Join us for LIRA's Fall Convocation

Wednesday, September 13, 2017
10 a.m. to Noon

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

Hear about the Fall Schedule.
Sign up for classes.
Refreshments will be served.
Guest speaker is
Dr. Julie Chen,
Vice Chancellor for
Research and Innovation
Fall Convocation

The LIRA Fall Convocation Wednesday September 13th marks the beginning of a new year of learning and fellowship. It is a time to greet old friends, share summer experiences, and welcome new members to LIRA. Take the opportunity to talk with someone you don’t know. Be sure to wear your LIRA nametag!

Fall Convocation is the time to hear detailed information about the curriculum and to sign up for classes. Plan to catch the 9:00 bus so you will have time to get your parking hangtag and socialize before the meeting begins at 10:00.

Richard Grove, LIRA president

Details for Fall Convocation

The Fall Convocation will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 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. 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 (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be appreciated. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who provided the delicious refreshments during the summer intersession.

Please bring your filled-out hangtag form from the last page of the newsletter along with a check for $70. Hope to see you all there!

The Convocation will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017. Classes begin on Monday, September 18, 2017.

Convocation Speaker

We are pleased to announce that the speaker at this year’s convocation will be Dr. Julie Chen, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at UMass Lowell. Dr. Chen holds three degrees in Mechanical Engineering from MIT and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors from scientific societies and organizations. She has also received the UML Student Government Exceeding Excellence in Teaching Award, as well as several other teaching awards at UML and other schools. Her major research interests include Composite Materials and Nanomanufacturing, as well as fibrous and textile structures and novel textile architectures. Among the topics she will address are the University’s re-entry to one of its predecessor’s roots; i.e.; innovations in textile manufacture and “smart” fabrics. We look forward to hearing about the latest in research and innovation at the University from Dr. Chen.

Toby Hodes*

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library has a Lecture Series in cooperation with LIRA on the second Friday of the month. This fall the lectures are at 1:00 p.m. Friday afternoon, a change from the previous Friday morning schedule. Several of the lectures are on subjects based on LIRA’s Great Decisions foreign policy discussions.

Friday September 8, 1:00 p.m.
History of the Fanny Farmer Candy Company presented by Lee Poirier

Friday October 13, 1:00 p.m.
Latin America’s Political Pendulum presented by Dr. Angelica Duran-Martinez, UMass Lowell.

Friday November 10, 1:00 p.m.
Prospects for Afghanistan presented by Keith West.

Friday December 8, 1:00 p.m.
Nuclear Security presented by Keith West.

Check the library’s website for more detailed information.
www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/lecture-series/

Signup Form

For those of you that are unable to attend the Fall Convocation, a signup sheet is included at the end of this newsletter. Please fill out the classes that you wish to attend and either give it to a friend to bring to the Convocation or mail it to Nancy Pitkin, 26 Waverly Avenue, Lowell, MA 01852 or email n.pitkin@verizon.net.
Spring 2017 Annual Meeting

At our Spring 2017 Annual Meeting on May 17 in Lydon Library, our speaker was Dr. Donald Pierson. Dr. Pierson has been at UMass Lowell since the 1980’s when he came to do a 6 month study of the Lowell Public Schools. That study produced the “Lowell Model for Educational Excellence” and was a blueprint for creating partnerships with businesses, government and school leaders and the university to enhance education in the Lowell schools. So began Dr. Pierson’s tenure at UMass Lowell. He has been Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Interim Provost, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, and a Special Assistant to the Chancellor. These are just some of the titles he has had at UMass Lowell. He thinks he might be retiring soon (again).

Dr. Pierson’s latest endeavor at UMass Lowell is to bring the school to a NCAA Division 1 school. Chancellor Martin Meehan is a UMass Lowell Hockey fan to put it mildly, and a Patriot fan) and the chance to bring UMass Lowell to a Division One school was high on his list. A study of UMass Lowell peer schools and Title IX requirements indicated that UMass Lowell could and should become a Division One School. A committee was formed including faculty, administration and students to proceed with the change in NCAA standing. It is a long process, and there is one more vote for NCAA consideration for UMass Lowell to become a Division One School. UMass Lowell meets or exceeds the NCAA requirements and has attended all the meetings required for consideration. The book that Dr. Pierson is holding is the NCAA report! One of the benefits for UMass Lowell is inclusion in post season competitions.

Thank you Dr. Pierson for a wonderful talk!

Nancy Pitkin

Science Café

This fall we have the privilege of having one of the UMass Lowell’s finest professors presenting a course for us: Science Café. Robert Gamache is Professor Emeritus at UMass Lowell in the Department is Environmental, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences. He was named by Thomson Reuters as one of "The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds’ for 2014.

“This list of top researchers around the globe have earned their distinction by publishing the highest number of articles that rank among those most frequently cited by fellow researchers,” states Reuters, whose list included 3,215 scientists in 21 fields. “They are the people who are on the cutting edge of their fields. They are performing and publishing work that their peers recognize as vital to the advancement of their science. These researchers are, undoubtedly, among the most influential scientific minds of our time.”

Dr. Gamache also served as associate vice president of academic affairs, student affairs and international relations for the UMass system.

In his words: On being a scientist – I was the curious student who got in trouble in elementary school for asking too many questions. High school was not much better; teachers accepted my questions but seldom gave good answers. I have always been fascinated by how things work: engines, door locks, scales, Earth, our solar system, the universe. I have found satisfaction in looking at nature, asking why a thing works a certain way, and finally finding the answer. I am open to all your questions about science.

