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INSTITUTE

OLLI

1994

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2019

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



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for its continued support and
engagement over the years!**



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Celebrating a Quarter Century!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us this evening as we gather to celebrate OLLI at BCC's first twenty-five years. Since its inception, our goal has been to bring quality lifelong learning opportunities to all Berkshire County residents ages 50 and better. That goal is only attainable with ongoing support from you, our OLLI community members and local business organizations.

OLLI at BCC is one of 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes throughout the country, and the second largest OLLI in Massachusetts. Since our affiliation with the Osher Foundation in 2007, we've grown from approximately 800 to well over 1,200 members—and we're still growing! Our membership and course enrollment figures are climbing, the number of our course offerings is increasing, and we're continuing to offer new programs over time like our University Days, Distinguished Speakers Series, Shared Interest Groups, and various special events.

How have we done all this? The short answer is that it's taken the entire OLLI community. It starts with Berkshire Community College's supportive administration, and includes our dedicated and hard-working staff, committed board members, creative and determined committee members and chairs, and other great OLLI volunteers who raise their hands whenever their time and talents are needed. The end result is the amazing lifelong learning institute so many have helped to build.

Tonight we celebrate and thank all those whose generosity, determination, wisdom, creativity, and just plain hard work have shaped our OLLI over the last twenty-five years. Thank you again for your support, and for joining us as we take a walk down memory lane and look to the exciting future that awaits us.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Lane'.

Barbara Lane | *President*, OLLI Board of Directors



Presidents... Past & Present

BILL Presidents:

Tom Easton | Leonard Stolzberg | Ann Dulye | Norman Avnet
Arthur Sherman | Paul Flaum | Mona Sherman

OLLI Presidents:

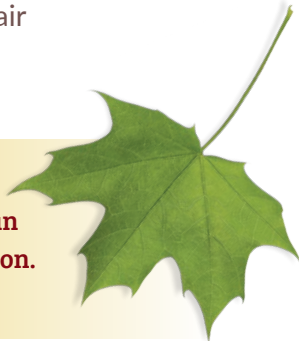
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Robert Braddick | Ellen Croibier | Robert Desrosiers | Joseph Gerard
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Virginia O'Leary | Arthur Sherman | Monica Sinclair
Will Singleton | Chelly Sterman

**Our apologies... The names of board members
Monica Sinclair, Will Singleton, and Chelly Sterman
were inadvertently omitted from our Gala invitation.
We correct that omission and apologize here.**



Twenty-five years ago, I was sitting in my office at Berkshire Community College when I received a call from Hank Payne, the President of Williams College. He told me to expect a request for an appointment from Tom and Judy Easton, a couple interested in starting an adult learning program. Since Hank's mother was an avid participant in Elderhostel (now Road Scholars), he asked that I take the appointment and consider their request.

Tom and Judy were impressive. I was happy to support an idea that fit perfectly with the community college mission of serving individuals from pre-school through older adult. Thanks to Alexandra Warshaw, then BCC's Dean of Continuing Education, her staff, and a dedicated group of volunteers, the Berkshire Institute for Lifelong Learning, BILL, became a reality. Through the unique partnership between a public community college and an elite liberal arts college we were able to provide funding, administrative support, and faculty. Then as now, the participants themselves controlled the curriculum.

I was privileged to have many opportunities to interact with Tom, Judy and the others who formed BILL's core leadership team. Each was an opportunity to be in awe of their intellectual strengths and curiosity. At one Sunday evening dinner they were dissecting the Sunday New York Times, which they had read in its entirety, comparing one of the Magazine's articles with the author's prior work. I had barely finished the news section. Jealous of their time and talent, I promised myself that someday I would be part of a lifelong program as challenging and rewarding as the one they had created.

And here I am, a member of BILL's second iteration, OLLI at BCC, taking courses, attending special events, mentoring a BCC student and making friends. I don't know where the 25 years went, but I am grateful to be here celebrating with all of you.

Barbara Viniar | Co-Chair, OLLI 25th Anniversary Committee

Committee Chairs

OLLI at BCC depends on its many volunteer leaders to provide superlative programming, support, and leadership. Thank you to all who lead or serve on OLLI committees past, present and future!

