



# 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](http://uml.edu/community/LIRA)



March 2021

Vol. 28 No. 1

Spring Semester begins March 8!  
Join us on ZOOM for LIRA's annual  
Spring Town Meeting

**Where:** ZOOM

**When:** Wednesday, March 3

**Time:** 10 am to Noon  
(Bring your own snacks)

**Featured Speaker:**

Ruairi O'Mahoney,  
UML Director of Sustainability



## From the President

Almost one year ago, March 4, 2020 was the last time we were all able to meet face to face. A serious illness, Covid-19, was rampaging throughout the world and we all went into lockdown. Now, one year later, we will hold our fourth general membership meeting over Zoom. We are monitoring the news as Massachusetts and UMass Lowell begin to open up and allow larger indoor gatherings as more and more people receive their vaccines. I hope that someday soon we will be able to get together as a group. As we move forward, we also intend to ensure that Zoom will be an integral part of our future classes.

The LIRA Winter Intersession was a great success. More UML professors came to speak to us than any other previous season. Added to that, Jonathan Lemire's Webinar at UML, sponsored by LIRA, made the session memorable. UML raised about \$1500 for the LIRA scholarship fund from the Jonathan Lemire Webinar, which will allow LIRA to award one additional Scholarship to a deserving UML upperclassman. Congratulations to Bob Hanlon and the whole curriculum committee for putting together the winter Intersession.

The Spring Semester classes look to be just as interesting and informative. We have several new members presenting and facilitating classes for the first time. Also returning is one of our favorite speakers, Frank Talty and our regular features like Great Decisions, the Book Discussion Group and the new Film Discussion Group.

LIRA is always looking for volunteers to work on our various committees, coordinate or present classes and keep the organization moving forward. In particular, we are seeking someone to lead the Member News feature in the Newsletter. If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Becky Bronson ([beckybronson241@gmail.com](mailto:beckybronson241@gmail.com)).

I am looking forward to renewing friendships and acquaintances at the annual Town Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and at our classes during the spring semester. Please see the article about our meeting and the speaker elsewhere in the Newsletter.

See you in March.

*Peter Sebelius  
Spring 2021*



## Ruairi O'Mahony to speak at Town Meeting: March 3, 2021

Ruairi O'Mahony is the Director of Sustainability at UMass Lowell. A native of Cork City, Ireland, Ruairi has been working in the planning and sustainability field for over ten years. With particular expertise in urban sustainability issues, Ruairi leads a talented team of professional and student employees working to advance sustainability at the university and in the wider community.

Prior to arriving at UMass Lowell, Ruairi worked at the Central New Hampshire Planning Commission overseeing the region's core transportation planning efforts. Before moving to the States in 2009, he worked for the Strategic Projects Team in Dublin City Council's Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Ruairi started at UMass Lowell in the Transportation and Parking Department before moving to establish the Office of Sustainability in 2015. He has overseen an impressive transformation at the university with sustainability now an integral part of the campus experience at UMass Lowell.

Ruairi earned a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and English (First Class Honors), University College Cork, Ireland and a Master of Arts in Planning and Sustainable Development (First Class Honors), University College Cork, Ireland. He also received a Campus Sustainability Leadership Certificate from the University of Vermont.



## My Life and Art: Angela Alés

We started off our winter semester with a lecture by artist Angela Alés. Angela is a Colombian-born surrealist currently living and working at Western Avenue Studios and Lofts in Lowell. She talked about the influences in her art, including her Colombian heritage and her memories of Festival, the Colombian week-long Mardi Gras celebration. She also talked about her process, automatism, where she starts with abstract shapes created accidentally, then finds and pulls out the details until she achieves her final painting.

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## 2021 Nominating Committee

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

*Peter Sebelius*

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## Class Cancellations

For LIRA cancellations or messages, everyone who has email will be notified. We have a phone squad to contact those people who don't use email. When you register and pay your membership dues, look for the box to check if you need a phone call. Feel free to call me with any questions.

*Judy Miller*  
978-256-8466



## New England Witches Before Salem

Bridget Marshall, Associate Professor of English at UML, spoke to LIRA members and guests about her research on Massachusetts witchcraft trials in the decades before the infamous Salem Witch Trials. Professor Marshall specializes in the Gothic novel, law and literature, and New England witchcraft trials.

In an entertaining and carefully researched presentation, Bridget discussed her research on 50 cases of witchcraft, focusing on the cases of two women named Mary Parsons of North Hampton and Mary Webster of Hadley. Their trials took place between 1656 and 1683. These cases are notable for the ways they defy many of our assumptions about those accused of witchcraft and how such trials proceeded.

In the cases Bridget discussed with us, three women were accused of witchcraft. All three were found not guilty of having "familiarity with the devil," although one was convicted of infanticide (causing the death of her child).

One of the more intriguing cases was that of Mary Webster, who was found not guilty of witchcraft by the court. However, she had such a foul and bitter personality and was so spiteful to her neighbors that some of them eventually took it upon themselves to hang her. Something went wrong though, and she survived the hanging and eventually became known as "Half-hanged Mary."

