Come join us for the

Annual Fall Convocation

Wednesday
September 14, 2011
10AM to Noon

UMass Lowell
Inn & Conference Center,
Grand Ballroom
50 Warren Street
Lowell, MA

Hear about our fall schedule
and sign up for courses of your choice.

Refreshments will be served

Guest speaker is
UMass Lowell History Professor Bob Forrant.
Scholarship Announcement
The LIRA Executive Board has voted to award two $1500 scholarships to two 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
Betty Bayard
Kay Carroll
Jerry Gilmore
Alan Kent
Alan McKersie
Mary Jane Meyers
Mary Welch

The Holiday Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14. More details about the party will appear in the next newsletter.

LIRA’S Scholarship Fund Annual Auction
We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party December 14th. The Committee has decided that the auction will be a Consumable Auction once again. The Auction is a major fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. This year we will be giving $1500.00 to two University of Lowell students to use towards their education.

A Consumable Auction is an auction where all items donated can be consumed i.e., something you eat, drink, do, or use up. The Scholarship Committee sells tickets and you decide what item(s) you want, and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to the Holiday Party location on that day.

ITEMS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DONATE:
- Home made baked goods
- A Box of Candy
- Baskets filled with boxes of teas with or without a mug, a pound of coffee with or without a mug, a spa basket, movie snacks with or without movie tickets, etc.
- A bottle of wine
- Gift certificates of any kind, i.e., restaurants, movies, theater, grocery stores
- Sudoku or Crossword Puzzle Books

SERVICES YOU COULD DONATE:
- If you like to bake you could give a certificate stating that you would make a homemade dessert or a plate of Christmas cookies; to be delivered to the winner at a future date.
- If you like animals you might offer to feed, walk, or watch someone’s pet.
- If you like to drive you might offer to take someone to and from a doctor’s or hospital visit, within the Lowell area.
- Lessons of any kind.

The Auction Committee
Carol Cannistraro and Pat Dion

Bread and Roses Centennial
Our favorite History Professor from UMass Lowell, Bob Forrant, will speak at the Convocation about the 1912 Bread and Roses strike in Lawrence. Bob is the chairman of the Bread and Roses Centennial Committee that is planning several events for the 100th anniversary celebration next year. It will also give us an introduction to the labor history course he is planning for us in the spring.

The following poem written by James Oppenheim was published in American Magazine in December 1911. It is closely associated with the Lawrence textile mill strike of 1912 which is commonly known as the ‘Bread and Roses Strike’.

Bread and Roses
by James Oppenheim (1882-1932)
As we come marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill-lofts gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing, "Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses."
As we come marching, marching, we battle, too, for men --
For they are women's children, and we mother them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes --
Hearts starve as well as bodies: Give us Bread, but give us Roses.
As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient song of Bread;
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew --
Yes, it is bread we fight for -- but we fight for Roses, too.
As we come marching, marching, we bring the Greater Days --
The rising of the women means the rising of the race --
No more the drudge and idler -- ten that toil where one reposes --
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses.
Growing up in England

On July 27th LIRA welcomed Daphne (Dee) Freeman as our guest speaker. Although Dee is a longtime resident of Chelmsford, she was born and brought up in London, England and belonged to the generation of young people who witnessed the horrors of war right at their doorsteps. As the years have passed her children urged her to write down some of the stories she had told them of her experiences during the World War II bombardment of London... In 2008 she put her memories on paper and published a short memoir called NO TIME FOR ADOLESCENCE—Growing Up in War-Torn London. Using it as a guide Dee spoke of these terrifying times and of their effect, not only on her life, but on her family, friends, and British citizens in general.

As a teenager in England, Dee was aware of the growing threat of war in Europe and recounted the gripping fear that engulfed her when England declared war on Germany in 1939. Because her family’s home was located near the prime targets of the London docks, war supplies manufacturing, and a power station, they were among the first families to be issued heavy, zinc bomb shelters for their backyards. Partly submerged in the ground, and fitted with bunks and a single light bulb these were necessary, but hardly comfortable quarters, for what became a nightly routine from dusk to dawn. Her descriptions of the drone of bombers, explosions followed by eruptions of fires, one in her own yard, were chilling.

Dee graduated from school during this chaotic time and went to work every day amidst the devastation in London where craters in streets, the destruction of buildings and transportation facilities, and the hazard of unexploded bombs, made getting there an everyday challenge. She recalled one bombing that was so close to her home, a row house, that it was damaged to the point of not being safe. Windows were shattered and ceilings fell down. They were forced to move to a rented house in a suburb. Bombings were less frequent there but there was still the terror of V2 rockets.

Everyone who was able contributed to the war effort. Every area of London was patrolled by volunteer air-raid wardens, usually older men not eligible for military service or by women. Friends and neighbors lost their lives during the “Blitz”. During evenings spent in the shelters women knitted hats for the soldiers with yarn sometime supplied by the government. Dee and her mother were among the volunteers who accompanied children to safer places to rural estates in the country away from the city of London. She spoke of the sadness of witnessing children clinging to their mothers. She also volunteered evenings at a local hospital. Shortages of food, clothing and other household items were acute. People ate whatever they could find in the shops. She felt lucky to be able to have horsemeat or rabbit stew. She recalled cutting newspapers into squares for use as toilet paper. Dee spoke of a wonderful Christmas with only a Christmas tree branch for ornaments, but shared “goodies” with kind neighbors who became close friends.

