



LIRA NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Office of Community and Cultural Affairs – UMass Lowell



March 2016

Vol. 23 No. 1

Spring Semester begins March 14!

**Join us for the Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
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.**



A sure sign of SPRING

UMass Lowell Golden Alumni Reunion

(for all who have already
celebrated their 50th Reunion)

Friday, May 13, 2016

Educational Lectures 10:00 AM-11:00 AM, University
Crossing

Healthy Aging **OR**

3D Printing: How it Works and its Future in
Manufacturing

Golden Alumni Luncheon 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, University
Crossing

\$15 per person

Campus Tours: North OR South 1:30 PM-3:30 PM
Depart from University Crossing

Join the volunteer committee!

If you would like to become a part of the volunteer committee for
this memorable weekend, please contact Heather Makrez at 978-
934-4809.

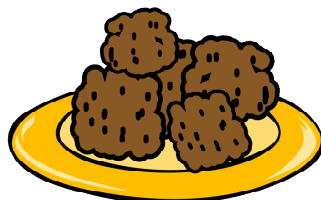
Details for Town Meeting

On Wednesday, March 9, 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. The first shuttle will leave at 9
a.m. **sharp** and return for a second trip at 9:30 a.m. **sharp**. The
return to the Tsongas parking lot will leave shortly after the end
of the meeting.

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

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

Hope to see you all there!



Greetings from Liana

At Christmas Dr. Liana Cheney, a retired UMass Lowell
professor who in the spring of 1994 began popular lectures on art
history, sent Christmas Season greetings “to the whole LIRA
group”. Over 21 years, her in-depth presentations always greatly
informed appreciative listeners. Her home base is Cambridge but
her busy career continues to include research, publishing and
lecturing, particularly in Italy.

Connie Lanseigne-Case

2016 Nominating Committee

Members of this year’s Nominating Committee are Carol
McCarthy as Chairman, Simone Allard, and Bob Hanlon. 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.

Richard Grove

In the News

Those of you that attended Melissa Pennell’s talk on January 13,
will remember that there was a photographer from the Lowell
Sun taking lots of pictures. Many of those pictures were in the
article in the Lowell Sun’s magazine section ‘whatdoUwannado?’
on January 21. We were actually on the front page! The article
was written by Nancy Tuttle about lifelong learning for seniors. If
you didn’t see it, you can go to the following website:

http://www.lowellsun.com/lifestyles/ci_29413409/age-comes-wisdom

Make sure you scroll down to the bottom of the article to see the
slide show of pictures from the photo shoot of our class!

Holiday Party 2015

The 2015 Holiday Party was a huge success: about 90 members and guests attended, the weather cooperated, and the auction made \$525.00 for the Scholarship fund. The most we have ever made! We had a delicious array of goodies that covered two long tables. The tables at Cumnock Hall were decorated by Nancy Grove and Jean Schott. Thanks to both of them for all their hard work.

Janet Redman and Deanne Sferrino, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the four \$1500 scholarships as described in an article in this newsletter. Claire Frassica ran the consumable auction with help from Meg Geary, Jeri Durant and Betsy Eshbaugh selling tickets.

Chris Santos-Gordon, Director of Community Resources at Community Teamwork Inc. told us how much she appreciated our donations. 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!



**Left: Vice President, John Mamalis begins meeting
Above, Scholarship winners with LIRA members**



**Elaine Jelescheff with
CTI representatives**



**Donations of hats, mittens
and books for CTI**



**Above: Auction tables
Right: The big winner, Sheila Pariseau**



Mehmed Ali in Iraq

On Wednesday, February 20, our LIRA presentation by Program and Project Coordinator for the UMass Lowell Libraries Mehmed Ali, was on his 4 years in Iraq and Afghanistan. Working for the US government. Ali's job in Iraq was to write grants and manage projects for historic preservation, city planning and emergency management — a job made all the more harrowing inside the chaotic war zone. Pictures he took at the Baghdad embassy showed us how large the embassy compound was where he lived — 15,000 people, in a self-contained city in view of the Tigris River. His presentation included many of the minorities who live in the area but he also explained that there has been no census taken in Iraq since 1958. Our discussion included what is happening in that area today with ISIS/ ISIL.



