

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

Super Spring 2009 Semester

The Curriculum Committee has put together a "fantastic" semester for you. Twenty-one courses held at several locations throughout Berkshire County and in Bennington, Vermont, will start on April 6 and continue through May 29. MCLA in North Adams is offering a course for the first time. Two courses will be held in the evening, and two courses will be given in videoconferencing classroom-to-classroom format. See the Spring 2009 Catalog for complete details, or visit our website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org.

MONDAY BCC Pittsfield and Gt. Barrington & MCLA, North Adams

Great Decisions – James Cotter, Moderator *Native American Literature* (VC) – David Langston, MCLA *A Look at America's Birth, 1765 to 1775* (VC) – Stacy Wallach

TUESDAY Simon's Rock & BCC, Gt. Barrington & Kripalu, Stockbridge

A Survey of American Literature: Part IV – James Kraft William Faulkner's Light in August – David Fine America's Energy Dilemma – Eugene Stamper

Kripalu: Food as Medicine (Evening) – J. Bagnulo, S. Lord, M. Pettus, K. Swift

WEDNESDAY

The Clark & Williams College, Williamstown Bennington Museum, VT

Ceramics in Bennington – Jamie Franklin
The Big World of Small RNA – Marsha Altschuler
The Social and Political Influences of the World Religions – Max Stackhouse

Medicine, Film and Society – Melvin Krant

Understanding the Quantum World - Stuart Crampton, William Wootters

THURSDAY

Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield

Castle St. Café, Gt. Barrington & Morris Elementary School, Lenox

Birding for Beginners – Ed Neumuth

Establishing Identity in Shakespeare – Larry Robbins

Visit /Visitate Mantua /Mantova – John Leavey, Anna Zaffanella

Wine Appreciation V – B. Beckwith, S. Dixon, B. Glick, S. Joffe, D. May,

J. Rubin, R. Stewart

Greatest Leaders of the Greatest Generation (Evening) – Walker Todd

FRIDAY BCC Pittsfield

Modern Perspectives on our Solar System – Elske Smith
Today's Headlines – Ann Trabulsi and Richard Whitehead, Moderators
Spain's Three Great 20th Century Playwrights – Peter Podol
The Art of Cooking: Italian Cuisine (Lottery) – Howard Arkans

(VC) Videoconferencing



David Langston MCLA Native American Literature



Peter Podol
Spanish
Playwrights

OLLI Photo Contest

PRIZE: The winning photo will be on the cover of the Fall 2009 catalog, and the winner will receive a 1-year free membership to OLLI.

THEME: Berkshire area fall scene

SPECS: Digital format (jpeg, tiff, bmp), 3.2 mega-pixels or greater

DEADLINE: May 16, 2009

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

Visit www.BerkshireOLLI.org for further details.

President's Message

Although some of us think that winter is the most beautiful time in the Berkshires, we admit it can feel as though it is very long. Many of us are often asked, "What do people do in the winter in the Berkshires?" This past

winter demonstrates that there are many things to do, especially if you are a member of OLLI.

Our winter semester included movies at the Triplex, lectures at Shakespeare & Co., courses at BCC in Great Barrington and at the Lenox Library. A new location was added—the Intermodal Transportation Center in Pittsfield. In all, 14 courses in the arts, sciences, literature and social sciences were given throughout Berkshire County. OLLI's Cultural Partners, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center and The



Colonial Theatre, offered year-long residents high quality performances in popular and classical entertainment including opera.

We now turn our attention to the spring and summer seasons and the excitement they bring to the Berkshires. The Special Events Committee and the Distinguished Speaker Series have programs

planned for these upcoming semesters. We can look forward to attending events at OLLI's Cultural Partners such as Tanglewood, Barrington Stage Company, Berkshire Theatre Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. So watch for flyers and visit OLLI's website to learn about our programs and discounts for members.

