



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



Spring Semester begins March 8!

Join us for LIRA's annual

Spring Town Meeting

**Where: Coburn Hall, Room 200,
850 Broadway, Lowell or
ZOOM—Your choice!**

When: Wednesday, March 2

Time: 10 am to Noon

**Featuring a tribute to Toby Hodes,
Recipient of the 2022 University
Alumni Award**



From the President

Let me begin with a hearty thank you to all our members who volunteer at LIRA in all capacities. From our Officers to our committee chairs to committee members and everyone who pitches in to make LIRA run smoothly, my sincere thanks for all you do.

Toby Hodes, past president, curriculum chair, founder and leader of the book discussion group and active LIRA member for some 22 years, is receiving the 2022 University Alumni Award from the Francis College of Engineering on April 14. Since Toby has been such an important part of LIRA, we have decided to highlight her at the upcoming Town Meeting on March 2, 2022. The Town Meeting will be a hybrid event with the in-person session held in Room 200, Coburn Hall, 850 Broadway, Lowell, MA, from 10 a.m. until noon. We will send out Zoom information separately by email.

UML now requires all visitors to campus to be fully vaccinated and have their booster shots. Please be sure to bring your vaccine card with evidence of receiving a booster shot so we can verify your status upon entry to the meeting at Coburn Hall. Also, you will need to wear your mask while in Coburn Hall unless you are addressing the group or enjoying the coffee tea and water provided by our sponsors in Community Relations.

As of the date I wrote this article, all mask and vaccine/booster requirements remain in force at UML. If there are any changes, I will notify members by email. As always, please be sure to wear your name tags at the meeting. If you don't have one yet, all new members' nametags will be available on a table near the hall entrance.

Parking is available in the Wilder Street lot for all individuals with UML parking permits. If you don't have a permit, there is a metered lot on Wilder Street right next to the gated lot.

After we complete our celebration of Toby, we will present the Spring 2022 class schedule.

During the Spring Semester, we will continue to make University Suites 106 available to anyone who wants to join any of the Zoom classes from that location (except for March 7-11 when UML is on Spring Break). Remember that UML requires guests to wear face coverings and to show vaccine status to come on to the campus. But, after all that, I am sure many of our members will want to see and greet old friends and new friends in person in the LIRA UML classroom.

Newsletters on Website

The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first day of the following months – March, May, September and December. Everyone can read the newsletter online if you have access to a web browser. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically. At the time of this writing, the print services at the university are closed so those members that requested a hard copy will not be receiving one.

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

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

Celebrating Toby Hodes

LIRA President Emerita Toby Hodes will receive the 2022 University Alumni Award from the Francis College of Engineering at the UMass awards ceremony on April 14. I've known Toby for 11 years and enjoyed interviewing her about this award. Toby graduated from high school in 1954 and then enrolled at Lowell Tech, majoring in textile engineering. In addition to her studies, Toby worked for 60 hours a week. One day when she was working in the cafeteria, her physical chemistry professor came through the line and said, "I'm glad to see you working like a woman should." It was a different time with very few women engineers!

Following graduation, Toby worked as a textile chemist. After some time out of the employment market, she returned to work as director of a women's service organization. Then she worked for GE in Lynn, ordering parts for jet engines. Her final employment was doing Career Counseling.

After Toby retired, a friend suggested she get involved in the Learning in Retirement Association at UMass Lowell. She quickly got involved in LIRA with her characteristic commitment and enthusiasm. She edited the newsletter and started the Book Discussion Group, which she led for more than 20 years. Toby was an exemplary discussion leader: she was well prepared, selected reviews and encouraged participation by all. She served on the Curriculum Committee for several years and became chairman in 2008. She taught a variety of courses, including comparative religion, the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and a course on the Bible. In 2009 Toby was elected President of LIRA and she served for six years as President until 2015. One highlight of her presidency was achieving a written Memorandum of Understanding with UMass Lowell that formalized LIRA's relationship with the University and our partnership with the Community Relations and Alumni Relations organizations. Throughout her time in LIRA, Toby built a strong network of relationships with faculty and administrators. Professor Bob Forrant taught many courses on American history. Professor Frank Talty taught courses on American elections, the Constitution, and Supreme Court decisions. Professor John Wooding taught classes on Brexit. Professor Robert Gamache taught classes on the history of science and on cosmology.

Toby is an active member of Temple Emanuel where she serves on the personnel committee, the Board, coordinates the book group and chairs the film group. After moving to Edgewood four years ago, Toby joined the Edgewood Lifelong Learning committee (ELL) and became Chairwoman a year later. She has encouraged sharing of programs between LIRA and ELL. A friend of hers wrote: "Toby fought her way through school, then worked hard at her career in different fields. Now she is working to help women make their way in engineering through the UMass Women in Engineering Fellowship. She is a woman of uncommon strength, devotion, intellect, humor, charm and grace."

Richard Grove

Cephalopods

LIRA was fortunate to have been put in contact with Dr. Jean Boal, a retired biology professor from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Boal's primary research was on the evolution of cognition in octopuses, cuttlefishes and squids. Class members were introduced to these cephalopods as she presented her work on these interesting sea creatures. We enjoyed her presentation, and her answers to our many questions. We hope she will return in the future with another biology topic.