Robert Braddick *Mentoring Leadership Team Co-chair*

Arline Breskin *Special Events Committee Chair*

Robert Desrosiers *Information Systems Chair*

Andrew Fisher *Science Curriculum Committee Co-chair*

Karel Fisher *Performing Arts Initiative Co-chair*

Christopher Guidette *Arts Curriculum Committee Co-chair
& OLLI Update Editor*

Hope Hagler *Distinguished Speakers Series Co-chair*

Gordon Josephson *Governance Committee Chair*

Katherine Kidd *University Day Chair*

Thomas Koelle *OLLI Art Show Co-chair*

Barbara Lane *Membership Committee Co-chair*

Benjamin Liptzin *Development Committee Chair*

Richard Maturro *Literature Curriculum Committee Chair*

Erin McNamara *Mentoring Leadership Team Co-chair*

Virginia O'Leary *Social Science Curriculum Committee Chair*

Anthony Segal *Science Curriculum Committee Co-chair*

Elizabeth Selkowitz *Arts Curriculum Committee Co-chair*

Harold Shair *Technology Chair*

Monica Sinclair *Membership Committee Co-chair*

Naomi Spatz *Performing Arts Initiative Co-chair*

Chelly Serman *OLLI Art Show Co-chair*

Lance Serman *Distinguished Speakers Series Co-chair*

Leonard Tabs *Summer 2 Curriculum Committee Co-chair*

Steve Tobin *Summer 2 Curriculum Committee Co-chair*

Nancy Vale *Performing Arts Initiative Co-chair*

Barbara Waldinger *Performing Arts Initiative Co-chair*



Congratulations!

Greetings OLLI at BCC community,

It has been an honor for Berkshire Community College to support and collaborate with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute from its beginning as the Berkshire Institute of Lifelong Learning (BILL). Watching the program grow, evolve, and blossom has been inspiring, not just for me, but for the college community and the greater Berkshires community.

OLLI has changed the Berkshires' view of what is possible in the "third age," through the creativity, hard work, and generosity of its members, over 1,300 of the most active and engaged people in the Berkshires.

OLLI's growing mentoring program for Berkshire Community College students is especially meaningful. One of my favorite events of the year is attending the annual OLLI/BCC Mentor/Mentee luncheon. The stories of the impact OLLI members have had on our students are extraordinary. OLLI members inspire our students and are a reminder that the love of learning is a lifelong affair.

We look forward to the continued growth, creativity and vitality of OLLI for the next 25 years and beyond. Together we'll ensure that lifelong learning is available to everyone.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ellen Kennedy in cursive script.

Ellen Kennedy | *President*, Berkshire Community College





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in recognition of your 25th anniversary.

September 12, 2019

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

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August 29, 2019

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the trustees and staff of The Bernard Osher Foundation, we extend hearty congratulations to everyone involved with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College on twenty-five years of exceptional service to the community.

We recognize that the development of your Institute over the past two and a half decades has engaged the energies and talents of countless devoted and generous people from dedicated members and volunteers to outstanding program staff and administrators. The progress of your dynamic program has been simply remarkable since the Osher Foundation made its first grant in March 2007 at the request of Mona and Art Sherman and their visionary colleagues at the Berkshire Institute for Lifelong Learning. We therefore salute your extraordinary success and collective achievements as you come together in celebration of your common purpose: to explore new ideas, to share wisdom and insights, and to form new and lasting friendships.

We hope that you take great pride in all that you have accomplished over the past twenty-five years, and we are confident that the Institute will continue to enhance the lives of Western Massachusetts residents for decades to come.

With warm regards,

Bernard Osher
Treasurer and Founder

Mary G.F. Bitterman
President
David Blazeovich
Senior Program Director

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—Barbara & Ed Lane



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Wishing OLLI another
successful 25 years.

—Linda & Bill Grabel



Congratulations on this great milestone to a wonderful organization and its many supporters who have worked so hard to make this possible.

Having been involved and benefitted from OLLI's varied programs, classes, and educational opportunities since the early days of BILL, we wish continued success and longevity to OLLI.

—Susan & David Orenstein

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—Nancy Vale



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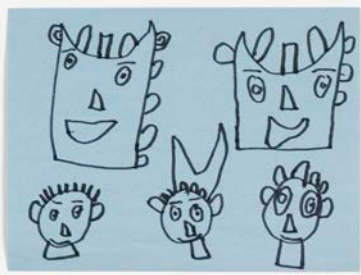
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A very sincere thank you to all past and present **BILL** and **OLLI** at **BCC** volunteers, board members, officers, executive directors, staff, and our wonderful educational and cultural partners. You made it all happen.

Happy Anniversary—on to the future!!

