



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 2008

Vol. 15 No. 1



*March roars in like a lion so fierce,
the wind so cold, it seems to pierce.*

*The month rolls on and spring draws near,
and March goes out like a lamb so dear.*

Lorrie Hill

SPRING

*is near along with the
new Spring Session!*

Join us for the Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 10 a.m. to noon
Fox Hall, Leo F. King Room

We have some great new courses being offered this spring.
Come and hear about them, have a cup of coffee and sign up!

The Holiday Party, 2007



Top left: Carol Cannistraro and Pat Dion setting up consumable auction.
Top right: Don Pattershall, President and Paul Marion, our liason with the University.
Middle: Members enjoying the holiday party.
Bottom: This year's winning table.

Scholarships 2007

On December 19, 2007, we awarded our \$1000 scholarships to Kayla Simard and Justin Chin, who are both juniors. Kayla is studying nursing with a goal of becoming a registered nurse specializing in pediatrics. She hopes one day to be employed at Boston Children's Hospital. She is also working toward a baccalaureate degree in science. She will be the first person in her family to obtain a college degree. She says, "I never imagined that education could be so powerful. I am extremely fortunate to be able to go to such a great, widely respected school. This school will increase my opportunities and success in life dramatically."

Justin Chin is majoring in Electrical Engineering. In addition to many clubs and volunteer activities, Justin enjoys ballroom dancing. As a student at UMass Lowell, Justin leads "an active, healthy lifestyle." But, he says, "Most importantly, I want to finish my education. Earning my degree in Electrical Engineering will open the door to more



**Scholarship winners
Kayla Simard and Justin Chin**



**Scholarship Committee and Scholarship winners:
Betty Jack, Kay Carroll, Kayla Simard, Justin Chin,
Barbara Arnold, Kay Dunfey, Mary Welch**

opportunities. Then I plan to pursue my master's degree in the five year program."

We think that both of these outstanding students are to be congratulated on their achievements thus far.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank the LIRA members for their generosity in supporting the scholarship program. It is very commendable that a group this size is able to give these generous awards.

I wish to thank the scholarship committee, Barbara Arnold, Kay Carroll, Kay Dunfey and Mary Welch for their help in choosing our recipients. UMass Lowell can be very proud of the students that attend this school. Making our selection is a very hard job and we think we have picked some excellent students over the past four years.

We also want to thank the Auction Committee, Carol Cannistraro and Pat Dion, for all their hard work in raising scholarship funds—also thanks to the members' generosity when they buy auction tickets. The December Auction was especially inspired: consumables to help keep our household clutter down.

Also, your extra donations to the refreshment fund help keep us solvent. The members are the real success story of the scholarship program—a big thank you to one and all.

Betty Jack and the Scholarship Committee

Holiday Party 2007

The Holiday party held at Wannalancit Mills was well attended. Members had an opportunity to visit before President, Don Pattershall, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He told the gathering that all Wednesday intersession programs would be held in the King Room at Fox Hall. Meeting space for LIRA will be defined in time for the spring classes. Certificates were awarded with thanks and appreciation to facilitators who conducted the year's programs.

Don introduced Toby Hodes, the new Curriculum Chairman. Toby thanked Barbara Page for her work as Chair of the committee during the past year. Facilitators for the Winter Intersession were asked to give a brief outline of their programs.

Raffle tickets were sold in support of the Scholarship program. This year's raffle was limited to "consumable"

items donated by members.

I would like to thank all the members who contributed so generously for the hats, mittens and so many lovely books. This outreach to the community is appreciated by Community Teamwork. Many thanks to Jean Dettman for producing the LIRA bookplates that are placed in each book.

Betty Jack, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the two \$1000. scholarships to Justin Chin and Kayla Simard, Lowell University students. The two young people were sincerely appreciative and responded to questions from the members regarding their career goals and ambitions for the future.

The luncheon was a smorgasbord of great choices, organized by Hospitality Committee Chairman, Kay Dunfey. It was a great party.

Barbara Arnold

Walking on the Ancient Seabed of Provence

Think of Provence, France and recalled may be images of unique villages perched on rocky hillsides, and painters including Cezanne and van Gogh who were inspired by the beauty of the region. Perhaps visualized are neatly cultivated fields of lavender and modern buildings crowded along the blue Mediterranean. This tourist, who walked there last spring, remembers medieval towns in the Vaucluse Mountains and being mesmerized by geological features in Haute Provence.