Our spring semester has something for everyone from William Faulkner to birding, from religion to wine appreciation, from Kripalu to Italian cooking and much more. We have had live videoconferencing

courses from BCC Pittsfield to BCC Great Barrington (and vice versa) the last few semesters. I am delighted that Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) in North Adams will be offering a course for the first time this spring. It will originate from MCLA and will be transmitted to BCC Great Barrington. This transmission further enhances our programs so that residents of Berkshire County can take advantage of great courses at a location near them. We are continually working to expand our live video capabilities.

Last year's first summer session was wonderfully received and so well attended that in June, we will offer our second summer semester.

We are continuing to add courses and to experiment with different approaches. We would love to have suggestions, input and help from you, our members. Contact us and help us grow.

Howard arlane

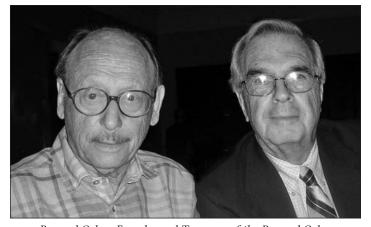
Ready, Aim, Shoot! The Media Committee Needs You!

Do you enjoy taking videos of your children and grandchildren? How would you like to make those videos look professional? OLLI is giving you the opportunity to clear up the confusion of all those buttons and wheels on a video camera so that you can capture the moments you treasure.

Through the auspices of PCTV (Pittsfield Community Television), we can sign you up for a few hours of training on the use of video cameras and video editing on cameras much more complex than your own video camera. Once you've completed the training, using your camera will be a piece of cake. In addition to learning how to operate the camera, you'll learn how to focus, center and compose your shots.

What a good deal!!! All we ask in return is for you to film videos of some of our classes during our regular semesters. Interested??? Please contact me at 413.447.1631 or joeg1@berkshire.rr.com, and I will arrange training for you.

— Joe Gerard, Media Chair



Bernard Osher, Founder and Treasurer of the Bernard Osher Foundation, having dinner with OLLI member Jack Rubin in the Berkshires, August 2008

OLLI NEWSLETTER

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Membership Task Force

The OLLI at BCC Board of Directors established the Membership Task Force (MTF) in 2008 as it prepared for future funding opportunities from The Bernard Osher Foundation. This newly formed committee's charge is to promote awareness of the organization, to stimulate the growth and participation of its membership, to enhance community image and membership satisfaction and to deepen its focus on membership development.

The MTF's primary mission is to increase OLLI's membership to 1,000 members by 2010. At the time of this printing, OLLI membership was 860. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) across the nation that have membership levels of at least 1,000 may be invited to apply for endowment support beyond the initial endowment gift that will be sought in 2009. This additional financial support will make OLLI at BCC more fiscally sustainable.

Membership recruitment has included such activities as additional advertising and program articles in local publications, more course catalog distribution in the Berkshires and beyond, information tables at community events, presentations to local clubs and groups and promotional incentives designed to encourage new memberships.

Attention focused both on membership satisfaction and retention is of equal importance to reach our goal. MTF volunteers telephone new members to welcome them, and they make follow-up calls to lapsed members and inactive members to encourage them to renew their participation. New initiatives such as the New Member Welcome Packet, Lunch and Meet and a New Member Satisfaction Survey provide important information, social interaction and a chance for feedback.

The best way to increase our numbers is through *word of mouth*—that means that our OLLI members (you) tell friends about the organization and encourage them to join or rejoin. To create an even stronger

incentive to spread the word, the deal has been "sweetened." Any OLLI member who recruits a new member is entitled to either a free course or a lecture from the Distinguished Speaker Series within the year of the new membership. For more information on how to do this, please visit our OLLI at BCC website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org, click on What's New and then click on the link FREE OLLI COURSE or Distinguished Speaker lecture.

The work of the Membership Task Force is carried on by dedicated volunteers. OLLI is truly a memberled organization and could not continue without members giving their time to make it successful.

We welcome your participation. It's fun, it's rewarding and it's a wonderful way to meet interesting new people.

For more information, e-mail me at mbrimberg@earthlink.net.