—Art Sherman

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The House of Representatives



Be it hereby known to all that:
The Massachusetts House of Representatives
offers its sincerest congratulations to:
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

in recognition of
Celebrating your 25th anniversary

The entire membership extends its very best wishes
and expresses the hope for future good fortune
and continued success in all endeavors.

Given this 12th day of September, 2019
At the State House, Boston, Massachusetts



by: [Signature]

Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House

Offered by: [Signature]
State Representative
Tricia Farley-Wobier

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State Senate



Official Citation

Be it Known, that the Massachusetts Senate
Hereby extends its Congratulations to:

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Berkshire Community College

In Recognition of:

25 years of dedication to lifelong learning and continued
education for adults throughout Berkshire County ; and

Be it further Known, that the Massachusetts Senate extends
its best wishes for continued success; that this Citation be
duly signed by the President of the Senate and attested to
and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the Senate.



By: [Signature] Karen E. Spilka
President of the Senate Karen E. Spilka
Attest: [Signature] Michael D. Hurley
Clerk of the Senate Michael D. Hurley
Offered by: [Signature] Adam G. Hinds
State Senator Adam G. Hinds
Date: June 13, 2019



Here's to OLLI at 25!

Consistently nurtured with heart and soul by Art from before the beginning, and current determination to enrich & challenge us more by broadening OLLI's scope even further.

—EMM



Here's to another 25 years!

—Mara & Randy Winn

Congratulations
OLLI
on your 25th
Anniversary!



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Pictured: OLLI Mentoring Program at BCC



Berkshire Community College is proud to support the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) as it celebrates 25 years in the Berkshires, providing exciting educational, social and volunteer opportunities designed especially by and for people over fifty years old!

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—Susan & Gordon Josephson



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—Diane & Steve Tobin

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**Congratulations
and thank you to the
countless volunteer
leaders who made
BILL and OLLI blossom
and flourish!**

—Megan Whilden

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Going Steady for Over 20 Years!

OLLI at BCC salutes the following OLLI members who have been members without a lapse for twenty or more years!* You are the bedrock of our learning community in the Berkshires. Thank you.

Eleanore Aronoff	Norman Moskowitz
Arline Breskin	Elizabeth Myers
Eleanor Chandler	Suzanne Nash
Bonnie Desrosiers	Nancy Osborne
Robert Desrosiers	Sara Pollard
Monroe England	Margaret Poutasse
Diana Feld	Helen Radin
Stanley Feld	Jack Rubin
Marilyn Flaum	Lenore Rubin
Paul Flaum	Alvin Schneiderman
Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss	Myrna Schneiderman
John Galt	Mark Selkowitz
Barbara Greenbaum	Helen-Mary Shaffer
Joanne Hayes	Arthur Sherman
Phyllis Jaffe	Carole Siegel
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Augusta Leibowitz	Ann Trabulsi
Katherine Levitan	Nancy Vale
Barbara Mandler	Terry Weaver
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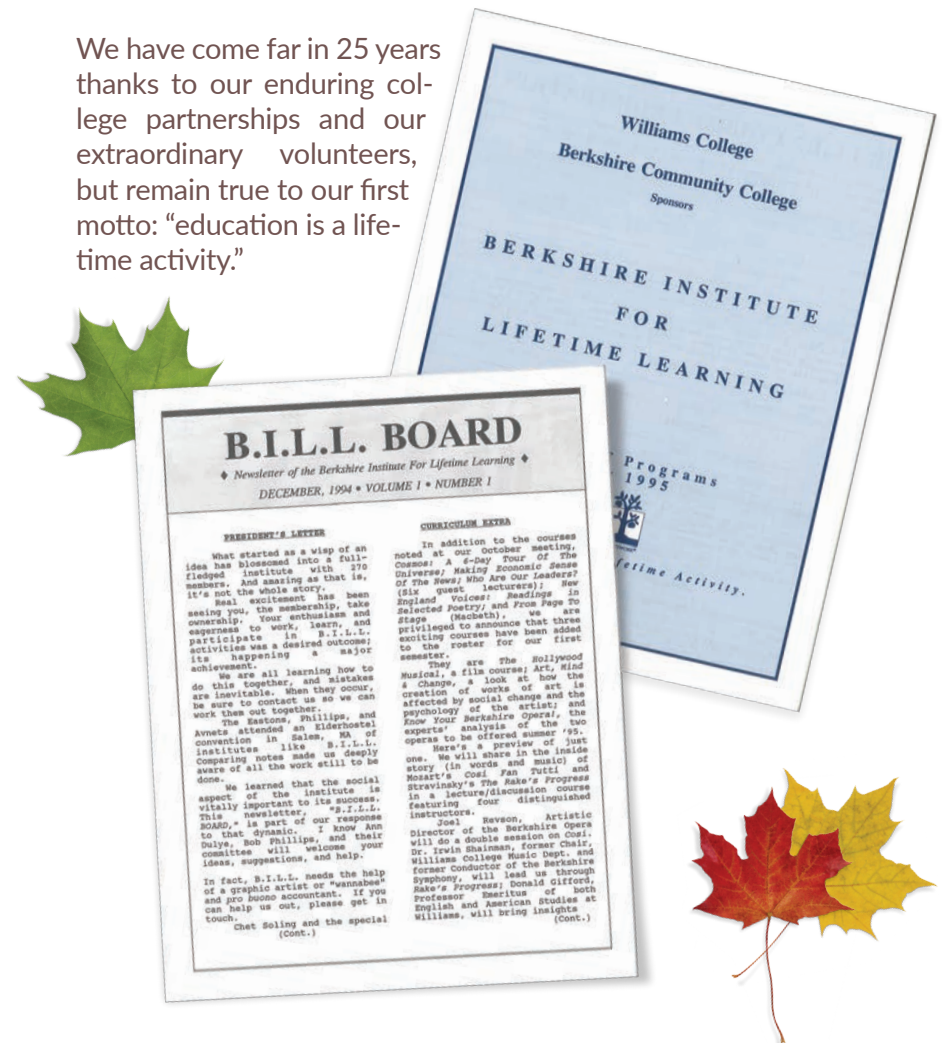
*According to our records. We know there are other OLLI members who have been members for over two decades whose membership may have lapsed at some point, thus resetting their start date. We salute ALL of you!

