



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WINTER 2014

PARTNERS WITH WILLIAMS COLLEGE, BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK & MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

WOW! What a Wonderful Winter Semester!

The Curriculum Subcommittees have done it again! To start off an exciting year, 11 new courses will be offered in Lenox, Great Barrington and Pittsfield from January 14 through February 22 at locations with easy-access parking. Classes will be held from Tuesday through Saturday. Please see the Winter 2014 Catalog or visit our website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org for complete details.

TUESDAY Triplex Cinema, Great Barrington & Lenox Library, Lenox

Tuesdays at the Movies: Food and the Movies – Howard Arkans
Reading Short Stories Out Loud – Elizabeth Young
Literary Medieval Tapas: A Taste of the Literature of the Middle Ages – Laura Smith

WEDNESDAY Kimball Farms, Lenox

Rethinking the Birth of Our American Republic, 1765-1776 – Stacy Wallach
Showcasing the Berkshires – Tad Ames, Maureen and Michael Banner, Ken Green, Wendy Jensen, Carole Murko, Joshua Needleman

THURSDAY Lenox Library, Lenox

Travel Adventures – Jock Brooks, Linda Day and Elenore Seline, Margaret Hassett, John Lipkowitz, Elske v.P. Smith
A Poem for That Painting: Ekphrastic Poetry – Alexandra Tinari

FRIDAY Lenox Library, Lenox

Today's Headlines – David Orenstein
Advances in Medicine – Laurence Cohen, David Finck, Rabbi Leonard Sharzer
Science Conversations: Behind the Headlines – Anthony Segal, Moderator

SATURDAY Intermodal Transportation Center, Pittsfield

An Adventure in Photography – Thaddeus Kubis



Lecturer Tad Ames



Lecturer Laura Smith

PHOTO BY PAUL BANEVICIUS

Winter Special Events

The Special Events Committee, under the leadership of Arline Breskin, has planned fabulous winter events for you—in the Berkshires and on both coasts of Florida. Mark your calendar and watch your e-mail for details.

- FEBRUARY 25** • East Coast Florida – Wick Costume Museum, Boca Raton
- FEBRUARY 26** • Berkshires – bus trip to WMHT TV Studios, Troy, New York
- MARCH 5** • West Coast Florida – bus trip to Florida Southern College in Lakeland to see the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright

OLLI "Outdoors" THINK SNOW!!

Photo Contest Winner – Winter

The winning photo on the cover of the Winter 2014 Catalog was shot by Elaine Radiss of Great Barrington. The photo was taken in an area off of Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA, with a Canon 30D camera.

President's Message

By now, many of you will have heard the news that Barbara Hochberg, our estimable, multitalented and altogether outstanding executive director, is retiring. She will remain in her position through June, and we are undertaking a search for a new executive director.

When Barbara told me of her plans, my first thoughts were, "How can she do this? How will OLLI manage?" But on reflection, I realized that most of us retired in order to move on to other things, and the organizations we left continue to thrive and so do we. Our hope is to see her as a member of OLLI, taking classes and getting otherwise involved. Barbara will be a hard act to follow, and we wish her well.

Many of our members have already left for warmer climates for the winter. For those of you who are remaining in the Berkshires to enjoy the brisk weather, less traffic and the stillness that winter brings, OLLI will continue to offer stimulating classes. This winter, in addition to our Tuesday through Friday offerings, we will also hold a Saturday morning photography class at the Intermodal Transportation Center in downtown Pittsfield. We hope this will encourage people who cannot take classes during the week to become involved. We will also be holding classes at Kimball Farms in Lenox. This central location will offer ample parking, easy access and a spacious classroom.

Plans are moving forward for our twentieth anniversary celebration. The party will take place on May 31 at Cranwell. We will be publishing a journal, and you will be receiving information shortly on purchasing an ad. We hope you will put this date on your calendar, put on your best "bib and tucker" and join us for what promises to be an evening filled with fun, good food, great company and nostalgia. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sandra Rubin

Call for OLLI Authors

The OLLI Newsletter welcomes the opportunity to highlight our members who are published authors. We spotlight some of their works in this issue and will continue to do so in the future as space permits. The works below are available at local bookstores and libraries as well as on websites such as Amazon.com.

