



LIRA NEWSLETTER

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

March 2012

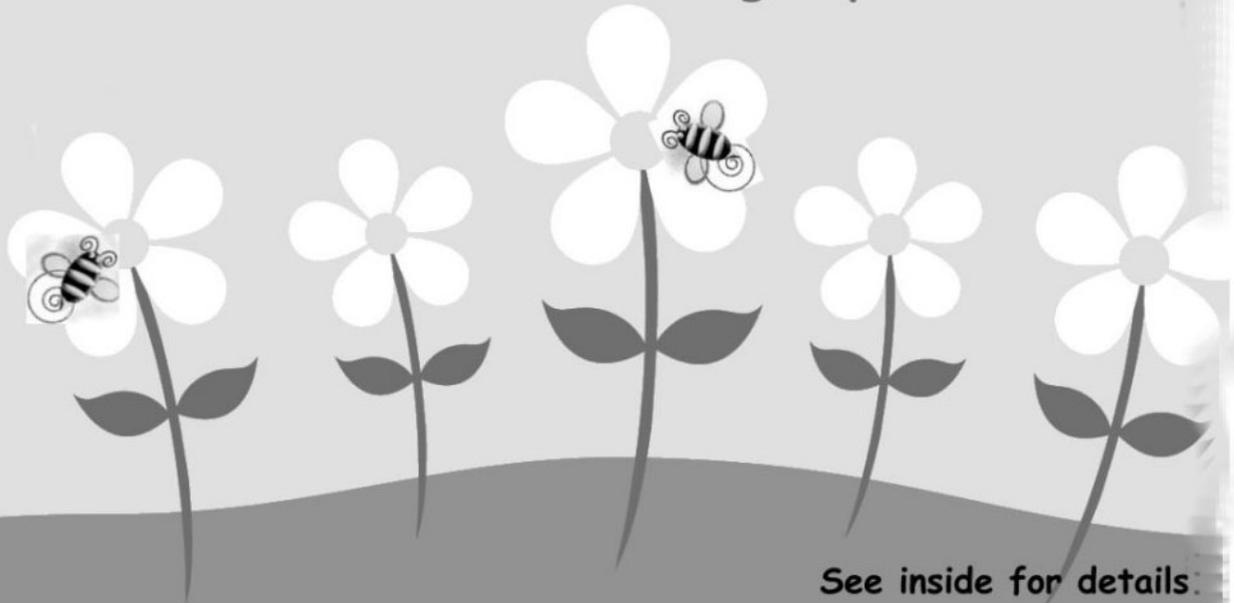
Vol. 19 No. 1

Welcome Spring and the New Spring Session!

Join us for the Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 10AM to Noon

Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from Salem Street B Parking Lot

Come hear about our new Spring Schedule,
have some refreshments and sign up for classes!



See inside for details.

Art in America

Two of the big interests in Jean Schott's life right now are art and quilting. She decided to talk about both of them during her presentation on February 1. In the first hour, she talked about Edward Hopper, his life and works. The second hour was devoted to quilts of America.

Edward Hopper (1882 – 1967) was an American realist painter who worked in many mediums. His talent for drawing was apparent at an early age. He studied at the New York Institute of Art and Design and was influenced by Manet and Degas in his early years. He was very tall, quiet, shy and introverted and his conservative upbringing made it difficult for him to sketch from live models, although his primary model was his artist wife, Josephine, after their marriage in 1924. For many years he illustrated for magazine covers, but he disliked the work and did it only out of necessity to pay the bills.

Jean showed us many of his works, beginning with the earlier years when he was influenced by the Impressionist painters to his more mature work for which he is most famous. We recognize his paintings from the large, geometric forms, the use of strong verticals, horizontals and diagonals. His subjects show a quality of solitude and loneliness. Most of his paintings are scenes of New England and New York, such as lighthouses, coastal scenes, deserted streets, gas stations and Victorian houses. His best-known work, called *Nighthawks*, shows an all-night diner with a few customers at the counter. There is a sharp contrast between the bright light of the diner and the dark night outside where strong shapes and diagonals of the buildings give a good example of his style.

During the Hopper presentation, Barbara Page shared with us her meeting with Edward Hopper. Barbara was the Art

Coordinator for the Boston Arts Festival. Three thousand paintings were on display and Edward Hopper was one of three judges at the festival. Barbara was assigned to take Hopper and his wife to dinner. When she asked him if he and his wife

would like to go to dinner, Hopper replied that "Jo was feeling under the weather. You will have to call her and see if she will go." When Barbara called her, she said "Edward knows I'd get off my death bed for a party." They all had a delightful dinner together.

In the second hour, Jean explained the evolution of quilt making in America. In the colonial days, women didn't have time to make quilts; they spent most of their time making the cloth and clothing for their family. By late 18th century and mid 19th, women began making quilts as a decorative item. Jean showed us beautiful examples of needlework on the Baltimore album quilts started in the 1840s. Each block was appliquéd with a different design which were mostly floral, but landmarks and patriotic designs were also popular. During the Civil War era, quilts and bed coverings were made for soldiers and hospitals. After the war, it became very popular for the women to quilt together which was a great way for

them to socialize. In the late 1870s, the Amish were making quilts using only solid colors of brown, blue, rust or black. Gradually, more colors were added when they started to piece their work, but black was always an integral part of their work.

An interesting African American community group that still exists today, called the Gee's Bend Quilters, is located in Boykin, Alabama. Joseph Gee from North Carolina brought 18 African American slaves with him and settled there in 1817. Boykin is a block of land enclosed on three sides by the Alabama River within a horseshoe shaped turn of the river named Gee's Bend. For many years, it was an isolated community and the women formed quilting bees where many of the quilts produced there are considered works of art now.

Beginning in the 1930s, quilt making showed a decline, but during the 1960s and with the 1976 bicentennial celebrations, there was a resurgence in the art of making quilts. Quilts were being shown in museums for their art; patterns were being published in magazines; people were interested in learning the craft of their ancestors; more cotton fabric was being produced just for making quilts and by the 1980s, many new quilter's tools were being introduced.

During the presentation, Jean wore a beautiful quilted jacket that she made. She also brought in a quilt that she had made for her nephew who is going off to college. Thank you Jean for an interesting and informative presentation.



Jean Schott wearing her quilted jacket and showing her handmade quilt.



Nighthawks by Edward Hopper, oils, 1942
30 X 60 inches, Art Institute of Chicago

Jeri Durant

Remembering Kay Carroll



Kay Carroll joined LIRA in 1995. Kay was a very active LIRA member, serving on many committees over the years: Hospitality, Art & Music, Scholarship and Newsletter. She did the Member News for the newsletter for the eleven years that I have been the editor. She was a kind and caring person, always willing to help wherever needed. I have missed her as I'm sure that all that knew her have. Following are some remembrances from a few of our members. A portion of the obituary is reprinted below for those of you who might have missed it.

Jeri Durant

I first knew Kay Carroll when she would bring some of her nursing students from Greater Lowell Technical High School to the hospital for "hands on" practical experience.

Years later when we both became members of LIRA, I remembered her as that caring, kind, capable nurse instructor from Saints Memorial (formerly St. John's Hospital).

Kay became Hospitality chair when I was Membership chair and thus we served on the LIRA board together. Her steady thoughtfulness was much appreciated, even to offering to ask her lawyer son to aid us when we needed legal assistance. Sadly, she and Frank, her loving husband and LIRA's Shakespeare expert lost their kind and generous son to cancer not long before Kay was diagnosed.

Whatever committee, scholarship, curriculum or hospitality, Kay's up-beat "I'll help" attitude was always there. All who knew her miss her. I miss her.