Beverly Rudeen

Saw-Whet Owls



- * On January 6, Bob Stevens gave a presentation on the Northern Saw-whet owl, including a description, banding at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, MA, and migration. Northern Saw-whet owls are one of the most elusive birds to see in the wild. They are small, well camouflaged, very nocturnal, and live in the oak/pine forests. Bob discussed the Saw-whet owl, including where it lives and the special features it has to survive and hunt in the dark forests. He went over banding the owls and results, and discussed the owl's migration habits, which differ totally from other migrations we are used to seeing, such as that of Canada Geese. Bob presented data from banding and told us what the scientific community has learned by understanding the Saw-whet migration. We also discussed how we, as citizens, can help our Saw-whets survive.

Bob Stevens



LIRA SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship committee thanks the LIRA membership for their very generous donations and support of the Scholarship Fund, which enabled us to award six scholarships of \$1500 at the Holiday party.

Scholarship Committee co-chairs Dee Sferrino and Janet Redman introduced each of the six candidates and our President, Peter Sebelius, presented them with certificates. The selection of recipients was based on students' accomplishments, their community service, leadership, and innovative ways they persevered during the Coronavirus pandemic. Each of the recipients thanked LIRA for the financial help and gave a review of their accomplishments and future plans.

We appreciate the continued support we receive from Patty Coffee of UML's Community and Government Relations Department and the Financial Office for their guidance and help in making the scholarship selection process run smoothly.

We are indebted to and appreciate our committee members for the hours they spend reviewing applications and their selection input. They are: Margie Berenson, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, and Barbara Murch.

Dee Sferrino and Janet Redman, co-chairs

Getting to know ... Diana Keohane

Diana and her husband, Ron, are new members of LIRA. They joined last September and have only attended a few classes to date. She and her husband retired early and enjoy learning, traveling and getting to know people in various groups and organizations.

Diana grew up in New Hampshire and got her electrical engineering degree from the University of New Hampshire and her MBA from Northeastern University. She worked for high-tech companies, including Digital Equipment.

Diana and her husband have four children. Her youngest children, twins, were born in 1997 and that's when she left the workforce and became a full-time parent for ten years. It's also when she started volunteering at a higher level. She was elected to the school committee and served six years in Tyngsboro.

While on the school committee, Diana saw the need for math teachers. Coming back into the workforce, she went back to UML and earned her master's in education. She became a teacher at first in the Groton Dunstable school system and then later at the Greater Lowell Technical High School. She finished out her career teaching math at the Greater Lowell Technical High School, enjoying it greatly.

She and her husband are involved in many activities. Her husband is a selectman in Tyngsboro, and she is an active member of her church, currently serving as treasurer. She also volunteers on the sustainability committee in Tyngsboro as well as several other organizations, and is probably keeping as busy in retirement as she was during her working career.

The activity that is currently taking most of Diana's time is helping to support Afghan evacuees as they are settled into this country. She is working with the International Institute of New England (IINE), a nonprofit with one of their centers in Lowell. IINE has been working with immigrants in Lowell for years and is currently contracted with the US government to help settle Afghan evacuees in the Lowell area. Diana is currently coordinating the activities of a large team of volunteers, with members from her church, two other faith groups as well as unaffiliated individuals in the area working with IINE on various tasks as needed to support the settlement of the Afghans in the Lowell area. She would welcome new volunteers from LIRA or any other organization and is willing to serve as the point of contact between those people and IINE.

Besides her volunteering, Diana visits her mother in York, Maine, two days a week to provide company and help her manage her house and activities. She is looking forward to getting to know people in the LIRA community, especially when we can start meeting in person and resume the in-person meetings and field trips.

Stan Powers for the Highlight Committee



LIRA's Diversity Team Completes First Friendship Force Project

In 2020, LIRA's Diversity Committee proposed community outreach as a strategy to bring more diversity to LIRA's membership. We coined the name 'Friendship Force' and began to look for opportunities in the greater Lowell area. The goal of the Friendship Force was to offer opportunities for LIRA members to engage with diverse communities, develop friendships with those seniors, and broaden LIRA's reach for membership.

In Spring of 2021, Ralph Jordan, UML Manning School of Business faculty member and now also a LIRA member, requested help with writing grants on behalf of the NAACP Merrimack Valley Branch. The branch planned a major revitalization and needed funding and support to move ahead. LIRA's Executive Board approved the project as the Diversity Team's first Friendship Force initiative.

Ten LIRA members volunteered for the NAACP Merrimack Valley grant writing effort, which began in May, 2021. At our first weekly meeting, Ralph Jordan summarized the goals for the branch revitalization and the team then assembled a list of grant opportunities and application requirements.

