



# 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](http://uml.edu/community/LIRA)

December 2008

Vol. 15 No. 4

## Annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon/Town Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2008  
10 a.m. to noon

MIL Conference Center, Suffolk Street, Lowell  
(Wannalancit Building)\*

*Come and join us.....*

Two Scholarship Awards will be given.  
Hear about our Winter Intersession.  
Participate in the Consumable Auction.  
Enjoy the good food and meeting with friends.

*\*Parking will be available in the old Brewery parking lot.  
See inside for the details on what to bring  
for the luncheon, auction and CTI.*

## Tiles, Caravels, and Gold

While studying the wall map of the sixteenth century world in the Maritime Museum in Lisbon, my eyes followed each colored line marking trade routes of Portuguese empire builders. The first expeditions were around Africa, followed by voyages to India, Timor (Spice Islands), and finally halfway round the globe to Japan. One is awed by the successes of expeditions which used the astrolabe, logs and letters exchanged between captains. These adventures on the high seas were spurred by Prince Henry the Navigator. Also in the museum are models of the caravel, which intrigued me. It was a shallow draft sailing vessel preferred by Vasco de Gama. Later I spied it depicted on a vaulted ceiling in the magnificent National Palace in Sintra.



Roca, Portugal - Colored pencils

The touring bus stopped along the bank of the Tagus River, once known as “the river of tears”. It and the other major river, the Douro in Porto provided safe anchorage before ships departure. There I thought of the stamina of seamen, the assigned military, and anguished families and friends. “Fado” an unique native song of Lisbon was erroneously said by some to have originated during those times. Likened to our blues, musicologists credit it to Brazilian slaves taken from the Portuguese colony.

The prosperity of the monarchy in addition to revenues from slave trade, included gold from colonies in Angola and Mozambique, exotic woods, and diamonds from Brazil. Cargo brought to European ports was the much sought after spices of the Far East.

Revenues poured into the construction of many impressively beautiful palaces in Coimbra, Mafra, the extravagance, displayed in the Dominican Abbey in Obidos, Monastery De Santa Cruz in Coimbra, and Bom Jesus on Braga. Palace furnishings were beautifully crafted in India and China. Church interiors feature much gold leaf. Gothic buildings’ windows and entrances are ornamented with Manueline style stone decorations of spices, rope, tropical birds, plants and figures all aimed at educating the Portuguese of the Renaissance about distant lands. The Monastery of St. Jerome in Lisbon is the best example of the unique Manueline style.

What led the small nation of the Iberian peninsular to become so wealthy began in Guimares “the cradle of the nation” where Alfonso Henriques, the first king was born. In 1139, his armies defeated the 5 Moorish princes. Many reminders exist today of the Moors impact on the culture. Chiefly are blue tiles telling bible stories in churches, illustrations of battles on palace walls, even classrooms in university buildings in Coimbra, and the train station in Porto retells history of Portugal. As you travel from south to north on the interprovincial highway, recreated windmills sporadically are spotted gracing the countryside. Another reminder of the Moors. Fast forward to Lowell today and its Portuguese neighborhoods, where sighting a native green and red flag will trigger snippets of recall of the spring of 2008 in a fascinating country.

*Connie Lanseigne-Case*

## Connie’s Work at Whistler House

One of Connie Lanseigne-Case's colored pencil works was chosen for the Juried Member Exhibition at the Whistler House Museum of Art which runs from Nov. 5 to Dec. 31. The reception for the 40 works was Sat., Nov. 15.



Bungamati, Nepal - "Drying Rice"

## Scholarship Thank You

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the LIRA members who gave so generously to make our scholarships possible. Thank you one and all. We are looking forward to introducing our two winners to you at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 10th. Also, a big thank you to Carol Cannistraro and her committee for the great “Consumables Auction.” The proceeds go to the Scholarship fund. And last, to all of you with a sweet tooth; any money not needed for refreshments also goes toward scholarships.

I would also like to thank the excellent committee who conscientiously read all the applications to make the choice of candidates: Barbara Arnold, Kay Carroll, Mary Jane Myers and Mary Welch. The time has now come for new leadership and new ideas. This has been a rewarding job.

*Betty Jack, Chair*  
LIRA Scholarship Committee

## LIRA's Scholarship Fund Annual Auction



We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Committee has decided that the auction will be a Consumable Auction once again.

