



LIRA NEWSLETTER

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

March 2013

Vol. 20 No. 1

It's almost

Spring

*and time for the new
Spring Session!*

**Join us for the Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 10 AM to Noon
Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from the Perkins Street Parking Lot**

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

*You might think that after thousands of years of coming up too soon and getting frozen,
the crocus family would have had a little sense knocked into it. Robert Benchley*



Holiday Party 2012

The 2012 Holiday Party was a huge success: about 90 members attended, the weather cooperated, and the auction made \$434.00 for the Scholarship fund. The decision to simplify the food and just bring finger food didn't raise any objections and we had a delicious array of goodies. The room at Alumni Hall was beautifully decorated by Hospitality co-chairs, Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis with beautiful bird house centerpieces at each table (see picture). Thanks to both of them for all their hard work.

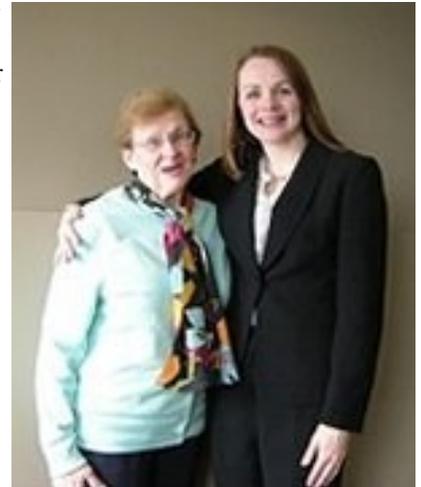


Bill Terris, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the three \$1500 scholarships as described in an article in this newsletter. Carol Cannistraro ran the consumable auction with help from Barbara Willman. Joan Aseltine, from Community Teamwork Inc. told us how much she appreciated our donations. See her letter in this newsletter. Thanks to Elaine Jeleschek for arranging with CTI to pick up our donations.

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!

Finding Flow

On January 9th, Professor Kathleen Leonard kicked off our new year of winter intersessions. She is a Developmental Psychologist at UMass Lowell. Her topic was "Identity, Adaptation, and Finding Flow across the Lifespan". She felt that too much emphasis was put on early child development, and wanted to discuss research in Developmental Psychology as it applies to ongoing growth



through adulthood. She referenced leading theorists, including Erik Erikson, Paul Baltes, and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, who all emphasized the opportunity for healthy growth and change in adult years. In essence, as individuals we are propelled through a series of crises that shape our identity, relationships, and commitments. As well as we adapt to losses in our lives.

Yet, she emphasized that during aging we have the power and ability to maximize gains in available resources to reach our goals. She agreed with Csikszentmihalyi's Flow Theory in that individuals can achieve optimal experience seeking rewarding activities that balance a level of challenge and skill. As LIRA members we are able to experience these challenges and opportunities for growth. Thus, the rewards and accomplishments throughout our lives can give us the potential for lifelong learning and growth. It was a privilege and honor to introduce Professor Leonard to LIRA. She was all smiles at such an interesting audience and was open to questions and answers at the end of the session. I feel that LIRA and Professor Leonard were extremely compatible!

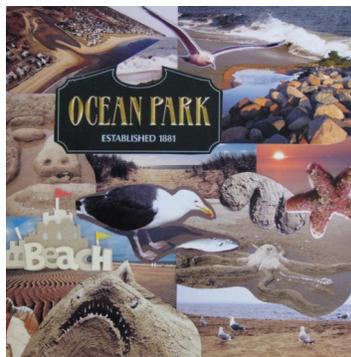
Martha Hill

Collage Workshop

Pamela Wamala, from the Brush Art Gallery & Studios of Lowell, offered LIRA members a hands-on workshop to create a memory collage from favorite photos, postcards, magazine pictures or calendars to name a few. She brought many pictures, stickers and backgrounds that we could use to build our collage. She was very helpful giving ideas as we were busily trying to arrange our 'works of art'. Below are some examples of finished collages.



