



LIRA NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Office of Community Service – UMass Lowell

Member of Elderhostel Institute Network

Tel.: (978) 934-3135 Web: uml.edu/community/LIRA

March 2011

Vol. 18 No. 1

Let's Welcome Spring and The New Spring Session!

Join us for the Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 10am to Noon

UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
Junior Ballroom, 2nd floor
50 Warren Street, Lowell, MA
(Formerly Doubletree Inn)

**Come and hear about our new Spring Schedule,
have some refreshments and sign up for classes!**

Holiday Party 2010

This year the Holiday Party was held in Alumni Hall, which turned out to be a beautiful room for our party. Because of the lack of parking facilities, a bus was used to get us there which probably caused some confusion and a smaller turnout than usual. But the 60 members that did attend, were welcomed with a roomful of tables beautifully decorated by the Hospitality co-chairs, Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis – a sea of red and white with a centerpiece and a ‘favor’ of a snowflake sugar cookie made by Dawn, for each member. Thanks to both of them for all their hard work.

Toby Hodes began the meeting by thanking all the facilitators of the courses given during the year. The Winter Intersession programs were reviewed by Curriculum Chairman, Dorothy Bromage. It was good to hear that we will be able to use the Rec Center again for our programs.

Carol Cannistraro, Pat Dion and Shirley Mitchell did a great job in organizing the Consumable Auction. It is always a fun part of the Holiday Party and for some reason, there always seems to be one table that wins more than their share! The auction made \$340.00 for the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who participated.

Mary Jane Meyers, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the two \$1500 scholarships to Jessica Desormes and Ianna Handros McCarthy, both

juniors at UMass Lowell. The two young women were sincerely appreciative and you can read about their qualifications elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank you to all the members who contributed so generously for the hats, mittens and so many great books. Jane Benfey, Director of Volunteer Programs, from Community Teamwork Inc. told us how much she appreciated our donations. Thanks to Elaine Jelescheff for arranging with CTI to pick them up.

Following the meeting it was time to sample the smorgasbord of great food! Thanks to all for their contributions of food, consumable auction items and buying raffle tickets. It was a great party and best of all – no snow!

Jeri Durant



Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

Jane Calvin, Executive Director of the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust made a presentation to LIRA about the Trust's efforts to create the Concord River Greenway. Jane showed slides and a short video that illustrated the extent of the Greenway and she explained many of the programs and activities that residents could enjoy such as walking, listening to lectures, and rafting on the river. Some activities are planned and others can be enjoyed at almost any time. I believe those who attended this program will make an effort to explore and enjoy this wonderful resource just "under our noses"!

More information can be obtained about the Greenway by searching for "Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust" on the web. The video of the Greenway can be purchased for \$6 (\$5 video plus \$1 to ship) payable to the Parks and Conservation Trust at POB 7162, Lowell, MA 01852.

Jeanne Gunion



Along the Concord River

Friday Morning Lectures at the Chelmsford Library

The Chelmsford Library has partnered with LIRA to present a new series of Friday morning lectures and discussions that will take place on the 2nd Friday of each month. Lecture topics will follow along with the topics LIRA members cover in their classroom discussions. These lectures have been well-attended by LIRA members. The dates for the next 3 months are March 11, April 8, and May 13. Speakers for the March and April lectures have not been scheduled as yet, but May's lecture is titled Geopolitics and the Caucasus with Robyn Angley.

For further information on upcoming lectures go to: http://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday_morning_lectures.html

Recycling

On January 5th, 2011 Emeritus Professor Nick R. Schott, recently retired from the Plastics Engineering Department of UMASS Lowell gave a talk on "Recycling". He focused on his area of interest, the post consumer plastics waste stream which is very prominent because plastics are very light weight, many float in water, and draw attention when they litter our beaches, cities and highways. Professor Schott reviewed the history of modern materials in our society and how they affect our health and standard of living. He drew attention to the interrelationship between plastics and prices of fossil fuels and mentioned that modern incineration can also solve some problems to reduce the solid waste stream via trash to energy plants. The use of plastics has pros and cons. They offer a path for more energy efficient vehicles but some plastics and their additives also raise health concerns.



Professor Schott discussed the three R s of recycling: Reduce Reuse, Recycle and how local communities are implementing programs to educate the public while at the same time saving money and the environment. With rising oil prices and the threat of global warming the issue of the "carbon footprint" of our lives was mentioned and the possible solutions that new technologies of alternate energy sources such as nuclear, bio-fuels, wind, hydro, and solar power offer. Our problems of solid waste disposal are pressing and interrelated with all our other issues of modern agriculture, sanitation, medicine, and our way of life which all depend on the rational use of energy and materials. An audience of over forty people was present and many questions were asked by the audience.

