



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



November 2022

Vol. 29 No 4

LIRA Holiday Party 2022

Wednesday December 7
10 a.m. – noon
Coburn Hall, Rm. 255 OR on Zoom

Hear about Winter Intersession offerings!

Participate in the Holiday Raffle!

Hear from Scholarship recipients!

Enjoy the camaraderie of friends!

*Support Community Teamwork with donations of hats, gloves,
and children's books!*



From the President Winter 2023

The LIRA Fall Semester is now concluded. I think we had many exciting and informative sessions this semester. In particular, Frank Talty's Election 2022 class, Professor Farrant's Irish Immigrants in Lowell class and our tour of the Lowell Justice center were excellent presentations. The upcoming Winter Intersession promises to be just as interesting. Intersession is also open to non-LIRA members. If you know anyone who is thinking about joining LIRA, this is the perfect time to bring them to class.

This year's Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 7 from 10:00 a.m. - noon will be a hybrid LIRA Meeting held in Coburn Hall Room 255. UML will provide coffee, tea, water and snacks for the meeting. Parking will be available for members with hang tags in the Wilder Street lot. If you plan to attend and don't have a hang tag, there is a metered lot a little further down on Wilder Street.

During the Holiday Party we will introduce the Winter Intersession, present the LIRA scholarship winners for the coming year and invite them to say a few words. After the break we will hold our Holiday raffle. Remember to bring a raffle donation of consumable items (something you can eat, drink or do) usually an item not more than \$25.00 is preferable. All money raised will go towards LIRA scholarships.

We will also collect donations to give to Community Teamwork, Inc. this year. CTI has requested we bring hats, scarves, mittens and children's books for ages 2 to 11. We will have a collection table at the meeting for CTI items. Note that the table centerpieces will again be made up of books for donation this year.

For those of you attending the meeting on Zoom, we ask that you consider making a cash donation to the Scholarship Committee and/or Community Teamwork should make checks for Scholarship out to UMass Lowell with LIRA Scholarship in the memo line. Mail the check to Janet Redman, 12 Grove St., Chelmsford, MA 01824. To donate to CTI, send a check to Community Teamwork Inc., 155 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA, 01852 or donate online at: <https://www.commteam.org/you-can-help/donate/>.

LIRA needs to fill two very important positions this spring. After serving five years as LIRA Treasurer, Steve Buccieri will not put his name in for re-election this year. Additionally, Bruce Magnuson and Bob Hanlon will be stepping down as co-chairs of the Curriculum Committee. If you have any interest in either position, or just want more information, please contact me or Richard Grove, chairman of the nominating committee.

To all our volunteers from the Fall Semester and the Holiday Party, I want to extend a hearty thank you for all you do and for your generosity in helping to make LIRA an enormous success.

Peter Sebelius

Books, Hats and Gloves

Lira has had a longstanding relationship with Community Teamwork of Lowell, which provides vital services to low-income people. Once again, we are asking our members to bring the following items to our holiday party. Hats and mittens for all age groups are greatly needed. Also, please bring books (hardcovers and paperbacks) for children ages 2 to 11. All items will be given to Cynthia Perrone, the volunteer specialist of Community Teamwork, who will distribute them to the families who will benefit. If you need further information, please contact Kathy Forstey at k3and2@netscape.net.

Kathy Forstey

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



The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2021; the deadline for news items is **February 15, 2021**. Please submit all member news to Laura Boerman: laura_boerman@yahoo.com

All other LIRA news items should be emailed to: beckybronson241@gmail.com

Becky Bronson

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

2023 Winter Intersession

The 2023 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 general public is invited to all Winter Intersession programs.

All Classes will be on Zoom. For Hybrid classes, the presenter will appear in person at University Suites 106. University Suites 106 will be available when possible for those wanting to get together to watch a remote presenter on Zoom. Please read the weekly email announcements for any changes.

For the winter term, LIRA is hosting 5 local self-published authors who will discuss various aspects of their experiences writing and publishing novels. Some of these presenters will be on Zoom and some in person. Details about that will be in the weekly emails prior to the programs during the semester.

Monday Morning Book Musings

The following programs will run for 4 Mondays:

Monday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m. – noon (Hybrid)

Writing and Publishing Fiction or Memoir

Presenter: Dale Phillips

This class will present information and techniques for helping people finish either a personal memoir or a work of fiction, and what to do with the result when they have completed a work.

Stephen King was Dale's college writing teacher, and since then Dale has published the Zack Taylor mystery series, other novels, over 70 short stories, story collections, poetry, and non-fiction. He's found time to appear on stage, television, in an independent feature film, and compete on Jeopardy (losing in a spectacular fashion). He co-wrote and acted in a short political satire film. He's traveled to all 50 states, Mexico, Canada, and through Europe.

