance.
Four Photographers

by Joan Kleinman

When BOLLI moved to its Turner St. location in 2010, the classrooms seemed rather drab with white, barren walls. But after a conversation with then director Sharon Sokoloff, four BOLLI members — Bud Elliot, Joel Freedman, Richard Glantz, and Arthur Sharenow — each agreed to adopt one room and to hang photographs in that space. Over the past four years, these avid photographers have displayed selections of their most engaging work, transforming these classrooms into visually delightful small galleries.

The Purple Room

Bud Elliot plunged into photography after retiring from his family’s jewelry business. He has pursued several genres of photography. He documented the building of the new Newton Library; the photos are now in its archives. When the Wellesley Library moved to a new location he recorded the disassembling of a tile floor and its subsequent installation on a wall in the new library.

Bud converted an old carriage house behind his home in West Newton into a studio for portrait photography; among his subjects was Newton Mayor Teddy Mann. Bud was active in the Berkshire Photography Group, exhibiting in juried shows.

Currently he enjoys capturing landscapes and abstract patterns, and he has created several series with a common motif such as a group of rundown barns.

In the Purple Room, Bud has purposely displayed an eclectic variety of work. The life-size image of an eagle that he found at an animal hospital in Alaska peers out, overlooking the entire room. In contrast, a picture of the canals and buildings of Venice has been transformed into an image that looks like a textured painting.

The Blue Room

To walk through the Blue Room is to travel with Arthur Sharenow from the astounding Meteora, a Greek monastery perched impossibly high on a mountain top, to the peaks of the Grand Tetons reflected perfectly in a mountain lake, to a peek at cranes in Tasmania, to the Moscow Military Museum where a slim, young, innocent guide stands incongruously before the harsh metal equipment.

On a safari trip celebrating his retirement, Arthur was surprised to discover that he loved taking pictures of wildlife. When he came home, he purchased good equipment, took courses, became active in the Boston Camera Club, and joined photo tours.

Arthur has exhibited at the Lexington Library, Natick Art Center, Brookline Library, and other venues, and he enters — and often wins — competitions at the Boston Camera Club.

Arthur uses digital software to crop his images but doesn’t play tricks with an “honest” picture. “The viewer will know when the image is a trick,” he maintains, an example being the Blue Room’s Lady in the Window in Buenos Aires.
DECK THE WALLS

The Gold Room

In the Gold Room, Richard Glantz hopes to create a bit of mystery and intrigue for the viewer, who will then ask questions of the photographs. What is that curvaceous object with the sharp, shiny edge? Which line of clothes is “real” and which the shadow?

Richard experiments with light, reflections, shadows, patterns, and silhouettes. In photos of people, he strives to capture the individual’s personality or feeling—the surprised look of the woman selling fruit, the vulnerability of the old woman with a walking stick. Richard attempts to take pictures that are more than “documentary photography” that records “where I was,” but are rather “fine art” photography that elicits a Wow! response and touches a viewer emotionally.

Richard has struggled with his sense of purity in regard to computer manipulation, but he now employs software to make the printed picture as accurate as that on the computer monitor.

It was at his surprise fiftieth birthday party that Richard received the gift of an SLR, a “real” camera with interchangeable lenses. Feeling compelled “to understand it all,” he immersed himself in his new passion.

The Green Room

Photography has long been part of Joel Freedman’s life. After graduate school, during a one-year stint in Vietnam at the beginning of the war, he used free time to travel and take many pictures—slides in those days.

In Joel’s professional career he was engaged in scientific photography. When he retired 14 years ago, he became engrossed in digital photography and digital software. Joel has traveled on many photo tours with organizations like Road Scholar and Arizona Highways Photo Workshops. He studies light’s properties like color, directionality, shadow, and depth. He photographs landscapes in both color and black-and-white. Sometimes he prefers black-and-white to better bring out tonality and sharply define shapes. For example, in the Green Room, two pictures from Yosemite National Park—one of El Capitan and one in the Gates of the Valley—were originally taken in color and then converted to black-and-white using specialized software.

Joel is proficient in using advanced digital techniques such as “high dynamic range” and “focus stacking,” both of which combine a rapidly-taken series of images to make a final picture that more completely reflects what was actually seen with the human eye.

Richard, Bud, Joel, and Arthur all devote a great deal of time and energy to their avocation, and they have shared their knowledge and enthusiasm in photography courses at BOLLI. Arthur is currently teaching his course for the fifth time, deriving great pleasure as his students develop their skills. His encouraging and consistent message to everyone is that photography is “fun—as long as you don’t have to earn a living from it!” And anyone who enjoys and appreciates the photographs hanging in the BOLLI classrooms would certainly concur with Joel’s observation that taking pictures enhances and sharpens one’s experiences—“if you have a camera in your hand you see things differently.”
iPad Users Group

by Tamara Chernow

Have you noticed the number of iPads and iPad minis that have been appearing in the classrooms and Gathering Place at BOLLI (as well as in your home and in the homes of your friends and family)? Using these devices can be satisfying or problematic. To heighten the satisfaction and eliminate some problems, an iPad Users Group was formed at BOLLI this past summer, attracting more than 50 people.