Jean Schott

Member News

We were saddened to learn of the death of our long time member Dorothy Sussman in January. Our sincere sympathy to her husband Steven and their children.

Our sincere sympathy also to Elaine Jelescheff and her family. Her husband passed away in February.

A speedy recovery to Jeri Durant who is recovering from recent knee surgery, to George Dana who injured his hand in a fall and to Frank Carroll who fractured his wrist after a fall on the ice.

Many thanks to all for their calls and cards during my recent knee replacement surgery. Yes, now I have two good knees and will soon be able to keep up with the best of you! See you in March.

Jeri Durant

Kay Carroll

Dorothy's Holiday Party!

What a treat you missed if you were not able to attend **Dorothy Bromage's Open House** on the Sunday before Christmas. She had prepared a deliciously beautiful hot wine/orange punch, and there were of course other goodies! Besides visiting with Dorothy and other guests, we all enjoyed viewing her extraordinary home that shows off her keen and long-held love of music. She has **3 large player pianos**. She demonstrated the old piano rolls on two of them. The third piano operates in the digital age where the piano rolls were scanned and played electronically.

Besides having decorated the house in the "holiday" spirit, there were other seasonal artifacts, five of which played



Alan Kent thinks we believe he is really playing the piano—it's actually a lively roll. Seated at the antique reed organ is Jeanne Gunion.

holiday music at the turn of a switch. One could see other interesting examples of sheet music from decades earlier, older instruments, music boxes, and pictures of various piano roll artists. Upstairs there was a "doll" china tea party display; and there were posters of past movie stars like Laurel and Hardy and also three Escher prints.

So you can see and appreciate how interesting and eclectic Dorothy's home is. If she ever gives LIRA members another chance to visit this outstanding home do mark your calendars and really make an effort to **attend and - attend again** if you have been there already.

Jeanne Gunion



While the grown-ups were partying downstairs, a charming tea party was taking place upstairs.

Travel to Cuba

The Missile Crisis, the Bay of Pigs and U.S. Embargo are parts of the history of Cuba that most Americans remember, but there is so much more that we know so little about. Jose Ramirez presented a vivid description detailing the life of Cubans existing today in a Communist controlled country where the average salary is \$12 a month and everything, including rice, is rationed. He began his program for our Winter Intersession showing slides of his most recent trip to Cuba explaining the strict regulations on the amount of money, weight and goods allowed into the country. The charming town of Jose's childhood, Aguacate, had changed considerably. His former home had become a police station and a photo was allowed only after permission from the police. In the park, the names on the top of benches had been removed by the government to deflect any suggestion of ownership or significance.

The hotels in Havana, the capital of Cuba, are beautiful, as are the beaches, but a few blocks beyond lies the poverty

unseen by the tourists. Although everyone is covered with medical care, a trip to the hospital necessitates having family members bring you food and sheets. Medicines are scarce and medical equipment such as radiation machines are slow to be repaired. There is a small amount of private enterprise with some small businesses but convertible dollars and the Cuban currency with the government involved make it difficult to earn a living and make a profit.

Jose, born in Cuba, was one of a group of children called the Pedro Pan, who were allowed to leave the country between December 1960 and February 1962. He was reunited with his family five years later. Educated in the U.S., he is allowed by the government to return to Cuba only because he has family residing there. He has published a book, *Notes and Memories* about his father's life as a doctor in Cuba and plans to write another book on Cuban life.

Mary Willis

Scholarship Awards 2010

Among more than thirty applicants, two junior women from UMass Lowell were chosen to receive the two \$1500 scholarship awards at our annual holiday party. It was a difficult choice this year, because there were so many excellent students. From our scholarship applicants, we ask for Junior or Senior, full time UMass Lowell students with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. They must take part in extra-curricular activities, have defined life goals and participate in community service.



Scholarship winners l to r: Ianna Handros McCarthy, Mary Jane Myers, Jessica Desormes

Our first recipient, Jessica Desormes, majoring in Clinical Laboratory Science, would like to be a cardiologist. She received the Presidential Education awards in Biology, Geometry, Chorus and Outstanding Academic Effort. She has been involved in many community service activities: volunteered at Camp Sunshine, a camp for children with life-threatening diseases, as a councilor, volunteered at Agassiz Village, a camp for low income children, helped to

setup health clinics for people who could not afford health care with Agassiz Village, and also volunteered at the Public Health Brigade.