If you have published in any genre, please send us the title, publisher, date of publication, a brief synopsis of the work and ordering information. Send your information to Editor Wilma Michaels at wmichaels40@aol.com.

A short poem by **Karel Fisher**, *Cantus Arcticus*, was published in Volume 14 (2006) of *The Berkshire Review*, a publication of the Berkshire Writers Room. It was inspired by a piece of music, *Cantus Arcticus, Concerto for Birds and Orchestra*, by Finnish composer of contemporary classical music, Einojuhani Rautavaara.

Marjorie (Marge) Lewis has written several books for children—parts of which often appear in reading textbooks and as excerpts for testing purposes in several states. Three books were published by Coward McCann Publishing, now Putnam: *The Boy Who Would be a Hero* (1982), a fairytale of sorts; *Ernie and the Mile-Long Muffler* (1982), regardless of what your mom told you, you don't always have to finish what you've started; *Wrongway Applebaum* (1984), not good at anything, he finally finds out what he's good at. She edited *Waltzing on Water*, an anthology of women's poetry, with Norma Fox Mazer, Dell Publishing (1989). She compiled *Outstanding Books for the College Bound: Choices for a Generation* for the American Library Association (1996). The books are available through Amazon.com.

Water's Edge: Growing Up in the Heart of a New England Village by **Vickie Newman**, published by Modern Memoirs, Inc., 2013

What happens when a woman gives up her dream of becoming a nun and marries a self-proclaimed Bohemian? Set in pastoral Western Massachusetts and the Adirondacks during the 1950s and 1960s, *Water's Edge* is a daughter's introspective answer. In this poignant memoir of a young, inquisitive girl's coming of age, we peer through a compassionate lens at pivotal events and conflicts fueled by her mother's peculiar strictness and her family's legacy of secrets. The book will be sold at The Bookloft in Great Barrington or directly from the author at VickieNewmanBooks@gmail.com.

Elske v.P. Smith co-authored *Solar Flares* with her late husband, Henry J. Smith, which was published by Macmillan Publishers in 1963. Solar flares are short-lived brightenings on the sun's surface indicative of magnetic storms generated in the solar interior and ejected into space. She also co-authored *Introductory Astronomy and Astrophysics* with Kenneth C. Jacobs, published by W.B. Saunders Company in 1973. This textbook was directed to astronomy and physics college students and went through four editions. Elske is a frequent BILL/OLLI lecturer in science.

OLLI NEWSLETTER

Editor: Wilma Michaels

Assistant Editors: Peri Caverly, Judy Katz, Marge Lewis, Sandi Rubin

Editorial Staff: Arline Breskin, Mary Anne Cicchillo, Ruth Degenhardt, Marilyn Margolis, Don Miller, Helen-Mary Shaffer, Harriet Shair, Arthur Sherman, Fran Wolk

Feature Writer: Joanna Fribush

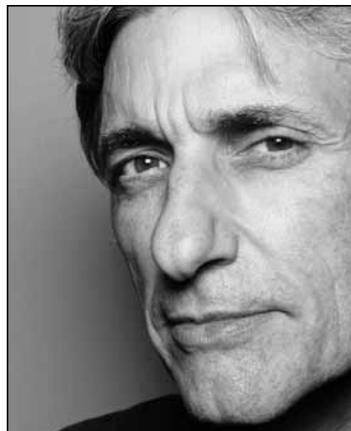
Getting to Know Richard Maturro

Richard Maturro (double 't' and double 'r' he reminds me) is now semi-retired after having spent sixteen years at the Albany *Times Union*, and another twelve teaching literature at UAlbany. A published novelist, he has written three contemporary novels: *Luna* (2006), *Leslie* (2008) and *Janey* (2012), and three set in the ancient world: *Troy* (1989), *Perseus* (2010) and *Medea*, to be published in 2014. He is currently working on a short story collection.

Brought up in Rye, New York, Richard worked at Rye's famous Playland, so it is no surprise that amusement parks often figure in his contemporary stories. He has a doctorate in English with a specialization in Shakespeare and Greek mythology. The demise of the humanities in education is a particularly sore

point with Richard. His students, he says, have so little knowledge and love of literature that it's difficult to share his literary passions with them—something a fine teacher dreams of doing.

