Please join us

Annual Fall Convocation
Wednesday
September 12, 2012
10 AM to Noon
Alumni Hall
84 University Avenue
Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from the Perkins Street Parking Lot
Hear about our fall schedule.
Sign up for courses.
Refreshments will be served.

Guest speaker is Dr. Diana Archibald,
UMass Lowell Professor of Literature
On July 18 LIRA member Bill Closs presented two videos about things we should do when visiting our National Capitol: visit the Arlington National Cemetery and see the Sunset Parade.

The first video showed the history of the Arlington National Cemetery from its beginnings in 1864 as a potter’s field for soldiers whose families were too poor to bring them home through the events that made it the hollowed grounds we know today, visited by people from all over the world.

- The cemetery was born in hatred against Robert E. Lee when the Union confiscated Lee’s family plantation, which was on the site of the original grounds of the cemetery, after he abandoned it to join the Confederacy.
- The federal government established a community in the cemetery called Freedman’s Village where freed slaves and their ancestors lived until 1900 when it was closed. African-Americans who lived there are buried in Section 27 of the cemetery.
- The burial ground consists of over 612 acres and holds the remains of soldiers who fought in every war since the Revolution. Many non-military people are also buried in the Arlington Cemetery including government leaders and accomplished Americans.
- The 3rd U.S. Infantry, known as the “Old Guard,” serves as our nation’s official ceremonial unit. Special units maintain a 24-hour vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns and conduct Arlington burial services. The caisson platoon which consists of 49 soldiers and 58 horses are an important part of these precise and solemn burial ceremonies.
- In 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was visiting the cemetery and standing at the top of the Lee Memorial Hill, he commented that it was so beautiful and quiet that he could spend the rest of his life there. Only weeks later he was assassinated and buried on the very same spot.
- The unidentified remains of World War I, World War II and Korean War servicemen are buried at the Tomb of the Unknowns. An unknown from the Vietnam War was entombed in 1984, but the remains were exhumed in 1998, positively identified by DNA testing as those of Air Force First Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie, and reinterred at a military cemetery in Missouri.
- 64 victims of the September 11, 2001 crash in the Pentagon are buried in the cemetery just yards away from the crash site.
- Section 60 is the newest section of the cemetery where veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are buried.

In the second video we watched the Marine Corps Sunset Parade. Since September 1956, the Marine Corps Sunset Parade has been held every Tuesday during the summer in front of what is claimed to be the world’s largest bronze statue, the Iwo Jima Memorial, next to Arlington National Cemetery.

The Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps lead off with a medley of various military standards and popular songs. The musical portion is followed by the stark and impressive silence of the Silent Drill Platoon, a 24-man precision exhibition drill team working with 10-pound M1 rifles tipped with fixed bayonets. Working without any audible cues, the Platoon executes a routine of formations and maneuvers including bayonets flying through the air.

Bill is a retired twenty-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps where he served as a gunnery sergeant and drum major (16 years) for 8 Marine Corp bands and 3 drum corps. We appreciate Bill’s service to our country and showing us these videos.

Joe Casadone

Scholarship Announcement

The LIRA Executive Board has voted to award three $1500 scholarships to three fulltime UMass Lowell juniors or seniors who have 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. Remember, that if you have relatives who meet these qualifications, they can apply for one of these scholarships. Sincere thanks for all your help.

LIRA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Bill Terris, Chairperson
Simone Allard Jerry Gilmore
Alan Kent Alan McKersie
Mary Jane Meyers Mary Welch
LIRA’S Scholarship Fund
Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 12th. 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 scholarships to three 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 or 6 tickets for $5. You decide what item(s) you want and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to Alumni Hall 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.

The Auction Committee,
Carol Cannistraro
Barbara Willman

Visiting a Nearby Past

It’s a fine thing—to be interested in an event that happened 100 years ago and then end up sitting in the very building where it began, the Everett Mill in Lawrence. Massachusetts is studded with beautiful old mills, still around to remind us of exciting days in the history of industry. The 100 year milestone of the Great Lawrence Strike of 1912 has been honored by the creation of the Bread & Roses Centennial Committee. Related activities during 2012 have been numerous, but the one on June 20 was just for LIRA. We met on the 6th floor of the Everett Mill in the space devoted to an excellent exhibit of the Bread & Roses Strike, “Short Pay! All Out!” The exhibit is very comprehensive and was professionally designed. Attention has been paid to individuals of the time, both prominent and of lesser import. There are poignant examples of the strike’s causes as well as what happened later on.

It was amazing to see photographs of the time (the Lewis Hine collection) as well as the result of Joe Manning’s project whereby the subsequent lives of child mill workers were documented. To call attention to the history and to the exhibit, Bob Forrant started our day speaking about significant events of 1912 and creation of the exhibit. How lucky can we be! A UMass Lowell professor, Bob is well-known to LIRA members who have attended his lectures, and he is chairman of the Bread & Roses Centennial Committee, having taken a sabbatical for the project. A knowledgeable speaker who never seems to need notes, Bob brought out the drama of the era, and he answered questions that were drawn out from the talk. Several LIRA members are related to mill workers early in the 1900s and had personal stories to tell.

Dorothy Bromage

Book Discussion Group

Below are the books we decided upon for the coming season. September, October, and November will be on the third Friday of the month.

