

B.I.L.L. BOARD

◆ *Newsletter of the Berkshire Institute For Lifetime Learning* ◆
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President's Message

The New Year is an appropriate time for B.I.L.L. to both thank its diligent volunteers and to look ahead to next years programs.

We have been blessed with a caring group who have generously contributed time and effort to make us successful. About 50 of us serve on Committees and have been the back-bone of B.I.L.L. We still need more volunteers to involve ourselves on committees. Chairpersons are listed in this issue of B.I.L.L. BOARD. Contact them directly or through Sharon at B.C.C. if you would like to help.

This issue gives you some insight on the coming semester, scheduled special events and statistics on who comprises the B.I.L.L. membership.

Finally, my thanks and congratulations to all for our 1995 performance and best wishes for health and happiness in 1996.

Tom Easton

Who Are The B.I.L.L.er's??

At the time of the Fall Semester, B.I.L.L. was comprised of 362 members. Of that total, 217 (60%) enrolled in a total of 278 classes. That is an average of 1.28 classes per participant. Of the (11) courses offered, the most popular were Great Trials. Memory, Origins of Modern Art and Cosmos. Membership in B.I.L.L. continues to grow at a steady clip and at the present time numbers 395. We reside in 21 different cities and towns within Berkshire County and in the States of Connecticut, New York and Vermont. Our make up between individual memberships and husband and wife memberships is just about a 50/50 ratio. Not bad for a whisp of an idea formulated just a little over a year ago.

SPRING CONVOCATION

Tuesday, June 25, B.C.C.

Guest speaker

Dr. Henry Payne

President Williams College

A Preview of B.I.L.L. Courses: Spring '96

The curriculum committee has prepared its spring program with stimulating new offerings which expose us to cultural diversity.

MEDIA: AN INSIDE LOOK includes **Ruth Bass**, Sunday Editor of the Berkshire Eagle in a news press; **Don Thurston**, Chairman of Broadcast Music, Inc., in an overview of 74 years of Radio; **Bob Chandler**, former vice president of CBS; and **Helen Epstein**, biographer of Joseph Papp.

THE MAGIC OF THE BERKSHIRES will be described by an outstanding group of local experts in the history, art, architecture, geology and anthropology of the Berkshires and will end with a class trip to Naumkeag.

STAGES OF A PLAY will bring to its B.I.L.L. audience some of our top drama experts to reveal their ways of bringing drama to life. **Vincent Dowling**, Director of the Chester Theater; **Ann Shanks**, a famed photographer and producer; **Jeffrey Borak**, our local drama critic; **Bob Boland**, Director of the Pittsfield Town Players; **Arthur Storch**, Artistic Director and **Kate Maguire**, Managing Director of the Berkshire Theater Festival.

continued on page 2

Spotlight on B.I.L.L. Volunteers

Marilyn Flaum

A woman of many talents who retired from her position as a reading specialist in Kings Park, Long Island, three years ago and moved up to the Berkshires. She, and her husband, Paul, a retired Superintendent of Smithtown Schools, had a small vacation house here and fell in love with the area. They built their dream log home in Becket Woods, in Florida in the winter, and travel in the Spring.

Marilyn loves to read, knit, travel, golf, walk and enjoy people. After years of activity as an active member of numerous reading councils planning meetings, speakers, and conferences for the N.Y. State Reading Assoc., she, and her husband, have started a small business, **BEST OF THE BERKSHIRES**, to help visitors enjoy the area they love so much. The most important thread in the tapestry of her life is her children and five grandchildren. Time is always found to enjoy them! Marilyn and Paul met as students in high school and are enjoying this opportunity to learn together again with B.I.L.L.!

Phillips Duo

The energetic Phillips. After retiring from the Commack School District on Long Island Phillis and Larry Phillips have moved to the Berkshires because of their love of its beauty and the culture in the area. They enjoy skiing, golf, tennis, and hiking.

Larry was involved in the Roundtable (the B.I.L.L. type of program at Sony Brook University on Long Island) and was very happy to hear that a program for retirees was formed in the Berkshire Community.

In their desire to do what they can to further B.I.L.L.'s success, Phyllis volunteered for the membership committee and Larry for the curriculum committee as well as organizing the Bridge Club in B.I.L.L.

In addition to their involvement with B.I.L.L., The Phillips volunteer for Tanglewood and the Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Random Notes . . .

. . . Bridge Club meets every Tuesday at 1:30 in Lenox Community Center. All levels of Bridge players are welcomed. Lessons available.

. . . A new brochure explaining who and what B.I.L.L. is was printed this fall. Copies are mailed upon request to prospective members. Additional copies are being distributed to area libraries. Our membership is open to all Berkshire residents.

. . . Volunteer tutors wanted to work with Berkshire community College students in a variety of academic subjects. If interested please contact Jane Pellish, Coordinator of Tutorial Services at 499-4660, ext. 348.

. . . PARKING

Finding good parking during school hours at BCC can sometimes be a bit difficult. Members are entitled to have and display the B.I.L.L. parking card when attending classes or meetings. We have one special parking area: right side along the BCC entrance road, before you reach the main buildings, or you can part in ANY unrestricted parking space.

Your B.I.L.L. parking card is required only in the special B.I.L.L. area on the entrance road, but it's a good idea to display it wherever you park at BCC.

Study Group Leaders

In addition to learning what study topics members are interested in as participants, we need to know who among us would like to lead a study group.

If you are interested in being a study group leader, please provide the following information: name, address, phone number, a brief paragraph describing the subject(s) you are prepared to present, and a brief paragraph describing your background in the subjects.

Leave with a member of the committee or mail to B.I.L.L., BCC, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

B.I.L.L.'s Spring Courses continued . . .

THE MAKING OF MUSIC by the HUMAN VOICE will involve once again Joel Revzen, Artistic Director of the Berkshire Opera; Sanford (Sandy) Fisher, Berkshire Opera's new Director of Production; Phyllis Curtin will visit to share her special magic in teaching the art of song.

Merritt Abrash will focus on AMERICAN ART. Marcia Altshulen, Professor of Biology at Williams College will discuss the HUMAN GENOME PROJECT, ethical and social issues in today's genetics..

Paul Stein and Helen Plunkett share a study of THE HAUNTED SELF through the works of Henry James and Edith Wharton. Dr. Sandor Wax, presents a candid evaluation of THE AGING PROCESS. Elliot B. Lowell will present a legal perspective on A SURVEY OF THE LAW FROM MOSES vs PHARAOH to ROE vs WADE.

Special Events Committee

The committee has been at work planning some very special events for the general membership.

We just finished two great trips which were enjoyed by those attending. We went to Deerfield in October and to Vassar College in early December.

Our next rip, on April 15, 1996 will be to the Culinary Institute of America. This trip should be very popular and members should get their reservations in right after receiving the flyer. That will be followed with a trip to Hildene on June 11th. In the Fall we will visit the Audubon Society with a trip that will incur a great deal of walking. Members who can't walk a lot should not consider this event. The Audubon trip will be on September 10th. We will follow up this event with a trip to see how The Berkshire Eagle is published. Hold November 13th for that event. These are just starters and many other exciting events are in the works to carry through the year.

Chet Soling

**Don't forget our New Year's Day
brunch at the Lenox 218 restaurant.**

B.I.L.L.
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Happy New Year!



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“ . . . Education is a lifetime activity.”