



# LIRA NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
Office of Community and Cultural Affairs – UMass Lowell  
Member of Road Scholar Institute Network  
Tel.: (978) 934-3135 Web: [uml.edu/community/LIRA](http://uml.edu/community/LIRA)



March 2024

Vol. 31 No 1

**Spring Semester begins March 11!**

**Join us for LIRA's annual Spring Town Meeting**

<b>Where:</b>	<b>Coburn Hall, Room 255 850 Broadway, Lowell or on ZOOM</b>
<b>When:</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 6</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10 a.m. to Noon</b>

**Featuring an update from the Diversity Committee**

**Plus...**

**a presentation about the upcoming  
Solar Eclipse!**



## From the President March 2024

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our three new members who joined in January and February. If you see someone you don't know in class or at the Town Meeting, please make sure to introduce yourself to them. LIRA Membership stands at 134 as of February 9, 2024.

We have scheduled the LIRA Town meeting for Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to noon in Coburn Hall, Room 255. If you have a parking hang tag, you can park in the Wilder Street lot diagonally across from Coburn Hall. There is no on-street parking near Coburn, but there is a small pay lot further down Wilder Street. If you don't already have a hang tag, it is possible to purchase a one-day pass at the UCAPs office, or you can carpool with someone who has a hang tag.

Besides reports from our Treasurer and presentation of the Spring Semester by the Curriculum Committee, we will have an update from the LIRA Diversity Committee. We also have a keynote speaker who will talk about the upcoming Solar Eclipse on April 8.

Returning this spring is a one-day "brainstorming" session during which we encourage members to recommend classes/topics that they would like to see offered at LIRA. There are no bad ideas, so please come to University Suites 106, or Zoom in and make a suggestion. If you can't make it to the session, you can contact our Curriculum Committee CO-Chairs, Jim Rutter or Bev Rudeen, with your ideas and suggestions.

As always, many thanks to all the LIRA volunteers: from the officers, committee chairs and committee members to the members who bring snacks to classes. Thank you. You are the ones whose contributions help to keep us going.

*Peter Sebelius*

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## Diversity Committee Presentation at Town Meeting

LIRA's Diversity Committee began as an *ad hoc* committee in March 2020, tasked with exploring what it might take to make LIRA more diverse. The pandemic stymied some of our initial ideas, so we focused on how we could support LIRA's curriculum and bring underrepresented perspectives, and perhaps unknown history, to our members. As we come out of the pandemic and have more opportunity to interact in person, the Diversity Committee would like your guidance and feedback. At LIRA's Town Meeting, we will present a brief summary of our work to date, the results of our recent survey, and our current plans for 2024. We will also lead a short table discussion to gather your ideas for 2024 and beyond.

## LIRA's field trip to Billerica Cable Access TV Station was a huge success!

LIRA members enjoyed a wonderful day at the Billerica Cable Access TV station. About 16 of us got a firsthand view of how the station operates.

Since a picture is worth a thousand words (and a video worth even more), you can see us in action at this link, in which Peter Sebelius and LIRA Curriculum Co-chair Bev Rudeen were interviewed for "Chelmsford Tonight" Friday Jan. 26. Click here to watch: <https://www.chelmsfordtv.org/episodes/chelmsford-tonight-january-26-2004/>



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## Scholarship Recipient Featured in CBS News

Sean Simonini is one of the outstanding UMass Lowell students who received the LIRA scholarship award in December. Sean recently appeared in a CBS news segment. Click on this link below to learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/financial-literacy-classes-massachusetts-students-question-everything/>

*Debbie Friedman  
Scholarship Committee Co-chair*

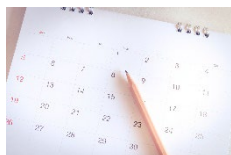
## Inclement Weather

Spring is around the corner... BUT... if it becomes necessary to cancel an in-person LIRA program for any reason, i.e. snowstorm, hazardous road conditions, or UMass Lowell campus closure, we attempt to notify all members. Assuming no major power outages, we will not cancel classes, but simply shift to Zoom only.