Monday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m. - noon (Hybrid; 2 presenters)

The Book of Saint Albans: The Process of Translating from Middle English to Modern English

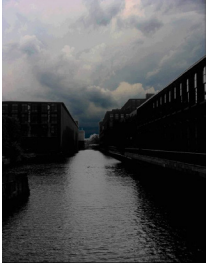
Presenter: Sarah Brunson

The Book of Saint Albans was printed in 1486, and is one of the first works that began the flood of printed literature in English after the advent of the printing press. England's voracious readership created a demand for many types of books, and such a demand allows us now to see what life was like during that time, told in the voices of that time. This presentation on *The Book of Saint Albans* will cover my process of encountering the scans of the work, learning how to read the manuscript print, transcribing the Middle English, and translating it into modern English. The reasoning behind and benefit of such preservative efforts will also be discussed, and special focus will be given to how anyone with a little time, an internet connection, and interest in the subject can do projects like this.

S.E. Brunson writes short stories and novels in a wide variety of genres and styles, ranging from academic translations of medieval manuscripts to urban fantasy novels to a gruesome choose-your-own-adventure story for adults. She has worked as a technical writer, editor, and tutor for the past twenty years with a wide variety of interests and professional experiences. She lives near Boston with her spouse and two cats, and in her downtime she draws, repurposes ancient legal codes, does her best with Middle English and Latin and Anglo-Norman French, and plays the bass recorder. You can find out more at: [Sarah Brunson's wixsite](#).

Why Does the City of Lowell Exist? Fact and Fantasy

Presenter: Richard Hollman



People often ask, where do authors get the ideas for their stories? In this case, the inspiration for the story was also an inspiration to write fiction in the first place, something I had previously never considered doing. That inspiration was the history of the city of Lowell. In this presentation, I will review the events, beginning in ancient geological history, which resulted in the existence of the city. Looking at these events in a particular way suggests a hidden world of superhuman beings, and an eons-long struggle with implications far beyond the city itself.

Richard Hollman is a PhD physicist, recently retired from a long career in the semiconductor industry. Writing science fiction is one of a number of interests he developed along the way, and which he continues to pursue. His titles include the sci-fi trilogy, *A Lowell Story*, two collections of short stories, and a soon-to-be-released novel *Sanctuary*.

Coordinator: Becky Bronson*

Monday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. - noon (Hybrid; 2 presenters)

Reading to Meet Your Needs: Fiction that Feeds You

Presenter: Laura Feldofi

Whether it is the cozy mystery you like to slip into after a long day or the latest book from your favorite author, we all drift towards fiction that we enjoy. But there is a case to be made that reaching past the familiar to the novel has more benefits than just keeping up with your book club's reading list: diversifying your fiction intake can make your life not only more interesting, but provide you with plot options in your own life that you haven't imagined. Join me for a conversation about fictional narratives: how to choose them, how to discuss them, and how to use them.

Laura Fedolfi is the author of the books, *Revealing Hannah: The Greek Myth Series*. She lives in Chelmsford, MA and you can learn more about her books at www.revealinghannah.com.

Online Gambling: The Facts Behind the Fiction

Presenter: Becky Bronson

What drives an author to write fiction vs. non-fiction? As a reader, do you believe you can learn from fiction or are you biased toward thinking that all fiction is simply creative work, whereas non-fiction reveals "the truth." In this presentation, Becky will discuss her motivation for writing a fictional story about a topic that many people know very little about. She will talk about the importance of research in writing novels, and how fiction can often reveal truths about life in a way that is more palatable to readers than non-fiction. As part of this presentation, Becky will detail some of the facts she discovered while researching her latest novel, *Trapped in Pairadice*.

Becky is the author of two books: *When North Becomes South* and *Trapped in Pairadice*. You can learn more about her writing here: www.beckybronson.com

Coordinator: Becky Bronson*

Feb. 13: Book Appraisals (Hybrid)

Presenters: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen*

What is your book worth?

"Gold in Your Attic", or "Book Collecting for Fun and Profit" are a couple of titles that make us wonder if the book passed down from Great Grandpa is a really a treasure or a worthless, dusty knickknack. LIRA members Kim and Bev Rudeen have been book collectors, used book dealers and lovers of the printed page for over 40 years. They will use their knowledge to help you find out just what the book that you have been wondering about is worth.

They will be in person at University Suites on Monday February 13th to appraise your book. They will also be showing some interesting videos about the world of book collecting. If you cannot attend in person, they will do their best to provide you a virtual appraisal through the Zoom meeting.