# Get to know...

The LIRA newsletter is currently trying to reactivate and rejuvenate a feature on current LIRA members. We are looking to become more of a community by getting to know more about the people that make LIRA, LIRA. A small committee (the Newsletter Highlight Committee) has been formed to facilitate this process.

Many of us know a few members very well, a small group of us by name and face from attending classes together, and maybe a somewhat larger portion of the membership from the parties or larger meetings. Few of us, particularly the newer members, know most of the current members.

We are hoping to use the newsletter to expand our knowledge of each other.

The committee will be randomly selecting names from the current membership list. If your name is selected, you will receive an email with this information. If you are agreeable, willing, and have the time, we are asking you to take part in expanding the group's knowledge by being highlighted in an article in the newsletter.

This is the process:

1. Respond to the email letting us know yes or no
2. If yes, one of us will set up an informal interview with you. This may be by phone, FaceTime, Zoom or whatever platform works best for you. We will have some very open-ended questions to start the discussion, but are also very open to topics that interest you.
3. The interviewer will write an article on you based on the discussion.
4. Before publication, the article will be sent to you for review, corrections and approval.
5. After corrections, it will be published in the next quarterly LIRA newsletter.

We hope that you will be willing to help if your name is chosen, but we want to emphasize that participation is strictly voluntary. If you are uncomfortable, unwilling or just too busy simply tell us no and we will pick another name. For this reason, we ask members to respond within two days of receiving an email from us so we can pick someone else if you decline.

Thanks in advance,

*The LIRA Newsletter "Highlight" committee:*

Becky Bronson  
Sheila Pariseau  
Stan Powers  
Esther Wikander

**P.S. Our first "highlighted" member is... Jeri Durant (and yes, the selection was random)**

## Get to Know... Jeri Durant



Jeri Durant has been a member of LIRA since 2000, when she attended a January class to try it out. Jeri still remembers the first class she attended: "Collections," where members brought in examples of items they collected as a hobby. By the next year, she was editing the newsletter, and continued that until 2020.

Jeri grew up in Arlington, MA, and went to UMass Amherst, where she got a degree in mathematics. She worked as a software engineer at MIT Lincoln Labs for 26 years. She was in the microelectronics group, and spent much of her time on computer aided design software, creating it and advising colleagues who were using it.

Jeri and her late husband Ted moved to Chelmsford in 1972, and she still lives in the same house. When they moved to Chelmsford, Jeri joined the Chelmsford Newcomers' Club, which led to many other groups about creative activities. "Everything from needlework to chair caning," she says. About 30 years ago, Jeri decided to concentrate on decorative painting. She has painted many items for grandchildren and other family members, including a yearly egg for each grandchild with pictures of their various activities.

Jeri and Ted had one son, who lives in China, Maine, with his wife and six children. Ted's family tradition had been spending time every summer at Ocean Park, Maine, close to Portland, so he and Jeri continued that. Jeri and the extended family still spend time there every summer.

Jeri and Ted traveled even farther than Ocean Park, Maine. They took trips to Paris, London, Barbados, Alaska, and Scotland. For their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they went on a Scandinavian/Russian cruise. When the cruise stopped in Oslo, it gave Jeri a chance to meet a Norwegian relative she had corresponded with about family genealogy, another of Jeri's many interests. The last trip Jeri and Ted took was in 2019, a Panama Canal cruise.

Jeri has shared her many talents with LIRA over the years, offering classes ranging from computer tips to scrapbooking to Chihuly glass. She has retired as newsletter editor, but continues to enjoy LIRA classes. Beginning with classes she took while working at Lincoln Labs, then adult education classes on many artistic topics, then UMass Lowell classes on multimedia, even conversational French, Jeri says, "I've been taking classes all my life."

*Sheila Pariseau for the Highlight Committee*

# Joe Sheedy 1934-2020

With Sadness LIRA notes the passing of long time LIRA member, Joe Sheedy, on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Lowell General Hospital. Joe was 86 years old. Sue Sheedy had joined LIRA about 10 years ago. Several years later, and after much effort, Sue persuaded Joe to join in 2016. Joe enjoyed LIRA classes, particularly classes in psychology, science, and the LIRA exercise program. Just before his death, Joe had completed the requirements for a BS in Psychology and Criminology at UMass, Lowell. Besides LIRA, Joe was a longtime member of the Lowell Camera Club. Joe and Sue loved to travel and had many opportunities when Sue was in the travel business. In 2018 Joe gave a travelogue at LIRA about Vietnam. We will miss our friend, Joe Sheedy.

Peter Sebelius

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## Member News and Directory Changes

***Please note: The Newsletter committee is looking for a LIRA member to take on the role of keeping track of member news. If you are interested in doing this, please email Becky Bronson ([becky241@gmail.com](mailto:becky241@gmail.com)).***

Simone Allard would like to thank all her LIRA friends for their cards, prayers and concerns during her recuperation; she appreciates your encouragement. We wish her well as she continues to recover. If you would like to send words of support, her address is 55 Kent Lane, Apt. H203, Nashua, NH 03062. *The newsletter committee also thanks Simone for her past contributions to the newsletter.*

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Richard and Nancy Grove have moved to the Edgewood Retirement community in North Andover.