UMass Lowell closures and delayed openings are announced on local TV news programs and on the internet [www.uml.edu/storm](http://www.uml.edu/storm). We may also cancel in-person programs when UMass Lowell is open if we think conditions are too hazardous for our members. We make a decision about next day storm cancellations by 6:00 PM, so check your email or the LIRA Facebook page in the morning to see if classes that day are cancelled or shifted to Zoom only.

We have three ways to notify members:

- Email to **all members** for **all class cancellations or changes to Zoom only**
- Posting on the LIRA Facebook page LIRAatUML
- Telephone calls to those members who signed up for a call



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2024; the deadline for news items is **April 15, 2024**. Articles may be submitted at any time before the deadline. Any format is acceptable, but if you have Microsoft Word and can use Verdana Font, size 12, that is preferred. Please email articles to: [beckybronson241@gmail.com](mailto:beckybronson241@gmail.com)

*Becky Bronson*

## Member News

*LIRA is a community as well as a learning organization. Do you have any personal news you would like to share with LIRA members? Have you moved recently and now have a new address? Do you know of anyone who might appreciate cards or other support from LIRA members?*

*If we don't hear about it, it won't be in the newsletter!*

*Please contact Laura Boerman ([laura\\_boerman@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_boerman@yahoo.com)) with any LIRA member news.*

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## Newsletters on Website

The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first day of the following months – March, May, September and December. Everyone can read the newsletter online if you have access to a web browser. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them.

The on-line newsletter is just like the printed one only better - it's in color! This policy helps us save substantial printing and mailing costs to the university as well as a few trees.

The website for the newsletter is: [www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters/](http://www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters/)

# Reading List for Dystopian Literature Class

Book List for Utopian/Dystopian Literature Course					Spring 2024 Mondays 10:00 to noon March 11,18, 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 6	
The students will have a better understanding of the course if they read a synopsis of these stories, book and authors on Wikipedia or other literary platform.						
Author	Book or story			Published		
U. K. LeGuin	The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas			1973		Week 1
Thomas More	Utopia			1516		Week 1
Jonathan Swift	Gullivers Travels			1726		Week 2
Voltaire	Candide			1759		Week 2
Louisa May Alcott	Trancendental Wild Oats			1873		Week 2
Samuel Butler	Erewhon			1871		Week 3
Edward Bellamy	Looking Backward			1890		Week 3
H. G. Wells	The Time Machine			1895		Week 3
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Herland			1915		Week 4
Yevgeny Zamyatin	We			1921		Week 4
Aldous Huxley	Brave New World			1958		Week 4
George Orwell	1984			1948		Week 5
James Tiptree Jr.	Houston, Houston Do You Read?			1976		Week 5
Octavia Butler	Kindred			1979		Week 5
Margaret Atwood	Handmaid's Tale			1985		Week 6
Suzanne Collins	The Hunger Games			2008		Week 6
Cory Doctorow	Little Brother			2014		Week 7
Cormac McCarthy	The Road			2006		Week 7
Lois Lowry	The Giver			1993		Week 7

## Newsletter Committee

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## **LIRA 2024 Spring Semester Course Descriptions**

(Note: \* indicates LIRA member)

### **Great Utopian and Dystopian Works of Literature**

**Mondays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, April 22, April 29, May 6  
10 a.m. – Noon (hybrid)**

“The Great Courses” present these lectures by Pamela Bedore of the University of Connecticut. This “speculative fiction” course takes us from Thomas More’s *Utopia*, published in 1516, to the 21<sup>st</sup> century dystopian literature so popular today. Described by “The Great Courses” as “a dive into stories that seek to find the best—and the worst in humanity.”

