



Newsletter

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2013

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

Fantastic Fall Semester!

Twenty courses in the arts, sciences, literature and social sciences will be given at several locations throughout Berkshire County. They will be presented in lecture, seminar, hands-on and videoconferencing formats. Courses start on September 16 and continue through October 29. See the Fall Catalog for specific details or visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for more information.

MONDAY

BCC Pittsfield and Great Barrington

Industrial Archaeology in the Berkshires – T. Blalock, E. Kirby, C. Flint
Military Japan and Modern Constitutional Debate – Carl Goodman
The Importance of American Playwrights – James Kraft
Front Row Seat on History: The Carter Presidency – Edith “Kit” Dobbelle

TUESDAY

Bard College at Simon’s Rock

Can We Trust Science? – Samuel Ruhmkorff
The Civil War in Fiction: A Sampling – John Toffey
The U.S. Bill of Rights and Criminal Procedure – John Pollok
Post-World War II American Fiction – Bernard Rodgers

WEDNESDAY

The Clark; MCLA; Williams; BCC Gt. Barrington

The Role of the Law in American Democracy – Philip McKnight
Presidents in Crisis: Wilson, Truman, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon
– David Auerbach
Climate Change: The Current Science and Policy Response – Don Hyers,
Sharron Macklin, Philip McKnight, Dan Shustack, Elena Traister

THURSDAY

BCC Pittsfield; NUarts Studios and Gallery, Pittsfield

Meet the Artists: Exploring the Creative Process – Diane Firtell, Ellen Joffe,
Sam Ponder, Claudia Shuster
Reading Paradise Lost – Nancy Travis
Travel Adventures – Jock Brooks, Patricia Gazouleas, Margaret Hassett, John
Lipkowitz, Martin Weinstein
Writing Your Story: An Introduction to Memoir – Vivian Dorsel

FRIDAY

BCC Pittsfield

Today’s Headlines – James Cotter
Architectural Gems: Selected Sites – Beverly Blonder; Alexandra Dest and
Milan Markovic; Stephen Dietemann; Kate and Hans Morris/Paula and
Gregory Gimblette; Warren Schwartz; Judith and Lawrence Weber/
Dorothy Rudolph
The Art of Cooking Italian Cuisine – Howard and Sue Arkans
Opera Presentations Past and Present – Peter Podol
An Adventure in Photography! – Thaddeus Kubis



Lecturers Edith
“Kit” Dobbelle and
David Auerbach

Photo Contest Winners

Sue Purdy of Dalton, MA, shot the winning photo for the Summer 2013 Catalog. The photo that appears on the cover of the Fall 2013 Catalog was taken by Judith Greenwald of East Chatham, NY.

Winter 2014 Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photo will be on the cover of the Winter 2014 catalog, and the winner will receive a 1-year free membership to OLLI.

THEME: Berkshire winter scene

SPECS: Digital format (jpeg, tiff, bmp), 3.2 mega-pixels or greater. Please send unaltered high-resolution photos. No vertical format.

DEADLINE: September 22, 2013

SUBMIT: E-mail attached photos to
Bob.Desrosiers@Gmail.com

Visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for further details

President's Message

This has been a banner year for OLLI. We have had increased enrollment in our classes, greater participation in our Distinguished Speakers Series and Special Events and tremendous growth in our fundraising efforts. Even the stock market cooperated so that our endowment earned profits which, combined with our fundraising drive, enabled us to meet our budgetary goals.

Of course, the central component of the OLLI program is the curriculum. Each academic year, we offer four semesters of courses; in each we present outstanding instructors delivering thought-provoking content in a dazzling array of subjects. This year, the courses were fantastic, and we cannot thank our instructors enough for making life so stimulating.

And speaking of thanks, I want to say that our volunteers are amazing. The heads of the committees and the people who serve on them make OLLI the great organization that it is. But, there is constant need for new volunteers. At the last annual meeting, two new committees were established: marketing and public relations. We need members to help on each of them. If you are interested in this, please contact Barbara Hochberg at the OLLI office.

We have had marvelous trips organized by the Special Events Committee. The Erie Canal trip was so sought after that we had a waiting list. With so many people on that list, we ran a second trip. Then, even the waiting list had a waiting list. So, I recommend when you see a trip that looks interesting to you, SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY!