Nancy Pitkin

LIRA'S Spotlight Member Skip Youngberg

Skip says that anyone who calls him James really doesn't know him!

Skip found LIRA in 2013 after "years of recommendations" by Ron Cannistraro! Having made the mistake of speaking up one day, he's now on the Curriculum Committee and is one of two at-large members of the Executive Board. He enjoys the session leader/facilitator role and highly recommends it to others! He suggests that LIRA should offer a "I Just Got Volunteered to Lead a Class - 'What Do I do now Course?'"

Skip grew up in East Providence, Rhode Island. He met his wife, Joyce on November 22, 1962, a memorable day! They dated through college while Skip was at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and they married as Skip entered the Air Force for the next 25 years.

While Skip was in the Air Force his most memorable assignment was an engineering assignment to beautiful downtown Wiesbaden, Germany. His most significant assignment was managing an office of members of all four services and NATO who delivered the first production-model GPS receivers.

Skip and Joyce had two daughters. Their families live about half an hour away in New Hampshire and Skip enjoys visiting with their families and his four grandkids immensely.

A few weeks before her retirement from teaching in 2007 Joyce discovered she had pancreatic cancer. Skip retired immediately and they made a great life for themselves for the next six years. Life plans took a left turn and, with the help of family and friends, he learned that it's best to keep on marching.

Skip is an avid radio hobbyist. It was ham radio that launched him on his technical career. He still enjoys this activity and he has talked to individuals in all fifty states plus 182 countries and 100 islands from all over the world.

Almost all of his Air Force engineering assignments were here in the US but one of those jobs had Skip doing six-week long technical tests all over the world. During that time "I caught the travel bug but I could only afford to do it on business trips. Now I am itching to get back to doing some global traveling on my own. But I have nothing specific planned."

Jeanne Gunion



The BSO open rehearsal trip for LIRA will take place on **Thursday March 17, 2016**. The program is:

Higdon "Blue Cathedral"
Williams "Violin Concerto"
Saint-Saens "Symphony No.3" Organ
Stephane Deneve: conductor
Gil Shaham: violin

Tickets including bus transportation are \$30 dollars for members, \$35 for non-members (if tickets are available). The bus leaves promptly at 7:15 a.m. from the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. We return about 2 p.m. A bag lunch is suggested.

Checks are to be made to LIRA, INC. and are due by Friday, March 11, 2016.

Please send checks to:

Jean Rubinstein
15 Fairbanks Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-9943 / 978-761-0022

Please Note: 24 hours' notice is needed for refunds.

Nanotechnology

Professor Carol Barry, Dr. Eng.
Plastics Engineering Department, UMASS Lowell

Professor Carol F. Barry gave a talk on Nanotechnology on January 6, 2016. This emerging technology is becoming increasingly important as companies strive to improve materials, products, and processes. It is all about the scale of things. People are familiar with ordinary objects such as the height of a woman at 63 inches (1.62 meters), an ant at 0.2 inch or 5 mm, a red blood cell at 2-5 micro meter (1 millionths of a meter), bacteria at 2 micro meter and strands of DNA at 1-12 nanometer wide (1 nanometer = 1 billionth of a meter). Matter is treated at this small scale to form structures that have enhanced physical and chemical properties that lead to innovations in many areas: energy, lighting, water treatment, health, electronics, and automotive. At the nano level matter behaves differently. There is a lot more surface area which affects friction, water repellency, as well as quantum mechanical behavior (light, radiation, magnetism and electricity). At this level one also observes molecular recognition where the surface atoms, molecules, and chemical functional groups can influence what substances will be their “next door neighbors”. One can control color, transparency, hardness, wettability etc. to give surfaces that either wet or repel water and also shed dirt, stains, spills etc. Molecules recognize each other and can self-organize to create repair ability, adaptability, and recognition useful for bio-applications and biophysics.

Professor Barry touched on many other applications including flame retardancy via char formation, improved coatings for the paint industry, and anti-microbial coatings for medical devices, changes of physical properties such as melting and freezing points, new methods of drug delivery in the body, chemical remediation of contaminated industrial waste sites, new fiber and non-woven structures for filtration applications, small scale computer chips to increase computing power, and many more.