September - Steve Jobs, biography by Walter Isaacson
October - The Right Hand Shore, fiction by Christopher Tilgham
November - Destiny of the Republic, non-fiction by Diane Millard

If you want to read ahead, our choices for December, January, and February, respectively, are A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, fiction by Betty Smith, Citizens of London: Americans Who Stood with Britain in its Darkest, Finest Hour, non-fiction by Lynne Olsen, and The Old Curiosity Shop by Charles Dickens.

Dates for these discussions are to be determined, but they will be Wednesdays, after an intersession.

Look forward to seeing you all and another season of great discussions.

TobyHodes

Holiday Party

The Holiday Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12. More details about the party will appear in the next newsletter.
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 2012. 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: Toby Hodes
- Vice President: Alan Kent
- Treasurer: Ron Cannistraro
- Secretary: Shirley Mitchell

**Members-at-Large**
- Jerry Gilmore
- Richard Grove

**Committee Chairs**
- Curriculum: Dorothy Bromage
- Membership: Marjorie Short
- Publicity: Jeanne Gunion
- Hospitality: Mary Willis
- Newsletter: Jeri Durant
- Scholarship: Bill Terris

**Committees**

**Curriculum Committee**
Dorothy Bromage, Chairperson
Ann Dahlman
Jerry Gilmore
Robert Hanlon
Barbara Page
Judith Palais
Martha Hill
Jean Schott
Toby Hodes, ex officio as LIRA President

**Art & Music Committee**
Barbara Page, Chairperson
Dorothy Bromage
Jane Canter
Carol McCarthy
Rose Rhoades
Jean Rubinstein
Jean Schott

**Library Committee**
Shirley Mitchell, Chairperson
Marjorie Short

**Membership Committee**
Marjorie Short, Chairperson
Suzanne Knapp

**Scholarship Committee**
Bill Terris, Chairperson
Simone Allard
Jerry Gilmore
Alan Kent
Alan McKersie
Mary Jane Meyers
Mary Welch

**Auction Committee**
Carol Cannistraro
Barbara Willman

**Hospitality**
Mary Willis, Co-Chairperson
Dawn Gillogly, Co-Chairperson
Dorothy Bromage

**Telephone Tree**
Carol McCarthy
Judy Miller

**Newsletter Committee**
Jeri Durant, Editor
Suzanne Knapp, Layout and Reproduction
Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady, Distribution
Simone Allard, Member News
Jeanne Gunion, Member Spotlight

**UMass Lowell Website**
Jeri Durant
Suzanne Knapp

**UMass Lowell Liaison**
Paul Marion, executive director of Community and Cultural Affairs
Historic Home in Westford

At the Samuel Fitch House in Westford, Lynne Smithwood is a gracious host. It was fun to see her surprise on June 27 when we tramped down the steps she said were iffy. When asked about opportunities to visit the historic house, here is what she said.

“Starting September 9th we will be having Sunday open houses with tours at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. as well as an Artisan Barn Sale including local crafts and antiques. Sunday Teas with Lisa Stegerwalt are usually the third Sunday of the Month by reservation. As with your event I am happy to customize events and stays for our guests. We have had birthday teas, Dolly Madison tea for lacemakers, and Colonial Christmas Teas for bookclubs. If you have any questions please feel free to email or call me. Thank you for thinking of the Samuel Fitch House. Lynne”

Dorothy Bromage

From the website:  www.samuelfitchhouse.com

“OUR 300TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – SEPTEMBER 18th
AN 18TH CENTURY REVOLUTIONARY ENCAMPMENT WITH PERIOD ARTISANS, MUSICIANS, AND OF COURSE, BIRTHDAY CAKE - COME JOIN THE FUN.

Open House tours on October 17th, November 21st, and December 19th from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.”

Email: samuelfitchhouse@aol.com Phone: 978-952-6888

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. The following is the policy for class cancellations.

Carol McCarthy
Judy Miller

Class Cancellations

Important of Signing up for Courses

At times, unforeseen circumstances will necessitate the cancellation of a class or program. You will be notified 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 Toby Hodes 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, Toby Hodes 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. For individual classes, coordinators are responsible for calling members for changes or cancellation of their class.

UML Physical Therapy/HELP

LIRA Exercise Program at Forever Fitness, Chelmsford, MA

Congratulations to all of the LIRA members who have participated in the UML Physical Therapy/HELP (Healthy Elder Living Program) exercise program at Forever Fitness. We completed three 10-week sessions with an average enrollment of 16 participants in each session. Over the year, the exercisers improved in their exercise tolerance as measured by increased walking distance on the 6 minute walk test, a measure of cardiovascular endurance.

The plan for the coming year is to continue the program. We will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00–3:30pm beginning on Tuesday, September 18. The program will run for 12 weeks this fall. The cost of the program will be $60. An additional session may be added if the enrollment increases. If you have not participated in the program, you will need to complete the necessary paperwork before starting to exercise. Please contact Gerry Dybel at: Gerard_Dybel@uml.edu. Hope to see you all in September!

Gerard Dybel
100 Years Old

It was a perfect day to tour Fenway Park. Our excellent tour guide, Owen, told about 75 LIRA members and their guests some little-known facts about the 100 year old park. We were able to walk around the whole park and sit in the most coveted Green Monster seats. On the right is the famous ‘Red Seat’ where Ted Williams (#9) hit the longest home run ever hit in Fenway Park (502 feet). The seat is circled but can be seen in color on the website. A big ‘Thank You’ to Bob Hanlon for arranging this most popular program of the summer intersession! 
Is there a Doctor in the House?

