



LIRA NEWSLETTER

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

March 2014

Vol. 21 No. 1



is near along with the new Spring Session!

Join us for the Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10 AM to Noon

Cumnock Hall, 31 University Avenue, Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from the Tsongas Parking Lot

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

*Daffodils, that come before the swallows dare, and take
The winds of March with beauty. William Shakespeare, Winter's Tale*



Scholarship Committee Update

Now that spring is upon us, the Scholarship Committee is about to meet and plan the 2014 program.

Welcome to Janet Redman who has joined the group. Janet, a resident of Chelmsford, has been an active member of LIRA and is ready to try her hand with a new group and a new challenge. The Committee is now complete with members ready to move forward, with Simone Allard, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie, Dotty Morris, Deanne Sferrino and Bill Terris, Chair.

The initial meeting in March will focus on two questions, "Shall we increase the Scholarship Awards from \$1500 to \$2000?" or "Shall we recommend awarding four scholarships as opposed to three?" or "Should we keep them as they are?" Whatever is decided will be forwarded to the LIRA Executive Board for their approval. If any members have other ideas please forward them to Bill Terris.

Bill Terris, Scholarship Chairman

Scholarship Winners

At our Holiday Party the three recipients of the 2013 LIRA Scholarships were awarded \$1500 each. They were:

Kathryn Donovan, a nursing student whose goal is to become a pediatric oncology nurse,

Divina Thiano, an international biology student whose goal is to further her interest in biotechnology or nanotechnology and someday become a neurosurgeon,

Zachary Zolund, a writer who majors in Journalism and Psychology, and wonders if teaching may be part of his future, then on to his Doctorate and maybe, someday, teach here at UML.

Bill Terris



L to R: Bill Terris, Scholarship Chairman, Kathryn Donovan, Zachary Thiano, Divina Thiano, Toby Hodes, LIRA President

Thank You from Community Teamwork, Inc.

December 18, 2013
Toby Hodes, LIRA President
36 Lilac Lane
Haverhill, MA 01830

Dear Toby,

It was great to be back at the LIRA holiday party again this year. Elaine Melanson and I were thrilled to see such a wonderful collection of 71 children's books. Over 100 items of hats, mittens, gloves, and scarf sets were also donated along with a very sweet hand knit sweater we loved. Please extend our deepest thanks to LIRA members for taking the time in collecting these donations, many of which were beautifully hand knit as well. All these items will benefit so many needy children and bring much holiday cheer and warmth. Many of your donations have already been distributed to CTI programs including Children's Corner, Women, Infant and Children (WIC), CTI clients who come to Merrimack Street, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and to the Coats for Kids program we do with Anton Cleaners and the Toys for Tots program. We will continue to distribute all the donations as quickly as possible.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to everyone. Our thanks again for thinking of CTI Senior Corps once again this year in helping us distribute your donations to needy children.

Sincerely,
Joan Aseltine
CTI Senior Corps Program Specialist



Top: Elaine Melanson from CTI, Elaine Jeleschiff: LIRA coordinator for CTI donations, Joan Aseltine from CTI
Middle: Donations of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves
Bottom: Donations of children's books

Holiday Party 2013

The 2013 Holiday Party was a huge success: about 90 members and guests attended, the weather cooperated, and the auction made \$512.00 for the Scholarship fund. We had a delicious array of goodies that covered two long tables. The room at Cummock Hall was beautifully decorated by Hospitality co-chairs, Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis with nutcracker centerpieces at each table (see picture). Thanks to both of them for all their hard work. The Alumni office donated a blue ornament to each member.

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 and Jean Schott selling tickets and many other members helping to distribute items to the winners.

We were all delighted that one of our scholarship winners, Zachary Zoland, won the most coveted item on the tables: a \$50 gift certificate to Showcase Cinema! Joan Aseltine, from Community Teamwork Inc. told us how much she appreciated our donations. See her letter in this newsletter. Thanks to Elaine Jelescheff 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!



Happy Birthday, NERVE Center!

The New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center opened one year ago today, February 12, 2014. Adam Norton, manager of the NERVE Center at UMass Lowell, explained the Center's function and the state-of-the-art test courses used for evaluation of robots. The NERVE Center is one of only three test sites in the country: the others in Maryland and Texas. The robotic industry is growing rapidly with about 100 private companies in the New England area and many universities that need this advanced testing facility.

The test courses were built according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Among the test courses are symmetric stepfields, crossing ramps, continuous ramps, sand,

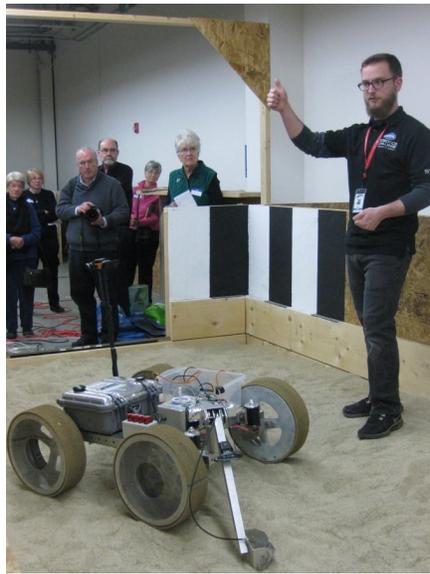
stairs, dexterity testing, outdoor ground types such as cobblestone and gravel, splash pools and a rain test area. Although it wasn't working today, we were able to see the Mars-style robot, the 'Rover Hawk' that won first place in the national NASA competition last June. The rover was at NASA's Space Center in Texas and the mission control team was at the NERVE Center controlling the robot over a cellular network. Adam demonstrated a robot in the rain test area, making it go up and down a ramp that was under the rain.

