



# BOLLI Banner

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis

## THE PLAY'S THE THING

by Joan Kleinman



As Chair of the Brandeis Department of Theater Arts, Susan Dibble appreciates the strong support she receives from the Administration, and she relishes the solid collaboration that exists among the fine arts, theater, and music departments.

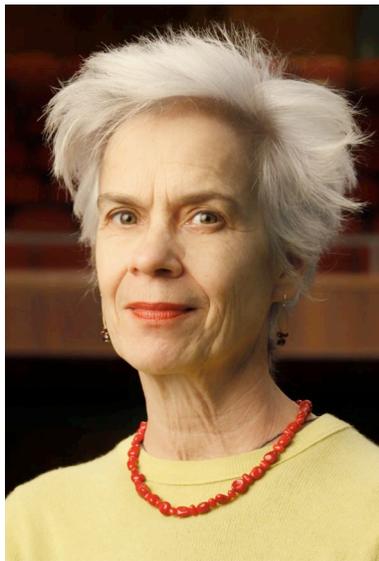
Professor Dibble herself personifies a diversity of talents—her professional expertise is in choreography, but she is also a prolific painter as evidenced by the colorful canvases adorning her office walls. Dibble first studied classical ballet, but then embraced modern dance and choreography while earning her BFA at SUNY Purchase. She was the Resident Choreographer and Master Teacher for Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, teaching movement and dance to actors there and at numerous other theater companies. She also directed the Dibble Dance Theater for thirty years, performing in New York, Boston, and Lenox.

As a choreographer Dibble uses instinct, explaining that “a visual image may evoke an idea, or I find ideas from life.” And she notes, “I listen to a lot of music.”

While there are about fifty undergraduate theater majors, Theater Arts annually admits only ten graduate students into a rigorous program that entails day-long classes and evening rehearsals. Two of these students, now in their final year, are Eddie

Shields and Alexandra Johnson. Both had leading roles in the outstanding productions of *The Seagull* and *Cabaret* last semester.

Eddie, a Pennsylvania native who received his BFA in acting from Adelphi, remembered that his desire to act was always there—it “haunted” him. On stage, Eddie sees his role as one who “tells the truth.”



Susan Dibble

photo by Mike Lovett

At Wichita State, Alex was especially interested in musical theater and developed her own program of study leading to a BFA. For Alex, the main job of the actor is to know her character. In performance, she is totally “self-aware and aware of everyone else on stage—their body language and their verbal language.”

Brandeis Theater Company productions include undergraduate and graduate theater majors and guest artists, plus faculty and staff. The Theater Arts Department also sponsors *Studio Series*, a Senior Festival showcasing original work of graduating seniors, and *10 by 10*, original solo pieces that highlight the craft and personal voice of each third-year graduate student.

One of Dibble’s tasks is to choose plays to reach larger and more diverse audiences. Indeed, Dibble added, the University sees theater as a vehicle for change—not only to give students the opportunity to develop and grow, but also to change society.

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# GREETINGS FROM THE BOLLI ADVISORY COUNCIL

by Bonnie Alpert, Diane Becker, Myrna Cohen, Ed Finerty, Joyce Hollman,  
Charlie Raskin, Naomi Schmidt, Myra Snyder, and Arlene Weintraub

We are pleased to represent you, the members, as we work to continue and further enhance the very special BOLLI program we all cherish. When we still were the Interim group, we worked for many months with our director, Avi, to revise and edit the Advisory Council Charter. We held numerous informational/feedback meetings with many of you, and in deliberations with Avi about the Charter, we vigorously advocated your perspectives and preferences.

Our goals were to ensure recognition of the special, member-driven nature of our BOLLI program and, at the same time, to meet the Brandeis requirement that councils like ours serve as advisors to staff directors who have managerial responsibilities.

As a result, our Advisory Council Charter:

- Explicitly states membership's role in planning curriculum and program activities
- Gives the vote to chairpersons of standing committees, which plan and execute programs
- Expands the effectiveness of member representation by providing for elected liaisons to hitherto unrepresented categories of BOLLI activities: affinity groups and intergenerational groups
- Provides for two elected liaisons to the membership-at-large
- Allows members to nominate additional candidates for elected offices to compete against slated candidates
- Acknowledges the wisdom of appointed committee chairs in giving them a key role in appointment of their successors
- Authorizes convening member task forces for specific assignments.