There were at least two on July 25 when Dr. Fred Wikander and Dr. Arnie Kerzner talked to us about “Healthy Hearts and Healthy Minds”. Fred was very informative as he advised us on the ways to keep our hearts healthy: diet, exercise, prevention and risks. Our diets should be low in fat, cholesterol and salt. We should exercise for 30 minutes every day. Keeping our blood pressure and cholesterol under control helps to prevent heart disease. He described heart risks by showing how plaque buildup can cause a heart attack or stroke.

Arnie talked about the relationship of the heart and the brain. Our heart is affected by our emotions and it sends more information to the brain than the brain sends to the heart. Emotions of stress, anger and frustration can affect the heart and increase the risk of heart disease. On the other hand, emotions such as love and appreciation can have a positive affect on the heart. Tell someone how much you appreciate them and increase their oxytocin! Arnie mentioned how much he enjoyed giving the talk and is looking forward to being asked to present something on “Everything You Wanted to Know about Aging, but Couldn’t Remember to Ask”!

Judging from the number of people that attended and the many questions that were asked, it was a program enjoyed by all.

Jeri Durant

Visit to MIT Haystack Observatory

On Wednesday August 1, 61 LIRA members and several guests visited the MIT Haystack Observatory in Westford MA. Lynne Mathews PHD, a Research Scientist from the MIT Astronomy group conducted a tour and lectured on the different projects being conducted at Haystack and in those being conducted in conjunction with other telescopes around the world. She described the Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) project that measures tectonic motion (Earth Continents and wobble) to millimeter accuracy and Radio Astronomy studies capable of observing active galactic nuclei such as Quasars and matter falling into Black Holes. We saw the massive 37 foot radio telescope and Rodger Capollo described the Data Correlator and Storage Units that processes enormous amount of information. It was a fascinating trip.

Jerry Gilmore

2012/2013 LIRA Dues Payable Now

This is a reminder that LIRA dues for the 2012/2013 year are due before the Convocation on September 12th. Amounts remain the same for the current year: $125 for single membership and $200 for a couple per year.

Make your check payable to LIRA, Inc. and mail to:
Ron Cannistraro
10 Ideal Avenue
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Your dues must be paid in order to attend classes in September. If your dues are not paid by the Convocation, your ID card will be invalidated.

OR Become a Friend of LIRA:

For LIRA members who are unable to join for year 2012-2013 but wish to keep up with our activities by Newsletter, please consider becoming a “Friend of LIRA” for $15. Checks can be sent to Ron Cannistraro, Treasurer, as above, along with your name and address. Friends of LIRA are listed in and receive the Directory as well as the Newsletter, so you can stay in touch.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Entries in the annual directory are based on information received with dues; if there are any changes that should be made to your address, phone, email information or your name as you prefer it to be listed, please submit them with your dues check.
Happy Birthday, Mr. Dickens

Lowell has been very busy celebrating Charles Dickens’ 200th birthday since April 2012 and what a party it’s been. The programs are centered on Dickens’ visit to Lowell in 1842 when he spent a day here touring the mills as part of his American Journey.

Events opened with the terrific ongoing exhibit, “Dickens and Lowell, A Tale of Power and Transformation” at the Boott Mill co-curated by Dr Diana Archibald, Professor of Literature, UML, that includes, among other important artifacts, a portrait of the 30 year old Dickens by Francis Alexander when Dickens visited Lowell in 1842. It is on loan from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.

At a period when people don’t want to invest time in serious reading Lowell has chosen the Dickens novel, Great Expectations as its “city reads.” To help maintain interest and momentum in Dickens and his writings, the library has scheduled periodic events around this story. The LIRA Book Discussion program has included The Old Curiosity Shop as a monthly selection.

Every week through October the Lowell calendar has included some type of Dickens program such as the weekly walking tour, “Costumes in Dickens America” at the Textile Museum and a two day National Symposium for members of the Dickens Society.

To provide all this, The University of Lowell in collaboration with the Lowell National Historic Park has received financial support from various funds and grants to sponsor these events which took three years to plan. But good things come to an end and Dickens in Lowell will culminate on October 19, 2012 with a performance by the well acclaimed British actor and Dickens scholar, Miriam Margolyes, portraying “Dickens’ Women.”

Thanks to the efforts of Professor Archibald, who herself is a lead Dickens scholar, it was a coup to obtain Margolyes, OBE prize winner and well known as Professor Sprout in the Harry Potter films, for this production. Margolyes will portray about 23 Dickens characters in Dickens stories all based on real characters in his life. Margolyes has a personal passion for Dickens whom she feels is the greatest man to write prose. She’s read all his writings and analyzed him and his works at the University and since. As a voice artist she is able to portray his various characters, their torments and passions, pain and joy to the range and depth of their emotionxdxxdfbng.

We look forward to seeing Miriam Margolyes at Durgin Hall, UMass Lowell in October. We look forward to meeting Professor Archibald as the LIRA Convocation speaker in September.

