



LIRA NEWSLETTER

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



December 2018

Vol. 25 No. 4



*Please join us for
LIRA's Annual Holiday Party
and Town Meeting*

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

10 a.m. until Noon

University Crossing, Moloney Hall

220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, MA

Shuttle bus from Tsongas Parking Lot.

Five Scholarship Awards will be given.
Participate in the Consumable Auction.
Enjoy the snacks and meeting with friends.

Holiday Party Details



Because of the difficulties of transporting the food on the shuttle bus, we are keeping the food simple at the Holiday Party. If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be appreciated. Contact Debby Sebelius if you have any questions.

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. They need warm clothing such as hats, mittens and gloves, for children of all ages. Children's books would also be appreciated.

The following is an email from CTI, giving a more detailed description of what they need.

CTI can always use hats, mittens and books for clients we serve in such programs as our family shelters, Head Start, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and clients who come in for services. For more information on CTI's mission, programs, and services, please check out our new web site at www.commteam.org. We continue to need children's books especially board books for the very young and picture books for pre-k to grade 2. We take clothes and books for children up to 9 years old. Big Brothers Big Sisters is also part of CTI and children's age range is 7 through 15. Mittens and gloves are especially needed along with hats. We also distribute hats and mittens/gloves to veterans in need.

CTI also needs senior volunteers to read and mentor children in the schools in Lowell and surrounding towns. They will bring applications for that program to our meeting.

Please bring a new book and/or hat and mittens, unwrapped, to the Holiday party. Thank you for your participation. For more information, please contact Kathy Forstey at k3and2@netscape.net.



The Town Meeting will be held on March 6, 2019. Classes begin on Monday, March 11, 2019.

LIRA'S Scholarship Fund Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 5. We have decided that the auction will be a "Consumable Auction" once again. The Auction is a major fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. This year LIRA will be giving \$1500.00 scholarships to five UMass Lowell students.

What is a Consumable Auction? It is an auction where all donated items can be consumed, i.e., you eat it, drink it, do it or use it up. The Committee sells tickets: \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets or \$10 for 15 tickets. You decide what item(s) you want and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to the location to be announced on the day of the party.

Some things you might donate:

Baked Goods; Candy; Wine; Gift Certificates, i.e., restaurant, movie, theater, grocery store, and bookstore

Suggestions for Baskets you can make:

Book – put a gently used book in a basket with a bookmark, book light, china teacup, box of tea, etc.
Food – Italian or Mexican
Soup Lovers Basket

I think you get the idea. It will all be wonderful and we have a great time deciding just what we want to win. Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past. Let's make a difference in someone's life and have a great auction this year.

Sheila Pariseau

Location of the Holiday Party and Parking Lot

The Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 5 at University Crossing, Moloney Hall, 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the Tsongas parking lot to University Crossing, leaving us off at the side of the building. The first shuttle will leave at 9:00 am **sharp** and the second trip will leave at 9:30 am. The return trip will start about noon.

Parking is in the Tsongas Parking Lot at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, MA. Please use your hangtags in the parking lot.

List of What to Bring to the Holiday Party

I love lists! I thought it would be helpful to have a reminder of what to bring to the Holiday Party in one place.

- Donation of warm clothing for any size child (hat, gloves, mittens, scarf)
- New book for a child of any age
- Donation to the Consumable Auction
- Finger food for our enjoyment

Jeri Durant

Emergencies (Cancellations of Classes/University Closing)

If it becomes necessary to cancel a LIRA program for any reason, i.e. snowstorm, hazardous road conditions, or UMass Lowell campus closure we attempt to notify all members. UMass Lowell closures and delayed openings are announced on local TV news programs and on the internet www.uml.edu/storm. We may also cancel programs when UMass Lowell is open if we think conditions are too hazardous for our members. We make a decision about next day storm cancellations by 6:00 PM, so check your email or the LIRA Facebook page in the morning to see if classes that day are cancelled. We have three ways to notify members:

- Email to [all members](#) for [all class cancellations](#)
- Posting on the LIRA Facebook page LIRAatUML
- Telephone calls to those members who signed up for a call

Telephone calls for cancellation of Wednesday programs (Winter and Summer Intersessions, Arts & Music) are done by the LIRA telephone tree. Telephone calls for other classes are the responsibility of the class coordinator. Judy Miller and Carol McCarthy are coordinators for the telephone tree and a number of volunteers help them call members. You can sign up for telephone notification when you renew your membership or by notifying Judy Miller (978-256-8466 or gmilller29@verizon.net) or Carol McCarthy (978-256-5904 or jfmccart@aol.com).