Nancy Pitkin
Drumlin Farm

Wednesday, May 31 dawned damp, misty and rainy, just like 27 other days in May 2017! However, the forecast was for just cloudy, so 10 brave LIRA members ventured out from the Drumhill parking lot in Chelmsford for Drumlin Farm, at Mass Audubon in Lexington. Of course it rained as we were driving there!

When we got to Drumlin, the rain had stopped and it was just cloudy and remained just cloudy for our whole adventure. Our teacher naturalist, Debbie Stien was wonderful; funny and very knowledgeable. Our first stop was an introduction to some of the invasive plants that grow all over Drumlin – and some of them you can eat – like the nettles and garlic mustard. Debbie told us that “Just because it is eatable, doesn’t mean it tastes good!” We walked over to the wild life enclosure and were treated to a grazing deer. From there we walked over to the Boyce Farm Field and observed it being planted with vegetables and flowers by interns. The interns are part of a growing movement to teach sustainable farming. A short uphill walk brought us to the top of the drumlin – which we all learned was formed by the glaciers pushing dirt and rock up against an immovable object millions of years ago. This drumlin was also the site of a radar dish installation which was removed in the 1970’s. The view from the drumlin was great. We could see Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Monadnock. It’s probably even better on a sunny day!

Drumlin Farm has always been the site of school group outings that were started by Mrs. Louise Ayer Hathaway (who brought Boston children out by train). Mrs. Hathaway donated the property to Mass Audubon in 1955. Today, Drumlin Farm continues her mission of educating families and children about the importance of community farming and environmental protection.

We had lunch at the picnic tables by the barn that is used for Maple Sugaring. Thank you to all who came out: Betty Bayard, Rose Rhoades, Richard Grove, Bill Terris, Jean Schott, Nancy Sandgren, Debbie and Peter Sebelius, and Nancy and Richard Pitkin.

Debbie Sebelius

USS Albacore Visit

On July 19, members of LIRA and their guests visited the USS Albacore Park and Museum in Portsmouth, NH. Members toured the submarine and museum, learning about the mission and history of this experimental U.S. Navy Submarine. Afterwards several of us enjoyed lunch at the Old Ferry Landing on the Portsmouth waterfront.

Peter Sebelius

Parking Hangtags

IMPORTANT: The University is charging $70 for all parking this year and hangtags are being issued at the Convocation on September 13. Please see the last page of the newsletter for directions and a form to use to obtain your hangtag.
LIRA’S Scholarship Fund
Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 6. We have decided that the auction will be a “Consumable Auction” once again. The Auction is a major fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. This year LIRA will be giving $1500.00 scholarships to four UMass Lowell students.

What is a Consumable Auction? It is an auction where all donated items can be consumed, i.e., you eat it, drink it, do it or use it up. The Committee sells tickets: $1 per ticket, $5 for 6 tickets or $10 for 15 tickets. You decide what item(s) you want and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to Lydon Library on the day of the party.

Some things you might donate:
- Baked Goods; Candy; Wine; Gift Certificates, i.e., restaurant, movie, theater, grocery store, and bookstore

Suggestions for Baskets you can make:
- Book – put a gently used book in a basket with a bookmark, book light, china teacup, box of tea, etc.
- Food – Italian or Mexican
- Soup Lovers Basket

I think you get the idea. It will all be wonderful and we have a great time deciding just what we want to win. Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past. Let’s make a difference in someone’s life and have a great auction this year.

Sheila Pariseau

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Four Scholarships to be Awarded

The LIRA Executive Board has voted to award four $1500 scholarships to four full-time, through May 2018, UMass Lowell junior or senior students with a grade point average of 3.0 or better and who also participate in community service activities. Your generous contributions in the past have made this possible and we will be soliciting contributions when the fall semester gets underway. Certificates of awards will be given at the Holiday Party in December. Each $1500 will be deposited directly into the students’ accounts by the University.

Remember if you have relatives who meet these qualifications, they can apply for one of the scholarships as long as they are students at UMass Lowell.

Sincere thanks from the Scholarship Committee for all your help:

Co-Chairs: Janet Redman & Deanne Sferrino
Simon Allard
Alan Kent
John Mamalis
Alan McKersie
Dottie Morris
Barbara Murch

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Membership Renewal
2017 – 2018

LIRA membership dues are $125 ($200 for couples) for the year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and are due by August 15, 2017. A portion of your dues ($100 of the dues for an individual and $150 of the dues for a couple) is tax deductible. The University will send each member a receipt for tax purposes. The remaining portion of your dues is returned to LIRA for operational expenses.

A convenient payment method is by credit card on the LIRA website: www.uml.edu/community/lira. Click “Join LIRA” on the left side menu and then click “Join online now!” You will receive immediate acknowledgement and receipt after filling out the form.

If you would rather pay by check, use the LIRA renewal form printed in this newsletter. Every member must complete a form; both members of a couple must complete separate information. Send the form(s) and check to the Alumni Office, as stated on the renewal form by August 15, 2017. Because of the confusion it causes, dues checks will be accepted at the Convocation in September by exception only. It was a great year, and now we look forward to seeing you again in the next academic year.

