



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



March 2018

Vol. 25 No. 1

Spring will be MOST welcome along
with our new Spring Session!

*Join us for the Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2018*

10 AM to Noon

*Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from the Tsongas Parking Lot*

*Guest Speaker, Professor John Wooding, UMass Lowell
Come hear about our new Spring Schedule,
sign up for classes and have some refreshments.*



Details for Town Meeting

On Wednesday, March 7, the Town Meeting will be held at Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot at the Tsongas Center to Alumni Hall. The first shuttle will leave at 9 a.m. **sharp** and return for a second trip at 9:30 a.m. **sharp**. The return to the Tsongas parking lot will leave shortly after the end of the meeting.

If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food for refreshments (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be greatly appreciated.

If you are not able to attend the Town Meeting and wish to sign up for courses, please ask someone to do it for you. If you are signing up for a trip at the Town Meeting, payment is required at that time. Otherwise, check the schedule for the deadline to sign up and send your check.

Hope to see you all there!



Professor Wooding Speaking about Brexit

On June 23, 2016, a new word entered our vocabulary: Brexit. Brexit is a term for the potential or hypothetical departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union. At our Town Meeting on March 7 we will hear about what the potential departure of Great Britain from the European Union could mean from Professor John Wooding, College of Fine Arts and Humanities, Political Science Department. Professor Wooding is a political scientist by training and his major area of research and expertise includes the politics of occupational health and safety and environmental regulation, international political economy and the politics of developed countries.

Nancy Pitkin



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Notes about the Spring Session

All classes are meeting at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA. If the location changes, you will be notified by email or phone.

Classes begin on March 12. Art & Music goes to the Boston Symphony on March 29, so Thursday's Great Decisions class is on Wednesday, March 28. The Story of the Bible class doesn't begin until March 20. There are no classes on Patriot's Day, Monday, April 16.

Parking for the Tsongas Center is in the lot to the right of the building. Parking for University Suites is either in the East parking garage across from the Campus Recreation Center on Pawtucket Street or the Perkins lot at the bottom of Riverwalk Way. You will need your UMass Lowell ID to get into the garage and the Perkins lot. Make sure to use your hangtag wherever you park!

All classes are open to all LIRA members. If you are going to any of the tours in the Art & Music program, you must sign up for those and pay when you sign up. It is not necessary to sign up for those Art & Music programs that are in a classroom.

Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2018 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

Sunday, March 4, 2:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Penny Colman – “Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: A Friendship That Changed the World”

Tuesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Marcia Estabrook – “Three Mill Girls”

Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Dr. Gray Fitzsimons, Dr. Patricia Fontaine, and Kristin Gallas – “Immigrants, Refugees, and the Quest for Equality of Education: Lowell’s Separate Irish School System and Its Legacy”

Tuesday, March 27, 11:45 a.m. – O’Leary Library
Gururaj” Desh” Deshpande – “The Power of Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century”



LIRA member Connie Lanseigne-Case speaks with author David Brody after his discussion of his theory of European explorers in North America who pre-date Columbus.

They Arrived Before Columbus

David Brody, an attorney by profession, made his case to LIRA members on January 10, 2018 at an intersession presentation. Using evidence such as Runic markings on stones, a stone tower in Newport, RI that may have been built by medieval Scottish Knights Templar, and other artifacts that have been unearthed that seem to support his theory, Brody kept the attention of his audience and encouraged questions and comments. Several of Brody's books were available for purchase and signing at the end of the presentation.

Suzanne Gamache

The Rebirth of Lowell

The first Winter Intersession program for 2018 was on January 3 and it didn't snow and it wasn't icy. We met in University Suites, at 10:00 for the program, **The Rebirth of Lowell**, with Craig Thomas who is currently Director of Real Estate Development at Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) in Lowell. Craig worked previously for the city of Lowell's Planning and Development Department and has a degree from UMass Lowell in Regional Economic Sustainably Development, RESD, which is where I met him.

Craig discussed the urban renewal process in Lowell – where we meet in University Suites, was at one time, homes and mills that were cleared for “Urban Renewal” - under the “if you build it, they will come” thinking. A mall was actually planned for this area.

About 50 LIRA members and guests participated in the exercise about how a project is adopted by the city. A development is planned by the builder, presented to the various city planning boards – usually the zoning board, but also the Conservation Commission, and other city boards, and then to the city council. Then the City Council voted whether to proceed with the builder's project!