Eleanor Belanger

Kay Carroll and I were a great team. I sure do miss her. Whenever I got it into my head to present a program on music, all I had to do was make a list of the disks to be used, give them to her, and she would plant herself by the AV equipment to synchronize all media with my script. There was one time, over at the Wannalancit, when the equipment was not cooperative. It memorized the first disk and that's all it would play. Technical help was not available. Through the frustrating episode, she maintained her cool and was a steady influence on me. As a matter of fact, I never say Kay without a smile and a gift for seeing humor in situations. A more wonderful friend could never be found.

Dorothy Bromage

Having spent the last 54 or 55 years celebrating New Year's Eve together, we considered Kay and Frank our very close friends. At one time years ago, they agreed to become guardians of our 3 boys if anything happened to us. Kay also had 4 boys and told us if something happened to us she would kill us. Very frank.

Pat & Joe Dion

When the Art and Music programs began, Kay volunteered as a committee member. A most dependable contributor, she served many years, always suggesting and arranging interesting and varied programs. Some popular destinations, she repeatedly was assigned to. Sometimes it required multiple phone calls before reaching the appropriate contact person. She doggedly stayed with the task until the date was assured. When she decided to turn membership responsibilities to someone else, she said "yes" to duties on the Scholarship, and Newsletter committees. Always she was a most valued member of LIRA.

Connie Lanseigne-Case

LIRA was still in its formative stage when I became a member in 1993. It was a small group of enthusiastic learners. The programs then were planned and arranged primarily by our faculty advisor or anyone who had a good idea. It was not long after that time that the membership began to increase and the president suggested setting up teams to address special interests. I joined the Curriculum Committee and became one of the coordinators of Art and Music under the leadership of Peg Farley and Connie Lanseigne-Case. Kay Carroll, a longtime friend of Peg's, joined LIRA about that time and the four of us became "Art and Music" for a number of years. Although I had not known Kay before this I remember her warm and friendly manner made it seem like we had been friends for years. It was Kay who first volunteered to arrange a trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra rehearsal. Hiring an air-conditioned bus was a new venture. Our early trips had been confined to the Lowell area where we sometimes endured a hot and bumpy ride on a rented school bus. Needless to say, the Symphony Rehearsals have been a gold standard of LIRA programs ever since. It took long hours on the phone to set up that first venture. She continued to do it for a number of years. Kay also took charge of the many beautiful programs provided by Dr. Mark Levine (LIRA'S founder) and his Chamber Music Players. Kay's contributions to LIRA were numerous over her many years of membership and were not confined to Art and Music. She had a genuine interest in others and contributed the Member News column to our Newsletter keeping us up on the glad and sad happenings in our lives. Chairing the Scholarship Committee was not a small job and one of the most important contributions she made to LIRA. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of being a member of LIRA is the opportunity to meet and form new friendships with so many nice people at a stage in life that is transitioning from the working worlds of our younger days. Kay became a dear friend of mine over the years. It was always a pleasure to be with her and talk about similar interests in our families and travel vacations. Both she and Frank have contributed so much to others benefit over the years. I cherish my memories of Kay and am truly saddened by her passing.

Dotty Morris

From the Lowell Sun:

Katherine M. (Byrne) Carroll, R.N., 80, of Lowell, died Thursday evening, December 29th, at D'Youville Senior Care Center in Lowell. She was the beloved wife of Francis C. Carroll with whom she celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on August 20th of this year.

Born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, April 16, 1931, the daughter of the late Charles and the late Katherine (Heffernan) Byrne, she was

(Continued on page 4)

Moorish Culture in Andalusia and Morocco



Connie showing the book of her photos.

Last spring Connie Lanseigne-Case was in Andalusia and the northern cities of Morocco. Her illustrated talk explored the beautiful Moorish architecture of Granada, Cordoba, and Seville, the Rif Mountain city of Chefchaouen, medina of Fes, capital of Morocco, Rabat, and modern mosque of Casablanca.

As we entered the lecture space, we were greeted by the first of what would be glorious color, filled with slides of southern Spain and Morocco. Along with pictures, sketches, a series of small pamphlets that depicted in detail each of the stops, cities, towns and areas were discussed during her talk. Along with small books were swatches of fabric, hats, a variety of photos and pieces of clothing indigenous to either southern Spain or Morocco.

A long time traveler since graduating from college, Connie has traveled throughout the United States and particularly overseas, searching out not only the customary European areas of travel, but Nepal and Asia, oceanic voyages, student exchanges. Taking advice from friends and guides from everywhere, she kept an inquiring ear open to opportunities that could offer the unique in site or adventure. She would stay in the odd small cabin or barn, joining students, staying under the auspices of religious orders, sometimes landing in posh circumstances but always saying “yes” to what might be possible.

We were treated to the immensity of the Catholic influence in Spain and the Moorish architecture that influenced the magnificent cathedrals throughout both countries along with the use of craftsman who carved wooden walls of saints and the famous painters who shared their talents with portraits and paintings.

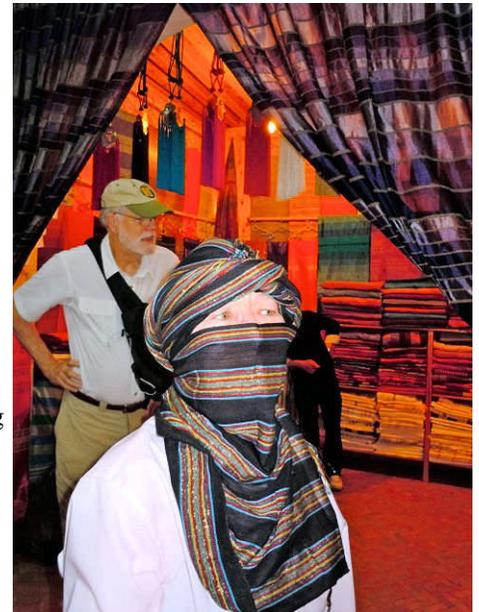
Morocco is just eight miles from Spain, 35 minutes by hydrofoil. The first medina, a shopping center in Tangiers, was fairly small and Connie had to get permission to take a photo. In Islamic countries, to take a photo is to capture their image. The Fes medina is a marketplace where eating goes on constantly. Bread is a major part of each meal; tea is served but no coffee, except in the morning. In the mountain village, there is still a colony of Hasidic Jews who emigrated from Spain in the 21st century. They still wear the badge of a star and the special hats and dress of the Berbers.

In the northwest of Morocco, the city of Chefchaouen is situated in the Rif Mountains. The city is known as the “Blue City” because all of its buildings are painted some shade of blue. Blue paint is mixed with white wash to paint the walls and trim buildings colorful shades of blue. Families use community ovens to bake their bread; they bring their laundry to wash communally. The local shoemaker rolls his tools to the market to repair and make shoes and slippers. Hats are created

from plant fibers. Henna is used for bodily designs. Cultural centers provide community meeting places for groups of women and children where musical events take place.

The largest mosque in Morocco and the 5th largest in the world was built in Casablanca starting in 1986 and was completed in 1993. It is built on a high point of land looking out onto the Atlantic Ocean which can be seen through the huge glass floor. The Hassan II Mosque can accommodate 25,000 worshipers and 80,000 on its grounds. The minaret is the tallest in the world at 689 feet which has a laser beam at the top that points the way to Mecca.

The architecture of the building is similar to the great mosque of Cordoba, Spain. Connie showed us the beautiful arches in both of these mosques. Most of the materials to build the mosque came from Morocco. There is an automated sliding roof to bring in the fresh air. The craftsmanship of the mosaics, the stone and marble and wood carvings was truly exceptional to see.