Jean Schott and Bonnie Heines, Membership Co-chairs

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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
From the Editor

Producing a newsletter involves many people, not only those that write the articles but those that put it all together and send it to you. Thank you to all those that make it possible: the contributors, Marge Nardini for doing a great job with the layout and Charlotte Evans, a new member on our team. Charlotte volunteered to take over for Shirley Mitchell beginning with the last newsletter. She does the labeling, folding, sealing and mailing them out. Charlotte also volunteered to make the calendars that are at the end of the newsletter. A big Thank You again to Shirley for her eighteen years of service! Among the contributors for every issue, Simone Allard keeps up with the member news and sends cards to our members and Nancy Pitkin prepares the schedules. Thanks so much to all of you for your hard work. Suggestions, new ideas, comments or criticisms are always welcome.

A reminder is being sent to everyone that has email in the hopes that more members will contribute to the newsletter and not leave it to the same people all the time. The notice comes four times a year, but if you would rather not receive it, please let me know.

The newsletter is on our website at uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html. A hard copy will NOT be sent to you unless you have requested it from Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com. You do not need to tell me again for this year unless you want to stop receiving the hard copy. Those members that do not have email will have a copy sent to them automatically. The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first of March, May, September and December. I will send out an email when the newsletter is on the website, usually by the first of the month.

The website is updated four times a year for each new session. Marge puts the newsletter on the website and Jeri updates the other pages. Occasionally, we run into a few problems with updating that are beyond our control and the newsletter will not be there on the first of the month. We try our best to get it to you on time!

Thanks again to everyone for their support.

Jeri Durant

Class Cancellations

Importance of Signing up for Courses
At times, unforeseen circumstances will necessitate the cancellation of a class or program. You will be notified by the course coordinator of the cancellation if you have signed up for the course. Courses are open to all LIRA members and it is advisable that you sign up for a course even if you are unable to attend all of the classes. However, if you want to attend one of the sessions and you have not signed up for the course, it is best to call the Class Coordinator or Richard Grove to ascertain that the class or program is still scheduled for that day.

Emergencies (Cancellation of Classes/University Closing)
In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel a LIRA program for any reason, i.e. snowstorm, hazardous road conditions, or if the UMass Lowell campus is closed due to a storm emergency or other unexpected events and if the cancellation affects the entire membership, Richard Grove will call Judy Miller or Carol McCarthy who are the telephone tree coordinators, to let them know of the cancellation. Judy and Carol will then call the contact persons to inform them of the cancellation. These contact persons will then call the members on their respective list to inform them of the cancellation. Only those members that have requested a phone call will be called. All others will be notified by email. For individual classes, coordinators are responsible for notifying members for changes or cancellation of their class.

Email Notification

Many people signed up to have class cancellations emailed to them. Those people should make sure that they check their email in the morning if there is any doubt about a class being held. If there are others that would like to be on this email list, please notify Judy Miller (978-256-8466 or gmiller29@verizon.net) or Carol McCarthy (978-256-5904 or jfmccart@aol.com). Those not on the list will be notified by telephone. Only those that have requested to be notified by phone will be called.

Carol McCarthy
Judy Miller

The next newsletter will be out on December 1, 2017; the deadline for news items is November 15, 2017. Please remember that the coordinators are now responsible for getting someone to write an article about their program, if you want something to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be given to me at any time before the deadline.

Jeri Durant

The Holiday Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6. More details about the party will appear in the next newsletter.

Jeri Durant
Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2017-2018 Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. Descriptions are not included this time because of its length. Full descriptions can be found at the Pollard Library, Lowell, on the website www.parkerlectures.com or the file can be emailed to you by contacting Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 p.m. – Pollard Library
Jeffrey R. Wilson – “Shakespeare and Trump” on Shakespeare and Contemporary Theory

Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m. – Pollard Library
Nina Sankovitch – “The Lowells of Massachusetts: An American Family”

Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Judith Black – “The Rabble Rouser, Mother Jones” and “Rosie the Riveter”

Saturday, October 7, 2:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
John Leland – “Why Kerouac Matters”

Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m. – Pollard Library
John Gfroerer – “Television: The Art and Ethics of Manipulation”

Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
J.W. OCKER – “Odd Things I’ve Seen…in Massachusetts”

Thursday, October 26, 2:00 p.m. – Pollard Library
Stephen Collins – “Butterfly”

Sunday, October 29, 2:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Tony Connors – “Paul Moody’s Lowell Accomplishments”

Saturday, November 4, 11:00 a.m. – New England Quilt Museum
Astrida Schaeffer – “The Sexual Politics of Women’s Fashion in the 19th Century”

Sunday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
“Hummus the Movie”

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. – Pollard Library
Alex Beam – “American Crucifixion: The Murder of Joseph Smith and the Fate of the Mormon Church”

Thursday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. – Pollard Library

Thank You Ron Cannistraro

After ten years of service as the LIRA Treasurer Ron Cannistraro decided this year was a good time to retire and pass on the responsibility to someone else (John Mamalis). Ron actually served for two non-consecutive periods 2004-2007 and then 2012-2017. Major changes were made in how LIRA receives membership dues and keeps its books. Membership dues and the LIRA Scholarship Fund are held in University accounts. The Treasurer tracks these and transfers funds to and from LIRA operating accounts. It took a lot of effort by Ron to set up this system and get it operating smoothly.

Ron was out of town for our Annual Meeting in May so we take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “Well Done and Thank You” to Ron for his years as Treasurer. We are delighted that Ron and Carol continue to be active LIRA members.

Richard Grove, LIRA President
Time for a Change

If you want to remain current with LIRA members, take pen or pencil in hand and make the following changes in your membership list. New directories will be emailed to you sometime in October. Those without email will be sent a hard copy automatically along with those that have requested a hard copy of the newsletter.