We are looking forward to celebrating the twentieth anniversary of BILL/OLLI starting this year. The festivities will begin in September with a talk by Leon Botstein. In addition to being the president of Bard College, he is the conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. This event will be free and open to the public. I look forward to seeing you at our classes and events.

Sandra Rubin

Board of Directors

2013 – 2014

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Ronald Stewart, Vice President
Ruth Degenhardt, Secretary
Norman Michaels, Treasurer

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Workforce Development

Leonard Cohen, Legal Advisor,
Ex Officio
Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director

Leon Botstein Launches Twentieth Anniversary Celebration!

OLLI's twentieth year anniversary celebration will officially kick off with a lecture by Dr. Leon Botstein on Sunday, September 8, at 2 p.m. in the Daniels Arts Center of Bard College at Simon's Rock. Dr. Botstein, who previously spoke at the 1999 convocation of our predecessor organization, Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (B.I.L.L.), has been president of Bard College since 1975. He is also the Leon Levy Professor in the Arts and Humanities.



with joint-degree programs across the globe. Dr. Botstein is also chairman of the board of the Central European University and a board member of the Open Society Foundations.

Dr. Botstein, a conductor of international renown, has been music director of the American Symphony Orchestra since 1992. He is co-artistic director of the acclaimed Summerscape and Bard Music Festivals at Bard College and conductor laureate of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the state radio orchestra of Israel, where he served as music director from 2003 to 2010.

His essays for the Bard Music Festival, published by Princeton, are

soon to be anthologized. A sequel to his earlier book, *Jefferson's Children: Education and the Promise of American Culture* (1997), is forthcoming.

The lecture is free and open to the public. — Barbara Hochberg
Executive Director

OLLI NEWSLETTER

Editor: Wilma Michaels

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Degenhardt, Marilyn Margolis,
Helen-Mary Shaffer, Harriet Shair,
Arthur Sherman, Fran Wolk

Feature Writer: Joanna Fribush

Getting to Know Betsey Selkowitz



It's 3 p.m., Betsey Selkowitz and I have been talking for two hours and the coffee is cold, but Betsey's manner is warm and welcoming. Her rainbow ballet flats and sunshine colored purse and tote all mirror her engaging manner.

Born and bred in Pittsfield, Betsey (given name Elizabeth) was immersed by her parents in the artistic riches of the Berkshires for which she is thankful because that childhood was the path to her present talents and attitude. She still loves every inch of what the area has to offer—the museums, colleges, entertainment venues and, of course, OLLI. All of which have given her, as she says, “a charmed life.”

Chairing OLLI's Arts Subcommittee for the past few years has enabled her to meet the professors, instructors, craftspeople, farmers and entrepreneurs who have enriched her life and she, in return, has enriched OLLI by organizing exciting, challenging courses. She thanks Barbara Hochberg and members of the Arts Subcommittee for their input and support.

I don't know how Betsey fits it all in, but she gives to her community as well as to OLLI. She is a past board member of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and served on the Tapestry Health board for twenty-three years among other health, social service and educational organizations. Let's not forget Betsey's involvement in the arts—organizing programs that integrated the Berkshire Museum with local schools where she taught third grade for three years. She was board president of the Berkshire Art Association and the Berkshire Museum, former co-chair of the Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers, chair of Business Friends of Tanglewood and overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra as well as serving a stint on the MASS MoCA Development Committee.

Betsey currently serves on the Development Committee of Barrington Stage Company and often consults with area non-profits on fundraising and governance matters. Studying history is her latest passion as well as campaigning vigorously for progressive political candidates and causes—locally, statewide and nationally. All this leaves little time, one would think, for her other passions: tennis, art projects, gardening and attending OLLI courses—but she does them all!

She is married to fellow Pittsfielder Mark. They have raised two sons who both live in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and although she misses them, this gives her and Mark an excuse to ski the Tetons. “Art lifts my life above the mundane,” Betsey says. Having been given so much, she gives back so much. With her energy and enthusiasm, both OLLI and her community are enriched.

— Marge Lewis, Assistant Editor

The More Things Change...