*Note: if you are planning to attend these classes, please look at the recommended reading list at the end of the LIRA course descriptions.*

Facilitators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen\*

### **Unexpected Biochemical Connections between our Nutrition & Habits and our Health**

**Mondays, March 11 and 18 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: Anastasia O’Malley MS, CNS, LDN

Like dominoes in a line or ripples in a pond, the origins of effects we see may not be where we expect to find them. Might antacids, antibiotics and mouthwash affect bone health, brain health and blood pressure? How is lung health entwined with both bone health and mental health? What does water & vitamin D do for us? Learn how nutrition is necessary for neurotransmission and cognitive health. This is all food FOR thought(s), sometimes literally.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **Dark Matter, Dark Energy: The Dark Side of the Universe**

**Mondays, March 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 6 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

After a quick review of what we covered during the fall semester, we will explore what as yet undiscovered type of particle might make up Dark Matter. We will visit some of the current research into Dark Matter with the James Webb Telescope and the Euclid Telescope. Then the Great Courses presentation will move on to Dark Energy, that mysterious force that is dispersed throughout the universe and which is pushing everything that is not gravitationally constrained apart.

Facilitator: Peter Sebelius\*

## **Johnny Cash: A Life in Song** **Tuesday, March 12 10 a.m. – Noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Prof. Jonathan Silverman

A music star for almost 50 years, Johnny Cash both changed with the times and yet remained a consistent symbol of mystery and authenticity—those changes are reflected in his music, which both changed over time and yet represented an unwavering spirit. I will present on him through a "life in songs," ranging from his time growing up in Arkansas, all the way to his death in 2003.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*



# **Climate Change: Misconceptions, Mitigation, and Moving Forward**

**Tuesday, March 12 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: Prof. Lori Weeden



**CLIMATE CHANGE  
MISCONCEPTIONS, MITIGATION, AND MOVING FORWARD  
PROFESSOR LORI WEEDEN, UMASS LOWELL**

This lecture will review the causes of anthropogenic climate change and many of the misconceptions surrounding the science. The theme will counter misinformation and leave people with hope for the future. Professor Lori Weeden is with the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences at UMass Lowell.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache\*

## **Critical Issues in K-12 Public Schools: Focus on High Schools**

**Tuesdays, March 26 and April 2 10 a.m. - Noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: David Troughton\*

Our public schools represent one of the fundamental institutions of a democratic society. Indeed, the education of all children serves the general good and economic welfare of the nation and society. At the same time, public schools are complex organizations serving multiple roles, diverse populations, and ever-changing societal need. In these two sessions, we will examine the role High Schools play in to preparing graduates for “college and career” and productive roles as citizens.



**Session 1:** In this session, we will examine the organization of high schools and help to answer the following questions:

- What are the major challenges facing high schools?
- Are high schools doing a good job to prepare students for the future?

**Session 2:** In this session, we will examine local and state graduation requirements and attempt to answer the question:

- Should Massachusetts eliminate the state requirement for high school graduates to demonstrate “proficiency” on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Tests as a requirement to receive a high school diploma?

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **UML DifferenceMaker Program**

**Tuesday, March 26 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: David Vatalaro

DifferenceMaker is a campus-wide program that helps students solve problems and pursue their ideas, with a focus on having a positive impact in the world. The DifferenceMaker program provides training, mentoring, and other resources to UMass Lowell students who wish to address social, environmental, and economic problems in the community and world. DifferenceMaker works with students to solve their problems and turn their ideas into reality.

Our class will be in two parts. In the first, we will learn about the program from David Vatalaro, a member of the DifferenceMaker Team, and selected students, who will present an overview of their DifferenceMaker projects.