New Members:

Amy Bisson
130 John Street, Unit 553
Lowell, MA 01852
508-320-8021
Email: amybisson@gmail.com

Eugenia Brumm
378 Treble Cove Road
N. Billerica, MA 01862
978-667-0343
Cell: 518-223-6298
Email: ekbrummphd@aol.com

Kathy Cryan-Hicks
47 School Street
No. Chelmsford, MA 01863
978-251-3518
Email: cryhicks@comcast.net

Bonnie & Richard Kelly
144 Troutbrook Road
Dracut, MA 01826
978-454-1684
Bonnie:
Cell: 978-270-1268
Email: bkelly52@comcast.net
Richard:
Cell: 978-966-9128
Email: rhkelly49@gmail.com

Bruce Magnuson
8 Draycoach Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-251-1229
Email: bmagphoto@yahoo.com

Deborah and Stephen Mellus
10 Gail Avenue
Tyngsboro, MA 01879
978-649-1261
Cell: 978-302-0598
Email Deborah: debmellus@yahoo.com
Email Stephen: stephenmellus@yahoo.com

Address Correction:

Edward Geisler
1 Dornoch Circle
No. Chelmsford, MA 01824

Email change:

Jeanne Gunion: gunionjeanne64@gmail.com
Elinor Mondale: eimondale12@gmail.com

Member News

Jeanne and Allan Gunion are now living in the Brookdale Assisted Living Facility, 4 Technology Drive, Chelmsford. Their phone number is unchanged: 978-251-7207. They would welcome phone calls, visits, or email from their friends in LIRA.

Simone Allard had back surgery in July. For the next few months she will be recuperating at home and not able to attend LIRA classes. We wish her a quick recovery and hope she will be back to LIRA soon. She appreciates and thanks you for all your calls and cards.

Snacks

What should you bring when you sign up for refreshments? It is best to bring finger foods that don’t make a mess when you eat them. It is also helpful to bring paper goods and the utensils to serve and eat the food you bring. I will try to have some supplies in the closet for emergencies. Please note if something has peanuts since we do have some members who are allergic to peanuts. Don’t be afraid to sign up to bring snacks. It really isn’t hard. Everything is appreciated. If you have any questions, contact the coordinator. If you didn’t sign up and you want to know if you can bring something, the answer is always yes. It is important to clean up all leftover food after class. Thank you for your cooperation.

Debbie Sibelius
Our Members at Work

The following is a list of all the members that make our organization run. I think they deserve a round of applause for all their hard work! They are always receptive to having new volunteers; please speak to any one of the members if you would like to be on a committee. Note that these are the committees as they stand as of September 2017.

A big THANK YOU also, to those that served on committees last year but are not continuing this year.

Jeri Durant

Executive Board

**Officers**

President Richard Grove
Vice President Peter Sebelius
Treasurer John Mamalis
Secretary Shirley Mitchell

**Members-at-Large**

Alan Kent
Marge Nardini

**Committee Chairs**

Curriculum Nancy Pitkin
Membership Co-chairs: Jean Schott, Bonnie Heines
Publicity Beverly Rudeen
Hospitality Debbie Sebelius
Newsletter Jeri Durant
Scholarship Co-chairs: Jane Redman, Deanne Sferrino
Telephone Tree Co-chairs: Judy Miller, Carol McCarthy

Committees

**Curriculum Committee**

Nancy Pitkin, Chairperson
Jackie Carr
Sally Coulter
Suzanne Gamache
Dina Gerosideris
Robert Hanlon
Toby Hodes
Susan Lemire
Russ MacLeod
Terri Munson
Peter Sebelius

**Art & Music Committee**

Jean Schott
Kathy Cryan-Hicks
Joan Kerzner
Terri Munson
Carol McCarthy
Jean Rubinstein

**Library Committee**

Dina Gerosideris

**Membership Committee**

Bonnie Heines
Jean Schott

**Publicity Committee**

Beverly Rudeen
Dina Gerosideris

**Scholarship Committee**

Janet Redman, Deanne Sferrino: Co-chairs
Simone Allard
Alan Kent
John Mamalis
Alan McKersie
Dotty Morris
Barbara Murch

**Auction Committee**

Sheila Pariseau

**Hospitality**

Debbie Sebelius

**Telephone Tree**

Carol McCarthy
Judy Miller

**Newsletter Committee**

Jeri Durant, Editor
Marge Nardini, Layout and Reproduction
Charlotte Evans, Distribution and Calendar
Simone Allard, Member News

**UMass Lowell Website**

Jeri Durant
Marge Nardini

**Facebook Page**

Peter Sebelius

**UMass Lowell Liaison**

Patty Coffey, Assistant director of Community Relations
Christopher Wilkinson
What is LIRA?

The following is the speech that Toby Hodes gave at the LIRA and Alumni Workshop on April 24, 2017, telling all that LIRA has to offer to retirees.

Hi, I’m so glad to see all of you and want to add my welcome to that of Rich and Reja, and most particularly to our guests. I was quite honored when I was asked to talk to you about LIRA and why I think it is so special.

As I thought about what I would say to you today, getting thoughts and suggestions from a variety of sources, my mind hearkened back to another time, about 45 years ago, when I was writing another talk. I had written my remarks, but was somewhat skeptical about the finished product. Thinking it might sound better spoken than it read, I read it aloud to my then 4-year-old daughter. When I finished, she looked at me and said “You say a lot of words, Mommy.” I have lived in fear of that reaction ever since whenever I am called upon to speak. I promise you, I will do my best to avoid that consequence today.