As the team began to draft the grants, it became clear that the branch also needed to prepare to support the grant application process. We decided that the LIRA team would focus on developing five grant drafts but not finalize them, allowing the branch to complete its readiness. The five grants covered:

- Core Operational Capabilities including development of a new website, social media and newsletter
- A Lowell Folk Festival branch membership and sponsorship campaign
- A Career Expo serving both under-employed BIPOC community members and employers seeking to improve their diversity
- an annual awards dinner
- the annual MLK breakfast event

The project wrapped up in December, 2021, and the team met recently to look back. We discussed how we enjoyed using our skills to support the branch and how much we learned about both grant writing and the needs of the BIPOC community in the Merrimack Valley. Ralph Jordan noted the "passion and commitment of the LIRA team". We also discussed how we might improve a future Friendship Force by better managing the scope and improving our collaboration tools.

In a recent email, the NAACP Merrimack Valley branch president, Joseph Devoe, praised the effort as well:

The work that LIRA has done for the Merrimack Valley Branch provides us with both a realistic vision and sense of direction; and, [a] purpose toward revitalization. Thanks in large part to the LIRA volunteers, we can utilize that work to give substance and meaning to all of our recruitment efforts.

Special thanks to these LIRA volunteers who joined me for grant writing and research to make the drafts a reality:

- Kathy Cryan-Hicks
- Stan Powers
- Marie-Anne Fernando
- Margie Berenson
- Steve Buccieri
- Dave Lewis
- Becky Bronson
- Lisa Hertel
- Bruce Magnuson
- Jesse Heines

In addition to the LIRA volunteers, Lydia Solodiuk of Westford offered her excellent marketing and writing expertise. Thanks to Lydia!

In the coming months, this team will be invited to join the branch for a reception and the launch of the NAACP Merrimack Valley Branch Executive Board recruitment effort.

Lynn Tyndall
LIRA Diversity Committee Chair

Mount Washington Observatory

Home of the World's Worst Weather



Our program on February 9, 2022, consisted of two excellent presentations delivered by the staff at the Mount Washington Observatory, live from the actual Observatory with real time outside views on what was a cloudless day!

In the first session, we learned about the history and development of the various buildings utilized over the years to house the staff, and got a detailed look at several of the instruments involved in making the observations. Data collected there is used by the National Weather Service and in weather forecast models. Since 1932, observers have staffed the Observatory continuously, taking hourly weather observations (temperature, pressure, wind speed/direction, precipitation amounts) even under the most extreme weather. The highest wind gust ever observed by man was recorded there on April 12, 1934, at a speed of 231 MPH! The presenter showed videos of staff members braving strong winds and blizzard conditions to collect information and keep their delicate equipment operational.

In the second session we explored the topic of Nor'easters, learning about the weather elements which come together to create these massive storms, the complexities of accurately forecasting their track/strength, and some basic terminology used in meteorology. Slight variations in the final path of a Nor'easter can have a major impact on who gets high winds, snow, sleet or even rain! We examined some of the historically largest Nor'easters and were amazed not only by their intensities but also by the extensive areas of the US impacted by massive snow amounts, power outages and very costly damage. The presenter also shared the basic similarities and differences between Nor'easters and hurricanes, along with some discussion of the various weather models in use.

We had excellent attendance, with approximately 65 people signing in for what turned out to be a very interesting and informative class. I think we all agreed that being an observer at the Mount Washington Observatory is not a job for the fainthearted!

Jim Rutter

Cool Science and COP 26

On Wednesday Jan. 25, 2022, Dr. Jill Lohmeier of UMass Lowell's School of Education, presented to 50 LIRA participants on two subjects: Cool Science and COP 26. Dr. Lohmeier's primary research interest is in evaluation and research in educational programs. The Cool Science program is about educating people outside the classroom to be informed decision makers. Most adults have not had a science class since high school, Climate change is controversial and politicized. Many do not take the time to learn more.

Cool Science engages the public where they may be bored, and on the street to break barriers. That's where Cool Science comes in: using youth art. It is simple, straightforward and engaging.

Cool Science is a K-12 art contest. Each year, three questions about climate change are asked and students address one of the questions in an art poster. This is an out-of-school outreach program, so youth are approached, for example, at Boys' and Girls' Clubs, scout programs, and youth centers. Posters are judged, printed and displayed on busses. This program is now in the Merrimack Valley, Worcester and Kansas City. The youth art posters have proven to be very effective in contributing to the knowledge of bus riders. Check out the winning entries on the website: www.CoolScience.net.

