



# 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)



May 2021

Vol. 28 No. 2

Join us!

## LIRA's Annual Meeting

- Election of Officers
- Hear about the summer [schedule](#)
- Get latest updates from [UML](#)
- BYO...snacks!

**Where:** Zoom

**When:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021

**Time:** 10 am - noon



## From the President

I hope that by now, almost all of us have gotten our COVID-19 vaccine shots. In keeping with the gradual opening up of the state and our region, LIRA has scheduled its first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic began. We will meet outside with Chelmsford's local tree expert to study the trees in the Lowell Cemetery. See the Summer Intersession class list for details of the trip. Most of our meetings will continue on Zoom with an eye toward transitioning to hybrid classes with both face to face and Zoom meeting components to them in the fall.

After nine years of continuous service to LIRA, Nancy Pitkin is taking a break. Nancy retired from UML in 2012, and she and her husband Richard joined LIRA that same year. She immediately joined the Curriculum Committee and within three years became its chairperson in 2015. In 2018 Nancy stepped down from her leadership role on the Curriculum Committee. She was elected Secretary later that year and then in 2019 became Vice President of LIRA. During all this time, she has worked tirelessly to recruit teachers and speakers for LIRA events, and she continued to contribute to the Curriculum Committee. Thank-you Nancy, for all you have done and your valuable contributions to LIRA.

LIRA will hold its Annual Meeting on May 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. At this meeting, we will nominate and elect a slate of officers for the coming year. Curriculum Chair Bob Hanlon will present the summer course schedule and we will have several presentations from members. Our invited speaker for the meeting is Lowell State Representative Tom Golden. Please see a description of Tom's talk in this Newsletter.

We had an excellent array of classes and presentations this spring. I would like to express my thanks to all our volunteer Hosts, Presenters, Coordinators and the members of the Curriculum Committee for a job well done. I would also like to thank all our members and their guests for the great turnout we've been experiencing at our Zoom classes during Covid.

*Peter Sebelius*



## State Representative Tom Golden Annual Meeting Speaker will discuss the Massachusetts Climate Policy Bill

Representative Tom Golden and Senator Michael Barrett were co-sponsors of Senate Bill, S 9, An Act Creating a Next-generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy. There were at a minimum 25 steps in shepherding this 57-page bill through the legislature. (It is also 1,171 lines long)! Rep. Golden will talk about how Massachusetts is targeting some of the most aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in the country, encouraging offshore wind power, and helping communities cope with the effects of climate change. The bill was signed into law on March 26, 2021.

*Nancy Pitkin*

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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



## The Federalist Papers

The four sessions on the Federalist Papers we held in March were very instructive, especially on the background of the Constitution and current issues in today's politics. We presented eight of the twelve lessons which included the problems with the Articles of Confederation, dual sovereignty, separation of powers, the federal judiciary and the evolution of American Federalism. Every day, our current news media presents constitutional issues that were addressed in the Federalist Papers. These include: the federal government setting requirements for elections, Washington DC statehood, releasing tax returns as a requirement for running for president, executive orders, independence of the judiciary, funding of campaigns, term limits for congress and the Electoral College. If there is sufficient interest in the fall, we can present the other four lessons which cover the powers and limitations of the legislative and presidential branches of the government, and we can discuss the issues of the day.

*Bob Stevens*

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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/)

## Early New Englanders in Italy – Dr. Mary Jane Cryan

Although many of us have probably had our fill of ZOOM over the past year, by offering virtual classes we were able to host our first international speaker during the Spring semester. Dr. Mary Jane Cryan, sister of LIRA member Kathy Cryan-Hicks, joined us in March from her home in Viterbo, Italy. Dr. Cryan, who grew up in Chelmsford, has lived in Italy for over 55 years as an international educator, researcher and writer. She has also been an official Vatican guide, Site Director and lecturer for Elderhostel and the creator of start-ups for numerous American universities, high schools, writers' and artists' workshops. Her most recent undertaking has been as an enrichment lecturer aboard luxury cruise ships, a role she describes as rewarding and exciting.