Nick Schott

Literary Lowell

On Wednesday morning, February 3, LIRA met at the Pollard Memorial Library in the Community Room on the ground floor for a presentation on “Literary Lowell”, by Sean Thibodeau, Director of Community Planning at the Library. Sean presented anecdotes and facts about the authors that are native Lowellians and the many writers who have visited Lowell. One famous author who visited Lowell for only one day, devoted a whole chapter to Lowell in his book. Charles Dickens, wrote *American Notes for General Circulation*. (1842) which describes his visit to Lowell in which he wrote “even the dirt looked new”. Edgar Allen Poe, wrote the poem *For Annie* (1848) for Nancy Richmond; Nancy legally changed her name to Annie. Historical fiction writers include Kate Alcott, *The Daring Ladies of Lowell*. (2014) which takes place in Lowell and you’ll recognize many of the places and names. Elinor Lipman is a native Lowellian who has written many romance novels. (Her book *Then She Found Me* was made into a movie in 2008 and is available on DVD). Jack Kerouac’s *The Town and the City*, (1950) is about Lowell. A highlight of the day was the tour of the Library including a stop at the “Kerouac Corner”, where Jack read when he skipped school. Another highlight are the paintings in Memorial Hall by Paul Philippoteaux, who also painted the famous diorama on display at the Gettysburg National Park in Pennsylvania.

Nancy Pitkin



Sean Thibodeau at the Pollard Library

LIRA Scholarships 2015

Scholarship winners with Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Committee

L to R: Renoel Amogawin, Deanne Sferrino, Rajia Abdelaziz, Kevin Pillone, Janet Redman, Gerrit Boldt

The following was written by Katharine Webster of UMass Lowell and was published on the news website: <http://uml.edu/News/stories/2015/LIRAScholarships.aspx>

It is an excellent summary of the winners and we thought it would be appropriate to republish here.

Four students got a welcome financial boost when the Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA) awarded each of them a \$1,500 scholarship at the group's annual holiday party.

More than 50 students applied for this year's scholarships, which are awarded to juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or better and a strong record of community service, regardless of financial need. Janet Redman, co-chair of LIRA's Scholarship Committee, said the committee was hard-pressed to choose the four winners because there were so many deserving applicants.

"We could have awarded many, many more scholarships," said Redman. "It's just amazing what these students are doing."

The number and size of the scholarships has grown significantly since 2013, when LIRA signed a formal agreement with the university's offices of Community Relations and Alumni Relations, said Toby Hodes, past president of LIRA. Now a portion of LIRA members' dues goes into the scholarship fund; the rest of the money is raised through a silent auction and individual donations.

"When I joined LIRA, back in 1998, we were giving out \$50 scholarships. Originally we only gave out two scholarships; the past two years, it's been four," Hodes said. "I think people of our age realize how lucky we have been. To us, education is very



important, because we're still pursuing it. And we realize what a struggle it is for kids, particularly for people who attend state schools, so if we can help the next generation get a leg up on their education, make things a little bit easier for them, it gives all of us a really terrific feeling."

Rajia Abdelaziz, a senior from Nashua, N.H., who is pursuing a double major in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, says the award will give her some breathing room as she completes her two capstone projects. "Senior year for us double majors is really difficult, so I'm going to be able to cut back on my work hours and I'm really grateful for that," she said.

Abdelaziz works with Professor Fred Martin on the iSENSE project, developing software that teaches math and science to middle and high school students. She is also president of the campus chapter of the Society of Women Engineers and she mentors middle school students.

Renoel Amogawin, a senior from Burlington, will use his scholarship to defray the cost of a five-year accelerated bachelor's to master's degree program in Criminal Justice and Security Studies. He has tutored international students on campus in conversational English, helped refugee families at

the International Institute of New England and tutored immigrant children in English and math. "The bonds you make with those kids are great. It's so rewarding to help them succeed," he said.

Kevin Pillone of Quincy will complete his B.A. in History this spring and has applied to the Graduate School of Education for an accelerated, one-year master's in teaching. As a Co-op Scholar, he mentors three boys, tutors and plans group activities for students at Lowell High School. And like Renoel, he also tutored immigrant children at the International Institute Center, working through the SayDaNar Community Development Center for Burmese refugees. "The LIRA scholarship lifted my spirits," he said. "It's going to help me go to school so I can continue helping people out."