What is a Consumable Auction, you ask? It is an auction where all items donated would be consumed i.e., something you eat, drink, do, or use up. It will be run the same way as the Chinese

Auction. The Scholarship Committee will sell tickets and you will decide what item(s) you want, and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donated items must be brought directly to the Holiday Party. We will not be collecting items beforehand.



### ITEMS YOU MIGHT DONATE:

- Homemade cookies or breads
- Candy
- Baskets filled with teas, coffee, breads, soaps, movie snacks, etc.
- A bottle of wine
- Passes to a movie
- Gift certificates of any kind
- Sudoku or Crossword Puzzle Books

### SERVICES YOU COULD DONATE:

- If you like to bake you could give a certificate stating that you would make a homemade dessert or a plate of Christmas cookies; to be delivered to the winner at a future date.
- If you like animals you might offer to feed, walk, or watch a dog or a cat.
- If you like to drive you might offer to take someone to and pick-up from a doctor's or hospital visit, within the Lowell area.
- Knitting or crocheting lessons.

*The Auction Committee  
Carol Cannistraro and Pat Dion*

## Parking for the Holiday Party

Parking will be available at the old Brewery parking lot that we used before the parking garage was available. For those members that don't know where it is, follow Suffolk Street to the end and take a left. The parking lot will be on the right and is supposed to have a sign indicating where you can park.

## LIRA Holiday Party Wednesday, December 10, 2008

LIRA will provide coffee and tea for the luncheon; no other beverages will be provided. If you want bottled water or a soft drink, please bring it from home.

We will try to adhere to the following schedule in order to give coordinators and others ample time to make their presentations. (A copy of the agenda will be placed on each table at the Holiday Party.)

### Agenda:

#### 9:00 AM – GATHERING

##### Setup tables:

- For members (socialize; business meeting; pot luck luncheon)
- For potluck food items
- For books, hats & mittens for children
- For sale of raffle tickets

##### Members bring their contributions and place them in designated areas:

- food items for potluck
- books, hats & mittens for children
- consumable auction items for raffle

##### Members:

- purchase raffle tickets
- choose the item(s) and place their raffle tickets in the appropriate cup(s). (*Auction (raffle) items will be numbered and a cup with the same number will be placed near each item.*)

#### 10:05 AM – BUSINESS MEETING

- **Welcome**
- **Announcements**
- **Presentation of Winter Intersession:**  
*Curriculum Chairperson and Program Coordinators*
- **Presentation of Award Certificates:**  
*Curriculum Chairperson*
- **Last call to purchase raffle tickets**
- **RAFFLE**
- **Presentation of Scholarship Awards:**  
*Scholarship Chairperson*

#### 11:15 AM – LUNCH

#### 12:30 PM – WRAP-UP & CLEAN UP:

We would appreciate your assistance if you are able to help. Thanks.

## Holiday Party Reminder

Just a reminder to members: Please call your contact person and let her know what you will bring to the Holiday Party.

#### If your last name begins with:

- A-F (Allard - Fowler) (24)
- G-M (Gilmore - Myers) (25)
- N-Z (Nahabedian - Zahos) (28)

#### Your Contact Person is:

- Kay Dunfey 978-640-0422
- Madeleine Pattershall 978-256-6084
- Carol Cannistraro 978-256-0929

#### Please Bring:

- Dessert
- Side Dish or Salad
- Main Dish or Side Dish



# THEY ALL DID IT!

Theme and Variations – Part I



You can usually tell the outcome of a program by the feedback you get. For Theme and Variations Part I on September 24, one person commented that she went right out and bought the sheet music for the last selection; another said that after seeing the presentation, she finally understood how someone could graduate with a degree in Music; a third comment was that he enjoyed the program even though a lot of it was over his head. Something for everybody—that might have summed it up, but it was mainly a chance for me to share tidbits from my various collections. In this case, it was limited to what related to the musical form theme and variations. As I told the group, these items were mostly what I had lying around the house (a collection which began after I attended Liz Marshall’s study group on Theme and Variations, September 1998).

One visual aspect of my version was the “Musical History Map.” The map allowed us to put various composers in relation to time and to each other, and it was revealed that Bach and Handel were contemporaries. Another demonstration by visual means was a series of piano roll recordings on video. The presentation on CDs and audio tapes required some serious listening, preparation for which came by ear training at the beginning by way of a musical matching game based on “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and a clever arrangement of “Tea for Two” on a piano roll with Liberace quoting 10 popular songs.