— Marilyn Brimberg, MTF Chair

Getting to Know Marilyn Brimberg

When Marilyn arrived in the Berkshires four years ago, she joined BILL and through classes she took met Bonnie Desrosiers and Mona Sherman. She was recruited by them to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. In July 2006, Marilyn took on a major responsibility as Chair of the Marketing Committee. When BILL became OLLI at BCC, Marilyn agreed to chair the newly formed Membership Task Force. (See the article on the Membership Task Force.)



A graduate of Boston University, she did her graduate work at New York University where she received an M.A. in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Because of her interest in children and their education and because she enjoys challenges, she chose to work with autistic children. After a number of years in special education, feeling that it was time for a change, she applied and was hired by Westchester Community College (WCC) in Valhalla, NY, to help start a new program, *Mainstream, the Retirement Institute*, which provided college-level continuing education programs for people 55 and older. During that time, she produced an award-winning local community access cable show called *Living the Later Years*. Her organizational skills were obvious to WCC, and she started working for the college's foundation office in development and fundraising.

Eventually Marilyn and her husband moved to NYC where she continued her work in fundraising with an organization called *A Better Chance* dedicated to helping academically promising students of color in underserved communities around the country get into prominent prep schools. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick was one of those students.

During the winter months, Marilyn and her husband Arthur reside in Sarasota, Florida. Arthur is a retired Radiation Oncologist. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Marilyn feels that a volunteer's job must be taken as seriously as a professional job. OLLI is indeed fortunate to have Marilyn's talents at the helm of the Membership Task Force.

— Norman Avnet, Editorial Staff

Preview of Summer 2009 Semester

For the second time, OLLI is offering a summer session. Courses will be held in June with most classes meeting four times. A Summer Catalog with course titles, instructors, dates, times and locations, along with a Registration Form, will be mailed to you in April. This is not a complete listing. Here are some courses to "whet" your appetite.

The Obama Administration and Latin America: Challenges and Opportunities

Martin Weinstein, Professor of Political Science at William Paterson University in New Jersey

Focus will be on the cases of Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Latin America and the challenges and opportunities they represent for the Obama Administration.

The Immigrant Experience: A Journey to Becoming an American

Paul Flaum, frequent BILL/OLLI lecturer; Past President of BILL

More immigrants, from the most diverse set of origins and spanning the longest sustained period of time, have made America their home than any other nation in history. This course will examine that immigration with emphasis on the mass migrations of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Vibrations

Ouisa Forhaltz, violin; Douglas Moore, cello; Jenny Hersch, bass; Elizabeth Morse, harp

Whether plucked or struck, string instruments produce sounds that have enriched world cultures from time immemorial. Four renowned Berkshire musicians present insights into the history, sound production, repertoire and idiosyncrasies of their respective stringed instruments with both live and recorded performances.

A Diplomatic Life

Ann and Allen Irvine

This course will explore many aspects of life inside a U.S. Embassy. Taught by two career U.S. State Department professionals, areas to be covered will include the role of an Ambassador, consular issues, visas and American Citizen Services.

Writing for Healing

Jerri Chaplin, Certification as Poetry Therapist, 2001; Former VP National Association for Poetry Therapy

Participants will read and discuss poems with an eye to writing for healing. Brief writing exercises will follow, but no writing experience is necessary. Writing in any form is acceptable. Sharing of writing will be optional.

Conversational Italian

Eric Lamet, studied at the University of Naples, Italy; taught Italian in the business world

Learn to speak Italian sentences in eight class sessions—and have fun while you learn! The class will meet twice a week for four weeks and focus on three components: speaking in Italian, listening in Italian and understanding Italian culture. No prior knowledge of Italian is required.

Artists and Their Studios

Stephanie Plunkett, Deputy Director and Chief Curator at the Norman Rockwell Museum; Donna Hassler, Director of Chesterwood; Corry Kanzenberg, Curator of Archival Collections at the Norman Rockwell Museum; Kim Saul, painter and illustrator

This course will explore how studio spaces reflect—or in some cases belie—the personalities and aesthetic sensibilities of the artists who inhabit them. Enjoy an intimate behind-the-scenes look into the unique work space of three American artists: Daniel Chester French, Norman Rockwell and Kim Saul.