Drawing upon her vast experience, Mary Jane led a discussion about well-known (and some lesser known) artists, writers and sculptors who spent time in Italy, including John Singleton Copley, James Fennimore Cooper, Mark Twain, Hiram Powers, Harriet Hosmer, James McNeill Whistler, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry James, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Edith Wharton and more. She interspersed individual stories with samples of their work and how their time in Italy influenced their craft. We also learned how they spent their time in Italy, enjoying its culture, landscape and beauty. Throughout her talk, Mary Jane compared their experiences to the Italy of today, enticing us with examples of places and pleasures to explore. Dr. Cryan invited attendees to visit her website, <http://www.elegantetruria.com/> where she maintains a blog and travel advice about her adopted country.

*Diane Baker*

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## Member News

The Newsletter committee is looking for a LIRA member to take on the role of keeping track of member news. Ideally, this would be someone who has been in LIRA for a while and knows many of the current members. If you are interested in doing this, please email Becky Bronson ([beckybronson241@gmail.com](mailto:beckybronson241@gmail.com)).



## A Writers Journey

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, LIRA member Becky Bronson was joined by 45 LIRA members who watched and listened attentively as she described how she came to become a writer and the process she went through in creating her recent novel "When North Become South." Becky lived in Newton and Weston before attending Colorado College to study Biology where she really felt at home with the college's unique learning schedule. After graduating, Becky returned to the Boston area to pursue postgraduate work. In writing her PhD thesis, Becky began to better understand writing and editing. After obtaining her PhD in Biochemistry from Boston University, Becky worked as a research scientist and then ran a yoga studio for 15 years. During this time, Becky received many compliments on her writing. She got more interested in writing after helping her sister publish a book and working to publish her mother's memoirs. In 2018, Becky traveled to Liberia to visit her son, who was teaching school as a Peace Corps volunteer. It was from her experiences on this trip that the idea for her book was first formed. In her journey going from ideas to a published book, Becky joined a writer's support group called SIPA. This really helped her as she wrote the book. A key piece of advice was "to let the characters tell you where they want to go." After writing her first draft, Becky sent the manuscript off to beta readers for feedback. This resulted in some changes to the book, such as killing off a character and changing the ending. Becky decided to self-publish the book but learned there was still a lot of work to go to get the book into readers' hands. After her informative presentation, Becky answered LIRA members' questions and there was a lot of great discussion about the writing process, life in Liberia and the science behind the events in the book.

*Bob Hanlon*

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## Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks

An interested audience of 30 LIRA members tuned in for Dr. Keith Mitchell's lecture on two Harlem Renaissance poets, Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks.

Dr. Mitchell talked about the immediacy of poetry, their major influences, including 19th century poets, and the environment they each grew up in. The racism and oppression they found around them influenced both poets, and both grew more cynical with age. To help us understand them and their time, Dr. Mitchell read and interpreted some of their most significant poems for us. Dr. Mitchell thoroughly answered our questions and comments, and offered his own perspectives on the poems and the issues, relating it to modern-day curricula.

*Bob Hanlon*



## Get to know...Suzanne Gamache

Suzanne joined LIRA in 2018 and soon became active on the Curriculum Committee. She served as chair for a year and remains active on the committee now.

Suzanne met her husband, Bob, in high school and they married while both still in college, but she dropped out of college for a time to raise their family during Bob's grad school years. What was supposed to be a little time away became several years and two children, a daughter followed by a son. She received her undergraduate degree, a BA in psychology with a French minor. It was an important goal for Suzanne to get through college before her daughter did. She succeeded and eventually got her master's in educational administration.

After getting her graduate degree, she worked at UML as an academic support specialist for over 15 years. She retired in 2016 and joined another learning in retirement group, but after a couple of semesters switched over to LIRA. She found the curriculum and people at LIRA better suited her desire for activities and her interests. Suzanne uses her contacts at UMass Lowell to bring in faculty members to talk to the group, including her husband Bob, who is a physicist and has presented for LIRA several times on various topics.

As a hobby, her husband grows grapes at their Dunstable home and has gotten into distilling spirits during the pandemic. They have an extensive garden where they grow various fruits and vegetables for their own consumption.