Some composers were found to be so taken with the form of theme and variations that they devoted more time to it than others. A list of these by Brahms illustrated the point. Many examples of theme and variations are set for piano. Other instrumentation in the program’s sampling were string quartet, piano trio, wind ensemble, orchestra, and solo violin—in which Leonid Kogan (on a video) astounded viewers. With some parts from a player piano, I demonstrated how the holes in the rolls cause keys to be played.

Most of the examples were shortened to the theme plus two or three variations, in order to show the number and variety of compositions. (If the complete “Goldberg Variations” by Bach had been included, it would have consumed 70 minutes.) The Holtz “Chaconne” and the Gershwin “Variations on I Got Rhythm,” however, were played in their complete form. The 13 variations of the “Chaconne” included one in which the melody was simply turned upside down. A passacaglia by Bach was the melody used by Holtz for his theme. It was interesting to observe composers over the centuries continuing to flex their musical muscles by borrowing or creating an original theme and then having fun changing it. A video record of Part I was made.

Dorothy Bromage

The following is the program for Part I.

## THEY ALL DID IT!

LIRA Fall Program Dorothy Bromage September 24, 2008

- I. Ear Training “Tea for Two” “Mary Had a Little Variation”
- II. Playing around with a melody  
Paraphrase Improvisation Theme and Variations

### EXAMPLES OF THEME AND VARIATIONS

#### They did it in the Baroque Era (1600-1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) “The Goldberg Variations” *piano on CD*  
 Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759) “Harmonious Blacksmith” *piano roll*

#### They did it in the Classical Era (1750-1825)

Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) “String Quartet No. 18 in A Major” 2nd mvmt *CD*  
 Ludvig Beethoven (1770-1827) “Piano Trio” 3rd movement *audio tape*

#### They did it in the Romantic Era (1825-1900)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) “Variations & Fugue on a Theme by Handel” *piano on CD*  
 Schubert “Impromptu” No. 1 Rosamunde in A flat *piano roll*  
 Niccolo Paganini (1782-1840) “Paganini Variations” *violin solo on video*  
 Georges Bizet (1838-1875) “L’Arlesienne Suite No. 1” prelude *piano roll*

#### They did it in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1900-2000)

Gustav Holtz (1874-1934) Suite No. 1 “Chaconne” *wind ensemble on CD*  
 George Gershwin (1898-1937) “Variations on I Got Rhythm” *CD*

## Thanks for All, Jean!

In appreciation for all that Jean has contributed to LIRA, a reception was given in her honor on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

About 40 LIRA members attended the party to wish her well and thank her for her dedication. Don presented her with a certificate for a Lifetime Membership to LIRA.

Jean joined LIRA in 1992 and has actively participated since then. She was president for 2 years; she was active on the Curriculum

Committee for many years; she was LIRA's Historian; she has done the calendars for the newsletter for at least as long as I have been editor (7 years) and probably many more. She also typed all the course and intersession schedules for the newsletter. She made up all the sign-up sheets for courses and all the course attendance lists. When we were thinking about all that Jean has done, we remembered that she made all the book plates for the books we contribute to CTI at the Holiday Party. She also made all the certificates of appreciation that are given to each of the coordinators of our study groups. Not only did she do all this, but she also made time to attend almost every study group!

It will be hard to replace such dedication – we will certainly miss you, Jean. Hopefully, you will be able to come back and visit us after you have fully recuperated from your accident. Jean is now living with her son and family in Hingham. Her new address is:

Jean Dettman  
5 Grist Mill Lane  
Hingham, MA 02043  
781-749-1826

*Jeri Durant*

We knew Jean and Paul Dettman long before we joined LIRA, through church and historical society affiliations. LIRA is very important to Jean and she has been an invaluable member of LIRA.

Jean served as President of LIRA for two years, and has been very involved in many areas of LIRA, especially on the Curriculum Committee. When I became President, she gave me a notebook full of information which was a great help to me. We will miss her cheerful disposition and sincerely wish her well and hope one day soon, to have her back with us.