Marjorie Short

History of Terrorism

Dr. James Forest gave a fascinating talk on the history of terrorist groups on June 6. He is an Associate Professor at UMass Lowell in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, where he teaches courses on terrorism, security studies, and weapons of mass destruction. Dr. Forest was selected by the Center for American Progress and Foreign Policy as one of "America's most esteemed terrorism and national security experts". His new book, The Terrorism Lectures, A comprehensive collection for students of terrorism, counterterrorism, and national security is now available.

Dr. James Forest with Coordinator Alan Kent
The American Impressionists

Did you know that Impressionism spread from France to America in the 1880’s? Jean Schott described the painters and their works who, after living in France at that time, brought the Impressionistic movement to America. Jean described this movement in a chronological fashion as best as the material lent itself to such analysis, while introducing the artists and showing their works. She also pointed out how each artist embodied the characteristics of Impressionism.

Jean started by showing photographs of Paris followed by well-known examples of French Impressionism. A technical advance of the time was first using pig bladders to store paints. Later paints could be stored in tubes. These advances enabled painters to work out of doors. There was a significant Japanese influence as shown in 1871 Renoir’s work “Still Life With a Bouquet” and Monet’s Japanese Bridge seen in many pictures. The technique of softening edges was shown in 1876 in “The River Garden in Rue Corte” by Renoir and Monet’s “Poppy Fields at Giverney”.

As a bridge or introduction to the American Impressionists Jean cited several examples of Cassatt a native well-educated Philadelphian who went to France and painted women and children. Jean also talked about the “Hudson River School” with the use of muted colors and lines and outdoor subjects. The painters Cole, Church, Homer, and Theodore Robinson represent this group.

Other art colonies developed or sprang up at Cos Cob, Connecticut represented by Tractman. Other centers of activity were in Gloucester represented by Metcalf and in Lynn/Beverley, MA as represented by Woodbury “Houses by the Shore”. We saw many works painted by Hassan from the late 1880’s to the 1900’s. Some of these were in watercolor - a departure from the French.

The movement moved to other parts of the country notably to Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Sante Fe, N.M. Impressionism was pursued in California, where Impressionistic painters were first working in San Francisco and then traveled south to catch better light on the Monterey/Carmel peninsular and finally to Los Angeles and Pasadena where the light was the most intense. Examples of the painters of the “west” were Bischoff, “Aroyo Seco”, “Coastal Sea”, and “The Courtyard of the Mission of Capistrano”. We also viewed another painting of The Mission at Capistrano by Townsley painted in 1916. We saw “Joyous Spring” painted by J. Gamble and “The Land of Sunshine” by M. Braun. Also mentioned was Thomas Kinkade in Palm Springs who used flat brush stroke.

Altogether this was a very enjoyable and informative program about Impressionist Painters in the United States following the French movement.

Jeanne Gunion

The Mission of San Juan Capistrano
by Channel P. Townsley, 1916

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Photo ID Card

A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD IS REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO OUR CLASSROOM IN THE RECREATION CENTER AND TO THE UNIVERSITY PARKING LOTS.

In order to have access to the parking lots, LIRA members must obtain a photo identification card. You will need to carry it with you because it will also be needed to get into the Recreation Center for classes.

Photo ID cards are processed at the South Dining Hall on South Campus. Please note that they have moved BACK to their old location on 105 Wilder Street, Lowell. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5pm.

The phone number is: 978-934-2800. It is advisable to call first to make sure they are there.

NOTE: There is no charge for the first University photo ID card; however, there is a charge if you need to replace it.

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Details for the Convocation

The Annual Fall Convocation is being held on Wednesday, September 12, in Alumni Hall. Because of the parking problem at that location, members are asked to park at the Perkins Street Parking Lot. This is the lot where we normally park when we attend classes at the Rec Center. The bus will be on Riverwalk Way right near the entrance to the lot. You should use your hangtags in this parking lot.

The shuttle bus will be running from this parking lot from 9:30am to 1:00pm for as many trips as needed to bring us to Alumni Hall and back.

It has been decided to bring homemade goodies for the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be appreciated.

Hope to see you all there!
LIRA Enriches, Educates and Engages

When you think of retirement, does learning about biostatistics, astronomy or the theremin come to mind? Maybe not, but for more than 135 members of the Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA), those just scratch the surface of activities and interests available to pursue.

LIRA, the second-oldest association of its kind in the state, was founded in 1988 by Mark Levine, then director of community services, who began offering classes to 30 members. The association is a multi-faceted educational program for retired and semi-retired people who want to expand their knowledge regardless of past education or age. At a LIRA event, Levine, who passed away in 2005, described the association’s founding principle:

“How active retirement is a healthy event totally engaging the retiree. The secret further strategy in a healthy, engaging retirement is the shifting about of life’s priorities from earlier emphases; it is in the development of those areas of interest and leadership that had been twinklings in our eye during our earlier lives. Incipient arts appreciators, latent political theorists, progenitor scientists were invited by LIRA to bring out these back bench activities.”

The group has reignited and developed countless interests for participants in its 24 years of programming. The curriculum is designed by members to provide learning and social experiences while engaging members in leadership and community activities.

Current president, Toby Hodes, attended an open session in 1998 on the advice of a friend. Hodes had recently retired and joined the group quickly. Since then, she has served as the newsletter editor, a course facilitator and curriculum chair. Classes on major world religions, history courses with Prof. Bob Forrant and book discussions are among her favorite recent programs.