If you missed this interesting program, there are many videos on their website demonstrating their test courses. There is also an Open House for National Robotics Week on Wednesday, April 16, from 6-8 p.m. that is free and open to the public. See <http://nerve.uml.edu>.

Jeri Durant



Adam Norton describing the symmetric stepfield course – the most difficult test



Adam Norton and the 'Rover Hawk'



Rain Test Area

Newsletters on Website

Yes! I'd like to Go Green by reading my newsletter on-line. The on-line newsletter is just like the printed one only better - it's in color! Please help us save substantial printing and mailing costs to the university as well as a few trees. Sign up by emailing Shirley Mitchell at shirlytm2@comcast.net.

The website for the newsletter is www.uml.edu/Community/LIRA/Newsletters.aspx

Merrimack Valley Magazine

The next issue of the *Merrimack Valley Magazine* will feature a story on LIRA by Sandra Seitz. If you were at the NERVE Center on February 12, you may have noticed a photographer taking many pictures; some of those will appear with the story. The magazine can be found at various newsstands throughout the Merrimack Valley, select Hannaford Supermarkets (Drum Hill has them), Market Basket, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Tedeschi Food Shops, Rite Aid Pharmacy, 7 eleven, and White Hen Pantry. Look for the March/April issue in mid-March.

The World Crisis about Water



Nick and Jean Schott

On January 29th, 2014 Emeritus Professor Nick Schott of the Plastics Engineering Department of UMass Lowell gave a talk about the world crisis concerning clean fresh water for drinking, agriculture, manufacturing and sanitation. Although 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water, only

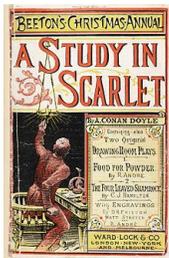
two percent is fresh water and only one percent is accessible for consumption. Population growth, soil and water pollution, deforestation, and climate change have disrupted the normal water cycle and put a great strain on the fresh water resource. The third world is hit hard because many water borne diseases take a great toll in lives lost. The developed world has a lifestyle and standard of living that is the best in history but it may not be sustainable. To face these challenges about water we will have to change our lifestyles, our agriculture, and technology to live in harmony with nature. Solutions must be found in the next twenty five years to save the planet and our modern civilization.

The Ever-Popular Sherlock Holmes

It was a perfect day for Melissa Pennell's program on Sherlock Holmes. Her talk was scheduled a year ago but it had to be cancelled because of the weather. It was worth the wait! She summarized the life of Arthur Conan Doyle along with what is known about life of the fictional character Sherlock Holmes. We tried to answer the question, 'What is it about Sherlock Holmes that makes us want to still read and watch stories about him?' There are still books, movies and TV shows that are being written about him 127 years after his creation!



Coordinator Ann Dahlman and Melissa Pennell



It was 1887 when Sherlock Holmes first appeared in the novel, *A Study in Scarlet*, published in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, a popular magazine at the time. It was the first time that a magnifying glass was used in solving a crime and it also described methods that are used today by forensic scientists at crime scenes. It is also the novel where Holmes and Watson meet and decide to share the apartment at 221B Baker Street. His character grew in popularity when Doyle began writing short stories about Holmes in *The Strand Magazine*, beginning with *A Scandal in Bohemia* in 1891. By 1893, Doyle was tired of writing about Holmes and decided to kill him off in *The Final Problem*. Pressure from the public

and particularly his mother led him to bring back Holmes in the novel *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, published in 1901. He wrote 56 short stories and 4 novels featuring Sherlock Holmes.

There are several contemporary authors writing about Sherlock Holmes: Laurie King, Donald Thomas, June Thompson, Barry Grant and Larry Millett are a few of the authors mentioned by Dr. Pennell. There are two books that have been given the seal of approval by the Arthur Conan Doyle estate: *The House of Silk* by Anthony Horowitz and *The Italian Secretary* by Caleb Carr.

More than 70 actors in over 200 films have played the character of Sherlock Holmes and is listed in the *Guinness World Records* as the "most portrayed movie character". We saw a clip of many of the actors before Basil Rathbone to PBS' Jeremy Brett.

So, why do we still read and watch Sherlock Holmes? He's intelligent, not a superhero type, and although he is complex he is still human, his attention to detail and his pure logic still fascinate us, his forensic skills are still being used today, the stories are timeless and the case is always solved at the end. These are a few of the reasons we read and watch Sherlock Holmes; how many more reasons can you name?

Jeri Durant

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.

Sunday, April 6, 2:00 pm – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Richard P. Howe Jr. – "Lowell and the Law"

Lowell's explosive growth as a center of textile manufacturing brought with it a boom in legal business. From its founding up until the present day, judges, lawyers and litigants from Lowell have had a profound effect on the jurisprudence and legal culture of Massachusetts. Register of Deeds and Lowell historian Richard P. Howe Jr. will discuss the famous and the infamous cases and personalities that contributed to Lowell's legal legacy.

Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 pm – Art Gallery at the Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union

The Projectionist Is No Longer in the House: Cinema in the 21st Century

Explore the timelessness of cinema through the eyes of the movie projectionist, that "magician" in the projection booth who spliced, threaded (and sometimes shredded!) celluloid film. As digital cinema takes over the industry, the death of celluloid & 21st century technology has made projectionists defunct, as well as many of the theaters they worked in. See two remarkable documentary shorts that pay homage to The Projectionist and learn more about how the shift to digital is impacting audiences, filmmakers, and theater owners through a panel discussion with special guest speakers. Kris Roselli's "The Projectionist: A Passion for Film" – (2012) & Kendall Messick's "The Projectionist" – (2007) Co-presented by the Lowell Film Collaborative and Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union.

Sunday, May 4, 2:00 pm – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Seth Rockman – "Mill Hands, Field Hands"

Mill hands, field hands, and the intertwined worlds of factory and plantation in antebellum America. Ralph Waldo Emerson famously quipped, "Cotton thread holds the Union together." This talk will explore the meaning of these connections for the men and women laboring both in New England mills and on Southern slave plantations. Seth Rockman is a specialist in Revolutionary and Early Republic United States history and is currently an Associate Professor of History at Brown University.

Science or Art?



LIRA Member Dorothy Bromage and her son, Dr. Timothy Bromage

Attendees at the January 8 session were exposed to one of the most intellectually challenging presentations in recent LIRA memory. Our speaker was Dr. Timothy Bromage, Professor at the New York University College of Dentistry, Dept. of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, Hard Tissue Research Unit. From his original scientific interest in fossil teeth and bones he has branched off into the domains of art and philosophy.

With the aid of microscopes and color manipulation he and his team have produced a series of fascinating images of biological organisms. Large-scale prints of these images were exhibited in Spain under the heading Oseos Cosmos. The scope of the exhibit is illustrated by two slides taken from Tim's presentation.

The title of Tim's talk is "What is Art? The Integration of Art, Science, and the Mystic: On Complexity". The visual impact of the displayed images confirms that the objects clearly qualify as Art. But what about the other items on the list?

After introducing some terminology, Tim poses the question: "What does this jargon mean, and how can we translate this into our interest in the relationship between art, science and the mystic?" The answer lies beyond the scope of a ninety-minute lecture. Nevertheless, LIRA members are fortunate to have been introduced to Dr. Bromage's avant-garde thinking.



Details for Town Meeting

The Town Meeting will be held in Cumnock Hall on 31 University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot at the Tsongas Center to Cumnock Hall, leaving us off across the street from the building. The first shuttle will leave at 9 a.m. **sharp** and return for a second trip. The return to the Tsongas parking lot will leave shortly after the end of the meeting.

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 signup for courses and/or trips, please ask someone to do it for you. If you are planning to go to the Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal, you must pay at the meeting unless you have already mailed a check to Jean Rubinstein.

Hope to see you all there!

Consumable Auction

A special thanks to everyone at the Holiday Party in December as the Consumable Auction made \$512.00 for the UMass Lowell Scholarship Fund. Thank you to everyone who brought in an item to be auctioned (it wouldn't be an auction without your donations) and a big thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets.

*Carol Cannistraro
Barbara Willman*

Coffee Break Note



Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who provided the delicious refreshments during the winter intersession. Aramark will continue to supply the coffee and tea during the spring session. Coordinators will be asking for volunteers to bring refreshments for the classes.

*The Hospitality Committee
Dawn Gillogly and Mary Willis*

The Creative Process

Last fall, we had a four week course where six LIRA members described something that they created. Each of the members was asked five questions: 1. What did you create? 2. What gave you the idea? 3. What was involved in making it? 4. Any problems encountered? 5. Any follow-up? The six reviews follow; each member will answer the first question at the beginning of the re-



L to R: Leon Poirier, Dorothy Bromage, Barbara Page, Jeri Durant, Suzanne Knapp, Marjorie Short

Leon Poirier: “I designed and built some interesting and unusual sundials”

Perhaps you saw a sundial in a park one day and maybe you thought they all looked like that. Not so! This was shown dramatically as Leon Poirier set out for display some of the sundials he has built. Each shows the time by a different system. The names of these are overwhelming. Examples: diptych dials, shepherd’s dials, flag dials, analemma dials, horizontal and vertical dials, equatorial dials, and armillary sphere dials. And all were homemade! He even brought a sundial on a pedestal. Whew!

A lecture with slides can turn a complicated subject into a very enlightening program, and Leon is excellent at this. We learned how to convert sundial time into clock time and how sundials can also show important solar events.

Dorothy Bromage

Leon’s answers to the questions: 2. A sundial at Children’s Hospital, 3. I began by studying the theory, 4. When the computer became involved, 5. Working on a cubic sundial.

Marjorie Short: “I designed a family tree.”

Marjorie has the necessary quality of persistence when it comes to genealogical research. Through the years, she has acquired skills that come in handy when asked to track down a relative. She is generous with her time and spent a considerable amount of time on a project which she described. Some searches move quickly, some take years, some yield unexpected results. Marjorie was contacted by a man who wanted to find the grave-stone of his paternal grandmother. This was the start of a search that started small but began branching off quickly. One find was a father he had never met. A son in Maine located a step-brother he did not know about. Marjorie encourages LIRA members to see what they can find. She gave us sample sheets such as an ancestor chart, a list of local resources and websites, as well as sample census pages.

Dorothy Bromage

Marjorie’s answers to the questions: 2. I read about it in a book, then spoke with a relative, 3. Had to start at a certain person, 4. Spelling of names sometimes changes, 5. Will work on finding people in Eastern Europe.