October 26 LIRA Tour of Immaculate Conception Church

Our first Wednesday Art and Music offering for the Fall 2018 was a tour of Immaculate Conception Church in Lowell. Our guide for this tour was Richard Sweeney, the Parish Sacristan who has worked in the Immaculate Conception Parish for 39 years.

As our guide, Richard pointed out significant architectural features and provided many entertaining anecdotes about not only the Immaculate parish, but other church histories throughout Lowell.

This church, one of several in Lowell founded by Oblates in the late 1860s, was constructed in the 1870s and has undergone renovations several times throughout its history. Some of the building improvements included the latest renovation and restoration in the 2010s, include LED lighting, a more efficient heating and air conditioning system, replaced seating and the removal of altar curtains which were hiding some of the stunning altar statuary. As Richard pointed out, the beautiful architectural features of Immaculate Conception Church were maintained.

Our group enjoyed Richard's talk immensely and came away with a deep appreciation of this beautiful building.

Amy Bisson

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is indebted to the LIRA membership for their generous donations to the 2018 Scholarship Fund and also grateful for proceeds from the Holiday Auction. We are reviewing applications and will be presenting five \$1500 scholarships to the successful candidates at the Holiday Party in December. We thank Patty Coffey and Christopher Wilkinson at University Relations, and Michelle Smith of the UML Financial Aid Office for their constant support and help. Last but not least, thank you to the Scholarship Committee members, Simone Allard, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie and Barbara Murch, for their time and input during this busy process.

Dee Sferrino and Janet Redman co-chairs.

Globalization and All That!

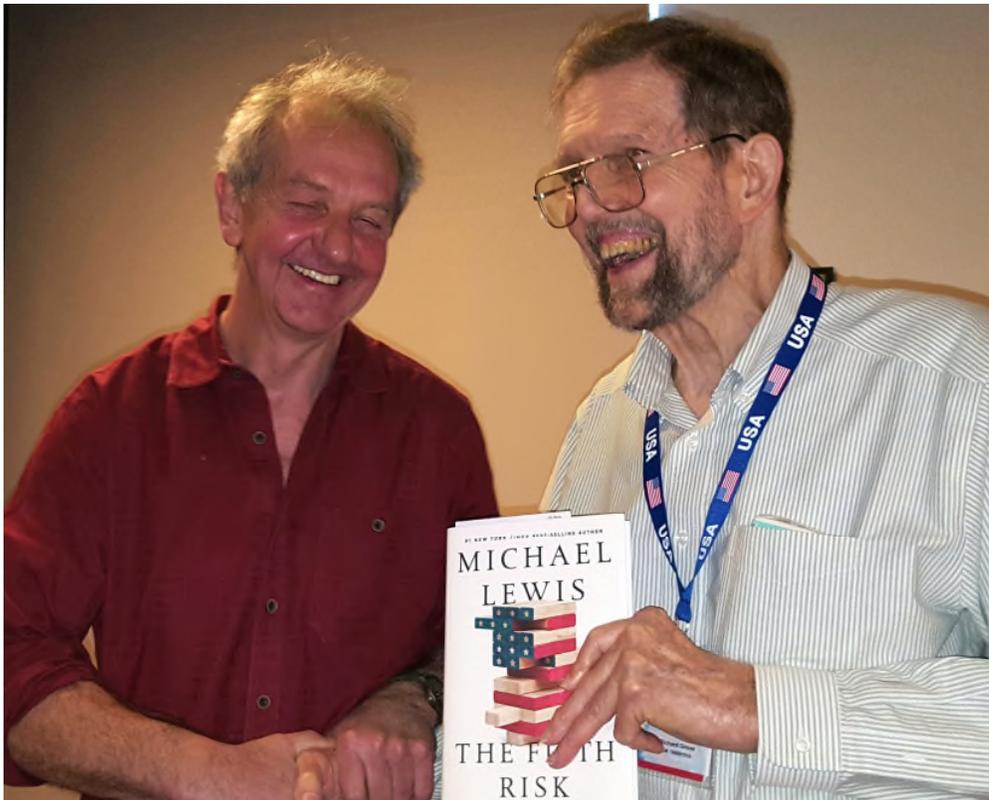
John Wooding, Professor and Provost Emeritus from UMass Lowell, taught his first LIRA course this fall. The course description promised a look at the history and politics of globalization, discussion of the origins of the current global economic and financial system and analysis of how trade and development are international issues in our modern world.