“My pleasure is learning about a wide variety of subjects — many of which were certainly not covered in my technical education at Lowell Technological Institute — without the pressures of homework, exams and grades,” says Hodes, who graduated in 1958. “Through LIRA, I have continued to keep my mind active and my knowledge of the world around me up-to-date — all while meeting wonderful, informed, interesting people.”

Marjorie Short, membership chair and longtime member, says that the “Arts and Music” programs are always a participant favorite. This fall, the program is chaired by Dorothy Bromage and will include four museum trips and several interactive lectures.

“When I retired, I had a list of activities to investigate that I felt may keep me active and involved,” says Short. “LIRA became the most important because I meet well-educated people with varied backgrounds who have similar interests. A recent favorite LIRA program was presented by music students Derek Hayden and Danny Dugan, who explained and demonstrated various percussion instruments.”

During LIRA’s summer intersession series, nearly 70 members and community members filled the Talon Room at the Tsongas Center to hear Paul Mitchell, a biostatistician and son of member Shirley Mitchell, speak about the evolution of scientific research from conception to publication. The group will wrap up the summer with trips to Fenway Park, the Haystack Observatory and sessions on U.S. Marines and heart health.

LIRA also works to educate younger students by sponsoring a scholarship at the University. Two scholarships are awarded each year based on academic success and community engagement.

For more information on classes, membership and community involvement opportunities, visit the LIRA website. While active membership is encouraged, LIRA welcomes all participants, whether they take one class a year or become a chair.

This excellent article about LIRA is on the UMass Lowell website, written by Julia Gavin. She is a staff writer for Public Affairs/Community Affairs for the website. Here is the link to the article: http://www.uml.edu/News/stories/2011-12/LIRAActivities.aspx

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Lecture Series that the Chelmsford Library is running in conjunction with LIRA, will continue this fall. The scheduled dates for the fall are September 14, October 12, November 9 and December 14. A lecture has not been scheduled for November. The speakers for September and December have not been determined as yet; check the library’s website for further information.

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

Lectures scheduled are:

September 14, 2012: “Syria” by Dr. Deina Abdelkater
October 12, 2012: “Media Literacy and Democracy in a Hypermedia Age” with Paul Mihailidis, PhD.
November 9, 2012: “The State of the Oceans” by Tracy Rogers from the New England Aquarium

Information about these lectures can be found on the library website.

May 11, 2012 – At Chuck Fidler’s lecture ‘The Science of Natural Disasters’ l to r: Shirley Mitchell, Judy Miller, Jerry Gilmore, Chuck Fidler, Alan Fidler
Member Spotlight

For those of you I have yet to meet, my name is Dawn Gillogly, a member of the hospitality/decorating committee for LIRA.

I first heard of LIRA four years ago while talking to a friend over a game of mah jongg. She took me to a session, and I was hooked!!! Since moving to Massachusetts from Washington, DC, joining LIRA is one of the best decisions I have made and I know you feel the same as members.

I live in Westford with my wonderful husband, Buzz, who has been my best friend for forty eight years. We have two fine sons, James and Timothy and their lovely wives, Karen and Kate. We are blessed to have them, along with their children, to live close by for frequent visits. We have five darling very bright grandchildren (Just ask me...teehee), Evan, Megan, Ryan, Declan and Elsa, ranging in age from fourteen to two! Being "grandma" is THE best role ever!!

I am a military brat, born in Chicago, IL. My grandfather served in WWI for the US Army Band, my father served in WWII, and Buzz served our country in the USAF for twenty six years, retiring as a full colonel. I was afforded many wonderful opportunities and experiences living in Japan and Okinawa where I graduated from high school and attended the University of Maryland overseas extension program; along with numerous stateside assignments accompanying both my father and Buzz. We are in New England to stay, I'm happy to say.

While moving about with Buzz in the military, I volunteered and held board positions with the Officers’ Wives Club, enjoyed work as a school photographer, which included taking photos of the midshipmen/women of the Naval Academy to toddlers and all ages in between. During our time in DC, I worked for the Washington DC Convention and Visitors Bureau, assisted with planning and implementing conventions of thousands to small conferences in hotels and government facilities. Upon moving to Massachusetts, I worked with author permissions and royalties for the higher education department of McGraw-Hill. Every job was so interesting and enormous fun.

Besides LIRA, I enjoy playing mah jongg, antiquing, gardening, all sports, and of course family. Buzz is First Sergeant for the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, where I enjoy activities with him, as well.

If you don't know me, please say hello. Everyone at LIRA is very special to me. Each of us has so much to give to one another in the name of friendship and learning.

Dawn Gillogly

Clinical Research: From Conception to Publication

On June 13 Paul Mitchell, a senior biostatistician at the Clinical Research Center at Boston Children’s Hospital, presented an overview of clinical trials using a recent study on which he worked as an example. His presentation focused on children with inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis) who are vitamin D deficient. After providing an overview of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and the importance of vitamin D, he described the process of writing a protocol, the importance of institutional review boards and the protection of human subjects, and concluded with an explanation of the statistics used to analyze the data collected for this study. The study was published in the June 2012 issue of the Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism, and concluded that oral doses of 2,000 international units (IU) of vitamin D3 once a day or 50,000 IU vitamin D2 once a week are superior for increasing serum vitamin D levels to 2,000 IU of vitamin D2 once a day among this diseased population.