Claire Frassica's Grandchildren



Jeri Durant's Favorite Family Vacation Spot



Connie Lanseigne-Case's Snippets of Turkey

History of the Army Rangers

As an example of the dangerous life they lead, U.S. Army Ranger, Danny Davis, presented us with a vivid description of a patrol on duty in Afghanistan. His son, using a helmet camera, entered a small village near Kabul and engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. Before the video taken last year, Danny first explained the history of the Rangers and their rigorous training.



The U.S. Army Rangers have a long, heroic history beginning with the first Ranger Company in 1676 for King Philip's War. During the French and Indian wars, Major Robert Rogers combined Indian tactics with European discipline using snowshoes and moving under cover of trees, developed the Rules of Ranging. Colonel John Mosby's Rangers, fighting the Union soldiers, were famous for their stealth in movement in the Civil War.

During World War II, Major Will Darby formed the first Ranger Battalion fighting in North Africa, Salerno, Sicily, and Anzio in Italy. During the Normandy invasion, the 2nd Ranger Battalion assaulted the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under continuous fire by the Germans, immortalized in the movie "The Longest Day". Meanwhile in the Pacific, the 6th Ranger Battalion led the

invasion of the Philippines. Another unit, the 5307th Composite Unit, called Merrill's Marauder's, was formed in 1943 and fought the Japanese in Burma behind enemy lines.

Disbanded after World War II, the Rangers were reinstated and airborne for the first time during the Korean War in 1950 and formed the only all black Ranger unit in U. S. history. In Vietnam, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol and the Airborne Ranger Company attempted a raid on a POW camp which has become a classic study on rescue. The Rangers were involved in the rescue operations of the American hostages in Tehran in 1980, fought in Granada in 1983, Panama, the Persian Gulf War, Somalia, Iraq and now Afghanistan.

The Rangers train at the U.S. Army Ranger School conducted in Fort Benning, Georgia and Elgin Air Force Base in Florida. The intense training consists of three phases lasting 68 days. Soldiers are instructed in mission planning, physical fitness, water survival, day and night navigation, mountaineering, parachuting. They learn that surrender is not a Ranger word and are prepared to deliver maximum surprise and shock to the enemy. After graduation, the Rangers are presented the Ranger Tab worn on the left sleeve of their uniforms and a tan beret. The first, second, and third Ranger battalions are still in service and the 75th Ranger Regiment formed in 1986 is now the largest special operations combat element in the U.S. army.

Mary Willis

Note: Danny Davis came to us from the National Ranger Memorial Foundation which assists Ranger families with recognition and scholarships. If you would like to donate to this foundation, send donation to National Ranger Memorial Foundation, Inc. (check made out to same name), P.O. Box 53369, Fort Benning, GA 31995.



Navigation before GPS

J. Leon Poirier gave LIRA members a fascinating talk about early navigation and the instruments they used. He has taught navigation for 30 years and actually built many replicas of old navigation instruments that were widely used in the 15th to 18th centuries.

One of the earliest navigational devices is called a kamal that determines latitude. It consists of a small wooden card to which a string with several equally spaced knots is attached through a hole in the middle of the card. Each knot represents about 1 degree. Holding the end of the string in your teeth, the card is positioned along the string where the bottom edge is even with the horizon and the top edge is in line with a star. The angle is measured by counting the number of knots from your teeth to your card.

Leon demonstrated many other devices that measured latitude, angles and the speed of the vessel such as a quadrant, cross staff, astrolabe and chip-log. He is pictured with a traverse board which measures the direction of the vessel on the top half and the speed on the bottom half. During a 4 hour watch, a crew member would insert a peg in the top every half hour indicating the direction. Every hour he would insert a peg in the bottom half to indicate the speed of the vessel. At the end of the watch, the navigator would record the information, make sure they were on track and remove the pegs to be ready for the next watch.

Jeri Durant

Coffee Break Note

To everyone who contributed to the refreshments during our coffee breaks at the Rec Center, they were greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

A special thanks to Paul Marion, Executive Director of Community and Cultural Affairs, for funding the coffee at the Talon Club meetings.