Being a New Englander, stone walls and stonework generally are admired. The many white and gray limestone villages dating from the twelfth century, including Gordes and Goult, are stunning examples of craftsmen's skills. A pope commanded the building of Goult while a resident in nearby Avignon. The village gate has a Gothic arch along the exterior wall and the rounded Romanesque, once you pass under it. The narrow streets all cobblestoned, lead to a squat, stone windmill built to honor knights of the first crusade in 1095. In picturesque Moustiers Sainte Marie, a soldier of the seventh crusade suspended a star between two jagged peaks, hoping it would assure security for its residents even to this day. Occasionally along trails we delightedly spied bories, domed stone shelters for the shepherd and animals. The entire structure is limestone including the vaulting.

One morning, the coach dropped off hikers at the entrance to the "Colorado of Provence". The region is a festival of color, red, yellow, and orange. Until 1963, ochre, a mixture of clay, sand, and iron oxide was quarried, and processed in Rustrel. When the factory operation ended, the facilities became frozen in time. I studied walls covered in red powder and found paper bags stamped Abidjan, (capitol of Cote d'Ivoire), one of many worldwide destinations of the pigment. Instantly I recalled in 1963 visiting the city on the way to Gabon, where I taught with Crossroads Africa.

Nearby is the picturesque village of Roussillon, where houses are painted varied shades of ochre.

The language and culture of the Provençals is related to Catalan of northern Spain. A few similarities include raising sheep, and the use of the white, stately Pyrenees herding dogs. Olive oil is consistently used in cooking, delicious, hardy fare. Until the fifteenth century it was an independent state, at which time there were no heirs to the kingdom so it simply became part of France. Prior to that Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans left imprints on the region. The town of Vence hosted Emperor Gallien in the third century. Some of the walking paths traverse Roman roads and near structures. The magnificent ruins of Fort de Buoux situated on a butte, once afforded protection to salt caravans that passed below. In 1815 when Napoleon returned from Elba, part of that route was on a hike. This knowledge made walks more interesting which also may have been true for walking and bicycling club members we encountered.



Gordes, Provence
by Connie Lanseigne-Case

Other fabulous experiences were scanning limestone walls leading up to villages, searching for seashells and in the "Valley of Fossilized Sirenians" recognizing imbedded in

the face of the cliff, bones of manatees. Early in earth's history the region was underwater, and seeing results of geological forces that lifted, folded upwards, and molded huge rounded cliffs was tremendous. Verdon Canyon, Europe's largest, 2,300 feet deep, was on our itinerary. The astonishingly beautiful gorge has the narrow 13 mile Martell footpath cut into calcareous rock. It was an accomplishment to walk part of it while listening to the Verdon River.

Finally in Vence, "City of Art" is the dramatic Chapelle du Rosaire designed and decorated by Henri Matisse. A short bus ride away is Foundation Maeght with eye-catching sculpture gardens of Miro, Giacometti works, and the museum filled with masters' art. It enhanced a marvelous two weeks vacation.

Connie Lanseigne-Case

Too Many Catalogs?

Here's a tip from Jeanne Gunion which she found in the December 9, 2007 issue of *Action Unlimited*. There is a website that will notify catalog companies that you no

longer wish to receive their catalogs. Just go to www.catalogchoice.org and go through and click on their very long list of catalogs that you would like stopped.

A Class with Dr. Doom

On the morning of February 6, despite a cold and driving rain, nearly thirty LIRA members gathered in the King Room to learn about Lowell. "What more could I possibly learn about Lowell?" thought silently one long-time resident, rolling her eyes. But when noon came, she asserted that she had a whole new perspective on the city and its problems.

Who had held our attention so closely as he briefly reviewed the city's history and checked off its problems in adapting to changing times? It was Professor Robert Forrant, who teaches in the Department of Economic and Social Development at UMass Lowell, and who has been dubbed "Dr. Doom" by his students for his less than glowing predictions for the future of our entire region. Unlike most academics, Bob, as he likes to be called, did not progress smoothly from undergraduate to graduate school and the inevitable PhD. On the contrary, a disastrous fire and the exigencies of home and hearth combined to send him to Springfield, MA, to work for years as a machinist and union official at the now closed American Bosch plant. Experiencing first hand what it means to be laid off from one's job, he nonetheless returned to UMass at Amherst for a PhD in history and then, through a combination of fortuitous events, found his way to UMass Lowell, where he has been teaching for the past 14 years. His children now grown, he moved to Lowell three years ago.