During the second part of the class, we will take part in a DifferenceMaker exercise where we divide up into teams and try to create a solution to a real-world problem. Part of this exercise involves making a Lego model your solution, so, if you have any, bring a bag of your child’s or grandchild’s Legos for the exercise. If you don’t have any, they will be provided.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

# **Water District Supply, Operation and Challenges**

**Tuesday, April 2 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: Todd Melanson

This presentation will be based on the general operation of a water system, whether it be a groundwater system or surface water system, and the laws and regulations that dictate its operation. We will discuss the water chemistry challenges and environmental challenges that both types of systems face, and go into emerging regulations (PFAS, Lead and Copper, Disinfection Byproducts), the reasons for them and the challenges they create for the water system and their local communities to deal with.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **MIT Haystack Observatory Tour**

**Tuesday, April 9 10 a.m. - noon (Field Trip)**

MIT Haystack Observatory is an interdisciplinary research center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, engaged in radio science research and the practical application of related technology. The Haystack mission is to develop technology for radio science applications, and thereby to study the structure of our galaxy and the larger universe, to advance scientific knowledge of our planet and its space environment, and to contribute to the education of future scientists and engineers. Haystack Observatory is a multidisciplinary research laboratory with a unifying theme of radio science and a research staff of many highly skilled scientists, engineers, and technicians.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

The tour will be approximately an hour and a half, which includes a talk by a scientist about their research along with a tour of their largest radio telescope, the 37-meter antenna. They can accommodate about 30 people maximum. If people have access requirements, such as needing to avoid stairs, we can arrange that if you let us know. Usually, the tour does not involve going outside or driving around the site.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **Cable TV Cord Cutting**

**Tuesday, April 16 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Tony Janeczek UML '76

Concerned about the high price of cable TV services? Join us to hear about options to lower your monthly cost for cable. In this session, you will find out what type of services are available either for free or for much lower costs than what you are paying now. We will talk about why cable prices are high, and what you can do to pay only for what you need.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **Why Did the Astros Cheat?**

**Tuesday, April 23 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Prof. Jonathan Silverman

In 2017, the Houston Astros won their first World Series. Two years later, reporters uncovered a bizarre scandal; the Astros stole catchers' signals to their pitchers and communicated these signals to the Astros dugout, where players banged on a trash can to let batters know which pitch was coming. But this scandal didn't happen in a vacuum. I will explore the factors that led to this scandal and their implications beyond the diamond.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*

## **Harvard Univ. Museum of Natural History Glass Flowers Exhibit**

**Tuesday, April 30 12:45 p.m. - 2 p.m. (Field Trip)**

**NOTE: Nonstandard time**

One of Harvard University's most famous treasures is the internationally acclaimed Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, better known as the "Glass Flowers." This unique collection was made by Leopold (1822-1895) and Rudolf Blaschka (1857-1939), a father and son team of Czech glass artists. Over fifty years, from 1886 through 1936, the Blaschkas produced 4,300 glass models that represent 780 plant species.

The Glass Flowers gallery underwent a historic renovation in 2016, introducing rebuilt, original historic wood and glass display cases, new state-of-the-art lighting, and sophisticated conservation systems. The newly configured gallery space and scientific interpretation showcases the ongoing

scientific relevance of the collection and enriches the visitors' experience of the models.

We have a limit of 15 people for this trip. Assuming at least 10 people sign up, the admission cost per person will be \$20. (There will be an additional cost for parking, but by arranging carpools, we will try to keep that cost reasonable.) There will be a docent-led tour of the Glass Flowers lasting about one hour. Admission also includes free access to the entire Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. We hope to leave the museum about 3:00, to reduce the time spent in rush hour traffic. Each carpool can work an arrival time out, so long as each group arrives by 12:45.

More information will be supplied in early April.

Coordinator: Alan Friedman\*

## **Reconstruction and the Contested Election of 1876**

**Wednesday March 20 10 a.m. – noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Prof. Robert Farrant

The nation came together after the Civil War, largely by collectively forgetting what the war was about. Passage of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution, access to the ballot box and public education, the election of formerly enslaved people to Congress and numerous state legislatures, and federal enforcement of voting rights, prevailed. Soon, national celebrations honored the bravery of both armies, and Frederick Douglass and other Black leaders engaged with Confederate sympathizers and Northerners in a battle of historical memory. Douglass called on people to remember the war for what it was—a struggle between an army fighting to protect slavery and a nation reluctantly transformed into a force for liberation. This did not happen, and the presidential election of 1876 sent a clear message that Reconstruction and the struggle for equality supported by the federal government was ended. Find out more on March 20!

