



LIRA NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
Office of Community Service – UMass Lowell
Member of Elderhostel Institute Network
Tel.: (978) 934-3135 Web: uml.edu/community/LIRA

December 2011

Vol. 18 No. 4

*...If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?
P.B. Shelley*



*Please join us for
LIRA's Annual Holiday Potluck
Luncheon/Town Meeting
Wednesday, December 14, 2011
10 AM until Noon*

Alumni Hall, 84 University Avenue, Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from Salem Street B Parking Lot

Two Scholarship Awards will be given.
Hear about our Winter Intersession.
Participate in the Consumable Auction.
Enjoy the good food and meeting with friends.

See details inside.

Remembering Peg Farley

Peg Farley joined LIRA in 1990. Following are some remembrances from a few of our members. A portion of the obituary is reprinted below for those of you who might have missed it.

We at LIRA were saddened to learn of the passing of long term member Peggy Farley. We recalled our happy times with her and her husband, Ed, also a member, and both as retired teachers were so enthusiastic about continued learning through our varied programs. She and Ed loved to travel and she enjoyed many trips with Elderhostel, especially after their seven wonderful children made them 'empty-nesters'. Peg had a great smile, a hearty laugh and a loving personality. She was a thoughtful, caring lady at LIRA and beyond and is missed by all who knew her.

Eleanor Belanger

In the fall of 1994 the president of LIRA wanted volunteers for a program he wished to introduce to members, Arts and Music. As a new member I volunteered and Peg said she would co-chair. She recruited several interested friends and together we created varied, informative offerings which continue to be popular with members. Several years later when the Wednesday programs really took-off, she chose to continue but as a dependable committee member until recent years. It was a delight working with her.

Connie Lanseigne-Case

Peggy was already a member of LIRA when I first joined. It was a small group of about 25 enthusiastic members who loved to learn. The class offerings were limited due to the size of the group, but everyone pitched in to make it a success. For about eight years Peggy, Kay (Carroll), Connie (Lanseigne-Case) and I were on the Curriculum Committee primarily in charge of the Art and Music offerings. In those days we met at each other's homes to plan the events. I remember thinking, the first time I went to Peg's house that it was warm and friendly and "homey" just like she was. With seven children she led an active life, but had such an easy going manner, was always eager to learn something new and help out any way she could. I was not a part of the Poetry class that published a small booklet of their original poems. Peg was and wrote about her favorite shoes. It was so simple, but it spoke to the heart. I'm sure I speak for many when I say how much I have missed her.

Dotty Morris

I knew Peg from the time I joined LIRA in 1991! We were in many classes together. Those that stand out in my memory were Paul Marion's Poetry Writing Workshop and the Memoir Writing class given by Peggy Rimbaud. Coincidentally, a few days ago, I had happened upon the book of poetry that Paul Marion had compiled from the poems that the members of the poetry workshop had written in the early 1990s. When I saw that Jeri wanted comments from Peg's friends, I immediately found the book, "Vital Records" and reread Peg's poems. Each contributor chose



three poems to be included and those that Peg chose from nostalgia; "Memories" about her Flexible Flyer sled, to an amusing poem, "Some Call it Junk" about a typical pile of junk mail, and finally, a sad, bittersweet poem titled "April Twenty Second 1993" about the simultaneous birth of a baby girl and the death of a young man from AIDS. Each poem showed the type of person Peg was, funny, thoughtful and empathetic. A few years later, when we were in the class in Memoir Writing, Peg shared with us stories of her early life with the same humor and insight.

Peg was a dear LIRA friend to me and others. Always positive in her attitude, cheerful and supportive! I'll always cherish my memory of her. I was truly saddened when I heard of her passing.

Betty Sampas

Peg Farley was the first person I met at the first meeting that I attended in January, 2000. She sat beside me that day and welcomed me in her warm and friendly way. It didn't take much to convince me to join LIRA after such a warm welcome. Peg was very active in LIRA in those days and she was always a pleasure to be with. She wrote many articles for the newsletter, but I discovered from earlier newsletters that she liked to write poetry. Two of her poems are included in this newsletter.

Jeri Durant

From the Lowell Sun:

Margaret M. "Peggy" Griffin Farley, 85, was called to the Lord on September 28, 2011. She was the beloved wife of Dr. Edward J. Farley to whom she had been wed for 56 years. Her parents were the late James and Delia (Shalley) Griffin. She was deeply loved and respected by all who knew her.