Preferring the give and take of open ended exchange of ideas to a formal lecture, Prof. Forrant found a ready response from his audience as he outlined various possibilities for the future of the city. Our only question remains: When can we persuade this man to return? In the meantime, we shall watch the Lowell Sun for his monthly column.

Jean Dettman



It's Not Too Late!

It's not too late, that is, to join us for the Boston Symphony Rehearsal on Thursday, March 13. We still have just four tickets! It promises, as always, to be a wonderful program: Daniele Gatti will be the conductor, Garrick Ohlson the featured

pianist. The program includes Schumann's Piano Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5.

(A word of caution to LIRA music lovers: our twice-yearly forays to Symphony Hall may be in jeopardy if our numbers dwindle, and many of us would lament that loss.)

So, if you would like to join us for a half day of pure pleasure, please call Jean at 978-957-7425 right away! \$42 per ticket for members; \$52 for non-members.

Jean Dettman

Who is Raymond Loewy?

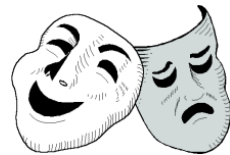
Approximately 20 LIRA members visited the Museum to view the *Raymond Loewy: Designs for a Consumer Culture* exhibit. We had a wonderful docent named Polly who supplied a lot of information to us about him. Raymond Loewy (1893-1986) was quite a remarkable industrial design innovator. He was noted for the streamlining and simplicity of his designs. He was so prolific that the average person is bound to have been in contact with many of his creations. He designed many of the familiar logos: Shell, Exxon, Nabisco, Canada Dry, Greyhound, United Airlines and TWA to name a few. He designed many household items: refrigerators, furniture, dishes, silverware. He streamlined everything from postage stamps to cars, trains and spacecrafts. We all wondered why we had never heard of him.

When I thanked Polly at the end of our tour she thanked me for bringing the group and said she had learned a great deal from us during the give and take discussions.

Ann Dahlman



Familiar logos designed by Robert Loewy



Visit to MRT

On Wednesday, February 13, fourteen of us intrepid souls braved ice and pouring rain to attend the Merrimack Rep's production of *The Missionary Position*. A dark comedy, very funny at times, the play asks questions like "How much do candidates sell their souls to get elected?" and "What sort of people are we as Americans?" The play had its world premiere last year in Pittsburgh; it is even more timely now in primary season and has been fine-tuned for a few extra laughs.

As a special treat, the theatre arranged for us to have a talkback with the four actors after the show.

Barbara Page

Nominating Committee for 2008

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Dorothy Bromage, Ann Dahlman and Frank Carroll. 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.

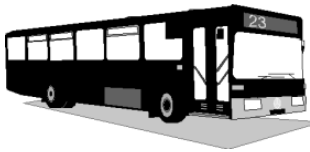
Don Pattershall

Spreading the “Word”

I have learned about so many things since I have been a member of LIRA. I have read Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar”; I have become familiar with the opera “Don Pasquale”; I have been to 2 Harvard Museums; I have heard and seen a slide show about music from WWI era. This is to mention just a few of the new topics I have become acquainted with. The LIRA group seems to me to be the **best kept secret** in the Lowell area that is available to individuals who like to keep learning in their retirement years.

I wish we could extend this opportunity to others in the community so that they could have the same opportunity and joy in learning new things and in making new friends. After mentioning to some of you how difficult it had been for me to find out how to enter this group I have agreed to help out with the Publicity Committee. It would seem that it would be nice to find other citizens who would appreciate the types of things I have learned about - but how do we find them and how do they get here?

As you all know parking has been an issue for a long time at UMass Lowell but with the building of the new garage it has gotten quite a bit better. However, in order to take advantage of the garage one needs to have joined the organization so that one can get a car decal and a pass card from the University. So



Bus Subsidy

Because of the recent enormous increases in the price of fuel, our bus costs have increased

substantially more than they had been previously. In light of this, the Executive Board voted to increase the subsidy for members to \$10 per person. Nevertheless, bus transportation costs will still necessitate charging more for bus trips than was previously charged.