Our three Scholarships given at the Holiday Party are funded through the generosity of our LIRA members and the money collected at our coffee breaks helps to fund two of these scholarships. Thank you for your generous support of our dedicated UMass Lowell scholarship students through our coffee donations.

*The Hospitality Committee
Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis*

Quilt Raffle

Jean Schott has made this beautiful, 43 by 50 inch lap quilt to be raffled off at the May Annual Meeting. The fabric is a potpourri of some batiks and others of deep turquoise and purplish blue. Most of it was bought in Florida and makes one



think of the warmth of the tropics!! Raffle tickets will be sold at the March Town Meeting and every Wednesday at the Art & Music sessions that are at the Tsongas Center. Tickets are \$1.00 apiece or 6 for \$5.00 and the proceeds will go to the Scholarship fund.

Classes in the Talon Club Room

This spring'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. If the Talon Club Room is not available, the location will be announced well ahead of time.

Coffee and tea, but no snacks, will be provided by Aramark for our morning and afternoon classes. Snacks by Aramark are cost prohibitive: as an example, the cost of the coffee and snacks for 60 people was \$245.00, for 25 people was \$98.31 and it is not feasible for us to pay as much as this for every class. But we must also 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!

Details for Town Meeting

The Town Meeting will be held in Alumni Hall on University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. The hall is part of the Lydon Library and the entrance to the hall is on the left as you are facing the building. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot to Alumni Hall, leaving us off in the front of the building. The shuttle will be running from 9:15am to 1:00pm for as many trips as needed.

Parking is in the Perkins Street Lot. This is the lot where we normally park when we attend classes at the Rec Center. The bus will be on Riverwalk Way right in front of the entrance to the lot. You should use your hangtags in this parking lot.

LIRA Scholarships Awarded to Three Students

After reviewing 53 UMass Lowell student applications, the following three students received \$1500 each at the Holiday Party in December.



From left to right: Peter Jones, Briana Manalaw, Petyer Trearchis, Bill Terris

Peter Jones---a Plastic Engineering student with a rich background of community Service activities, as a teacher in Paris helping children in underprivileged neighborhoods to have fun and learn English, founder of the Bellarmine High School Choir, assisted with education programs for war veterans, and built houses for homeless people in Uruguay, South America.

Briana Manalaw---A Music Student, whose Community Service includes volunteering at Emerson Hospital, being a Sunday School teacher, being a Study Center and Fund raiser Volunteer, involvement in Community musicals, cantor at Parishes in Methuen and West Boylston, and performing The National Anthem at over 100 ball games.

Petyer Trearchis---a Chemical Engineering Student who was the valedictorian of his high school class, served at the Community Service Day at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, served as team Captain in the relay for life, volunteer for the river clean-up, participated in the Greek Festival in his church, a speaker to high school students and served as a volunteer on the Career Services Advisory Board.

The Lira Scholarship Committee was most impressed with the quality of the applicants and the three recipients were a reflection of the wonderful students at UMass Lowell.

Bill Terris, Scholarship Chair

Newsletters on Website

The newsletter will appear on the website in color, around the first of the month. If you would prefer to read them there instead of getting a hard copy, please let Shirley Mitchell know.

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

China Odyssey

LIRA members Richard and Nancy Grove described their October 2012 trip to China at an Intersession meeting in February. The trip included visits to Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, and a cruise on the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges. There were opportunities to meet ordinary Chinese citizens: farmers in a rural village, students in



Nancy and Richard at the Great Wall a middle school, a farmer relocated by the Three Gorges dam project, several university professors, and university students. Beijing is the capital of China and seat of government of the People's Republic of China. In November the new leaders of China for the next 10 years were announced in Beijing. Beijing was also the imperial capital of China beginning in the Ming dynasty (1410 AD). The Forbidden City was both the administrative center of the imperial government and residence of the emperor. Richard and Nancy also visited the Great Wall of China fifty miles north of Beijing.