After Pearl Harbor the United States forces arrived in England in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. Two American soldiers, who were part of a unit involved in this operation decided to take a weekend leave on the south coast in Bournemouth. As fate would have it, Daphne and her sister headed for the same area for some rest and relaxation. They met the two American GIs.

One was Bruce Freeman, who was from Massachusetts. It may not have been “love at first sight” but it was within a very short time. Shortly before his unit shipped out to the Pacific area, after a brief courtship, Bruce asked Dee to marry him. Her description of their wedding was very heartwarming. With ration coupons supplied by neighbors, her mother was able to make the wedding cake. A dressmaker friend supplied the material and labor for the bride’s and bridal party’s gowns. At that time an Anglo-American wedding was still a novelty. The whole neighborhood participated in the celebration. Shortly after their wedding Bruce was shipped overseas to the Pacific area.

After the war ended in August 1945 the American GI’s were gradually shipped home. Dee now became officially a war bride. Her “processing” experience, before setting sail for a long, rough voyage to the U.S.A, was described as humiliating. The memory of it still stays with her today. The U.S. Army had little experience dealing with brides in 1946. The ships were still fitted out for the transport of troops and lacked most basic amenities.

Daphne’s poignant description of her feelings leaving her family and friends to begin a new life in America touched the heart of her audience. We felt, even now, her mixed emotions of anticipation and anxiety at seeing her new husband for the first time in almost a year. Her description of the thrill she felt at her first sight of the Statue of Liberty and the joy of being with her husband again warmed the hearts of everyone there.

As Dee said, “There is no glory in war. Hopefully peaceful negotiations will be the ultimate goal amongst all nations in the future.”

Dotty Morris
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 2011. A big THANK YOU also, to those that served on committees last year but are not continuing this year.

Executive Board

Officers
President Toby Hodes
Vice President Alan Kent
Treasurer Ann Dahlman
Secretary Shirley Mitchell

Members-at-Large
Carol Cannistraro
Jerry Gilmore

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
Martha Hill Sackett
Jean Schott
Toby Hodes, ex officio as LIRA President

Art & Music Committee
Barbara Page, Chairperson
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
Betty Bayard
Kay Carroll
Jerry Gilmore
Alan Kent
Alan McKersie
Mary Jane Meyers
Mary Welch

Auction Committee
Carol Cannistraro
Pat Dion

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
Kay Carroll, Member News

UMass Lowell Liaison
Paul Marion, executive director of Community and Cultural Affairs

A round of applause should be given to the Curriculum Committee for a great summer intersession. As you can see from this month’s newsletter, we had excellent programs; they were varied and interesting! Thanks to all who made the arrangements.
The LIRA program on June 1, 2011, was great for all of us who wish to keep our mentalities sharp, intact, and improving! Rebecca started out by comparing our care of our brains to the care we give to our cars and by comparison the car wins!

She herself, has always wanted to learn and she observed that in these difficult economic times people have a greater need to “rewire” their brains to keep fit without using medications! Rebecca then went on to debunk some myths that are in the mainstream thinking. These include such ideas that genes determine our fate; that the brain automatically declines with aging; that medication is the only hope for cognitive enhancement; all brain activity and exercises are equal; that soon there will be a “magic pill”; that neurons are “fixed”; that a crossword puzzle a day will keep the doctor away!

Rebecca then went on to tell us the “Good News!” Brains are plastic or malleable and they can change in response to experience. We all have some cognitive reserves. Then she showed us some pictures and diagrams of nerve cell bodies including the dendrites, the axons and the myelin sheath which lies along the axons and can become depleted. Also cited was the role of the hippocampus where memories are formed and sent to other parts of the brain. Emotions were mentioned here citing the release of cortisol (a stress hormone). Rebecca also mentioned the famous the study of the “London cab drivers” who in their training had to take a test on their memory of the streets of London. The cabbies brain memory functions were measured as they started their jobs and they showed improvement with time on the job.

There are considered to be “6 Pillars of Brain Health.” These include sleep, stress management, diet, exercise, socializing and “brain training”. To enhance better sleep one can try to maintain and keep in mind the following guidelines: keep to a regular sleep schedule, limit napping; manage exposure to light and computers at night; set aside “worry” time; have caffeine early in the day; establish relaxing sleep rituals; wear earplugs; take calcium and “Sleepytime” tea before bedtime; and check for sleep apnea.

Rebecca also offered some strategies on managing stress. She suggests the following considerations: be realistic in setting standards; exercise regularly; plan ahead; create manageable chunks of work; cut back on caffeine; get enough sleep; share feelings; laugh a little - a lot!; take breaks; meditate; practice yoga; have a message; and reward oneself. A newer, unique strategy might be to use “biofeedback.” There is a software version and a handheld portable device that trains you to monitor your stress levels called “Heartmath” (Heartmath.com) and Cogmed Working Memory Training software (www.Cogmed.com).