SPECIAL EVENTS ENCORE

On April 15, 1996, Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (B.I.L.L.) Special Events Committee, chaired by Lillian Cohen, sponsored its very first bus trip to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, New York. The B.I.L.L. newsletter, known as *B.I.L.L.BOARD*, announced that the CIA is “a college training institute for aspiring chefs from all over the world. Members will tour culinary classrooms and campus and have lunch in one of the three outstanding restaurants operated by the students.” Members were advised to “contact Sharon Mack.”

That trip was a success, and some of the approximately 40 members who participated still recall it with enthusiasm.

To help celebrate our twentieth anniversary year, OLLI's Special Events Committee, chaired by Arline Breskin and assisted by Event Leader Myrna Schneiderman, will stage a reprise of that adventure. On September 12, 2013, the original experience will be expanded to include a morning stop at Vassar College's Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center in Poughkeepsie. Flyers describing the day are available on the OLLI website, and once again members are being advised to “contact Sharon Mack!”

— Arline Breskin, Special Events Chair
— Barbara Hochberg, Executive Director

Upcoming Events and Lectures

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

OCTOBER 19 • Irene Goldman-Price, “Edith Wharton and Anna Bahlmann: A Pupil and Her Teacher”

SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12 • Vassar College's Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center in Poughkeepsie, New York; Lunch at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York

SEPTEMBER 17, 24 and OCTOBER 1, 8 • Introduction to Western Square Dancing, Pittsfield South Congregational Church

OCTOBER 13 • Barrington Stage Company; *Clybourne Park* written by Bruce Norris; Brunch at BCC; Speaker Susan Dworkin

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

Annual OLLI Meeting and Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture

OLLI's annual meeting and the fifth Mona Sherman memorial lecture were held on Friday, June 7, at The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield. OLLI's President Sandra Rubin introduced Artistic Director and CEO of the Berkshire Theatre Group Kate McGuire who welcomed OLLI members and praised Mona Sherman's considerable contributions to the BILL/OLLI community. Kate McGuire encouraged the audience to attend the Berkshire Theatre Group's events scheduled for the coming season.

Sandra Rubin then began the business portion of the meeting. She noted that 2012/2013 has been an excellent year that saw the achievement of two major goals: the launching of OLLI's Leadership Development Program and the growth of OLLI's annual fund donations—which were up 66 percent from last year! She also cited Special Events, the Distinguished Speakers Series and OLLI's catalogs and newsletters as major contributors to this growth, along with the excellent course offerings. Sandra thanked the volunteers for their enthusiasm and vigor.

Treasurer Norman Michaels presented the financial report for the ten months ended April 30, 2013. He outlined OLLI's financial status for that period, noting that it is better than at the same time last year. The operating account balance sheet ended with \$31,375 in equity. The endowment account ended with \$2,146,613 in equity. The total equity was therefore \$2,177,988. The income statement for the same period showed a net income of \$812 in the operating account and \$84,767 in the endowment account for a total net income of \$85,579.

He emphasized that we cannot touch the \$2 million endowment. We can only use the income earned from it. Norman said that we need \$100,000 a year in earnings from the endowment account to operate the organization. Dues, tuition and income from the Distinguished Speakers Series and Special Events

pay for the operations of OLLI. The earnings in the endowment account pay the salary and benefits for a full-time executive director.

Norman Michaels explained that the income from the endowment account for the ten months ended April 30, 2012, was \$47,267. In the current fiscal year that number is \$159,176. He hopes that the income for the two years ending June 30, 2013, will average \$100,000 per year. He urged members to consider making monetary contributions to OLLI in order to keep OLLI healthy.

Next, Executive Director Barbara Hochberg outlined plans for the coming twentieth anniversary celebration beginning in September 2013 with a keynote address by Leon Botstein, president of Bard College, and concluding with a celebratory event at the Cranwell Resort in May 2014.

Barbara thanked retiring Board of Directors member Carole Siegel for her contributions to the board, for the insights she provided and for the work she did to develop and implement OLLI's Mentoring Program with BCC. In addition, Barbara acknowledged BCC's President Ellen Kennedy and Vice President of Community Education & Workforce Development at BCC Bill Mulholland. She thanked the 200 plus volunteers who support OLLI. Barbara emphasized the importance of a vibrant, active membership

in BILL/OLLI's growth since its founding in 1994.

Sandra Rubin then proceeded with the next order of business. Two resolutions to amend OLLI's bylaws were read, voted upon by the membership and approved. She then presented the slate of directors for the coming year which was approved unanimously. Sandra thanked departing board member Carole Siegel and welcomed the newly elected members to the board. (See Board of Directors list on page 2.) The business portion of the meeting was closed.