Now that I have started on a personal journey, let me continue along that line. And, yes, it is personal because my membership and activities in LIRA are so important to me personally.

In the last 25 years of my working life, prior to my retirement, I had had three very different careers, each of which involved steep learning curves. After working as a Textile Chemist for several years after my graduation from Lowell Tech, I had spent over ten years, as women my age were want to do, outside the paid workforce. My first job upon reentry into the job market was as the Director of a Women’s Service organization, after which I bought jet engine parts for General Electric, and ended up as a career counselor for displaced professionals in the 90’s. These had all been very challenging, time consuming and interesting jobs. So, as I retired 18 years ago, I thought what was I going to do with my time and my brain now? Scary!

As luck would have it, a friend of mine had become involved with a group at UMass Lowell, and he thought I might be interested. I attended my first LIRA meeting in 1998, and for me, after 40 years away from Lowell Tech, it turned out to be a homecoming of sorts. And what a home coming!! A snide aside to Thomas Wolfe – YES, you can go home again, and I am here to testify that it has been even better the second-time round.

Let me see a show of hands -How many of you ever enjoyed taking exams, doing homework or, as was the bane of LTI students, writing lab reports? Just as I suspected. Now, how many of you ever took a course in high school or college just because the topic sounded really intriguing or you just wanted to learn a little bit more about the subject?

Well, I am here to tell you, the opportunity to do just that – to, as a member of LIRA, take courses for the mere pleasure of learning, without the onus of all the other “stuff”, has been one of the absolute delights of my retirement.

What kind of courses you ask? Well, if you can name it, it can probably be available. Our courses USUALLY run for 8 weeks, meeting once a week, for two hours. How many courses can a member take? As many as he or she wants. What happens if you miss a class? Absolutely nothing.

Our courses and instructors come from a variety of sources, and there’s always more than something for everybody. - - - When we are lucky, usually once a year, Bob Forrant, distinguished University professor who was with us this morning, offers a course on American history, ranging from the Civil War to the American Labor Movement to this semester’s topic on the 60’s. Yes, we were there, but it’s amazing how much we didn’t see, didn’t understand or don’t remember.

Living in today’s world, I found my own lack of knowledge about the major religions of the world embarrassing. And so, I took it upon myself to teach a course on Comparative Religions. The interest raised by that led us to dig further and offer slightly more in-depth courses on each of the world’s major religions, particularly the three Abrahamic Religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. From experience, let me tell you, if you really want to learn something, try to teach it.

Each semester we offer Great Decisions. The program is based on background information and policy options for the eight most critical issues facing America each year as provided by the American Foreign Policy Association. If you are interested in learning more about it, I can guarantee that our president Rich Grove will be more than delighted to answer your questions.

Inviolate on our calendar is Wednesday’s Art & Music program. This, I will tell you, ranges far and wide, both literally and figuratively – from classroom discussions on various works of art and/or music to docent led field trips to museums and buildings of historic and artistic interest, as well as a trip into Boston for an open rehearsal of the BSO at least once and sometimes twice a year.
Want something a little more attractive to the scientific minded among us? Well, we are just completing a series on robotics (by the way, a great winter intersession program several years ago was a trip to the University’s robotic testing facility) and we recently offered courses on big data and the inventions that changed the world.

Keeping us current, the recent election cycle provided an excellent opportunity for us to refresh our knowledge on the way our presidential election system operates. Frank Talty, Assistant Dean of the Political Science Department, guided us through the entire process with a series of four mini courses, including a primer on the electoral college, a look at the primaries and caucuses and their peculiarities in various states, the national conventions and the final result and the data behind it, culminating in our current course on The Constitution of the United States.

In the 30 years LIRA has been in existence, there have been far too many courses to cite them all, covering an amazing number of topics. There is the never to be left out reading of a Shakespeare play each semester, and this year a mini course on the humor in his tragedies. There have been courses on China, Germany and other countries; on economics; on Supreme Court cases, and, yes, even Broadway musicals to name a few. And there is our monthly book discussion, covering a very broad variety of genres and topics. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the exercise program the physical therapy department offers to our members, designed to increase balance, flexibility, and strength for people our age.

And, as a very integral part of all this, there is the wonderful opportunity to meet interesting people and make new friends. There is a very real sense among us of comradery and community, a feeling of understanding and shared interests based on discussions held in classes and during our always delightful coffee breaks with the ever-present home-made goodies, and from sharing a seat on a bus as we take one of our many field trips. What’s not to like?

But I can give you even more to like. Up until now, my emphasis has been on the joys and pleasures of taking courses and learning for the sheer enjoyment and intellectual thrill of it. But LIRA has offered me other very real joys and pleasures, the bulk of which take place at our annual holiday party in December. Each year, LIRA members donate many new books and warm clothing such as hats, mittens and gloves, for children of all ages for distribution by Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, the agency which serves families in shelters and oversees many child care programs in the city. Seeing the tables piled high with these donations from our members is always heart-warming.

But for me, the highlight of our holiday party each year is the awarding of our scholarships to undergrads at the University and the chance to meet the winners. When I first joined in 1998, we were giving two $100 scholarships annually. This has now grown to a wonderful point where, this year, we awarded six $1500 scholarships. Fantastic!

Now, before all of you are ready to run me out on a rail, saying that 4-year-old was right – that I do say a lot of words - let me leave you with one last thought - - -

Last week, I was pleased to be present at the dedication of the Pulichino-Tong Business Center, the newest addition to North Campus, and I was struck by something John Pulichino, a major benefactor of the University said in his remarks. Speaking of why he does what he does for the school, he said, “If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a student.”