Finally, Rebecca left us with some resources:

The “HALLOWELL CONNECTIONS” a newsletter at www.drhallowell.com;
Other references are The SHARP BRAINS Guide to Brain Fitness by Dr. Elkonen Goldberg
“The Mind Mood &Memory newsletter, www.mindmoodmemory@aol.com

Rebecca is a licensed and certified speech language pathologist and neurotherapist. She offers cognitive (brain) training at the Hallowell Center in Sudbury and at her practice in West Newbury, MA. You can contact her at (978) 255-1817 or RebeccaShafir@att.net. See her website at www.MindfulCommunication.com.

Jeanne Gunion

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

Importance 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, 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.
The Pre-Raphaelites
On May 4, there were so many of us that our wonderful assistant Dave Robinson had to bring in 12 chairs from the adjoining classroom. The occasion was Liana Cheney’s lecture on the Pre-Raphaelites. She had just returned from seeing a splendid exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London focusing on the late 19th century Aesthetic Movement of which the Pre-Raphaelites were a part. Most of the painters dealt with literary subjects with references to medieval and classical themes. They looked back at the way nature was painted in the Renaissance, and one of their most important influences was Botticelli. Liana showed work by Ford Maddox Brown, Millais, William Holman Hunt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, Evalene de Morgan and Frederick Leighton. She ended by pointing out that both Van Gogh and Gauguin were painting at the same time as the Pre-Raphaelites with their very different take on subject matter and technique. We look forward to another lecture by Professor Cheney in the Fall.

Barbara Page

Friend or Foe?
Judging from the number of people there and the number of questions asked, it was apparent the LIRA members were very interested in what Bob Hanlon had to say about the ‘New Trends in Technology’. He told us about many of the new products available in wireless technology, 3D TV, education and medicine. He left us with an interesting thought to ponder: is all this technology a friend or foe? Critics claim that it is ruining our brains by giving us short attention spans and further making us unable to concentrate. Advocates claim that eventually our brains will adapt and in the end we will be better off. What do you think?

Jeri Durant

Nature Walk
June 8, 2011
An ideal spring morning greeted the group of 16 LIRA members at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge in Harvard MA. Since LIRA’s last visit to this site eight years earlier, many improvements had been made. For example, wooden boardwalks replaced precarious log bridges across mud flats.

The trail follows the course of the Nashua River with markers at various places relating to historical or natural commentary in the trail guide. After leaving the riverbank, the path follows the Turnpike Trail, crossing wetlands on a causeway that formerly carried farm wagons.

For the birders and others among us the expected natural tranquility was disrupted by the sounds of machine gun and artillery fire – a reminder that the area adjoining the refuge is still a military training site.

The two-mile loop trail was completed in about an hour and a quarter. At the conclusion of the walk, the group moved to a shady spot on the banks of the Nashua River for the customary picnic lunch.

Steve Sussman

Library Notes
Until we have a permanent home most of our library is packed in boxes. The following Teaching Company DVDs are available for borrowing: Broadway Musicals, Churchill, From Yao to Mao, Doctors, Great Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, Philosophy & Intellectual History, Meteorology, and Science of Self. Also several of the Chelmsford Library Friday lectures are available. If you would like to borrow one of these DVDs please e-mail (Shirleytm2@comcast.net) or call Shirley Mitchell.
The pleasant sound of flowing water accompanied LIRA members who joined Jane Calvin for a late June walk along the Concord River. Jane, executive director of the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, met the group at the Lawrence Street entrance by the impressive granite monument inscribed with a quote by Paul Tsongas. It is one of eight pieces of public art created for the CRG or Greenway. Perched atop the pileup of square stones are small granite sculptures of birds of the area. We were told chimney swifts, hawks, mink, otters, and fox have been seen but only turtles were observed. Even sculpted are bike racks with gently curved black metal tubing.

Interestingly the Concord, a tributary of the Merrimack River is entirely in Massachusetts. The north flowing river has three waterfalls in Lowell which make whitewater rafting possible. From the water as well as along the path, walkers enjoy viewing a variety of mature trees, shrubs, and in the downtown section, mulched beds of native plants.

Signage is placed in locations to familiarize visitors with nature, industry, and the community that lived and worked in Lowell from the 1800’s. The attractive multi-lingual signs are in Portuguese, Spanish, and Khmer, Lowell’s later immigrants.

Next summer’s plan is to build a bridge over the river to Centennial Island thus providing a picturesque loop walk along the Lawrence St. section. Presently at the gated mill parking lot, we reversed direction and again studied the red brick buildings with its two sentinel stacks, small falls and moving waters. Once the central portion is completed, one can go from one end of the Greenway to the other.

The downtown section of the walk also on the eastern bank and behind the Middlesex Community College theatre was opened on June 12, 2010. We carpooled to that entrance. An attractive wrought iron fence featuring text, leads to an overlook of the river with benches and picnic tables. It’s an ideal spot to review the individuals, organizations including UMass Lowell whose role was soil and water testing, and research about factories once operating along the river, and funding sources, the city as well as the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, all responsible for the CRG.

Connie Lanseigne-Case

Congratulations to the Dr. Alan Kent Family

The Chelmsford Historical Society presented their annual Guardian Award this May to the Dr. Alan Kent family for their restoration and preservation of the Oliver Hutchins House, 79 Elm Street, S. Chelmsford, MA. The award is given for preserving, protecting and restoring a piece of Chelmsford’s history. The Kents purchased the 1804 property over 25 years ago and spent years restoring it from the original broken down frame to something similar, but with modern appliances, to what the Hutchins home looked like in its prime. The house was entered into the National Historic Register in 1985 and most of its 40 acres are used today by the Jones Farm family for organic farming and research.