Prof. Wooding's enthusiasm and deep knowledge of the subject were impressive. Our first class coincided with the anniversary of the Economic Crisis – how the problems of the housing market led to the collapse of the bank and mortgage industry which led to steep loss in housing prices, high unemployment, and bailouts funded by the U.S. Treasury for “banks too big to fail.” John was delighted that he could throw out questions about the events and problems of that time period – and the members of the class could actually answer because we had lived it! (John's recent experience with the undergrads at UML was that they were still in middle school at that time and completely oblivious to the financial crisis!)

Remaining classes throughout the fall touched on the History and Theory of Globalization, Global trade and explanations of the Global Financial and Monetary System, Globalization and Interdependence, Global Inequality and the Future of Globalization. Explanations of the history took us back to medieval days and a very entertaining clip from “Monty Python” to illustrate a point. Finer points of theory were also illustrated with graphic cartoons and diagrams from YouTube. John's ability to blend serious economic theory with examples from current events made a serious subject one we could all understand. As one class member put it, “I love how Professor Wooding's class has helped me get a broader view of the pros and cons of globalization.”

This was Prof. Wooding's first course with LIRA, and he is looking forward to teaching with us again. We are looking forward to it, too!

Susan Lemire



Richard Grove presenting John Wooding with a gift of the book, *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis.

Farewell to Frank Talty

November 15th was the last class in Professor Frank Talty's *Election 2018* course. In previous weeks we looked at the races for the United States Congress and possible impact on the balance of power in Washington. Thursday before the election Third District congressional candidates Rick Green and Lori Trahan visited the class and each had 45 minutes to speak and answer questions. At the last class we looked in depth at the election results, likely effect of a Democratic House of Representatives on the Trump administration, redistricting, and the 7 states that flipped by electing Democratic governors. There was a very lively discussion of Professor Talty's question: What should the Democrats in the House do? Investigate and oppose Trump on everything? Seek common ground and cooperate on infrastructure, immigration, drug prices and medical care?

Professor Talty's wife Patricia, an expert in constitutional law, talked about gerrymandering and redistricting. She reviewed court cases that established the current law. Gerrymandering based on race is prohibited, but gerrymandering for political advantage is still an open question. Big data, mapping software and computer simulations enable surgically precise gerrymandering. Several court cases are making their way toward the Supreme Court.

Professors Frank and Patricia Talty will be retiring from UMass Lowell and moving to Florida. During the last three years he has taught a great series of LIRA courses that have been enthusiastically received: *Election 2016* for three semesters covering the electoral college, primaries, conventions, and the general election; *The US Constitution; Law and Civil Liberties* focused on landmark Supreme Court decisions; *The US Congress*; and *Election 2018*.

The setting for the November 15th class was very special - an elegant meeting room in the Allen House, an 1854 mansion on South Campus with a sweeping view of the Merrimack River. The class concluded with a rousing standing ovation.

Thank You and Godspeed Professors Frank and Patricia Talty!

Richard Grove



Frank Talty in the classroom and Richard Grove presenting Frank with the book, *The Red and the Blue: The 1990s and the Birth of Political Tribalism* by Steve Kornacki.

Not Sure Where Your Class is Meeting?

If you need to check on the location of a LIRA class or event, it is easy to do using the UMass Lowell website. Go to the website <https://www.uml.edu/calendar/> and enter 'lira' in the 'Search events' search bar on the right just under the blue heading. This will get you to a page that lists all the LIRA events by date and a click on the event will give you the location information.

Cinque Terre – The Five Lands

On October 24th, we had the pleasure of going on a journey with Jack Holmes. He had a wonderful slide show of pictures he had taken on his trips to Cinque Terre in Italy. It is just one of one hundred places he hopes to visit to photograph. Most of us take pictures on trips that we go on. Jack goes on trips to take photographs. He is an excellent photographer as some of us may remember seeing his work at the Western Ave Studios. Cinque Terre is known for growing grapes on terraces and making wine from the grapes. It is very mountainous terrain that many like to hike, but you better be in good shape and not afraid of heights. Jack's advice to anyone trying to travel to this area was to, "travel light." He warned you would be carrying your own bags, often up many stairs. He told us he found Rick Steves' travel books very helpful. I urge everyone to check out Jack's website: jacknearandfar.com.