Thank you to all who participated and a huge thank you to Craig, who walked over to our meeting from his office! Think he might be a believer in Livable Walkable Cities.

Nancy Pitkin

Lowell Walks 2018

We're busy formulating the schedule for this summer's edition of Lowell Walks. In the meantime, here are some springtime events to put on your schedule from Dick Howe's Week In Review, February 11.

Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 1 pm – I'll lead a City Hall Monuments walk as part of Lowell's ArtWeek celebration. The tour will begin at Lowell National Historical Park visitor center at 246 Market Street and will visit the many monuments and public works of art in the vicinity of Lowell City Hall. This walk is free, will last 90 minutes, and open to everyone.

Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 1 pm – Repeat of City Hall Monuments walk (see above for description).

Friday, May 11, 2018 at 1 pm – Lowell Cemetery tour, begins at Lawrence Street gate and lasts 90 minutes. Free.

Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 10 am – Lowell Cemetery tour, begins at Lawrence Street Gate and lasts 90 minutes. Free.

Email Problem Fixed

My email problems are fixed! Gmail didn't like me sending out over one hundred emails at a time. I split the list in half and have not had a problem since then. If anyone is having a problem receiving them, please let me know.

Jeri Durant

Holiday Party 2017

It was a full house and the weather cooperated! President Richard Grove welcomed all our guests and thanked all those that helped to make the party a success. Thanks to Debbie Sebelius and her team for setting up the room and adding a Chili and Snack Mug Set to each table – something for those cold winter nights! We had a delicious array of goodies that covered two long tables. Thanks to Bonnie Heines for providing everyone with lanyards for our name tags. No more pins! Suzanne Gamache reviewed what would be coming up in our Winter Intersession – little did we know that so many would have to be cancelled! Richard gave many “thank-yous” to all the facilitators, presenters, professors and coordinators of our fall semester.

Janet Redman and Deanne Sferrino, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee, and John Mamalis awarded the four \$1500 scholarships as described in an article in this newsletter. Representatives from Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell thanked us for all our donations of hats, mittens and books. Thanks to Terri Munson for coordinating this effort.

Our Consumable Auction raised \$555 for the Scholarship Fund – the most ever! Thanks to Sheila Pariseau for running the auction. Sheila had many helpers passing out the prizes – thanks to Jackie Carr, Kathy Forstey, Marge Nardini, Bob Pariseau and Esther Wikander.

Thanks to all for their contributions of food, consumable auction items, buying raffle tickets and donations of books, hats and mittens. It was a great party and best of all – no snow! Below is a collage of the party from photos taken by the UMass Lowell photographer and Jeri Durant.



Scholarship Awards

Before we acknowledged and awarded scholarships at the holiday party in December, a moment of silence was observed remembering Bill Terris. Bill was the past Chairman of the Scholarship Committee and devoted to helping students.

The Scholarship Committee thanked the LIRA membership for their very generous donations to the Scholarship Fund and the UML Relations Department staff for their guidance and help in making the large number of applications and scholarship selection process run smoothly.

Janet Redman, John Mamalis and Dee Sferrino introduced the four outstanding recipients of the LIRA Scholarships: Clinton Strong (Mechanical Engineering), Dylon Lambert (Criminal Justice), Anna Barbeau (Bio-technology & Psychology) and Alexandra Adler (Nutritional Science). The students were awarded certificates in acknowledgement of their scholarship before each spoke to our members. Each student met the criteria of maintaining a 3.0+ GPA and participating in community outreach at the University and in greater Lowell. They were humble about their very diverse accomplishments and outreach, and grateful to receive our support and meet our members.

The Scholarship Committee: Janet Redman and Dee Sferrino - Co-Chairs, Simone Allard, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie, Dotty Morris and Barbara Murch.



Scholarship winners and Scholarship Committee



**Clinton Strong
and
Janet Redman**



**Dylon Lambert
and
John Mamalis**



**Anna Barbeau
and
Deanne Sferrino**



**Alexandra Adler
and
John Mamalis**

Remembering Russ MacLeod



Long-time LIRA member, Russ MacLeod, passed away on Wednesday, January 10. Russ was a member of the Curriculum Committee, he taught courses on robotics and Spanish history, and he coordinated scheduling and transportation for LIRA. A donation of \$100 was given to the Scholarship Fund in his name.