Xi'an was the capital of the first united China in 221 BC. An elaborate tomb containing 8000 life-sized terracotta warriors was constructed for the emperor. Soon after his death a revolt destroyed the tomb and all memory of it was lost. In 1974 farmers digging a well discovered pottery fragments and the tomb was rediscovered. It is now a World Heritage site with continuing archeological work.

China is a dynamic country that has made great progress in the last 30 years of economic reform. 300 million people joined the urban middle class but 600 million still live in rural poverty. Everywhere there is new construction: highways, high-speed rail, new apartments and office buildings, and lots of cars and traffic. People are proud of the great progress but there is widespread unhappiness about corruption in the one-party government and great disparity in wealth. With 500 million internet users and 350 million users of a Chinese Twitter-like service, the Chinese people are very aware of problems. The China-United States relationship will be of great importance in the 21st century.

Richard Grove

Nominating Committee for 2013

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Connie Lanseigne-Case as Chairman, Ann Dahlman and Carol McCarthy. 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

Member News

Between the surgeries and falls, there are many LIRA members recuperating at home that could use your encouragement while they are recovering.

Dorothy Bromage, Kay Collins and Eleanor Belanger are at home and are still in various stages of recuperation.

Jerry Gilmore has been making great progress after his surgery and his time in rehab. We wish him well through his many months of treatment that he still has in front of him.

Dotty Morris and Simone Allard are at home and recovering from their surgeries. Joan Kerzner fell and broke her leg and is recovering at home.

It was reported in the last newsletter that Jean Dettman suffered a stroke. Sadly, Jean died on November 15, 2012 and the memorial service was on December 8, 2012. Jean joined LIRA in 1992 and had to move to Hingham with her son after a fall in 2008. She was very active, a past president, on many committees and participated in all the study groups. LIRA donated \$50.00 in her name to the Scholarship Fund.

Please contact me at siallard@verizon.net or tele 978-256-8572 if you know of any members who would like to be remembered by LIRA so that I may send cards.

ReServe, Inc. pays skilled seniors for Community Service work

"ReServe Inc., a nonprofit that puts adults age 55 and up to work in schools, government offices, and community agencies. ReServe matches people - often recent retirees or unemployed older workers - with part-time jobs, paying them \$10 an hour for their help." This quote was from a Boston Globe article by Megan Woodhouse:

<http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/seniors-news/retirees-lend-their-expertise/>

The organization opened its doors in Boston fairly recently. There will be an information session on May 14th in Framingham. In order to attend you must fill out a very brief questionnaire, which can be found at

firstimpressionsgreaterboston@reserveinc.org. See their website at www.reserveinc.org/greaterboston.

If we could get a large number of people from the LIRA area we might be able to convince them to have a location for the Lower Merrimack Valley region. Please sign up for the information session. If you would like further information, please contact LIRA member Barbara Kager, barbarakager@yahoo.com.

Thank you.....

The following is a thank you note from Joan Aseltine of Community Teamwork Inc. thanking us for our donations of books, hats and mittens.

Dear Toby,

Thank you so much for LIRA's continued generosity in donating children's books and warm items to benefit so many needy children and CTI clients in the Greater Lowell area. It worked out perfect that your holiday party was on Wednesday, the day we are open for our Coats for Kids program. We were able to immediately distribute much needed 50 sets of children's hats, mittens, scarves along with a very cute boy's jacket and several other hats, gloves and socks. I also brought over to Milly's Place, one of CTI's shelters, 52 children's books and many children's hats as well. There were some very cute baby board books I will be delivering shortly to our WIC program and over 20 young adult books that will be going to our Big Brothers Big Sisters program. I will also be delivering some adult hats to our new Veteran's Corner at Coats for Kids (and adults).