Don Pattershall

We Have a New Room!

We are now able to use room 412 in Fox Hall. There will be 46 chairs set up and the room will be vacuumed. LIRA will only use King Room for town meetings and convocations. I have been working on this since February 1st. We will keep the LIRA office for now. Programs too large for the LIRA office can now be held in room 412. It will be so much easier to have everything on one floor.

Perhaps in the Fall things might change if Fox Hall is converted to all dormitory rooms. We will have to wait and see.

Don Pattershall

the question remains how can prospective members “try out” and/or join this organization?

I have learned in doing a little research into marketing that “word of mouth” is the most effective means of drawing new members. Therefore I am proposing that each of you invite your friends and acquaintances in your neighborhoods, in your churches or synagogues, in your senior centers, and in other formal and informal settings to come to one of our programs.

In so doing I am proposing that you would actually host a prospective member by inviting that person and by bringing that person or persons to a LIRA event as a guest. In that way we bypass the parking issue. Even better than that, we would be encouraging prospective members to join an organization that they would know in a personal way.

In the future we hope to have a new brochure and a more viable phone number that interested and prospective members could call. But for the present why not try what I have suggested?

I hope that many of you will take part in bringing new members to LIRA.

Jeanne Gunion

Publicity Committee Update

I am extremely pleased to announce that new member Jeanne Gunion has graciously accepted the position of Chairperson of LIRA's Publicity Committee. Please note her article above.

Thank You, Barbara Arnold

Please join me in thanking Barbara for having served as Chairperson of the Publicity Committee.

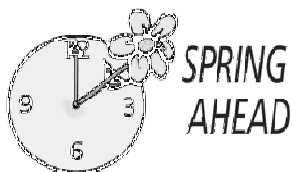
Don Pattershall

A History Lesson in Boston Sports

Even if you are not a sports fan, you couldn't help but be fascinated with the history of Boston sports as told to us by Alan Foulds. With many anecdotes and details of the first ballparks, he described how Boston sports evolved from the late 1800s to about the 1920s. We heard about parks that were abandoned for newer and larger parks. We learned about the naming of the Boston Braves and the Boston Red Sox. We discovered that Boston used to be a big soccer town! He described how Cy Young, in 1904, pitched 24 ½ consecutive innings without giving up a hit – a record that's never been broken. All this and many more stories are detailed in his book *Boston's Ballparks & Arenas*. It was evident that we all wanted to learn more by the number of books he sold!

Jeri Durant

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins earlier this year. Set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 9.



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.

Saturday, March 1, 2 p.m. at the Pollard Library

A Day of Latin music from the Caribbean and South America with Angel Wagner and "Grupo Fantasia"

Come enjoy a colorful mix of Mexican mariachi, calypso, reggae, and salsa music played primarily on original, handmade indigenous instruments. Dancing is recommended, Rumba anyone?

Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m. at the Pollard Library

"Kicked, Bitten, and Scratched" by Amy Sutherland

Journalist Amy Sutherland takes readers on a fascinating tour of an Exotic Animal Training and Management program with its nearly all female student body and teaching zoo of 200 animals. Today's trainers use training not to tame an animal, but to communicate with it. This is a story as much about us humans as it is about animals.

Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m. at the National Park Visitor Center

"Sculpture Trail: 25 Years of the Lowell Public Art Collection" by Rosemary Noon

Rosemary Noon will present a slide-talk on the roots and development of Lowell's outdoor sculpture collection in the city's historic district. A Lowell resident, she coordinated the public art project in its formative years.

Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m. at the Pollard Library

"Owls of the World: Who is Watching You?"

by Marcia and Mark Wilson

Who loves owls? Everyone! Join naturalist Marcia Wilson and photographer Mark Wilson in sharing their passion for owls. Meet six LIVE owls (from small to BIG) up close! You will be treated to a hooting lesson as well as tips on how to attract and protect owls near you.

Thursday, April 24, 7 p.m. at the Pollard Library

"Who Was the Real William Shakespeare?"

by Alexander McNeil

Yes, there is a Shakespeare authorship problem. The evidence for the Stratford man is weak; instead, the case for Edward de Vere (17th Earl of Oxford) as the real Shakespeare is a compelling one. Alex McNeil will explore the issue.