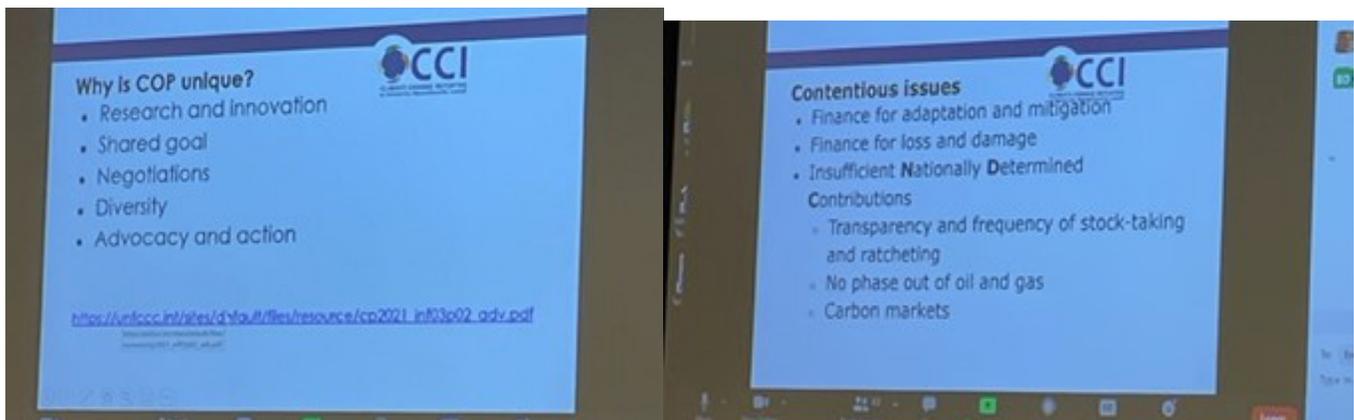


The second half of Dr. Lohmeier's presentation was about her attendance at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom last fall, which ran from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, 2021.

- Secure global net zero emissions by mid-century
- Adapt and protect communities and natural habitats
- Mobilize finance
- Work together to deliver

There were 9,000 representatives and 9,000 academics representing 196 countries! Most countries had the same broad goals, but differing opinions on the ways to achieve them. There were many negotiations talks with limited tickets for attendees. And, of course, there was lots of security—you had to show your badge multiple times to get into the conference areas.

Nancy Pitkin



The Wyeths: An American Artistic Dynasty

On January 19, art historian Jane Oneail gave a rapt audience of over 60 people an understanding of the artistic dynasty of three generations of Wyeth's.

She began with N.C. Wyeth, who started out doing illustrations for the Saturday Evening Post. The post sent him on a trip out west, which inspired him to focus on Western Art for much of his life, and he became known as the greatest painter of outdoor life. He was famous as a book illustrator, having illustrated over 112 books. He and his grandson died just before his 63rd birthday when his car was struck by a train.

His son Andrew, unlike his father, was a fine art artist who had his first major exhibition at the age of 20. Andrew painted works for his father before striking out on his own. He painted in watercolors to differ from his father. Anna Christina Olson, a neighbor, who served as his model, was the subject of Christina's world, which became his most famous painting. He produced over 240 paintings and drawings of German model Helga Testorf, whose picture graced the covers of Time and Newsweek when the existence of the work became public.

Jane finished up her presentation with the life of Andrew's son Jamie, who was an artistic prodigy. Jamie had a quirky sense of humor. He loved Halloween and would do paintings of people with pumpkins on their heads. He also liked to paint animals.

Bob Hanlon

Class Cancellations

For LIRA cancellations or messages, everyone who has email will be notified. We have a phone squad to contact those people who don't use email. When you register and pay your membership dues, look for the box to check if you need a phone call. Feel free to call me with any questions.

Judy Miller
978-256-8466

Member News and Directory Changes

Please note: Laura Boerman has taken on the role of keeping track of member news. If you have any personal news you would like to share with LIRA, or if you know of any members who might appreciate cards or other support from LIRA members, please contact Laura (laura_boerman@yahoo.com).

Congratulations to Suzanne and Robert Gamache on their 50th wedding anniversary in December 2021.

Wishing Fred Wikander a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

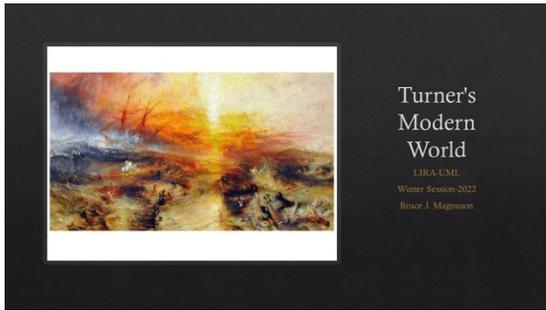
Condolences to Jean Rubinstein on the recent passing of her husband, Harry. Jean has been a member of LIRA for many years and organized our trips to the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Harry and his sister were Holocaust survivors saved by the Kindertransport out of Germany. Harry was a professor of Chemistry at UMass Lowell and a Dean of the Graduate School of Organic Chemistry also at UMass Lowell. He retired as a professor emeritus. A donation to the LIRA scholarship fund was approved by the Executive Board. Following is Jean's response to that:

"It is very meaningful that LIRA has made a contribution to the University in memory of my husband Harry. I am pleased and I know if Harry were alive, he would have been very honored to have this recognition. He was involved with students and with their ability to remain in school and get an education. He worked especially hard to help foreign students and was very involved with all students during his years at Lowell University. He was happy that I was involved with LIRA and thought it to be a fine organization. He was not a joiner, but did come to some things with me when he could and enjoyed those times. His love and hobby with working with glass and fusing kept him very occupied.

Please extend my deep appreciation to the members of LIRA Executive Committee."