Connie modeling a turban in Fes, Morocco

Judith Palais

Thank you, Connie for an interesting and informative talk with beautiful photographs. Congratulations in entering the digital world with your photos!

Kay Carroll (Continued from page 3)

a graduate of Andover High School in the Class of 1948. She then went on to graduate from Boston College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in the Class of 1953.

Before retiring, Mrs. Carroll worked as a teacher in the Licensed Practical Nurse Department at the Greater Lowell Technical High School for over 20 years. Previously, she was employed as a Registered Nurse at various Lowell area hospitals.

Katherine was a member of the Learning In Retirement Association (LIRA) at U-Mass Lowell, as well as a volunteer with the Community Table at the Lowell YMCA for many years. She was also a former volunteer at the Merrimack Repertory Theater.

A communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church in Lowell, she was also a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

History of the Middlesex Canal



Dorothy holding the Middlesex Canal map

Dorothy Bromage brought along a lot of handouts about the history of the Canal along with maps. She passed out a write up on the history of the canal along with a small map. A larger more detailed map was then passed around in which each person marked put

a small dot showing where they lived in relation to the canal route. The 25 min. film called "Journey along the Middlesex Canal" was then played giving viewers a history of the Canal.

Following the break, Bob Hanlon introduced Tom Raphael, the speaker for the second half of the program. Tom, who is chairman of the Middlesex Canal Commission, gave a

presentation detailing the reasons for the canal and the history of its construction as well as the commissions plans for restoration and preservation.

Through the film and Tom's presentation, meeting participants learned about the canal's construction and operation. The 27 mile long canal was a marvel of engineering for its time with its 20 locks, 8 aqueducts, bridges and tow paths. Seventy Five foot freight boats took 12 hours bringing to Boston lumber for shipbuilding and stone for buildings such as Faneuil Hall. Tom mentioned that many of the buildings in Boston were built with stone from the Chelmsford quarries. Travelers on passenger packet boats enjoyed resorts along the canal such as was found at Horn Pond in Woburn. The Middlesex Canal Commission is now working on a multiyear project to preserve and restore sections of the canal into a self-sustaining historic greenway.



Tom Raphael

Bob Hanlon

Bus Refunds

CORRECTION: In the last newsletter it said that trip cancellations could have a refund if 24 hours' notice was given. In many cases, in particular symphony, the tickets and bus are paid for in advance. If you must cancel a trip, call the trip coordinator to see if a refund is possible.



Details for Town Meeting

The Town Meeting is being held in Alumni Hall. Because of the parking problem at that location, members are asked to park at the Salem Parking Lot B across from the University Crossing building (formerly St. Joseph's Hospital) 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell. University Crossing is on the left corner of Salem Street and a Shell station is on the right corner. Continue down Salem Street for a short way. The B parking lot is on the right and parking is **AFTER** the fence only. You should use your hangtags in this parking lot.

The shuttle bus will be running from this parking lot from 9:30am to 1:00pm for as many trips as needed to bring us to Alumni Hall and back.

It has been decided to bring homemade goodies for the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be appreciated.

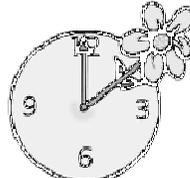
If you are not able to attend the Town Meeting and wish to sign up for courses and/or trips, please ask someone to do it for you.

Hope to see you all there!

Classes in the Talon Club Room

This year's classes are being held in the Talon Club Room at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, MA. Parking is in the lot to the right of the building. When the Talon Club Room is not available, the location will be announced well ahead of time. The first change that we know of is on Thursday, March 22; Great Decisions and Great World Religions will be held at the Campus Recreation Center, 100 Pawtucket Street, Lowell. The Rec Center is a controlled entry building, so please **bring your LIRA photo ID** when you go there.

Coffee, tea and pastries will be provided by Aramark for our morning and afternoon classes as it has been during our Winter Intersession. But we must remind you: **THERE IS NO FOOD ALLOWED IN THE TSONGAS CENTER THAT HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED BY ARAMARK.** Therefore, if you are in the morning and afternoon classes and would like to bring your lunch, it must be eaten outside or in your car. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about this situation. We have changed the time to the afternoon classes to begin at 1:00pm so that those who would like to go somewhere to get a bite to eat would have enough time. It is a short walk to the Wannalancit Building which has a small snack bar/cafeteria. You would just need to find a place to eat it!



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

Holiday Party 2011

The 2011 Holiday Party was a huge success: about 90 members attended, the weather cooperated, the selection of food was varied and delicious and the auction made \$453. for the Scholarship fund. The room at Alumni Hall was beautifully decorated by Hospitality co-chairs Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis, a beautiful centerpiece at each table and a place setting for each person. Thanks to both of them for all their hard work.

Toby Hodes began the meeting by thanking all the facilitators of the courses given during the year. The Winter Intersession programs were reviewed by Curriculum Chairman, Dorothy Bromage. Once again we were to be in a new location, the Tsongas Center.

Bill Terris, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the two \$1500 scholarships to Sara Pietila and Robert Pedicini, a junior and senior, respectively, at UMass Lowell. Bill also reviewed several of the other applicants and stressed how difficult it was to make a decision amongst the 35 applicants.

Dr. Gerry Dybel, professor from the physical therapy department at UMass Lowell, spoke to us about the exercise program that is being offered to LIRA members. The program is continuing through the winter months and through the spring. In the fall, there were six

members that joined the supervised, group exercise program. This winter, eighteen members have signed up and are reaping the benefits of this excellent program.

Thank you to all the members who contributed so generously, for the hats, mittens and so many great books. Joan Aseltine, from Community Teamwork Inc. told us how much she

appreciated our donations. See her letter in this newsletter. Thanks to Elaine Jeleschiff for arranging with CTI to pick up our donations.

Before the auction began, we sampled the smorgasbord of great food! Carol Cannistraro, Shirley Mitchell, Barbara Willman and Mary Welch did a great job in organizing and passing out the items to winners at the Consumable Auction. It is always a fun part of the Holiday Party and for some reason, there always seems to be one person that wins more than their share! Barbara Page, Rose Rhoades and Betty Sampas won several items; Barbara loved her wine and chocolate!

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!



Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

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

APRIL 5, 2012 UMASS Lowell Inn and Conference Center - 7:00PM THURSDAY

**Andre Dubus III, Arno Minkinen and Alan Williams
“Intellectual Property and the Arts: A Performance and Panel Discussion”**

**APRIL 12, 2012 BOOT COTTON MILLS MUSEUM
EVENTS CENTER – 7:00PM THURSDAY**

Lillian Nayder “The Other Dickens-Catherine in 2012”

APRIL 23, 2012 UMASS Lowell Inn and Conference Center - 12:00PM MONDAY

Jane Brox “Writing about Place: Local to Global”

This program is the last of three “Lunchtime Lectures at the Inn & Conference Center.” This series is co-sponsored and presented by The Parker Lecture Committee, UMass Lowell Center for Arts and Ideas, Middlesex Community College, and UMass Lowell Prof. Bill Mass. A complimentary buffet lunch is included, but reservations are required and seating is limited. The program begins promptly at 12 noon. To reserve a seat, contact artsandideas@uml.edu or call 978-934-3107.

MAY 3, 2012 UMASS Lowell Inn and Conference Center - 7:00PM THURSDAY

Katherine Paterson “Lyddie and the Power of Historical Fiction”

Scholarship Awards

At the Holiday Party in December, two \$1500. scholarships were awarded to Sara Pietila and Robert Pedicini. Sara is a junior and Robert is a senior in the College of Health Sciences. Both have impressive academic backgrounds and rich examples of community services. Sara's goals and dreams are to become a nurse while Rob wishes to become a physician's assistant. Both plan on doing Graduate Study.