Shirley and Paul Mitchell

Parking Hangtags

IMPORTANT: The University is charging $48. for all parking this year and hangtags are being issued at the Convocation on September 12. Please see the last page of the newsletter for directions and a form to use to obtain your hangtag.

Reminder: Please remember to use your hangtags when you use any of the UMass Lowell parking lots.
With Our Heartfelt Thanks

LIRA could not exist without the many volunteers who perform all the varied jobs that are necessary to keep us functioning. And we function at a very high level.

As two very active and valuable volunteers take a step back from their very active positions, they deserve a very special note of thanks.

Carol Cannistraro has been a Member at Large of the Executive Council for the past three years. Her input at all of our deliberations has been extremely valuable and her counsel often sought. In addition, she has always been ready, willing and able to take on whatever jobs are necessary to assure the smooth functioning of our organization.

Ann Dahlman has had the responsibility of Treasurer for the past four years, making sure that our monies are accounted for and our bills are paid. She, too, has been helpful in our meetings and in taking on duties to help keep LIRA running smoothly and well.

We are grateful for the service and friendship of both Carol and Ann, and look forward to their continued involvement and activity as LIRA continues to grow and prosper, thanks to volunteers like them.

Toby Hodes

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, Suzanne Knapp for the professional layouts, Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady for labeling, folding, sealing and mailing them out. Among the contributors for every issue, Simone Allard keeps up with the member news and sends cards to our members, Jeanne Gunion coordinates the ‘Member Spotlight’ feature and Dorothy Bromage prepares the schedules. Thanks so much to all of you for your hard work. Suggestions, new ideas, comments or criticisms are 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.

Remember that the newsletters can be seen on our website at uuml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html in full color and if you would like to read the newsletter online instead of the hard copy, please let Shirley Mitchell know. 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.

Thanks again to everyone for their support.

Jeri Durant

Member News

Get-well cards were sent to the following members over the summer:

Judith Palais has finally recovered from a serious bout with the flu.

Mary O’Connor has spent the best part of the summer nursing a back problem. She is slowly recovering and hoping to rejoin LIRA in the fall.

Ann Dahlman is house-bound with a back injury due to a fall. Ann lives alone and might like to hear from anyone who could assist her in any way. Her cell phone # is 978-935-8627.

Jean Dettman, Past-president and Life-member of LIRA has suffered a broken hip recently. She most certainly would like to hear from her LIRA friends. Her address is 5 Grist Mill Ln, Hingham, MA 02043, phone 781-749-5198, email jldettman@msn.com.

Eleanor Belanger injured her back while working at home and had to spend some time in rehab. Her condition has improved and she has returned home.

Please contact me if you know of anyone who would like to be remembered by LIRA so that I may send out cards. My email siaillard@verizon.net phone 978-256-8572.

Simone Allard

Don Pattershall

We are saddened to hear of the death of Donald Pattershall, who died on August 8, 2012. Don served as LIRA president for 10 years. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Madeleine, a former LIRA member and currently a Friend of LIRA, and their family. See Obituary at http://blakefuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/1305789/Pattershall-Donald/obituary.php

Newsletters on Website

The newsletter will appear on the website in color, around the first of the month. If you would prefer to read them there instead of getting a hard copy, please let Shirley Mitchell know.

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

The next newsletter will be out on December 1, 2012; the deadline for news items is November 15, 2012. 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
Moses Greeley Parker Lectures
The following is a calendar of events for the Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. Descriptions are not included this time because of its length. Full descriptions can be found at the Pollard Library, Lowell, on the website www.parkerlec.com or the file can be emailed to you. Contact Jeri Durant.

September 20, 2012 Pollard Library – 7:00 pm Thursday
“Irish Genealogy 101” by Tom Toohey

September 24, 2012 UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center - 12:00pm Monday
“Small, Gritty and Green” by Catherine Tumber

September 27, 2012 Pollard Library – 7:00 pm Thursday
“Chasing Glenn Beck” by Michael Charney

October 13, 2012 Lowell National Park Visitor Center – 2:00pm Saturday

October 21, 2012 Lowell National Park Visitor Center – 2:00pm Sunday
“The Rising at Roxbury Crossing” by James Redfearn

October 22, 2012 UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center - 12:00pm Monday
“Picking the President: Panel Discussion”

October 25, 2012 Pollard Library – 7:00pm Thursday
“Haunted History of New England” by Christopher Daley

October 28, 2012 Lowell National Park Visitor Center – 2:00pm Sunday
“The Company Town” by Hardy Green

November 4, 2012 Lowell National Park Visitor Center – 2:00pm Sunday
“How the Great Gatsby Demeans Working People” by Ernest Hebert

November 15, 2012 Whistler House Museum of Art – 7:00pm Thursday
“Remember Peter Stamas: A Celebration of Community and Service”

November 19, 2012 UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center - 12:00pm Monday
“The Global Scramble for Resources” by Michael Klare

November 28, 2012 Art Gallery at the Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union – 7:00pm Wednesday
“Roll on Columbia” – A Woody Guthrie Film & Music Tribute

November 29, 2012 Pollard Library – 7:00pm Thursday
“Bring Your Own God: The Spirituality of Woody Guthrie” by Steve Edington

Time for a Change
If you want to remain current with LIRA members, take pen or pencil in hand and make the following changes in your membership list.