We learned that he loved being with his family, whether it be a barbecue, a day of skiing, watching his children and grandchildren play sports and family get-togethers for the holidays. Some time ago, I learned that he often went to Ocean Park, Maine where my family has been going for over fifty years. Never did see him there! Over the last few years, it has been a difficult task to get classrooms for LIRA, and he worked hard to get them for us. He will be missed.

Jeri Durant

Russ MacCleod and I were together for a few years in the exercise program run by students from the UMass Lowell PT program. We often spoke during the frequent but all too brief hydration breaks the students allowed us. I learned that Russ had played hockey as a defenseman for BU and had refereed college and high school hockey until age 69. The students would have us walk backwards as a warm-up and to improve balance. I was awkward; Russ was masterful.

John McCarthy

A portion of his obituary follows:

A. Russell MacLeod, II, 82, of Chelmsford, passed away on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at his home. He was the beloved husband of Ellen (Conant) MacLeod.

He was born in Lowell on May 28, 1935 and was a son of the late Alan R. and Elizabeth (Flemings) MacLeod.

Russ graduated from Winchester H.S. in 1953 and was a veteran of the [United States Navy](#). He was an accomplished student and a lifelong learner, earning an Associate's Degree in Science from Boston University in 1961 on a full hockey scholarship and an Associate's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lowell Tech in 1965. Russ later received both a BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology from the University of Lowell and a Masters of Management Science Degree in Manufacturing Engineering from UMass Lowell. He was also an adjunct professor at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. He retired from a long engineering career after having the privilege of helping to develop many advances in technology including the Bowmar Brain, the Reflex Watch and Frogger.

Russ was a board member of TABCOM (American Baptist Churches of MA), the Mass American Baptist Investment Trust, and The Pines in Ocean Park, Maine. He was an active member of the First United Baptist Church and LIRA (Learning in Retirement Assoc.).

Also a hockey enthusiast, Russ played semi-professional hockey for the Lowell Chiefs, was a youth hockey coach with the Chelmsford Youth Hockey Association and a referee.



The Annual Meeting will be held on May 16, 2017. The Summer Intersession begins on Wednesday, May 30, 2017.

Visit to the Boston Public Library

On Wednesday, January 31, a group of 44 people went on LIRA's bus trip to the Boston Public Library to take the library's Art and Architecture tour. We had two excellent tour guides that showed us around the library. Our 10 a.m. tour started in the vestibule just inside the entrance with a view of three beautiful bronze doors created by Danial Chester French. We then entered into the beautiful marble entrance hall. We continued up the main staircase to see the two great twin lions by Louis Saint-Gaudens on pedestals half way up the staircase. On the second floor we saw the Puvis de Chavannes gallery with its stunning murals. We continued on into the Abby room to view the richly colored murals titled "The Quest of the Holy Grail" by Edwin Austin Abby. We also got to enter a huge majestic reading room called Bates Hall. Continuing on to the third floor, we entered the Sargent Gallery with its beautiful murals by John Singer Sargent. Returning to the ground floor we went outside into the courtyard to view the once controversial sculpture of mother and child by Frederick MacMonnies. We ended our tour in the new remodeled Johnson Building. After our tour, many chose to have lunch at the library's cafés and other restaurants around Copley Square. We boarded our bus back to Chelmsford at 12:30p.m. Most everyone seemed to have enjoyed the bus trip and tour.

Bob Hanlon



Photos taken by Bob Fesmire, Bob Hanlon and Barbara Murch



Time for a Change

The membership directory was emailed to you in October. Please make the following changes to your membership list to keep your copy current.