Each committee member read and evaluated the 35 applications more than once. The candidates were very impressive and we all wished we had more scholarships to award. Some of the candidates' applications were shared at the Holiday Party as examples of high achievers. The committee members came away with great admiration for the students at UMass Lowell.

Bill Terris



Bill Terris with Scholarship winners,
Robert Pedicini and Sara Pietila

LIRA Member Spotlight



We are very fortunate to have Pat and Joe Casadone as new members and they are very enthusiastic about LIRA's programs. Pat and Joe joined LIRA last fall when Joe retired from Dynamics Research Corporation (DRC) after 25 years.

Pat was born and raised in Houston, TX, and Joe is from Irvington, NY. They met at work in Houston, TX over 40 years ago. They moved to New England 38 years ago and have lived in Chelmsford for 31 years.

Education is important to Pat and Joe, so when LIRA member Jayne Yeuell invited Pat to an intersession program last year, Pat knew this was something she and Joe would enjoy together. Last fall they joined classes studying religion, Shakespeare, opera, music and art.

Joe graduated from St. Lawrence University, Canton NY where he earned his B.A. and New York University, New York, NY where he received his MBA. A few years ago he earned a Masters in Personal Financial Planning from Bentley College, Waltham, MA.

Pat earned her B.A. from Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, NH and a Doctorate of Law from the Massachusetts School of Law, Andover, MA.

Both are avid gardeners. They enjoy working in their garden and visiting local gardens, especially Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, Boylston, MA. Pat is a member of the Open Gate Garden Club of Chelmsford.

Pat is also an experienced quilter and has been a member of the Chelmsford Quilt Guild.

Pat and Joe support the St. Paul's Feeding Program in Lowell as part of their Outreach activities for the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chelmsford. Pat also volunteers at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell and the Table of Plenty in Chelmsford.

They plan to travel but are finding it hard to leave the life they enjoy in Chelmsford and all of their friends. They have booked a cruise to Bermuda in May with friends and then they will be visiting the Brandywine Valley area this spring to see the gardens at Longwood, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and Winterthur, Delaware.

After attending LIRA classes last fall and several winter intersession programs, they have become enthusiastic LIRA members and they look forward to taking advantage of more learning opportunities and fun at LIRA.

Jeanne Gunion



The Scholarship Committee is in need of another volunteer. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Bill Terris: billterris1@aol.com or 781-275-2715

Bringing God into the Fight



Dr. Mark Allman

Dr. Mark Allman, a faculty associate in the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations at Merrimack College, presented a program titled "Bringing God into the Fight - Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives on War and Peace." Dr. Allman is one of only a handful of scholars working on postwar ethics and the just war theory.

With knowledge and humor his talk focused on topics of religion and politics which he characterized as "things you aren't really suppose to talk about."

Dr. Allman described three approaches to war and peace based on Christian, Judaic, and Islamic doctrine: Pacifism, Just War and Holy War.

He explained Holy War in the context of Judaism by telling the biblical stories of the Exodus and the Battle of Jericho. For Christianity he discussed passages from the Gospels and Revelation and the justification of the crusades by Pope Urban II. For Islam he talked about sword and peace passages in the Qur'an where the term Jihad means struggling and working hard and not just to wage war.

He identified three views of Pacifism: 1) there is no justification for deadly force, even in self-defense; 2) an individual must not use deadly force to defend himself, but feels war is justified for trained soldiers; and 3) no war is justifiable because wars after the Industrial Revolution and deployment of weapons of mass destruction have killed more citizens than soldiers. In his discussion of Pacifism he referenced the Torah, the Gospels and the writings of Augustine of Hippo, and the Qur'an.

The Just War Theory has a foot in each of the Pacifism and Holy War camps and argues that war is not embraced as good but is the lesser of two evils. Dr. Allman explained the Just War Theory in terms of Jus ad Bellum (before war) and Jus in Bellum (during war) within the context of the three religions and how nations apply the theory to legitimize and execute wars.

Dr. Allman concluded by discussing how the Just War Theory influences contemporary issues and by quoting Hans Küng, a Catholic theologian and author:

"No peace among the nations
without peace among the religions

No peace among the religions
without dialogue between the religions."

He ended the program by opening up the session to audience questions and comments.

Dr. Allman has presented papers at many academic conferences including the Society of Christian Ethics, the Catholic Theological Society of America, the College of Theology Society, and the American Academy of Religion. He has published articles in several scholarly journals. His first book, "Who Would Jesus Kill? War, Peace & the Christian Tradition," won the College Theology Society Book of the Year Award in 2009. He has written a second book with Dr. Tobias Winright, an Associate Professor of Theological Ethics at Saint Louis University, titled "After the Smoke Clears: The Just War Tradition and Post War Justice."

The Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations at Merrimack College sponsors programs which are free and open to the public. More information is available on their website: <http://www.merrimack.edu>.

Joe and Pat Casadone

Browsing through Birke's

Szifra Birke, mental therapist and business consultant, presented a very interesting talk on her family history on January 18. Her parents, Sally and Nathan, lived in Lodz, Poland in the 1930's. They were determined to escape the perils of the Holocaust as the Nazis invaded the country. As a result, they fled east towards the USSR and wound up in Siberia as Nathan claimed to be a coal miner. Film clips were shown of the horrors of the war. Eventually the Birkes travelled alone to the US as their 2 children had died. After a brief stay in NYC, they settled in



Szifra Birke with a picture of her father showing on the screen.

Lowell where they began a retail clothing business in the downtown area. During its many years of operation, they became known as colorful and controversial retailers. A

documentary video was made during their lives which showed their interaction with customers, many of whom reminisced about the Birke's and the store. The film was very interesting as it recalled many amusing anecdotes from former customers of Birke's- many of whom are LIRA members now!!

Jean Schott

The Lottery

The number of members has increased dramatically in the last year and we expect that a greater number of people would like to participate in the Art & Music trips. This spring we are trying a new method of signing up for these trips that will be fair to all. Previously, it was on a first-come, first-served basis; those that rushed to the tables to sign up were able to go, but many at the bottom of the list couldn't.

As always, there will be signup sheets at each table, but along with the course signup, there will be a trip signup sheet, also. You should sign up for the trips that you want to take on this sheet. If there is a limit to the number of people that can be accommodated and if the limit has been exceeded, there will be a lottery for that trip. The extra people will be contacted by the coordinator and they will go on a waiting list. They will be notified if someone cancels. Note that the bus trips are always limited to the size of the bus. We have only one bus trip this spring to the Boston Symphony.

Please bear with us as we work out this new system. Hopefully, it will work smoothly and it shouldn't be a problem at all. If you are not able to be present at the Town Meeting, please ask someone to sign up for you. If there are any concerns or questions, please contact the coordinator of the trip.



Coffee Break Note

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Scholarship Fund during our coffee break at the Tsongas Center. We are most grateful to Paul Marion, Executive Director of Community and Cultural Affairs, for funding our pastries and to Aramark for donating the coffee during our Winter Intersession. A special thanks to Donna Spellissy, Special Events Coordinator, for making the Talon Club Room more comfortable for our Wednesday sessions.

Our two \$1500 scholarships given at the Holiday Party are funded through the generosity of our LIRA members. The money collected at our coffee breaks helps to fund the scholarship for those inspiring recipients who hope to make a difference as graduates of UMass Lowell.

*The Hospitality Committee
Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis*

Convert those Cassettes

“Way back when” my two sisters and I sang as a trio. Last year, I came across an audio cassette tape that we made. I was thrilled to have the recording and amazed that the quality was still okay. However, I soon realized that I needed to put the music on a CD—one way or another.