Ianna Handros McCarthy, majoring in Psychology, English and Pre Med, was our second recipient. She is an honors student and has been on the Dean's List in 2008, 2009 and 2010. She has worked for the park service fixing trails, building new ones and maintaining camp grounds. One of her references said it best:

Academically, Ianna was outstanding. Her written work matched her interpersonal skills for excellence. I was also impressed by her organizational skills and thoroughness as well as by her personal integrity. Ianna is a rare student. She is comfortable in a variety of areas and she seems to excel in all of them. Her goal is to go into medicine, either in Psychology or General Practice.

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the members that have generously donated more than \$1000.00 and helped to make our scholarships possible. The donations to the coffee fund also go to the scholarship fund – that portion that is not needed to supply our refreshment cart. The proceeds from the Consumable Auction also go to the fund. Thanks to all for your donations.

*LIRA Scholarship Committee
Mary Jane Myers, Chair
Betty Bayard
Carol Cannistraro
Al McKersie
Dottie Morris*

Nominating Committee for 2011

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Steve Sussman as Chairman, Connie Lanseigne-Case and Judy Miller. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are open for reelection. If you wish to nominate a candidate for any of these positions, please let the nominating committee know as soon as possible.

Toby Hodes

Carpool Location

There was some confusion about the location that we use to carpool for many of the Art & Music trips. We meet at the Hannaford at Drum Hill in Chelmsford. They have allowed us to park on the left side of the building toward the rear, bordering Parkhurst Road. The bus for any of the trips will be at the same location.

Coffee Break Note

The Breakmobile is normally located in the atrium of the Rec Center. If the Breakmobile is missing from the atrium because a student activity has taken place there, please ask the secretary in the office if she can locate it for you.

Extra supplies are located in some of the cabinets in the atrium. Refreshments can be bought or baked. All are welcomed! If you have any problems, please call the Hospitality Committee.

A huge thank you to everyone who has baked, brought or otherwise assisted with the delicious edibles.

*The Hospitality Committee
Dawn Gillogly 978-692-3774
Mary Willis 978-692-0699*

Remembering Dorothy Sussman

My first memory of Dorothy was at the very first meeting I ever attended at LIRA. It was January of 2000 during the Winter Intersession and she had coordinated a program called 'Collections'. Many members brought in a great variety of their collections or hobbies and had 10 minutes to speak about them. Dorothy sat in her chair and would raise a sign of a 2 minute reminder to wrap it up and then a 1 minute reminder. It was such a fun session and helped to convince me that I should become a member.

Dorothy joined LIRA in 1996 and was an active member for most of those years. Her battle with a chronic lung disease limited her involvement in later years, but she and her devoted husband still came to the movies last fall. She gave a course in the Fall of 2001 titled 'Enjoying the Ethnic Foods of the People in Lowell'. Foods were from the Irish, Jewish, Greek, Polish, French and Southeast Asia communities. She made it clear that she 'loved to cook' and that she did. We were meeting in Fox Hall at the time on the 5th floor. There were no kitchen facilities, she carried all the cookware and food in for every class and cooked on hot plates and electric fry pans (which blew a few fuses). Dorothy made a variety of appetizers, Italian, Chinese and Greek, for one class. She made blintzes for the Jewish class, pierogies for the Polish class and Pad Thai for the Southeast Asian class. I volunteered to do the French class and demonstrated how to make croissants. Mary O'Connor demonstrated Irish breads and Dottie Zahos made Greek Walnut Cake. It was a memorable class enjoyed by all.

Learning how to play Mahjong is the other memory I have of Dorothy. She taught several of us how to play in her home. She was a marvelous teacher and I enjoyed the game thoroughly. I even bought my own game in hopes of teaching my family, but they were never as excited about it as I was.

For those that might have missed the obituary in the Lowell Sun, I have reprinted it below.

Jeri Durant

My most vivid memory of Dorothy is the Mahjong lessons that she gave at her home several years ago. I had always wanted to learn Mahjong—mostly because I love the tiles and the boxes they come in—so I jumped at the chance to learn from Dorothy. She was passionate about the game and its symbolism and rituals. She was a wonderful teacher, and I wish I had been as good a student! Unfortunately I never quite caught on and eventually I gave up my place at the table to someone else. But I am grateful to her that I now have at least a passing knowledge of a game that has such beautiful accouterments!

My other memory of Dorothy is her passion for cooking. She once demonstrated her cooking skills for a LIRA program and though I've forgotten exactly what the menu was, the memory of her prodigious skill and contagious enthusiasm is very strong. Again, she was happy to share her delight in an activity she loved.