New Members:

Diane Baker
55 Virginia Avenue
Lowell, MA 01852
978-337-2580
Email: dianebaker515@gmail.com

John Teehan
275 Westford Road
Tyngsborough, MA 01879
978-649-7384
Email: teehee51@verizon.net

Cassandra & Mark Goldwater
726 Andover Street
Lowell, MA 01852
978-455-8828
Cassandra Cell: 781-789-8538
Cassandra Email: csgoldwater@gmail.com
Mark Cell: 781-718-5456
Mark Email: mgoldwat@gmail.com

New Address:

Toby Hodes
Edgewood
575 Osgood St.
Apartment #7509
North Andover, MA 01845
978-984-7645

Judy Huber
88 Prescott Street Unit 11
Lowell, MA 01851
978-323-9059
Cell: 781-718-8104
Email: huberjudy180@gmail.com

Email changes:

Jacqueline Dawson: Jackie.26dickens@gmail.com
Judy Miller: judith.r.miller29@gmail.com

Rosalyn Tavanis
874 Wellman Avenue Unit 874
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
978-319-9451
Cell: 978-995-5145
Email: rosalyntavanis@yahoo.com

Member News

We are saddened to learn that we have lost one of our most valuable members. Russ MacLeod, who passed away on Jan 10, served ably on our curriculum committee for many years. We will miss him dearly and offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

Gerry Miller is making progress recuperating from a fall suffered in January.

Carol Cannistraro is doing well after undergoing corrective eye surgery in February.

Please contact me if you know of any member who would appreciate receiving a card from LIRA.

simone32allard@gmail.com - tele [603-943-7527](tel:603-943-7527).

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library Friday afternoon Lecture Series is jointly sponsored by LIRA. Several of the lectures are on subjects from LIRA's Great Decisions foreign policy discussions.

Friday March 9, 1:00 PM

Russia's Foreign Policy presented by Keith West. Keith West is a debate coach and he also leads a Great Decisions discussion group at the Wilmington Public Library.

Friday April 13, 1:00 PM

China and America, The New Geopolitical Equation presented by Dr. Shehong Chen, a professor at UMass Lowell. The talk will use some numbers regarding China and the United States to highlight their respective positions in the world today. The emphasis of the talk, however, will be on the "soft" side of things: culture, traditions and values, and popular attitudes and ways of life.

Friday May 11, 1:00 PM

Media Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights presented by Jennifer Whitten-Woodring, Associate Professor of Political Science at UMass Lowell. Her research focuses on the causes and effects of media freedom and the role of media in repression and dissent.

Check the library's website for more detailed information.

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

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. A hard copy of the newsletter will NOT be mailed to you unless you have contacted Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com. The hard copy list from last year is still in effect so there is no need to tell me again. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically.

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.aspx



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2018; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2018. Please remember that the coordinators are now responsible for getting someone to write an article about their program, if you want something to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be given to me at any time before the deadline.

Jeri Durant

2018 Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee this year are Bob Hanlon, Toby Hodes and Carol McCarthy. All LIRA officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) serve one-year terms and may be reelected. We will be electing a new slate of officers at the May Annual Meeting. If you wish to nominate a candidate for any of these positions, please let the nominating committee know as soon as possible.

Richard Grove

Newsletter Committee

Geraldine Durant, Editor	jeridurant@gmail.com
Marge Nardini, Layout & Production	mnard1008@verizon.net
Charlotte Evans, Calendar & Distribution	chrsnave@aol.com
Simone Allard, Member News	simone32alard@gmail.com

Spring 2018 Schedule

Registration will take place at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 10:00 AM in Alumni Hall, 84 University Ave, Lowell MA 01854

The 2018 Spring Study Groups will meet on campus at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell.

Parking for on campus programs is in the garage directly across the street from the Rec Center, in the Perkins Parking lot and in the parking lot at the Tsongas Arena. Your ID is needed to enter the garage and the Perkins lot. **Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.**

Location of classes will sometimes change so watch for announcements.

MONDAY

Math Café

6 Mondays, 10 a.m.-Noon: March 12, 19, April 2, 9, 23, 30

This course will feature a leisurely survey for the average person of selected topics in mathematics. There is no prerequisite other than the spirit of inquiry.

We will take a broad overview approach to math, covering topics such as these:

- Is math an intrinsic human capability, or is it acquired?
- How did the concepts of math arise and change over time?
- Is humankind the only animal species that gives evidence of math capabilities?
- What role does math play in the sciences?
- Is "logic" an aspect of math? What is mathematical "rigor"?

Examples of mathematical thinking will be used to shed light on three fundamental concepts: number, shape, and reasoning.