When asked what effect the pandemic has had on her life, Suzanne said the biggest impact has been the lack of ability to go freely into places and do things without thinking of possible negative consequences and risks. Like many of us it also limited her ability to see friends, though by maintaining a very small pod of contacts restricted to immediate family during quarantine, she and her husband were able to visit freely and remain active in the life of their little grandson—certainly one of the bright spots in the previous year.

Suzanne and her husband like to travel, spending a week or two at a destination, usually around one of the conferences related to his work as an atmospheric scientist. They enjoy walking and exploring the places they visit in detail. Besides walking for pleasure, she also walks for charity, having walked the Boston Marathon route at least three times while raising money for Dana Farber/Jimmy Fund. In addition, she has taken part in many Komen 3-day walks and raised over \$20,000 for breast cancer research!

Suzanne stated one advantage of zoom meetings is getting to place a name with a face of someone she has met at one of the larger meetings. She plans to remain active in LIRA and continue to travel with her husband around the world.

*Stan Powers for the Highlight Committee*

## **Diversity Friendship Force 2021: Volunteers Needed for Merrimack Valley branch of the NAACP Grant Writing**

The LIRA Diversity Committee invites you to volunteer to write grants to support the revitalization of the Merrimack Valley branch of the NAACP. MV NAACP Board Member and UML Assistant Teaching Professor, Ralph Jordan, reached out to LIRA last month with this need. The MV NAACP is launching a three-year plan to move that organization toward greater advocacy for all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in the Merrimack Valley.

LIRA members are invited to participate as grant writers supporting the MV NAACP Board. Those of you with grant-writing experience are especially encouraged to volunteer, even if you have limited time available. You could serve as a mentor to our new grant writers.

The Diversity Committee launched the Friendship Force this year as a way for LIRA members to meet and support people of diverse culture, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, color, belief, or ability. Since most new LIRA members come via friends, giving our members a chance to make more diverse friendships through volunteer opportunities is one way we will eventually make LIRA more diverse and inclusive.

The opportunity to support the Merrimack Valley NAACP is the first of what we hope will be annual Friendship Force activities. If you have suggestions or contacts in other diverse organizations, please pass those suggestions along to one of the Diversity Committee members below.

If you would like to volunteer for this year's grant writing or to learn more about the MV NAACP grant program, please contact Lynn Tyndall at [btyndall@hotmail.com](mailto:btyndall@hotmail.com) or 978.649.6482. We plan an organizational meeting with Ralph Jordan in May.

Your Diversity Committee:

Lynn Tyndall, Chair, [btyndall@hotmail.com](mailto:btyndall@hotmail.com) or (978) 649.6482

Steve Buccieri, [K6Teacher@gmail.com](mailto:K6Teacher@gmail.com) or (781) 244-9566

Marie-Anne Fernando, [Ma.dewarren@comcast.net](mailto:Ma.dewarren@comcast.net) or (978) 761-9309

Bruce Magnuson, [Bmagphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:Bmagphoto@yahoo.com) or (978) 251-1229

Nancy Pitkin, [N.pitkin@verizon.net](mailto:N.pitkin@verizon.net) or (978) 454-7788

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

During the Spring semester, LIRA students finished the Great Courses lectures on "How to Read and Understand Shakespeare." We all agreed Professor Marc Connor was a superb lecturer using his acting and teaching skills to present a very interesting view on Shakespeare's plays. He has done some other lecture courses for the Great Courses series, and many of us would like to take a class with him again. Kim and I enjoyed putting this course together and would like to continue offering other literary classes.

*Bev Rudeen*

# senior health



## Senior Health—When Disaster Strikes

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, LIRA conducted its first Panel Discussion on Health Issues for Seniors. Panel members included two doctors, Arnie Kerzner and Fred Wikander, and one registered nurse, Susan Hoole. Also on the panel were LIRA members Richard Grove, Carol Valcik and Peter Sebelius. The panel’s aim was to raise awareness of how to face serious health issues. Panel members shared their experiences and explained how their own personal support groups helped them. It is important to know there are many people, including members of LIRA, who can help you find the path to the information and support that is available.

If you would like to have another Senior Health Panel or to participate in one, please let Bob Hanlon or Peter Sebelius know.