Suzanne Knapp

A popular program which Dorothy conceived and coordinated a few times was members showing cherished collections. Many members participated and the audience at times was intrigued to learn the variety of interests of participants. Thanks to her we learned a little more about each other and her interest in pottery.

Connie Lanseigne-Case

Dorothy participated in the book discussion for a year or two and suggested several excellent books and was always very engaged in the discussions.

Toby Hodes

From the Lowell Sun:

SUSSMAN, Dorothy R. (Levy) Of Littleton on Sunday, January 23, 2011. For 53 years, she was the beloved wife of Steven M. Sussman. Loving mother of Erica & Elad Lending of Israel, Stuart Sussman & Marcia Ellis of Monument, CO and Sharon Brown of Concord. Adored grandmother of Chava, Gadi & Assaf Lending, Joshua & Mia Sussman and Jessica Sussman and Sawyer & Turner Brown. Dear sister of Edward Levy of Peabody, David Levy of Winthrop, Ethel Carlin of Onset & FL and the late Maurice & Max Levy. Services at Congregation Beth Elohim, 133 Prospect St., Acton on Tuesday, January 25 at 12 noon. Burial in Sharon Memorial Park. Memorial observance at her late residence, Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. and continuing Wednesday and Thursday from 2-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. Remembrances may be made to Congregation Beth Elohim, P.O. Box 2218, Acton, MA 01720 or the Reuben Hoar Library, 41 Shattuck St., Littleton, MA 01460. Levine Chapels, Brookline 617-277-8300

Toby Hodes: Our Spring Focus Personality

Probably everyone knows our President, **Toby Hodes** who is the person that we profile in this newsletter. As you learn about her personal accomplishments and her experiences you will realize how fortunate we are to have Toby as our leader!



Toby grew up in Passaic, New Jersey, and is a graduate of Lowell Technological Institute (now part of UMASS – Lowell), Class of 1958, with a degree in Textile Chemistry. She worked for her own professional society – “The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists” where she was developing standard test methods for fabrics. She married Larry in 1960, and they moved to the New York area where Toby went to work for “Good Housekeeping” magazine, testing advertised goods to assure that they warranted the Good Housekeeping “seal of approval”. She also worked for a major retail chain, setting up a testing lab and standards for the soft goods sold in their stores.

Toby left that position to stay home and raise their 3 daughters, when the need to keep busy enticed her to join and become active in “B’nai B’rith Women”, an international women’s volunteer organization. That activity and her family’s move to Massachusetts led to her becoming the New England Regional Director of that organization, a position she held for 10 years.

The prospect of college tuition for their daughters motivated Toby to pursue a more financially rewarding career than working for a non-profit, and so she then pursued an intensive course at Cambridge College, which resulted in a job as a buyer of jet engine parts for General Electric. A down turn in military spending in the 1990’s led to a period of unemployment, during which time Toby pursued graduate education in business management at Radcliffe. Then she embarked on her final career as a career counselor for displaced professionals - particularly engineers from the computer and defense industries.

So you can see that Toby has excellent life and employment skills to lead LIRA! Beyond this “resume” I know Toby to be unusually interested in and knowledgeable about the study of religion, particularly Judaism. Toby is also well versed in literature. I have been in the book group in LIRA with her for a few years and the sheer number of books she has read and the depth of her memory is remarkable. Of course through Toby’s administrative skills LIRA has been ably led through this difficult period of changes - namely engaging with the University administration in securing places for us to meet and to park!.

Jeanne Gunion

Request for Recipes

All the different dishes at the Holiday Party potluck were thoroughly enjoyed by all so we would like to compile your recipes for distribution. Please email (or snail mail) your recipe to Dawn Gillogly and she will compile them and make them available to all members.

Dawn Gillogly
1 Patten Lane
Westford, MA 01886
bostontreas@aol.com

Thank you.....

The following thank you notes were sent to LIRA during the last few months.

I would just like to thank you and the other members of the committee once again for your generosity and kindness towards me. This scholarship has helped me out a lot and it is very much appreciated. Happy Holidays!

*Sincerely,
Jessica Desormes*

The following message was sent to Mary Jane Myers:

Dear Mary,

I hope you still remember me. It's Sopheavy Seng. I'm the recipient on Dec. 2009. Once again, I want to say "Thank You" and all the wonderful committee for this wonderful scholarship. Also, I want to use this moment to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy 2011 New Year.

*Best Regards,
Sopheavy & Family*

The following note was sent to Toby from Community Teamwork Inc.