To learn more, please go to the Member Site on the BOLLI website and follow the link to the Advisory Council Charter.

With our status now as the official Advisory Council, we continue to take seriously our role as advisors to the director. We frequently refer to feedback and concerns expressed by BOLLI members in order to help shape Avi's initiatives, and we offer direct feedback about his innovative plans to enhance BOLLI's role in Brandeis's emerging spotlight on lifelong learning.



Please contact any of us with your questions, suggestions, or concerns. Thank you!

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The **BOLLI Banner** is published by the Banner Committee:

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**Banner** archive: [www.brandeis.edu/bolli/publications/banner/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/bolli/publications/banner/index.html)

# RECALCULATING...

by Avi Bernstein

Recently we as a BOLLI community passed through a period characterized by some misunderstandings about the BOLLI organization. Below I offer some clarifications and add some points of interest as well.



photo by Arthur Sharenov

- Brandeis University Provost Steven A. N. Goldstein recently granted BOLLI a charter defining the role of the BOLLI Advisory Council. The charter does not touch upon the longstanding role of BOLLI's Committees.
- Brandeis did not mandate our recent chartering process on account of any perceived wrongdoing on BOLLI's part. University officials actually apologized for not having communicated well what being an advisory council means at Brandeis.
- BOLLI is and will always be a member-driven program. Program committees such as Curriculum and Enhancement make autonomous decisions regarding BOLLI courses and events.
- Advisory boards at Brandeis do not have budget power because they are not fiduciaries, a power that is reserved for the Brandeis Board of Trustees. Brandeis does not share proprietary financial data with its advisory councils.
- Since 2008 Brandeis has asked BOLLI's Council members for a meaningful monetary contribution. Financial contribution is an expectation of all advisory council members at Brandeis. For BOLLI, the contribution may be any amount, however modest, deemed meaningful by the Council member.
- The BOLLI Advisory Council, like all advisory groups at Brandeis, is responsible for nominations and elections. The BOLLI Advisory Council's mandate is to ensure that well-suited, experienced individuals become the next generation of BOLLI leadership.
- BOLLI is not and has never been a quasi-independent entity at Brandeis; from its inception BOLLI has been a unit of Brandeis's Rabb School of Continuing Studies.
- The Osher Foundation reviews the use of the BOLLI endowment on an annual basis.

## Meeting You Halfway

BOLLI members will have the opportunity to celebrate the halfway point in the spring semester at an appropriately named **Halfway Café** event, to be held Monday, April 7, from 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. in the *Gathering Place* at Turner Street.

This first-ever mid-semester social gathering will be sponsored by the BOLLI Enhancement Committee, which is stepping up its efforts to provide not only programs that educate and enrich the mind but also events that bring together BOLLI members in settings where they can mix and mingle.

BEC member Sandi Levy is promising a menu of finger sandwiches, salads, fruits, cookies, and soft drinks—all for the price of \$5 per person. To enhance the café atmosphere, music from "The Great American Songbook" will be played in the background.

As April nears, a form will be included in the BOLLI Bulletin for registration and payment.

# CONVINCING ARGUMENTS

by Harriet and Richard Kahn

When a group of BOLLI members responded to a request to participate as evaluators and judges in debates under the direction of The Greater Boston Debating Tournament for middle and high school students, we didn't know what to expect. At a training session, we soon learned that this organization has been around for several years and is led by competent teachers, debating coaches, and coordinators. This year's tournament comprises a series of debates, with presentations and rebuttals on the subject of U.S. trade restrictions on Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela. Two teams defended the *pro* position—continue the restrictions—and two the *con* position—terminate the restrictions.



Two students from the Cambridge International School chat with BOLLI judges Arnold Offen and Bill Hollman

photo by Lincoln Pinsky

Judges were trained to use a system of scoring and feedback comments for each debater and each session. The debaters varied greatly in their skills and comfort level during the debates, but all were deeply involved. The students are clearly developing their reading, thinking, and verbal skills and interests.