*Peter Sebelius*

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## The Age Friendly University

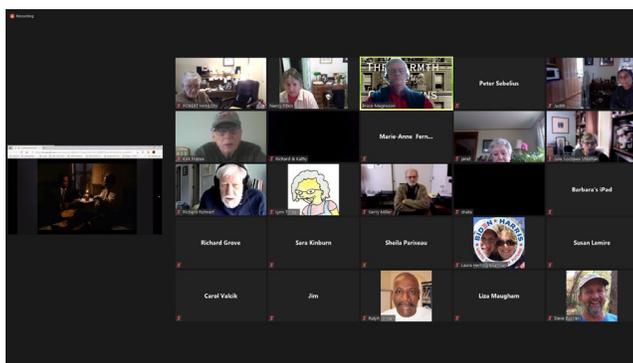
Three UMass Lowell faculty members from the Center for Gerontology Research and Partnerships presented to LIRA this Spring. The Center fosters collaborative research on campus and within the region to promote healthy aging that enables adults to grow old with dignity. Given the unprecedented global demographics of aging, critical research is needed in areas such as nutrition, healthy living, chronic disease, cognitive changes in the workplace, formal and informal caregiving, technology use in older populations, and health care costs and challenges.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Prof. Carol McDonough from the Economics Department shared with us concerns and research related to Technology and Aging. Older adults in the U.S.—and globally—have a much lower rate of internet use than those under 60. Prof. McDonough shared reasons for this age-based digital divide and some strategies for improving the situation. Prof. McDonough also shared results of surveys she had done with older residents of Lowell and surrounding towns concerning their computer and internet use.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Assoc. Professor Ramraj Gautam and Professor Emerita Karen Mellilo shared an introduction to the work of the Gerontology Center. And they put us to work! Prof. Gautam included a survey in his presentation to determine LIRA members’ awareness of the work of the Center. Prof. Mellilo set up “breakout rooms” for members to discuss what services the Center could provide for the aging population of the Merrimack Valley. She was quite pleased with some of the ideas we suggested.

Faculty members who are part of the Gerontology Center have research interests that are varied and include topics many LIRA members will be interested in. Examples include: cognitive health, healthy homes for elders, nutrition and aging, and functional independence to name a few. We hope to engage additional representatives from the Gerontology Center in future LIRA presentations.

*Susan Lemire*



## The Great Migration

Marie-Anne Fernando, Bruce Magnuson, Steve Buccieri and Lynn Tyndall presented a superb LIRA member-developed program on four Tuesday mornings this spring. Based on the book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson, the topics were:

Week 1: History and Facts

Week 2: Literature

Week 3: Music

Week 4: Oral stories and Long-Lasting Effects on Culture Today

In the first week, Marie-Anne began with a history of slaves being brought to America. She showed maps describing how Blacks moved from the south to the north for work—sometimes even hired by white recruiters from factories in the north, which needed workers because of the First World War. Another recruiting tool from the era was advertisements with headlines about jobs available in the *Chicago Defender*, a black-owned widely circulated and read newspaper.

In week two, Bruce presented some literature of the Great Migration, from authors to playwrights to photographers. Bruce brought to life many of the influential Black writers of the time and examined how many of them were interconnected during the Harlem Renaissance.

In the first week of the program 50 LIRA members attended and in the second week, we had 38 members.

Week 3 will entertain us with different Jazz, blues and other musicians, and in week 4 we will look closely at the city of Chicago and its influence.

Though I write this before weeks three and four, I know that the last 2 weeks of this program will be very enlightening, thought provoking, increase our awareness and begin conversations about diversity. This was the intention of the LIRA Diversity Committee.

This collaboration by LIRA members to present a program was terrific, and I (we) hope it inspires LIRA members to collaborate on future LIRA programs to expand our program offerings and attract additional members.