Dear Toby,

We want to thank you, and all the LIRA members who contributed to the book, hat and mitten drive that benefits Community Teamwork Inc. The donations are always much appreciated, but this year the economy is driving increased demand, and every agency in the area sees so many low income families. At our Tuesday afternoon Coats for Kids distribution, we have been giving out over 250 coats or jackets in an average week – and every week people ask us if we have hats or mittens. So the contributions from LIRA could not have come at a better time!

The donation we received this month included 55 children's books, along with over 30 pairs of mittens and over 40 hats. Many children's lives will be a little better thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of LIRA's members. Thank you again for helping us reaching CTI's neediest clients at this special time of year!

*Sincerely,
Jane Benfey
Director of Volunteer Programs*

Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public.

MARCH 28, 2011 - 12 p.m. MONDAY
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

"Diversity in Health Care" by Margaret Knight, Asst. Prof., UMass Lowell Dept. of Nursing

Health care will continue to be a "hot topic" over the next several decades. As the U.S. demographics continue to shift, providing culturally competent health care becomes critical in order to decrease health disparities, improve access to care and decrease the financial burden associated with illness care. Yet, the current healthcare work-force does not adequately represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of the country. Programs focused on the recruitment and retention of diverse individuals in college and university health related programs are greatly needed.

This is one of this season's "Lunchtime Lectures at the Inn & Conference Center." See October 18 program note above for details about reserving a seat for the lecture and lunch.

APRIL 3, 2011 - 2:00PM SUNDAY
LOWELL NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER

"I Think Again of Those Ancient Chinese Poets" by Tom Sexton

Tom Sexton, a Lowell High graduate and Alumni Hall of Famer and former Poet Laureate of Alaska, will read from his work in progress, *The Final Chapter*, which is a collection of sonnets about growing up in Lowell in the 1940s and 50s. He will also read from his new book, *I Think Again of Those Ancient Chinese Poets*, a collection of eight-line poems, and discuss the craft of poetry.

APRIL 10, 2011 - 2:00PM SUNDAY
LOWELL NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER

"The Super Big Story of America's Smallest Seacoast" by J. Dennis Robinson

Squashed between Maine and Massachusetts, New Hampshire claims just 17 measly miles of coastline. It has only one port. So how come Portsmouth, N.H. (population 20,000), is widely considered one of America's top heritage destinations today? Award-winning author J. Dennis Robinson rockets you through 400 years of New Hampshire seacoast history -- with attitude. Before Lexington and Concord, for example, Paul Revere took his first ride to Portsmouth, N.H. And who saved the Pilgrims from starving in 1623? That's right, a guy from New Hampshire. Forget what you learned in school, Robinson says, because this stuff wasn't in your textbook-- but it's all true.

APRIL 25, 2011 - 12 p.m. MONDAY
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
"Transforming Learning with Technology: Reality and Controversy"
by Regina Panasuk, Prof., UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education

It's hard to talk about changing education, never mind transforming it. Education is, after all, the one institution to which we entrust our children for the larger part of a day. Discussions about changing education run the gamut of emotions, raise tensions and reveal deeply held beliefs -- whether accurate or not.

This is one of this season's "Lunchtime Lectures at the Inn & Conference Center." See October 18 program note above for details about reserving a seat for the lecture and lunch.

APRIL 30, 2011. 7 p.m. - SATURDAY
ELIOT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"Where East Meets West: Cultural Fusion in Music and Dance"
Angkor Dance Troup, New England Orchestra & the Lowell Youth Orchestra

The concert centers around the fascinating music of Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung, while the Angkor Dancers explore a mix of court and folk dance in which monkeys court mermaids and giants battle divine princes. Conducted by Kay G. Roberts, Prof., UMass Lowell Dept. of Music.

Volunteer Fair in Chelmsford

LIRA will be participating in Chelmsford's annual Volunteer Fair on Saturday, March 12, 2011 from 10AM to Noon. The fair is being held at the Chelmsford Senior Center and is sponsored by the Chelmsford Library and the Senior Center. LIRA has arranged to have a table and hopes members will attend and assist with answering questions. It was crowded last year so assistance from LIRA members is appreciated. Contact Marjorie Short: LIRAhottstuff@gmail.com or www.chelmsfordlibrary.org for further information.



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Set your clocks ahead one hour.



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2011; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2011. Please remember that the coordinators are now responsible for getting someone to write an article about their program, if you want something to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be given to me at any time before the deadline.

Jeri Durant



Time for a Change

If you want to remain current with LIRA members, take pen or pencil in hand and make the following changes in your membership list.