The presentation of the award was made at the Chelmsford Historical Society’s annual dinner meeting at the Chelmsford’s historic Garrison House. Using a PowerPoint demonstration, Monica Kent walked the audience through the steps and procedures needed to restore and update the homestead over the years it took to perfect the architecture and match what was there originally to the beautiful home that is there today.

Marjorie Short
LIRA Goes Abroad

On July 13, Wannalancit Mills was the scene of a new kind of travelogue. Three countries visited, three countries spotlighted. First up was England where an unusual exhibit at Kew Gardens had prompted Jeri Durant to preserve the visit on slides. The movie she created was really professional, and LIRA members were treated to the sight of glass sculptures from Dale Chihuly, amidst the plants both outdoors and in special “houses.” An educational video presented by Jeri showed the installation of the project.

As far as can be determined, Connie Lanseigne-Case is the only LIRA member to have met Albert Schweitzer. That summer, while teaching for Crossroads in Africa, she visited Lambarene where Dr. Schweitzer’s hospital is located. She showed her slides of the 1962 time in Gabon, West Africa. We saw some of the hospital staff as well as the housing for them. There were several photos of Dr. Schweitzer, including one in which Connie is next to him and another of the doctor at his desk. In 2007 while hiking in Alsace, she visited Kayersberg where he was born, and Gunsback, his home/museum.

It was hard to believe that there could be a bottle with a scene painted on the inside, but one had to concede the possibility when Jerry Gilmore showed one he brought from his visit to China. At only three inches high—with incredible detail—the bottle was a sensation among other very interesting items Jerry shared. A slide of where an object was obtained enhanced the program, which included a rug made of silk, a porcelain two-sided figure, and a Buddha carved in a blossom. (Jerry explained that his preference for small souvenirs was influenced by limitations of space in his luggage.)

Dorothy Bromage

2011/2012 LIRA Dues Payable Now

This is a reminder that LIRA dues for the 2011/2012 year are due before the Convocation on September 14th. 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:

Ann Dahlman
1959 H Middlesex St.
Lowell, MA 01851

Your dues must be paid in order to attend classes in September.

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.

MagneMotion Facilities Tour

June 15, 2011

A group of technically curious LIRA members made their way to the headquarters, laboratory, and manufacturing facilities of MagneMotion. The company is one of many high-tech endeavors located at Devens, the site of a former US Army base.

MagneMotion’s products are based on the technology of linear synchronous motors (LSM). Among applications are precise material movement during automated manufacturing processes and transport systems using magnetic levitation (maglev). MagneMotion builds elevators using LSM propulsion instead of cables for use in mines and on US Navy aircraft carriers.

After an orientation on the company history, its products and clients, the group toured the laboratory where several demonstration projects were running. Most impressive was a full-scale model of a maglev people mover under development for a college campus transportation system.

At the end of the tour we returned to a conference room and were joined by Dr. Rick Thornton, President and founder of MagneMotion and former professor at MIT. Dr. Thornton patiently answered questions from the group. Fortunately no quiz was given.

Steven Sussman
The new art of the Americas Wing and the Dale Chihuly Exhibition drew LIRA members to Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts on April 27. The Chihuly exhibit ‘Through the Looking Glass’ was truly spectacular with its bold and colorful pieces of large-scale glass sculpture.

The exhibition started with the 42 foot lime green icicle tower installed in the courtyard of the restaurant. The MFA is now trying to buy the tower for permanent display in the courtyard and is asking for donations from the public. Among the other installations included the Persian wall, the Ikebana boat, the Persian ceiling and the 58 foot garden of 1000 flowers – Mille Fiori. These multicolored sculptures of glass were spectacular works of art by this American artist.

Our three hour visit allowed leisurely viewing and time for a lunch break before boarding the bus for our return trip.

Carol McCarthy

Note that the brilliant colors in the pictures can be seen on the website at www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletter.html.
Spotlight on Paul Marion

As the executive director and manager of The Office of Community and Cultural Affairs at UMass Lowell, Paul Marion is LIRA’s advocate and liaison at the University. In this position Paul helps UMass Lowell establish and maintain partnerships in the public and private sectors that advance and fulfill the campus mission. This Office allows the University to function like a “two-way street”. While the University provides support to LIRA, LIRA brings the benefits of community engagement to students, faculty, and staff.

Paul is also Co-Director, along with Professor Jehanne-Marie Gavarini from the Art Department, of the UMass Lowell Center for Arts and Ideas, which serves as the cultural affairs office on campus. This office promotes and markets cultural activities on campus, including music, art, literature, theater, and lectures. You may have seen the twice-a-year tabloid publication ARTS AND IDEAS with the calendar of events for Fall and Spring semesters.

Paul seems to be an “ideal” person for his roles at the University having grown up in Lowell and Dracut in the 1950’s and 60’s in Franco-American parishes. Baseball and The Beatles were the constants of his youth. His father was a mill worker and his mother was a top salesperson in a city department store. He has two older brothers who are teachers. Paul has been at the University since 1994 and has a B.S. in political science (1976) and a M.A. in community social psychology from UMass Lowell. He also studied in the M.F.A. Program in Writing at the University of California at Irvine.