Presenter: Alan Friedman* Coordinator: Peter Sebelius*

US History 1870-1970--Reconstruction to Civil Rights

7 Mondays, 1 -3 p.m: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 23, 30

During the semester we will take a careful look at U.S. history from the end of the Civil War to the height of the civil rights movement in 1970. This 100-year look at our history would include a look at Reconstruction after the Civil War, the Gilded Age, Populism and Progressivism, two world wars, the Great Depression and the New Deal and the civil rights and women's movements.

Presenter: Bob Farrant Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

TUESDAY

Shakespeare: *Hamlet*

8 Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 13, 30, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1

To be or not to be a student in the Frank Carroll's Hamlet class—that is the question. Many have heard of Frank Carroll's gift for teaching Shakespeare. This is your opportunity to experience his class with Shakespeare's most popular play.

Hamlet has everything--murder, betrayal, innocent young love, a vow of revenge to a mysterious ghost--and that's just Act I. Learn why every actor in the world covets the title role. Sit on the edge of your seat (spoiler alert) as one by one every character dies. Despite all the bloodshed and anguish in Hamlet, you'll find yourself chuckling at Frank's side stories of Lowell's past, the latest doings of the Cambridge Ladies, the history of the Jesuits, Irish folklore, the poetry of A. E. Houseman, Robert Frost, and Emily Dickenson, and much more. Frank's stories and poetry readings are the icing on the Shakespeare cake.

The text will be displayed so there is no need to bring a copy of the book. Just come, sit back, and enjoy the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

Facilitator: Frank Carroll* Coordinator: Terri Munson*

The Story of the Bible: Part 2

7 Tuesdays, 1 – 3 p.m: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1

We will continue with our study of the history of the Bible, the world's most consistently best-selling book since the invention of the printing press. This semester we will begin by looking at how the Bible was interpreted in Medieval Christianity and follow its changes, development and influence through the centuries to its current place in contemporary Judaism and Christianity.

Because 2018 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, a significant occurrence in the history of the western world, religion and the Bible, we will have a special guest at our first meeting on March 20th. Pastor Imogene Stulken, Protestant Campus Minister at UMass Lowell, will be with us to talk about the significance of this important event which led to the Reformation and profound changes in Europe, the Catholic Church and the Bible.

While it is not necessary to have participated in the earlier classes, anyone who wants to catch up with the material we covered then can find an excellent set of notes compiled by Jesse Heines at his website: <https://jesseheines.com> and click on the LIRA link.
Facilitator: Toby Hodes* Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

WEDNESDAY

7 Wednesdays, March 14, 21, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2
1 Thursday, March 29

See separate schedule for Art and Music

THURSDAY

Great Decisions

8 sessions: 7 Thursdays, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 15, 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26, and May 3
1 Wednesday: March 28

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Two weekly two-hour sessions explore each topic in depth. 2018 is a time of dramatic policy changes by the Trump administration. Great Decisions topics for the spring are: Waning of Pax Americana, Russia's Foreign Policy, China's Geopolitics, and Media and Foreign Policy.

Briefing books are available for \$20.00.
Facilitator: Richard Grove*

The United States Congress: History and Contemporary Issues.

4 Thursdays, 1 – 3 p.m.: April 12, 19, 26, May 3

This course is offered in a year when the entire House of Representatives and one third of the United States Senate are up for election. That election will determine the balance of power in the United States government for the next two years. We will look at the origins, powers and functions of Congress over time, and finish up with a look at the current state of the Congress and a taste of the impending election of a new member from the Third Congressional District here in Massachusetts.

Presenter: Frank Talty Coordinator: Sally Coulter*

FRIDAY

Book Discussion

Do you like to read fiction or perhaps the classics, or are biographies your preference? Perhaps, you are an aficionado of non-fiction. Whatever your genre preference, guaranteed sometime during the year the book group will read and discuss an example thereof. And what is more inviting to a passionate reader than an opportunity to discuss a book - like it or hate it - with other like-minded people? Our discussions are always lively, interesting, and varied, and a new point of view is always welcome.

4 Fridays 10:00-Noon: Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

March 23 - *Sing, Unburied, Sing* - fiction by Jesmyn Ward

April 20 - *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited* - non-fiction by Louisa Lim

May 18 - *Leonardo da Vinci* - biography by Walter Isaacson

June TBD - *The Weight of Ink* - historical fiction by Rachel Kadish

*Indicates a LIRA member

Art & Music Spring 2018

Programs on March 14 and April 18 will be held at University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA from 10 a.m. to Noon. **Please note that the March 29 program is on a Thursday.** There will sign-up sheets for tours at the March 7 Town Meeting. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours. If there is a cost, payment is now required when you sign up. A 24-hour notice must be given for a refund.