New Members:

Bryna Glater
116-5 Turnpike Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-5827
Email: boatbcg@msn.com

Lisa Orenberg
51 W. Hollis Rd.
Hollis, NH 03049
603-465-9009
Email:
Borenberg@Charter.Net

Helayne Young
23 Larkspur Court
Nashua, NH 03062
603-880-6695 or
603-495-9394

Address/Email change:

Betty Sampas
117 Main St. Apt. 1 L
Groton, MA 01450
978-272-1071
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bsampas@charter.net

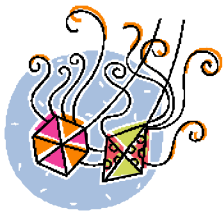
Email change:

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ms.reader7@gmail.com

Judy & Gerry Miller:
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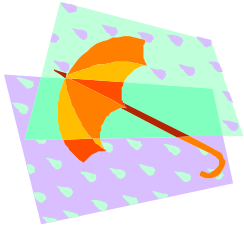
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LIRA March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9		11 10AM to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture	12
13	14	15	16 10 AM to Noon Town Meeting UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, Junior Ballroom	17	18 10 AM to Noon Book Discussion <i>South of Broad</i> By Pat Conroy	19
20	21 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	22 10AM to Noon Movie: <i>Steamboat Bill, Jr.</i> 12:30—2:30 PM Biology&H.Behavior	23 10 AM Meet at American Textile History Museum, Lowell	24 10 AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	25	26
27	28 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	29 10AM to Noon Movie: <i>Grand Hotel</i> 12:30—2:30 PM Biology&Human Behavior	30 9AM Meet at Hamaford, Drum Hill for car- pool to Charles River Museum	31 10 AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology		






LIRA April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	5 10AM to Noon Movie: <i>It Happened One Night</i> 12:30—2:30 PM Biology&H.Behavio	6 10AM to Noon Lend Me Your Ears—Dorothy Bromage	7 10AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	8 10AM to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture	9
10	11 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	5 10AM to Noon Movie: <i>To Be or Not To Be</i> 12:30—2:30 PM Biology&H.Behavio	13 10AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	14 7:15 AM Meet bus at Hanna- ford for Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal	15 10AM to Noon Book Discussion - <i>Secret Life of Emily Dickinson</i> By Jerome Charyn	16
17	18 PATRIOT'S DAY NO CLASSES	19 10AM to Noon Baroque Music 12:30—2:30PM Biology & Human Behavior	20 10Am to Noon Life and Music of Mozart—Barbara Wagner	21 10AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	22	23
24	25 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	26 10AM to Noon Baroque Music 12:30—2:30PM Biology & Human Behavior	27 9:15AM Meet at Hannaford for bus to Museum of Fine Arts	28 10AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	29	30



LIRA May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	3 10AM to Noon Baroque Music 12:30—2:30PM Biology & Human Behavior	4 10AM to Noon The Pre-Raphaelites Liana Cheney	5 10AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	6	7
8	9 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	10 10AM to Noon Baroque Music 12:30—2:30PM Biology & Human Behavior	11 9AM Meet at Hamaford to Carpool to Gropius House, Lincoln	12 10AM to Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30PM Meteorology	13 10AM to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture <i>Geopolitics and the Caucasus</i>	14
15	16 10AM to Noon Civil War 12:30—2:30 PM Shakespeare	17	18	19	20 10AM to Noon Book Discussion - <i>Cutting for Stone</i> By Abraham Verghese	21
22	23	24	25 10AM to Noon Annual Meeting	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day 	31				

Learning in Retirement Association
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Office of Community and Cultural Affairs
One University Avenue
Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

SPRING 2011 SCHEDULE

Most spring study groups will meet in the **Meeting Room** of the Campus Recreation Center (aka Rec Center), 100 Pawtucket St. See directions, including parking, by visiting the web site at www.uml.edu/community/lira. The Rec Center is a controlled entry building. **Please always bring your LIRA photo ID.** The exception to the Rec Center is that all Art & Music Wednesday classes that are indoors will meet in the Wannalancit Building. Registration will take place at the Town Meeting, Wednesday, March 16 at 10:00 AM at the Inn and Conference Center, Junior Ballroom, 2nd floor. Each course description includes, beneath the title, the person who is presenter or facilitator. Below the paragraph is the name of the course coordinator who makes the arrangements and has responsibility for carrying out details of the class.

NOTE: Wednesday classes will meet in the Wannalancit Building, 600 Suffolk Street, Lowell in room 101A.