Coordinator: David Troughton\*

## **The Election of 2024**

**Wednesdays, March 20, 27, April 3, 10 1-3 p.m. (Zoom only)**

Presenter: Prof. Frank Talty

This four-week course will cover the details of the national election of 2024 and some state races of significance. Most importantly, we will cover the presidential election. By the time this course begins on March 20th, both the Democratic and Republican races for president will have chosen a majority of the delegates, and we will most likely be discussing the general election scheduled for November 5th, 2024. This cycle, 35 U.S. Senate seats and all 435 members of the House of Representatives are also up for election. We will look at the constitutional and statutory basis for these elections and discuss the continued validity of the process. We will also look at political polling in one week of the series.

Coordinators: Sally Coulter\* and Bob Stevens\*

## **I Wear My Own Clothes: The Fascinating Life of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker**

**Wednesday, March 27 10:00 a.m. – noon (Zoom only)**

Presenter: Susan de Guardiola

On August 25, 2023, the U.S. Army training base Fort Hill was renamed Fort Walker in honor of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919), a surgeon, abolitionist, suffragist, dress reformer, lecturer, author, divorcée, and the first female recipient of the Medal of Honor who became famous—and infamous—in the mid-19th century for her public adoption of men's clothing. Susan de Guardiola will discuss the fascinating life and military service of this remarkable American woman and her stubbornly unique approach to the medical and progressive issues of her time.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel

## **Chaucer: His Literature, His Life, His Language**

**Wednesdays, April 10, 17 and 24 10 a.m. – noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Alan Friedman\*

When you studied English literature in high school, your teacher probably assigned you a brief excerpt from *The Canterbury Tales* to represent the Middle Ages. Has all memory of it vanished without a trace? Are you aware that Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*, is generally acknowledged as the "Father of English Poetry" and recognized as an important influence on Shakespeare? Most modern critics sing the praises of *The Canterbury Tales*. What, then, makes this work more than just a commonplace anthology of short stories? How did Chaucer's life experiences and historical context shape his work? How did his works affect the English language and vice versa?

These are among the questions we will tackle in this course. In addition, we will learn just enough of Chaucer's native tongue, Middle English, to gain an appreciation of his work in its original form.

### **LIRA Lowell Area Dining Trail Part 1:**

#### **The Athenian Corner**

**Wednesday, April 17 2:00 p.m. (Field Trip)**

**Athenian Corner Restaurant, 207 Market Street, Lowell**

*Brought to you by LIRA's own Diversity Team*, experience the many exciting food cultures of the Lowell area with a series of dining/learning opportunities beginning in Spring, 2024, with *The Athenian Corner*. *The Athenian Corner*, located in the heart of downtown Lowell, is part of the Historic District. Since 1974, the Panagiotopoulos family has been proudly serving quality Greek dishes and generous portions at affordable prices, and with Ted Panos, owner, as our guide, we will explore Greek food, culture, and community in Lowell.

**Cost:** \$25/person, includes a late lunch meal of your choice. You will be responsible for your bar drink tab at the venue.

**Signup** at the March 6 LIRA meeting, first come basis; attendance limited to 14 people.

**Parking:** Free parking in the restaurant lot.

**Accessibility considerations:** Although the restaurant entrance is accessible, the restroom is upstairs. There is an accessible restroom across the street at the National Park Museum Visitor Center.

Coordinator: Stan Powers\*

## **Legends of Little Canada: "Aunt Rose, Harvey's Bookland and My Captain Jack"**

**Wednesday April 24 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: Charles Gargiulo

Charlie Gargiulo will present a talk on his memoir "Legends of Little Canada". He grew up during the planned destruction of this very neighborhood that is part of the UMass Lowell campus today. He will bring along copies of his book for us to purchase and have signed.