Over 250 people attended and heard the keynote speaker, Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D., award-winning author, historian and professor of history at Rice University, deliver an entertaining and perceptive lecture on his latest book *Cronkite*. Brinkley spoke for over an hour describing Walter Cronkite's childhood in Missouri and Texas, his early years as a reporter for International News Service, his service as a reporter embedded with the 8th Air Force in England during World War II and finally his position as anchor of the CBS Evening News. Brinkley's lecture included the social and political era that Cronkite reported on during the 1960s and 1970s. He concluded: "In an era when no one trusted anyone anymore, Cronkite was trusted and liked. He never wore out his welcome."

— Ruth Degenhardt, Editorial Staff



OLLI members in the spring 2013 Understanding Soccer course at The Fieldhouse, Canaan, NY
Lecturer Alan Rubin (back row 7th from left)

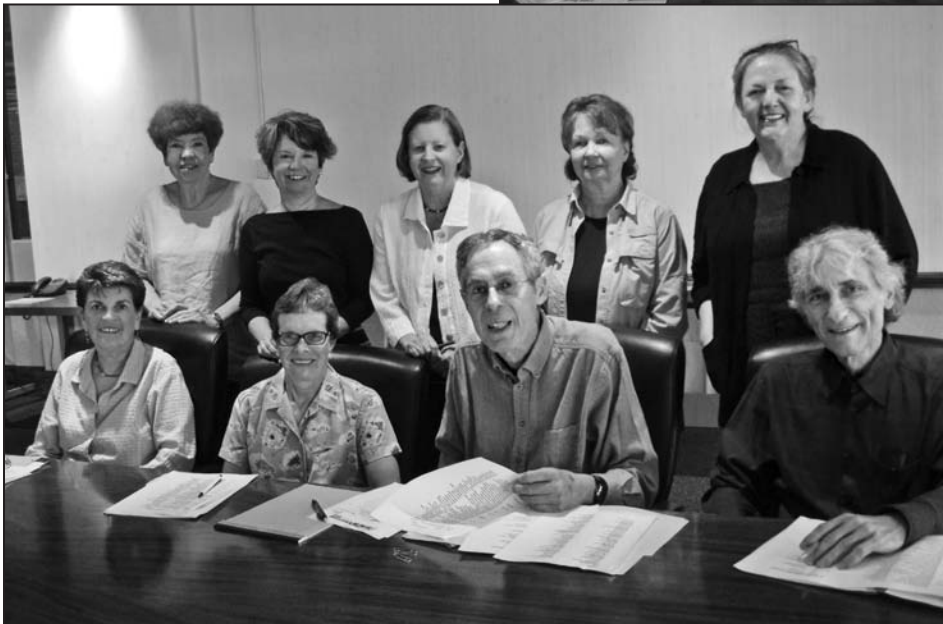
Volunteers at Work

CURRICULUM COUNCIL

Seated left to right: Bonnie Desrosiers, Stacy Wallach, Betsey Selkowitz, Karel Fisher
Standing left to right: Lesley Rubinger, Executive Director Barbara Hochberg, Art Sherman, Andy Fisher

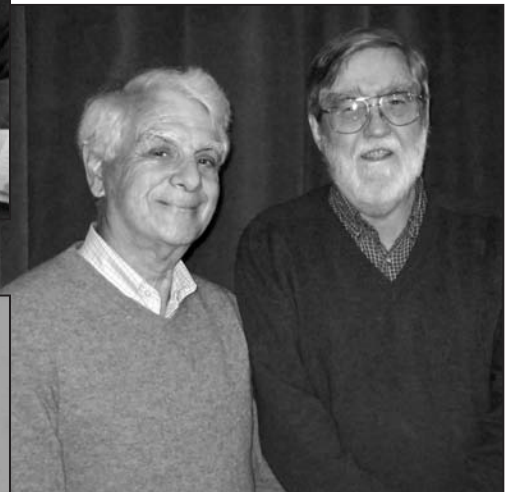


PHOTOS BY WILMA MICHAELS



LITERATURE SUBCOMMITTEE

Seated left to right: Judy Cromwell, Jean Walden, Chair Rudy Hoeltzel, Richard Maturro
Standing left to right: Wendy Greenberg, Executive Director Barbara Hochberg, Lile Deinard, Bonnie Desrosiers, Karel Fisher



SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Tony Segal and Andy Fisher



ARTS SUBCOMMITTEE

Left to right: Theresa Terry, Henry Gallitano, Chair Betsey Selkowitz, Jock Brooks, Enid Michelman, Bonnie Desrosiers

Dr. Jeffrey Cukor, who presented a session in the spring 2012 course, *Understanding Soccer*, was not included in the "Thank You, Lecturers" list which appeared in the spring 2013 newsletter. OLLI apologizes to Jeffrey for our oversight.

Women Educators of Berkshire County

THE HINSDALE HALL FAMILY OF PITTSFIELD

Nancy Hinsdale (1769-1851), whose portrait hangs in the Berkshire Athenaeum's local history room, founded Pittsfield Female Academy in 1800. It was the commonwealth's first private school for girls and over the nineteenth century had several owners and sites. In 1898, it became Miss Hall's School when Mira Hinsdale Hall, Nancy Hinsdale's great-niece, bought and established it in her name.

In 1909 Miss Hall moved the school from Bartlett Avenue to its present location on Holmes Road. The school grew in reputation and Miss Hall became nationally known as a progressive educator of young women. In recognition of her success as the founder and principal of a great school, she was awarded an honorary L.H.D. (Doctor of Humane Letters) by her alma mater, Smith College. Presenting the award in 1933 at the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation, the president of Smith said, "Miss Hall has maintained the highest level of scholarly achievement demanding upon all the best they have to give." Striving for excellence and holding to lofty ideals of honor, character building and integrity were her life-long goals.

During her forty-year tenure as headmistress, Miss Hall also became involved in community, cultural and religious affairs and for a number of years gave \$1,000 annually to the city of Pittsfield in lieu of taxes. She faced tragedy and a challenge in 1923 when a fire destroyed the school. No students were injured, but an employee died. Miss Hall was determined to rebuild and was supported by the local community, particularly Winthrop Murray Crane, Jr., who became president of the newly formed school corporation. The new building opened in 1924.

Mira Hinsdale Hall was born in Le Roy, New York, in 1863. The daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Hinsdale Hall; her mother was a descendant of

the Reverend Theodore Hinsdale family, for whom the town of Hinsdale is named. Miss Hall was educated in a private school and after graduation from Smith taught English and Latin. She died suddenly in 1937 while on vacation in Maine.

Her niece, Margaret Hinsdale Hall, who was her assistant, succeeded her as headmistress.

Margaret Hinsdale Hall, born in 1892, was a major founder of the Berkshire Historical Society. Her dream was to form a society to collect and preserve newspapers, circulars, all kinds of history and memories for public use. In 1962 she gave her large collection to form the Margaret Hinsdale Hall Library of the Berkshire



Historical Society, now headquartered at Arrowhead in Pittsfield. She died in 1966 while attending a meeting of the society.

My thanks to Will Garrison, curator of the Berkshire Historical Society; David Smith, communications manager of Miss Hall's School; and the Berkshire Athenaeum librarians for providing helpful sources of information for this article.

— Joanna Fribush, Feature Writer

Meet New Board Member Carl Shuster



We welcome Carl Shuster, a former practicing attorney, as a new member of the OLLI Board of Directors. Carl graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where he majored in economics and then from The University of Chicago Law School. During his academic years, he won numerous awards and prizes in history and economics.

Carl was president and board member of MusicWorks in the Berkshires, Inc. and the Berkshire Bach Society. He currently serves on the board of WMHT Telecommunications, Inc. (FM and Public TV). These experiences influenced his decision to co-chair the Development Committee with Abbie von Schlegell. As OLLI

continues to expand its variety of activities, its needs will be fueled by their skills and the Development Committee's fundraising plans. Carl claims to "practice development without a license."

Carl and his wife Claudia moved to the Berkshires full time in 2002 and soon became members of OLLI. Their interests include music and art. They are volunteers at Tanglewood in the Tanglewood Music Center (TMC) Lunch Program. Claudia is also an active OLLI volunteer serving as the co-chair of the Mentoring Program. A retired educator and a lifelong artist, she has taught several art courses for OLLI. She and Carl enjoy having their three children and five grandchildren visit them in the Berkshires. — Fran Wolk, Editorial Staff

Call for OLLI Authors

The OLLI Newsletter highlights members who are published authors. We spotlight some of their works in this issue and will continue to do so in future issues 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.