I think it is noteworthy to mention that for more than 30 years, Paul has been involved with the revitalization of Lowell, which is considered the “premier rehabilitation model for gritty cities worldwide.” In the 1980’s, he worked as an administrator for the U.S. Department of the Interior, helping to create Lowell National Historical Park. Among other projects, he managed a heritage-based cultural affairs program that included building artists’ studios in a renovated textile mill (1982); he managed a cultural grants program; he was involved in commissioning and installing the Lowell Public Art Collection (1983-89). Paul coordinated the creation of the Jack Kerouac Commemorative (1988); and in collaborating with the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute, he was instrumental in obtaining funding for UMass Lowell’s endowed Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies, which has a strong community engagement component.

With all of these notable accomplishments (and you can read about more of them on the University web site and other sites), I think the most interesting aspect of Paul is that he is a POET! Greater insight into this aspect of Paul can be seen when reading the interview by David Perry that appeared in the “Lowell Sun” on March 2, 2007. I take the liberty to excerpt some of Perry’s interview with Paul as follows:

“Background information”

“… at night, and other hours when he punches in on a different clock, he is a poet. At 53, Marion writes vignettes that showcase Lowell as a city of characters, and a city of character. He has published several previous collections of poetry, but his newest, What Is The City? (Evening Album Media), is his jigsaw vision of the city, featuring Dith Pران, Pinky, Manny and Maria, the Golden Gloves, Bob Dylan, mills, the river, the neighborhoods. Not to mention a first-person account of Johnny Depp’s visit to Lowell in 1991, when he famously bought Jack Kerouac’s raincoat. (Marion also edited Atop An Underwood: Early Stories and Other Writings by Jack Kerouac.)

The job of a poet is at once simple and terribly complex. "Paying attention and doing the work," says Marion. "Writing." Paul lives in Lowell with his wife, Rosemary Noon, and son Joseph, 12.

Q: What attracted you to poetry?
A: Really it was the compressed form of the composition. The power in that compression. And maybe because I grew up listening to three-minute singles.

Q: What kind of effect does your day job at UMass Lowell have on your poetry?
A: Work takes up a lot of mind space every day. A full-time job crowds out what might be time for creative work. But the word “universe” is in university, and one hour I’ll be dealing with nanotechnology, the next ice hockey, the next literature, or health care. It’s a kind of microcosm of life here. And there are a lot of intellectually curious people doing innovative and creative things. It’s a great setting. It’s not like I’m making widgets every day down by the river.

Q: In what way does Lowell lend itself to the poet?
A: The whole world is in Lowell. One of the great things about

(Continued on page 11)
Thank you to Mary Jane Meyers for being the Scholarship Committee chairman for the last 2 years. She has done a tremendous job as chairman and we thank her very much for her dedication. She and her committee have done a great job selecting the right candidate for the awards. Thanks to Bill Terris for taking over as chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

Thank you to Barbara Willman for running the telephone tree these past few years. This past year was certainly challenging with all the cancellations we had! Thank you for all your hard work. Two people are taking Barbara’s place; Judy Miller and Carol McCarthy are the new co-chairs of the telephone tree.

To those who are retiring, thank you for the excellent job that you have done. To those who are taking over, thank you for volunteering and the best of luck in your new tasks!

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 22, 2011 POLLARD LIBRARY - 7 PM THURSDAY
“The Life and Times of Francis Cabot Lowell” by Chaim M. Rosenberg

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 LOWELL NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER - 2:00PM SUNDAY
“Inside the Outbreaks: The Elite Medical Detectives of the Epidemic Intelligence Service” by Mark Pendergrast

OCTOBER 3, 2011 UMASS Lowell Conference Center - 12:00PM MONDAY
“The Housing Market and the Macro Economy” by Karl (Chip) Case
This program is the first of three “Lunchtime Lectures at the Inn & Conference Center.” This series is co-sponsored and presented by The Parker Lectures Committee, UMass Lowell Center for Arts and Ideas, Middlesex Community College, and UMass Lowell Prof. Bill Mass. A complimentary buffet lunch is included, but reservations are required and seating is limited. The program begins promptly at 12 noon. To reserve a seat, contact artsandideas@uml.edu or call 978-934-3107.

OCTOBER 8, 2011 LOWELL NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER - 1:30PM SATURDAY
“Kerouac Today: A Reflection on Nature and Technology” by Todd Titchen

OCTOBER 20, 2011 POLLARD LIBRARY - 7 PM THURSDAY
“Shake-Scene” by Steve Collins

OCTOBER 23, 2011 LOWELL NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER - 2:00PM SUNDAY
“Banned in Boston” by Neil Miller

OCTOBER 30, 2011 LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - 2:00PM SUNDAY
The Tamburitzans of Duquesne University

NOVEMBER 1, 2011 LOWELL NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER - 7:00PM TUESDAY
“The Lewis Hine Project: Tracking down the Lives of Child Laborers” by Joe Manning

NOVEMBER 7, 2011 UMASS Lowell Conference Center - 12:00PM MONDAY
“What to Look for in the 2012 Presidential Primaries” Panel discussion led by Marty Meehan
This is one of the season’s “Lunchtime Lectures”. See details above on October 3 for reserving a seat.