**New address:**

575 Osgood Street, Apt. 2213  
North Andover, MA 01845

**New phone:**

978-984-7260

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## Newsletters on Website

The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first day of the following months – March, May, September and December. Everyone can read the newsletter online if you have access to a web browser. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically. At the time of this writing, the print services at the university are closed so those members that requested a hard copy will not be receiving one.

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

The website for the newsletter is: [www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters/](http://www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters/)



## Jonathan Lemire

On Feb. 3, Jonathan Lemire, White House reporter for the Associated Press and an MSNBC political analyst, appeared virtually at UML. The presentation was cosponsored by the Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA), UMass Lowell Community Relations, and UMass Lowell's Alumni Virtual Village. The event featured a welcome by UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacquie Moloney and a panel moderated by UMass President Marty Meehan, which included UMass Lowell Honors College Interim Dean and Associate Professor of Political Science Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, LIRA President Peter Sebelius and UMass Lowell public health major and Student Government Association member Valeria Saldana.

Jonathan began with some biographical information highlighting his Lowell roots, experience writing for Columbia University's *Spectator*, and his internship and employment with the New York Daily News. Then he described his experiences at the Associated Press, where he followed Donald Trump's campaign for the presidency in 2016 and worked at the White House during Trump's presidency. He also discussed Trump's current impeachment and upcoming trial, and his new assignment with the Biden presidency.

The panel asked LOTS of questions covering many aspects of the Trump presidency and the role of the media covering this norm-breaking president. Jonathan answered thoroughly and with occasional humor.



## The Role of Combustion in the Green Future

Professor Noah Van Dam's presentation about internal combustion engines was well received by all. While the professor postdates the muscle car era of the 50s & 60s, many of us in the LIRA community grew up with powerful cars on the streets. One of the most interesting charts that Professor Van Dam presented was the change over time in the power output of engines. He showed the impact of both pollution (NO<sub>2</sub> exhaust) and health (non-lead fuel) regulations on a drop in power. The result forty years later: engines are now as powerful and cleaner for all of us. This was just one of the interesting data points we learned. The discussion on future fuels and what some issues are was also quite informative. We hope to see more about how science improves our lives. (Yes, this is his screen saver from *Incredibles 2* because I forgot to take a Zoom screen shot during his program).

*Nancy Pitkin*

# Photo Contest!

Can you correctly identify all the people in the photo below?

If so, send an email to [beckybronson241@gmail.com](mailto:beckybronson241@gmail.com) listing the people from left to right in each row. Bonus: include where and when the photo was taken!

A winner will be picked randomly from all correct entries and awarded a prize of \$25.00 from LIRA!



The next newsletter will be out on June 1, 2021; the deadline for news items is **May 15, 2021**. Please remember that 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 submitted at any time before the deadline. Any format is acceptable, but if you have Microsoft Word and can use Verdana Font, size 10, that is preferred. Please email articles to: [becky.bronson@penfield.fm](mailto:becky.bronson@penfield.fm)

*Becky Bronson*

# LIRA WORD SEARCH

Can you find the words in the puzzle below?

V F W E Y Q S X X J W K N H Y  
D Y N L W T T B K V P U J T L  
I W U E U W L X U J G L I H M  
V P S C W F J A W J B R X K O  
O H E T Z V P V T G U O L L O  
S D L I S S A M U C D M O H Z  
E E Y O F O E O E M U W R J R  
H W B N A F O S T L E Z G W B  
S X Q E P T R X M L W Q J G N  
I T T Z L E F Q L V Y Y M H Z  
X X M E B I K H T J W F O K K  
P L V Y L X U K M B N R W T K  
M E C M E J F S Z H G V F L M  
J E G L T U H R D L G N T E I  
P R O F E S S O R O A S D M T

CYBERSECURITY  
ELECTION  
LOWELL  
PROFESSOR  
SEBELIUS  
TALTY  
UMASS  
UML  
ZOOM

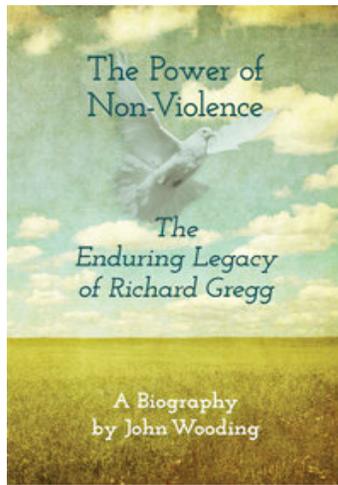
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## **Newsletter Committee**

[Becky Bronson, Editor](mailto:becky.bronson@penfield.fm) [becky.bronson@penfield.fm](mailto:becky.bronson@penfield.fm)  
Marge Nardini, Layout & Reproduction [mnard1008@verizon.net](mailto:mnard1008@verizon.net)  
Charlotte Evans, Calendar & Distribution [chrsnave@aol.com](mailto:chrsnave@aol.com)  
??? Member News (looking to fill this position)

### **Highlight subcommittee:**

Sheila Pariseau [spariseau10@gmail.com](mailto:spariseau10@gmail.com)  
Stan Powers [stanandjan@me.com](mailto:stanandjan@me.com)  
Esther Wikander [emwikander@gmail.com](mailto:emwikander@gmail.com)



## **The Power of Non-Violence: the Enduring Legacy of Richard Gregg**

Professor Emeritus John Wooding of the Political Science Department at UMass Lowell is the author of “The Power of Non-Violence: the Enduring Legacy of Richard Gregg.” His presentation to LIRA members and guests on February 10 traced the development of American pacifist Gregg, his association with Gandhi, and his influence on Martin Luther King, Jr.