Enter CASSETTE2USB from Clear Click, a small device that comes with software, enabling digital conversion and burning of a CD. It is so quick and easy that I have taken on two projects for other



people with good results and much happiness. Ask me about Krishna.

Do you have an audio cassette with a special recording? Want it on a CD? I will be glad to take 1-3 cassettes and return them to you along with a separate CD for each one. I'm not kidding. This is too important a technological development to let recordings go un-archived. If you have CDs, you can share them. It's a snap to make more than one copy of a CD, the data being on the computer. I look forward to the chance to recapture memories.

Dorothy Bromage

Member News

Thank you to Simone Allard, who has volunteered to take over the Member News that Kay Carroll had done so well for many years.

Sadly, we have suffered the loss of another of our long-time members. Kay Carroll passed away in December. Kay was very dedicated to LIRA, having served on many committees over the years. She will be sorely missed. Our sincere sympathy to her husband, Frank and the family.

Our sympathy also to Sally Cady whose son-law, Greg Dana, passed away in January. Greg was also the nephew of George Dana.

Larry Hodes, husband of our president Toby Hodes, has had a lengthy hospitalization after becoming ill while traveling to Israel. He is now recovering in rehab. We wish him a speedy and full recovery. This has been a trying time for Toby. Let us keep her in our thoughts as well.

I will now be covering Member News for the Newsletter. If you know of anyone who is ill or would otherwise like to be remembered by LIRA, please contact me so that I may send out cards.

My email is Siallard@verizon.net; my phone is 978-256-8572.

Simone Allard

Note from Frank Carroll:

The family of Kay Carroll wishes to express their heartfelt thanks for the many messages of encouragement, prayers, and good wishes, not to mention many items of delicious food that were given to us during the days of her illness. It makes one proud to be a member of such a caring group of people as LIRA certainly is.

Nominating Committee for 2012

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Carol Cannistraro as Chairman, Alan Kent and Shirley McCaffrey. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are open for reelection. If you wish to nominate a candidate for any of these positions, please let the nominating committee know as soon as possible.

Toby Hodes

Collectible Books

A most educational program was presented on January 4 by Beverly and Kimball Rudeen. Someone else could have given the same information, but what made it special was the way they organized the material. Any question you could think of regarding the identification, appraisal, and care of books was anticipated. We learned much that we didn't even know we didn't know!

This review would be too long if all the terms we learned were listed. But some examples are "edition" and "printing." What they mean, technically, was clarified. "Glued binding" and "stitched binding" are among the details to be checked regarding Book Club books, along with whether or not the price is on the dust jacket. We learned about exceptions, also.

Sub-categories of collectible books proved to be of great interest, as many participants indicated they have such collections. A helpful segment—with demonstrations—was about caring for and mending books, including an admonition against putting a small book between two tall ones.

A good presentation moves along, has variety, and entertains as it enlightens. Bev and Kim are experts at this. They even included audience participation (100 stars for this!) with a quiz and a skit. The points you got on the quiz determined whether or not you are a bookaholic! The Rudeens brought numerous books to show, including at least one for every point they made.

At the end, each person received a special bookmark. As a prize, the person who had a blue star on their bookmark won a prize of a book care box. Many of the 38 in attendance brought a book to be appraised, and for awhile, following the program, Beverly was



Beverly and Kimball Rudeen

busy at the computer complying with requests for appraisals.

Beverly and Kimball have been book collectors and booksellers for over twenty years. Their hobby/business, Eyrie House Books, specializes in the Science Fiction and Fantasy genre, but they do have an interest in many other areas. Eyrie House Books is not a brick and mortar store, but as many booksellers of today do, they sell on the internet. www.eyriehousebooks.com is their web site. They also are booksellers at many Science Fiction conventions all over the northeast and sometimes beyond. The Winter Intersession was very well launched with this program for which a lot of preparation was evident. Thank you, LIRA member Beverly Rudeen and your husband Kimball.

Dorothy Bromage

Note: If you missed this presentation, it will be repeated at the Tyngsboro Library on March 7 at 7p.m.

The Elusive Pursuit of Happiness

How do you know you are experiencing it and how do you sustain it? Dr. Arnie Kerzner, a Board Certified Child and Family Psychiatrist, engaged the audience immediately by asking them to consider their own personal definitions of what happiness means to them. He was suggesting that rather than lecturing in the usual sense that he hoped that he and the LIRA members would instead participate in a conversation.

Responses by the audience members included those who felt they were basically satisfied with their life situation. Others felt that happiness was not a constant in life but woven in and out for most people with significant occasions and moments of delight and pleasures in relationships that made life satisfying and flourish. There are also times when life was less than perfect and loss, frustration and disappointments were present.

We learn about love and caring or the lack of these in our families and friendships – and a huge component of happiness is based on relationships and social interaction. He shared with us his own growth and learning in his profession and his own journey to



Dr. Arnie Kerzner with coordinator
Claire Frassica

caring satisfaction and joy with his family, friends, colleagues, professional connections and community connections.

Dr. Kerzner has also suggested that we need to inform ourselves of the wonderful opportunities for exercise, terrific nutritional information and excellent continuing education opportunities. There are also volunteer projects that keep us giving our multi-talents to all ages and areas of our communities.

Just the acts of breathing, walking, smiling, conversing, interacting with others and keeping ourselves in the main stream of activity such as sports, continuing education, travel or learning a new language, will balance the need for quiet, meditative time such as religious or volunteer activities.

The Appendix A & B that he shared with us can remind us of information that is pertinent and that our physicians and other service people can share with us. Thus giving to ourselves that sense of well-being and happiness that he advocates for himself and us all.

Judith Palais

The Bread & Roses Centennial

When Professor Bob Farrant brings his well-prepared lecture to LIRA in March (“As We Come Marching! Snapshots of Labor History”), one of the highlights will be a discussion of something that happened in 1912. It is a significant event in the United States labor movement and got the name “Bread and Roses Strike” from a poem and a sign that was carried by women—at least, that’s how the story goes.

A Bread and Roses Centennial Committee has been organized, with Bob as chairman. The Centennial Year began in January with the opening of an exhibit on the 1912 strike at the Everett Mill in Lawrence where the strike began. In the next few months, there are several opportunities to be part of the celebration. All will tie in nicely with Bob’s presentation. The Lawrence History Center’s exhibit and cultural space “Short Pay! All Out!” is open on the 6th floor of the Everett Mill (15 Union St, Lawrence), Thursday-Saturday 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. It is free and open to the public.

March 6: 6:30-8:00 PM Performance Events Center, 2nr Floor, Boott Cotton Mills Museum, Lowell. Performance: Three Mill Girls; “We are Not Machines,” performed by Marcia Estabrook. Part of Lowell Women’s Week 2012. Candlelight boardinghouse tour (Mogan Cultural Center, 40 French St in Lowell) 8:00 – 8:30 PM.

March 10: Revels Repertory Company performance of “An American Journey.” This honors the struggles and courage of all who have left their homeland to come to the United States. Everett Mill, 15 Union St. in Lawrence at 2:00 PM.

April 10: Spend an evening at the Boott Mill in Lowell and learn about the Bread & Roses Strike and the strike that took place in Lowell shortly after the more well-known strike concluded. Further information from Frank_Clark@nps.gov

April 29: As We Come Marching: Boston Workmen’s Circle Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Lawrence Bread & Roses Strike with *A Besere Velt* (A Better World), the Boston Workmen’s Circle Yiddish Community Chorus, presenting an interactive concert with drumming, images, and historic and contemporary narrative. 4:00–5:30 PM at Boston Teachers Union, 180 Mt. Vernon St, Dorchester. Visit www.circleboston.org for information.

