

B.I.L.L. BOARD

SPRING 2005
VOLUME 13
NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR LIFETIME LEARNING

Spring 2005 Semester

From "Birds" to the "Blues," the Curriculum Committee has put together a variety of courses and lecturers to "whet" your appetite. Nineteen courses held at several locations will begin April 18 and end June 6. Refer to the catalog for full details.

MONDAY • BCC Main Campus, Pittsfield
Berkshire Birds – Richard L. Ferren
The Great Depression – David L. Auerbach
Poets of WWI – Walter Bemak

MONDAY (Evening Course) • Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington
Jefferson vs. Hamilton – Walker F. Todd

TUESDAY • Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington
The Strange World of the Very Small – Michael Bergman
American-Jewish Fiction – David Fine
Failures of Corporate Governance – Larry Greenapple

WEDNESDAY • Clark Art Institute, Williamstown
Chinese History, Culture and Politics – George Crane, Kallai Huang, Scarlett Jang, Caroline Reeves
Russia as Empire: Formation, Expansion and Disintegration – Susan Bronson, William G. Wagner
The Middle East and the West – Magnus Bernhardsson

THURSDAY • BCC Main Campus, Pittsfield
At the Sea's Edge – Bill Fox
Aspects of French and Other European Painting 1700 to 1870 – John Leavey
The Arts of London – John Brooks, Andrea Goodman, Sari Gruber, Diane Hitter

THURSDAY • Castle Street Café, Great Barrington
Wine Appreciation III – Michael Ballin, Steve Dixon, Monroe England, Ben Glick, Jack Rubin, Martin Schwartz

FRIDAY • BCC Main Campus, Pittsfield
Some Women Authors from the Middle East – William Darrow
Today's Headlines – Ann H. Trabulsi, Richard Whitehead
HIV/AIDS: The Disease and Search for a Cure – Charles Lovett
Work and Family – Paula Forman
Louis Armstrong: Inside and Out – Hank Nadig



Richard Ferren, BCC,
Lecturer



William Darrow,
Williams College, Lecturer

Dates To Save

March 14: *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*
Triplex Theater, Great Barrington

CLARK ART SERIES • Williamstown

March 10: *Every Picture Tells a Story*
March 17: *Making Faces – The Art of Portraiture*

March 24: *Nature in the Raw – The Art of Landscape*

March 31: *Bodylines – The Art of Figure Painting*

April 3: *Talking Heads*,
TheaterWorks, Hartford, CT

April 4: *Prized Writers* – Bernie Rogers and Kevin O'Hara,
Simon's Rock College

May 7: Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, Bard College and Clermont Historic Site

May 21: *At the Sea's Edge* field trip, Cape Ann, MA

June 1: Convocation – BCC

JUNE LECTURE SERIES • BCC

June 4: *Great Piano Concertos and 1959: The Greatest Year in Jazz* – Jeremy Yudkin

June 13: *Mahler: The Man and his Music* – Stuart Feder, Simon Wainrib

June 20: *B.I.L.L. READS* – S. Dworkin, P. Jaffe, P. Stein, M. Tannenbaum

June 27: *Mysteries of Light and Color* – Bob Berman

June 8: Tallix Foundry, Beacon, NY and Storm King Sculpture Park

June 11: *Lennon* – Colonial Theatre, Boston

June 23: Savion Glover – Jacob's Pillow

President's Message

By the time you read this column, winter "should be" on the wane. The Spring Semester catalog is in your hands, and the snow birds are beginning to contemplate their return to the beautiful Berkshires. Our winter semester was very successful, and our March programs at the Clark and the National Archives continue to be popular. Between these programs and our Special Events, it has been a busy start to the year.

As we enter our second decade, changes are in the wind. B.I.L.L. is moving toward expanding programs in South County where our membership is growing most rapidly. We are also looking to provide more services to other parts of Berkshire County and to continue to develop our mentoring program at BCC.

In October, B.I.L.L. sent representatives to a regional conference in Portland, Maine. They came back with many new and exciting ideas. One result of our participation is that we are now involved in a consortium with Brandeis, Harvard, Dartmouth and the University of San Francisco which will enable us to share program ideas and materials. This can open up many new resources for B.I.L.L. We are looking at additional ways of delivering educational content to our members through the use of small, seminar type discussion classes. This will provide another meaningful educational experience for B.I.L.L. members.

Our Convocation this year will take place on Wednesday, June 1, 2005. Dr. Mary Marcy, Provost of Simon's Rock College, will be our featured speaker. Mark this date on your calendar now for what will be a very worthwhile afternoon.

The next few years should be dynamic ones, and I hope that you will continue to be a part of B.I.L.L. and share in this excitement.