Professor Wooding told participants about the many interesting coincidences and common links among Richard Gregg and members of his family, of Wooding’s father who was a conscientious objector during WW2, and the cities of Medford and Lowell.

After obtaining boxes of Gregg’s many notebooks, interviewing surviving relatives, and sifting through personal letters and photos, Prof. Wooding began writing the biography. Gregg was one of the first Americans to study with Gandhi for several years in India. Gregg’s books and pamphlets on non-violence and simple living inspired many activists and counter-culture movements in the US and abroad.

Participants engaged in a discussion about their experiences regarding the draft, their attempts to take part in a more sustainable system of living simply, and issues of actions and consequences. Certainly, everyone learned more about Richard Gregg, a very quiet but important radical in American history.

*Suzanne Gamache*

## Coming Soon to a Theater near You: LIRA's Spring Film Discussion Group!

Have you missed going to the movies? LIRA's Film Discussion Group is the answer. The group meets once a month on selected Fridays. The series focuses on topics that celebrate social diversity, which is related to the activities of the new LIRA Diversity Group. You will learn about cultures, ethnicities, and minorities through film discussion.

For the Spring 2021 session, we have scheduled three movies. We will publish where to find these movies from the library or streaming services and their trailers so you can watch them before the discussion.

- March 26, 2021 *Rain Man*, led by Marie-Anne Fernando
- April 23, 2021 *Easy Rider*, led by Kirk Frizee
- May 14, 2021 *Fences*, led by Bruce Magnuson
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Do you have a favorite film about diversity that you would enjoy leading and discussing with some great friends? Let us hear from you as Marie-Anne and I are planning for the Fall. To be a leader is easy and we are here to help. Come have some fun with us!

*Carol Valcik valcikca@gmail.com*  
*Marie-Anne Fernando ma.dewarren@comcast.net*

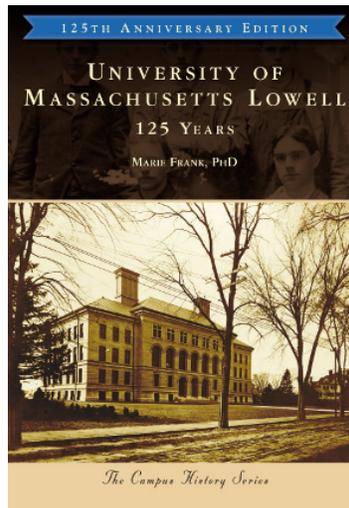
## LIRA Scholarship Committee

At the 2020 holiday party, LIRA Scholarship Committee co-chair, Dee Sferrino, thanked the LIRA membership for their very generous donations to the scholarship fund and the Executive Board for their support during the year. We also acknowledged Patty Coffey of UML's Community and Government Relations Department for her immense help during the difficult year of coronavirus and lock-down and the Financial Office for their guidance and help in making the scholarship selection process run smoothly.

We received numerous scholarship applications, and the selection of recipients was difficult. Our selection was based on students' accomplishments as well as their community and innovative work done during the coronavirus lockdown. LIRA President, Peter Sebelius, presented the scholarship recipients via Zoom, and each gave a review of accomplishments and future plans. The Recipients were: Gianno Branco (Nursing), Janelle Christopher (Elementary Education and Moderate Disabilities), Benjamin Drezak (Exercise Physiology), Kelsey Gonzalez (Public Health) and Heer Patel (Public Health pre-med). It was enlightening and very personal to meet the recipients via Zoom. LIRA has deposited the \$1500 scholarship into each student's tuition accounts.

We thank the Scholarship Committee members for their time and help during an unusual year: Margie Berenson, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie and Barbara Murch. We want to extend our appreciation and thanks to Alan McKersie for the many years that he has served on the Scholarship Committee. Alan is resigning and we will miss his input and experience.

*Dee Sferrino and Janet Redman –  
committee co-chairs*



## **UMass Lowell: 125 Years of Innovation and Education**

On January 20, Professor Marie Frank of the Fine Arts Department at UMass Lowell gave a presentation entitled "125 Years of Innovation and Education at UMass Lowell." Professor Frank's guided tour, often involving photographs from various time periods, followed the impressive history and evolution from Lowell Normal School in 1894 and Lowell Textile School in 1895 to the merger of the two campuses on opposite sides of the Merrimack river which formed University of Lowell in 1975. In 1991, ULowell joined with other campuses across the state and became part of the University of Massachusetts system.