They have also spent much preparation time at school with their coaches. Some judges met with student debaters at lunchtime to socialize and get to know them.

Participating in this truly educational encounter was an important learning experience for us all. We strongly encourage other BOLLI members to participate in this worthwhile student activity.

## Become a Study Group Leader

When you read the descriptions of the courses offered at BOLLI in the spring, we hope that you were as pleased as the Curriculum Committee with the variety of the offerings—from Supreme Court Cases to Sigmund Freud to Quantum Mechanics. In addition to the familiar names of BOLLI members who have been actively leading courses over the years, this semester there are many new SGLs offering courses on diverse subjects, including Haiti, Africa, Economics, and Literature.

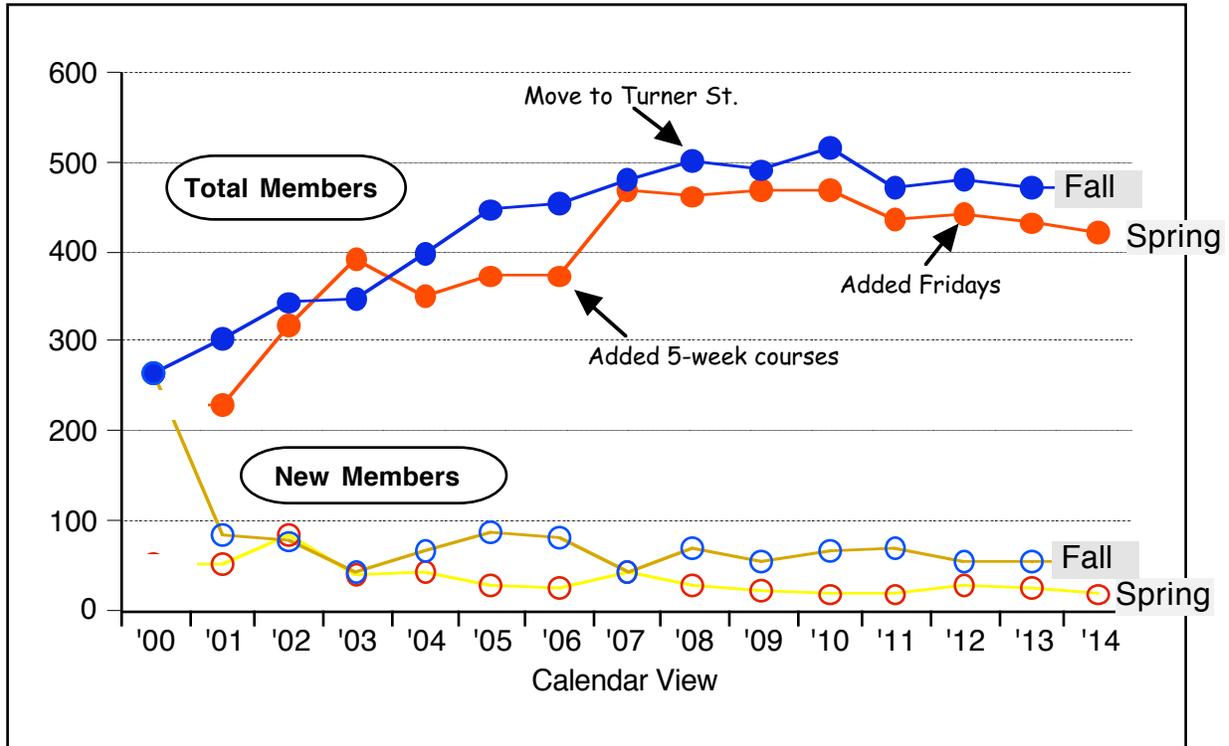
Have you considered joining the ranks of our very appreciated SGLs? Here are four reasons to do so:

1. Delving deeply enough into a subject to be able to teach it is the best way to learn it.
2. It's a great feeling to be able to impart your own knowledge or lead a lively discussion.
3. You get your first choice of classes, plus a discount on tuition.
4. It's fun!