Dorothy Bromage

UML Graduates

If you graduated from UMass Lowell, please contact Jeanne Gunion. The Alumni office is interested in having this information as they help us in publicizing LIRA in their publications. The following is a list of the graduates that is already known: Simone Allard, Ron Cannistraro, Joanne DuBay, Kathleen Flynn, Toby Hodes, Larry Hodes, Elaine Jelescheff, Connie Lanseigne-Case, Gerald Miller, Mary O’Connor, William Sarro and William Terris. You may contact Jeanne at jgunion@comcast.net.

Walk that Famous Canal

On February 8, we learned a lot about our local historical celebrity, the Middlesex Canal. Further information is available at www.middlesexcanal.org. Continuing information arrives by joining the Middlesex Canal Association and receiving their publication “Towpath Topics.” Membership details are on the website.

Twice a year, the association organizes a walk. This year the Spring Walk will take place on Sunday, April 15 in North Billerica. It is a 5 mile walk on level ground. You will walk along the canal north to Chelmsford, as you hear stories related to the area. The time is 1:30 – 4:00 PM. Meet at the Middlesex Canal Museum, which opens at noon. (71 Faulkner St in North Billerica at Faulkner Mills) Park across the street. No registration is required. Be aware that there may be occasional muddy walking conditions.

For directions, visit the museum website above. For answers to questions, call Roger Hagopian 781-861-7868 or Robert Winter 617-661-9230.

Dorothy Bromage

The Word is Out!

Thanks to our Publicity Chairman, Jeanne Gunion, LIRA has been getting a lot of recognition in the local papers. There have been many articles in the circular, ‘Action Unlimited’; Nancy Tuttle mentioned us in the Lowell Sun and the following article and picture appeared in the Chelmsford Independent. It must be working, because we have 18 new members since September. Thank you Jean for all your hard work!



LIRA (Learning In Retirement Assoc.) Book Discussion Group meeting at the Chelmsford Library on December 9, 2011. At this meeting the group discussed *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. The discussion followed the meeting of the Friday morning lecture series that is co-sponsored by LIRA and the Chelmsford Library.

Those pictured are Betty Sampas, of Groton, Toby Hodes of Haverhill and President of LIRA, Marjorie Short, and Carol McCarthy of Chelmsford, Deirdre Anderson of Westford, Shirley McCaffrey, and Martha Hill-Sackett of Chelmsford, Shirley Mitchell of Tyngsboro, and Connie Lanseigne-Case of Pelham, NH.

Thank You.....

The following is a Thank You from Scholarship recipient Sara Pietila.

LIRA Community,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. It is an honor to have been selected and recognized for my community service and academic achievements. I wish I could have stayed at the luncheon, but I had to be back on South Campus to take my final exam – the exam went well. Again thank you so much for the scholarship. I will be using it to pay for tuition and books for Spring 2012.

*Thank you.
Sara Pietila*

The following is a thank you note from Community Teamwork Inc. An article also appeared in their employee newsletter 'CTI UPDATES' that mentioned LIRA and their generous donations along with the picture below.

Dear Toby,

Thank you so much for LIRA's continued support and generous donations of children's books and warm items to benefit so many children and their families through our agency. Please see enclosed article and picture you sent that went out to CTI staff today about your donations.

With our Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program, 8 families with 20 children were served. Each child received a book along with hat and glove sets. In addition to BBBS, approximately 105 books, 21 hat and mitten sets, 42 hats, 34 mittens/gloves and 2 hand-knit baby sweaters were distributed to clients of other CTI programs and sites. This included our Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program, James Houlares Early Learning Center, Coats for Kids and our housing and homeless programs on Merrimack Street.

Our best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to everyone and our thanks again for all you heartfelt gifts.

*Sincerely,
Joan Aseltine
CTI Senior Corps
Program Specialist*



President Toby Hodes, Joan Aseltine and Linda Bloomgren from CTI with all our donations of books, hats and mittens.



Time for a Change

If you want to remain current with LIRA members, take pen or pencil in hand and make the following changes in your membership list.

New Members:

Szifra Birke
84 Florence Rd
Lowell, MA 01851
978-446-9600
szifra@gmail.com

Edward M. McCaffrey
30 Crooked Spring Rd.
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
978-251-4437
E_SMccaffrey@verizon.net

Susan A. Brown
55 Hardy St
Dunstable, MA 01827
978-649-9317
itching2go@verizon.net

Roberta Moore
39 Perkins St Apt 109
Lowell, MA 01854
978-455-4426
robertakmoore@gmail.com

Joanne DuBay
35 6th Ave
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
978-251-0204
tattycor@gmail.com

Email changes:
Irene Ballantine:
ireneballantine@verizon.net

Kathleen Flynn
215 Remington St
Lowell, MA 01852
978-452-0836
kmkfly@gmail.com

Eleanor Belanger:
elbelanger41@gmail.com

Kathleen and Richard Forstey
48 Robinson Rd
Woburn, MA 01801
781-935-4436
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Dorothy Bromage:
bromaged@verizon.net

Audrey Kimball
PO Box 587
Dunstable, MA 01827
978-649-6090
kimballaf@gmail.com

Barbara Ludinsky:
bludinsky@verizon.net

Judith Palais:
therainter@comcast.net

The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2012; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2012. 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

Newsletter Committee

Geraldine Durant, Editor & Calendar	jeri@netway.com
Suzanne Knapp, Layout & Reproduction	knapp.sc@gmail.com
Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady, Distribution	shirleytm2@aol.com
Simone Allard, Member News	siallard@verizon.net



**WORKING TOGETHER:
Lifelong Learning Institutes & the Elderhostel Institute Network**

December, 2011

Dear Members,

It has been 23 years since the Elderhostel Institute Network first began working with lifelong learning institutes (LLIs) like yours, all across the country. Many new members have joined since then, so let's take a minute to review some background, and bring everyone up-to-date.

In 1962, the first learning in retirement program, the Institute for Retired Professionals (IRP) in New York City, opened its doors. From that beginning, word slowly spread about this new learning for older adults and over the next 25 years or so, about 50 programs were started. Then, in 1988 the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN) was established to help the growing lifelong learning movement start more programs and to provide resources to those already in existence. To date, we have helped more than 200 new programs get started.

EIN is a free, voluntary association of affiliated lifelong learning institutes, funded by Elderhostel Inc. Elderhostel is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities for older adults through their Road Scholar programming (www.roadscholar.org). EIN does not prescribe LLI fees or approve curriculum; those decisions are made independently by each program. Because LLI's are for local participants, all advertising and registration are also handled locally.

Early every month EIN posts a newsletter and several new columns on our web site – www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp. As a central resource and communications network, the material we post is taken from your program's course catalogs, newsletters, and other materials, and keeps all the LLIs up-to-date on what's happening in the world of lifelong learning. At the same time, we also provide resources for new courses, and other events. **So be sure EIN is on your LLI's mailing list.** We read everything we receive and love to highlight unique program offerings in the monthly newsletter. To add EIN to your LLI's mailing list, our address is: **Elderhostel Institute Network – 11 Avenue deLafayette – Boston, MA 02111.**

From time-to-time, EIN also offers its affiliated LLIs special opportunities. For instance, the Road Scholar Ambassador program, with 300 ambassadors across the country, can send a free speaker to your LLI to talk about Road Scholar and its vast array of educational travel programs. These programs can round out your curriculum, complementing existing courses and activities. Along with that, Road Scholar, having just secured the necessary government permissions to travel to Cuba, can offer LLIs some very attractive programs and pricing. For more information about Road Scholar, watch their new DVD at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5E8rnTiESl>

We encourage you to visit our web site – www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp to learn more. If you would like to keep up with the world of lifelong learning, we would be happy to add you to our email distribution list. We try to keep emails to a minimum, usually just one per month. Your email address, safe in our database, is never rented, sold or given away. **Please be sure though, to let us know if your email address changes.** If you have any questions or would like to join our email list, send an email to network@roadscholar.org.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that as of today, membership in EIN stands at an all time high with more than 400 LLIs throughout the United States, Canada and Jamaica. As a member of your LLI, you are part of a thriving lifelong learning movement that has spread throughout the United States and into almost every country around the world. It is truly global in scope.