Wednesday, March 14 Vietnam Today - Joe Sheedy

Joe Sheedy will give a slide presentation of his visit to Vietnam in the fall of 2017. Here are the highlights.

- Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) French influence, the war and the Cu Chi tunnel network
- Ho Ann Ancient Trading port, Japanese wooden bridge with a 400 year old history, fishing and boat building, boat trip on the Bon River
- Hue, the former capital, named Vietnam's forbidden Purple City, Vietnam's version of China's forbidden city, Empirical tombs and the Perfume River, Ha Long Bay, listed by UNESCO Heritage as "One of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World."
- Hanoi - A visit to the infamous Hanoi Hilton and a visit to local market where one can shop 'til you drop!!

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday, March 21 Visit to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA

Special Exhibition: Georgia O'Keefe: Art, Image, Style.

The exhibition focuses on O'Keefe as artist, photographer's model and designer. It is a self-guided visit.

Museum Admission: Adults \$20, seniors (65+) \$18, is paid individually at the museum.

Library coupons and other discounts are accepted.

An optional visit to Yin Yu Tang, the Chinese House adjacent to the museum is \$6.

The museum has a nice café or bring a snack to eat at the museum or on the bus.

The Bus will leave at 10 a.m. from the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford and return at 3 p.m.

Bus cost is \$11 for LIRA members, \$16 for non-members (if seats are available).

Please send a check for the bus, payable to **LIRA, Inc.** to Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 by Thursday, March 15. A 24-hour notice must be given for refund.

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

THURSDAY, March 29 Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal, Boston, MA

Program: Mozart "Symphony No. 23", Jorg Widmann's new work (American premiere), Strauss "Don Quixote"

Conductor - Andris Nelsons, Cello – Yo-Yo Ma, Viola – Steven Ansell

Tickets include bus transportation. \$30 for LIRA members, \$35 for non-members (if tickets are available)

The bus leaves promptly at 7:15A.M. from the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. Bring a bag lunch.

Checks are to be made to **LIRA Inc.** and are due no later than Thursday, March 22, 2018.

Send checks to: Jean Rubinstein, 15 Fairbanks Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824. 978-256-9943/ 978-761-0022

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

Wednesday, April 4 Middlesex Community College Music Student Showcase

A concert given by voice students of Anna Ward and guitar students of Raley Beggs.

Location: Middlesex Community College Federal Building, East Merrimack Street, Lowell, next to the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Time: 11 a.m. to Noon No charge for LIRA members!!

You may either park on the street or in one of three lots: Davidson St. Lot (1-999 Davidson St. just off Merrimack St. for a fee); or at the Lower Locks Garage at 90 Warren Street, or at John St. Garage at 75 John Street. Each of these garages is about a 5 minute walk to the Federal Building. You may also walk from the Tsongas Center if you have a parking tag. It is about a 10 minute walk.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday, April 11 "ArtWalk in Downtown Lowell"

On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, join us for a springtime ArtWalk in downtown Lowell. **Park** at the National Park Visitors Center Parking Lot at 304 Dutton Street, and meet the group at the [New England Quilt Museum](#), 18 Shattuck Street between 10 - 10:15 a.m. Please plan to have lunch with us at UnchARTed Gallery.

STOP #1: 10 a.m.

[The New England Quilt Museum](#), 18 Shattuck Street.

Exhibit: [Quilts Japan: The 13th Quilt Nihon Exhibition from Tokyo](#)

Admission is \$ 9 per person. (LIRA will cover the docent fee).

NEW Policy! The Arts & Music committee asks that you pay your admission fee in advance. (We have to give the museum the number of attendees in advance when we request docents).

Make checks- \$9 per person- payable to **LIRA, Inc.** Pay at the Town Meeting or mail to coordinator (see below) **before March 21.**

STOP #2:

[The ALL Gallery \(Arts League of Lowell\)](#), 307 Market Street and Gates Block Studios

Exhibit: [HONORING GAIA: MOTHER EARTH](#)

Also in the Gates Block Building are over 30 artist studios. Several artists have offered to open their studios for anyone who wants to visit.