Coordinator: Bev Rudeen\*

## **Great Decisions**

**Thursdays March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2  
10 a.m. – noon (Zoom only)**

Great Decisions is America's largest discussions program on world affairs. The discussion group reads the Briefing Book and meets to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

You can order a Briefing Book by sending a \$25 check payable to "LIRA Inc" to Richard Grove 575 Osgood St, North Andover, MA 01845. He will mail you a copy of the book, *OR you can bring your check to the LIRA Town Meeting March 6 and get your book.*

**Mideast Realignment** The United States and the Middle East are at a crossroads. Despite a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U. S. still has significant interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

Discussion leader: Steve Cerand\*, March 14, 21



**U.S-China Trade Rivalry** China's economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

Discussion leader: Richard Grove\*, March 28, April 4

**Understanding Indonesia** Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world's largest democracies, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

Discussion leader: Neal Berenson\*, April 11, 18

**Climate Technology** Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the "common enemy" of climate change?

Discussion leader: LIRA member Richard Grove\*, April 25, May 2

## **Brainstorming Session** **New LIRA class/field trip ideas** **Thursday April 4 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Did you ever do brainstorming at work? Well, we are going to take a shot at it. This is a chance for anyone in LIRA to come and help think up ideas for new classes/field trips for our members. There is no such thing as a bad idea; we will consider everything! Come to University Suites or Zoom in and tell us what you want to learn about or what places you would like to visit.

Coordinators: Peter Sebelius\*, Jim Rutter\*, Bev Rudeen\*

**Boston Masonic Temple Tour**  
**Friday, May 3 10:30 a.m. – noon (Field Trip)**

Join us on a visit to one of the most distinguished Masonic buildings in the United States, the headquarters of the oldest Grand Lodge in the Western Hemisphere, right here in Boston! Grand Historian Walter Hunt will lead us on a tour of the building, including the library, and talk about the history of the building and some ephemera and objects there. Meet at Hannaford's in Chelmsford at 9:45 am to carpool; the Boston Masonic temple is a short walk from the Boston Common garage, at the edge of the Theater District. Tour starts at 10:30am, and should last about 90 minutes.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

**Tour the La Belle Winery**  
**with UML Golden Alumni class of '74**  
**Friday, May 10 10 a.m. – noon (Field Trip)**  
**(n.b. this is after our regular Spring Semester ends)**

The UML Alumni office is inviting LIRA members to join in a tour of the La Belle Winery in Derry, New Hampshire. A UML bus will depart from the Hilton Garden Inn (4 Highwood Dr., Tewksbury, MA 01876) at approximately 10:15 a.m. and return approximately 12:30. This is a chance to interact with UML grads celebrating their golden (50<sup>th</sup>) class reunion. The cost of the winery tour is \$25.00 per person; the bus cost is TBD. Attendance is limited to 10 LIRA members. Contact Peter Sebelius at 978-758-560 to sign up. Send checks made out to LIRA, Inc to Peter Sebelius, 20 Draycoach Drive, Chelmsford, MA, 01824-1024.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

## **Book Discussions**

**(Zoom only)**

**March 15** Rough Sleepers, by Tracy Kidder, 2023, 298 pages. Discussion leader: Karen Naka\*

**April 19** A Council of Dolls, by Mona Susan Power, 2023, 293 pages. Discussion leader: Marie-Anne Fernando\*

**May 17** Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck, many editions and number of pages varies with edition. Discussion leaders: Rebecca Kelley-Morgan and Steve Buccieri\*

**June 21** Democracy Awakening: notes on the state of America, by Heather Cox Richardson, 2023, 286 pages. Discussion leader: Lynn Tyndall\*