Thank you, Jean Rubinstein and the Arts and Music Committee, for inviting Jack Holmes to present his travelogue for us.

Debbie Sebelius



Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2018 - 2019 Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. Descriptions are not included this time because of its length. Full descriptions can be found at the Pollard Library, Lowell, on the website www.parkerlectures.com or the file can be emailed to you by contacting Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Anthony Sammarco “Christmas Traditions in Boston?”

Sunday, March 3, 2019 2 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Aimee Loiselle “Creating Norma Rae: Textile & Garment Workers Lost Behind a Pop Icon”

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library and LIRA present a foreign policy Lecture Series on the second Friday of the month. The lecture topics are the same as those LIRA's Great Decisions course will be covering this fall. Lecturer Keith West will present another perspective on these topics. Keith West leads a Great Decisions group at the Wilmington Library. He works for the National Speech and Debate Association providing analysis on foreign policy and international relations.

Friday December 14, 1:00 PM

Global Health: Progress and Challenges

Check the library's website for more detailed information.

www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/lecture-series/

Healthy Aging

Four students in the Physical Therapy doctoral program at the UML Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences led LIRA members in a Healthy Aging course through the 2018 fall semester. Our instructors provided up-to-date research findings as well as anecdotal remarks from their own experiences on such topics as: how to improve and maintain balance, cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and flexibility, posture and pain management, and appropriate yoga stretches and positions. Their stated aim was to educate on how to safely and confidently stay active and healthy, and judging by our feedback provided at their final class, Marissa, Christian, and the two Mikes achieved that goal.

Suzanne Gamache, M.Ed.



**Our Instructors
(l to r):
Christian Navarro,
Michael Chiauzzi,
Marissa Leoni,
Michael Scholz**

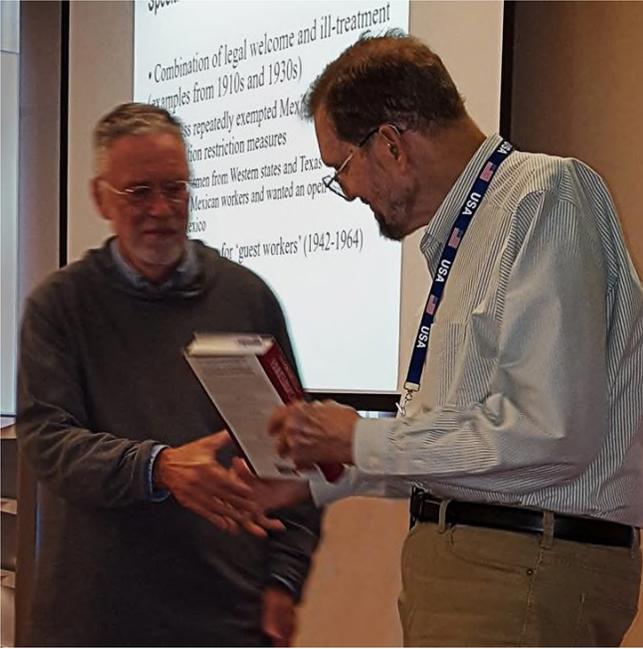


During an interactive session on agility and balance, Marissa assessed LIRA members as we ran through a series of activities such as counting backwards while walking.

Christian and Marissa offered instruction and support as LIRA members ran through the timed sit/stand exercise.



LIRA group waiting their turn for the next exercise.



Once again Distinguished Professor Bob Farrant has given LIRA members a condensed version of one of his UMass Lowell courses - this time "US Immigration History." Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge. You have expanded our historical understanding behind this current day topic. Richard Grove is presenting Bob with the gift of a book, *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham.

LIRA Publicity Chairperson

For the past three years Bev Rudeen has been chairperson (and often the only member) of the LIRA Publicity committee. She submitted articles to free print media like the Lowell Sun, Chelmsford Independent, and Action Unlimited. With staff and page cutbacks in local print media this has been challenging. Bev revised our trifold LIRA brochure and worked with Chris Wilkinson in UMass Community Relations to produce LIRA posters four times a year. She placed ads in the MRT and Indian Hill Orchestra programs. We say **"Thank you very much"** to Bev for her work on publicity and we are happy that she will now be serving as a member of the Curriculum Committee.