No Admission, but feel free to make a donation to the ALL.

STOP #3:

[UnchARTed Gallery/Arts Venue & Restaurant](#)

103 Market Street - See Lunch menu at their website <http://unchartedgallery.com/menu/>

Exhibit: At the time of publication, owner Michael Dailey was deciding between two unique artists for UnchARTed's April exhibit.

Visit the website in late March to see what he decided.

If you want to continue the ArtWalk on your own, here are some suggestions:

[Gallery Z](#), an Artist Coop and Gallery at 167 Market Street.

And

[The Brush Gallery, 256 Market Street](#)

Exhibit: [Visual Voices \(Lowell Public Elementary Schools\)](#)

Please SIGN UP IN ADVANCE and pre-pay admission fee for Quilt Museum

Pay at Town Meeting or mail before March 21 to:

Kathy Cryan-Hicks

47 School Street

West Chelmsford MA 01863

Questions? Contact Kathy at cryhicks@comcast.net

978-397-7537

Coordinator: Kathy Cryan-Hicks*

Wednesday, April 18 Hike across the Northern Coast of Spain on the Camino De Santiago – Meg Holmes

The well-travelled path of thousands of religious pilgrims through the Northern Spanish provinces of Navarre and Galicia became known as El Camino de Santiago, the road to Santiago. Begun in the Middle Ages, the number of people who took this route increased dramatically after Pope Calixto II conceded the church's greatest privileges to the See of Santiago de Compostela. Those who reached Santiago in those years obtained a plenary indulgence and absolution for one year.

The shrine became the most important site of Christian pilgrimage after Rome and Jerusalem. The city emerged as a center of art and culture. Today, many "pilgrims" are visitors from around the world who enjoy the scenic route, chance to enjoy the fresh air and perhaps find friendship along the way.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday, April 25 Visit to the Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

Exhibit: "Fresh Goods" which describes the merchandising in 18th and 19th century Massachusetts when no malls could be found! It is part of a statewide MASS fashion project. What goods and services were available at that time?

Meet at Hannaford in Chelmsford to carpool at 10 a.m. Please sign up for carpools at the March 7 Town Meeting.

The museum opens at 9 a.m. and our tour begins at 11 a.m.

There is parking in the museum's lot and there is also some street parking.

Senior admission is \$8. Please sign up and pay at the Town Meeting or mail a check made out to **LIRA, Inc.** to Jean Schott, Box 1628, Westford, MA 01886 by **March 15**.

Directions will be provided later.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday, May 2 Theater Party at the Merrimack Regional Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA

On Wednesday, May 2, at 2:00 pm, LIRA will be hosting a Theater Party at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) for those who wish to attend a matinee performance of "The Villains' Supper Club," a play by Lila Rose Kaplan, directed by MRT's own Sean Daniels. The play is *a comedy about motherhood and villainy* Kapow! Galactic Girl fends off multiple dastardly villains. Woosh! She's home in time to feed her baby and maybe even feed herself. When the last superhero on earth is also a new mom, there's no time to lose. Can she save the planet and call back the pediatrician? Or will she fall victim to her arch rival's many nefarious schemes? From Lila Rose Kaplan comes an epic, irresistible comedy for anyone who's ever had to be a superhero.

MRT is located at 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, next door to the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. You may either park on the street or in one of three lots: Davidson St. lot (1-999 Davidson St. just off Merrimack St. for a fee); or at the Lower Locks Garage at 90 Warren St. for \$5 with ticket stamped at theater, or at John St. Garage for \$5 with ticket stamped at theater. Each of these garages is about a 5 minute walk to the theater. You may also walk from the Tsongas Center if you have a parking tag there. It is about a 10 minute walk.

Here are the particulars: All tickets for this Milk and Cookies performance are \$16. In order to make sure we get seats, please observe the following deadlines: A check for \$16 made out to **MRT** may be given directly to Joan Kerzner at the LIRA Town Meeting on March 7, or mailed to Joan Kerzner, 130 John St. Unit 303, Lowell, MA 01852 by March 14. Absolutely no reservations will be accepted after March 14. Those LIRA members who are MRT subscribers and wish to exchange their tickets for this performance may call the MRT Box Office directly at 978-654-4678 to change their tickets. Please ask them to waive the ticket upgrade charge (if there is one) as they are members of the Joan Kerzner LIRA Group.

