RELEASING YOUR INNER HEMINGWAY

by Andy Thurnauer

More and more people in recent years have been attracted by the relative ease and affordable cost of self-publishing a book. To meet the demand, many self-publishing service companies (like Create Space and BookBaby) have sprung up to offer a variety of services to would-be authors. The range of services offered is extensive and includes editing, formatting, book cover design, and marketing. These companies charge fees for each type of service that they render.

Quite a few BOLLI members have gone the self-publishing route. They have written on a variety of subjects and have turned to self-publishing service companies for help. Their creations have been published as ebooks or as physical books or both. When the Banner asked members to tell us about their self-publishing efforts, a number of folks responded:

Michel Adler (translator of his father, Camillo Adler’s): I am a Refugee (with Create Space). A Holocaust survival memoir.

Nancy S. Alimansky: Right Foot First: A Memoir (with Infinity Publishing).


Susan Posner: Karen and Avrind’s Friends and Family Recipes (with Blurb). A family keepsake with photos, comments, and recipes.

Phillip L. Radoff: Butterflies…and Other Stories (with BookBaby). Short stories (some in BOLLI Journals), illustrations by Sam Ansell.

Pete Reider: Stepping Stones (with XLibris). Humorous short stories.

Lois Sockol: The Promise (with AuthorHouse). A novel based on the murder of her niece.

Lois, Nancy, Pete, and Sandie’s works are available as physical books; Susan C’s as an ebook; Mike, Phil, and Susan P’s in both formats.

Self-published ebooks usually cost much less to produce than physical books—and sell for less as well. On-line retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble sell both ebooks and physical books to the public, as do many of the service companies that help authors to self-publish. Some authors purchase physical books and sell them on their own. Libraries may carry self-published books, too. In fact, some of the books mentioned here are available through the Minuteman Library Network.

If you are interested in self-publishing a book—or are even mildly curious—feel free to contact any of the above-named BOLLI members about their experiences—or their books.
ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

by Bonnie Alpert

The Advisory Council is pleased to report that the BOLLI administration has welcomed our advice on many important issues this past month, including:

Meetings We take seriously our mandate to advise on BOLLI matters as they arise, and the need to ensure maximum transparency in deliberations and decision-making. Avi agreed to our request that the Advisory Council meet more than the minimum number of times (three) specified in the Charter. Between May 2014 and May 2015, there are seven additional scheduled meetings.

All ten meetings are open to BOLLI members:

<table>
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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 5, 12:30–2 P.M.</td>
<td>Feb. 9, 10 A.M.–noon</td>
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<td>Sep. 15, 10 A.M.–noon</td>
<td>Mar. 13, 10–11:30 A.M.</td>
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<td>Sep. 22, 10–11:30 A.M.</td>
<td>Apr. 13, 10-11:30 A.M.</td>
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<td>Oct. 20, 10–11:30 A.M.</td>
<td>Apr. 20, 10 A.M.–noon</td>
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<td>Nov. 17, 10–11:30 A.M.</td>
<td>May 18, 10–11:30 A.M.</td>
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Advisory Council meetings take place on Mondays.

Guidelines We recognize that the new Charter addresses just the Advisory Council and does not specify BOLLI membership parameters or operational aspects of our committees and groups. We suggested that many subjects in our previous BOLLI Guidelines could be updated and incorporated with other material into a new Guidelines document. Avi appointed a task force to examine the Guidelines, determine what sections are still relevant, and make recommendations for updates.

Member Handbook We judged sections of the revised Handbook, especially “Communication Standards,” to be incompatible with the tenor of the BOLLI community. As a result, Avi asked the Membership Committee to recommend revisions.

Volunteer Coordinator To increase participation on committees and as classroom assistants and SGLs, we advised appointing a volunteer to coordinate BOLLI’s needs with members’ skills, interests, and availability. Susan Bradford, incoming member liaison, will assume this role.