NOVEMBER 17, 2011 POLLARD LIBRARY - 7 PM THURSDAY
“The 1012 Fraud: Misreading the Maya and Their Calendars” by R.P. Hale
It happens—you move to be closer to your family—but too far to continue attending LIRA activities. From time to time, I get in touch with Jean Dettman, who is a Life Member of LIRA, having served in leadership capacities for many years. It was interesting to receive her latest email and to find that she participates in something like LIRA where she lives now, in Hingham, MA.

On July 5, she wrote, “Yes, I’m satisfied with the many programs here, and find plenty of intellectual stimulation. Even though the more formal programs corresponding to LIRA’s are not taking place right now, there are plenty of book and discussion groups going on all the time. Great Decisions also operates independently.”

Miss you, Jean!

Anyone wanting to send a message to Jean can do so at jldettman@msn.com

Dorothy Bromage

Our sincere sympathy to Lisa Orenberg, whose brother recently passed away. To our dear members Martha Hume, George Dana, Betty Sampas and Larry Hodes whose summer time has been spent dealing with health problems including surgery and rehabilitation, we wish you all a speedy recovery.

Kay Carroll

From the Editor

Thank you to the many contributors to the newsletter this past year. It makes for a more interesting newsletter with a variety of people doing the writing. There wouldn’t be such a professional layout without the hard work of Suzanne Knapp and it wouldn’t get to you in such a timely fashion without Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady labeling, folding, sealing and mailing them out. You should have noticed a new feature this year: the ‘Member Snapshot’. The idea came from Jeanne Gunion and she has contributed some excellent articles about our members. Thanks so much to all of you for your hard work. My thanks to Kay Carroll also for keeping up with the member news and sending cards to members when needed. I hope you have enjoyed the newsletter in the last year and if you have any comments, criticisms or new ideas, I welcome the suggestions.

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 4 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 uml.edu/community/lira in full color!

Thanks again to everyone for their support.

Jeri Durant
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 University Crossing (formerly St. Joseph’s Hospital) First Floor, Building 2, 220 Pawtucket St., Lowell, MA 01854. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5pm.

The phone number is: 978-934-2113. 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.

Parking Hangtags

IMPORTANT: The University is charging for all parking this year and is issuing hangtags rather than decals. Please see the last page of the newsletter for directions and a form to use to obtain your hangtag.

Civil War Series at O’Leary Library

The UMass Lowell O’Leary Library has received a grant from the American Libraries Association to run a reading discussion series Let’s Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War. The Executive Council has agreed to support and promote the series that will be held next spring. Judging from the response to Bob Forrant’s class last year, there are many of you who have a great deal of interest in this area. The information will be passed on to you as soon as it is given to us.

The next newsletter will be out on December 1, 2011; the deadline for news items is November 15, 2011. 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

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:
Allan R. Gunion
39 St Andrews Way
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
978-251-7207
agunion@comcast.net

Jill Lerer
115 Lincoln Pkwy
Lowell, MA 01851
978-454-0373

Mary Louise (Mary Lou) Looney
50 Laurel St
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-7095
richardlooney321@comcast.net

Raymond Rosch
7 Winslow Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824 2012
978-256-8595
rayrosch@verizon.net

Beverly Rudeen
3 Thoreau Lane
Tyngsboro, MA 01879
978 226 5635
bwrudeen@comcast.net

Email Change:
Jeri Durant:
jeridurant@gmail.com

Bette Guerrera:
baguerrera@gmail.com

Martha Hill Sackett:
marthavthill@comcast.net

Shirley Mitchell:
Shirleytm2@comcast.net

Newsletter Committee
Geraldine Durant, Editor & Calendar
Suzanne Knapp, Layout & Reproduction
Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady, Distribution
Kay Carroll, Member News
jeridurant@gmail.com
knapp.sc@gmail.com
Shirleytm2@comcast.net
Fcck12345@comcast.net
Most fall study groups will meet in the Meeting Room of the Campus Recreation Center (aka Rec Center), 100 Pawtucket St. The exceptions are the Art and Music Tours. Locations for October 4 and 26 will be announced. See directions, including parking, by visiting the web site at www.uml.edu/community/lira. The Rec Center is a controlled entry building. Please always bring your LIRA photo ID. Registration will take place at the Convocation at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 14. 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.

**SHAKESPEARE’S “ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA”**

8 Mondays 10:00 – 12:00  Sep 19, 26, Oct 3, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14  Presenter: Frank Carroll*

Once more, Shakespeare uses Holinshed's *Chronicles* as a source for the framework of this play. He pretty much adheres to the facts of history for the structure of the story. However, unlike the indecision of Hamlet, the seeming senile dementia of Lear or the wild and dangerous jealousy of Othello, Antony is brought down by lust. Once or twice he tries to put her out of his life and mind, but falls again into her arms. According to the *Outline-History of English Literature* The Queen of Egypt is a rather complex character who, however, can be summarily characterized as a shameless coquette and harlot. Nevertheless, many critics declare this play one of Shakespeare's four great love poems ranking with *Romeo and Juliet, Troilus and Cressida* and *Othello.*

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

**GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS: JUDAISM**

8 Mondays 12:30 – 2:30  Sep 19, 26, Oct 3, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14  Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