Gerrit Boldt, an Honors College government fellow from Groton, who is double-majoring in History and Economics and minoring in Spanish, has a passion for sharing his financial expertise with others. As finance chairman for the Student

(continued from previous page)

Government Association, he helps decide how student activity fees are allocated. He is planning a forum for students on paying for college and he has served as treasurer and vice president of the International Student Club. "I plan to pursue a State Department teaching fellowship and my life goal is to have a significant impact on public policy," he said. "If I can really impact one law concerning education, health care, or international trade, I will be very satisfied."

Boldt also understands the importance of paying it forward. He plans to speak to LIRA's members next fall about how much their scholarships mean to students like him.

"What the scholarship really helps me do is pursue my passions for active problem solving and working on teams without having to be tethered by massive amounts of debt," he said. "It helps ease the burden of attending college for my family and me."



The Annual Meeting will be held on May 18, 2016. The Summer Intersession begins on Wednesday, June 1, 2016.

Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2016 Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. Descriptions are not included 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 by contacting Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Sven Beckert – "Empire of Cotton"

Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. – Lunar Theater
Ty Burr – "The 50 Movie Starter Kit"

Sunday, March 20, 2:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Richard P. Howe Jr. "The Solon Perkins Flag"

Sunday, April 10, 2:00 p.m. – American Textile History Museum
Jill Carey – "Orson Lowell: Fashion and Satire"

Thank You

When I began my term as LIRA President I did not expect to be facing serious health issues but life is full of surprises. In November I was diagnosed with lymphoma and began chemotherapy at Lowell General Hospital. My oncologist told me that lymphoma was "(relatively) good news" because there are very effective treatments for this disease. The care I am receiving at LGH has been excellent and I am hopeful of a full recovery. I would like to express my thanks to all who have provided support during this time:

Everyone who helped make the Holiday Party a success when my wife Nancy and I had to step back
Members of the Executive Council who keep LIRA running smoothly
Vice-president John Mamalis and former President Toby Hodes who have joined a "presidential troika" with me to lead LIRA
LIRA members who sent cards and email of encouragement and support

Thank You!
Richard Grove



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2016; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2016. 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

Member News

We continue to keep Richard Grove in our thoughts as he confronts the challenge to his health, wishing him a speedy and full recovery.

We extend our best wishes to Suzanne Knapp in her decision to move to an independent retirement community. Her new address is:

129 E. Main Street
Westborough, MA 01581
[978-848-8758](tel:978-848-8758)

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

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

Notes about the Spring Session

All classes are meeting at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA, except for two.

Tuesday, March 22 classes, Shakespeare and Spiritual Brain, will meet at the Tsongas Center in the Talon Room, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, MA.

Friday, April 15 class, Great Decisions Sampler, location will be announced.

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

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

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.

Member Renewal:

Susan Sheedy
2 Smokerise Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-5068
Cell: 978-677-0369
Email: sue.sheedy@verizon.net



Corrections:

Ron Cannistraro
Email: carolron@comcast.net

Brian & Gretchen DeAngelo
Email: b.deangelo@comcast.net

Newsletters on Website

PLEASE NOTE NEW POLICY: We are now assuming that everyone is reading the newsletter on-line. A hard copy of the newsletter will NOT be mailed to you unless you have contacted Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically.

The on-line newsletter is just like the printed one only better - it's in color! This policy will help us to save substantial printing and mailing costs to the university as well as a few trees.

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

New Hospitality Committee Chair

Deborah Sebelius volunteered to serve as chair for the Hospitality Committee. Thank you Deborah for taking on this important job. Please support Deborah as she organizes refreshments and decorations for each of LIRA's four general membership meetings.



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Newsletter Committee

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Spring 2016 Schedule

The 2016 Spring Study Groups on campus will meet at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, except for Tuesday, March 22, which will meet at the Talon Club Room at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

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

Location of classes will sometimes change so watch for announcements.

Registration will take place at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 10:00 AM in Cumnock Hall, One University Ave, Lowell.