NEW YORKER FICTION SALON
(Save These Dates)
During BOLLI’s Summer 2014 intersession, the New Yorker Fiction Salon will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. in the Purple Room, May 21-September 3.
Join us for great literature, fascinating discussions, and lots of laughs.
Newcomers welcome!
See the weekly BOLLI Bulletin for details and complete schedule.

The BOLLI Banner is published by the Banner Committee:
Richard Glantz, Publisher, Susan Posner, Archivist
Brenda Gleckman, Special Projects, Phil Radoff, Co-editor
Jane Kays, Co-editor, Andy Thurnauer, Secretary
Len Heier, Photographer, Bonnie Alpert, Council liaison
Joan Kleinman, Contributing writer

Banner archive: www.brandeis.edu/bolli/publications/banner/index.html

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A Visit to University of California San Diego

by Joan Kleinman

On April 30, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a gala dinner, carillon music, and remarks by Mary Bitterman, President of the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Founded as the Institute of Retired Professionals, the program was renamed simply “Osher” when it received an Osher Foundation grant of $1,350,000. With approximately 700 members, the program operates year-round in four ten-week quarters, five days per week. About 85% of the members pay $250 annually; others join on a quarterly ($155), monthly ($75), or annual affiliate basis ($25, allowing access to videos of certain classes).

Members attend classes at will—there is no course sign-up. Generally, two simultaneous classes run from 10 A.M. to noon and two more from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. The format varies: some courses meet every other week for five sessions; others convene just once or several times during the quarter. Seminar-type classes are usually peer-led, but the majority of courses are larger lectures, given sometimes by peers, but more frequently by experts from academia and local institutions. Concerts, theater productions, and movies augment the schedule. Peers are never paid to teach; invited lecturers receive $200 per two hours.

A small, dedicated building consisting of two classrooms and an office houses Osher. The University provides this space but the program must rent any other campus facility it uses. A large outdoor patio area, with tables and benches, serves as the “gathering place” for lunch or socializing.

Osher is part of UCSD’s Extension Division, which approves its Constitution and by-laws. Daily operations are managed by a 21-member Council—six forming the Executive Committee and 15 others, five elected each year for three-year terms. A curriculum committee recruits and schedules course leaders; other committees tend to aspects such as membership and social events. A full-time office manager is the only paid administrative position.

A UCSD Extension Osher Program Manager (OPM) oversees the entire program and serves as liaison with the University. He administers the budget with oversight from the Extension Finance Office. All Osher endowment monies are administered, invested, and accessed according to UCSD policy; Osher uses only interest from its endowment for operating expenses. Currently, two member-donated endowments total about $1,200,000 and are used as the donor specifies.

The Extension Division charges an annual overhead of about $36,000 to administer the program and provide janitorial services and registration assistance. Osher pays for the office manager, catalog printing, facilities rentals, and other specific charges. Osher does not “gift” money to the University.

The OPM prepares the annual budget, consulting with the Council’s treasurer and president. After approval by the University, it is taken to the Council for its consent and/or minor changes. Officially, the OPM has final say on any modifications, but Council members agree that, generally, he operates with a “light hand.”
Rethinking the Study Group Support Committee

by Joyce Hollman

Study Group Leaders (SGLs) want to be effective course leaders, BOLLI members want to enjoy and learn from their courses, and the Study Group Support Committee (SGSC) is committed to providing good teaching and learning experiences for SGLs and their class members. What is needed to meet these goals?

Some support techniques are clear. Classroom assistants handle paperwork, freeing up the SGL to focus on presenting the course. Meetings with SGLs before and during the term provide opportunities for discussion of teaching and classroom issues. Teachers Talk offers a forum for SGLs to explore teaching issues and get help from other SGLs.

The SGSC recognizes that the needs, preferences, styles, and skills of SGLs vary. Some have had years of teaching at BOLLI or elsewhere; some have none. Many SGLs welcome the opportunity to talk about how their classes are going; some actively seek help; some prefer minimal contact with an “outside” person.