The Civil War and Reconstruction: The Nation's Trial by Fire

8 Mondays 10:00-Noon Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 16

Presenter: Bob Farrant

This course examines the causes and consequences of the American Civil War, from the 1840s to 1877. We will read about and discuss the coming of the war and how it transformed American society. We will also look at the unresolved issue of racial equality at the end of reconstruction and how this shaped the nation's history ever since. Thematically we will consider: slavery's expansion, Lincoln and emancipation, and the political and social challenges of Reconstruction. We will also carefully consider the case of Lowell in the run up to the war and in the war itself. Its contradictory position with an economy dependent on slave-produced cotton and as a hotbed of anti-slavery sentiment along with the fact that the first two Union soldiers to die in the war were from Lowell will be examined. All that, and we will have a good time! Two books are recommended for reading prior to the course:

1. James McPherson, *Abraham Lincoln*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

(only hard cover, but cheap!). \$12.95

2. Eric Foner, *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction*, Knopf, 2005 (there is a paperback version).

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

SHAKESPEARE'S "CYMBELINE"

8 Mondays 12:30-2:30 Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 16

Presenter: Frank Carroll*

After a journey into the Historical plays of Shakespeare last year, we are going to look at and read closely, "Cymbeline," a play often called a "problem play" by some critics, although it has been looked upon by modern critics as a "Romance." "Othello," "Measure For Measure," and "The Winter's Tale" are other plays of this type. This play is one of Shakespeare's final plays, and although it cannot be precisely dated, its first performance is recorded as being in 1611. The plot is convoluted and occasionally confusing, but we hope to succeed in unraveling its mysteries. There is even strong evidence of a collaborator in this play. In any case, we shall see for ourselves. The text is, as usual, a copy of the play, and I am going to look for a copy of the Folger Edition of "Cymbeline," which I have found to be the best of the many editions of the Bard by various publishers.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

MOVIES AND MUSIC

Spend your Tuesday mornings getting entertained and educated. For four weeks, Barbara Page presents a film series with background comments. This is followed by four weeks highlighting the Baroque Era of music, with selections chosen and augmented by Jeanne Gunion.

4 Tuesdays 10:00 to Noon, Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12

Presenter: Barbara Page*

MORE BLACK & WHITE BEAUTIES

March 22	Steamboat Bill, Jr. , 1928, Director Charles Reisner
March 29	Grand Hotel , 1932, Director Edmund Keating
April 5	It Happened One Night , 1934, Director Frank Capra
April 12	To Be or Not To Be , 1942, Director Ernst Lubitsch

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4 Tuesdays 10:00 to Noon, Apr 19, 26, May 3, 10

Presenter: Jeanne Gunion*

HOW TO LISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND GREAT MUSIC/Baroque Music

The class will view the Teaching Company's DVDs on Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Cantata No. 140*, Bach's *Passacaglia in C minor for Organ*, and Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*, each followed by background information and by listening to the music described on the DVD.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

BIOLOGY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

8 Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10

Facilitator: Robert Hanlon*

This program focuses on the regions of the brain most pertinent to emotion and behavior. When are we responsible for our own actions and when are we in the grip of biological forces beyond our control? How do evolution, genetics, early experiences, and hormones affect our brains and influence our behavior? Explore how our brain, mind, body, and environment interact to influence how we behave. A prominent neurobiologist, zoologist, and MacArthur "genius" grant recipient, Professor Sapolsky is a spellbinding lecturer.

Coordinator: Mary Willis*

ART & MUSIC

8 sessions, usually Wednesday Mar 23, 30, Apr 6, **14 (Thurs)**, 20, 27, May 4, 11

Beginning March 23 and continuing through May 11, meetings will start at 10:00 AM and go until noon except for April 14, which is the Thursday trip to the BSO Open Rehearsal. Please see attached schedule for dates, times, topics, coordinators of the Art & Music sessions, and the locations of those not at the Campus Recreation Center.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

GREAT DECISIONS

8 sessions, usually Thursdays, 10:00–Noon Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, **13 (Wed)**, 21, 28, May 5, 12 Facilitator: Shirley Mitchell*

The Great Decisions studies are based on current materials supplied by the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, D.C. The following four topics will be discussed this semester: Banks, governments and debt crises, Germany's ascendancy, The Horn of Africa, and The Caucasus. Copies of the 2011 Briefing Book covering Spring and Fall semesters are available for \$16.00 each.