Jean

Laura Boerman



Turner's Modern World-2/16/22

LIRA member Bruce Magnuson presented a fascinating session based on the upcoming exhibition at the MFA-Boston, "Turner's Modern World." Bruce explored the many-faceted career of Britain's most famous artist, JMW Turner. Tracing Turner's career along with the changing times he lived in provided context for the many paintings discussed. Being an intrepid traveler and sketching almost non-stop, Turner visited many spots in Britain and Europe and brought those images back to his studio to make some of the most iconic paintings in Western Art. As good as this presentation was, there is no substitute for seeing the actual works of art and hopefully this session inspired the attendees to see the show when it is in Boston from March 27-July 10, 2022.

Bruce Magnuson

Hidden Snowflakes Contest Winner!

Congratulations to **Barbara Murch** who found all the hidden icons in the last newsletter. Nancy won \$25.00 from LIRA! You, too, can be a winner...

Next Contest: Find the Hidden Icons:



Find the three icons buried in this newsletter and send an email to beckybronson241@gmail.com telling me which article each one is in!

A winner will be picked randomly from all correct entries and awarded a prize of \$25.00 from LIRA!

This contest will close on April 1, 2022

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LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
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Spring 2022 Schedule

Please note that all programs will be offered via Zoom.

There is the opportunity to view programs via ZOOM together with others in University Suites 106 (except March 7 -11 and as noted below). For programs listed as hybrid, the presenter will be in person (either in University Suites 106 or Coburn Hall as noted) and the program will also be available via Zoom. Please check your email for the weekly program announcement and for any last-minute changes.

MONDAY

The Irish Identity: Independence, History and Literature

Facilitators: Kimball and Beverly Rudeen*

Four Mondays: March 7 (zoom only), 14,21,28: 10 a.m. - noon.

In this 4-week Great Courses video course featuring Professor Marc C. Connor, LIRA students will learn through Professor Connor's insightful and inspiring lectures the achievements of the Irish people as they struggled to make their land their own. We will start with Michael Collins and the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. In the following two weeks, we will focus on the literature of the period. Irish authors and poets will tell us the story of the Irish people during the twentieth century.

Professor Connor will conclude this course by bringing us into today's Ireland. Please join us for an in-depth look at the Irish Identity, as Yeats termed it, "the indomitable Irishry".

Coordinators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen*

Experiencing Hubble: Exploring the Milky Way

Facilitator: Chris Geggis*

Four Mondays: March 7 (zoom only), 14, 21, 28: 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

One of the wonders of our night sky is the band of stars stretching from horizon to horizon: the Milky Way, our home galaxy. Among the telescopes studying the Milky Way, none has provided a sharper optical view of its stars, star clusters, and nebulae than the Hubble Space Telescope. This course focuses on exploring and understanding our Milky Way Galaxy through the most remarkable Hubble images of its stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galactic environment. Each lecture centers on a specific image from Hubble's third decade whose individual scientific story ties into a better understanding of the galaxy as a whole.

Please note this hybrid program will be offered both in person in University Suites 106 and on Zoom

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

The Sum of Us

Presenters: Lira Diversity Committee members*

Four Mondays: April 4,11,18,25: 10 a.m.–noon



For four consecutive weeks, the Diversity team will address the social and economic costs of racism in America today in a four-part presentation based on the 2021 nonfiction book by Heather McGhee, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs and How We Can Prosper*.

The class covers

- zero-sum thinking and its damaging role in all sectors of American life: education, housing, incarceration and policing, labor, political representation, and the environment
- some potential solutions: what McGee calls “the Solidarity Dividend”

April 4 - Marie-Anne Fernando

- An Old Story: The Zero-Sum Hierarchy
- Racism Drained the Pool (public investment)
- Going Without (education, justice, and healthcare)

April 11 - Steve Buccieri

- Ignoring the Canary (financial discrimination)
- No One Fights Alone (labor organizing)

April 18 - Bruce Magnuson

- Never a Real Democracy (voting rights)
- The Same Sky (environmental racism)

April 25 - Lynn Tyndall

- Living Apart (segregation)
- The Hidden Wound (barriers to progress)
- The Solidarity Dividend (a path forward)

Coordinator: Bruce Magnuson*

Memory? What memory!

Presenter: Dr Arnie Kerzner

Two Mondays: April 4, 11: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

This will be a hybrid class from University Suites 106.

Memory is formally defined as: "the mental processes that enable us to acquire, retain, and retrieve information." One of the most troubling aspects of growing older is how something happens to the "retrieval" part of memory. Although we know this is a so called "normal part of aging", it is still nerve-racking when we forget our best friend's name at the supermarket. Instead, we "fake" it and say, "Hi. It's so nice to see you; how've you been?!"

This presentation will concentrate on the following questions:

- Why does forgetting happen?
- Can we do anything to decrease memory loss?
- Why does our recent memory fade faster than our past memory?
- What simple tests are there to measure your memory?
- How can we accept our memory issues without worrying as much?
- What are the best ways to "Fake It?"

P.S. Remember, you only have significant memory issues when you put a roll of toilet paper in the freezer!!!

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

TUESDAY

Calling All White People - Unpacking Whiteness

Presenter: Winifred Flint*

Four Tuesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 29: 10 a.m. - noon

This sounds weird, doesn't it? Doesn't it seem really impolite to point out race? But it's something we know affects every aspect of our lives, so LIRA is offering this 4-part workshop.