We are happy to welcome Bob Fesmire as the new chairperson of the Publicity committee. Bob is an active participant in Great Decisions and he has recruited several friends to become LIRA members. Bob is also a member of the Westford Photography Club and does publicity work for them. He has some exciting ideas and experience about how LIRA can use very low-cost ads on Facebook to reach potential LIRA members in our local communities.

LIRA currently has three committees that have only one member, the chairperson: Publicity (Bob Fesmire), Hospitality (Deb Sebelius), Membership (Bonnie Heines). Serving on a committee shares the work, strengthens LIRA, and it is very rewarding. Please consider joining one of these committees!

Richard Grove, LIRA President

MCC Concert

LIRA members were treated to a delightful concert by Middlesex Community College music students in November. The LIRA concert was organized by Carmen Peralta, chairperson of the MCC Music Department, and was under the direction of Raley Beggs and Susan Dill. The students performed classical works as well as pieces from the Great American Songbook on guitar, piano, French horn, bassoon and vocals. The concert was held in Middlesex Community College's new Academic Arts Center which recently opened in the renovated building that originally served as a train station for the Boston & Maine Railroad.

Diane Baker



Music students from Middlesex Community College

The Monuments Men: An Illustrated Talk

On Wednesday, October 3rd, Art Historian Mary Woodward presented an illustrated talk about the heroic men and women of the **Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Division of the US Army** during World War II, more popularly known as the Monuments Men. These 345 men and women risked their lives (and a couple of them lost their lives) trying to protect, salvage, restore and return works of art that were systematically being damaged, misappropriated or stolen in Europe between the years 1933 (when Hitler became the German chancellor) and 1945, when the war ended.

Looting has always been a part of war, but Hitler's plan during WWII was part of the Nazi's ethnic cleansing agenda. Hitler stole art and artifacts from museums, churches and homes of wealthy Jews - especially those he considered extolled the Nazi's view of racial purity, to exhibit them in a cultural center he planned to build in his hometown, the Austrian city of Linz. He envisioned a cultural center that would rival Florence or any other art center in the world. Modern art (which included, at that time, Picasso and Van Gogh) and works created by Jewish artists were destroyed. Hitler considered these as "degenerate art" and they were banned in Nazi Germany.

The Monuments Men's Division was created soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was charged with the preservation of cultural properties in Europe, and the Far East, providing that this mission did not interfere with military operations. By the end of the war there were one and a half million railroad cars worth of stolen art and artifacts from Europe headed for Linz. The Nazis had over 1500 repositories of stolen art work throughout; the largest was the Altaussee Salt Mines in Austria. Mary's talk on how the Monuments Men recovered much of the stolen art was fascinating. It was accompanied by excellent images and was full of memorable stories.

She provided a list of suggested reading. Included in that list are 3 books by Robert M. Edsel who also started the Monuments Men Foundation. See <https://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org>

There are new developments all the time, and Mary explained that the online art newspaper often reports on new developments: <http://theartnewspaper.com/news>.

Thank you to Debbie Sebelius, Diane Baker and Susan Lemire for bringing in delicious refreshments. And thank you to Peter Sebelius for setting up the projection system.

Kathy Cryan-Hicks



Guest speaker, Mary Woodward with Kathy Cryan-Hicks

Ruben Sanca's Immigrant Story

Ruben Sanca was the keynote speaker at the LIRA Fall Convocation. Ruben is an immigrant, a UMass Lowell graduate, and a world-class distance runner. When Ruben was 12 his family immigrated to the United States from Cape Verde and lived with his grandfather in Boston. For the first six months the three brothers slept on the floor in his grandfather's living room. His parents did not speak English so they found janitorial and housekeeping jobs. Ruben began his running career at O'Bryant High School in Boston. At UMass Lowell he became a 4-time All-American and 3-time New England champion in distance running.

Ruben competed in the 5000-meter race at the 2012 London Olympics representing Cape Verde. He was a top-25 finisher in the 2014 and 2015 Boston Marathon. He just missed qualifying for the marathon in the 2016 Rio Olympics by 1 second. Now he has set his sights on the 2020 Olympics. His training regimen includes running 125 miles a week.

Ruben graduated from UMass Lowell with a bachelor's degree in business in 2009 and an MBA in 2010. He works as Associate Director of Student Affairs Financial Administration at UMass Lowell. He is also founder and owner of Lowell Running LLC, a professional coaching firm for runners. He is involved in a community organization with a focus on integrating sports, academics, and life skills.