Coordinator: Shirley Mitchell*

METEOROLOGY

8 Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:30 Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, **13 (Wed)**, 21, 28, May 5, 12

Facilitator: Alan Kent*

How high is the sky? How do soda straws work? What causes the seasons? The course opens with the fundamental concepts of meteorology. Dr. Robert Fovell builds on these concepts to develop a full understanding of large-scale weather events. He presents an intriguing look into the art of the meteorologist.

Coordinator: Steve Sussman*

BOOK DISCUSSION

3 Friday sessions, 10:00–Noon Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20

Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

If you love to read, enjoy reading an eclectic mix of books and look forward to having like-minded people with whom to discuss these tomes, the book discussion group has it all. Every month we read and discuss a variety of books, including sociological studies, memoirs and biographies, political histories, and, yes, fiction, including the classics. Our selections for spring 2011 include: *March South of Broad*, fiction by Pat Conroy, *April Secret Life of Emily Dickinson*, fiction by Jerome Charyn, *May Cutting for Stone*, fiction by Abraham Verghese.

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*

*Denotes LIRA member

Art and Music Spring 2011 Schedule

At the Town Meeting on March 16, there will be a sign-up sheet for each trip. The sign-up sheets for trips will be put out at the break. If you cannot be at Town Meeting, ask someone to sign you up. Priority will be given to those who have enrolled in Art & Music. The coordinator is the person to contact if you want to go and are unable to attend on March 16. Some tours have a limit. If this is exceeded, the coordinator will maintain a waiting list and keep everyone informed.

NOTE: Classes on April 6, 20 and May 4 will meet in the Wannalancit Building, 600 Suffolk St. Lowell, room 101A.

Mar 23 - American Textile History Museum

We will see the American Tapestry Biennial 8 and tour the rest of the museum if desired. Lunch is available there. The museum is located at 491 Dutton St, Lowell, and has a large parking lot. Meet at the museum at 10:00 AM. Admission \$8.00; checks payable to ATHM should be mailed to Barbara Page by March 14 or given to her on March 16.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Mar 30 - Charles River Museum of Innovation and Industry

We will visit the historic 1814 Boston Mfg. Co. Textile Mill (America's first factory) and tour the current exhibit "Steampunk Form & Function: Innovation, Invention and Gadgetry." The museum is at 154 Moody Street in Waltham (park at 19 Pine St.). We will meet at Hannaford's side parking lot to carpool at 9:00 AM. Cost \$3.00. Checks payable to Jane Canter should be mailed to her by March 23.

Coordinator: Jane Canter*

Apr 6 - Lend Me Your Ears

Presenter: Dorothy Bromage*

The focus in this program is on the human voice—more specifically, on the range that a person achieves to be called a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass. Guided listening will illustrate this, as well as the ranges incorporated in musical instruments. A further activity involving listening is directed toward hearing one melody or rhythm when another is going on at the same time. Without too much straining, a person can hear the highs and lows and distinguish cleverly composed melodies and counter melodies.

Coordinator: Kay Carroll*

Apr 14 - Boston Symphony Rehearsal

Sir Colin Davis is the guest conductor and Jonathon Bliss is the guest pianist. The program is "Tapiola" and "Symphony No. 3" by Sibelius and Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No.5" (Emperor). We will meet at Hannaford's parking lot at 7:15 AM. The cost for members is \$33.75; non-members \$43.75. Checks payable to Jean Rubinstein should be mailed to her by March 30.

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

Apr 20 - The Life and Music of Mozart

Presenter: Barbara Wagner

Barbara Wagner gave us the wonderful lecture on Pavarotti. This time she will concentrate on Mozart, using excerpts from biographies and recordings of his music.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Apr 27 - Museum of Fine Arts

Visit your favorite areas of the museum on your own, including the Dale Chihuly Exhibition and the new Art of the Americas Wing. We meet at Hannaford's side parking Lot at 9:15 AM and return @ 2:30 PM. Museum admission for seniors is \$18.00, payable at the MFA entrance. Bus cost for LIRA members is \$5.00, and for non-members, \$15.00. Checks payable to Carol McCarthy should be mailed to her by Apr 18.

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

May 4 - The Pre-Raphaelites

UMass Professor of Art Liana Cheney attended a conference in England last summer. She will talk to us about the distinctly British art movement—The Pre-Raphaelites.

Presenter: Liana Cheney

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

May 11 - Tour of the Gropius House, Lincoln, MA.

This beautiful modern house was the home of Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus design school in Germany and one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. Meet at Hannaford's side parking lot at 9:00 AM to carpool. The tour is limited to 30 and starts at 10:00 AM. Cost is \$8.00 for seniors. Checks payable to Jean Schott should be mailed to her by May 4.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

*Denotes LIRA member

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