In the Land of Milk and Honey: The Struggle in the Jewish Soul by Inge Kuenkler-Etzbach, published by Almvillabooks, 2012

Why would the children of the Holocaust (who had suffered the depth of despair and cruelty themselves) treat another people with such a lack of compassion? This book focuses on the archeological discoveries and interpretations which reveal the Jewish right to the Land of Israel as based on myths instead of historical facts. It also reflects voices and opinions of people courageously speaking up for a new Jewish identity.

Mountain Ash: A New England Memoir by Elna Fone Nugent, published by Xlilbris Corporation 2008

Early on, a neighborhood tragedy impacted the author so personally it induced a relentless lifelong quest to discover what we are doing here on earth and why. Getting married and moving to the Berkshires initiated a breakthrough-of-consciousness experience at thirty-seven years of age when the author rose from the ashes of a dark period in her life and allowed her to discover answers to the questions she had—answers that she needed.

In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World by Ruth Sidransky, published by St. Martins Press, 1990; published by Random House, 1992; republished 2006

This book is the author's account of growing up as the hearing daughter of deaf parents in the Bronx and Brooklyn during the 1930s and 1940s. It reveals the challenges deaf people faced during this period and provides a living narrative of the deaf experience in America. It is a story

of a family bound by an invisible handicap, deafness, and the lack of spoken language for a hearing child. *The New York Times* called *In Silence* a great act of love, and the work has been translated into several languages.

Richard Matturro is the author of three contemporary novels all published by Livingston Press: ***Luna*** (2006), ***Janey*** (2012) and ***Leslie*** (2008) which comprise his Tri-City Trilogy—three novels set in the neighboring upstate New York cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy; three women who share an aversion to all things female, especially motherhood; three detours to the place where myth and reality collide. He is also the author of three novels of the ancient world: a comedy, ***Perseus*** (Livingston Press 2010), a history, ***Troy*** (Walker Books 1989) and a tragedy, ***Medea*** (Livingston Press out in the spring of 2014). All are available from the author at www.richardmatturro.com or from Amazon.com.

Members Speak Out!

This past spring semester 2013, John Pollok, Esq. taught the course *All About the Mob* which “slayed” me! A history of the mob was revealing, and learning about the New York and New Jersey crime families, up close and personal, from the man who defended many of them in court was fascinating. John Pollok's presentation of personal experiences, newspaper clippings and film brought the subject matter to life. It was a most enjoyable way to learn. — Michael Albert

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Pollok will be teaching a course this fall semester: *The U.S. Bill of Rights and Criminal Procedure*.

I recently took an OLLI course, *Elijah the Prophet: Tales from the Fiery Whirlwind*, with Rabbi Josh Breindel. It was an enjoyable and interesting learning experience for me. He is a dynamic presenter! My interest in this course was piqued by my upcoming Bat Mitzvah. I hoped the course would broaden my familiarity with Judaism. Rabbi Josh did not disappoint. His knowledge and enthusiasm left me looking forward to the next course he teaches for OLLI. — Ev Bastow

Do you have a favorite lecturer? Simply write an endorsement of 50 words or fewer and send it to Editor Wilma Michaels at wmichaels40@aol.com. We will print them in future newsletters if space permits.

OLLI's Twentieth Anniversary

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Save These Dates

2013

September 8 • Dr. Leon Botstein, guest speaker

September 12 • Vassar Art Center and the Culinary Institute

2014

May 30 • Annual Meeting and the Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture

May 31 • Celebration at Cranwell

June 1 • OLLI Picnic



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Faculty Appreciation Dinner – May 21 at BCC Dining Room



FAR LEFT: BCC's President Ellen Kennedy, OLLI's President Sandra Rubin, OLLI's Executive Director Barbara Hochberg, BCC Vice President of Community Education & Workforce Development Bill Mulholland

LEFT: Lecturers Elske Smith and Stacy Wallach



LEFT: Lecturer Peter Podol and Jill Podol; Marie Newton and Lecturer Frank Newton

BELOW: Event Chair Adele Cukor and Barbara Hochberg