Immediately after the Convocation Ruben left to catch a plane to Berlin where he finished 29th in the Berlin Marathon. It was inspiring to hear Ruben's story.

Richard Grove



Fall Convocation with Ruben Sanca as guest speaker

Museum of Russian Icons Visit

LIRA members visited the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton MA on a sunny, warm October day. Our docent led the group on a 1½ hour tour of the Museum's permanent collection of these sacred paintings used for veneration in the Orthodox religious tradition. We began with an overview of how icons are created. We then proceeded to learn about the history of icons and the symbolism used by iconographers. We viewed many beautiful works, some of which dated back to the 15th century. Members also visited the museum's special exhibit on Icons of the Hellenic World, followed by a delightful lunch at Clinton's Grille.

The Museum of Russian Icons opened in 1989 to house the personal collection of Mr. Gordon B. Lankton and has grown to include more than 1,000 icons and related artifacts spanning six centuries. It is the only museum in the USA dedicated to Russian icons, and is the largest collection of icons outside of Russia.

Diane Baker



Newsletters on Website

All newsletters, past and present, are available online. A hard copy of the newsletter will NOT be mailed to you unless you have contacted Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically.

The online newsletter is just like the printed one only better - it's in color! Reading the newsletter online will help us to save substantial printing and mailing costs to the university as well as a few trees.

The website for the newsletter is www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters/

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The Foreign Policy Association of America provides background information for eight of the most critical issues facing America each year. The LIRA Great Decisions group meets on Thursday mornings and devotes two two-hour classes to explore each topic in depth. In the fall 2018 semester we discussed:

- *Turkey: a partner in crisis* – Carol Valcik led the discussion of NATO ally Turkey and challenges in US-Turkey relations following the failed 2016 coup. Turkey is in the middle culturally and geographically between Islam and Western countries.
- *US global engagement and the military* – Rich Grove led the discussion of the rapidly evolving global balance of power. There are competing views of America's role: "America First" or multilateral leadership and a greater emphasis on diplomacy.
- *South Africa's fragile democracy* – Neal Berenson led the discussion of South Africa and the challenges the African National Congress (ANC) faces. ANC has governed South Africa since the end of apartheid but it faces popular frustration over widespread official corruption and economic stagnation.
- *Global health: progress and challenges* – Bob Hanlon led the discussion of global health issues. Great progress has been made in the fight against diseases like HIV/AIDS, polio, and malaria. But in a globalized world with easy worldwide travel we remain vulnerable to epidemics of new diseases.

Here is a link with more information about Great Decisions including topics for 2019.
http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/

Richard Grove

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Time for a Change

New directories were emailed to you in October. Those without email were sent a hard copy automatically along with those that have requested a hard copy of the newsletter. The following are the changes that were included with the update that was emailed on November 1. New hard copies were not sent out.

New Members:

Patricia O'Brien
619 Wellman Avenue
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
Cell: 978-621-9958
Email: pob619@gmail.com

Penelope Pelton
58 Prescott Street, Unit 8
Lowell, MA 01852
617-516-4199
Email: penelopepelton@gmail.com

Renewing Members:

Mary O'Connor
Saab Residence
1085 Varnum Avenue
Lowell, MA, 01854
978-452-0472

Joseph Sheedy
2 Smokerise Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-5068
Cell: 978-758-5324
Email: jos.sheedy@verizon.net

Member News

LIRA MEMBERS ON THE MEND

Jackie Dawson had back surgery in October.

Carol Cannistraro had carpal tunnel surgery in November.

Steve Buccieri is schedule for hip surgery in December.

We wish them all a speedy and complete recovery.

Dotty Morris has been accepted to participate in a clinical trial at Mass General Hospital as she continues her fight against cancer. We will keep her in our thoughts and hope for a positive outcome.

Please let me know of any member who would like to be remembered by LIRA and I will send a card.

Simone Allard: simone32allard@gmail.com - 603-943-7527

Note from past member, Claire Frassica

Thank you all for your good wishes on my recovery from back surgery. It's going well.

Now for the first time in 7 years I won't be renewing my membership to LIRA. We will be moving to Irmo, SC, outside of Columbia, the capitol. My new address is 113 Cedar Crest Lane, Irmo, SC 02963.