Following our earlier examination of Comparative Religions, we will take a slightly more in-depth look at the five major religions in the world, starting with the three Abrahamic religions, in the order in which they came into being. Our first look, therefore, will be at Judaism. Using a series of 12 half-hour lectures over the course of 7 or 8 weeks, we will try to see Judaism as it was understood by its adherents in the past and by those who practice or identify with Judaism today. We will have time for discussion after each lecture, with perhaps a visit by a more knowledgeable individual at some time. A list of additional resources will be distributed, and some books will be available for participants to borrow.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

**PHYSICS IN YOUR LIFE**

8 Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00  Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8  Facilitator: Jerry Gilmore*

This course explores the physics of everyday events in an informative and fun way. It has the potential to lead to a deeper understanding of the universe. It is taught by Richard Wolfson, PH.D Professor of Physics at Middlebury College. The full course is 36 lectures but is broken into 6 modules. We will probably cover the first 2 or 3 in this fall period: Module one - Sight and Sound and Module two - Going Places (walking, to automobiles, to flight, and space space travel). He answers questions like - Why does a curve ball curve? Why does ice float? How do CDs and DVDs work? Why don’t your legs break when you jump off a chair? What keeps a moving bicycle from falling over? These questions involve physical principles that relate not only to interesting aspects of our daily lives, but also explain such phenomena as the cause of hurricanes, the formation of neutron stars, the ability of water to dissolve different substances, and other fundamental features of our daily life.

Coordinator: Steve Sussman*

**OPERA**

7 Tuesdays 12:30 - 2:30  Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1  Presenter: Barbara Wagner

Barbara Wagner has been teaching this course at UMass Boston for several years. She has made recordings of well-known operas, giving the story in English before each scene, which is sung in the original language. Each opera will be followed by (a) brief readings on the composer’s life and other relevant items of interest and (b) the most famous arias sung by others for comparison (as time permits). She will be doing three operas that the Metropolitan Opera Company will be presenting this season and screening on HD TV cinema. At the first class, there will be a $5.00 charge for librettos copying.

Week 1: Brief History of Italian Opera

Weeks 4 & 5: Faust (Gounod) Sat. Dec. 10

Weeks 6 & 7: La Traviata (Verdi) Sat. Apr. 14

Coordinator: Barbara Page*
LEND ME YOUR EARS

1 Tuesday 12:30 - 2:30 Nov 8
Presenter: Dorothy Bromage*

The first focus in this program is on the human voice—more specifically, on the range that a person achieves to be called a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass. Guided listening will illustrate this, as well as the ranges incorporated in musical instruments. A further activity involving listening is directed toward hearing one melody or rhythm when another is going on at the same time. Without too much straining, a person can hear the highs and lows and distinguish cleverly composed melodies and counter melodies.

Coordinator: Kay Carroll*

ART & MUSIC

8 sessions, usually Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 21, 28, Oct 5, 13, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9
Beginning Sep 21, meetings will start at 10:00 AM and go until noon except for Oct 13, which is the Thursday trip to the BSO Open Rehearsal. Please see attached schedule for dates, times, topics, coordinators of the Art & Music sessions, and the locations of those not at the Rec. Center.

Coordinator: Barbara Page*

GREAT DECISIONS

8 Thursdays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 22, Oct 6, 12, 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17
Facilitator: Shirley Mitchell*

The Great Decisions studies are based on materials supplied by the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, D.C. The following four topics will be discussed this semester: Rebuilding Haiti, American national security since 9/11, Sanctions and nonproliferation, Making sense of multilateralism. Join with us in our in-depth studies of topics featured in today’s news. Note that on Oct 12, Thursday classes will meet on Wednesday.

Coordinator: Shirley Mitchell*

TWO MUSIC DELIGHTS

I. 4 Thursdays 12:30 – 2:30 Sep 22, Oct 6, 12, 20
Presenter: Jeanne Gunion*
LISTENING TO AND UNDERSTANDING GREAT MUSIC
The class will view the Teaching Company’s DVDs on Mozart followed by background information and by listening to the music described on the DVD’s. Note that on Oct 12, Thursday classes will meet on Wednesday, Oct 12.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

II. 4 Thursdays 12:30 – 2:30 Oct 27, Nov 3, 10, 17
Presenter: Janet Shawcross*
MUSIC AND POETRY HONOR NATURE
In each of the second four weeks we will emphasize a topic of nature (example, “Water”). This topic will, in turn, be divided into four subtopics (example, “Lake”). There will be at least one classical composition and one poem representing each subtopic. Words about each poem or piece of music will precede the listening of that poem or music. Volunteers will read the poems selected for each subtopic. And, of course, there will be a sing-along for each topic to end the day!

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage*

BOOK DISCUSSION

4 Friday sessions, 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 23, Oct 14, Nov 18, Dec 9
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. The Dec 9 meeting will be held from 12:30 to 2:30. Our selections for 2011 are:

September 23 – American Lion, biography of Andrew Jackson by Jon Meacham
October 21 – The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, non-fiction by Rebecca Skloot
November 18 – Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation, history by Cokie Roberts
December 9 – Jane Eyre, classic fiction by Charlotte Bronte

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*

*Denotes LIRA member
Art and Music Fall 2011 Schedule

At the Convocation on September 14, there will be a sign-up sheet for each of the five programs that are tours. The coordinator is the person to contact if you want to go and are unable to attend on September 14. Some tours have a limit. If this limit is exceeded, the coordinator will maintain a waiting list and keep everyone informed. All dates are Wednesday except for October 13.