*Nancy Pitkin  
April 14, 2021*

## 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!



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## LIRA Crossword

**Who were the speakers? (Plus a few other tidbits)**

This month's puzzle requires that you have read the newsletter! All answers are in there somewhere! Click here to solve:

<https://crosswordlabs.com/embed/who-were-the-speakers>

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## Newsletter Committee

<u>Becky Bronson, Editor</u>	<a href="mailto:becky.bronson@penfield.fm">becky.bronson@penfield.fm</a>
Marge Nardini, Layout & Reproduction	<a href="mailto:mnard1008@verizon.net">mnard1008@verizon.net</a>
Charlotte Evans, Calendar & Distribution	<a href="mailto:chrsnave@aol.com">chrsnave@aol.com</a>
??? Member News (looking to fill this position)	

### **Highlight subcommittee:**

Sheila Pariseau	<a href="mailto:spariseau10@gmail.com">spariseau10@gmail.com</a>
Stan Powers	<a href="mailto:stanandjan@me.com">stanandjan@me.com</a>
Esther Wikander	<a href="mailto:emwikander@gmail.com">emwikander@gmail.com</a>

## Mill and Mansion Revisited

Joseph Orfant is a Lowell native with a deep (he admits, possibly obsessive) interest in the historic architecture of his hometown. He studied architecture, planning, historic preservation and management at Yale, Harvard, and the International Conservation Center in Rome, Italy, so he was well-qualified to describe some interesting facts and history of the architecture of Lowell to us.

Joe's presentation centered on the work of one particular architect whose work in Lowell and a few other New England cities has been under-appreciated. James Rand lived in Lowell and designed at least three of the fine mansions on Andover Street: the Nesmith House, the Lawrence House (later purchased by Gen. Benjamin Butler), and Rand's own home. Rand also designed what was originally the Lowell City Jail, which later became Keith Academy—a Catholic High School for boys, and was then redesigned as condos. Additionally, he designed the Courthouse on Gorham St., commercial buildings in Lowell and Lawrence, and at least one civic building in Portland, Maine.

The second half of the presentation centered on the building of the Faulkner "castle" on Belmont Street at the top of a hill with spectacular views of the city of Lowell in one direction and the countryside towards Lawrence and southern New Hampshire in the other. Fire destroyed that castle a few years later, and eventually the property was sold to William White, who built a slightly more modest castle on the property. However, White didn't initially buy ALL of Faulkner's land, and Faulkner built several "shanties" on the adjoining lots, much to White's chagrin. He eventually purchased the remaining lots, and much of the city enjoyed the follies of Belvidere's wealthiest residents.

*Susan Lemire*

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## You Never Know the Reach of a LIRA program

### Birth of the Chelmsford Climate Action Team

In January 2019, Suzanne Gamache coordinated a class on "Climate Change" with speakers Rick Lent and Grady McGonagill from the MA chapter of Elders Climate Action (ECA). That class inspired me to join up with ECA that day! Since then, I got together with two other Chelmsford residents, and we formed the Chelmsford Climate Action Team (CCAT).

We work with the Chelmsford Library to hold a monthly program entitled, "Climate Conversations," and we've been heavily involved in advocating at the State House for the new climate bill that was just signed by the Governor! In addition, we are running a local campaign to pass a [Climate Resolution](#) at Chelmsford's Spring Town Meeting.

I want to extend an overdue thanks to Suzanne for coordinating that program almost a year and a half ago, and to let her know her efforts went far beyond coordinating a LIRA program! In the words of the great Fats Waller, "One never knows, do one?"

Please look at our website at [ChelmsfordClimate.org](https://ChelmsfordClimate.org) to learn more about CCAT. In particular, look at our [Annual Report in the Blog section](#). If you are a Chelmsford resident, we would love to have your support to help pass the Climate Resolution at Town Meeting (You can show support by simply clicking on the web form, and/or come to town meeting and speak up in favor).

Feel free to attend the monthly "Climate Conversations" by registering on the Chelmsford Library's calendar. (They will send you the Zoom link). And if you do not live in Chelmsford and want help with forming a local climate group in your town, I'd be happy to share our story if that helps.

Thanks,

Kathy Cryan-Hicks



**Beyond the Myth of Benevolence**  
Titus Kaphar

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

Jane Oneail, Founder and President of Culturally Curious, joined us again this Spring for an informative talk about how American Art reflects African American history. The first part of her presentation focused on how the art of prominent white artists such as John Singleton Copley, William Sidney Mount, and Edward Savage depicted African Americans. During this period, African Americans as enslaved people had no control over the way they were depicted, and Jane presented examples of the stereotypes embedded in their art. Next, Jane moved on to art created by African Americans after the Civil War, in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and during the Harlem Renaissance. She displayed works by Archibald Motley, William H. Johnson and Aaron Douglas who portrayed the African American experience more realistically. Finally, Jane explored the artwork of African Americans since the civil rights movement and how it evolved in tandem with the issues of the day. Jane concluded the program by saying, "So, you have somebody like Glenn Ligon or Titus Kaphar who are showing us that arc by drawing a straight line from the past to the present and, hopefully, bringing us to a future that's a little bit more just and equal."