*Don and Madeleine Pattershall*

Toward the end of my one year term as president in 1995, Jean, the elected vice president, assumed my responsibilities for a few months. The following year she willingly accepted the leadership

of the group. Our major efforts were directed to increasing membership, controlling our monies, and involving more members in leadership roles. She doggedly worked at these goals during her one year tenure. Jean showed this tenacity in all the varied responsibilities she gladly assumed. She became LIRA historian, and now there is an abundance of photos documenting our diverse activities. She has been indispensable as secretary of the Curriculum Committee. The essential weekly calendar was her idea as was the check-off form used to sign-up for courses. Individual expert presenters as well as excellent course lecturers were recruited by her. Despite the many tasks she was discharging that frequently required fine-tuning, not wanting to see the Art and Music discontinue attending the Boston Symphony rehearsals, Jean took that on. There were two great art related 8 weeks programs, "meeting" masters in each of the periods of art, and developing drawing skills using the right brain which Jean organized and taught with other volunteers. Jean is recognized for her devotion to LIRA from the time her husband and she joined LIRA almost at the inception of organization.

*Connie Lanseigne-Case*

When I joined LIRA in 1993 shortly after retiring, Paul Dettman's study group on India was the first thing I signed up for. Traveling to India was high on my retirement agenda, but at that time there was a lot of unrest in India and traveling there wasn't recommended. Jean's and Paul's in depth knowledge of the life and politics of the region, along with their personal memories of bringing up their family there, made it come alive!

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with Jean on a number of projects, the most ambitious of which was a wonderful book, "India Changes Course", that Paul wrote about late 20<sup>th</sup> century Indian politics. He became ill during the writing of the book but continued bravely working to finish it. Jean was Paul's scribe on the computer and I was her technical assistant. She was charged with creating the manuscript in the format required by the publisher, which was highly technical and specialized to the publishing world. We both learned a lot in working together to bring the manuscript up to the publisher's standards! On the day that we had scheduled to do the final pass before submission, I arrived at the Dettmans' to learn that, sadly, Paul had passed away during the night. Knowing that his dearest wish was for the book to be published, we went ahead with our work. All six of the Dettman children were there with their spouses and Paul, Jr. prepared an Indian feast — a celebration of Paul's life — in which they kindly invited me to participate. It was a day I'll never forget. No, I never did travel to India but through the Dettmans I have gained a deep appreciation of its art, people, politics — and food!

Jean's passion for learning and insistence on the highest standards for LIRA programs are an inspiration for us all. We all look forward to her return and the continuance of her leadership.

*Suzanne Knapp*

When I first joined, Jean was president. I thought she was the most gracious person I had ever met. On my long spells away from LIRA, she has touched base with me to ask, "Aren't you interested in any of the courses this term?" (never the reason for my being absent).

*Janet Shawcross*

*(Continued on page 7)*





Reception given in honor of Jean Dettman, November 15, 2008

(Continued from page 5)

My first visit to LIRA was in the late spring of 1993. There were perhaps 15 people attending the session that day. I didn't know any of the members. Everyone was welcoming and friendly. I was particularly impressed with a couple, Jean & Paul Dettman, who were seated next to me. During the course of conversation with them I learned that they had spent a number of years living in India while raising their family of six children. Not only that – Jean had home-schooled these kids who had since earned degrees from colleges and graduate schools in the US and were engaged in impressive careers! Paul mentioned that he planned to teach a course about India during the fall session in 1993. I immediately decided I would be very interested in his offering and decided to join LIRA

Because the attendance was sparse in those days, those of us who were enthusiastic about the group wore many hats. When Jean became President of LIRA I was Vice President. We agreed that our goal was to expand the number of members. We also wanted to offer more intellectually based programs than those that were being suggested by our UMass/Lowell sponsor. In fact, we had a number of ideas that we felt would improve the organization. We secretly called ourselves "The Reform Party".

I can attest to the fact that these new ideas, at first, were met with a great deal of resistance on the part of our University sponsor. Jean persistently worked through many levels of authority to eventually achieve many changes that lead to the expansion of the LIRA membership, and ultimately the variety of course offerings that we have today.

I knew that I had met a very special couple my first time at LIRA. I count their friendship and the opportunity to work with Jean among the treasured moments in my life.