A Users Group provides “real life” opportunities for learning from the shared experience of the members. The BOLLI iPad group has met three times and now has a listserv (email addresses) of all the participants who want to receive information, get help, or offer help.

Our meetings have been based on the group's concerns and questions such as “How do you synchronize iPads with iPhones and computers?” At other sessions, or through the listserv, we have also been recommending apps to each other, as well as explaining how to use: storage systems, FaceTime (similar to Skype), and Pages (word processing program). We have also shared information about how to make and receive calls, store and send photographs and videos, and download books.

The coordinators of the group will be in contact with members via the listserv and will plan more meetings after fall classes end. In the meantime, to be on the listserv to receive updates about the group, or to ask questions, send your name and email address to Barbara Mende at Barbara@moosehill.com. To connect with someone who can help you get started on the basics, contact Harriet Gould at harriet.gould47@verizon.net. For general information, contact MaryAnn Byrnes at mabyrnes@comcast.net or Tamara Chernow at tamarachernow@comcast.net.

Thank you BOLLI community for your past support of the Gift Funds. They include the Bernie Reisman Operations Fund and the Endowment Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

As we begin our exciting Fall semester, our committee plans to create a meaningful letter for the end-of-the-year tax season which all will receive in early December. All good wishes for continued learning and friendship.

-- The Gift Funds Committee

Winter Brandeis Faculty Seminars Announced

- Dec 16-20, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
  Gil Harel: Soli Deo Gloria: J.S. Bach, the Glory and the Controversy
- Dec 16-20, 1:15 P.M.-4:15 P.M.
  Michael Booth: Hamlet in Hollywood and other Literary Legacies
- Jan. 6-10,9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. (Rapaporte Seminar)
  Billy Fleisch: As you Like It: The Nature of Good-Naturedness
- Jan. 13-17, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
Our Best-Kept Secret

by Leonora Feeney

Want to know what BOLLI’s best-kept secret is? What may be BOLLI’s best program? It’s the International Friends program.

It’s the best-kept secret because few BOLLI members are in the program, and it may be BOLLI’s best program because the pleasure and enrichment our members gain from it are long-lasting, often well beyond the period of actual participation.

The Friends pairs a BOLLI member (and spouse if desired) with one or more students in one of the Heller graduate programs, especially the Sustainable International Development (SID) program. Most of these students come from Third World countries and are college graduates. The Friends program gives preference to students who are in the U.S. for the first time. Some of the objectives of the Friends are to help the SID students adjust here, learn about what’s available in the Boston area, and develop a closer relationship to and an understanding of our community. A by-product of the program is that the BOLLI member has the opportunity to develop a close relationship with people from countries that we rarely know much about and to gain an understanding of countries like Indonesia, Pakistan, Laos, Tibet, Congo, and Gambia.

The SID students are very busy. A lot of schoolwork in a language with which they may not be entirely comfortable requires most of their time. The BOLLI Friend provides a connection to the U.S. that makes no demands, but can provide relief or release. The relationship can require as little or as much time as both sides want: sometimes only one or two face-to-face contacts in the year, as many phone calls as needed, maybe an occasional Friday night dinner, a museum visit, or a shopping trip.

The SID students invite the BOLLI families to their Culture Nights where the families can meet people from the students’ part of the world.

The Friends organization usually hosts two or more events in the year: a series of brunches for small groups of Friends and their students (ten to fifteen people), and an all-American pot luck dinner and square dance. The brunches and square dance have always been enthusiastically received!

Most Friends feel they have gained at least as much as they have given from the relationship and the exposure to a new culture. Some lifelong friendships have been created. You can become a Friend and enjoy these benefits, but be sure to keep the program a secret!

BOLLI’s Little White House Gets a New Neighbor

The Lemberg Children’s Center is moving from the campus hill to Old South St., right next to us. Children (up to six years old) of the Brandeis community and Metro-West residents are eligible. At the groundbreaking ceremony held on Sep. 24th, Pres. Fred Lawrence commented, “This is just about the most important thing we can be talking about.” The $2.5 million two-story building, which will double the Lemberg’s capacity to 78 children, toddlers, and infants, will open next February.

The Crown Center for Middle Eastern Studies will move into Lemberg’s former quarters.
Back-to-School Brunch
(photos by Sandi Levy)

About 125 people came to this brunch in September

Sandi Levy
Elizabeth David
Steve Messinger and Frank Davis
Bill Connors
Sherry Glass and Fran Tidor
Charlie Raskin
Arlene Bernstein
Arlene Miller and Susan Griffin
Judy Messinger and Bobbe Vernon
Ron Levy and Iris Kingsbury
Iris Kingsbury, Nancy Rawson, and Elaine Reisman
BOLLI Talent Show

In what would be a first for BOLLI, the Enhancement Committee is setting to work on a talent show that will feature performances by a versatile cast of BOLLI members.