New Members:
Edwina Adams
17 Belmont Dr
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-250-1383
edwinaadams@verizon.net

Jackie Carr
4 East Dexter Ave
Woburn, MA 01801
857-205-1546
jackiejcarr@gmail.com

J. Leon Poirier
26 Brian Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-2746
leonpoirier@comcast.net

Kimball Rudeen
3 Thoreau Lane
Tyngsboro, MA 01879
978-226-5635
kmrudeen@comcast.net

Address Changes:
Eleanor Belanger
558 East Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852
781-749-5198

Name change:
Martha Hill Sackett to Martha Hill

Email changes:
Martha Hill: marthaVThill@gmail.com
Art & Music Fall Schedule 2012

Wednesday, September 19  DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, MA
This program consists of a forty-five minute guided tour of the outdoor sculpture park followed by a self-guided visit to the indoor museum exhibits.
Lunch is available at the museum café or bring lunch and blankets or folding chairs for a picnic on the lawn. After lunch there will be an opportunity for a walk on the adjoining conservation land.
At the entrance gate to the museum grounds identify yourself as a LIRA tour member. Park and proceed to the area outside the museum building lobby. Carpoolers meet at the Chelmsford Hannaford’s side parking lot at 9:00am. The tour starts at 10:15. Cost is $12. Give check made out to DeCordova Museum to Steve Sussman at the September 12 Convocation, or mail to him at 32 Lake Warren Drive, Littleton MA 01460-1506 postmarked on or before September 12. Directions will be handed out at Convocation and at Hannaford.
Coordinator: Steve Sussman*

Wednesday, October 3  Fitchburg Art Museum in Fitchburg, MA
We will have a docent-led tour of the museum’s extensive collections. The tour starts at 10:00am. Bring a brown-bag lunch, and they will provide coffee and tea. Carpoolers meet in Chelmsford at Hannaford’s side parking lot at 9:00am. Cost is $7.50. Checks payable to Barbara Page should be postmarked on or before September 20. Directions will be handed out at Convocation September 12 and at Hannaford.
Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Wednesday, October 10  Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, in Boston, MA
Our one-hour Collections Highlights tour includes an introduction to the new wing and a discussion of collection highlights. Since the café is small and expensive, we suggest you bring lunch to eat on the bus going home. We will meet in Chelmsford at Hannaford’s side parking lot at 9:45am. We will leave the museum at 1:30. Cost, which includes admission, tour, and bus is $23. Please send a check payable to LIRA to Carol McCarthy postmarked on or before September 30.
Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

Wednesday, October 17  Lyman Estate and Greenhouses in Waltham, MA
The Lyman Estate, known as "The Vale," was built in 1793 for a wealthy shipping merchant, Theodore Lyman. A guided tour of the mansion features an elegant ballroom and graceful oval parlor. The tour will start at 10:00am. The greenhouses also feature guided tours. We will meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:00am. Cost is $9. Send a check to Jane Canter, payable to Jane Canter, postmarked on or before October 10. Directions will be available at Convocation and Hannaford.
Coordinator: Jane Canter*

Wednesday, October 24  What is the Theremin?
Dorothy Bromage*
The musical instrument invented in Russia by Leon Theremin was patented in the US in 1928. Transistors began to replace tubes, and in 1954, Bob Moog (pronounced Moag) began manufacturing a modern version, the “Etherwave Theremin.” From an interest that began when she saw a demonstration of the theremin at her high school, Dorothy Bromage recently acquired one. She will present a program about Leon Theremin, giving the history and playing technique of the theremin. Movies such as “Spellbound” and “Lost Weekend” made use of the instrument’s special sound, and Jerry Lewis plays one in “Delicate Delinquent.” On October 24, members will have an opportunity to play the theremin and have their picture taken.
Coordinator: Frank Carroll*

Wednesday, October 31  Sargent
Jean Schott*
John Singer Sargent, born in Italy, was one of the three expatriate artists who achieved fame in the 19th and 20th centuries. The others were Cassatt and Whistler. He is regarded as the greatest virtuoso of the paintbrush in the history of art. He acquired fame in Europe first as a society portraitist and later for the outstanding watercolors of his worldwide travels.
Coordinator: Judith Palais*

Wednesday, November 7  Women Painters
Liana Cheney
UMass Lowell Professor of History of Art, Dr. Liana Cheney, will lecture on women painters through the centuries.
Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Wednesday, November 14  Maria Callas
Barbara Wagner
Barbara Wagner will give a lecture on the life and music of Maria Callas, including excerpts from her biographies and several recordings.
Coordinator: Barbara Page*

*Denotes LIRA member
Fall 2012 Schedule

Most fall study groups will meet in the Meeting Room at the Campus Recreation Center, 100 Pawtucket Street, Lowell. See directions, including parking, by visiting the web site at www.uml.edu/community/lira. The Rec Center is a controlled entry building. Please bring your LIRA photo ID to classes. The exceptions to meeting at the Rec Center are Thursday, October 18, Wednesday, October 24 and Thursday, October 25. Classes on these dates will meet in the Talon Club Room at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell.

Registration will take place at Convocation, Wednesday, September 12 at 10:00 AM in Alumni Hall. If you are unable to be present at Convocation, it is helpful that you choose your fall courses and ask someone to fill out a signup sheet in your name. Each course description includes, beneath the title, 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 regarding the class may be directed to the coordinator.