Member News

Our condolences and sympathy to Mary Jane Meyers, whose mother recently passed away.

Kay Carroll



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2008; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2008. 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.

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.

Email Changes:

Ann Dahlman:
ann.dahlman@gmail.com

Connie Lanseigne-Case:
scraggly@earthlink.net

New Members:

Deirdra Anderson (returning)
52 Lake Shore Drive North
Westford, MA 01886
978-392-1525

Elaine Jeleschiff
744 Princeton Blvd #5
Lowell, MA 01851
978-452-0235

Zelman and Ethel Kamien
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Learning in Retirement Association

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Office of Community Service
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Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

Please note schedule timing change this term: Afternoon groups meet at 12:30 PM, not 1 PM.

Spring 2008 SCHEDULE

Spring study groups will meet on the fourth floor at Fox Hall, in Rm 412 or in the Office.. Registration will take place at our **Town Meeting** on Wednesday, **March 19, 2008**, in the King Room, first floor of Fox Hall. If you wish to register in advance, please leave a message at the LIRA number: **978-934-3135**.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency circumstances, cancellations will be announced over radio station WCAP (980 AM). LIRA programs are held independently from the university schedule. If Umass Lowell is not in session due to adverse weather conditions, however, LIRA classes will also be canceled.

LIRA 824 SHAKESPEARE'S *MEASURE FOR MEASURE*

4+ sessions, Monday 10 AM–Noon

March 24, 31, April 7, 14

(No meeting on Patriots' Day, April 21)

Shakespeare has not only survived the holidays; he will be on hand again for the spring semester once more. This term we will read *Measure for Measure*. The play is not a "tragedy," and yet it does not fall neatly into the "Comedy" classification. Many critics place it into a small group of plays called "The Bitter Comedies." It would seem that in the first eight or nine years of the 17th century, the Bard wrote no comedies except *Measure for Measure*, and, as we stated earlier, this play has very little claim to the term Comedy. On the other hand, according to one critic, that period in Shakespeare's life where he wrote no comedies is noted for the continuous majesty of the writing and especially the beauty of the poetry. I think our play will prove that point despite what some critics have called the "unpleasantness" of certain aspects of the plot. We look forward to our first class on Mar.24, and we welcome any new readers interested in the mysteries of Shakespeare.

LIRA 941 *HEAD AND HEART: AMERICAN CHRISTIANITIES* by Garry Wills

8 sessions, Monday, **12:30 –2:30 PM**

March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, May 5, 12, 19

(No meeting on Patriots' Day, April 21)

Over the course of eight meetings we will examine in depth the book, *Head and Heart: American Christianities*, a history of Christianity in the United States from the Puritans to the present. The author, Garry Wills, examines the key movements and personalities that have transformed America's religious landscape and the patterns that have emerged. Together we will review the reasoning of the Founding Fathers in forbidding a national church, and explore the various movements and developments that have seesawed back and forth in their influence on our government, concluding with the situation today.

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*

LIRA 218 WOMEN OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

8 sessions, Tuesday, 10 AM--Noon

March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13

In this study group we will explore the lives of women in ancient times and the stories about women that have been recorded in the Hebrew Bible. The course will encourage the sharing of information, engaging our imaginations and discussing how these stories might relate to our lives as women in the twenty-first century. Come and learn more about Eve and Lilith, Sarah and Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, Miriam, Esther and Vashti, and many more.

Dona Beavers

LIRA 170a ETHICS IN AMERICA

4 sessions, Tuesday, **12:30–2:30 PM**

This is an extension of the lively discussion series which began in the Fall of 1007.

April 8, 29, May 6, 13

Coordinator: Alan Kent*

LIRA 782j OPERA X LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT BY DONIZETTI

3 sessions, Tuesday **12:30–2:30 PM**; Saturday 1:30

April 15, 22, 26 or 27 (Lowell theatre)

"Daughter of the Regiment" (*La Fille du Régiment*) by Gaetano Donizetti is the opera for spring semester. It will be given on Tuesday afternoons, April 15 and 22, preceding the Live from the Met HDTV theater production April 26 (encore on April 27). This delightful opera buffa tells the story of Marie, an orphan who is the mascot of the regiment. Much merriment ensues until Marie's true identity is discovered and, of course, they all live happily ever after. The DVD we are using features Beverly Sill in the lead and is sung in English.