I so enjoyed many of the classes held, especially art, music, and science. I loved the field trips! Thanks to all of you for sharing your love of learning with us! I will miss seeing you all, or "y'all" as they say. Be sure to come by for a visit when traveling south.



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

Jeri Durant



LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

2019 Winter Intersession

The 2019 Winter Intersession, given between semesters, offers to retirees and those semi-retired, a sample of LIRA's almost year-round program and friendly community. The program is planned and much of it provided by the members themselves. The general public is invited to all intersession programs. All intersession programs are 10:00 am – Noon except for one bonus event held on January 31 that will be a bus trip. The programs will be held in University Suites, Room #106, 327 Perkins Street, Lowell, MA. Parking for on campus programs is in the garage directly across the street from the Rec Center or in the Perkins Parking lot. Your ID is needed to enter the garage or lot. **Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.** On street parking is also available in metered spaces.

December 12, 2018 Book Discussion 10 a.m. to Noon

The Cloister, fiction by James Carroll

January 9: On the Road with #45 - Jonathan Lemire, AP White House Reporter

White House Reporter and MSNBC Political Analyst will talk about his career in Journalism – first as a reporter for the NY Daily News covering 9/11, crime and politics in New York City, then as a White House reporter for the Associated Press. Jonathan traveled with candidate Trump during the 2016 campaign and was in the AP offices in Washington, DC when the AP called the Presidential election for Donald Trump in the wee hours of Nov. 9, 2016. Since then, in addition to writing about the daily events at the White House, Jonathan has traveled with President Trump to Europe, Asia and the Middle East and received attention for his news conference questions to Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin at their 2018 summit in Helsinki, Finland. Jonathan will also share his experiences as a political analyst for MSNBC where he appears regularly on "Morning Joe," "Deadline White House," and "The 11th Hour."

Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

January 16: Our Liberian Journey - David Penfield and Becky Bronson

Join us for an account of our trip to Liberia last spring to visit our son, Andy, who is a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching High School math and physics in a remote Liberian village. We spent a week with Andy at his site (staying with him in his little house with no running water and no electricity) and a week in the village of another friend, and learned so much about this incredible country. The trip was certainly eye-opening for us, and in this presentation we share our insights into Liberian life with you!

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

January 16: Book Discussion 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

American Pastoral, fiction by Philip Roth

January 23: Climate Change: What We're Up Against and What You Can Do About It

Rick Lent, Ph.D. and Grady McGonagill, Ed.D. Elders Climate Action of MA <https://ecamass.org>

The devastating impact of climate change is increasingly evident, yet many of us do little to address it. This does not reflect a lack of concern but rather a lack of understanding of what can be done to make a meaningful difference. After briefly reviewing examples of the damage already done by global warming, we will engage in a conversation grounded in hope around what we can do to address this enormous threat. Specifically, we will consider seven action steps most people could take, even with small amounts of time.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

January 30: New Directions/New Authors in Mystery and Detective Fiction - Melissa Pennell

Many people have favorite writers of long standing in mystery and detective fiction, but the genre is ever-changing and new writers regularly introduce a detective and/or series that soon becomes another fan favorite. This presentation will look at the work of some of these authors and their additions to the field, as well as mentioning some new releases by old favorites.

Coordinator: Sally Coulter*

Thursday January 31--BONUS EVENT: Trip to Peabody Essex Museum

On Thursday, January 31st LIRA will travel by bus to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA where we will have a guided tour of the Empresses of the Forbidden City exhibit. This is the first international exhibition to explore the role of empresses in shaping China's last dynasty—the Qing dynasty, from 1644 to 1912. Nearly 200 spectacular works of art from the Palace Museum, Beijing (known as the Forbidden City), tell the little-known stories of how imperial women lived and engaged with court politics, religion, and art. After the tour, you are on your own to explore the museum's vast collection.

The cost is \$30 for LIRA members and \$35 for non-members. This includes the bus, admission to the Museum and the cost for the guided tour. Please note that we must pay the full admission price and forgo the use of Library Passes, MTA cards, PEM comp passes or PEM memberships in order to qualify for the guided tour. Please also note that our admission does not include entry to the Yin Yu Tang Chinese House. Admission to this is available at the museum for an additional \$6.