Along with teaching and writing, Richard was also a docent at Arrowhead this past summer giving tours of Herman Melville's home in Pittsfield. Incidentally, he will be teaching his fourth course at OLLI this spring on Melville's *Moby-Dick*. An OLLI member since 2011, he has taken numerous courses and also serves on the Literature Subcommittee.



For the last thirty years Richard has made his home (not a second home, he emphasizes—his only home) in Stephentown, New York, just across the Massachusetts border. Mary Trev Thomas, his partner and also an OLLI member, is a library administrator in Delmar, New York.

His novels are in many libraries and are also available from Amazon or directly from him. If you're looking for good reads, they'll fill the bill. Again, don't forget those double t's and double r's.

— Marge Lewis, Assistant Editor

Meet New Board Member Lile Deinard



Lile began coming to the Berkshires in 1986 as a weekender changing to full-time residency when she retired in 2012. She loves her Otis farmhouse built in 1782 which has been lovingly and tastefully restored and updated.

As a "full-timer," she found OLLI and has become involved as a member

of the Literature Subcommittee and a student in many of the offered courses. In Lile's own words, she is "a very dedicated OLLI supporter!"

Born and raised in Charlottesville, Virginia, Lile first came to Massachusetts in 1958 as a freshman at Smith College in Northampton. She majored in art history with a minor in French literature and language, spending her junior year in Paris through a Smith College program. Later Lile obtained a Master of Arts degree in French Language and Literature from Hofstra University on Long Island where she lived and raised her daughter and son.

Lile's first position was as a high school French teacher, followed by a teaching position at Hofstra University. Although she enjoyed teaching, an interest in law led her to obtain her law degree from Hofstra. In 1974, she began a career in NYC as an intellectual property lawyer. Her practice was international in

scope. This led to travels to many foreign countries including Japan, China, England, France, Germany and Mexico.

For a person who feared she might be bored in retirement, Lile leads a full life. Topping the list of favorites are her six grandchildren whom she sees often. Her other interests are going to NYC to attend Metropolitan Opera performances, belonging to two book groups, playing the piano, exercising at the gym five times a week, taking OLLI courses, playing tennis and traveling abroad in the spring each year for two to four weeks.

The OLLI Board of Directors is extremely fortunate to have Lile Deinard as a member. She brings experience, ideas and a tangible enthusiasm that will further the goals of the OLLI board.

— Mary Anne Cicchillo
Editorial Staff

The Boston Corner Story

We don't think of the bucolic southwestern corner of Berkshire County as the seat of lawlessness, but its history reveals a bloody past. This area, variously called Boston Corner, Boston Corners, the Oblong or Hell's Acres, was originally part of the town of Mount Washington. The early boundary line between New York and Massachusetts, however, did not conform with the topographic reality of the sheer, rocky Taconic Range that made this area inaccessible to Massachusetts law officers. Therefore, since New York had no legal authority there and Massachusetts officers were walled off from easy access, it became a lawless place until the mid 1850s.

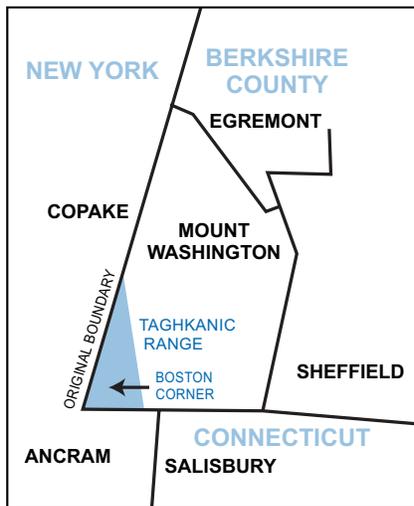
It was sparsely settled and even had its own anarchist government led by tavern owner and postmaster, Abraham Vosburgh, who refused to collect state taxes because Boston Corner received no state services in return. The area became a sanctuary for horse thieves, counterfeiters, cutthroats and other undesirables who made it their base of operations. Tradition has it that if Vosburgh knew about those who used Boston Corner as a hideout, it didn't prevent him from letting these bandits stay there or drink at his tavern.

One of the major "businesses" was stealing thoroughbred horses from Saratoga, New York, dyeing them to disguise their identity and then running them against long odds at racetracks near Boston or New York City, where they made large profits. A gang of horse thieves operated this venture out of the notorious Black Grocery, a tavern between Boston Corner and Copake, New York.