*Dotty Morris*

Jean Dettman was one of the first people I met when I joined LIRA. I had recently retired and was searching for activities that would fulfill my need to continue learning. After reading a schedule of local events in the newspaper I attended a LIRA Fall General Meeting. Although apprehensive about going to an event where I knew no one nor anything about their activities I was warmly welcomed by Jean (and Dottie Morris) who talked with me in such a warm and kindly manner that I paid my dues on the spot.

Since then I have seen Jean serve as President of LIRA and as a member of practically all Committees where she prepares and participates to the fullest. She was always inclusive, drawing other members to work with her or to participate somehow in LIRA. Everyone felt comfortable and enjoyed working together.

When I coordinated courses and needed others to work with me, Jean was a person I knew would be interested, well-prepared and present an enjoyable program. She herself presented many of her own courses which involved other LIRA members.

I guess what I appreciate most about Jean Dettman is her dedication and her ability to include all members into whatever she did without making them feeling ill at ease. Even as she now recovers she continues to think about how she can help in some way. I'm sure she can... and will...

*Marjorie Short*

## LIRA's 20th Anniversary Gifts

Any one attending the Holiday Party on December 10th who has not received a 20th anniversary gift, please let me know and I will bring them to the party. This applies to old and new members.

Special thanks to Dorothy Bromage and Alan Kent for all their work in selecting and coordinating the distribution of 20th Anniversary gifts. The tote bags are very useful and the clocks are easy to set.

*Don Pattershall*  
(978) 256-6084  
dmpattershall@juno.com

## A Note of Appreciation

Recently LIRA received a thank you note from the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust for our generous donation of \$100.00 following the Spalding House historical tour during summer intersession. The closing paragraph states, "The support of valuable community members like you is important in helping us work toward our mission of protecting Lowell's parks, open spaces, and special places." Brian Cutter the Project Specialist signed the note.

*Connie Lanseigne-Case*

## Visit to the National Heritage Museum

On October 15, LIRA members visited the exhibit "Keepers of Tradition: Art and Folk Heritage in Massachusetts", now on view through February 8, 2009 at the national Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA. The exhibition showcases about 70 Massachusetts artists who, while maintaining time-honored traditions, create "folk art". The category includes not only duck decoys and weathervanes, but also festival costumes, musical instruments, embroidery, quilts, ceramics, dance, boat building, mortar less fieldstone walls, sacred art, sheet metal figures and much more.

The free audio tour featured the voices, sounds, and music of 18 keepers of tradition and offered us a personal and lively take on what motivates and interests some of the commonwealth's own keepers of tradition.

*Carol McCarthy*



Oud, Middle Eastern musical instrument, 1992  
Peter S. Kyvelos  
Belmont, Massachusetts  
Curly maple, paduke,  
spruce, Delrin, synthetic  
mother-of-pearl, strings

## Three Committee Chairs Retire

**Eleanor Belanger** has retired as Membership Chair after 11 years of service. We appreciate and thank her for her years of dedication in maintaining the membership for LIRA. **Marjorie Short** has volunteered to take over for Eleanor. Thank you, Marjorie, for agreeing to take on the job of Membership Chair.



After many years of service, **Kay Dunfey** has retired from the role of Hospitality Chair. We thank her for her dedication in providing our refreshments for at least 7 years. The following describes the duties of Hospitality Chair. Please call Don Pattershall if you are interested in this position.

### Hospitality Committee Chair

With the help of committee members or volunteers, the Hospitality Chair arranges light refreshments and beverages at study groups, intersession and General Meetings and reports to the Executive Committees on collections and disbursement of funds for supplies.

**Betty Jack** has been Scholarship Chair for 4 years and feels that it is time to let someone else take over. She has done a tremendous job as Chair and we thank her very much for her dedication. The following describes the duties of the Scholarship Chair and if anyone is interested in this position, please call Don Pattershall.

### Scholarship Committee Chair

At the direction of the Executive Committee, the Scholarship Chair solicits contributions for the Scholarship Fund, participates in the selection of award Candidates and presents the awards.

**Shirley Mitchell** has agreed to take over the LIRA Historian duties that **Jean Dettman** had.

*Don Pattershall*  
978-256-6084  
dmpattershall@juno.com

## Member News

Dorothy Sussman is recuperating at her home following a recent hospitalization.

LIRA members were sorry to hear of our friend Jean Dettman's misfortune. Our former President and very involved LIRA member suffered a broken femur while on a European trip and after hospitalization and rehab will continue to recuperate at her son's home.