Participants learned about the people behind the names of campus buildings: for example Principal Coburn taught the mostly female student population of the Lowell Normal School in late 1890s, and in the 1970s President Lydon expanded the program at Lowell Technological Institute to include liberal arts courses.

Professor Frank has updated an earlier version of UMass Lowell's history to include more current expansion and to continue the documentation of the institution's rich history and present place in the Lowell community.

*Suzanne Gamache*

# **LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**

University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854

## **Spring 2021 Schedule**

### **MONDAY**

#### **The Federalist Papers**

Facilitator: Bob Stevens\*

**Four Mondays**, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 8, 15, 22, 29

Ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1788 was not assured, as New York state citizens had to be convinced it was a good thing. They had significant concerns about the balance of power between the states and the federal government, among other issues. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote a series of 85 essays, published in New York papers, to educate the public about the constitution and that ratification was a good thing. The 85 essays are collectively known as The Federalist Papers and provide the best description of the thinking of the framers of the Constitution. Joseph Hoffman, law professor at Indiana University, explains the Federalist Papers in a series of lectures focusing on how they relate to modern America, including the evolution of the Constitution. We will show and discuss 8 of the twelve 32-minute lessons over four weeks.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

#### **Bending Towards Justice: African Americans as Subject and Creators in American Art**

Presenter: Jane Oneail

**One Monday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 8

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." This program examines that arc as it relates to African American history enshrined in American Art. From colonial era portraits to 19th-century and Jim Crow-era prints to 1960s Civil Rights photography, this program will provide a visual overview of African American oppression, struggle and progress towards equality.

Coordinator: Diane Baker

#### **Presenting A Class to LIRA**

Presenter: Peter Sebelius\*

**One Monday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 15

So you volunteered (or somehow got nominated) to lead a class at LIRA. Now what do you do? This class is a compendium of helpful hints for planning and presenting your ideas to LIRA. In addition, the class will go over ideas on how to facilitate a DVD course so that you get the maximum benefit from these pre-recorded classes.

## **UMass Lowell's Program for the Age-Friendly University**

Presenters: Professor Ramraj Gautam and Prof. Emeritus Karen Devereaux Melillo

**Two Mondays**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 22, 29

Members of the UMass Lowell Center for Gerontology Research and Partnerships (CGRP) will present two aging related sessions. Associate Teaching Professor Ramraj Gautam and Prof. Emeritus Karen Devereaux Melillo will co-present the concept of Age-Friendly University (AFU) Initiative, and the opportunities and challenges at UMass Lowell. Prof. Carol McDonough will offer a session on Technology and Aging. Older adults in the United States and globally have a much lower rate of internet use. We will discuss reasons for this age-based digital divide and strategies for reducing it.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*

## **Nuclear Power**

Presenter: David Kahan\*

**Five Mondays**, 10 a.m. – Noon: April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3

Nuclear vs fossil fuel power plants for today's environment. Learn from someone who worked in the early phases of Nuclear Power Plant design and development at a local Architectural Engineering Firm. Why did I decide to join these pioneers in trying to "tame and use the atom" to generate CLEAN electric power? Simple, as an Electronics Engineer from Lowell Tech, I wanted to use my education & training to see how "SAFE" they REALLY are, from their design stage, through the construction stage, and operational stage and also adherence/compliance to the Government specs and standards of the time.

The 6 series Topics are:

1. Energy Basics
2. Atoms and Isotopes
3. Ionizing Radiation
4. Fission and Chain Reactions
5. Atoms to electricity
6. Nuclear Waste

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon\*

## **When Serious Illness Strikes**

Facilitator: Peter Sebelius\*

**One Monday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: April 5

As we age, there is a dramatically increasing likelihood that any one of us or someone close will experience a serious illness. Many of our fellow LIRA members have experienced or have someone close who has experienced a bout with a serious illness or injury. The discussion will be in the form of a panel where several of our LIRA Medical Professionals along with members who have experienced serious illness, will talk about their interactions with the medical establishment, treatments, care and the impact on them and their loved ones. All members are invited to take part in the discussion.

## **LAW AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

Presenters: Dr. Frank Talty and Patricia Sullivan Talty

**Four Mondays**, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.: April 12, 19, 26 and May 3

This class is a primer on the role and function of the judicial branch of the U.S. government, the branch described by Alexander Hamilton as the "least dangerous branch, possessed of neither the purse nor the sword... but only of judgment". In these four sessions, we will examine the historical roots of US courts and the labyrinth of the 21st century judicial system. We will explore how judges are selected, and how lawyers function in the system. We will attempt to understand how courts reach decisions, interpret statutes and our Constitution. Finally, we will analyze the importance of the public school in support for courts.

Coordinator: Sally Coulter\*

## **TUESDAY**

### **How to Read and Understand Shakespeare**

Facilitators: Bev & Kim Rudeen\*

**Four Tuesdays**, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 9, 16, 23, 30

This video course from *The Great Courses Company* will focus on three of Shakespeare's great plays, *Hamlet*, *Measure for Measure*, and his last play, *The Tempest*.