Collaborate with a friend who shares your interest in a topic. You can opt to lead a 5-week or 10-week course and choose to attend the "Learn and Lead" class for assistance in developing a course. Curriculum Committee members are available to answer your questions, discuss your ideas, and assist with preparing a proposal. Contact Committee Chair Naomi Schmidt at [naomischmidt@comcast.net](mailto:naomischmidt@comcast.net) by April 6th if you intend to submit a proposal. The proposal is due no later than May 4th.

# MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

by Richard Glantz



"Total Members" = active/full + activities/associate + inactive  
(Inactive category eliminated as of Fall 2012)

Source: BOLLI Office

## Who Are Our New Members

### Acton

Sue Grossman

### Cambridge

Eric Fisher  
Stuart Solomon

### Lexington

Florence Koplow  
Georgia Weinstein

### Waltham

Marion Kenneally  
Michael Levin

### Arlington

Robert Brown

### Chestnut Hill

Klavdia Fridman

### Mendon

Joanne Fortunato

### Watertown

Tanya Zelchenko

### Boston

Ruth Bramson  
Loring Smith

### Concord

Tory Lambert

### Waban

Charles Marz

### Wayland

Susan Wagner

### Brookline

Donald Stern

### Jamaica Plain

Eileen Schwartz

### Winchester

William Band

# A LIFETIME IN NINE WEEKS

by *Bunny S. Duhl*



Last semester, a lucky group of BOLL I members had an opportunity to participate in the delightful Sages and Seekers program, led by BOLL I's Margie Nesson. The original program concept was developed five years ago by Natick resident Elly Katz as a program for high school students and senior citizens to combat ageism. Our Sages and Seekers experience paired 14 female Brandeis undergrads (Seekers) with 12 female and two male BOLL I members (Sages) in a successful attempt to bridge the great age divide and melt the stereotypes that each age group had held about the other.



Many of these Brandeis participants undertook this experience as part of their anthropology of aging class taught by Brandeis Anthropology Professor Sarah Lamb.

At the outset the Sages and the Seekers were strangers to one another, so there were no preconceptions about parents and heritage. "Getting to know you" sessions occupied our first few weeks. Then each Sage was chosen by a Seeker, with whom she spent the remaining seven weeks, sharing life stories. I found that each hour-and-a-half session flew by. I wanted to know so much more about my delightful and thoughtful Sophomore Seeker, and I wanted to share so much more with her about my own life. Suddenly, we were at the last session. Each Seeker read to the group and guests an amazing two-page tribute of what she'd

learned from and about her Sage. Following the reading, each Seeker gave her Sage a bound copy of her written tribute—and a rose. Imagine my surprise—and how touched I was—upon hearing that my Seeker had chosen to major in psychology based on what she'd heard from me about my life and work as a psychologist. We Sages had a brief opportunity to respond publicly to our Seekers' tributes. Deeply felt mutual accolades filled the room with a sense of bittersweet joy



photo by *Richard Glantz*

*BOLL I Sages and Brandeis Seekers*

as this wonderful heart-filling experience drew to a close. Indeed a bridge had been built, cemented with warm friendships between individuals of two generations, no longer strangers to each other.

# PERFECT YOUR PITCH

*text and photos by Joe Bongiardina*



*Nan Qu (China)  
with Bonnie Alpert*

Once again, BOLLI members—nearly 20 of us— supported students in the Brandeis International Business School (IBS) as part of their career development program. Along with their academic studies, students are taught job search skill.

During a January evening reception with BOLLI volunteers, students and BOLLI members find one another so the students can present their “elevator pitches”—just as they would to a network contact or potential employer— and open a discussion about life in the working world.

IBS career development director Marcia Katz was as pleased as we were, remarking, “The BOLLI reception was a great success and I have heard from many of our students who found it very warm and a valuable opportunity to meet and present themselves to professionals. The students are charmed by you all and flattered that you would spend your time helping them. It reinforces the importance and worthiness of their endeavor! We all appreciate your generosity in sharing your time, expertise, and experience.”



*Baran Budek (Turkey) and  
Jerica Bradley (USA) with  
Richard Glantz*



*Shelly Glazier with  
Arezu Ezzatyar (Iran)*



*Edgar Ochoa (Venezuela)  
with Neil Bernstein*

BOLLI members interested in becoming part of future IBS/BOLLI career activities should contact Joe Bongiardina, committee chair, at 978-456-3068.