U.S. Industries in the 20th & 21st Centuries

6 Mondays, 10:00-Noon: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2

This program will help us to understand the large-scale changes that took place in the national economy over the 20th century and how these changes affected people. The program traces the early 20th century rise and late 20th century decline of the U.S. manufacturing base. Industries considered will include: automobiles, textiles, shoes, steel, machine tools and electronics. We will consider the impact industrial job loss had on the workers and their communities. The program covers:

- Growth of the economy in the 20th century;
- Evolution of the large corporation and the factory assembly line;
- Changing places of women and minorities in American business society;
- Decline of the traditional U.S. manufacturing base after the Second World War;
- Rise of the 'high tech' and service sectors, especially in Massachusetts and California;
- Rise of 'new industries' like life sciences, and nanotechnology;
- Rise of big box chain retailers like Wal~Mart;
- The early 21st century finance, banking and housing crises and how they might affect our future.

Presenter: Professor Bob Farrant

Coordinator: Terri Munson*

Everything You Wanted to Know About Your Brain; But Forgot to Ask

5 Mondays, 1:00-3:00: March 14, 21, 28, April 25, May 2

This presentation will cover:

- How the brain developed
- How it absorbs and remembers information
- How emotions can get in the way of memory recall
- What happens to the brain over time
- How does the brain continue to function as well as it does
- What kinds of things help keep the brain 'alive'
- What is "expected memory loss"
- What is early Alzheimer's and how is it different from "Dementia",
- Does the aging brain really discover "Wisdom" and what is it!!!!!!

Facilitator: Arnold Kerzner*

Coordinator: Terri Munson*

European Histories and European Lives

2 Mondays, 1:00-3:00: April 4 and 11

In this series, the lives of historical figures are studied individually. Social and economic factors have an impact on them. They, in turn, are highly influential on their times. It is this interplay that comes out in a video lecture. Queen Victoria and Jean-Jacques Rousseau are the famous persons this spring--first in the video lecture then by a LIRA member adding information to complete the picture.

Facilitator: Dorothy Bromage*

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Shakespeare: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

8 Tuesdays, 10:00-Noon: March 15, 22*, 29 April 5, 12, 19, 26 and May 3

*March 22 Meet in TALON ROOM

"The Merry Wives of Windsor" probably dates to 1602. The well-known story begun by 18th century sources states that Queen Elizabeth was so taken with the character of Falstaff in "Henry IV and V" that she asked Shakespeare to write another play containing that famous character Sir John Falstaff. We are further told to believe that the play was written in 10 to 14 days on the Queen's order. Some critics hold that the play shows evidence of hasty writing. The play was too gross for the taste of Victorian critics and was rarely, if ever, performed in that era. In any case, we have selected that play for a repeat performance of our own this spring. According to "Folger's Guide to Shakespeare" the play moves rapidly, its dialog is racy, its humor is earthy but healthy and its farcical action provides laughter and entertainment for all but the most tender-minded of readers or spectators. Incidentally, the play has very little poetry in it unlike what we would normally expect from Shakespeare but unlike him, critics claim the poetry lacks distinction. Well, the critics may have their day, but so will we have many laughs as we read this great work. Those coming to the class will, of course, need a text. Other than that, we look forward to enjoying the play.

Facilitator: Frank Carroll*

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience

8 Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00: March 15, 22*, 29 April 5, 12, 19, 26 and May 3

*March 22 Meet in TALON ROOM

We will continue to explore where spiritual beliefs come from and how, as the brain develops biologically as we mature, it reflects our spiritual growth and development. As we learn more about the latest research linking neuroscience and spirituality, this course will continue to shine a light into the deepest parts of the human mind and spirit, helping us to understand why people believe what they do, and revealing the relationship between the universal spiritual urge and the human brain. This is a continuation of the fall program – new participants welcome!

Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy

Art and Music

7 Wednesdays, March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4

1 Thursday, March 17 Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal

See separate schedule for Art & Music

Great Decisions

8 sessions 1 Wednesday, 10:00-Noon: March 16

7 Thursdays, 10:00-Noon: March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, and May 5

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Two weekly two-hour sessions explore each topic in depth. Topics for the spring are: Shifting Middle East Alliances, The Rise of ISIS, The Future of Kurdistan, and Climate Geopolitics. Briefing books are available for \$20.00.