So welcome to the world of lifelong learning where millions of people just like you are creating fulfilling lives for themselves thanks to the benefits and joys of continuing to learn, no matter what our age!

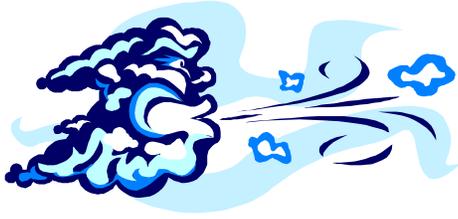
Thank you.

Nancy Merz Nordstrom, M.Ed.

Director, Elderhostel Institute Network

NOTE: Nancy requested that this letter be added to our newsletter:

Attached is a letter I have written to your members, updating them on EIN and the world of lifelong learning. With so many new people joining your programs, I thought it might be time to say Hello. I wish I could visit each LLI personally, but with over 400 programs, it just isn't possible. So this letter is the next best thing..... I suspect some of them will be very surprised to learn about the global scope of later-life learning.



March 2012

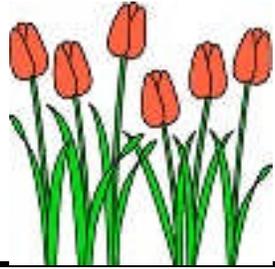
NOTE: March 22 classes will meet at the Campus Rec Center

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight savings begins Set clocks ahead one hour.	12	13	14 10AM to Noon Town Meeting Alumni Hall	15	16 10AM to Noon Book Discussion - Tinkers by Paul Harding	17 
18	19 10AM to Noon Labor History—Bob Farrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare—Frank Carroll	20 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Listening to Great Mu- sic—J. Gunion	21 Gore Place, Waltham Meet at Hannaford at 9AM to Carpool	22 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity— Alan Kent	23	24
25	26 10AM to Noon Labor History—Bob Farrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare—Frank Carroll	27 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Listening to Great Mu- sic—J. Gunion	28 10AM to Noon Instruments of the Orchestra: Percussion - Dorothy Bromage	29 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity— Alan Kent	30	31



April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 10AM to Noon Labor History—Bob Farrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare—Frank Carroll	3 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Listening to Great Music—J. Gunion	4 Worcester Art Museum Meet at Hannaford at 9:45AM to car-pool.	5 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity—Alan Kent	6 <i>Passover Good Friday</i>	7
8 	9 10AM to Noon Labor History—Bob Farrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare—Frank Carroll	10 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Listening to Great Music—J. Gunion	11 Davis Art Museum, Wellesley College Meet at Hannaford at 9:45AM to car-pool.	12 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity—Alan Kent	13	14
15	16 PATRIOT'S DAY 	17 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Silent Movie - <i>The Kid</i>	18 MIT Museum Meet at Hannaford at 8:45AM to car-pool.	19 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity—Alan Kent	20 10AM to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Warmth of Other Suns....America's Great Migration</i> By I. Wilkerson	21
22	23 10AM to Noon Labor History—Bob Farrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare—Frank Carroll	24 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Silent Movie - <i>The Gold Rush</i>	25 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity—Alan Kent	26 BSO Open Rehearsal - Meet at Hannaford at 7:15AM for bus	27	28
29	30 10AM to Noon Labor History—Bob Farrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare—Frank Carroll					



May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Silent Movie - <i>The Freshman</i>	2 10AM to Noon The Modernists— Liana Cheney	5 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity— Alan Kent	4	5
6	7 10AM to Noon Labor History— Bob Forrant 1PM to 3PM Shakespeare— Frank Carroll	8 10AM to Noon Physics in Your Life Jerry Gilmore 1PM to 3PM Silent Movie - <i>The Big Parade</i>	9 10AM to Noon The American Impressionists- Jean Schott	5 10AM to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1PM to 3PM Christianity— Alan Kent	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 10AM to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Garden of Beasts</i> by Erik Larson	19
20	21	22	23 10AM to Noon Annual Meeting	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day 	29	30	31		

Learning in Retirement Association
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Office of Community and Cultural Affairs
One University Avenue
Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

SPRING 2012 SCHEDULE

Most spring study groups will meet in the **Talon Club Room at the Tsongas Center**, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, MA. When the Talon Club Room is not available, the location will be announced well ahead of time. Registration will take place at the Town Meeting, Wednesday, March 14 at 10:00 AM at Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell. Each course description includes, beneath the title, the person who is presenter or facilitator. Below the paragraph is the name of the course coordinator who makes the arrangements and has responsibility for carrying out details of the class.

AS WE COME MARCHING! SNAPSHOTS OF LABOR HISTORY

7 Mondays 10:00-Noon Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 23, 30, May 7

Presenter: Bob Farrant

Through newsreels, readings, and lively discussions we will consider the travails and triumphs of working people in the U.S. as they struggled for dignity and a decent living. The course will provide an overview of this incredible history from the 19th century until today. We will discuss major events like Lowell and the 'mill girls,' the Haymarket Affair, the Homestead Steel Strike, the 1911 Triangle Fire, the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike, the Bonus Army, the Memorial Day Massacre, sit down strikes in the 1930s, and what's happened to unions since the end of the Second World War. Recommended (but not required) reading: *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Short, Illustrated History of Labor in the United States*, by Priscilla Murolo and A.B. Chitty, New Press, 2003.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

SHAKESPEARE'S "TWELFTH NIGHT"

7 Mondays 1:00-3:00 Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 23, 30, May 7

Presenter: Frank Carroll*

With the creation of "Twelfth Night" the genius of Shakespeare reached its highest creative point in sheer comedy. The plot, with its mistaken identities and coincidences, although taken from other sources going back to ancient Roman plays of Plautus, seems to come alive in a new and greater way under the pen of the master. In fact, the principal mistaken identity of the play is a device Shakespeare himself used in "As You Like It." However we soon forget about the characters of the main plot and focus our attention upon the lesser characters like the drunken Sir Toby, the silly Sir Andrew Aguecheek, and, of course the foolish Malvolio. In any case, we look forward to a reading of this play. The only requirements are a love of Shakespeare and a copy of the text.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

PHYSICS IN YOUR LIFE

8 Tuesdays 10:00-Noon Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8

Facilitator: Jerry Gilmore*

Physics in Your Life: is a video lecture course, with Prof. Richard Wolfson, Middlebury College.

Some of the subjects that will be covered are:

Keeping Warm –Temperature scales, heat transfer mechanisms (conduction, convection, radiation, energy balance).

Life in the Greenhouse – Earth's Climate, Earth's atmosphere & human influence.

Tip of the Iceberg - Freezing & transition to liquid & vapor.

Other subjects include: Physics in the Kitchen, Energy in Your Life, Your Place in the Sun (GPS), Dance & Spin (rotation & control), Light Fantastic (light bulbs to lasers) and more topics.

Should prove to be a fascinating educational experience!