Peggy graduated from St. Patrick's High School. Upon graduation she received a full academic scholarship to D'Youville College in Buffalo NY. Over the years, she was an active member of the D'Youville College Alumnae Association. Later, she earned a Master's degree in Education from Boston University. She taught for many years in the following school systems: Troy, NH; Marlboro, NH; Chelmsford, MA; Lowell Public Schools, and Greater Lowell Vocational High School.

Peggy was a dedicated parishioner of, first St. Patrick's and later the Immaculate Conception Church.

A very intelligent woman, and avid reader, she enjoyed learning her entire life through LIRA (Learning in Retirement Association at UMASS Lowell) and traveling the country with her husband in the Elder Hostel program.

A loving and devoted wife and mother, Peggy is survived by her husband and seven children.....Also surviving her are her 16 grandchildren

Poems by Peg Farley

Memories

(From Paul Marion's Poetry Workshop, 1992)

Behind trunks and boxes hidden from view
Long it stood guarding the dark corner of the cellar.
Memory's magic restores its luster, its speed.
A mighty eagle wingspread covers its glossy panels
Over burning red metal runners, shiny and super sharp.
Pay no heed to frosty finger tips and snow-filled boots.
It's a Flexible Flyer, and I am queen of the hill.
Faster than sound I travel.
Move over world. Here I come.

My carefree world became fragmented.
I moved, leaving my magic wings behind.
With two dimes in my mitten and determination in my step,
My trusty Flexible Flyer and I rode the Boston Elevated.
Smiling passengers and a congenial conductor
Who promised more snow helped us find our home.
We were back together, ready for the hill.

An Unnamed Poem of a Beautiful Day

(From 'Four Means of Personal Expression' course,
Poetry Writing with George Dana, Fall 2000)

The river is barely flowing, no waves or ripples.
A few leaves ride on its glassy surface.
Anchored nearby three small white boats bob and brush,
We wonder. Will they come today?

The air holds a chill, but the picture is so peaceful.
Along the shoreline the trees reflect their color.
The red brick church steeple with its white trim joins the scene.
We stroll, enjoy the view, and silently sing a Te Deum.

Job Lane House

On October 19, a very rainy Wednesday, a large group of LIRA members met at the Job Lane House for a tour given by costumed guides. The farm house was built in 1713 by one of the founding families in Bedford, MA. The farm was part of an early land grant made to Governor Winthrop and has been beautifully restored. The original house consisted of three small rooms downstairs and a bedchamber and garret above. One hundred years later the house was doubled in size; a parlor was added where murals were painted on the walls. They are believed to be painted by Rufus Porter, an itinerant painter and muralist that lived in Billerica at the time. Porter traveled throughout New England, painting mural landscapes for houses and taverns from 1825 – 1845. Today he is well-known in the decorative arts industry.

After the tour, most of us went to Dayla's Restaurant in Bedford for an enjoyable lunch. Thanks to Jean Schott for arranging the tour and luncheon.

Jeri Durant

George, the Poet

George Dana has been an active LIRA member since 1994. Many of you may not have realized that George started to write poetry in his college days and has written hundreds of poems since then. He taught at Dracut High School for at least 20 years where Paul Marion, our liaison with UMass Lowell, was one of his students. In the course that was offered in the fall of 2000, 'Four Means of Personal Expression', George taught poetry writing. Many of his poems have been in the newsletter.



Now - Forever More

Newsletter, Nov 2001

Beyond the now
The forever more looms high -
Would you tell me just this once
Before I die!

Let perception be supreme,
Reason slide away.
Only unknown dimension
Will rule the day!

Sun breaks through the clouds,
Warms the heart as it may.
I bend to kiss the earth,
To feel its pulse this long long day.

I gather stardust in my arms,
Feel its eternal pull.
Now I ride forever more
The now I leave behind the door!