Dorothy Bromage: “I wrote a march during WW II.”

At age 16, while she was walking along a road near her home one evening, a tune came into Dorothy’s head. When she got home, she was still humming it. The tune stuck, and several days later, she got some music-lined paper and wrote down the melody. The US was gearing up for war at the time and enlisted high school seniors in a program called The Victory Corps, or “The Four-Four Plan,” whereby students went to school four hours and then worked at the local Army Depot in the afternoon. While in the program, she was motivated to put words to the march-like tune, and the result was a song, “The Victory Corps.” At that point, it was written for piano and voice. (At the end of the presentation, we all sang “The Victory Corps.”)

Over the years, Dorothy got recordings of the march. She played the first one for us, that of her at the piano. The second one we heard was the march on an organ with her piano teacher playing the Hammond organ in a local funeral home. A series of fortunate events led to orchestration of the march for a small band—a counter melody was added for the trumpet. She played the recording of Woody Franks orchestra, made when they played it for her during one of their rehearsals. It was a friend she met while active in the Labor Movement in 1946 who not only arranged for Woody to play the march but also pointed her toward starting college. From then on, for four years, it was classes for four hours in the morning and then a job for four. How familiar! Ultimately, Dorothy orchestrated the march for full orchestra, assigning various instruments to the notes of the chords. I saw the score and was blown away by the complexity. What talent!

Barbara Page

Dorothy’s answers to the questions: 2. A melody just came into my head, 3. Making the melody into a 32 bar song, 4. Doing the orchestration with no help, 5. Just save the recordings.

Suzanne Knapp: “I created quilts for the bed and for the wall.”

Suzanne Knapp began quilting in the early 70’s, inspired by a quilt made by her grandmother. The quilt she chose to make first was a traditional pieced design named Pine Tree. Pieced quilts are always geometric in design, a result of sewing together pattern pieces with straight seams. In those early days most quilts were made entirely by hand, with pattern pieces cut individually with scissors and sewn together with a running



stitch into blocks, which were then assembled to make the quilt top. It was a time-consuming but satisfying process and by the time that the Pine Tree quilt was finished Suzanne was “hooked” on quilting. She decided to combine her love of Oriental carpets, especially the geometric ones woven by the tribal people of the Caucasus Mountains, with her newly discovered passion for quilting. She made many quilts inspired by carpets in the years following.

During this time many advances were being made in the tools and technology available to quilters. Rotary cutting tools made assembly line cutting of pattern pieces possible, saving the tedium of cutting pieces individually with scissors. Computer software aided in drafting the patterns and producing templates.

And new techniques such as paper piecing (sewing fabric to designs drawn on paper) and fusing (gluing the pattern pieces to the background) were developed to eliminate the need for sewing individual pattern pieces at all. Suzanne used these advances in the next stage of her quilting work, in which her quilts represented architectural subjects: first the Back Bay building where she lived in the fifties, then the rehabbed mill building where she lives now. The latter quilt is now owned by Joan and Arnie Kerzner, who kindly brought it to the meeting to show.



Her latest works are small pieces showing different views of the Zakim Bridge and were made by fusing. One of these is now owned by Marjorie Short, who also brought it to show.



Barbara Page

Suzanne’s answers to the questions: 2. I was given a quilt made by my grandmother, 3. Picking a pattern and the fabric, 4. Problems when the quilt is complex, 5. Volunteering at the N.E. Quilt museum in Lowell.

Jeri Durant: “I created an electronic book.”

Jeri walked us through the steps in creating a digital scrapbook:

Go to Shutterfly and choose the book size and style you want. Create an account by clicking on Sign Up. Get photos from My Computer, select those you want, and add them to the book. Customize the pages to place the photos where desired. A single photo, such as a landscape, can be spread across two pages. Edit them for red eye, to crop, etc. Add text picking color, font, size, spacing, and position. Double-check everything! Order and about a week later the book arrives!!!

Jeri showed us the coffee-table style books she had created in this manner. Very interesting!

Barbara Page

Jeri’s answers to the questions: 2. Connie Lanseigne-Case gave me the idea at one of her travel presentations, 3. Learning the process on the website, 4. Sometimes I forgot to add the text, 5. Will do more for my grandchildren or any time to preserve a memory.

Barbara Page: “I researched and illustrated six books on engraved shells.”

Barbara worked for 20 years as a staff illustrator for Harvard’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology. She did not hesitate when invited to participate in a project which turned out to create a six-volume opus. Engraved shells were found in burial mounds in Oklahoma. Rubbing of the engraved shells was one method of making the artwork available for the books. In the project, even broken fragments were illustrated—and occasionally there were finds that resulted in matching up fragments! Barbara explained



how the engraved shells may have gotten to Oklahoma. The original shells came from the coasts of Florida and Mexico. Through trading, they may have come up the Mississippi River. Barbara brought an actual shell, as well as one of the books. She demonstrated wrapping tissue paper around a shell.

Dorothy Bromage

Barbara’s answer to the questions: 2. I was a staff illustrator at Peabody, 3. Learning the intricate process of making rubbings – plus going on road trips to many museums, 4. Being tactful when dealing with owners of fake shells, 5. Volumes earned an award from the Rosen Booksellers Association. An exhibit at the Peabody went to the Smithsonian Institute. Need to archive everything. Perhaps I will repeat the Power Point program locally.