*Diane Baker*

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The next newsletter will be out on September 1, 2021; the deadline for news items is **August 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: [beckybronson241@gmail.com](mailto:beckybronson241@gmail.com)

*Becky Bronson*

**LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01834**

**2021 Summer Intersession**

The 2021 Summer Intersession, given between semesters, offers to retirees and those semi-retired, a sample of LIRA's almost year-round program and friendly community. The program is planned and much of it provided by the members themselves. The general public is invited to all Summer Intersession programs.

All programs other than book and film discussions run from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays. The Book and Film discussions are on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. All classes will be running online using Zoom. You will be getting the invites via email before the beginning of the programs.

**Friday, May 14: Film Discussion 10 a.m. to noon**  
***Fences*** starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis  
Discussion Leader: Bruce Magnuson\*

**Friday, May 21: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to noon**  
***Caste*** by Isabel Wilkerson  
Discussion Leader: Lynn Tyndall\*

**June 2: LIRA Tree excursion to the Lowell Cemetery – Jim Martin**

This will be our first in person meeting since the Covid Crisis began one year ago. We will meet at 1018 Lawrence St. Enter the West Gate of Lowell Cemetery, Lowell, MA and park to the right just inside the gate at 9:45a.m. Our guide, Jim Martin, will conduct a tour of the trees at the Lowell cemetery. Few know trees like our guide, Jim Martin. Until his retirement in 2010, Jim worked as a professional consulting arborist, he ran his own company, Jas. F. Martin Consulting Arborists in Chelmsford, and for many years worked as a professor in Landscape Horticulture and Arboriculture in Illinois. Jim is the chairperson of Chelmsford's Tree Committee and was an Adjunct Professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

**June 9: Tanzania and Rwanda: A photographic tour – Becky Bronson**

In December of 2019, Becky, her husband David and son Andy traveled to Africa for a 2-week Safari in Tanzania and Rwanda. Join them on Zoom for an armchair view of many exotic animals and hear of their adventures. You will feel like you've had a mini-vacation!

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon\*

## **June 16: Sunlight Symphonies and Auroras – Kelly Beatty**

### **Auroras: Nature's Light Show**

Humans have watched displays of the "Northern Lights" in awe for centuries. Some cultures thought these colorful curtains of light arose as sparks created by the tail of an arctic fox or from epic battles in the night sky. The Sámi of northernmost Europe call it "the light you can hear." But only recently have scientists been able to fully understand how and why auroras exist. This presentation explores the fanciful explanations for these dancing curtains of light, how powerful bursts from the Sun create them, and when/where you're most likely to see an auroral display.

### **Sunlight Symphonies**

Have you ever wondered why the daytime sky is blue, or what causes a rainbow? If you see a halo around the Sun or Moon, what's going on? The Sun interacts with our atmosphere in wonderful ways — occasionally colorful and often completely unexpected. This presentation introduces you to the veritable zoo of atmospheric phenomena that you can see in a daytime sky — from Sun pillars at dawn to the "Belt of Venus" at dusk.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **Friday, June 18: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to Noon**

***The Cold Millions*** by Jess Walter

Discussion Leader: Steve Buccieri\*

## **June 23: A Brief History of Astronomical Devices – Elaine Isaak**

From the well-known, like Stonehenge, to Su Sung's awesome but obscure astronomical clock, to the mystifying and marvelous Antikythera Mechanism, we'll take a whirlwind tour of astounding early astronomical innovations. While not an expert, Elaine's enthusiasm for ancient technologies has led her to some fascinating research rabbit holes. She will bring together images and bibliography to hopefully spark the viewer's imagination and a deeper appreciation of how the peoples of the past studied the sky.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

## **June 30: Earth Science Satellites – John Hodges**

Take a guided tour of remote sensing from orbit! Satellites have been used for earth science applications since the 1960s. John Hodges helped build some of these satellites; he'll take us from early attempts through today, with visual examples, and descriptions of science challenges and accomplishments.