Out of the Stars

Newsletter, June 2001

Out of the stars so brilliant bold,
Euphoric ladies of the night!
Out of galaxies forever fleeing their Source,
Came a whisper of almost silent sound
A molecule evolving to helix form,
So rapid its voyage from eternity
A spirit force must surely have woven its design.
Out of this some several billion years ago
Today I walk in the humblest dress,
Lie on the dewy grass on starry nights
Trying desperately to understand my long journey.
Perhaps however on the stillest of nights
With only the snow cricket hum to hear
My mind might quiet its tugging thoughts
So now the greatest insight might come forth
A white light vision –
An idle sea of bliss of supreme serenity,
My hand outstretched to touch all hands
To know now we are all surely one
From distant stars did come,
And in some future time
Return then we to our bold bright eternity.

YOU'RE INVITED!
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 17 1:00 – 5:00 PM

8 Skyline Drive, Billerica

In Billerica there's a home devoted to music. Four pianos and a Victorian parlor organ are just the start of musical instruments, piano rolls, sheet music, and other memorabilia collected over the years. Other collections fill the house to overflowing: marbles, Laurel & Hardy memorabilia, optical toys, Burma Shave signs memorabilia, bar collectibles, video disks, laser disks. Hot wine punch will be served.

Please come to my Holiday Open House on the 17th.

Dorothy Bromage
978-670-1269
bromaged@comcast.net

DIRECTIONS

From the north, take Rte 3 South (Massachusetts).

Take Exit 29 (Rte 129). At the end of the ramp, turn toward Billerica. Drive to a stop sign. Turn right onto Rte 3A (Boston Rd).

Going south on 3A, pass Treble Cove Plaza, cross the Concord River. Your left turn is Mulberry Ave. Mulberry is exactly 2 miles from the Concord River.

Watch for the Town Hall on the right. Be in the left lane and slow down. The left turn onto Mulberry is immediately after the second driveway of the Town Hall.

On Mulberry, take the first left onto Skyline Dr. Follow the curve to 8 Skyline Dr which is on the right, a yellow two-story house with four white pillars. There is a fire hydrant in front.

Park in the driveway or on the street. Enter through the garage.

Note: If you miss the turn onto Mulberry, continue driving and (bearing left) go around the Common. You will end up on Boston Rd headed the other way. Take another try at Mulberry. This time you are driving north on Boston Rd, with Mulberry coming up on the right.

Travel to Cuba

The following is a note from Nancy Merz-Nordstrom, Director of the Elderhostel Institute Network. Please contact her if you would like more information about this special offer to travel to Cuba at nancy.merz-nordstrom@roadscholar.org.

I'm delighted to let you know that Road Scholar has obtained the necessary permissions to take programs to Cuba!

Along with that, they are offering a \$100 reduction in the cost of the Cuba programs to LLI MEMBERS ONLY!

This is an excellent, not-to-be missed opportunity, to visit a country that has been off-limits to us for many years.

If you are interested in a copy of the flyer that accompanied this note, please contact Jeri Durant.

French Impressionists

Jean Schott gave a slide talk on French Impressionism, one of the most important movements in the history of art. An introduction to the talk discussed artists whose works influenced the development of impressionism. Due to the fact that the French Impressionists were greatly influenced by the socio-political nature of that era, works of art by Monet, Manet, Degas, Renoir and several others were presented with a discussion of that. It was obvious that Jean knew her subject well; she gave a very interesting and informative talk. A slide talk on American Impressionism will follow this in the spring of 2012.

As you are all aware, we had some 'unforeseen circumstances' in the month of October when most of us had power failures as a result of the snowstorm on October 29. If it is possible, the best thing to do is contact the facilitator or coordinator of the course to find out if class is being held that day. Course, many of us did not have phone service either! In general, if the University is closed, classes are canceled. The University had power after the storm, so classes were held that week and many people attended just to get warm! Let's hope that this winter is free of cancellations!

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 gmliller29@verizon.net) or Carol McCarthy (978-256-5904 or jfmcart@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.

Location of the Holiday Party and Parking Lot

The Holiday Party will be held in Alumni Hall on University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. The hall is part of the Lydon Library and the entrance to the hall is on the left as you are facing the building. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot to Alumni Hall, leaving us off in the front of the building. The shuttle will be running from 9:30am to 1:00pm for as many trips as needed.

Parking is in the Salem Street Lot B at University Crossing (formerly St. Joseph's Hospital). From the light at Aiken Street and Father Morissette Boulevard, continue on the boulevard for 2 more traffic lights, the first at University Avenue, the second at Merrimack Street. Salem Street is the first left after the 2nd traffic light. A Shell Station is on the right corner and University Crossing is on the left corner. Continue down Salem Street for a short way. The B parking lot is on the right and parking is **AFTER** the fence only.