Indian Hill Music Listings for March

PIANO PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP: Indian Hill Music School piano instructor Heather Riley offers expert advice for pianists of all ages and levels to prepare for performance. Play your piece or just watch and learn: **Saturday, March 1, 5:00 – 6:30pm** at 36 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. FEE: \$14 per session. Reserve a spot at (978) 486-9524 x116. Learn more at www.indianhillmusic.org.

JUPITER STRING QUARTET: Indian Hill Music presents the engaging Jupiter String Quartet on **Saturday, March 8, 8pm** at The Kalliroscope Gallery, 264 Main Street, Groton, MA. The ensemble will perform works by Beethoven (String Quartet No. 2 in E minor, Op. 59) and Schubert (String Quartet No. 14 'Death and the Maiden'). TICKETS: \$32/adults, \$15/students (includes post-concert wine and cheese reception with the performers). Learn more at (978) 486-9524 x116 or www.indianhillmusic.org. *Sponsored by Nashoba Real Estate.*

ORCHESTRA OF INDIAN HILL: Maestro Bruce Hagen and the Orchestra present an afternoon of Romantic works featuring Elgar's Cello Concerto with guest soloist Hai-Ye Ni, principal cello of the Philadelphia Orchestra; Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet Suite; and Berlioz's Roman Carnival Overture: **Sunday, March 16, 3:00 pm** at Littleton HS Performing Arts Center, 56 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. TICKETS: \$20-50. More at (978) 486-9524 x116 or www.indianhillmusic.org. *Supported by Attorney Ray Lyons. Media Sponsor: GateHouse Media NE.*

'BACH'S LUNCH' CONCERT: Indian Hill Music School's free monthly concert series presents 1920s jazz featuring Jamie Dunphy, guitar; Justin Meyer, bass; and Joe Kessler, violin. **TWO SHOWS - Thursday, March 20 at 11 am and 1:30 pm**, 36 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. Coffee, tea and cookies served; bring your lunch. FREE admission. Reserve a table at (978) 486-9524 x116. Learn more at www.indianhillmusic.org.

CLASSICAL QUARTET & HARP: Musicians from the Orchestra of Indian Hill perform works by Debussy (Trio for Flute, Viola and Harp), Persichetti, Villa-Lobos, Ibert, and Ray Bono: **Sunday, March 30, 3pm** at Indian Hill Music School, 36 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. Featuring Deborah Feld-Fabisiewicz (harp), Melissa Mielens (flute), Todd Hamelin (violin), Emily Rome (viola), and Shay Rudolph (cello). FREE admission. Learn more at 978-486-9524 or www.indianhillmusic.org. *This concert made possible by the Marjorie Besas Memorial Fund.*

COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE AT INDIAN HILL: Come express yourself through rhythm! Open to adults and teens: **Monday, March 31, 7pm** at 36 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. FEE: \$10 per person. No musical experience necessary. Reserve a spot at (978) 486-9524 x116. Learn more at www.indianhillmusic.org.

MUSIC LESSONS: Registration for private lessons is ongoing at Indian Hill Music School, 36 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. All ages, instruments, and styles, including classical, jazz, pop, and Irish/folk. Call (978) 486-9524 or view offerings online at www.indianhillmusic.org.

ART EXHIBIT: The Gallery at Indian Hill presents "Not Ballet," an exhibit of photographs by Alice Gebura. On display through April at 36 King Street (Rte. 495/Exit 30), Littleton, MA. M.-F., 10am–8 pm; Sat., 10 am– 4pm. **ARTIST RECEPTION: Friday, March 7, 6:00-8:00pm.** FREE and open to the public. Learn more at (978) 486-9524 or www.indianhillmusic.org.

*Evanthea Vlahakis
Director of Marketing & PR*

Greater Lowell Music Theatre

In partnership with the UMass Lowell Center for Arts and Ideas, and sponsored in part by the Lowell, Chelmsford and Dracut Cultural Councils, the Greater Lowell Music Theatre is presenting three plays this season at Durgin Hall, 35 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA.

March 21, 22: MY FAVORITE THINGS, the classic songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein

June 27, 28, 29: Fiddler on the Roof

August 1, 2, 3: Chicago

See their website for further information.
www.glmt.org/greater-lowell-theater



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Member News

Ann Dahlman hurt her left hip from a fall in February and is currently in rehab.

Ron Cannistraro had shoulder surgery in January and is recuperating well.

Judith Palais fell in December and spent some time in rehab. She is recuperating at home.

Sally Cady was hospitalized in January and is presently in rehab at Westford House in Westford. Tele 978-303-2574.

Dotty Morris had successful thyroid surgery in January. She is very relieved and feeling well.

Dotty wishes to thank all her friends at LIRA for their cards, calls and emails, she appreciates their caring and concern.

Please contact me if you know of any member who would like to be remembered by LIRA and I will send cards. 603-943-7527.

Note that my email has changed: simone32allard@gmail.com.

Simone Allard

Nominating Committee for 2014

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Jean Schott as Chairman, Barbara Page and John Mamalis. 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

Invitation from Juliette Rooney-Varga

Professor Juliette Rooney-Varga, Director of the UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative (CCI), has invited LIRA members to attend a discussion and showing of film shorts produced by her students. Dr. Rooney-Varga spoke to us about climate change during last winter's intersession. Information about the evening follows:

Thursday, May 1, 2014
Alumni Hall, UMass Lowell
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

"Our shared climate legacy: Student-produced film shorts and an intergenerational discussion about responding to climate change"

We are excited to present an evening featuring short, student-produced videos and an open, student-lead discussion about what we can do to create a better future in the face of our changing climate.