Members of LIRA are certainly familiar with the past, we are living and learning in the present, but we are ready, willing and able to touch the future by the scholarships we give to the students at this wonderful University. LIRA, as a part of UMass Lowell, continues to open up avenues for all of us to continue to learn, and to give, and to grow, and to touch the future.

As I continue my homecoming almost 60 years after my graduation, I remain proud to call this University my alma mater.

Toby Hodes
Registration will take place at the Fall Convocation on Wednesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Cumnock Hall, 31 University Ave, Lowell. Each course description includes, after the title, the name of the person who is presenter or facilitator. Below the paragraph is the name of the course coordinator who makes the arrangements and has responsibility for carrying out details of the class. Questions may be addressed to the facilitator/coordinator or Nancy Pitkin, Curriculum Chair.

Fall study groups will meet at the University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA, Room #106.

The location of classes sometimes change so watch for announcements.

**MONDAY**

**Science Café**
Presenter: Professor Robert Gamache
7 Mondays, 10:00 - noon September 18, 25, October 2, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6

In this course the role of critical thinking in the development of scientific theories will be explored. We will look at several major areas of science with a focus on the link between conceptual thought and the resulting physical laws. Courses like this get names like *Physics for Poets or Science for Dummies*. However, most people are not poets or dummies. How about *Science for the Average Person*? We’ll make observations and think about what has happened. Results will be explained in terms non-scientists can understand, no equations necessary.

At this point in history, an informed electorate is essential. How we assess data and make decisions about scientific/technological/environmental issues as they are presented to us by elected officials and the media puts our critical thinking skills to a test. It takes work to determine if that latest report is hoax or fraud.

Robert Gamache is Professor Emeritus at UMass Lowell in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Environmental Sciences. Some topics:

- Why are things the way they are?
- Critical thinking skills. How to debunk a snake oil salesperson!
- Early logic and observation. Curved Earth-flat Earth, seasons, days in a year.
- Why did we think the Earth was the center of the universe? Why don't we think so anymore?
- Do things fall down or in other directions?
- You know what inertia is, you just probably don't know it!
- We are all made of stuff; what is that stuff?
- What we thought - Earth, air, fire, and water; what we now think.
- Where did the universe come from? Where did Earth come from? Where did we come from?

Coordinator Suzanne Gamache*

**America in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era**
**Presenter: Marti Spaulding**
3 Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. September 18, 25, October 2

Meet some of the important figures from America's progressive era, including Roosevelt and Carnegie. Look at the cities, technology, and progression of thought that led to a modern culture defined through the Gilded Age. See the explosion of the Suffrage movement and the battle to win the women's right to vote. This fascinating course by Holy Cross professor Edward O'Donnell will explore the massive changes that reshaped America during the Gilded Age (1865-1900) and the Progressive Era (1900–1920). This will be a continuation of last year’s course, but the lectures are not dependent on any previous knowledge.

Facilitator: Bob Hanlon*

**Politics of the Veil**
**Presenter: Dr. Patricia Fontaine**
4 Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. October 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6

It has been said that France is currently fighting an intifada, a guerrilla war with its former colonies. This seminar will look at French colonial practices of the 19th and 20th century, educational doctrine of secularism and political policies around the wearing of the veil.
to fully understand how and why France is fighting a war on terrorism between its republican self and the Muslim world of North Africa.
Facilitator: Nancy Pitkin*

►TUESDAY

**Shakespeare: The Tempest**
Facilitator: Frank Carroll*
8 Tuesdays, 10:00 - Noon, September 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7

When I open my “Complete Works of Shakespeare” text, the “Tempest” is the first play in the book. I find this somewhat peculiar, because it is probably the last play that he wrote and presented on the stage. There is some internal evidence for that idea that this is his last play and we will certainly look at those lines and form our own opinions.
Yes we are going to read the “Tempest” this fall and as we go along some may wonder how did Shakespeare ever think up this convoluted plot? We all know that in most of his plays we can find literary works of many authors from whom he was able to draw some ideas of the plot but this one is a mystery. However, there were in 1610, several stories in print in England about a shipwreck off Bermuda and many think this is what lent him the notion for this play. Well, we will think about that. In any case, come along and please bring a text.
Coordinator: Terri Munson*

**The Story of the Bible**
Presenter: Toby Hodes*
8 Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. September 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7

Since the invention of the printing press, the world's consistently bestselling book has been the Bible. Since 1815, it has been printed an estimated five billion times. By the end of 2005, it had been translated into 2,043 languages. We will explore the fascinating history of the Bible: How, when and why did it enter the world? What have been the stages of its growth? In how many forms has it appeared? How has it exercised its influence? The story stretches from the first ancient collections of Jewish law to the present day, and we will study it all from a variety of points of view.
Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

►WEDNESDAY

**Art and Music**
7 Wednesdays September 27, October 5, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8

Please see the attached schedule for dates, times, topics, presenters and coordinators of the Art & Music series. The indoor classes will be held at University Suites.

►THURSDAY

**Great Decisions**
Facilitator: Richard Grove*
7 Thursdays, 10:00 - Noon, Sept 21, 28, Oct 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9
1 Wednesday Oct 4

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. This is a time of dramatic change with Britain leaving the EU, populism and nationalism rising, and Trump policies on climate change, NATO, Russia and China. Topics for the fall are: Latin America’s Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, The Future of Europe, and Nuclear Security.