This will be a place to reflect on our whiteness and to gain some knowledge about systemic racism. The format will be "deep listening," so everyone has time to speak without interruption. This is not about blame or guilt. Win Flint has taught this nationally to well-educated seniors and almost all say they have learned facts they had no idea about and more about themselves.

Due to the fact that we want to give all participants time to speak, we are limiting this to 10 participants. There will be a wait list. Attendance at all sessions is encouraged. Contact Win Flint at winifred.flint@gmail.com to sign up.

Every session requires homework - including the first one. It can take half an hour to 2 hours per week. You will get the homework to be ready for session 1 one week before the workshop starts.

Session 1: White Privilege: What is it?

Session 2: Effects of historical racism

Session 3: National origin stories and local racism

Session 4: Allyship, microaggression, and reparations

Please note that this program is Remote Zoom only and only available to registered attendees.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon*

Snapshots of Ancient Rome

Presenter: UML Assistant Professor Jane Sancinito

Four Tuesdays: April 5, 12, 19, 26: 10 a.m.–noon

**This class will be hybrid from: Coburn Hall room 255 April 5, 19, 26
and University Suites 106 April 12**

In this course, we will examine four critical moments and forces of change in Roman history, considering how warfare, religion, and gender roles changed the political, cultural, and economic landscape of the Empire. We will begin with a class on Julius Caesar, studying how the general spent a lifetime testing the limits of the Roman Republic before pushing it over the edge into civil war. In the second lesson, we will look at Rome from an outsider's perspective, analyzing the life of Cleopatra as she struggled to navigate ruling as Pharaoh while Rome continually tried to use her as a pawn in its own political games. The third class will move into the Empire and study both Rome's gender norms and how Roman women shaped the world around them. We will focus on working women, those who moved beyond the home and took up professions, becoming wealthy and prominent figures in their communities. Finally, we will conclude with a class on the rise of Christianity in the Roman world. In this class, we will discuss the rhetoric and realities surrounding Roman persecution and study why this religion was ultimately adopted by the emperor Constantine.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Politics of College Sports

Eight Tuesdays: March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26: 2:00–3:15 p.m. and

Four Thursdays: March 17, 24, April 14, 21: 2:00–3:15 p.m.

Presenters: Professor Jeffrey Gerson with various guests

The Politics of College Sports class is presented as a sequence of interactive Zoom sessions with a solid list of guest speakers, including coaches, athletic directors, conference commissioners, college presidents, former athletes, NCAA officials, economists, attorneys, journalists and business leaders. This class will focus on emerging changes to the rights and conditions under which students take part in college sports. We will investigate whether student athletes are employees of their respective colleges and how students can now maximize their earning potential by taking advantage of their Name, Image and Likeness rights (NIL). We will also investigate how these changes are viewed by the officials who administer these programs on campus.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

WEDNESDAY

Note that Wednesday program can be viewed in Coburn Hall room 255 except for April 20 and 27 where the class can be viewed in University Suites 106

Let's Find Out About Mensa

Presenter: Ian Randal Strock

Wednesday, March 9: 10 a.m.–noon (zoom only)

Ian Randal Strock, author and publisher, holds a national position in the MENSA organization. Ian has previously presented to LIRA a talk on his book *The Presidential Book of Lists*. In this presentation, his thirty-nine-year membership in the MENSA organization gives him lots to talk about. LIRA members will find out about the history, social, cultural, and intellectual interaction this group provides to its members. What are the requirements for joining? How does the international organization work? Join us and find out the answers to what is MENSA.

Coordinators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen*

Video Tour of The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art

Presenters: Museum Staff

Wednesday, March 16: 10 a.m.–noon

This museum on the beautiful Eastern Shore of Maryland holds thrilling exhibits of carved shore birds, beautiful paintings and the story of the Ward brothers, renowned carvers of ducks and other shore birds. Come join LIRA members, as the educational staff at the museum guides us through the galleries and tells us the importance of the Ward Museum's outreach to the public. LIRA members Kim and Bev Rudeen toured the Ocean City, Maryland area this past fall and are bringing this exciting museum to all our members virtually.

Coordinators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen*

Introducing the James Webb Space Telescope

Presenter: Kelly Beatty

Wednesday, March 23: 10 a.m.–noon

This meeting will be hybrid from Coburn Hall room 255

After 25 years and \$9 billion in development, NASA's James Webb Space Telescope rocketed into space in late 2021 and now occupies a "halo orbit" nearly a million miles beyond Earth. This presentation will explore how, beginning this summer, astronomers will use JWST's enormous optical system and state-of-the-art instruments to detect faint infrared (heat-emitting) sources from both the very near and very distant universe. Early scientific goals include identifying the earliest stars and galaxies to form after the Big Bang and to explore the planetary systems of other stars.