SHAKESPEARE’S “HAMLET”

8 Mondays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 24, Oct 1, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19 Presenter: Frank Carroll*

The approaching fall season of the Shakespeare class will, for the first time do a first and a second simultaneously. We have decided to read a play already looked at several years ago, and that means we will again read "Hamlet." At the last session of the spring class we were discussing what play we might look at in the fall, and when I just suggested that we could look at one of the great tragedies such as "Lear," "Macbeth," or "Hamlet" once more, you guessed it--Hamlet won as our next choice by unanimous acclamation. Although taken completely by surprise, I look forward to once again plumbing the depths of meaning, as well as the glorious poetry of this play. So, Hamlet it is, and all are welcome. The only requirement is a text of the play.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

DOCUMENTARIES

4 Mondays 12:30 – 2:30 Sep 24, Oct 1, 15, 22 Presenter: Barbara Page*

Sept. 24 – Sing Your Song: This biography of Harry Belafonte covers his many decades as a performer and as an advocate for human rights.


Oct. 15 – Man on Wire: Philippe Petit captured the world’s attention when he walked across a high-wire strung between New York’s Twin Towers.

Oct. 22 – The Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey – Leon Theremin was a Russian inventor. This documentary traces his life in Russia and America, with emphasis on the device known as the theremin, an early synthesizer.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

HAYDN – HIS LIFE AND WORK

4 Mondays 12:30 – 2:30 Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19 Presenter: Jeanne Gunion*

The Classical style as exemplified in the music of Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) will be listened to and appreciated through studying his works and life, as presented in the Teaching Company’s video lecture series by Robert Greenberg.

Coordinator: Martha Hill*

STRESS AND YOUR BODY

8 Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00 Noon Sep 18, 25, Oct, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6 Facilitator: Alan Kent*

The first part of this video course marches through various parts of the body or physiological functions, examining first what happens during stress experience by a zebra or lion (great adaptiveness for them) and then how chronic stress winds up being bad news for us. The role of personality differences is explored. The final two lectures are an overview of stress management. Robert Sapolsky is professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Stanford University. LIRA members may remember a previous video course for which he was the lecturer: "Biology and Human Behavior."

Coordinator: Carole Mumby*
GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS: ISLAM

7 Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:30  Sep 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6  Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

This fall we will complete our studies of the three Abrahamic religions with the newest of them, Islam. Among the topics we will cover are the history of Islam, the Five Pillars of Islam, the Quran, Islamic law, the intersection of faith and politics, and issues facing Moslems in the west. We will use a series of 12 video lectures with follow-up discussions from the Teaching Company and perhaps have a guest lecturer.

ART & MUSIC

8 Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 19, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14

Beginning Sep 19, meetings will start at 10:00 AM and go until noon. Please see attached schedule for dates, times, topics, coordinators of the Art & Music sessions, and the locations of those not at the Rec Center.

GREAT DECISIONS

8 Thursdays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8  Facilitator: Shirley Mitchell*

The Great Decisions studies are based on current materials supplied by the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, D.C. The following four topics will be discussed this semester: Promoting democracy: foreign policy imperative?; Middle East realignment: the Arab upheaval; Indonesia: prospects for prosperity; State of the oceans: waves of change. These topics are covered in the 2012 briefing book. Join our group as we share knowledge and discuss these timely topics.

OUR NIGHT SKY AND FABRIC OF THE COSMOS

8 Thursdays 12:30 – 2:30 Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8  Facilitator: Bob Hanlon*

For thousands of years, the star-filled sky has been a source of wonder, discovery, entertainment, and instruction. Ancient peoples from nearly every continent and culture have told exciting stories about the mythical figures they saw in the heavens. But why has the night sky captivated people for millennia? What different elements make up the tapestry of lights spread across the heavens? And how much of the universe can we actually observe with the human eye? Learn the answers to these questions and many more in this engaging video course taught by NASA researcher Professor Edward Murphy. Whether you’re totally new to astronomy or looking to share your interest in the stars with others, he'll guide you on an amazing journey through the celestial spheres of the night sky. Learn about constellations, planets, stars, and meteors. As an added bonus, we will view some segments of physicist Brian Greene’s award winning NOVA documentary on the fabric of the cosmos.

BOOK DISCUSSION

4 Friday sessions, 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec (tba)  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. Our selections for fall 2012 are:

September - *Steve Jobs*, biography by Walter Isaacson
October - *The Right Hand Shore*, fiction by Christopher Tilgham
November - *Destiny of the Republic*, non-fiction by Diane Millard
December - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, fiction by Betty Smith

*Denotes LIRA member
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- **December 2012**
- December 12: 10AM—Noon Town Meeting and Holiday Party Alumni Hall
- December 25: Merry Christmas
- December 2: Happy Hanukkah
Parking Hangtags

Please read the following carefully. The University is charging for all parking this year and is issuing hangtags rather than decals. This will make almost all parking lots available to LIRA Members, with just a few exceptions. They have agreed to give Toby the hangtags, but she must return all unused hangtags immediately after our meeting on September 12th.

Please fill out the parking permit form below along with a $48 check made out to UMass-Lowell and bring it to the Convocation on September 12th. 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 $48.

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

- If you fill out this form with a check made out to the University for $48 and mail it to Toby Hodes, 36 Lilac Lane, Haverhill, MA 01830 BEFORE September 12, she will assign a hangtag to you. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and she 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 South Dining Hall on South Campus, 101 Wilder Street, Lowell. 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.