With support from the NASA-funded Climate Education in an Age of Media (CAM) Project (http://cleanet.org/cced_media/), UMass Lowell students taking the *Climate Change: Science, Communication, and Solutions* course will present what they have learned, what they want to communicate, and the questions they have for each other and their community on how we can shape a future that responds to climate change while improving human wellbeing. Sponsored by UMass Lowell's Climate Change Initiative, <http://www.uml.edu/Research/Climate-Change/>

Note: Parking is easily available at that time on North Campus, gates will be up in the Olsen or Riverside lots.



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2014; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2014. 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



The Annual Meeting will be held on May 14, 2014. The Summer Intersession begins on Wed, June 4, 2014.



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

Merid Yohannes
200 Market Street, #313
Lowell, MA 01852
978-710-7852
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Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library is running a Lecture Series in conjunction with LIRA on the second Friday of the month. The lecture for March 14 has not been announced as yet. The lectures begin at 10 a.m. in the McCarthy Meeting Room. Check the library's website for further information.

April 11: "Ratman: The Trial and Conviction of Whitey Bulger" by Howie Carr*

May 9: "China's Foreign Policy" by Shehong Chen

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

*This lecture was rescheduled from February 14. You will need to re-register for this program from the website or by calling 978-256-2251, ext 211.



At left:
Kathy Cryan-Hicks of the Chelmsford Library and Shirley Mitchell.
A donation was given to the library in support of their Lecture Series.

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SPRING 2014 SCHEDULE

Spring study groups will usually meet in the Talon Club Room at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Lowell, MA. See directions, including parking, by visiting the web site at www.uml.edu/community/lira. Location of classes will sometimes be changed; so watch for announcements. Classes on March 19, April 1, 9, 23 and 30 will meet at the University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell. Registration will take place at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 10:00 AM in Cumnock Hall, 31 University Ave, Lowell. Each course description includes, after the title, the name of 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. Questions may be addressed to the coordinator.

U.S. HISTORY OF THE 1960s

Robert Farrant, Presenter

6 Mondays 10:00 – 12:00 Mar 17, 24, 31, Apr 7, 14, 28

The 1960s is one of the most dramatic decades in American political, social, and cultural history. As the decade opened many Americans believed they were standing at the dawn of a 'golden age.' On January 20, 1961, the handsome and charismatic John F. Kennedy became president of the United States. His confidence that, as one historian put it, "the government possessed big answers to big problems" set the tone; what happened? However, that golden age never materialized. On the contrary, by the end of the 1960s it seemed that the nation was falling apart!

The Sixties is synonymous with the transformations and trends of the period—sex, drugs, and rock n' roll. For seven weeks we'll turn back the clock to love beads and loud music. This was the decade of Archie Bunker, 'Hard Hats for Nixon,' Civil Rights, Women's Liberation, the Vietnam War and so much more. 'Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out.' Woodstock. The Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Multiple Assassinations. Free Speech. The Watts Riot. The Voting Rights Act. Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962). Michael Harrington's *The Other America* (1962). Betty Freidan's, *Feminine Mystique* (1963). The Beatles on Ed Sullivan (1964). The 1968 Democratic Convention. Student Protests and Kent State. Woodstock (1969). Crazy Charles Manson. Through lots of images, music, old TV clips, and much more we will work our way through a decade of significant social change, one which culminated with the election of Richard Nixon. Dr. Farrant is a professor at UMass Lowell.

Beverly Rudeen*, Coordinator

TERRORISM THEN AND NOW

Neal Shortland, Presenter

1 Monday 10:00 - 12:00 **May 12**

Neil Shortland is a Senior Research Associate, Criminal Justice, UMass Lowell. His primary research interest is terrorist behavior, and specifically how this can be used to inform the counter-terrorism, both at the policy level and at the investigative level. He is also interested in socio-psychological factors of military operations and problems currently faced by deployed forces. This is a Winter Intersession program that was canceled on account of snow.

Coordinator: Russ MacLeod*

WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HORMONES BUT WERE TOO EMBARRASSED TO ASK

Arnold Kerzner,* Presenter

4 Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 Mar 17, 24, 31, Apr 7

Our bodies are so lucky to have over 100 hormones to act as "messengers" from endocrine glands to carry out orders to almost every organ. Without such hormones, we could not "fall in love," make babies, nor continue the Darwinian evolution. They control different phases of our lives from childhood to aging gracefully (or not). They keep our biological clocks, sleep rhythms, energy levels, growth rates, immune and sexual systems all in order. How amazing is that? This course by LIRA member Dr. Kerzner will highlight the effects of 15 of these hormones as we laugh together all the while increasing our oxytocin levels and social bonding.

Joan Kerzner*, Coordinator

THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

John Kienzle, Presenter

4 Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 April 14, 28, May 5, 12

Professor Kienzle will present a four-session interactive presentation on the Middle East, an area of constant interest. Drawing on his 40-years of study and teaching on the Middle East, Professor Kienzle will cover the following topics: **Syria**—To Be or Not to Be?, **Iran**—Nuclear Threat?, **Israel and the Palestinians**—is there a solution? The "Arab Spring" and **Egypt**—What went wrong?

Dorothy Bromage*, Coordinator

NOTE: Classes on Tuesday, April 1 will meet at the University Suites not the Talon Room.