Our thanks again to LIRA members for their kindness and special gifts. Our best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Joan Aseltine, CTI Senior Corps Program Specialist



Joan Aseltine and Elaine Jeleschiff
with the table of donations

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Lecture Series that the Chelmsford Library is running in conjunction with LIRA will continue this spring. Information about these lectures can be found on the library website.

www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday_morning_lectures.html

Lectures scheduled are:

- March 8, 2013: "U.S. and Iran Relations" by Rustin Zarkar
- April 12, 2013: "Egypt" by Sarah Moawad
- May 10, 2013: "Gardens by Design: the Life and Writings of Harold Caparn" by Oliver Chamberlain
- June 14, 2013: "The Master Class: Living Longer, Stronger and Happier" presented by Peter Spiers



The Annual Meeting will be held on May 15, 2013. The Summer intersession begins on Wednesday, June 5, 2013.



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2013; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2013. 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



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

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.

March 14, 2013 Pollard Library – 7:00pm Thursday
“Margaret Bourke-White, Courageous Photographer”
by **Sally Matson**

“To do all the things that women never do”. In this presentation you will hear about her adventures climbing on skyscrapers, leaning out of airplanes, going into war zones. She photographed Stalin, Churchill, Patton and Gandhi. She had an indomitable spirit and a craving for attention and the lead story and cover for the inaugural issue of Life magazine in November, 1936. Her thousands of photographs continue to hold our attention as they reveal her courage and compassion. Sally Matson will bring to life Margaret Bourke-White through the use of letters, diaries photographs and other primary resources.

April 7, 2013 Lowell National Park Visitor Center – 2:00pm Sunday

“Native People and the Whaling Industry” by Dana Benner

The late 1700s to the mid-1800s were the golden age of whaling, with New England being the hub for the whaling fleet. These sailing ships needed crews and who better to serve than the Native people of New England. In this talk we will discuss what it took to be a crew member on one of these ships and look at why Native American men took these jobs, jobs that many people wouldn't even think about taking.

April 21, 2013 Lowell National Park Visitor Center – 2:00pm Sunday

“The Founding Fathers: What Were They Thinking” by Richard A. Hesse

Mythology about the Founding Fathers and their work at the Convention has obscured both fact and legitimate analysis of the events leading to the agreement called the Constitution. This program explores the cast of characters called “founders,” the problems they faced and the solutions they fashioned.

April 25, 2013 Pollard Library – 7:00pm Thursday

“Lessons Learned the Hard Way” by Deborah Greenslit

After winning over \$750,000 on a slot machine, Deborah Greenslit thought she had it made. Today she will tell you differently.” When casinos come to Massachusetts, Greenslit sees her story as a warning to others. Greenslit is a therapist and wellness expert who has helped other people deal with healing our addictions thru living with a loving heart towards ourselves. Today she is working on her memoir with the working title “Pennies from Heaven, Lessons from Hell”.



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

John and Patricia Bernazani
192 Concord Rd,
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-6232
email:

tootsiesosweet@verizon.net

M. Barbara Kager
2000 Skyline Drive Apt 5
Lowell, MA 01854
978-937-2122

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Loretta L. Curtis
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Janice Shuhany
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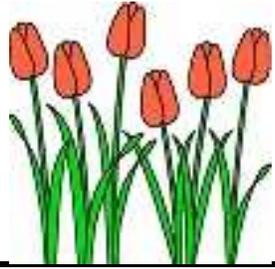
March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 10 a.m. to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series— <i>U.S. and Iran Relations</i> R. Zarkar	9
10 Daylight savings begins—set clocks ahead one hour.	11	12	13 10 a.m to Noon Town Meeting Alumni Hall	14	15 10 a.m. to Noon Book Discussion - <i>Bring up the Bodies-</i> Hilary Mantel	16
17 	18 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Farrant 1-3pm Buddhism - Toby Hodes	19 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Homefront during WWII	20 10 a.m. to Noon Life and Music of Verdi—Barbara Wagner <i>First day of Spring</i>	21 10am to Noon Great Decisions- Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies— <i>Merrill's Marauders</i>	22	23
24	25 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Farrant <i>Passover</i>	26 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Homefront during WWII	27 Currier Museum Manchester, NH Meet at Hannaford at 10am to carpool	28 10am to Noon Great Decisions- Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies— <i>Northwest Passage</i>	29	30
31 						