Coordinator: Joan Kerzner*

*Indicates a LIRA member



MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

THE VILLAINS' SUPPER CLUB

A COMEDY ABOUT
MOTHERHOOD AND VILLAINY

Written by
Lila Rose Kaplan
Directed by
Sean Daniels



Join us for a LIRA Cookie Matinee at MRT!
Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 2:00 pm, \$16

includes coffee and cookies before the show

RSVP to by 3/14 to Joan Kerzner, jpkerzner@hotmail.com, 978-710-3907.

Checks made payable to Merrimack Repertory Theatre, can be given to Joan at the LIRA Town Meeting on 3/7, or mailed by 3/14 to 130 John St. Unit 303, Lowell, MA 01852.

MRT.ORG | 978-654-4678 | 50 E. MERRIMACK ST., LOWELL

LIRA's 2018 Spring Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 5	March 6	March 7 10 am to Noon Town Meeting Alumni Hall	March 8	March 9 Chelmsford Library Lecture Keith West, Russia's Foreign Policy
March 12 10 am to Noon Math Café 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970 Reconstruction to Civil Rights	March 13 10 am to Noon Shakespeare— <i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm NO PROGRAM TODAY	March 14 10 am to Noon Vietnam Today University Suites	March 15 10 am to Noon Great Decisions	March 16
March 19 10 am to Noon Math Cafe 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970	March 20 10 am to Noon Shakespeare— <i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2	March 21 Meet at Hannaford at 10:00 am for bus to the Peabody Essex Museum	March 22 10 am to Noon Great Decisions	March 23 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> by Jesmyn Ward
March 26 10 am to Noon NO PROGRAM TODAY 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970	March 27 10 am to Noon Shakespeare— <i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2	March 28 10 am to Noon Great Decisions	March 29 Meet at Hannaford at 7:15 am for bus to the BSO Open Rehearsal	March 30
April 2 10 am to Noon Math Cafe 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970	April 3 10 am to Noon Shakespeare— <i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2	April 4 11 am to Noon Middlesex Community College Music Student Showcase	April 5 10 am to Noon Great Decisions	April 6

<p>April 9 10 am to Noon Math Café 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970</p>	<p>April 10 10 am to Noon Shakespeare—<i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2</p>	<p>April 11 10 am to 3 pm ArtWalk in Downtown Lowell Park at National Park lot at 304 Dutton St.</p>	<p>April 12 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm The US Congress: History and Contemporary Issues</p>	<p>April 13 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture China and America, the New Geopolitical Equation</p>
<p>April 16 10 am to Noon Math Café 1 to 3 pm NO PROGRAM TODAY</p>	<p>April 17 10 am to Noon Shakespeare--<i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2</p>	<p>April 18 10 am to Noon Hike across the Northern Coast of Spain on the Camino De Santiago</p>	<p>April 19 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm The US Congress: History and Contemporary Issues</p>	<p>April 20 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The People's Republic of Amnesia</i> by Louisa Lin</p>
<p>April 23 10 am to Noon Math Cafe 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970</p>	<p>April 24 10 am to Noon Shakespeare—<i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2</p>	<p>April 25 10 am to 1 pm Meet at Hannaford to carpool to the Concord Museum</p>	<p>April 26 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm The US Congress: History and Contemporary Issues</p>	<p>April 27</p>
<p>April 30 10 am to Noon Math Cafe 1 to 3 pm US History 1870-1970</p>	<p>May 1 10 am to Noon Shakespeare—<i>Hamlet</i> 1 to 3 pm The Story of the Bible: Part 2</p>	<p>May 2 2 to 5 pm Merrimac Regional Theatre <i>The Villains' Supper Club</i></p>	<p>May 3 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm The US Congress: History and Contemporary Issues</p>	<p>May 4</p>
<p>May 7</p>	<p>May 8</p>	<p>May 9</p>	<p>May 10</p>	<p>May 11 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Media Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights</p>
<p>May 14</p>	<p>May 15</p>	<p>May 16 10 am to Noon Annual Meeting</p>	<p>May 17</p>	<p>May 18 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Leonardo da Vinci</i> by Walter Isaacson</p>