Sep 21 - SILENTS PLEASE! TAKE TWO
Presenter: Dorothy Bromage*
Here is another set of short silent comedies to continue the experience from last October, with drama, action, animation, and comedy. These go back as far as 1913. The Dippy Doo Dads are featured again, along with Chaplin, Keaton, and Laurel & Hardy.
Coordinator: Kay Carroll*

Sep 28 - FRENCH IMPRESSIONISTS
Presenter: Jean Schott*
LIRA member Jean Schott will present an illustrated lecture on the French Impressionists.
Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Oct 5 - CODMAN ESTATE
Five generations of Codmans lived and worked on this estate in Lincoln and each generation left its mark. The interiors, furnished with portraits, objects, and art collected in Europe and America, preserve the decorative schemes of each era. We will meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:00. Checks for $4.00 payable to Jane Canter should be mailed to her, postmarked on or before Sep. 30. (4-A Old Colony Dr, Westford, MA 01886)
Coordinator: Jane Canter*

Thursday, Oct 13 – BOSTON SYMPHONY OPEN REHEARSAL
Juanjo Mena will be the guest conductor. Yo-Yo Ma will be the guest cellist. The program being presented is Dvorak's Cello Concerto and Bartok's The Wooden Prince. We will meet our bus at the Hannaford's parking lot in Chelmsford at 7:15. The cost for members is $33.75. For non-members it is $43.75. Checks payable to LIRA, Inc should be mailed to Jean Rubinstein, postmarked on or before Oct. 7. (15 Fairbanks Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824) Please note that if you have not paid by the deadline, there will be no ticket for you and no refunds. If you must cancel after Oct. 7, contact Jean for a waiting list.
Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

Oct 19 - JOB LANE HOUSE
This is a docent-led tour of the Job Lane house, a Colonial treasure in Bedford. It was part of an early land grant made to Governor Winthrop, and the home was built in 1713. After the tour, we can enjoy lunch at Dalya’s restaurant near the museum. Job Lane admission is $2.00, and lunch is $15.00 with beverage, tax and tip. Checks payable to Jean Schott $2.00 (museum only) or $17.00 (museum and lunch) should be mailed to her, postmarked on or before Oct. 14. Carpoolers will meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:45. (POB 1628, Westford, MA 01886)
Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Oct 26 - THE SPANIARDS (Location to be announced)
Presenter: Liana Cheney
Everyone’s favorite History of Art. Professor Cheney, will present a lecture on Velasquez, Goya and El Greco.
Coordinator: Barbara Page*

Nov 2 - PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM
The current exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem is “Painting the American Vision,” 45 magnificent landscapes by the Hudson River School. We will have an hour-long guided tour plus time for lunch and roaming on our own. There is a restaurant in the museum as well as others nearby. The bus will leave Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 8:45 and will leave Salem at 2:00. Cost is $20/members and $30/guests for bus and admission. Checks payable to Rose Rhoades should be mailed to her, postmarked on or before Oct. 7. (87 Winthrop Ave, Lowell, MA 01851)
Coordinators: Mary O'Connor* and Rose Rhoades*

Nov 9 - ADDISON MUSEUM
Addison Gallery of American Art is on Main Street (Route 28) Andover, MA The museum, on the campus of Phillips Academy, will reopen in October with a new, glass-roofed addition. LIRA will have a half-hour guided Introductory Tour at 11:00. Admission is free, with donations welcome. Car-poolers meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 10:00. Those not car-pooling should plan to arrive at the museum at 10:45. www.addisongallery.org
Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

*Denotes LIRA member
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December 2011

- **December 4**: 10AM-Noon Chelmsford Library 12:30-2:30 Book Discussion - *Jane Eyre* – Bronte
- **December 14**: 10AM –Noon Town Meeting and Holiday Party
- **December 21**: Happy Hanukkah
- **December 25**: Merry Christmas
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 14th.

Please fill out the parking permit form below along with a $36 check made out to UMASS-Lowell and bring it to the Convocation on September 14th. 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 $36.

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

- If you fill out this form and mail it to Toby Hodes, 36 Lilac Lane, Haverhill, MA 01830 BEFORE September 14, she will assign a decal 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 to the Convocation and get a decal for you.
- You will have to go to the Parking Access office at University Crossing, which is the former St. Joseph’s Hospital building. 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.

People who cannot or will not pay the $36 may park in the parking lot on Pawtucket Boulevard and take the shuttle.

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**LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (LIRA) UML Parking Permit – Registration Form**

**LIRA MEMBER AND VEHICLE INFORMATION (Required): [Please Print]**

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Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________

(Street, P.O. Box, City/Town, State, Zip Code)

Telephone Number: ________________________________

Handicap Permit #: ___________________ Expiration Date: __________

**VEHICLE INFORMATION:**

Year: _____ Make: _______________ Model: _______________ Color: __________

State: _______________ License Plate Number: _____________________________

**UML PARKING PERMIT / DECAL NUMBER:** __________________

Effective September 2011 through August 2012

LIRA-UML Parking Permit Form – rev 8/11