Coordinator: James Rutter*

History of the English Music Hall

Presenter: Lynn Feingold

Wednesday, March 30: 10 a.m.–noon

Lynn performs with an English Music Hall Troupe in the Greater Boston area. This is a fully illustrated slideshow presentation outlining the entire history of English Music Hall, from its origins through its glory days to its eventual decline-to its remarkable rebirth! Along with the slides, Lynn will perform some songs! Many of these songs are humorous and have catchy little chorus parts that are so much fun. Lynn sings unaccompanied but has a strong melodic voice.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel*

"The Walls Trembled, Then Fell": The 1860 Pemberton Mill Collapse and its Aftermath

Presenter: UML Distinguished Professor Robert Farrant

Wednesday, April 6: 10 a.m.–noon

This class will be hybrid from Coburn Hall rm 255

On January 10, 1860, the unfathomable happened: at 4:45 p.m., the seven-year-old Pemberton cotton mill, with 700 workers inside, collapsed! Hundreds of reporters and thousands of disaster gawkers descended on the scene, looking for grizzly stories and souvenirs, including body parts, to carry away. Survivors testified that the brick walls trembled, the floors gave way, cast-iron floor-to-ceiling pillars snapped, windows shattered, and ceiling timbers splintered. Ninety-eight workers lost their lives, 302 were injured, some quite severely. What happened to the families of the deceased; the injured? Why did it fall? Who was responsible? Who got blamed? Find out answers to these questions and more on April 6th.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

Beauport: A Dream Realized

Presenter: Mary Woodward

Wednesday, April 13: 10 a.m.–noon

Beauport is the evocative name for a wondrous confection of a house in Gloucester, MA dreamed of and brought to reality by Henry Davis Sleeper. He was one of America's first interior designers, Massachusetts-born and mostly self-taught. A close friend of Isabella Stewart Gardner, he shared her passion for collecting and creating beautiful living spaces. Construction of Beauport was begun in 1907 and would probably still be in a state of re-design and renovation except for his death in 1934. This magnificent sea side "cottage" has been in the care of Historic New England since 1937 and in this illustrated talk, we will uncover some of its mysteries and treasures.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon*

Getting Started With Your Family Story

Presenter: Lynn Finegold

Wednesday, April 20: 10 a.m.–noon

Basic components of this slideshow lecture include Telling Your Story, Genealogy for Beginners, Basics of Preserving the Family Records, with a special section on Preserving the Family's Recipes for the next generation.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel*

The Pandemic Global Economy: Supply Chains, Inflation and Politics

Presenter: UML Emeritus Professor John Wooding

Wednesday, April 27: 10 a.m.–noon

We will have a general discussion about what has changed and why in the global economy since COVID. The focus will be on supply chains, trade, new technologies and the politics of the pandemic.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

THURSDAYS

Great Decisions

Eight Thursdays, 10 a.m.–Noon: March 10 (zoom only), 17, 24, 31 April 7, 14, 21, 28

This will be a mix of zoom only and hybrid, so check the weekly email for latest updates!

On March 31, this program will run from 1 to 3 p.m.

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The discussion group reads the Briefing Book and meets to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. This Spring Semester promises to be one of the best in the last decade. The issues are of the highest priority, literally "ripped from the headlines". Discussion leaders will be reading daily newspapers, listening to news and commentary programs, and revising their PowerPoint slides until the day before class!

You can order a Briefing Book by sending a \$25 check payable to "LIRA Inc" to Steve Buccieri, 63 Abbot Street, Andover, MA 01810. He will mail you a copy of the book.

Biden's Agenda

The new administration in Washington promised to reverse many of the policies of the past administration, especially in foreign policy. How will issues such as climate, the pandemic, and alliances be treated under the Biden administration?

Discussion leader: LIRA member Steve Cerand March 10, 17

Russia

Russia and the United States have many areas of conflict and some possible areas of mutual interest. Arms control, Russian interference in U.S. elections and support of cyberattacks, the status of Ukraine, the fate of opposition politicians in Russia, all continue to be concerning. Critics have often said "the US is playing checkers while Putin is playing three-dimensional chess". At the beginning of March it looks like President Biden and the US have the stronger position. How will the new administration in Washington approach these issues?

Discussion leader: Professor John Wooding March 24, 31

The Quad Alliance

As part of the U.S. pivot to Asia, the United States has been in dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India in an effort to contain China. Recently, the Quad countries held joint naval exercises in the South Pacific. How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

Discussion leader: LIRA member Richard Grove April 7, 14

Climate Change

The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?

Discussion leaders: LIRA members Winifred Flint and Becky Bronson April 21, 28

Coordinator: Richard Grove*

Overview of LIRA

Presenter: Peter Sebelius*

Thursday March 10: 1:00–3:00 p.m. Remote Zoom only

I just joined LIRA; now what? Come to the Overview of LIRA class to learn all about LIRA. This class will cover everything you need to know to get the most out of your LIRA membership and will inform you

about the good things your LIRA membership does for the local community and for UML. You will meet several members of the Executive Council who will explain the breakdown of your membership dues, how to make best use of the LIRA Website, how classes are organized and conducted, how field trips are organized, how to get involved in book and video discussions and, most important, what you can do to help us reach our organizational goals.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

Perennial Gardening

Kathi Gariepy

Thursday: March 31: 10 am - Noon

Perennials are the workhorses of the garden with most coming back year after year. With a little know-how you can keep your garden in bloom for most of the season. We will explore which perennials will work best in your garden and discuss how to keep them in good form. Our presenter, Lifetime Master Gardener Kathi Gariepy, has been active with the Speakers' Bureau of the MMGA, the lead teacher for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the education coordinator for Mass Audubon.