The Boston Opera House



On October 23, 2004, B.I.L.L. members boarded a bus for an excursion to Boston. Our destination was the Boston Opera House to see *The Lion King*. The restoration of the Boston Opera House had just been completed in mid-July.

The B.F. Keith Memorial Theater, a vaudeville showcase, opened in 1928. It became the home of the Boston Opera Company under the direction of Sara Caldwell in 1978. It is one of the most opulent surviving buildings by theater architect Thomas Lamb. The building includes 14,000 square feet of gold leaf ornamentation, sculptural detail, marble columns and French baroque paintings.

Long in need of restoration, Mayor Thomas M. Menino managed to have the 2,500 seat opera house declared one of the 11 most endangered historical sites in America by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1995.

Work began in November 2002. Steve Marinelli, who directed the \$37 million, 20-month, restoration project said, "All the methods and materials have to be signed

off in Washington, because the theater has the status that it does. I have teams of historical consultants, on everything down to how we polish the metal, how do we recast the bronze, to plaster renovations and the terra-cotta facade. Every piece of the history has to be approved. Plaster is being redone with plaster. The bronze is going to be bronze. The marble is being replaced with marble." (*The Boston Globe*, 3/14/2004)

I think all would agree that they succeeded — the building was very impressive as was the performance of *The Lion King*. — Dick Degenhardt

Visit London

October 27 to November 5, 2005

Members got word of a trip in conjunction with this spring's Thursday course, *The Arts of London*, even before the itinerary was complete. An informal sign-up list is being compiled. Only 24 participants can go "on site" to visit or revisit many of London's gems. Our guide will be John Brooks, retired Associate Director from the Clark Art Institute, who has led many successful trips.

Escorted visits to museums, theater and more will fill our days in town complemented by excursions to Kent, Cambridge and Hampstead. Please e-mail brochure requests to the B.I.L.L. office and questions to Enid Michelman, Extended Travel Chair, Grmy1@aol.com.

Thank You

B.I.L.L. thanks the Clark Art Institute for providing a wonderful place in which to hold our classes. The auditorium is spacious, comfortable and offers much-appreciated media equipment.

A special thanks to Judy Ensign, our liaison with the Clark, who has taken care of our scheduling and media needs most graciously.

B.I.L.L. BOARD

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Getting To Know You

MARJORIE LEWIS

Marge is a "woman of words."

A graduate of Russell Sage College in Troy, NY, as an English major, Marge saw her future in radio. While at college she worked at WTRY as a panelist on a show called *How Do You Pronounce It*. In 1951 when television was in its infancy, she joined CBS and, among other things, was the film researcher for *You Are There*.

Marge earned a Master of Library Science degree at Rutgers University. After many moves, she and her family settled in Westchester County where she worked for twenty years as the children's librarian at the public library and then as a school librarian in Scarsdale.

Marge has written three children's books: *Wrongway Applebaum*, *The Boy Who Would be a Hero* and *Ernie and the Mile-Long Muffler*. Ernie, in fact, inspired a small Idaho town to want to knit a mile-long muffler! Marge and her husband Phil went to Aberdeen, Idaho, to celebrate the completion of the project and led a parade in her honor through the town. She has also written a story for MS magazine, co-edited an anthology of poetry for young women entitled *Waltzing on Water* and edited books for the American Library Association.

Since her retirement to Canaan, NY, ten years ago, Marge has been actively involved with B.I.L.L. serving on the Catalog Committee, the B.I.L.L. BOARD Committee, contributing to the Annual Report and the B.I.L.L. brochure. She says "the people I have met in B.I.L.L. are wonderful, warm, smart and funny and have helped to make the change from the suburbs and the big cities to the cows and chickens of rural life a wonderful one."

Husband Phil, a documentary film producer and Emmy Award recipient, is a lecturer and co-chair of the Media Committee. They have two daughters, two sons and four grandchildren. The year 2004 was especially "special" to Marge. She and Phil celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and Marge celebrated her 75th birthday and 55th college reunion.

— Wilma Michaels



The Strange World of the Very Small

The Tuesday morning class at Simon's Rock Lecture Hall this spring '05 semester will be about one of the most amazing discoveries in all of science. Our lecturer will be Professor Michael Bergman who teaches at Simon's Rock and who, several years ago, gave us an excellent course and conducted a field trip about geology and the earth.

The great 19th century French mathematical physicist Henri Poincare is rumored to have said, "Give me the initial conditions, and I shall predict the future of the world." This hubris was not uncommon in 19th century physicists since it seemed that, with sufficient mathematical skill, one could apply and solve Newton's laws of classical mechanics in any system of interest.