April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Farrant 1-3pm Buddhism - Toby Hodes	2 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Homefront during WWII—Pat Fontaine	3 10 am to Noon <i>Turkey's Legacy of Civilizations and Culture -Connie Lanseigne-Case</i>	4 10am to Noon Great Decisions-Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies— <i>Up the Yangtze</i>	5	6
7	8 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Farrant 1-3pm Buddhism - Toby Hodes	9 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Homefront during WWII—Pat Fontaine	10 10 am to Noon <i>Cuba Today - Jose Ramirez</i>	11 10am to Noon Great Decisions-Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies— <i>Rabbit-Proof Fence</i>	12 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series - Egypt:: The Revolution Continues Sarah Moawad	13
14	15  PATRIOT'S DAY	16 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm—Physics in your Life—Emanuel Polizzi	17 American Textile History Museum, Lowell Meet at Museum at 10 am.	18 10am to Noon Great Decisions-Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies— <i>Gallipoli</i>	19 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition—Daniel Okrent</i>	20
21	22 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Farrant 1-3pm Buddhism - Toby Hodes	23 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm —Physics in your Life—Emanuel Polizzi	24 Whistler House Museum of Art, Lowell Meet at Museum at 10 am.	25 10am to Noon Great Decisions-Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Hadyn— Jeanne Gunion	26	27
28	29 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Farrant 1-3pm Buddhism - Toby Hodes	30 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm —Physics in your Life—Emanuel Polizzi				



May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 10am to Noon Great Decisions- Shirley Mitchell</p> <p>1-3pm Hadyn— Jeanne Gunion</p>	<p>2 Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal</p> <p>Meet at Hannaford at 7:15 am for bus.</p>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<p>6 10 a.m to Noon Immigration-Bob Forrant 1-3pm Buddhism - Toby Hodes</p>	<p>7 10 a.m. to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm —Physics in your Life—Emanuel Polizzi</p>	<p>8 10 am to Noon <i>Life and Art of James</i> <i>McNeill Whistler -</i> Jean Schott</p>	<p>9 10am to Noon Great Decisions- Shirley Mitchell</p> <p>1-3pm Hadyn— Jeanne Gunion</p>	<p>10 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series—</p> <p><i>Gardens by Design</i> Oliver Chamberlain</p>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>		<i>13</i>	<p>15 10 am to Noon Annual Meeting Alumni Hall</p>	<i>16</i>	<p>17 10 am to Noon Book Discussion</p> <p><i>The Buddha in the</i> <i>Attic—Julie Otsuka</i></p>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<p>27 Memorial Day</p> 	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

SPRING 2013 SCHEDULE

Spring study groups will meet in the **Talon Club Room at the Tsongas Center**, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, MA. See directions, including parking, by visiting the web site at www.uml.edu/community/lira. Registration will take place at the Town Meeting, Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell, MA. 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.

GETTING HERE WAS HALF THE BATTLE: IMMIGRATION AND THE MAKING AND REMAKING OF THE MERRIMACK RIVER VALLEY

7 Mondays 10:00-Noon Mar 18, 25, Apr 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6

Presenter: Bob Farrant

The story of immigration is the story of the United States and the region we live in today. In this course we will take a close look at the general history of immigration and as well study immigration into this part of Massachusetts. The time period will be from approximately 1870 through the recent waves of Southeast Asian and African immigration today. We will read: *Ethnicity in Lowell* by Robert Farrant and Christoph Strobel. It can be found online at http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/lowe/ethnicity.pdf and *The Big Move* by Robert Farrant and Christoph Strobel. This book sells for \$10 and I will bring copies with me for the first class for everyone to purchase.

Coordinator: Russ MacLeod*

GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS: BUDDHISM

6 Mondays 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mar 18, Apr 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6
Hodes*

Facilitator: Toby

In our continuing quest to begin to understand the great religions of the world, we will spend our spring semester exploring Buddhism, a 2500 year old religion. According to the professor whose lectures we will be viewing, although Buddhism plays the role of a “religion” in many cultures, it challenges some of our most basic assumptions about religion. Buddhists do not worship a God who created and sustains the world. They revere the memory of a human being, Siddhartha Gautama, who found a way to be free from suffering and bring the cycle of rebirth to an end. For Buddhists, this release from suffering is the ultimate goal of human life.