Coordinators: Bob and Betty Jack*

LIRA 7001 ART/MUSIC,

8 sessions, 10 AM–Noon, usually Wednesday

March 13 (**Thurs.**), March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7

Members can look forward to several "first-time" visits. In Clinton, MA, is the Museum of Russian Icons which features the lifetime collection of its owner. It will be toured with a docent. The MIT Museum recently opened the Mark Epstein Innovation Gallery. The morning there will see us learn and explore researchers' work located on two floors. Independently, we'll tour the newly reopened Currier Museum of Art which has new galleries and a Winter Garden. There are three programs scheduled for Fox Hall. Jack Craig, a graduate of UMass Lowell, presents an entertaining program, "The Songs and Stars of Vaudeville" featuring songs popularized by Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, and Sophie Tucker. The Whistler House Museum of Art has had a number of oil paintings restored by Peter Kostoulakos. A conversation I had with him promises to make his talk most informative. Dr. Liana Cheney, always an outstanding presenter, will discuss Mannerist artists. When Dr. Marie Frank last guided us on a walking tour of Lowell, the heat forced an abbreviated architectural look at the nineteenth century buildings. She again will meet with us to complete that program.

Coordinator: Connie Lanseigne-Case*

LIRA 324 e DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

3 sessions, Wednesday, 12:30–3 PM

April 2, 9, 23

The documentary film series which began several years ago will continue with a selection of three films on Wednesday afternoons. Titles will be announced.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

LIRA 327i GREAT DECISIONS

8 sessions, Thursday, 10 a.m.–Noon

March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15

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: U.S.-China trade policy; Russia; Iraq: endgame; and Talking to our enemies. Copies of the 2008 Briefing Book are available for \$15 each.

Coordinator: Shirley Mitchell*

LIRA 814a PLAYS SHORT AND SHORTER

4 sessions, Thursday, **12:30–2:30 PM**

March 27, April 3, 10, 17

This is a four week course. Each week a particular playwright will be emphasized. For the first hour we will look at the life of this playwright and then have an oral reading of one of his one-act plays, followed by discussion. After break we will consider the ten minute play and some drama history.

Coordinator: Janet Shawcross*

LIRA 789A` INCONGRUOUS MUSIC

4 sessions, Thursday, **12:30–2:30 PM**

April 24, May 1, 8, 15

Sometimes a composer inserts a surprise into one of his works, a surprise that brings a smile to the listener as it is a little--or a lot-- out of sync. A few examples of this are use of objects as instruments that are not usually considered instruments, prolonging an ending, using "wrong" notes, etc. We will listen to some music that illustrates these and other incongruities.

Coordinator: Janet Shawcross*

LIRA 940a A HISTORY OF HITLER'S EMPIRE

6 sessions, 10 AM–Noon, Friday

March 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9

The Hitler Program corresponds to a DVD lecture series that traces the rise in power of Adolf Hitler and his NAZI party. The lectures pose two fundamental questions: 1) How did Hitler and the Nazis come to power in such a highly educated industrially developed country at the heart of Western culture and civilization? This question leads to issues: What did the Germans think they were getting when they voted for the Nazis? How did the Nazis present themselves to the German public? What did they seem to stand for? 2) How were the Nazis able to establish the foundations of their totalitarian regime in such a short time and hurl the world into a devastating war that consumed millions of lives and changed international politics in the 20th century? Why so little resistance? How did the Nazis seize control of the press, the radio, the courts and the police? The DVD lecture series, which addresses these questions and many others, consists of twelve 1/2 hour lectures by Professor Thomas Childers, PH.D in History from Harvard University.

The series will be presented in two or three 1/2 hour lectures each LIRA session by Jerry Gilmore, and he will bring up questions for discussion as time permits.

Coordinator: Jerry Gilmore*

LIRA 802I BOOK DISCUSSION

4 sessions, 10 AM–Noon (once a month, usually on Friday)

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13

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 this spring include three works of non-fiction – *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*, *Team of Rivals*, *The Coldest Winter* and a work of fiction by Doris Lessing.

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*