SHAKESPEARE: TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

Frank Carroll*, Presenter

8 Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00 Mar 18, 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6

Over the past several years the Shakespeare class has read most of the Comedies and all of the great Tragedies. We defected and read two modern dramas among that large collection of plays. Coming up next we will read a play that is not at all well known, and that is *Troilus and Cressida*. This play takes place during the Trojan War, and all the well-known characters from the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are involved in the play. Nevertheless, the story is not a part of Greek mythology despite its well-known background. Shakespeare, of course, would be familiar with the Greek epics from his early education, but the tale of *Troilus and Cressida* was written by Chaucer, and was also told by Italian and French authors, and these works could have served as helpful sources to Shakespeare. According to Wikipedia, after the first recorded production of the play in 1609, and perhaps a few other presentations, there is no record of any performance between 1734 and 1898! However, we are up to the challenge and will attempt, successfully I'm sure, the mysteries of this play, written at a time when the Bard is at the height of his powers in 1602 after just completing *Hamlet*.

Ann Dahlman*, Coordinator

MYTHS, LIES, AND HALF TRUTHS ABOUT LANGUAGE USAGE

Dorothy Bromage*, Facilitator

4 Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 Mar 18, 25, Apr 1, 8

In this video lecture series, Professor John McWhorter begins with a brief history of the English language. He continues with English in its modern guises, including slang, email, and texting. A specialist in language change, he highlights the difference between the spoken and the written word. A different perspective on language is a feature of the lectures. Professor McWhorter examines the English language to better understand how strange, illogical, whimsical, and beautiful it really is. **Note:** The format for presenting this 24-lecture series is to use the first 4 weeks of the spring session to cover the first 8 lectures, which comprise the history. The remainder of the course, lectures 9-24, will be included in the fall schedule.

Leon Poirier*, Coordinator

HISTORY OF AMERICAN EDUCATION

Pat Fontaine, Presenter

3 Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 Apr 15, 29, May 6

This series will look at four distinct periods of American education: colonial education and Horace Mann and the Common School; late 19th century education: the influence of immigration and industrialization; John Dewey up to the end of WWII; and recent educational trends that influence education in America today. All of these foundation periods will be examined within historical, social, and cultural contexts. Dr. Fontaine is a professor at UMass Lowell.

Nancy Pitkin*, Coordinator

ART & MUSIC

8 sessions, usually Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, (Thu) 17, 23, 30, May 7

Beginning March 19 and continuing through May 7, meetings will start at 10:00 AM and go until noon, except for April 17, 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 series. The indoor classes on March 19, April 9, 23 and 30 will meet at the **University Suites** not the Talon Room.

Barbara Page*, Coordinator

GREAT DECISIONS

Shirley Mitchell*, Facilitator

8 sessions, usually Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, (Wed) 16, 24, May 1, 8

The Great Decisions first topic will be U.S. trade policy using materials supplied by the Foreign Policy Association. Other topics will include China's foreign policy, defense and the rise of new technologies, and Israel. Briefing books are available for \$16.00.

Shirley Mitchell*, Coordinator

MOVIES: FOUR GREAT COMEDIES

Barbara Page*, Presenter

4 sessions, Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10

- Mar 20: Sullivan's Travels – Director: Preston Sturges (1941)
- Mar 27: The Miracle of Morgan's Creek – Director: Preston Sturges (1944)
- Apr 3: My Man Godfrey – Director: Gregory La Cava (1936)
- Apr 10: Libeled Lady – Director: Jack Conway (1936)

Dorothy Bromage*, Coordinator

BEETHOVEN: LIFE AND WORKS

4 sessions, usually Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 (Wed) Apr 16, Thu 24, May 1, 8

Jeanne Gunion*, Presenter

The life of Ludwig van Beethoven will be presented through the last four lectures of The Teaching Company's eight- video series with lecturer Robert Greenberg. Following each lecture, the class will listen to representative music by Beethoven. Class members will be invited to offer their own experiences, knowledge, and recordings of Beethoven's works.

Carol McCarthy*, Coordinator

BOOK DISCUSSION

4 Fridays 10:00 – 12:00 Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16, June 20

Toby Hodes*, Facilitator

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 2014 are:

Friday, March 21 - *And the Mountains Echoed*, fiction by Khaled Hosseini

Friday, April 18 - *Gun Guys: A Road Trip*, non-fiction by Dan Baum

Friday, May 16 - *The Lowland*, fiction by Jhumpa Lahiri

Friday, June 20 - *Lawrence In Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, non-fiction by Scott Anderson

And, for those who would like to get started on our first book for the fall, in September we will be reading and discussing Doris Kearns Goodwin's latest book: *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*.

Art & Music Spring 2014

Programs on March 19, April 9, 23 and 30 will be held at University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA from 10 a.m. to Noon. There will sign-up sheets for tours at the March 12 Town Meeting. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours.

Wed, Mar 19: Russia Revealed

Leon Poirier*, Presenter

Dr. J. Leon Poirier will tell about his cruise from St Petersburg to Moscow. Slide presentation of the trip with stops at the Hermitage, Winter Palace, Summer Palace, Peterhof, Ballet, Kremlin, numerous cathedrals, and other famous places.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

Wed, Mar 26: Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA

Docent-led tour of the Museum's permanent collection and the special exhibits: Machines and Mechanization; Explorations in Contemporary Kinetic Sculpture; and The Stories We Tell, a multi-media exhibit reflecting the artist's themes of nature, history, and whimsy. No café, but we can bring food to eat in the museum or on the bus. We will meet at 9:15 a.m. at Hannaford's side parking lot in Chelmsford and return at 2:45 p.m. The cost is \$22.50. Please send a check postmarked on or before March 17, payable to LIRA, Inc. to Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

Wed, Apr 2: Addison Gallery - Phillips Academy, Andover, MA

Meet at the museum at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free. To carpool, meet at Hannaford's side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:30 a.m.