Coordinators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen*

Wednesday Programs

The Geoscience, Critical Minerals, Carbon Remediation Nexus

Presenter: Professor Nelson Eby, Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UMass Lowell

Wednesday, January 4: 10 a.m. – noon (Hybrid)

Green technologies and modern technologies in general rely on what are called *critical minerals*. The demand for these minerals far exceeds the current supply. In many cases the source and supply chain for these minerals is controlled by governmental entities that are of questionable character and/or that are not considered "friends" of the United States. This presentation will consider the sources and political considerations in the acquisition of these minerals. The presentation will also consider the role of the geosciences in the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

UML NERVE Center Mobility Research Study

Presenters: Professor Holly Yanco, Alexander Wilkinson, and Amelia Sinclair

Wednesday, January 11: 10 a.m. – noon (Hybrid)

Professor Holly Yanco and student researchers from the UML NERVE center will present their findings from the UMass Lowell Human-Robot Interaction Lab research into intuitive ways to control a robotic arm mounted to a mobility scooter for senior citizens. LIRA members and many other senior citizens from the Lowell vicinity participated in this study during the fall 2022.

The UMass Lowell NERVE Center is an interdisciplinary robotics testing, research, and training facility that evaluates robotic capabilities, human performance, and human-robot interaction. The mission of the NERVE Center is to improve the development of robot systems by enabling evaluation across many domains including industrial automation, exoskeletons and wearable robots, and disaster response.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

Human Interest Stories from Antietam

Scott Mingus

Wednesday, January 18: 10 a.m. – noon (Zoom with remote presenter)



The 1862 Battle of Antietam was one of the most consequential battles of the Civil War, author Scott Mingus will present: *Human Interest Stories from Antietam*: Short stories and anecdotes from the soldiers and civilians as the two armies march to Sharpsburg, invade Maryland, fight the battle, and then march back to Virginia.

Scott has written 28 Civil War and Underground Railroad books and numerous articles for Gettysburg Magazine and other historical journals. He has appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PCN, and other TV networks. Mingus writes a blog on the Civil War history of York County, PA, where he lives (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball).

Coordinator: Bruce Magnuson*

Construction and Development of a Fusion Reactor by Commonwealth Fusion Systems, Devens, MA

Presenter: Erica Salazar, Magnetic Systems Lead, Commonwealth Fusion Systems

Wednesday, January 25: 10 a.m. – noon (Zoom only, no University Suites viewing)

Erica Salazar, Magnetic Systems Lead at Commonwealth Fusion Systems will present an overview of the company's plans to construct and demonstrate a fusion tokamak in Massachusetts. Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS) has the fastest, lowest cost path to commercial fusion energy. CFS is collaborating with MIT to leverage decades of research combined with new groundbreaking high-temperature superconducting (HTS) magnet technology. HTS magnets will enable compact fusion power plants that can be constructed faster and at lower cost. The mission is to deploy fusion power plants to meet global decarbonization goals as fast as possible. CFS has assembled a team of leaders in tough tech, fusion science, and manufacturing with a track record of rapid execution. Supported by the world's leading investors, CFS is uniquely positioned to deliver limitless, clean, fusion power to combat climate change.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

Her Majesty's A Pretty Nice Girl...

Presenter: UMass Lowell Professor Emeritus John Wooding

Wednesday, February 1: 10 a.m. – noon (Hybrid)

A conversation about the British monarchy, British political culture and the collapse of traditional norms and values. We will explore the formal and informal roles of the monarchy in the British political system and discuss the breakup of the British state and the possibility of a republic of England.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

Sancho and Clarchies: Black Men of Letters and Music

Presenter: Susan de Guardiola

Wednesday, February 8: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Zoom with remote presenter)

Please note the time change for this program

In the late 18th and early 19th century, two remarkable Black men, born into slavery, achieved liberty and success in England and France. Ignatius Sancho, born on a slave ship, became a noted abolitionist, writer, and composer in late 18th century England. Julien Clarchies, born a slave in the Caribbean, became a famed musician, composer, and dance caller in Napoleonic Paris. For Black History Month, social dance historian Susan de Guardiola will recount the life stories of these two accomplished men and discuss their contributions to music and dance.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel*

Ending Generational Poverty-the evolution of the Boys & Girls Club since 1900

Presenter: Joe Hungler, Lowell Boys and Girls Club

Wednesday February 15: 10 a.m. – noon (Hybrid)

Learn how the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell evolved from the third floor of a building on Thorndike Street to a building on Dutton to its current location on Middlesex St. You will see the change in focus responding to the needs of the community from cane chairs to woodworking to robotics and career development. Hear about the exciting plans to double the capacity of the current facility and the vision to end generational poverty. You will get to see the design work of Club alumnus Patrick Tighe, known as one of the top 50 architects in the country.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

ISLAND LORE-
SHIPWRECKS,
MAYHEM,
LIGHTHOUSES &
PHOTOGRAPHY
OFF THE NEW
ENGLAND COAST
Stories from Thacher
Island, the Isles of
Shoals and Boon
Island

Bruce J. Magnuson



Island Lore-Shipwrecks, Mayhem, Lighthouses, and Photography off the New England Coast.