Today's Headlines

The centerpiece of this course is lively discussion. Here is your opportunity to voice strong opinions about current events. The moderator serves as guide and provocateur. Topics, which are drawn from magazines, and local and international newspapers, will be explored together.

Learn to Lead

Larry Robbins, Former Director, University of Pennsylvania Center for Teaching and Learning

Many people have valuable work and life experience that they want to share with others, but they have no experience in teaching and leading discussions with peers. This course will introduce important elements of teaching and learning including establishing learning objectives, understanding needs of adult learners, asking and answering questions and presenting material.

Upcoming Events and Lectures

Special Events

JUNE 9 • New Britain Museum of American Art

JUNE 25 • Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

JULY 16 • SPAC – New York City Ballet

Distinguished Speaker Series

MARCH 5–26 • Michael Cassin

Clark Art Series
"The Grand Tour"

MAY 2 • Andrea Goodman

"Sacred Choral Music"

JUNE 13 • Jeremy Yudkin
"Wit and Genius in Musical
Masterpieces"

AUG. 5 • Nancy Mowll Mathews Williams College Museum of Art, Gallery Talk

Look for flyers with details.

New Britain Museum of American Art

Save the Date - Tuesday, June 9

Established in 1903, the New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, Connecticut, is the first museum in the country devoted to work by American artists and includes over 5,000 works that span the last three centuries. Exhibitions and displays in their NEW/NOW Gallery will be open for us to visit.

The Special Events Committee has planned a full and marvelous day for you. On our arrival, after a welcoming coffee and an orientation to the museum, we will attend a morning lecture and tour. We will have lunch in the new Café on the Park looking out on grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and then participate in an afternoon tour and lecture.

The museum will be featuring a photography exhibit from a private collection which includes Mapplethorpe flowers, works by Weston and Ansel Adams, a new exhibit of landscapes from the Met's collection and works by Fay Ku in the NEW/NOW Gallery. An exhibit of the museum's own works on paper will also be on view, and we will have time to visit their permanent collection.

This all-inclusive event is one you do not want to miss!

— Carol Sabot Special Events Committee

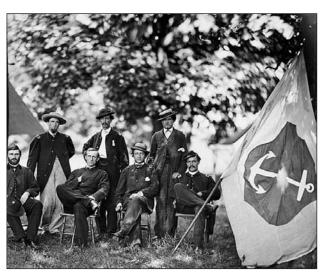
Website Information

Have you visited the OLLI website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org? On the website, you will find OLLI information including the current course catalog, newsletter, calendar of events, speakers/trips, photos, flyers for events, cultural partners' discounts, What's New and much more. Browse, explore, have fun!

General William Francis Bartlett

Pittsfield's adopted Civil War hero, General William Francis Bartlett, had a remarkable record of service to the union despite serious injuries. Born in 1840 in Haverhill, MA, the son of a wealthy businessman, he attended Phillips Academy and entered Harvard in 1858. After the firing on Ft. Sumter in 1861, he left college in response to the first call for troops. As he wrote in his memoirs, however, this wasn't an easy decision as he held the South in high regard, had many southern friends and was not an abolitionist—preservation of the union was his central issue, not freeing the slaves.

Bartlett was shot in the knee at the Battle of Yorktown, VA, resulting in the amputation of his left leg, but remarkably, he returned to Harvard and graduated in 1862. Despite a wooden leg, he soon was commissioned to organize the 49th Massachusetts Volunteer Battalion in Pittsfield. As a



General Bartlett (seated second from left) and his Staff

colonel, he continued to lead and fight ridhorseback ing on while his troops fought on foot. It was said that Confederate officers, "in admiration of his bravery, endeavored to prevent their men from aiming at him." After more battles and severe injuries, including the near loss of his left hand at the battle of Port Hudson, LA, and his capture at Petersburg, VA, result-

ing in brutal treatment at Libby Prison in Richmond, VA, he was discharged as the war's youngest Major General. He returned to Pittsfield and married Mary Agnes Pomeroy, daughter of a prominent local family.