Coordinator for Book Discussions: Sheila Pariseau\*

## **Film Discussions**

**(Zoom only)**

**March 22** - "CALL ME BY YOUR NAME" (2017) - Discussion leader: Carolyn Walsh\*

**April 26** - "GIFTED HANDS" (2009) - Discussion leader: Marie Tada\*

**May 24** - Open

Coordinator for Film Discussions: Marie-Anne Fernando\*

# LIRA 2024 Spring Calendar

Please note: Zoom only classes are marked in red; hybrid in black

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>March 11 10 am to Noon Great Utopian and Dystopian Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Connections between Habits and Health</p>	<p>March 12 10 am to Noon Johnny Cash: A Life of Song</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Climate Change: Moving Forward</p>	<p>March 13</p>	<p>March 14 10 am to Noon Great Decisions</p>	<p>March 15 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Rough Sleepers</i> Tracy Kidder</p>
<p>March 18 10 am to Noon ...Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Connections between Habits and Health</p>	<p>March 19</p>	<p>March 20 10 am to Noon Reconstruction and the Contested Election of 1876</p> <p>1 to 3 pm The Election of 2024</p>	<p>March 21 10 am to Noon Great Decisions</p>	<p>March 22 10 to Noon Film Discussion <i>Call Me By Your Name</i></p>
<p>March 25 10 am to Noon ...Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm The Dark Side of the Universe</p>	<p>March 26 10 am to Noon Critical Issues in K-12 Public Schools</p> <p>1 to 3 pm UML DifferenceMaker Program</p>	<p>March 27 10 am to Noon The Fascinating Life of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker</p> <p>1 to 3pm The Election of 2024</p>	<p>March 28 10 am to Noon Great Decisions</p>	<p>March 29</p>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>April 1 10 am to Noon ... Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm The Dark Side of the Universe</p>	<p>April 2 10 am to Noon Critical Issues in K-12</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Water District Supply, Operations and Challenges</p>	<p>April 3 1 to 3 pm <b>The Election of 2024</b></p>	<p>April 4 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Brainstorming Session</p>	<p>April 5</p>
<p>April 8 NO CLASS SOLAR ECLIPSE</p>	<p>April 9 <b>FIELD TRIP</b> 10 am to Noon MIT Haystack Observatory Tour</p>	<p>April 10 10 am to Noon Chaucer: His Literature, Life, and Language 1 to 3 pm <b>The Election of 2024</b></p>	<p>April 11 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p>	<p>April 12</p>
<p>April 15 NO CLASS PATRIOT'S DAY</p>	<p>April 16 10 am to Noon Cable TV Cord Cutting</p>	<p>April 17 10 am to Noon Chaucer <b>FIELD TRIP</b> 2 pm Lowell Area Dining Trail</p>	<p>April 18 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p>	<p>April 19 10 am to Noon <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>A Council of Dolls</i></p>
<p>April 22 10 am to Noon ... Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm The Dark Side of the Universe</p>	<p>April 23 10 am to Noon Why Did the Astros Cheat?</p>	<p>April 24 10 am to Noon Chaucer 1 to 3 pm Legends of Little Canada</p>	<p>April 25 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p>	<p>April 26 10 am to Noon <b>Film Discussion</b> <i>Gifted Hands</i></p>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>April 29 10 am to Noon ... Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Dark Side of the Universe</p>	<p>April 30 FIELD TRIP 12:45 - 2:00 pm</p> <p>Harvard's Museum of Natural History Glass Flowers Exhibit</p>	<p>May 1</p>	<p>May 2 10 am to Noon Great Decisions</p>	<p>May 3 FIELD TRIP 10:30 am to Noon</p> <p>Boston Masonic Temple Meet at Hannahford's in Chelmsford to carpool</p>
<p>May 6 10:00 to Noon ... Works of Literature</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Dark Side of the Universe</p>	<p>May 7</p>	<p>May 8</p>	<p>May 9 10 am to Noon</p>	<p>May 10 FIELD TRIP 10 am to ??</p> <p>Tour of the La Belle Winery (UML bus from Tewksbury's Hilton Garden Inn parking lot at 10:15)</p>
<p>May 13</p>	<p>May 14</p>	<p>May 15 LIRA ANNUAL MEETING Maloney Hall 10 am – noon</p>	<p>May 16</p>	<p>May 17 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Grapes of Wrath</i></p>