Simone Allard is recuperating at home after a recent knee replacement surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We are saddened to learn of the death of Alan and Monica Kent's son on November 25, 2008. Our deepest sympathy to Alan and his family.

Kay Carroll will send cards to members who are ill. If you are know of an ailing member please email her at Fckc12345@msn.com or call 978-453-0694.

*Kay Carroll*

## General Email Notices

Over the last couple of months, I have sent out some general email notices. If anyone does not want to be on the list, please let me know. If I have missed someone and you want to be on the list, please let me know also. The telephone tree will be still used to notify you of class cancellations. The following is the policy for class cancellations.

*Jeri Durant*

## Class Cancellations


### Importance of Signing up for Courses

At times, unforeseen circumstances will necessitate the cancellation of a class or program. You will be notified of the cancellation if you have signed up for the course. Courses are open to all LIRA members and it is advisable that you sign up for a course even if you are unable to attend all of the classes. However, if you want to attend one of the sessions and you have not signed up for the course, it is best to call the Class Coordinator or Don Pattershall to ascertain that the class or program is still scheduled for that day.

### Emergencies (Cancellation of Classes/University Closing)

In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel a LIRA program for any reason, i.e. snowstorm, hazardous road conditions, or if the UMass Lowell campus is closed due to a storm emergency or other unexpected events, Don Pattershall will call Barbara Willman who is the telephone tree coordinator, to let her know of the cancellation. Barbara will then call eight other members (contact persons) to inform them of the cancellation. These contact persons will then call the members on their respective list to inform them of the cancellation.

## Holiday Party Details



In lieu of exchanging gifts, LIRA members have donated many new books in past years for distribution by Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, the agency which serves families in shelters and oversees many child care programs in the City. Each book is marked with a bookplate designed by Jean Dettman denoting that it is a gift from Learning In Retirement Association. Books should be suitable for children, ages three through teens. In the past, there has been a desperate need for hats and mittens for children, ages up to 12 years old. We have decided to continue to bring these, also. **Please bring a new book and/or hat and mittens, unwrapped, to the Holiday party.** Thanks for your participation.

## What's New in Electronics

In these digital days, it is possible to become overwhelmed with news of significant developments in products for consumers. It was a very educational afternoon on September 24. First, our speaker UML senior Tyrell Smith offered answers to questions about new technology. Among terms explained by Tyrell (in relation to cameras) were megapixels, memory card, SD-XD-MS, image stabilization, and digital SLR; (in relation to batteries) NI-MH, NI-CD, lithium; (in relation to GPS) Tom Tom, Garmin, Magellan, MiO, Navman, Navigon, text-to-speech and POI. He clarified Blu-ray and DVD technology as well as WIFI. We were grateful to the Radio Shack in Chelmsford for loaning Tyrell for the afternoon.

Following the break, LIRA member Jerry Gilmore gave a lesson in creating a PowerPoint presentation. Equipment on hand was an Epson digital projector (bought at Staples) and a laptop computer. First, slides were loaded onto the computer from a CD; then with the PowerPoint software opened, slides were inserted one by one. "Slides" refers to images from a digital camera or other source. As appropriate, text was easily added. When the series of slides was saved, the PowerPoint presentation was complete and ready to show. It became apparent that with a computer and some slides, a person could present a program without having acquired an engineering degree. The digital projector may be borrowed from Dorothy Bromage at any time. A big thank you to Jerry for his expertise and patience and for sharing his slides from a visit to a horse ranch in Montana.

*Dorothy Bromage*

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## Donations

A donation of \$50.00 has been given to the Scholarship Fund in Jean Dettman's name in appreciation of her years of service to LIRA. Jean has been a very active member since 1992.

A donation of \$100.00 has been given to the Scholarship Fund in Robert Farrant's name in appreciation of the time he has given to LIRA in teaching the very popular American History course.

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## Where are they?

Recently, I received an email from a man in Portland, Oregon who had found our website and read the article by Mark Levine, *Learning as a Later Life Passion*. He was interested in finding an organization such as ours in his area. I directed him to the Elderhostel Institute Network which has a listing of all the Lifelong Learning programs in the United States. If you have any friends or relatives in other parts of the country that are interested in this type of an organization, the website is <http://www.elderhostel.org/EIN/intro.asp>

*Jeri Durant*

## *Publicizing LIRA! Let other people in on the secret!!*

Members of LIRA are the best ambassadors for bringing new members to LIRA. Last year I suggested that the best way to have new members join LIRA was by having you – our members - encourage and introduce your friends and acquaintances to the organization. Therefore I asked that you, our members "brag" about LIRA to your friends and offer to introduce them to LIRA yourself.