Coordinator: Russ MacLeod*

SHAKESPEARE’S “MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM”

8 Tuesdays 10:00–Noon Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7

Presenter: Frank Carroll*

Our next venture into the world of Shakespeare will be a return to comedy. For this spring’s effort we have chosen “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” This is an early play, dating to 1595 and is the first of two “fairy” plays—that is, plays featuring those ethereal individuals. The other is a much later and equally well-known play, “The Tempest,” of 1611. The sources of most of Shakespeare’s plays are well-known, but for this work the provenance is still a mystery. Most critics consider it based on several themes from Chaucer’s “Canterbury Tales,” while others with equal insistence claim it clearly comes from stories in the “Metamorphoses” of the Latin poet, Ovid. In any case, it is the Bard’s first comic masterpiece despite the assertions made by critics that is more of a masque than a play, and the abundance of puns, conceits, and classical allusions are overdone. Despite all that, it is among the half dozen or so of the master’s plays that are most frequently performed on the modern stage. Well, perhaps so, but we will look forward to unraveling and enjoying its many mysteries.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

THE HOME FRONT IN WORLD WAR II AND LIFE IN LOWELL DURING WWII

4 Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9

Presenter: Pat Fontaine

This class will look at the home front in WWII, concentrating on women and minorities. It will also showcase Lowell as a defense city and the opportunities given to women to do their share in Lowell but also in Boston.

Coordinator: Carole Mumby*

PHYSICS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

4 Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m. Apr 16, 23, 30, May 7

Presenter: Emanuel Polizzi

Some features: Diagnostic medical equipment and why the sky is blue; how to ask your doctor intelligent questions and how to answer your grandkids’ questions.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

ART & MUSIC

8 sessions, usually Wednesday Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 2 (Thursday), 8

Beginning March 20 and continuing through May 8, meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and go until noon except for May 2, which is the Thursday trip to the BSO Open Rehearsal. Please see attached schedule for dates, times, topics, presenters, and coordinators of the Art & Music sessions,

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

GREAT DECISIONS

8 Thursdays, 10:00–Noon Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25, May 1(Wednesday), 9

Facilitator: Shirley Mitchell*

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: Iran, Egypt, Myanmar and Southeast Asia, and Threat Assessment. 2013 briefing books are available for \$16.00 each.

Coordinator: Shirley Mitchell*

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES

5 Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18

Presenter: Barbara Page*

March 21 *Merrill's Marauders* (1962) Army Rangers in WWII
March 28 *Northwest Passage* (1940) Rogers' Rangers
April 4 *Up the Yangtze* (2007) The effect of the Three Gorges dam on one family
April 11 *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002) Australian orphanage
April 18 *Gallipoli* (1981) Peter Weir, Dir, starring Mel Gibson

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

MUSIC APPRECIATION: LEARNING ABOUT AND LISTENING TO THE MUSIC OF FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

3 Thursdays 1:00-3:00 p.m. Apr 25, May 1(Wednesday), 9

Presenter: Jeanne Gunion*

The Classical style as exemplified in the music of Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) will be listened to and appreciated through studying his works and life as presented on digital video discs in the Teaching Company's series by the lecturer Robert Greenberg. After viewing a lecture by Dr. Greenberg the class will listen to Haydn's music.

Coordinator: Judith Raiguel*

BOOK DISCUSSION

4 Fridays 10:00–Noon March 15, April 19, May 17, June 14

Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

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. Our selections for spring 2013 are:

March 15- *Bring Up the Bodies*, fiction by Hilary Mantel
April 19- *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, non-fiction by Daniel Okrent
May 17 - *The Buddha in the Attic*, fiction by Julie Otsuka
June 14 - *Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge's View*, non-fiction by Stephen Breyer

The first 3 will be in the Talon Room at Tsongas. The June meeting will follow our usual custom and be a pot-luck lunch in someone's home.