Coordinator: Steve Sussman*

TUESDAY MUSIC AND MOVIES

8 Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8

Spend your Tuesday afternoons getting entertained and educated. There are four weeks highlighting the Classical Era of music, with selections chosen and augmented by Jeanne Gunion. This is followed by four weeks when Barbara Page presents a film series with background comments.

> **first 4 Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00** Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10

Presenter: Jeanne Gunion*

HOW TO LISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND GREAT MUSIC/Classical

The study of Mozart's life and his musical compositions will be continued. We will pick up his life from about 1779 or the Vienna years, using The Teaching Co. DVDs with Robert Greenberg. In addition to viewing the DVDs we will also listen to the music - mostly chamber music - that is particularly illustrative of this period.

Coordinator: Martha Hill Sackett*

> **second 4 Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00** Apr 17, 24, May 1, 8

Presenter: Barbara Page*

SILENTS IN THE AFTERNOON

Apr 17 *The Kid* with Charlie Chaplin 1921

Apr 24 *The Gold Rush* with Chaplin 1925

May 1 *The Freshman* with Harold Lloyd 1925

May 8 *The Big Parade* with John Gilbert 1925

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

ART & MUSIC

8 sessions, usually Wednesday Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18, 26, May 2, 9

Beginning March 21 and continuing through May 9, meetings at the Talon Club Room will start at 10:00 AM and go until noon except for April 26, which is the Thursday trip to the BSO Open Rehearsal. Please see attached schedule for dates, times, topics, and coordinators of those Art & Music sessions which are not at the Talon Club Room.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

GREAT DECISIONS

8 sessions Thursdays, 10:00–Noon Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 25, May 3, 10
Mitchell*

Facilitator: Shirley

NOTE: The March 22 class will be held at the Campus Recreation Center, 100 Pawtucket Street, Lowell. **Please bring your LIRA photo ID.**

The Great Decisions studies are based on materials supplied by the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, D.C. The following four topics will be discussed this semester: Exit from Afghanistan & Iraq, Mexico, Cybersecurity, and Energy Geopolitics. Briefing books used in this course are available for \$16.00 each.

Coordinator: Shirley Mitchell*

GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS: CHRISTIANITY

8 sessions Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 25, May 3, 10

Facilitator: Alan Kent*

The lectures of "Great World Religions: Christianity" provide a clear survey of the most important elements of a vital religious tradition that has become the world's largest faith. In Yale University Professor Luke Timothy Johnson's course, consider fundamental issues including Christianity's birth and expansion across the Mediterranean world, the development of its core doctrine, its deep connections to Western culture, and more. Each one of these 12 video lectures is filled with insights that will enhance your understanding of the history and nature of a great world religion.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

BOOK DISCUSSION

3 Friday sessions, 10:00–Noon Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18

Facilitator: Shirley Mc Caffrey*

If you love to read, enjoy reading an eclectic mix of books, and look forward to having like-minded people with whom to discuss these tomes, the book discussion group has it all. Every month we read and discuss a variety of books, including sociological studies, memoirs and biographies, political histories, and, yes, fiction, including the classics. Our selections for spring 2012 include: March *Tinkers*, fiction by Paul Harding, April *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, non-fiction by Isabel Wilkerson, May *in the Garden of Beasts*, non-fiction by Erik Larson.

Coordinator: Shirley McCaffrey*

*Denotes LIRA member

ART AND MUSIC SPRING 2012 SCHEDULE

At the March 14 Town Meeting, there will be a new system for signing up for trips. There will be two signup sheets for each person at the table. Trips are listed on one sheet and courses on the other. Please sign up for the trips on the sheet provided. If there is a limit to the number of people that can be accommodated and the limit has been exceeded, there will be a lottery for that trip. The extra people will be contacted by the coordinator and they will go on a waiting list. All programs are on Wednesday except for the Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal which is on Thursday, April 26. Note that the bus trips are always limited to the size of the bus.

March 21 Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham

Gore Place, the Federal Period Historic House and Estate of Massachusetts Governor, Christopher Gore, includes a small farm. The elegantly furnished mansion has been called: "The Monticello of the North," and architectural historians consider it to be the most significant Federal mansion in New England. Cost: \$11.00. Checks payable to Jane Canter should be given to her at the Town Meeting or mailed to her at 4-A Old Colony Dr, Westford, MA 01886 **ahead of time**. Meet at Hannaford's side parking lot at 9:00 AM to carpool. (If you drive there on your own, be at the Gore House before the tour starts at 10:00 AM.)

Directions: Rte 128 to Exit 26 to Rte 20 East (Main St) and 3-1/2 miles to Gore St.

Coordinator: Jane Canter*

March 28 Instruments of the Orchestra: Percussion

Presenter: Dorothy Bromage*

The family of strings—we've explored that. Woodwinds then brass have been spotlighted. It's time to see what the percussion section of the orchestra is all about. As before, some general information will be presented. This will be followed by UMass Lowell students demonstrating whatever percussion instruments are practical to bring. Some instruments sound one certain pitch; on some, a tune can be played, others get your attention by being shaken, tapped, thumped, struck with a stick or metal bar or otherwise beaten upon. Be ready for a morning of discovery!

Coordinator: Pat Casadone*

April 4 Worcester Art Museum

The Museum's collection includes: Roman Floor Mosaics, European Masters, Photographs, and Contemporary Art. Admission for the guided tour is \$14.00. Checks payable to LIRA, Inc. should be mailed to Carol McCarthy at 398 Acton Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824, postmarked on or before March 21. Meet at Hannaford's side parking lot at 9:45 AM to carpool. There is a café for lunch. (If you drive there on your own, be at the Museum before the tour starts at 11:00 AM.)

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

April 11 Davis Art Museum, Wellesley College

We will have a tour of the fascinating new Radcliffe Bailey installation and other exhibits. Meet at Hannaford's side parking lot at 9:45 AM to carpool. Please carpool because there are only 8 spaces. Those with a handicap placard please bring it. After the tour, we can meet at 1:00PM at the College Club for lunch. Admission to the museum is free. Buffet, dessert, coffee or tea, tax and tip is \$20.00. Checks payable to Barbara Page should be mailed to her at 200 Market St Apt 601, Lowell, MA 01852, postmarked on or before March 31. (If you drive there on your own, be at the Museum before the tour starts at 11:00 AM.)

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

April 18 MIT Museum

Join us for a tour of the List Visual Arts Center's public arts collection. Lunch is available at the nearby café. Admission for the guided tour is free. Carpoolers meet at Hannaford's side parking lot at 8:45 AM. Directions and parking information will be given at Hannaford's. (If you drive there on your own, be at the Museum before the tour starts at 10:00 AM.).

Coordinator: Judith Palais*

Thursday, April 26 Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal

The conductor will be Bernard Haitink and the guest pianist is Till Fellner. The program is Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 22 in E flat" K482, and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5, the 'Pastoral'." Meet at Hannaford's side parking lot at 7:15 AM for the bus. Tickets are \$33.75 for members; \$43.75 for non-members. This trip is limited to the size of the bus. Checks should be made out to LIRA Inc. and mailed to Jean Rubenstein at 15 Fairbanks Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824, postmarked on or before April 16.

Coordinator: Jean Rubenstein *

May 2 The Modernists

Presenter: Liana Cheney

UMass Lowell Professor of History of Art Liana Cheney will give us another of her wonderful lectures, this time on the Modernists, Charles Sheeler and others.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

May 9 The American Impressionists

Presenter: Jean Schott*

From France, Impressionism spread to almost every country in the world. The United States was especially receptive to it. We will explore the similarities and differences in the two art movements and learn about the artists in France who brought Impressionism to the U.S.

Coordinator: Jean Gunion*

*Denotes a LIRA member