In our last lesson, our professor will discuss several other plays as he wraps up this course. We will see some clips from various productions which include some of your favorite actors. The class will have some time for discussion.

As a reader or a theater-goer, you will gain a greater perspective on Shakespeare's plays and see why, after 400 hundred years, they still have a place in our lives today.

### **The Great Migration**

Presenters: Lira Diversity Committee members\*

**Four Tuesdays**: 10 a.m. – Noon: April 6, 13, 20, 27

Members of the Diversity Committee will present a 4 part class covering the Great Migration of African Americans from the South to the North and West. Using Isabel Wilkerson's book, "The Warmth of Other Suns," as an inspiration, we will explore this multifaceted story of American History. The historical and cultural implications of this vast internal migration still resonate today. Covering the history, literature, visual arts, and music associated with the Great Migration will give a richer perspective of the American experience. Please note that having read the book is NOT a requirement.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin\*

## Tuesday & Thursday

### Business of Sports

Facilitator: Professor Jeffrey Gerson

**Eight Tuesday and Thursdays:** 2 – 3:15 p.m.: March 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, April 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

Sports is big business. This course is a survey of the business of sports as described by the people involved with it. Each week invited guests will share their insights and experiences and answer questions about their corner of the sports world. The course concentrates on the local Boston area sports scene, and will include representatives of local sports franchises, event organizers, medical, and nutritional experts and many more.

### Current Schedule

**Mar. 9** Working in the Sneaker Industry with UML alums, Elizabeth and Laura Kender, New Balance and Converse, respectively.

**March 16** Tom Grilk and Fred Schoch, Running the Mega Sports Event, with Executive Directors of the Boston Marathon and Head of the Charles Regatta, respectively.

**Mar. 18** Community and Player Relations with Pam Kenn, Vice President of Community, Alumni and Player Relations, Boston Red Sox

**Mar. 23** Sports Nutrition with Nancy Clark, MS, RD, CSSD, sports nutritionist"

**Mar. 25** Sports Science with engineer Patrick Drane, UML's Baseball Research Lab

**Mar. 30** Not for Profit Sports and Youth at Risk with Toni Wiley, CEO of Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center (STEC) of Roxbury

**April 1** Nancy Hogshead-Makar, former Olympian and advocate for reforming NGBs such as the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Gymnastics

**April 6** Pro Teams' Foundations, with Bekah Salwasser, Boston Red Sox Foundation; Bob Sweeney, Boston Bruins Foundation; Donna Spigarolo, New England Patriots Charitable Foundation; Mike Hoffman, Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation

**April 8** Stadium, Arena and Cyber Security with Ed Davis, former Boston and Lowell Police Chief, president of Edward Davis LLC, Security and Management Consulting

**April 13** Sports Marketing with Cathal Conlon, Vice President of Marketing, New England Revolution and Kara Hutchinson Walker, Vice President of Strategic Marketing, Boston Celtics

**April 15**, Mergers and Acquisitions with Randy Vataha, President and Founder of Game Plan, LLC

**April 20** Sports Media's Future with Neal Pilson, former president, CBS Sports; president of Pilson Communications

**April 22** Sports Ticketing with Chrissy Leach, Senior Group Sales Manager, Boston Celtics April 27 Nathan Fleisig, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, Outerstuff, Ltd.

Outerstuff manufactures sporting and athletic goods and clothing for the branded youth market.

**April 29** Sports Agents and Unions, Jay Fee, sports attorney and agent, and Paul Kelly, sports attorney, former executive director of the NHLPA and federal prosecutor"

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

## Wednesday

### Art & Music

**Eight Wednesdays,** 10 a.m. – Noon: March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28

## Thursday

### Great Decisions

**Eight Thursdays**, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program 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. Great Decisions topics for the spring are: Global Supply Chains and National security, The end of Globalization, China in Africa, and one more topic to be announced later. You can order a Great Decisions 2021 Briefing Book by sending a \$25 check payable to "LIRA Inc" to Steve Buccieri, 63 Abbot Street, Andover, MA 01810. He will mail you a copy of the book.

Coordinator: Richard Grove\*

## Friday

### Book Discussions

Coordinator Sheila Pariseau\*

Four Fridays, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18

**March 19, 2021:** *The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the four months that changed the world* by A. J. Baime, 2017, 431 pages. Non-fiction.

Discussion leader: Laura Boerman\*

**April 16, 2021:** *Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar, 2020, 345 pages. Fiction.

Discussion leader: Bob Hanlon\*

**May 21, 2021:** *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, 2020, 476 pages. Non-fiction.

Discussion leader: Lynn Tyndall\*

**June 18, 2021:** *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter, 2020, 342 pages. Fiction.

Discussion leader: Steve Buccieri\*

### Film Discussions

Coordinator: Carol Valcik\*

Three Fridays, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 26, April 23, May 14

The following films can be checked out from your public library or viewed through streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime prior to the discussions.