Presenter: Bruce Magnuson*

Wednesday, February 22: 10 a.m. – noon (Zoom with remote presenter)

Take a trip up the New England coast from Massachusetts to Maine and explore some of the many stories associated with this region. Focusing on Thacher Island, the Isles of Shoals and Boon Island, photographer Bruce Magnuson will interweave tales from these fascinating locales with photographs from trips to these islands.

Based in Chelmsford, MA photographer and LIRA member Bruce Magnuson has been exploring the New England region for decades. By incorporating art, history and photography into his presentations, he gives a unique take on this region we call home.

He has had photographs shown at many local venues including the Griffin Museum in Winchester, MA, The New England School of Photography, the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford, MA, the Chelmsford Public Library and a show of his infrared images at the Acton Library.

Friday Programs

Book Discussions – Zoom only, no University Suites viewing

Coordinator: Sheila Pariseau*

Four Fridays: Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17

December 16, 10 a.m. – noon

Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson, 2022, 385 pages

Discussion Leader: Steve Buccieri*

January 20, 10 a.m. – noon

The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris, 2021, 368 pages

Discussion Leader: Bob Hanlon*

February 17, 10 a.m. – noon

Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and its urgent lessons for our own by Eddie Glaude Jr., 2020, 272 pages

Discussion Leader: Susan Lemire*

March 17, 10 a.m. - noon

The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton, 1920

Discussion Leader: Kirk Frazee*

Film Discussions – Zoom only, no University Suites viewing

Coordinator: Marie-Anne Fernando*

Three Fridays: Dec. 9, Jan. 27, Feb. 24

December 9, 10 a.m. – noon

Entre les Murs ("The Class" in English)

Discussion Leader: Marie-Anne Fernando*

January 27, 10 a.m. – noon

If Beale Street Could Talk (2018)

Discussion Leader: Carolyn Walsh*

February 24, 10 a.m. – noon

The Imitation Game (2014)

Discussion Leader: Richard Grove*

* Indicates LIRA member

LIRA's Winter 2023 Calendar

Please note: These are Zoom and Hybrid classes.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 5	December 6	December 7 10 am to Noon Holiday Party	December 8	December 9 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>Entre les Murs</i>
December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Black Cake</i> by Charmaine Wilkerson
December 31	January 3	January 4 10 am to Noon The Geoscience, Critical Minerals, Carbon Remediation Nexus	January 5	January 6
January 9	January 10	January 11 10 am to Noon UML NERVE Center Mobility Research Study	January 12	January 13
January 16	January 17	January 18 10 am to Noon Human Interest Stories From Antietam	January 19	January 20 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Sweetness of Water</i> by Nathan Harris

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>January 23 10 am to Noon Writing and Publishing Fiction or Memoir</p>	<p>January 24</p>	<p>January 25 10 am to Noon Construction of a Fusion Reactor by Commonwealth Fusion Systems</p>	<p>January 26</p>	<p>January 27 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i></p>
<p>January 30 10 am to Noon The Book of St. Albans and Why Does Lowell Exist?</p>	<p>January 31</p>	<p>February 1 10 am to Noon Her Majesty's A Pretty Nice Girl</p>	<p>February 2</p>	<p>February 3</p>
<p>February 6 10 am to Noon Reading to Meet Your Needs and Online Gambling</p>	<p>February 7</p>	<p>February 8 1 to 3 pm Sancho and Clarchies: Black Men of Letters and Music</p>	<p>February 9</p>	<p>February 10</p>
<p>February 13 10 am to Noon Book Appraisals</p>	<p>February 14</p>	<p>February 15 10 am to Noon Ending Generational Poverty</p>	<p>February 16</p>	<p>February 17 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Again: James Baldwin's America</i> by Eddie Glaude</p>
<p>February 20</p>	<p>February 21</p>	<p>February 22 10 am to Noon Island Lore-Shipwrecks, Meyham-Photography- New England Coast</p>	<p>February 23</p>	<p>February 24 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>The Imitation Game</i></p>
				<p><u>March 17</u> 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Age of Innocence</i> by Edith Wharton</p>