When physicists applied Newton's laws to microscopic systems such as atoms, a strange, thought provoking thing happened — theory and experiment diverged. A similar problem arose when dealing with objects moving at speeds approaching that of light. The year 1905 was a revolutionary one in physics heralded by two classic papers by Einstein. One, the special theory of relativity, examined the nature of space and time. The other, the subject of this course, introduced the idea that light behaves not only as a wave but also sometimes as particles which we call photons, capable of being understood only with the development of quantum mechanics.

Professor Bergman will highlight, in easily understandable terms, some of these concepts including the famous Heisenberg uncertainty principle — the physical laws that we believe govern the microscopic world. One of the great surprises of quantum mechanics is that the certainty of classical mechanics must be thrown out in favor of accepting probabilistic predictions. This caused Einstein to be very uncomfortable musing that "God does not play dice."

Join us this spring for a fascinating program. — Arthur Sherman

B.I.L.L. READS

Book discussions are definitely "in." Mona Sherman and Paul Stein thought that it would be interesting to have B.I.L.L. members read the same novel and then meet with a panel to discuss the work. The panel will consist of B.I.L.L. presenters Paul Stein, Susan Dworkin, Phyllis Jaffe and the Lenox Bookstore owner, Matthew Tannenbaum. They will present background material on the author, his works and the time frame in which the novel was written.

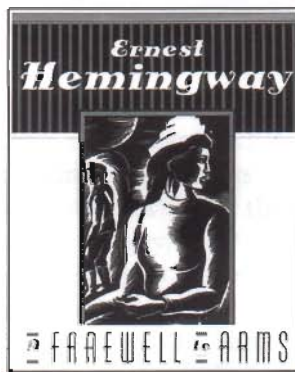
All participants will be encouraged to express their views.

Selecting the work was an interesting process. The panel made numerous suggestions and based on the author's reputation, length of the novel and "discussability," they decided that Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* would be a fine choice.

The discussion will occur on Monday, June 20, 2005, from 3 to 4:30 PM at BCC. Flyers will be sent out in April with more information.

So LET'S READ!

— Phyllis Jaffe



Convocation

June 1, 2005

Mary B. Marcy, recently appointed Vice President and Provost of Simon's Rock College of Bard, will be the speaker at B.I.L.L.'s Convocation at Berkshire Community College.

Prior to coming to Simon's Rock College, Dr. Marcy was Co-Director and Senior Administrator of the Project on the Future of Higher Education at Antioch University in Seattle. During her tenure, she also served as the first Dean of University Relations and Planning at the university.

She received her Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy in Politics from Oxford University. Her undergraduate degree was completed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the area of political science and communications.

Throughout her administrative career, Dr. Marcy has taught courses in political science and education, served on various degree committees and written articles on educational reform and leadership for many professional publications.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We were very interested in the course we took this last semester, *A Pictorial History of Reading and Writing*, taught by Christina Gibbons. She had chosen a great many slides of paintings and sculpture that shed light on the development of reading and writing from very ancient times to the present. And the selections of readings from so long ago were particularly impressive. Those ancients were mighty good with words!

If you see Dr. Christina Gibbons' name on some future B.I.L.L. course, we advise you to sign up quickly. We certainly will. — Dot and Al Rowe

Opportunity Knocks

The Meeting of the Minds Conference

Lifelong Learning Institutes (LLIs) throughout the country share the same goals. The recent 2004 Conference of New England Lifelong Learning Institutes in Portland, Maine, allowed 350 attendees to exchange ideas and experiences and provided a base for mutual support and continuing contacts.



Arthur Sherman, Ann Dulye, Arline Breskin, and Mona Sherman

We discovered many creative concepts to enhance B.I.L.L. programs and administrative and financial outlook. These included adding the universally used study group learning model to our current lecture courses and special projects.

Discussions centered on membership retention and recruiting, LLI organization for the future, enrollment trends, attraction of newly retired members, space issues, development of improved faculty connections and community outreach.

By invitation, we joined a consortium with the LLI groups at Harvard, Dartmouth, Brandeis and the University of San Francisco's Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning to exchange ideas, catalogs and, when available, speakers and extended travel programs. We learned of exciting new options for future funding for B.I.L.L.

Attendees to the conference included Mona and Arthur Sherman. Ann Dulye and Arline Breskin presented the work of our Special Events Committee to the unanimous admiration of other LLIs.

This conference made very clear that we are a part of a dynamic LLI world outside of our borders. There is a growing tide of maturing adults and stimulating programs underway throughout the country. We need to keep abreast and participate in this tide of creativity. — Mona Sherman, First Vice President

Williams College and B.I.L.L. Celebrate Albert Einstein

The world changed in 1905 with the publication of Einstein's five monumental papers. The Physics Department at Williams College is commemorating this explosion of genius and what it has meant in the intervening 100 years. B.I.L.L. is both honored and fortunate to have been asked to participate in this program.