In the Beginning...

A look at the very first OLLI/BILL newsletter and catalog!

Our first catalog featured eight classes on opera, leadership, Hollywood musicals, economics & the news, art & change, New England poetry, theatre, and the cosmos. Our first newsletter noted "What started as a wisp of an idea has blossomed into a full fledged institute with 270 members."

We have come far in 25 years thanks to our enduring college partnerships and our extraordinary volunteers, but remain true to our first motto: "education is a life-time activity."



Silent Auction



Thank you to **Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort** for donating four non-holiday lift ticket vouchers. Look forward to winter with a chance to ski at an awarding winning resort right in your own back yard!

Thank you to **OLLI's friends at Plaza Package** in Great Barrington for donating a case of **Breca winery's delicious 2017 Rosé from the Aragón region of Spain**. Rosés are appreciated for their versatility when it comes to pairing them with food, and rosés from the Aragón are no exception. They have been described as being "characterized by perfumed aromatics of white flowers and bright red berry fruit with distinctive and refreshing acidity." The Breca Rosé is considered "a very elegant rosé presenting a pale pink hue in the glass. On the nose, it presents beautiful floral aromas, as well as red fruit, including strawberry."

What fun you'll have pairing this lovely rosé with a cheese course, a favorite entrée, or dessert!

Thank you to **Domaney's Liquors and Fine Wines** in Great Barrington for donating this case of wonderful wines consisting of six bottles of **Vino Winery's 2015 Pinot Grigio** and six bottles of **Rosemont Estate's Diamond Label 2017 Shiraz**.

Vino is a **Washington state winery**, and its **2015 Pinot Grigio** has received a **90 point "best buy" rating from Wine Enthusiast**. This lovely pinot has been described as "spot on for the variety, with notes of whole Granny Smith apple and green melon. The palate redolent with sleek fresh apple and pear flavors that power through the finish."

Rosemont Estate is a **South Australia winery**, and its **Diamond Label 2017 Shiraz** is considered "a rich and generous wine, with dark plum, black cherry and blackberry notes." This shiraz "pairs beautifully with hearty, richly seasoned dishes, red meats or the sharp bite of a strong cheddar." The perfect wine for a winter evening meal by the fire!

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Elder Services
of Berkshire County, Inc.

Adams
BANK
150



25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Barbara Lane & Barbara Viniar, Co-chairs

Arline Breskin, Joan Brotman, Judy Cromwell, Carolyn Fabricant,
Carolyn Guenther King, Rosanna Koelle, Edward Lane,
Sandra Rubin, Diane Saunders, Megan Whilden



Partners in Education with Williams College, Bard College
at Simon's Rock, and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

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