Our balancing act: to respond to those diverse circumstances while fulfilling a responsibility to the larger BOLLI community of seeing that courses are presented well.

The SGSC has been re-thinking how it carries out its role and will individualize support according to the needs and preferences of SGLs.

- The role of the SGSC is feedback and support. Evaluation is provided by members at the end of the semester.
- An SGSC member will serve as a liaison to each SGL and be available for discussions and feedback about teaching and classroom issues.
- Before classes begin, the Curriculum Committee (CC) liaison will offer to coordinate a meeting with the SGL and the new SGSC liaison, to transmit the goals and plans of the SGL to the SGSC.
- Any SGSC member or the CC liaison, if enrolled in the class, may serve as liaison; if none are enrolled, the SGSC will appoint a liaison.
- Liaisons will visit classes if requested by the SGL.

Members play a large role in creating and maintaining the success of our programs. Careful writing and reading of course descriptions can help BOLLI members get what they want. And most important, BOLLI members evaluate courses. Detailed, specific, informative, and polite feedback is requested from all of us.

SGLs work long and hard to prepare and present a course. Strengthening course presentations benefits everyone.

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Monday or Friday Talks

- May 9, 10:30 A.M.-noon: Elaine Reisman presents The Admirable Crichton
- May 12, 1:00-3:30 P.M.: Scene-iors Preview
- June 20: 1:00-3:00 P.M.: Play Reading-tba

Summer Film Festival

- Irwin Silver will present two films on religious and racial prejudice: Gentleman’s Agreement and In the Heat of the Night
- Marc Schwarz will present Play It Again Sam and other films

September Preview

- Sep. 8, 11 A.M.-1 P.M.: Back-to-School Brunch
- Sep. 12, 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.: Panel discussion on At-Home programs
A CONVERSATION WITH AVI BERNSTEIN

by Cynthia Pill

I recently sat down with Avi Bernstein to discuss the responsibilities of the BOLLI director and BOLLI’s place within Brandeis. As BOLLI is a program of the Rabb School of Continuing Studies, Avi reports directly to Irving Epstein, the interim vice-provost responsible for Rabb. They meet regularly to discuss every area of the director’s responsibilities, which include supervising the Turner Street facility and BOLLI staff, managing business operations, budget and finance, and developing the Advisory Council and program committee structure.

Avi says that an important focus for him has been to improve the quality of life for BOLLI members. Improvements that Avi has instituted include establishing online registration and stationing Megan at 60 Turner Street to ensure that there will always be an administrator readily available to respond to members’ and SGLs’ immediate needs and to see that the facility runs smoothly. Avi has also increased extra programming at Turner Street, as exemplified by the Crown Center lectures on Middle East Politics and the Dead Sea Scrolls course.

The development of more intergenerational programming, especially with undergraduate students, is another strong priority established by Brandeis for the BOLLI director. Working closely with BOLLI member Margie Nesson, who spearheaded “Sages and Seekers”, Avi worked toward partnering with the College of Arts and Sciences in establishing the program. Another example was BOLLI’s collaboration with the Brandeis Academic Debate and Speech Society in helping run an urban debate tournament for youth at risk.

Because the University is interested in attracting a diverse array of adult learners to the campus—including semi-retired individuals and Brandeis alumni—Avi was charged with building an adult education seminar business that would serve new markets beyond BOLLI’s membership organization. Toward fulfilling this responsibility, Avi has successfully worked to increase participation by non-BOLLI members in the Faculty Seminars.

We also discussed the new lifelong learning opportunity that will be housed at Temple Beth Elohim and how this might impact BOLLI. The former is an autonomous program run by its members, while BOLLI falls under the governance of Brandeis University. Avi does not foresee any difficulties for BOLLI, noting that BOLLI offers wonderful classes and has terrific committee chairs and a well-functioning Advisory Council. He anticipates that BOLLI will continue to be a strong and vibrant program. Importantly, Avi sees BOLLI’s place within Brandeis as providing added value with many opportunities for BOLLI members to partake of campus events (concerts, theater, lectures) and facilities (gym, library) at either reduced rates or no cost.