Facilitator: Richard Grove*

Understanding the Inventions That Changed the World

4 Sessions: 1 Wednesday, 1:00-3:00: March 16

3 Thursdays, 1:00-3:00: March 24, 31, April 7

We are surrounded by inventions. Consider the clocks, appliances, and transportation that coordinate our days. Or the televisions, cell phones, and social media that connect us to each other. Where did all these inventions come from? How do they work? And how do they reflect—even define—the values of our culture? Now, you can learn the remarkable stories surrounding monumental inventions such as Telescopes, Automobiles, Batteries, Nuclear Power and more—and how consequential these inventions were to history—in Understanding the Inventions That Changed the World. Taught by Professor W. Bernard Carlson of the University of Virginia, who is an expert on the role of innovation in history, these enlightening lectures give you a broad survey of material history. Along with recounting the famous inventions you might expect, such as the steam engine, the airplane, and the atomic bomb, this course explores a number of surprising innovations, including cathedrals, pagodas, and department stores. This is a continuation of the popular course that was offered last fall. New participants welcome.

Facilitator: Bob Hanlon*

The Presidential Election 2016 Continues!

4 Thursdays 1:00-3:00: April 14, 21, 28 and May 5

This class will examine the Presidential race of 2016, reviewing the primaries up till that point and looking forward to the remaining primaries and the national conventions this summer.

The class will also look at the November election, how the Electoral College works and look at poll numbers and map predictions. The remaining candidates will also be examined in detail, their positions, their websites and their sources of money. Participants will be well-equipped to understand and discuss the presidential election after this four-week class.

Presenter: Frank Talty Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

Great Decisions Sampler

4 Fridays 10:00-Noon: March 18, April 1, 15*, and May 6

***April 15 Location to be announced**

Great Decisions Sampler is an opportunity to get a taste of the Great Decisions program. Each two-hour session will cover one Great Decisions topic. Topics for the spring are: Shifting Middle East Alliances, The Rise of ISIS, The Future of Kurdistan, and Climate Geopolitics.

Briefing books are available for \$20.00.

Facilitator: Nancy Pitkin*

Book Discussion

3 Fridays: 10:00-Noon 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.

March 25 *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

April 22 *Emma* by Jane Austin

May 20 *Dead Wake* by Eric Larson

June To Be Determined

*Indicates LIRA member

Art & Music Spring 2016

Programs on March 23, April 13, 20 and May 4 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 9 Town Meeting. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours.

Wednesday, March 16 No Class

Thursday Mar 17 Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal

The program is: Higdon "Blue Cathedral," Williams "Violin Concerto," Saint-Saens "Symphony No. 3,"
Conductor: Stephane Deneve, Violinist: Gil Shaham. Tickets including bus are \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members (if tickets are available). The bus leaves promptly at 7:15 am from the side parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. We return about 2 pm. Bag lunch is suggested. Checks are made out to: LIRA, INC. and are due by Friday, March 11. Please send checks to: Jean Rubinstein, 15 Fairbanks Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824.
Please note: 24 hour notice is needed for refunds.
Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

Wednesday March 23 Travelling in Turkey -- Leon Poirier

Leon will present a program on a Grand Circle tour he took throughout Turkey. The Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and the caves in Cappadocia were highlights!
Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday March 30 Lowell Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell, MA

We will see the beautiful Japanese quilt exhibit. Parking is available at the Visitor's Center lot on Dutton Street or the garage on Market Street. Meet at 10 am.
Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday, April 6 Special Exhibit: Pairing Picasso, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

A loan from Switzerland of four major works by Pablo Picasso and more from private collections will complement the MFA's holdings of paintings and sculpture by the artist, looking at different stages of his career. Museum admission is 65+seniors \$23; adults \$25, paid individually at the Museum entrance. Reciprocal memberships, coupons, and discounts are valid. The bus leaves promptly at 9:15 am from the side parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. We return by 2:30 pm. Bus cost: \$10.00 LIRA Members, \$15.00 non-members. Checks are made out to: LIRA, INC. and are due by Wednesday, March 30. Please send checks to: Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824. Phone: 978-256-5904.
Please note: 24 hour notice is needed for refunds.
Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

Wednesday April 13 Let Us Count the Ways -- Dorothy Bromage

We have analyzed major works. This time the focus is on shorter compositions, as we see how a few composers take a theme and create a series of variations. Come and find how this is done by several -- from Pachelbel to Gottschack -- from a canon to a cakewalk.
Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Wednesday April 20 Stained Glass Art by Marlowe Miller

Marlowe is a mosaic artist who works with both 3D objects and glass surfaces. She will discuss her process and the inspirations for her obsession.
Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