The Science Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee, working with Professors Protik Kumar Majumder and David A. Park, is developing an unusually interesting course to be offered during our fall 2005 semester entitled *Celebrating Einstein: A 100 Year Legacy*.

It will deal with Einstein's life and his work in such a way that his enormous contributions to the understanding of our universe will be comprehensible. Members of the Williams Physics Department will also cover the scientific advances and practical applications that are based on Einstein's original discoveries.

The course will be presented in one of the large lecture halls at the Bronfman Science Center. Williams College students and faculty will be invited.

B.I.L.L. members, whether focused on the arts, literature or political science, should not miss this unique opportunity to learn about this remarkable man and his work. A full description of the course and registration information will appear in the fall 2005 course catalog.

— Stanley Applebaum, Science Subcommittee Chair

New Year's Brunch 2005

A wonderful start to the New Year at the Berkshire Hills Country Club — good food and great entertainment! Under the direction of Sherri Buxton, B.I.L.L. members and guests were serenaded by fellow members Bob Chandler, Ted Greenbaum and Marty Schlanger and other performers from the Berkshire Music School's *Cabaret To Go*.



Lenore Rubin, Event Chair
Arline Breskin, Special Events Committee Chair



Marty Schlanger
serenades

First Evening Course

In the spring 2005 semester, B.I.L.L. is offering its first evening (6 session) political science course, *Jefferson vs. Hamilton: The Debate Continues*, to be held at 7 PM at Simon's Rock College.

Learn how America developed. Thomas Jefferson's vision of America vs. Alexander Hamilton's vision — reconciling theories of natural law and classically liberal economics with the political requirements of building a new nation in North America. Some of the arguments were more prin-

cipled than others and involved what each believed regarding the rights of man, assumption of states' debts, the legal institution of slavery, religious liberty, governmental favor to corporations, international agreements, creation of the First and Second Banks of the United States and the evolution of the Necessary and Proper Clause of the Constitution.

Our lecturer will be Dr. Walker Todd, who is a practicing attorney, a visiting fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) in Great Barrington and a frequent lecturer at the Chautauqu Institution

in New York. He received his B.A. *cum laude* in French from Vanderbilt University, his M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, his Ph.D. from Columbia University and his J.D. from Boston University.

AIER was founded in 1933 as an independent, scientific and educational charitable organization. It publishes research findings on a wide variety of economic issues. We hope to have Dr. Todd and other participants from AIER join us for future sessions.

— Arthur Sherman, Co-chair
Social Sciences Subcommittee

A Memorial in Lenox

Berkshire "cottages" stand today as reminders of the great wealth and luxury of the Gilded Age, but there is also a memorial here that recalls the political background of that famous period in our history. It is a graceful tribute to President Chester Alan Arthur, nearly forgotten today, who briefly led the country during a time when powerful men amassed enormous riches.

Chester Alan Arthur had come to the presidency by chance. A Vermont native, he practiced law in New York City and made his way through the rough and tumble world of machine politics. He headed the New York customhouse where accusations of abuses under the "spoils system" eventually cost him his job. In spite of criticism arising from his involvement in patronage activities, Arthur was later a delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1880, ending up as Vice Presidential candidate on the ticket with James Garfield. They won the election. When Garfield was

assassinated early in his term, Arthur inherited the Presidency, but the cloud of impropriety still haunted him. Ironically, once in office he turned his efforts to reforming the Civil Service system, a preview of the reform movement of later administrations. By the end of his single term, he was praised for his honest, though uneventful, administration.

Arthur's Secretary of State, Frederick Freylinghuysen, vacationed in Lenox, and Arthur occasionally visited there. Freylinghuysen had a long career in politics in New Jersey and was a descendant of one of the first families in America. His home was just across Kemble Street from the site of the new Trinity Episcopal Church. In 1885, after Arthur left office, he attended the placing of its cornerstone.

The members of Trinity Church



wanted a building that would reflect the taste and substance they represented, as well as their faith. It was a church with a distinguished membership of prominent business and literary leaders of the day. It perhaps can be imagined that J. P. Morgan himself may have strolled down Walker Street on a Sunday morning from the home of his sister at Ventfort Hall.

Chester Arthur died before the church was completed, but the Freylinghuysen family commissioned a memorial window in the church in his honor. It was installed directly over the cornerstone that he had placed. Although Arthur is not counted in the ranks of the great presidents, he was a man of his age — the Gilded Age — and it seems fitting that his memory is recalled in Lenox.

— Robert E. Hartford

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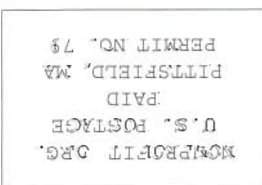
B.L.L.L. adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination and welcomes all people as members of our organization.

Website: www.berkshirecc.edu/lifelong/bill.html

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