Coordinator: Bob Fesmire*

Civic Education in Schools

Presenter: Professor Patricia Fontaine

Thursday: April 7: 1-3 p.m. This class will be hybrid from Coburn Hall rm 255

In the recent years, there has been a call by state legislatures to increase civic education in schools. The question is why. This session will examine the history of civic education in the US and answer the questions of why we need more civic education in the schools.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

FRIDAY—All Programs Remote Zoom only

Book Discussions

Coordinator: Sheila Pariseau*

Four Fridays: March 18, April 22, May 20, June 17

March 18, 10 a.m.–noon

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee, 2021, 415 pages

Discussion Leader Nancy Pitkin*

April 22, 1–3 p.m. (Please note the time change)

This is How It Always is: A Novel by Laurie Frankel, 2017, 327 pages

Discussion Leader: Laura Boerman*

May 20, 10 a.m.–noon

Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Radden Keefe, 2021, 535 pages

Discussion Leader: Bob Hanlon*

June 17, 10 a.m.–noon

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich, 2021, 386 pages

Discussion Leader: Karen Naka*

Film Discussions

Coordinator: Marie-Anne Fernando*

Three Fridays: March 25, April 22, May 22

March 25, 10 a.m.–noon

The Birdcage

Discussion Leader: Carolyn Walsh*

April 22, 10 a.m.–noon

Nomadland

Discussion Leader: Kirk Freeze*

May 27, 10 a.m.–noon

The Untouchables

Discussion Leader: Marie-Anne Fernando*

* Denotes LIRA member

LIRA's 2022 Calendar

Please note: Remote Zoom Only classes are marked in red

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
February 28	March 1 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports	March 2 10 am to Noon Annual Town Meeting	March 3	March 4
March 7 10 am to Noon The Irish Identity 1 to 3 pm Experiencing Hubble: Exploring the Milky Way	March 8 10 am to Noon Calling All White People – Unpacking Whiteness 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports	March 9 10 am to Noon Let's Find Out About MENSA Ian Randal Strock	March 10 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 pm to 3 pm Overview of LIRA Peter Sebelius	March 11
March 14 10 am to Noon The Irish Identity 1 to 3 pm Experiencing Hubble: Exploring the Milky Way	March 15 10 am to Noon Calling All White People – Unpacking Whiteness 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports	March 16 10 am to Noon Video Tour of the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art Museum Staff	March 17 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of Sports	March 18 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone</i> Heather McGhee
March 21 10 am to Noon The Irish Identity 1 to 3 pm Experiencing Hubble: Exploring the Milky Way	March 22 10 am to Noon Calling All White People – Unpacking Whiteness 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports	March 23 10 am to Noon Introducing the James Webb Space Telescope Kelly Beatty	March 24 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports	March 25 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>The Birdcage</i>
March 28 10 am to Noon The Irish Identity 1 to 3 pm Experiencing Hubble: Exploring the Milky Way	March 29 10 am to Noon Calling All White People – Unpacking Whiteness 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports	March 30 10 am to Noon History of the English Music Hall Lynn Feingold	March 31 10 a.m. - noon Perennial Gardening 1 – 3 p.m. Great Decisions	April 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>April 4 10 am to Noon The Sum of Us 1 to 3 pm Memory? What Memory!</p>	<p>April 5 10 am to Noon Snapshots of Ancient Rome 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports</p>	<p>April 6 10 am to Noon The Walls Trembled, Then Fell UML Dist. Prof. Robert Forrant</p>	<p>April 7 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Civic Education in Schools</p>	<p>April 8</p>
<p>April 11 10 am to Noon The Sum of Us 1 to 3 pm Memory? What Memory!</p>	<p>April 12 10 am to Noon Snapshots of Ancient Rome 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports</p>	<p>April 13 10 am to Noon Beauport: A Dream Realized Mary Woodward</p>	<p>April 14 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports</p>	<p>April 15</p>
<p>April 18 10 am to Noon The Sum of Us</p>	<p>April 19 10 am to Noon Snapshots of Ancient Rome 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sport</p>	<p>April 20 10 am to Noon Getting Started with Your Family Story Lynn Feingold</p>	<p>April 21 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports</p>	<p>April 22 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>Nomadland</i> 1 to 3 pm Book Discussion <i>This is How it Always is</i> Laurie Frankel</p>
<p>April 25 10 am to Noon The Sum of Us</p>	<p>April 26 10 am to Noon Snapshots of Ancient Rome 2 to 3:15 pm Politics of College Sports</p>	<p>April 27 10 am to Noon The Pandemic Global Economy UML Emeritus Prof. John Wooding</p>	<p>April 28 10 am to Noon Great Decisions</p>	<p>April 29</p>
				<p>May 20 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Empire of Pain</i></p>
				<p>May 27 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>The Untouchables</i></p>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				June 17 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Sentence</i> Louise Erdrich