March 26, 2021: *Rain Man*

Discussion Leader Marie-Anne Fernando\*

April 23, 2021: *Easy Rider*

Discussion Leader Kirk Frazee\*

May 14, 2021: *Fences*

Discussion Leader Bruce Magnuson\*

# **Art & Music Spring 2021**

## **Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – Noon**

### **Wednesday, March 10 – A Writers Journey – Becky Bronson\***

Publishing a book is a daunting process, but one that is totally doable with today's technology. LIRA member and author Becky Bronson will discuss the back-story of her new novel "When North Becomes South." Becky has worn several different hats in her life—as a Ph.D. biochemist, a yoga teacher and yoga studio owner, and currently as an author. Becky will talk about the development of her writing career, and what it took to get this book from an idea to a self-published novel, as well as how the concept for this story was born. If you have a burning desire to write a book and wonder if you could actually do it, this talk is for you!

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon\*

### **Wednesday, March 17 - Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Post-World War II African American Poetry – Professor Keith Mitchell**

Dr. Mitchell will be discussing post-World War II African American culture and politics through the verse of two of America's most famous and beloved African American poets, Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks. Langston Hughes was one of the most prominent members of the Harlem Renaissance, which occurred between 1916 and 1930. However, as important, unlike many of the black writers who were members of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes' luminous star did not fade after its ending. Indeed, Hughes continued not only to publish important collections of poetry, novels, short stories, drama, and translations until his death in 1967 but he also was a generous friend and mentor to a many of up-and-coming, younger African American poets such as Gwendolyn Brooks.

A native of Chicago, Gwendolyn Brooks was one of the most prolific and lauded African American poets on the post-World War II American literary landscape. Indeed, in 1950 Brooks was the first African American ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for her stunning debut collection, *Annie Allen*. The trajectory, scope, and brilliance of Brooks' poetry rivals any other American poet of her generation, as we explore her development from a being a darling of the mainstream American literary establishment to her strident embrace of the 1960s Black Arts and Black Power Movements' politics and aesthetics.

Professor Mitchell invites willing participants of LIRA to read ahead of time a selection of poetry by Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks as a study not only in changing Black aesthetics but also as a study in changing attitudes towards race and gender in post-World War II America.

Recommended books include Langston Hughes' *Selected Poems of Langston Hughes* and Gwendolyn Brooks' *Selected Poems*.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon\*

### **Wednesday, March 24 – Early New Englanders in Italy – Dr. Mary Jane Cryan**

Make a virtual visit to Italy with this presentation by author, historian, and lecturer who has been living in Italy for over 53 years.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, Rembrandt Peale, Margaret Fuller, and Isabella Stewart Gardner are among the best known of the numerous New Englanders who traveled and lived in Italy in the 18th and 19th centuries.

What delights and difficulties did they experience? Walk in their footsteps and see the places and sights that intrigued them.

Coordinator: Diane Baker\*

### **Wednesday, March 31 - "Hadrian's Wall; The Roman Frontier" and "Cambodia; Traveling in the Angkor Culture" – Jack Holmes, Traveling Photographer**

Jack is a traveling photographer who is also interested in archeology. In these two related programs, he travels to England and to Cambodia to participate in digs that are investigating the ancient Roman and the Angkor cultures. The digs were supported and staffed by Earthwatch Institute's professionals.

He also travels and photographs in the region. In England, he hikes the 90 miles along Hadrian's Wall Path. In Cambodia, he visits Angkor Wat and other temples in Siem Reap and Battambang.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

### **Wednesday, April 7 – Mill & Mansion Revisited: How architecture can provide a deeper insight into Lowell's History – Joe Orfant**

John Coolidge's 1942 Architectural History of the first decades of Lowell's development was a pioneering study of the city's development through an appreciation of its architecture. In this class, we'll take a look at the work of one architect who played a key role, but whom Coolidge greatly underestimated. First, we'll visit Belvidere, the neighborhood considered the epitome of wealth and privilege, and at some of the grand houses, standing and sadly lost to consider what they reveal about Lowell. In the second half, we'll investigate the rise and fall of the last great house of Lowell's Golden Age, the Faulkner "Castle," and the influence of its architecture in Lowell and beyond.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*

### **Wednesday, April 14 – Computer History – Chris Garcia**

Computers used to be big, they used to be really expensive, and kind of slow. They also were only supposed to be used for the most important of work... except when they weren't. In their off-hours, in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, computers had downtime, and that meant engineers and operators had their time to shine! Chris Garcia will talk about the history of computers after dark, when enthusiasts used them to create everything from music to art. I'll look at the lighter side of the history of computers, from games like Space War! on the PDP-1 to the Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head on the IBM 1401.

Chris Garcia was a curator at the Computer History Museum for 20 years. His podcast, Engineers & Enthusiasts, covers the early days of computers in the arts. When not thinking about computer history, he writes about science fiction, makes little movies, and creates cookbooks. He lives in Boulder Creek, CA.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

### **Wednesday, April 21 – My Art – Dave Seeley**

Dave is a Sci Fi Fantasy Illustrator. He came from an education in architecture and fine art. After 10 years as an award-winning architect, he was seduced by the glamour of sci fi fantasy illustration and derailed his career for the far more immediate gratification of image making. The inner-architect is flourishing in his work, where a sense of materials fetishism, and a love of spatial atmospheric are omnipresent. Dave is far more influenced by contemporary sci-fi film noir than by the legacy of science fiction illustration.