The show, tentatively titled BOLLI on Stage, will take place on a June afternoon in Turner St. The setting, a cabaret, will provide dessert and coffee.

Participants could include those trained on musical instruments, vocalists, stand-up comics, and other types of performers, as solo or group performances. For example, a BOLLI member skilled on the guitar who plays in a jazz or blues combo or in a folk-music group could bring along the other members of the group.

BOLLI has its own upright piano for those who play that instrument, whether it be classical, contemporary, standards, or show tunes. Similarly, non-BOLLI-member accompanists would be welcome.

We need proposals from prospective performers as well as suggestions of potential performers. Send these to Myrna Cohen or Barbara Rabinovitz. We will review those proposals and suggestions during intersession and assemble a program that reflects a wide variety of talent.

The Enhancement Committee hopes with this event to showcase what it believes to be the considerable and heretofore hidden on-stage talents—"the Renaissance qualities," as one member put it—of BOLLI members.

ENHANCEMENT CALENDAR

(except where noted, programs will take place in Turner St. on Fridays from 10:30 A.M.–noon)

Nov. 8
Broadway Show Stoppers
Robert Pill will regale audience members

Nov. 8 (1–3:30 P.M.)
"Invasion" and "Autumn Nocturne"
Verne Vance will lead a reading of his two one-act plays

Nov. 15
Your Oral Health: Guide to a Total Healthier Life Style
Dr. Jeff Becker will be the presenter

Nov. 22
BOLLI Scene-ixrs
William Inge The Mall and People in the Wind

Dec. 10
The Jews of Lesbos
Sarah Cohen will lead discussion of this book

Dec. 13
Millen-Faber Gang (documentary film)
Derick Risner will recount this tale of crime

Dec. 20
A play reading
To be announced.

Winter Intersession (date to be announced)
BOLLI Reads
Forum for the discussion of a book selection

Check the committee’s signature yellow pages in the BOLLI Bulletin for other intersession events
SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER
(except where noted, all concerts in this venue are free to BOLLI members)

Sun., Nov. 10  (7 P.M.)
Evan Hirsch
Faculty pianist Evan Hirsch
Messiaen, tba
Prokofiev, Sonata No. 9.

Sat., Nov. 23  (8 P.M.); lecture (7 P.M.)
Silk and Bamboo: Music from China
Part of the MusicUnitesUS Intercultural Residency. Erhu soloist Wang Guowei leads the ensemble in one of the most popular of Chinese music genres: sizhu. Sizhu, or silk and bamboo (for the silk strings and bamboo flutes), is comparable to Western chamber music and is commonly heard in teahouses where a casual, informal atmosphere is the norm. Concert includes Jiangnan sizhu as well as Cantonese music. There will also be solo and ensemble music featuring erhu, pipa, gu zheng, yangqin, ruan, and dizi. Tickets $15 for BOLLI members.

Sat., Mar. 1, 2014  (8 P.M.); lecture (7 P.M.)
World Music Concert: Trio Da Kali
Fodé Lassana Diabaté, 22-key balafon
Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté, singer
Mamadou Kouyaté, bass ngoni
Trio Da Kali unites three outstanding musicians from the Mande culture of Mali, who come from a long line of distinguished griots (hereditary musical artisans). The performance revolves around the soaring vibrato voice of Hawa Kasse Mady. The program includes dazzling solo balafon pieces by Lassana Diabaté. Mamadou Kouyaté underpins the music with punchy bass lines on a ngoni, West Africa’s oldest string instrument.

SPINGOLD THEATER CENTER
Presented by the Brandeis Theater Company

Nov. 21–23  (8 P.M.) and Nov. 23–24  (2 P.M.)
Cabaret
This hit Broadway musical is set in Berlin at the dawn of the 1930s. Tickets $15 for BOLLI members.

Dec. 5–7  (8 P.M.) and Dec. 7–8  (2 P.M.)
365 Days/365 Plays
Pulitzer-Prize winning writer Suzan-Lori Parks took on an ambitious project when she decided to write a play a day for a year. This production features a selection of plays from everyday to obscure and everything between.

Feb. 6–8, 2014  (8 P.M.) and Feb. 8–9, 2014  (2 P.M.)
A View from the Bridge
Playwright Arthur Miller raises questions about the bonds of family in 1950s Brooklyn. Tickets $15 for BOLLI members.

Next issue ▶ Author deadline: 2/7/14 • Newsstand: 3/4/14

Volume 14 Issue 2  - 12 -  November 2013