Looking toward the future, Avi says that a priority is to focus on space issues. This includes thinking creatively about how to use existing space at Turner Street, potentially expanding the number of days at BOLLI, moving onto campus for discrete opportunities, and also assertively pursuing new space. Avi plans to form a committee to investigate this high-priority need.

Avi stressed that he values transparency in all areas, including roles and responsibilities, and stated that quarterly and annual reports are posted on the BOLLI website and are available to all.
Halfway Café
photos by Harris Traiger

Alexander Lane, Brandeis Ph.D. ‘15, at the piano

Mitch Fischman and Eddie Goldberg

Bob Pill and Richard Glantz

Barry David and Beth Davis

Bernice Baran and Peter Kastner

Myra Snyder and Arlene Bernstein

Susan Bradford and Joyce Hollman

Charlie Raskin

Tamara Chernow and Kay Sackman

Sandi Levy

55 people came to this party in April

Robert Cohen and Marty Greenfield

David Moskowitz

Sandwiches, salads, and desserts for all

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PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS
by Brenda Gleckman

We have a winner! Bonnie Alpert, painstakingly examining the features of these young couples, matched three of them to BOLLI members Meryl and Len Heier, Arthur and Judy Sharenow, and Naomi and Peter Schmidt. Her prize was a lunch at Louis’ Deli with the entire Banner staff.

If we miss the freshness of our youthful faces, let this be a consolation:
To me fair friend, you never can be old,
For as you were when first your eyes I eyed,
Such seems your beauty still.

—William Shakespeare

Helen and Bob Lebowitz
Meryl and Len Heier
Arthur and Judy Sharenow
Sandi and Ron Levy
Bob and Helen Lebowitz
Naomi and Peter Schmidt
CAMPUS CULTURAL CALENDAR
compiled by Susan Posner

THE ROSE ART MUSEUM
(Current exhibitions close June 8)

Chris Burden: The Master Builder
Comprehensive collection of his small-scale erector set bridges

The Matter that Surrounds Us (video)
Pairs mid-century artist Wohls and contemporary artist Charline von Heyl

Mika Rottenberg: Bowls Balls Souls Holes
Retrospective of this video installation artist

Maria Lassnig and Mary Reid Kelley (video)
Links animation of Lassnig with videos of Kelley

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Stay Cool This Summer—Join Your Friends at BOLLI

An Introduction to the Life and Legacy of Abraham Lincoln
Join Brandeis Professor John Burt and uncover the life and legacy of the man whom many observers regard as America’s greatest statesman of all time.

Week of June 9th-13th, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.   Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members

JustMusic: Playing Protest in the Classical Tradition
Join Brandeis instructor Jared Redmond and discover the political side of Western classical music.

Week of June 9th-13th, 1:15-4:15 P.M.   Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members

The Life & Legacy of Justice Louis D. Brandeis
Join Brandeis scholar Dan Breen and discover the full range of Justice Brandeis’ ideas and motives for political action, on and off the Supreme Court.

Week of June 23rd-27th, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.   Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members

Kurosawa's The Seven Samurai: An Adventure in Film and Criticism
Join Brandeis professor Billy Flesch and discover what makes one of the greatest action films in movie history so wonderful. (Rapaporte Seminar)

Week of August 4th-8th, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.   Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members

Evolution and Revolution in the Music of Ludwig van Beethoven
Join Gil Harel to unravel the enigmas and secrets of Beethoven’s life, and see how one man single-handedly changed the landscape of the European artistic world.

Week of August 11th-15th, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.   Fee: $185 for members; $235, non-members

Next issue ▶ Author deadline: 8/22/14 • Newsstand: 9/15/14

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