They initially lived in the Pomeroy family estate on East Street at the corner of the present Bartlett Avenue and East Street. He pursued a business career and became active in community life. He made notable speeches statewide pleading for reconciliation and union in national feeling. These led to his being asked, in 1875, to be a candidate for Lt. Governor of Massachusetts by the Democrats and Governor of Massachusetts by the Republicans. He declined both offers.

Tributes to this outstanding leader include a statue by Daniel Chester French which stands in the Rotunda of the Boston State House with a duplicate now in the General Bartlett room at BCC; photographs in the Berkshire Museum and Athenaeum; and both Bartlett Avenue and the former Bartlett School named for him. Herman Melville wrote a poem about Bartlett's courageous service called, "The College Colonel." In 1876 at age 36, he died leaving his wife and family penniless. He is buried in the Pittsfield Cemetery on Wahconah Street.

— Joanna Fribush, Editorial Staff

Thank You, Volunteers

Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Winter 2009

OLLI's strength and vitality comes from its corps of active, committed volunteers—the people who plan courses and special events, recruit lecturers, keep our membership growing, help in the office, publicize our activities, communicate with our members, supervise class arrangements, provide leadership and pitch in wherever help is needed. These are the men and women, 179 strong, who gave OLLI their time, energy, creativity and skill. They are our engine and our fuel, and we give them our thanks. We hope we included everyone.

Andrea Amodeo Elaine Andersen Stanley Applebaum Howard Arkans Sue Arkans Norman Avnet David Bastow Ev Bastow Stephanie Beling Arline Breskin Marilyn Brimberg Ilse Browner Deborah Caine Donald Calman Helene Calman Peri Caverly Marlene Chautin Mabel Cheyne Caroline Church Roslyn Citrin Cathy Clark Leonard Cohen **Stuart Crampton** Susan Crampton Judy Cromwell Adele Cukor Dick Degenhardt Ruth Degenhardt **Bob Desrosiers Bonnie Desrosiers** Sheila Donath Bob Donelan Ann Dulve Jacquie Easton Karl Easton Ed Epstein Phyllis Epstein Herbert Eskwitt Lisa Federico

Lorraine Feldman

Andrew Fisher Maureen Flanagan Marilyn Flaum Paul Flaum Roz Forman Rose Foster William Fox Joanna Fribush Henry Gallitano Kathryn Gallitano Patricia Gazouleas Eleanor Geller Michael Geller Ioe Gerard Ann Gillmeister Robert Gillmeister Barbara Ginsburg Ruth Glazerman Marcia Gold Robert Gold Susan Gorham Rosemary Graves Larry Greenapple Barbara Greenbaum Hope Hagler Warren Hagler Janel Halpern Holly Hamer Polly Hamilton Maureen Hammel Mary Harrison Mark Hartman George Haus Joanne Hayes Arthur Henle Maureen Hickey Rudy Hoeltzel Gudrun Hutchins Carole Ireland

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Iean Rousseau

Walter Rubenstein

Alan Rubin Lenore Rubin Sandi Rubin Carol Sabot Diane Saunders Audrey Schlanger Martin Schlanger Myrna Schneiderman Martin Schwartz Tony Segal Betsy Selkowitz Helen-Mary Shaffer Arline Shalan Howard Shapiro Shirley Shapiro Art Sherman Mona Sherman+ Claudia Shuster Paul Smilow Turbi Smilow Dorothy Smith Elske Smith George Smith Burt Stern Constance Stern Virginia Stuart Ellen Tabs Leonard Tabs Lora Tobias Sigmund Tobias Dorothy van den Honert Chester Vogel Madeline Vogel William Vogt Abbie von Schlegell Alexandra Warshaw Ira Wasserberg Louise Wasserberg Terry Weaver Sharon Wiles Deborah Winslow Georgia Wirth Mildred Zimmerman Priscilla Zuber

⁺Deceased OLLI Volunteer

Thank You, Lecturers

The success of OLLI's courses and programs are the result of a tremendous effort by many individuals who are willing to share their expertise. We acknowledge the following lecturers, moderators and panelists—both members and nonmembers—for their commitment and dedication to OLLI at BCC. The list includes those lecturers who presented in the Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 semesters. Many have led more than one course.