The Art of Dave Seeley, published by Insight Editions, has received top ranked reviews from ImagineFX magazine and io9.com. In addition, Dave is one of 10 artists profiled in Dick Jude's Fantasy Art Masters by Harper Collins, and profiled in Karen Haber's Masters of Science Fiction and Fantasy Art. He is a contributor to Jane Frank's Pixel or Paint by Nonstop Press. Dave is a regular contributor to ImagineFX Magazine, and is the subject of full interview in Issue 39. He is also featured in the documentary film by Michael MacDonald at Roadhouse films called "Visions from the Edge: The Art of Science Fiction," and is interviewed in the Bill Neimeyer film "Art of the Fantastic."

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

## **April 28 - Power up Garden Beauty; Power Down Garden Maintenance – Kerry Ann Mendez**

Kerry Ann Mendez, speaker, author, and expert gardener, has published four gardening books and given 450 live lectures to over 45,000 gardeners in the U.S. and Canada. In this recent lecture, she covers how to get the most from your flower garden with the least amount of effort by focusing on exceptional perennials and flowering shrubs. Kerry Ann talks about and shows images of each recommended plant. Prior to the class you will be able to download the lecture notes so you can follow along and make your own notations.

Facilitator: Bob Fesmire\*

\*Indicates Lira Member

# LIRA's 2021 Spring Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>March 8 10 am to Noon The Federalist Papers 1 to 3 pm Bending Towards Justice: African Americans...</p>	<p>March 9 10 am to Noon How to Read and Understand Shakespeare 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 10 10 am to Noon A Writer's Journey – Becky Bronson</p>	<p>March 11 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 12</p>
<p>March 15 10 am to Noon The Federalist Papers 1 to 3 pm Presenting A Class to LIRA</p>	<p>March 16 10 am to Noon How to Read and Understand Shakespeare 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 17 10 am to Noon Post-World War II African American Poetry Prof. Keith Mitchell</p>	<p>March 18 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 19 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Accidental President</i> A. J. Baime</p>
<p>March 22 10 am to Noon The Federalist Papers 1 to 3 pm UML's Program for the Age-Friendly University</p>	<p>March 23 10 am to Noon How to Read and Understand Shakespeare 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 24 10 am to Noon Early New Englanders in Italy Dr. Mary Jane Cryan</p>	<p>March 25 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 26 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>Rain Man</i></p>
<p>March 29 10 am to Noon The Federalist Papers 1 to 3 pm UML's Program for the Age-Friendly University</p>	<p>March 30 10 am to Noon How to Read and Understand Shakespeare 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>March 31 10 am to Noon Investigating the Ancient Roman and Angkor Cultures Jack Holmes, Photographer</p>	<p>April 1 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 2</p>
<p>April 5 10 am to Noon Nuclear Power 1 to 3 pm When Serious Illness Strikes</p>	<p>April 6 10 am to Noon The Great Migration 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 7 10 am to Noon Mill &amp; Mansion Revisited: Insight into Lowell's Architectural History Joe Orfant</p>	<p>April 8 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 9</p>

<p>April 12 10 am to Noon Nuclear Power 1 to 3 pm Law and the Legal System</p>	<p>April 13 10 am to Noon The Great Migration 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 14 10 am to Noon Computer History Chris Garcia</p>	<p>April 15 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 16 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Homeland Elegies</i> Ayad Akhtar</p>
<p>April 19 10 am to Noon Nuclear Power 1 to 3 pm Law and the Legal System</p>	<p>April 20 10 am to Noon The Great Migration 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 21 10 am to Noon My Art Dave Seeley, Sci Fi Fantasy Illustrator</p>	<p>April 22 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 23 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>Easy Rider</i></p>
<p>April 26 10 am to Noon Nuclear Power 1 to 3 pm Law and the Legal System</p>	<p>April 27 10 am to Noon The Great Migration 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 28 10 am to Noon Power Up Garden Beauty; Power Down Garden Maintenance Kerry Ann Mendez</p>	<p>April 29 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 2 to 3:15 pm The Business of Sports</p>	<p>April 30</p>
<p>May 3 10 am to Noon Nuclear Power 1 to 3 pm Law and the Legal System</p>	<p>May 4</p>	<p>May 5</p>	<p>May 6</p>	<p>May 7</p>
<p>May 10</p>	<p>May 11</p>	<p>May 12</p>	<p>May 13</p>	<p>May 14 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>Fences</i></p>
<p>May 17</p>	<p>May 18</p>	<p>May 19</p>	<p>May 20</p>	<p>May 21 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Caste</i> Isabel Wilkerson</p>
<p>June 14</p>	<p>June 15</p>	<p>June 16</p>	<p>June 17</p>	<p>June 18 10 am to Noon <i>The Cold Millions</i> Jess Walter</p>