Directions to museum: Take Route 495 North to exit 41A (route 28), follow past Andover Center to Phillips Academy on the left.

(180 Main St. Andover, MA)

Coordinator: Jane Canter*

Wed, Apr 9: Life and Music of Donizetti

Barbara Wagner

Using recordings and excerpts from biographies, Barbara will bring to life this wonderful composer.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Thu, Apr 17: Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal

Lorin Maazel will be the conductor. The program is Mozart's "Symphony No. 38" (Prague) and Mahler's "Symphony No. 5." Meet at Hannaford's side parking lot in Chelmsford at 7:15 a.m. for the bus, return by 2:00 p.m. **(Please read the following carefully, as the time of payment has changed.)** Please make a check payable to LIRA Inc. for \$30.00 and submit it at the same time you sign up for the trip at the March 12 Town Meeting. If you are unable to come to the Town Meeting, you must call Jean Rubinstein by March 12 and put a check in the mail to her the next day. 978-256-9943 Jean Rubinstein, 15 Fairbanks Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Coordinator: Jean Rubenstein*

Wed, Apr 23: Winslow Homer

Jean Schott*, Presenter

Boston born Winslow Homer began his 19th century artistic career as a Civil War correspondent. He later depicted both leisure class and rustic Americana. Homer became a world renowned painter of Maine seascapes and has been recognized as the foremost painter in the US.

Coordinator: Barbara Page *

Wed, Apr 30: Art and Architecture of Florence

Liana Cheney

UML Professor Liana Cheney will describe for us the splendors of this Renaissance city.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Wed, May 7: Art Exhibit at Indian Hill Music School, Littleton, MA

Connie Lanseigne-Case*, Presenter

From Photography to Art: Seeing Nepal while trekking -- Memorable scenes captured in photographs are interpreted in colored pencils. Connie will give a brief lecture about her work. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Indian Hill Music School.

Directions to Indian Hill Music School, 36 King St., Littleton, MA:

- Take Route 495 South toward Marlboro.
- Take exit 30 for Rt 2A W/ Rt 110 W toward Littleton/Ayer (3/10 mile)
- Turn left onto Rt 110W / Rt 2A W/ King St (7/10 mile)
- 36 King St will be on the right. Entrance and parking lot in the rear of the building.

Coordinator: Marjorie Short*

*Indicates LIRA member



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 	10	11	12 10 a.m. to Noon Town Meeting Cumnock Hall	13	14 10am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series - Check Library website	15
16	17 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Farrant 1-3pm Hormones - Arnold Kerzner	18 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Language Usage-D. Bromage	19 10am to Noon Russia Revealed— Leon Poirier	20 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies - <i>Sullivan's Travels</i>	21 10am to Noon Book Discussion - <i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> -Khaled Hosseini	22
23	24 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Farrant 1-3pm Hormones - Arnold Kerzner	25 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Language Usage-D Bromage	26 Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton Meet at Hannaford For bus at 9:15am	27 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies - <i>Mir Morgan's Creek</i>	28	29
30	31 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Farrant 1-3pm Hormones - Arnold Kerzner					



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Addison Gallery, Andover, MA Meet at Hannaford for carpooling at 9:30am	3 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies - <i>My man Godfrey</i>	4	5
6	7 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Farrant 1-3pm Hormones - Arnold Kerzner	8 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm Language Usage - Dorothy Bromage	9 10am to Noon Life & Music of Donizetti—Barbara Wagner	10 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Movies - <i>Libeled Lady</i>	11 10am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series - Trial and Conviction of Whitey Bulger with Howie Carr	12
13	14 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Farrant 1-3pm Modern Middle East—John Kienzle	15 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm History of American Education Pat Fontaine	16 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Beethoven—Jeanne Gunion	17 Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal Meet at Hannaford at 7:15am for bus	18 10am to Noon Book Discussion— <i>Gun Guys: A Road Trip</i> by Dan Baum	19
20 	21 	22 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll	23 10am to Noon The Art of Homer - Jean Schott	24 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Beethoven—Jeanne Gunion	25	26
27	28 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Farrant 1-3pm Modern Middle East - John Kienzle	29 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm History of American Education Pat Fontaine	30 10am to Noon Art & Architecture of Florence - Liana Cheney			



May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Beethoven—Jeanne Gunion	2	3
4	5 10 a.m. to Noon US History of 60s - Bob Forrant 1-3pm Modern Middle East - John Kienzle	6 10am to Noon Shakespeare—Frank Carroll 1-3pm History of American Education Pat Fontaine	7 Art Exhibit at Indian Hill, Littleton, MA Meet at 10am at Indian Hill	8 10am to Noon Great Decisions - Shirley Mitchell 1-3pm Beethoven—Jeanne Gunion	9 10am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series - <i>Chinese Foreign Policy</i> - Shehong Chen	10
11 	12 1-3pm Modern Middle East John Kienzle	13	14 10 am to Noon Annual Meeting Cumnock Hall	15	16 10am to Noon Book Discussion - <i>The Lowland</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31

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