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 pass card from the University. So the question remains how can prospective members "try out" 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, in your senior centers, and in other formal and informal groups to come to one of our programs.

In so doing I am proposing that you could actually host new prospective members by bringing them to an event. In that way, obviously, we bypass the parking issue and even better than that, we would encourage people to join who would know about the organization in a personal way.

*Jeanne Gunion*

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## Where Are We Going?

As most of you know, we will be homeless as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Don Pattershall is working hard to find us a new meeting place. We met at the Mogan Center with Paul Marion, our liaison with the University, and discussed the possibility of meeting there. It was concluded that the cost of parking in the garage would be prohibitive to our members. Paul mentioned the possibility of us using the atrium in the Recreation Center across from the parking garage. It would only be a temporary solution for us until May, but certainly would be a good solution if we could make it work. Don is hoping to be able to tell us where we will be meeting at the Holiday Party.

The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2009; the deadline for news items is February 15, 2009. 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*

# Membership Directory Notes

The membership directory for 2008-2009 has been distributed. With two renewals that came in after the directory was printed, there are now 92 active members. The geographic breakdown is always interesting. Thirteen communities are sending one person each. Regarding municipalities with more members, the top of the list is Chelmsford with 29. (If you add North Chelmsford, it makes 36.) From Lowell, we have 19, from Westford 9, and 2 from Tewksbury.

Important: Each LIRA newsletter will have a column with additions, corrections, and other updates to the directory. When the newsletter arrives, it is very important that members take pen in hand and make the changes in their own copy. Sad are the tales of communication breakdown due to out-of-date details of a phone number or an email address in a directory.

Oh yes, if you would like a second copy of the directory, please let me know.

*Dorothy Bromage*

# 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.

## DECEMBER 7 NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER 2 PM SUNDAY

### FILM: "Searching for the Wrong Eyed Jesus"

In this thought provoking musical journey through the Deep South, director Andrew Douglas tracks Alt-Country crooner Jim White as he brings his music to such diverse establishments as churches, jails, and roadside bars. Along the way, Douglas shows us the touching world of the impoverished whites who have been cast aside by modern society, only to create their own unorthodox culture. Preceding the film will be a special live performance by Northampton acoustic string band *APPALACHIAN STILL*.

## JANUARY 22 POLLARD LIBRARY 7 PM THURSDAY

### "They Take Our Jobs" by Aviva Chomsky

Aviva Chomsky, a professor at Salem State College, who specializes in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean, will examine various myths about immigration and employment.

## MARCH 1, 2009 NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER 2 PM SUNDAY

### "The Murder of Mary Bean" by Elizabeth A. DeWolfe

Historian Elizabeth DeWolfe tells the story of textile operative Mary Bean whose 1849 death captivated New England in newspapers and sensational fiction. In a story featuring aliases, disreputable doctors and a cross-dresser, Bean's murder revealed growing fear that wage-earning mill girls were not only in danger, but themselves were a threat to society.

## 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.

### Renewing Members:

Deidre Anderson  
52 Lake Shore Drive North  
Westford, MA 01886  
978-392-1525

Phyllis Kallus  
7 Lafayette Terrace  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
978-251-3648  
Phyllis@kallus.com

Helen Letsou  
240 Clark Rd  
Lowell, MA 01852  
978-453-7420

### Name change:

Toby and Larry Hodes (add Larry)

### Renewing Friend:

Carole Pender  
38 Emery St  
Lowell, MA 01851

### Email changes:

Reginia Dabilis:  
olympus2fax@comcast.net  
Carol and John McCarthy:  
jfmccart@aol.com

Judith Raiguel:  
raiguel\_17@hotmail.com

Esther Wikander:  
emwikander@gmail.com

## Newsletter Committee

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Jean Dettman, Calendar	jlgettman@msn.com
Kay Carroll, Member News	Fckc12345@msn.com



I would like to wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of Peace, Happiness and Good Health.

Jeri Durant