Our bus will leave Hannaford's Parking lot in Chelmsford at 9 AM and leave the Museum for the return trip home at 2 PM. Lunch is available for purchase at the Museum's Atrium Café as well as in restaurants in the surrounding area or you can bring your own. Please send checks payable to "LIRA, Inc." to Bob Hanlon, [255 North Road, Unit 37, Chelmsford, MA 01824](#). Checks must be received by Wednesday, January 23rd.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon*

February 6: Pluto's Amazing Story - J. Kelly Beatty

In July 2015, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft flew past Pluto after a 9½-year-flight. The historic encounter has been 85 years in the making, ever since 24-year-old Clyde Tombaugh discovered this enigmatic body at the edge of our planetary system. Today we realize that Pluto is among the largest objects in the Kuiper Belt, even though initially it was believed to be a body perhaps as massive as Earth. Join veteran space-science reporter Kelly Beatty as he traces the history of Pluto — from predictions of its existence to the discovery of its moons to its “demotion” to dwarf-planet status. Then take a tour of what New Horizons has revealed about Pluto and Charon — truly the “odd couple” of our solar system — and an even-more-distant object (nicknamed “Ultima Thule”) that the spacecraft will visit on New Year's Day 2019.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

February 13: A Man of the People? Ben Butler and Labor's Cause 1840 – 1890 - Robert Forrant

Often lost in the story of Benjamin Butler, scourge of the South and thorn in the side of Massachusetts Republicans, is his standing with the Commonwealth's workers and workers on a national scale. This talk will look into the often untold story of Ben Butler and the working class.

Coordinator: Bev Rudeen*

February 20: The Traveling Librarian Goes to Istanbul - Jeff Klapes

Jeff Klapes, Head of References Services at Beebe Library in Wakefield, will take you on an armchair travel presentation to the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Istanbul. Straddling Europe and Asia, both literally and figuratively, the largest city in Turkey has a long history going back more than 2,500 years. With influences from several empires, including the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman, Istanbul has a rich cultural and architectural heritage that makes it one of the most fascinating cities in the world for travelers.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

February 20: Book Discussion 12:30 – 2:30

The Soul of America: the Battle for our Better Angels, non-fiction by Jon Meacham

February 27: Chateau Lydia: Adventures in Wine Making in New England - Bob Gamache

Wine enthusiast Bob Gamache's hope in 2004 was to produce some fine Burgundian style wine in his small vineyard in Dunstable, MA. After all, it's at almost the same latitude as the renowned vineyards of Dijon, France. He started with 100 vines, half Pinot Noir and half Merlot. Fast forward 14 years after much trial and error, and take an armchair trip to Chateau Lydia, now planted with a mix of Frontenac and Marquette vines. Learn about the wine making process: from the planting of the vineyard, the spring-summer work, to harvest and pressing .in late summer-early autumn, and finally to the cellar.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

LIRA's Winter 2019 Intersession

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 3	December 4	December 5 10 am to Noon Holiday Party University Crossing/ Moloney Hall	December 6	December 7
December 10	December 11	December 12 10 am to noon <i>The Cloister</i> by James Carroll	December 13	December 14 1:00 -2:00 pm Chelmsford Library Lecture Series Global Health: Progress and Challenges
		2019		
	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4
January 7	January 8	January 9 10 am to noon On the Road with #45 Jonathan Lemire, AP White House Reporter	January 10	January 11
January 14	January 15	January 16 10 am to Noon Our Liberian Journey David Penfield/Becky Bronson 12:30-2:30 pm <i>American Pastoral</i> by Phillip Roth	January 17	January 18
January 21	January 22	January 23 10 am to noon Climate Change Elders Climate Action/MA	January 24	January 25

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 28	January 29	January 30 10 am to noon New Directions/New Authors in Fiction Melissa Pennell	January 31 BONUS EVENT Trip to the Peabody Essex Museum	February 1
February 4	February 5	February 6 10 am to noon Pluto's Amazing Story J. Kelly Beatty, Space- Science Reporter	February 7	February 8
February 11	February 12	February 13 10 am to noon Benjamin Butler: A Man of the People? Robert Farrant	February 14	February 15
February 18	February 19	February 20 10 am to noon The Traveling Librarian Goes to Istanbul Jeff Klapes 12:30-2:30 <i>The Soul of America: The Battle of our Better Angels</i> Jon Meacham	February 21	February 22
February 25	February 26	February 27 10 am to noon Chateau Lydia: Adventures in Wine Making in NE Bob Gamache	February 28	March 1
March 4	March 5	March 6 Town Meeting 10 am to Noon	March 7	March 8
March 11 Classes begin	March 12	March 13	March 14	March 15