Perhaps the most famous event was the illegal bare-knuckle boxing prizefight between John Morrissey and "Yankee" Sullivan in 1853. Bare-knuckle boxing was outlawed in every state in the Union. The fight's promoter made a deal with Vosburgh, and the match was held on Vosburgh's property. According to stories, somewhere between 3,000 and 10,000 spectators viewed the 37-round match. It was a bloody fight viewed by a riotous mob! Although Morrissey was declared the winner, both men were eventually jailed due to all the illegal activity involved in the match. A complete account of this notorious event is included in the historical novel *Hell's Acres* by Clay Perry and John Pell written in 1938.

To end responsibility for all this illegal activity in an inaccessible area, Massachusetts ceded the area to New York in 1853. New York accepted it, but it was not formally recognized by the U.S. Government until 1855, two years after the infamous fight. Boston Corner remains a hamlet in the village of Ancram, New York.

— Joanna Fribush, Feature Writer



Leon Botstein Redux

On September 8, in the Daniel Arts Center of Bard College at Simon's Rock, OLLI began the celebration of its twenty years—first as BILL and now as OLLI.

OLLI President Sandra Rubin introduced guest speaker, Leon Botstein, president of Bard College, noted author, educator and conductor. Dr. Botstein had spoken to several hundred BILL members and their guests on the occasion of OLLI's fifth anniversary and has now spoken once again to OLLI members and their guests on this occasion of its twentieth anniversary.

Replete with his signature bow tie and engaging manner, Dr. Botstein talked to the audience about aging and about the relationship we need to and should have with young people who are just beginning their lives. Although, he said, our society does not value aging, there is so much we can share. We have self-knowledge and life experience to impart to those younger than we who are facing decisions and problems older generations have lived through.

How do we do this? We must coordinate with the young, he said, and we must emphasize curiosity and learning as pathways to success and pleasure in later life. He offered ways to reach youth without condescension by sharing intergenerational learning utilizing books, courses and discussions that are not nostalgic but respectful to all generations. The benefits to seniors are considerable. Many of us, he said, seek refuge from retirement and age-related conditions without recognizing how much there is for generations to share actively.

Dr. Botstein's humor and knowledge gave the audience much to think about—OLLI's next twenty years can be innovative, exciting and valuable as we share our skills with those who are younger.

— Marge Lewis, Assistant Editor

20th Anniversary Celebration Continues

MAY 30 • Annual Meeting and Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture

MAY 31 • Celebration at the Cranwell Resort in Lenox
Entertainment by The Wanda Houston Band

JUNE 1 • OLLI Picnic and Optional Hike planned by OLLI "Outdoors"

A Very Special Event!

OLLI Brunch and Lecture at BCC

“Clybourne Park” at Barrington Stage

*Special Events Volunteers
October 13, 2013*

*Seated: Judy Keshner, Audrey Schlanger, Helene Calman
Standing Left to Right: Carol Sabot, Bobbie Leibert,
Ellen Tabs, Chair Arline Breskin, Barbara Greenbaum*



OLLI Chefs Adele Cukor, Ron Stewart, Carol Sabot, Arline Breskin, Howie Arkans



Speaker Susie Dworkin on Clybourne Park



Special Events Trip May 29, 2013 Members and Guests at the Capital Region Maritime Center

PHOTO BY WILMA MICHAELS

PHOTO BY BOB DESROSIERS



AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413.236.2190

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 50

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Distinguished Speakers Series

New DSS Co-chairs Warren Hagler and Lois Lenehan have been busy working to bring you outstanding lecturers and lectures. Hold these dates:

- MAY 10** • William Moomaw, “Living Deliberately to Confront Climate Change”
- JUNE 21** • Jeremy Yudkin, author and music professor, topic to be determined
- JUNE 28** • Marc Gotlieb, “Jean-Léon Gérôme: Enemy of the Impressionists”
- JULY 12** • Laura Hansen, “When Good Companies Go Bad: Deviance and Crime in America”
- AUGUST 23** • “Interview with Stefan Asbury,” guest conductor with many of the world’s leading orchestras and faculty member of the Tanglewood Music Center
- SEPTEMBER 13** • J. Benjamin Taylor, “The Fundamentals and Implications of Mid-term Elections in American Politics”

Look for e-mails with details about these events and check these listings on our website at
www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year