*Denotes LIRA member

Art and Music Spring 2013

All programs are on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon except for the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, May 2. Directions will be available at the Town Meeting and at Hannaford in Chelmsford. There will be sign-up sheets for tours at the March 13 Town Meeting. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours.

Mar 20 - Life and Music of Verdi

Barbara Wagner

Barbara will present readings from biographies of the composer interspersed with musical excerpts from his major operas.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Mar 27 - Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash Street, Manchester, NH

Special Exhibit: Lethal Beauty (Samurai Weapons and Armor)

Group Admission: \$8.00 (\$5.00 special exhibit plus \$3.00 Docent)

(Luncheon can be ordered when we get there.)

We will meet at Hannaford's side parking lot in Chelmsford at 10 a.m. to carpool. Checks should be made out to Jane Canter and given to her at Town Meeting or mailed with postmark on or before March 11 to 4-A Old Colony Drive, Westford, MA 01886.

Coordinator: Jane Canter*

April 3 - Turkey's Legacy of Civilizations and Culture

Connie Lanseigne-Case*

The civilizations assimilated by Turkey stretch from prehistory. The 2,000 mile Road Scholar springtime journey mainly in the Anatolian region began in Ankara with a look at modern Turkey and Hittite Empire of 1400 BCE. The Hellenistic Period, Roman, Seljuk, Byzantine, Ottoman and Turkish Republic all explored in meaningful ways through telling lectures, visits to revealing museum exhibits, and important archeological sites. The "fairy mushrooms" of Cappadocia, amazing volcanic forms, Seljuk caravansaries, a treasure trove of Roman artifacts in Aphrodisias' museum, and the ancient city of Ephesus, the seacoast tourist destination of many. These places were among memorable sites photographed and immensely enjoyed.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

April 10 – Cuba Today

Jose Ramirez

Jose returned to Cuba in January 2013 on his 9th trip there since he left the island in his youth. Not expected when he planned his trip, he arrived there in the midst of a cholera outbreak. His informative talk will discuss that as well as the much publicized changes in immigration laws that took place while he was there. Also discussed will be other current topics of interest.

Coordinator: Jane Canter*

Apr 17 - American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St #2, Lowell, MA

The museum's permanent exhibit, Textile Revolution, portrays textile history. The special exhibition, Behind the Veil, with photos and dresses, explores how brides over the past 150 years have chosen their wedding dresses and how their decisions are shaped by fashion, family, and finances. We will meet at the museum at 10 a.m. for a guided tour followed by free time in the Museum or in the café for a relaxing lunch break. Cost: \$7.60 for seniors; \$9.60 for adults. Please send a check payable to LIRA, Inc. postmarked on or before March 23 to Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

Apr 24 - Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen St, Lowell, MA

The Whistler House Museum of Art was the birthplace of James McNeill Whistler in 1834. It was established in 1908 as the permanent home of the Lowell Art Association. Built in 1923, it represents the richness of the history and art of Lowell. A copy of his work, Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter's Mother is on display at the museum. The tour begins at 10 a.m. Admission is \$5.00 payable at the museum.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

May 2 (Thursday) – Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal

Bernard Haitink will be the conductor and Nikolaj Znaider will be the guest violinist.

Program: Brahms Violin Concerto

Shubert Symphony in C "The Great"

Bus leaves from Hannaford's side parking lot in Chelmsford at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$16 members; \$26 non members. Make checks payable to LIRA Inc. postmarked on or before April 18. Send to: Jean Rubinstein, 15 Fairbanks Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

May 8 – Life and Art of James McNeill Whistler

Jean Schott*

Whistler, born in Lowell, left the city at an early age. He is one of the three outstanding expatriate artists of the 19th century. He spent most of his career in Paris and London. One of the most original artists of that era, he was a central figure in the Victorian art world.

Coordinator: Connie Lanseigne-Case*

*Denotes LIRA member