## Friday Talks

(these Enhancement Committee programs will take place in Turner St. from 10:30 A.M.-noon)

- March 14: BOLLI staffer **Ilana Levine** shares recollections from her recent trip to Thailand
- March 28: BOLLI member **Larry Climo** discusses his new book, “The Patient Was Viet Cong: An American Doctor in the Vietnamese Health Service, 1966-1967”
- April 4: Photography enthusiast **Larry Warfield** leads a virtual nature tour with his talk on the Wildlife Refuge in Concord

# CAMPUS CULTURAL CALENDAR

compiled by Susan Posner

## SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

(except where noted, all concerts in this venue are free to BOLLI members)

Sun., Mar. 9 (3 P.M.)

### A Tribute to Irving Fine

Sonatas by Irving Fine and Harold Shapero  
Daniel Stepner, violin  
Sally Pinkas, piano

Sat., Mar. 15 (8 P.M.)

### Giving Voice to the Poetry of Emily Dickinson

Sarah Pelletier, soprano  
Lois Shapiro, piano

Fri., Apr. 4 (8 P.M.)

### East Coast Contemporary Ensemble

Music by faculty member Yu-Hui Chang and others  
Tickets \$15 for BOLLI members



## SPINGOLD THEATER CENTER

Presented by the Brandeis Theater Company



### Annual Senior Festival

The Festival [see article on page 1] is a chance for graduating theater arts students to showcase their work by taking on a variety of roles, including writing, directing, designing, and acting. The students never cease to amaze us with their vision and ambition. Come see what this year's festival has to offer! Free.

Tue., Mar. 18

7:00 P.M.—*Michael Brokowski*

8:30 P.M.—*The Elephant in the Room*

Fri., Mar. 21

4:00 P.M.—*Necessary Targets*

7:00 P.M.—*The Elephant in the Room*

8:00 P.M.—*Issues*

9:30 P.M.—*Michael Brokowski*

Wed., Mar. 19

7:00 P.M.—*Issues*

8:00 P.M.—*Make Me a Song*

Sat., Mar. 22

2:00 P.M.—*Make Me a Song*

4:30 P.M.—*Issues*

7:00 P.M.—*Necessary Targets*

10:00 P.M.—*All You Need*

Thur., Mar. 20

7:00 P.M.—*Michael Brokowski*

9:00 P.M.—*All You Need*

Sun., Mar. 23

12:00 P.M.—*The Elephant in the Room*

2:00 P.M.—*Necessary Targets*

5:00 P.M.—*All You Need*

8:00 P.M.—*Make Me a Song*

#### **Michael Brokowski** (by Levi Squier)

Four people, a fire, and gross exaggeration make up this theater-inspired piece about becoming an adult, discovering what sort of person you want to be, and who Michael Brokowski is.

#### **The Elephant in the Room** (by Grace Fosler)

Satirizes the legal and illegal animal cruelty that permeates American culture: cosmetic testing, the greatest show on Earth, and factory farming.

#### **Issues** (by Emma Lieberman)

Based on real-life experiences, a one-woman show about a young adult discussing how hard it is to be close to people with mental illness as she attempts to cope with her friend's suicide.

#### **Make Me a Song** (music by William Finn, conceived by Rob Ruggiero, and starring Jason Dick)

Treasured tunes by famed composer William Finn tell personal, haunting, and often hilarious tales from his rich and touching songbook.

#### **All You Need** (by Justy Kosek)

It's prom night and David doesn't quite know what to do. The girl he loves is gone, something is wrong with his parents, and his tuxedo is soaked in blood.

#### **Necessary Targets** (by Eve Ensler)

Two women, a Park Ave. psychiatrist and an ambitious young writer, travel to Bosnia to help women refugees confront their memories of war. Though the two have little in common beyond the methods they use to distance themselves from their subjects, they emerge deeply changed as they confront their own fears in the face of violence, resiliency, and war. (Based on interviews conducted by the author with women survivors of the civil war in Yugoslavia.)

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Author deadline: 3/14/14 • Newsstand: 4/8/14