Presenter: Peter Sebelius*
3 Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sept 21, 28, Oct. 12
1 Wednesday Oct 4

This course begins with an overview of the first part given last fall; specifically theories of physical reality starting with Aristotle through to Newtonian or the "classical" physics. The review will culminate with Einstein's theory of general relativity and its interpretation of gravitation in terms of the curvature of space and time. We will look at an extreme case of gravitation and space curvature: the black hole.
The course will then address quantum theory, touching the very basis of physical reality, altering our commonsense notions of space and time, cause and effect. Quantum theory is a vision of physical reality so at odds with our experience that even our language fails to describe the quantum world adequately.

Both general relativity and quantum mechanics are considered exceedingly complex; but the basic ideas behind them are, in fact, simple and comprehensible by everyone. This course presents these concepts in plain English with no mathematics so that everyone can understand them.

If time permits (and it will if we travel fast enough) we will touch on the most recent advances in the physics realm including the discovery of Gravity waves, quantum entanglement and the confirmation of the Higgs Boson.

Open to All: You do not need to have participated in the Part One to attend.

Coordinator: Skip Youngberg*

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**Law and Civil Liberties**

Presenter: Professor Frank Talty

4 Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Oct. 19, 26, Nov 2, 9

The class will cover four areas of constitutional law that relate to Americans civil liberties: the freedom of speech and press, religious freedom, rights of the criminally accused and privacy rights/reproductive rights. In each category we will cover a number of Supreme Court cases that developed the law in those areas.

Coordinator: Sally Coulter*

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**FRIDAY**

**Book Discussion 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. Here are the fall selections:

September 15  
*Richard Nixon: The Life* by John A. Farrell - - Hint: It is 737 pages, so you might want to start reading this now

October 20  
*The Sympathizer*, fiction by Viet Thanh Nguyen

November 17  

December 15  
*The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, fiction by Carson McCullers

(FYI: It is considered to be one of the best books of the 20th century)

*Indicates LIRA member*
Art & Music Fall 2017

Programs on October 11, 25 and November 1 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 September 13 Fall Convocation. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours.

September 27 Visit to the Waterworks Museum, 2450 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

Located in a massive brownstone building near the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, the museum’s centerpiece is its collection of steam engines. Three original coal-powered steam driven pumps, reaching more than three stories tall, are preserved at the museum, monuments to 19th century technology and innovation. On our Guided Tour we will walk around each and see the multitude of perfectly engineered parts that pumped millions of gallons of fresh water a day into the city of Boston until 1970, when the Quabbin Reservoir came on line. Ample seating throughout the museum. A Bag Lunch is suggested for a possible picnic or to eat on the bus. The bus leaves at 10:00 a.m. from the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. Cost is $20.50 for LIRA members, $25.50 for non-members if space is available.

Checks are due by Wednesday, September 20. Send check, payable to LIRA, Inc. to Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Please note: 24 hour notice is needed for refunds.
Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

October 5 (Thursday) Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal

The program for the day is:
- Arlene SIERRA " Moler"
- TCHAIKOVSKY " Violin Concerto"
- RACHMANINOV " Symphony No. 2"
- Conductor -Andris Nelson, Gil Shaham- violin

Tickets include bus transportation. $30 for LIRA members, $35 for non-members (if tickets are available)

Send checks to:
Jean Rubinstein
15 Fairbanks Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-9943 / 978-761-0022
Jeanruby23@gmail.com
Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

October 11 A Visit to England and Switzerland
Presenters: The Sebelius Family

Switzerland has so many beautiful places. Deb and Peter Sebelius enjoyed a visit with their daughter while touring the area around Lucerne, in the German speaking part of the country. Later, they enjoyed a trip to London. Their guest speaker will be their daughter, Tammie, now living in the Boston area.

October 18 Visit to the Currier Museum, 130 Ash Street, Manchester, NH

The two exhibits on view are:
- Monet's Pathways to Impressionism
- The Paris of Toulouse Lautrec: Prints and Posters from the Museum of Modern Art in NYC

Cost is $13 for seniors. (If enough people signup, a docent will be given to us, with a slight increase in the admission cost.)

Directions to the museum:
1. Take route 3 North
2. Take exit 6 onto Amoskeag Street which becomes W. Salmon Street
3. Turn right onto Beech Street
4. Left onto Orange Street
5. Left onto Ash Street
Meet at The Hannaford parking lot at 9:45 a.m. for carpooling. The museum opens at 11 am. There is nice cafe on site there!!
Coordinator: Jean Schott*

October 25 Drumming: A Hands on Music Program

Further information will be given at the Convocation.
Coordinator: Terri Munson*

November 1 Iceland, Land of Beauty: Travel Talk by Photographer Jack Holmes

Iceland is a wild land in the beauty of the North Atlantic. It is a country with few large cities and many coastal villages. There one finds stark beauty in treeless landscapes, glaciers, volcanos, blue lagoons and much more!
Coordinator: Jean Schott*

November 8 Trip to the Fitchburg Museum of Art, A Guided Tour: Global Africa and More

On Wednesday, November 8th please join us for a visit to Fitchburg’s Art Museum to experience their extensive exhibit of African Art. Here are details:

GLOBAL AFRICA: Creativity, Continuity and Change in African Art, an exhibition of classic, contemporary and commissioned art objects including masks, masquerades with videos, photographs, carved portraits, textiles, metal arts as currency, and an interactive Learning Lounge.
Museum admission $9.00 p/p. Senior rate is $5.00 p/p. Additional cost for the docent(s) will be based on the number of participants/number of docents required. (Docent is $50.00.)
We will enter at the main entrance at 185 Elm Street. Docents will meet us at 10:50 a.m. in the main lobby
We plan to carpool and will leave from Hannaford in Chelmsford at 9:00 a.m.
Parking is available at the museum adjacent to the main entrance.