John Hodges is a graduate of MIT Course XII, Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS), and the Boston University Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. John is a lifelong explorer of the Earth, earthbound for the most part, though using the expanding toolbox of our age to gain insights from vantage points farther afield.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

### **July 7: A Central Banker talks about Global Macroeconomics and answers your questions - Yehuda Porath**

I'll explain some economic terminology and then talk about the following issues, leaving plenty of time for questions. Why is free trade usually better for most people and countries? What are tariffs, and why are they usually a bad idea, particularly for the countries imposing them? What are the main global economic effects of Covid-19? How lasting might they be? What are the major economic complications and implications of Brexit?

Yehuda Porath has been an economist in the Research Department of the Bank of Israel (the Israeli equivalent of the Federal Reserve) for 12 years. He has worked and published on a variety of issues, including public finance, national debt, defense budgeting, transport infrastructure, and energy economics.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

### **July 14: Cambridge Analytica – Chris Wilkinson**

Join Chris Wilkinson as we explore the firestorm surrounding Cambridge Analytica, the British political consulting firm involved in influencing hundreds of elections globally. Brace yourself as we dive into the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal during the 2016 US presidential race. Your information isn't just insecure; it's analyzed, manipulated, and weaponized. Their formula undermines US democracy and the fabric of our election process, even today. Repercussions from the Cambridge Analytica scandal draw a direct line to the Capitol riots, this year.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin\*

### **July 21: Revolutionary Photography – Kelly Johnson**

I've been a photographer for over 30 years, photographing both portraiture and events. In 2003, my life changed forever when I attended my first protest. Now, after almost 20 years of documenting the activism in the Bay area, I have collected thousands of moments that, together, tell the beautiful and courageous story of the progressive movement.

After so many years of being both an activist and photographer, I find so much joy in sharing my story and discussing the various facets of my work.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

### **July 28: Hudson River Valley – Bruce Magnuson**

Take a trip down the Hudson. Only 3 hours away, but rich in history from the Ice Age up to the current day. Albany, NY native and LIRA member Bruce Magnuson will guide you through this fascinating region touching upon historical, cultural and artistic themes that capture the essence of the region.

\* Indicates LIRA member

# LIRA's 2021 Summer Intersession

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 10	May 11	<b>May 12</b> 10 am to Noon <b>LIRA Annual Meeting</b>	May 13	May 14 10 am to Noon Film Discussion <i>Fences</i>
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Caste</i> Isabel Wilkerson
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28
May 31	June 1	June 2 9:45 am to Noon Tree excursion to the City of Lowell Cemetery 1018 Lawrence St., West Gate Entrance	June 3	June 4
June 7	June 8	June 9 10 am to Noon Tanzania and Rwanda: A Photographic tour Becky Bronson	June 10	June 11

<b>June 14</b>	<b>June 15</b>	<b>June 16</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Sunlight Symphonies and Auroras</b> <b>Kelly Beatty</b>	<b>June 17</b>	<b>June 18</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>The Cold Millions</i> <b>Jess Walter</b>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>June 22</b>	<b>June 23</b> 10 am to Noon <b>A Brief History of Astronomical Devices</b> <b>Elaine Isaak</b>	<b>June 24</b>	<b>June 25</b>
<b>June 28</b>	<b>June 29</b>	<b>June 30</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Earth Sciences Satellites</b> <b>John Hodges</b>	<b>July 1</b>	<b>July 2</b>
<b>July 5</b>	<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 7</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Global Macroeconomics</b> <b>Yehuda Porath</b>	<b>July 8</b>	<b>July 9</b>
<b>July 12</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>July 14</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Cambridge Analytica</b> <b>Chris Wilkinson</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>July 16</b>
<b>July 19</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>July 21</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Revolutionary Photography</b> <b>Kelly Johnson</b>	<b>July 22</b>	<b>July 23</b>
<b>July 26</b>	<b>July 27</b>	<b>July 28</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Hudson River Valley</b> <b>Bruce Magnuson</b>	<b>July 29</b>	<b>July 30</b>