Wednesday April 27 Everywhen: Australian Aboriginal Art -- Harvard Art Museums

The exhibit contains some 70 Aboriginal works enhanced by objects from Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. This is a self-guided tour and our group will be divided into two smaller groups of 15. The bus leaves promptly at 9:00 am from the side parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. We return by about 2:00 pm. Cost including Museum admission and bus is: \$25. Group is limited to thirty. Checks are made out to: LIRA, INC. and are due by Monday, April 6. Please send checks to: Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824.
Please note: 24 hour notice is needed for refunds.
Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

Wednesday May 4 What do the Strings Do?

Two students from UMass Lowell will come, a violinist and a cellist. They will play for us, as well as give an informal workshop on the string family of instruments.
Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

LIRA's Spring 2016 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 7	March 8	March 9 10 am to Noon Town Meeting Cumnock Hall	March 10	March 11 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Lecture on North Korea
March 14 No morning class 1 to 3 pm Everything you wanted to know about your brain	March 15 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain	March 16 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Understanding Inventions that changed the world	March 17 Meet at 7:15 am at Hannaford for bus BSO Open Rehearsal, Boston	March 18 10 am to Noon Great Decisions Sampler
March 21 10 am to Noon US Industries in 20 th & 21 st Century 1 to 3 pm Everything you wanted to know about your brain	March 22 Meet in the TALON ROOM 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain	March 23 10 am to Noon Traveling to Turkey Leon Poirier	March 24 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Understanding Inventions that changed the world	March 25 10am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Being Mortal</i> by Atul Gawande
March 28 10 am to Noon US Industries in 20 th & 21 st Century 1 to 3 pm Everything you wanted to know about your brain	March 29 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain	March 30 Meet at 10 am at Lowell Quilt Museum	March 31 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Understanding Inventions that changed the world	April 1 10 am to Noon Great Decisions Sampler
April 4 10 am to Noon US Industries in 20 th & 21 st Century 1 to 3 pm European History and Lives	April 5 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain	April 6 Meet at 9:15 am at Hannaford for bus Museum of Fine Arts Picasso Exhibit	April 7 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Understanding Inventions that changed the world	April 8 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture The Foucault Pendulum Leon Poirier

<p>April 11 10 am to Noon US Industries in 20th & 21st Century 1 to 3 pm European History and Lives</p>	<p>April 12 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain</p>	<p>April 13 10 am to Noon UMass Lowell Students Strings</p>	<p>April 14 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Presidential Election 2016</p>	<p>April 15 10 am to Noon Great Decisions Sampler Location to be announced</p>
<p>April 18 Patriots Day NO CLASSES</p>	<p>April 19 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain</p>	<p>April 20 10 am to Noon Stained Glass Art Marlowe Miller</p>	<p>April 21 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Presidential Election 2016</p>	<p>April 22 10am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Emma</i> by Jane Austin</p>
<p>April 25 10 am to Noon US Industries in 20th & 21st Century 1 to 3 pm Everything you wanted to know about your brain</p>	<p>April 26 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain</p>	<p>April 27 Meet at 9 am at Hannaford for bus Harvard Art Museums Everywhen: Australian Aboriginal Art Exhibit</p>	<p>April 28 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Presidential Election 2016</p>	<p>April 29</p>
<p>May 2 10 am to Noon US Industries in 20th & 21st Century 1 to 3 pm Everything you wanted to know about your brain</p>	<p>May 3 10 am to Noon <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> 1 to 3 pm The Spiritual Brain</p>	<p>May 4 10 am to Noon Let Us Count the Ways Dorothy Bromage</p>	<p>May 5 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Presidential Election 2016</p>	<p>May 6 10 am to Noon Great Decisions Sampler</p>
<p>May 9</p>	<p>May 10</p>	<p>May 11</p>	<p>May 12</p>	<p>May 13 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture</p>
<p>May 16</p>	<p>May 17</p>	<p>May 18 10 am to Noon Annual Meeting Cumnock Hall</p>	<p>May 19</p>	<p>May 20</p>
<p>May 23</p>	<p>May 24</p>	<p>May 25</p>	<p>May 26</p>	<p>May 27 10am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Dead Wake</i> by Erik Larson</p>