Three galleries focus on three themes:

- **Music, Masks, Masquerades** emphasizes the multi-media nature of African art and the difference between African and Western modes of display.
- **Beyond Indigo** looks at the African presence in America, evokes the diversity of cultures represented by individuals forcibly moved from Africa to the western hemisphere, and celebrates the inventiveness of African artists working in wood, metal, and cloth.
- **Life/Afterlife** focuses on memory, and the interrelationship of the natural and supernatural worlds.

Visit their website for further information:
http://www.fitchburgartmuseum.org/

Coordinator: Kathy Cryan Hicks

*Indicates LIRA member

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**Newsletter Committee**

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<td>Charlotte Evans, Calendar &amp; Distribution</td>
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<td>Simone Allard, Member News</td>
<td><a href="mailto:simone32alard@gmail.com">simone32alard@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>10 am to Noon</td>
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LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION/ UMASS LOWELL
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If renewing as a couple, each one must fill out a renewal form.

NAME__________________________________________________ DATE________________________

ADDRESS___________________________________________________________________________________

CITY__________________________________________ STATE_____________ZIP_______________________

PHONE________________________ CELL________________________ EMAIL_________________________

In the event of class cancellation I prefer to be notified by EMAIL _____ PHONE_____

Newsletter will be delivered by EMAIL unless you have notified us to send by mail.

Are you a graduate of UMass Lowell? ______ What Year/Degree? ___________________

NAME__________________________________________________ DATE________________________

ADDRESS___________________________________________________________________________________

CITY__________________________________________ STATE_____________ZIP_______________________

PHONE________________________ CELL________________________ EMAIL_________________________

In the event of class cancellation I prefer to be notified by EMAIL _____ PHONE_____

Newsletter will be delivered by EMAIL unless you have notified us to send by mail.

Are you a graduate of UMass Lowell? ______ What Year/Degree? ___________________

LIRA membership dues are $125. ($200 for couples) for the year July 1 – June 30, payable by August 15. $100 of your membership fee will be tax-deductible and will benefit our student scholarship fund.
See: www.uml.edu/community/lira

Please return Renewals (or apply online by credit card) with a check payable to UMass Lowell, memo line LIRA, and mail to: Office of Alumni Relations, Charles J. Hoff Scholarship Center
UMass Lowell
One Perkins Street
Lowell, MA 01854
Parking Hangtags

Please read the following carefully. LIRA parking permits for 2017-2018 will be valid for 10 months, September 2017 through June 2018. LIRA will not have any on-campus programs in July and August 2018.

Please fill out the parking permit form below along with a $70 check made out to UMass Lowell and bring it to the Convocation on September 13. Parking hangtags can only be issued to members that have paid their dues and have completed the vehicle information form. No one, other than those with a handicap permit, will receive a University issued parking permit without a payment of $70.

You have 3 options if you cannot make it for the Convocation:

- If you fill out this form with a check made out to UMass Lowell for $70 and mail it to Richard Grove, 27 Windemere Lane, N. Chelmsford, MA 01863 BEFORE September 13, he will assign a hangtag to you. Include a stamped, self-addressed legal-sized envelope and he will mail it to you.
- You may have a friend bring a filled out form and check to the Convocation and get a hangtag for you.
- You will have to go to the Parking Access office at Campus Security office located at 220 Pawtucket St, Lowell, MA 01854, entrance on Salem St. This is the same place that you get your photo ID.

IF YOU HAVE HANDICAPPED PARKING, PLEASE WRITE YOUR PLAQUE NUMBER AND DATE OF EXPIRATION ON THE FORM. Your parking will be free, but you will not be able to get your hangtag unless you have ALL this information.

Additional copies of the application form will be available at the Convocation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (LIRA) UML Parking Permit – Registration Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIRA MEMBER AND VEHICLE INFORMATION (Required): [Please Print]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address: _______________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Street, P.O. Box, City/Town, State, Zip Code)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone Number: _______________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handicap Permit #: _______________________________ Expiration Date: ____________</td>
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<tr>
<td>VEHICLE INFORMATION:</td>
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<td>Year: ______ Make: ______________ Model: ______________ Color: ____________</td>
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<td>State: _______________________________ License Plate Number: _______________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>UML PARKING PERMIT NUMBER: _______________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2017 through June 2018 (10 months) LIRA-UML Parking Permit Form – rev 8/17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Name

I would like notification of class cancellations/changes by phone

☐ Monday 10:00 – 12:00 Science Cafe, Sept. 18, 25, October 2, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6

☐ Monday 1:00-3:00 America in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, Sept. 18, 25, October 2

☐ Monday 1:00-3:00 Politics of the Veil, Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6

☐ Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 Shakespeare: The Tempest, Sept. 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7

☐ Tuesday 1:00-3:00 The Story of the Bible, Sept. 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7

☐ Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 Art & Music

☐ Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 Great Decisions, Sept 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, (one Wed., Oct 4)

☐ Thursday 1:00-3:00 Einstein’s Theory and Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists, Sept 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, (one Wed., Oct 4)

☐ Thursday 1:00-3:00 Law and Civil Liberties, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9

☐ Friday 10:00 – 12:00 Book Discussions, Sept 15, Oct. 20, Nov, 17, Dec. 15

I would like to learn more about:

I can help: coordinate a program

I can help: volunteer for a committee