Stanley Applebaum Howard Arkans Sue Arkans Paula Aucoin Reverend Carrie Bail Gene Bell-Villada Magnus Bernhardsson David Borton Julianne Boyd Dan Broad

Todd Burdick Reverend Father Mark Burke

Michael Cassin Alan Chartock Roselle Chartock **Gregory Cherin**

Kelly Ann Clady-Giramma

Mike Clary

Jock Brooks

Christopher Coggins Leonard Cohen Kevin Coleman Joel Colker Alison Collins Lenore Congdon **James Cotter** George "Sam" Crane

Susan Cross

Reverend Peter Daniels

William Darrow Linda Day

Jonathan Crov

Jack Dew

Stephen Donaldson Henry Dondi Janet Doucette

Georges Dreyfus Karl Easton

Holly Edwards

Reverend Father Peter Elvin

Keith Emerling Tim Farkas

David Fine Andrew Fisher Paul Flaum James Ganz Frank Gatland Patricia Gazouleas Cynthia Gever Irene Goldman-Price Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser Christian Goodwillie William Gouveia Paul Green Larry Greenapple David Grover Allen Hale Danielle Hampton Cody Hartley Laurie Heatherington Robert Henshaw

Oliver Holmes Rick Intres Andy Jaffe Lola Jaffe Phyllis Jaffe Beryl Jolly Ellen Kanner Sheila Keator Maura Keefe **Iames Kraft** Dennis Krausnick

Robert Hoechster

Carol Kuller John Leavey Norma Leavey Sarah Lees Todd LePine Arline Leven

Bernice Lewis Charles Lovett Richard Macht

Reverend Dr. Pat MacHugh

Sharon Mack

Denise Markonish Nancy Mowll Mathews Robert McInerney Ionathan Metsch Paul Milenski Kevin Moran Melanie Mowinski Kevin Murray John Myers Lea Newman Jean Nudd Christopher Nye David Orenstein Norton Owen Tina Packer John Parker Jay Pasachoff Thomas Plunkett Peter Podol Timothy Randhir Peter Rentz David Ricci David Richardson Bernard Rodgers Donald Roeder

Seth Rogovoy Robyn Rosen Jeffrey Rossman Adam Michael Rothberg

Alan Rubin

Sandi Rubin Frank Schickor Mike Schiffer Tony Segal Elske Smith **Jenn Smith** Thomas Smith Paul Solomon Alice Spatz Larry Spatz Jesse Spector Christian Steiner Thomas Sullivan Ryan Taylor Joseph Thompson Walker Todd Ann Trabulsi Elena Traister Dan Valenti James Van Dyke Mary Verdi Harriet Vines Abbie von Schlegell Laura Walton Sandor Wax Martin Weinstein Richard Whitehead

Lisa Yetz

Jeremy Yudkin



Special Events visit to the National Yiddish Book Center Northampton, October 2008

Cultural Partners' Discounts

OLLI at BCC currently has 31 Cultural Partners that offer programming and operational support and, in some cases, discounts to OLLI members. Take a few moments to acquaint yourselves with the list below which identifies those Cultural Partners who give some sort of discount to OLLI members. Go to our website www.BerkshireOLLI.org to find out the specific discounts available. Please support all our cultural partners.

Aston Magna Festival
Bennington Center for the Arts
Bennington Museum
Berkshire South Regional Community Center
Berkshire Theatre Festival
Chester Theatre Company
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
Oldcastle Theatre Company
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
Shakespeare & Company
Spencertown Academy Arts Center
Tanglewood
The Berkshire Bach Society
The Colonial Theatre

Photo Contest Winner

Betty Sartori, a member of OLLI and the Berkshire Museum Camera Club, submitted the winning photo entitled "Goldfinch Among the Blossoms" which appears on the cover of the Spring 2009 Catalog. The photo was taken in May in Pittsfield with a Nikon D80 at ISO 100, F5.6, focal length 200.



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