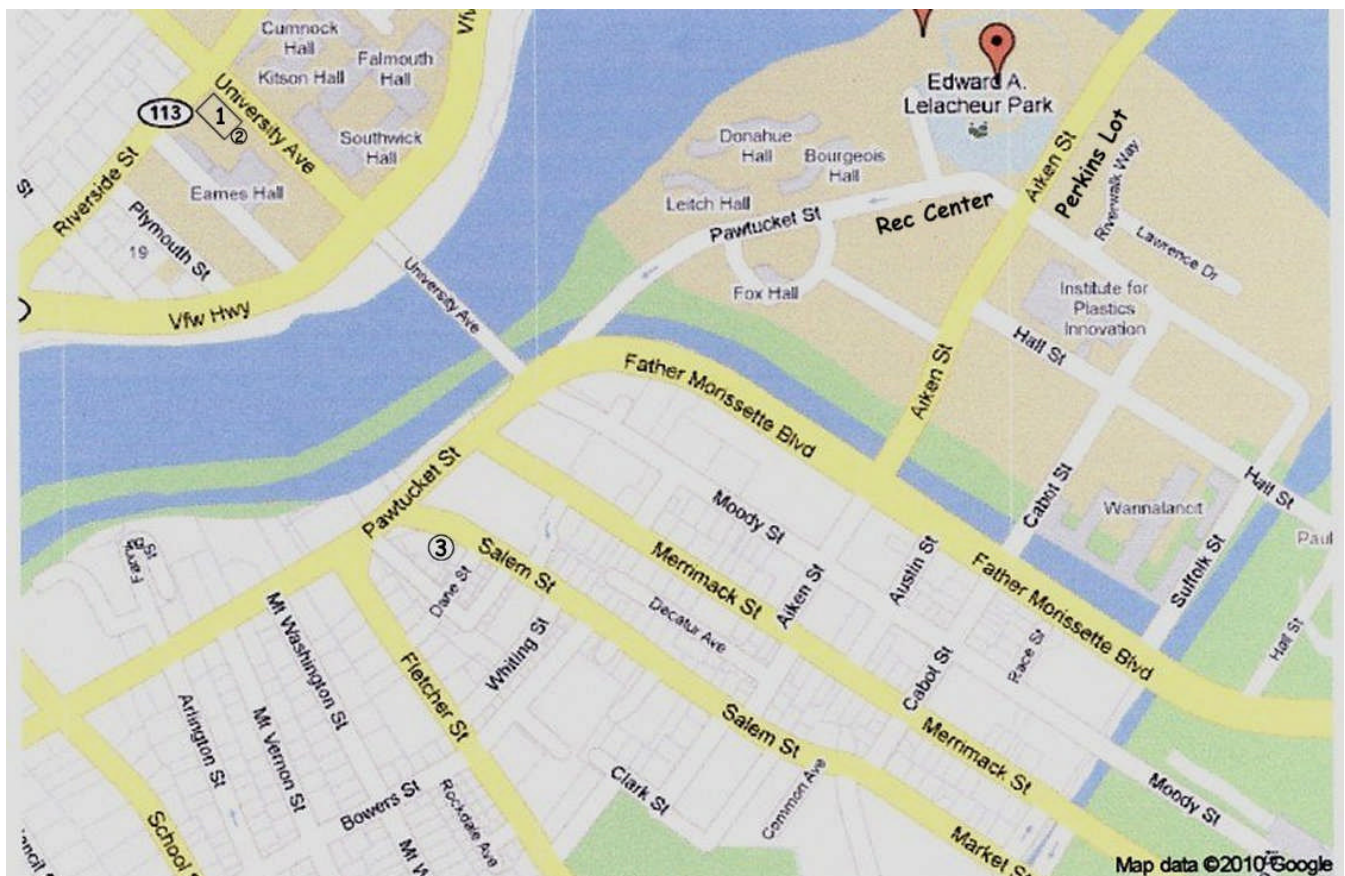
On the map below:



1 = Lydon Library



2 = Entrance to Alumni Hall



3 = Salem Parking Lot B

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

By Roberta Skloot

This is one of the few non-fiction books that I found hard to put down. I started reading it with trepidation and within minutes I was transfixed. Never having studied biology, I'll admit I still don't quite understand how the HeLa cells were used! I was immediately impressed by Skloot's ability to write about such complicated and mysterious theories and make them almost understandable! But also, I was extremely impressed by Skloot's ability to gain the trust of the Lacks family and her patience and understanding of their idiosyncrasies, their lack of understanding of what had happened to their mother, etc. Especially, I was impressed by her empathy for Deborah, Henrietta's oldest daughter, and their close relationship. I think one of the things that really stuck in my mind was when she, this secular, young Jewish woman bit into a Pork Chop just to be polite and to show her friendship for this relative of Henrietta's! I was also impressed about how friendly the relatives in Clover were to her. They showed such hospitality even though they were poor. But the white Lackses denied the knowledge of their kinship!

I found the fate of little Elsie even more upsetting than that of Henrietta in some ways, the description of the picture taken of her that was found at the asylum brought me close to tears. This lovely, sweet child ending up in such a horrible fate still saddens me! Rebecca promised not to use a word in the description of the medical history of Elsie and she never did.

There is irony to the fact that the Lacks men felt cheated by Johns Hopkins when there was never any financial gain by the hospital from HeLa Cells. Also the irony that the hospital was founded by Johns Hopkins as a place for the "colored people" to get medical treatment, but there was a lack of trust of those people and perhaps rightly so. The segregation of the whites and blacks in hospitals of the south is well known. There are many horror stories of blacks who were dying, being turned away. I guess the most well-known is the story of the famous singer, Dinah Washington who died in just such a circumstance! At least Henrietta was given treatment, perhaps not the best but from what was known at the time and the nature of the virulent cancer that took over her whole body was undiagnosed. There were many injustices meted out to the Lacks family. It took the Austrian, Christoph Lengua, many years later to understand the need of the Lacks family to know what the HeLa cells entailed. Deborah's religious upbringing and spirituality and superstition concerning the fate of her mother's cells caused confusion and anxiety in dealing with the phenomenon was understandable and Rebecca understood. But she studied and learned much about the science involved, carrying around her tattered dictionary. It took Rebecca 20 years for research and long interviews with Deborah and the other Lacks family member to write this book and she had no assurance that it would sell. I can't think of any author who deserves the success of his/her book that Rebecca Skloot. If I believed in saints she would earn sainthood for her patience, tact, knowledge and beautiful writing skills to produce this book and appropriately, she has donated a portion of her income to the Henrietta Lacks foundation.

Betty Sampas

Book Discussion

The December Book Discussion will take place after the lecture at the Chelmsford Library on December 9 at 12:30 PM. The book being discussed is *Jane Eyre*, the classic fiction by Charlotte Bronte. During the Winter Intersession, the Book Discussion Group will meet at 12:30 PM after the program for that day. On January 18, the book, *The Social Animal*, non-fiction by David Brooks, will be discussed. *The World to Come*, historical fiction by Dara Horn, will be discussed on February 22.

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.

What is a Consumable Auction, you ask? It is an auction where all items donated would be consumed i.e., something you eat, drink, do, or use up. The Scholarship Committee sells tickets (\$1.00 ea or 6/\$5.00) 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. We will not be collecting items beforehand.

ITEMS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DONATE:

- Plate of homemade cookies or homemade bread
- Box of Candy
- Baskets filled with 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
- Movie Passes
- Gift certificates of any kind, i.e., Dunkin Donuts, Market Basket, Panera Bread, Barnes & Noble, etc.
- 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, i.e. knitting, crocheting.



Carol Cannistraro &
Barbara Willman

LIRA Group Exercise Program

The University of Massachusetts Lowell Physical Therapy Department offered to LIRA members the opportunity to participate in a supervised, group exercise program. This program is a 10 week program that started on October 18. Our classes meet at 5 Courthouse Lane, Chelmsford, Ma on Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 to 4:00pm.

Six LIRA members joined the exercise program. After four weeks of classes listed below is what the exercise program means to each of us.

It makes me feel good, and everyone should do it (not sit and vegetate). The students are wonderful! *Betty Bayard*

I feel that I am so fortunate to be able to attend this class. It is just what I have been looking for and what really helps me. Although I exercise regularly I have particular "fitness" issues due to a deformity from birth. The therapists have taken an interest in my situation and they are giving me just the right exercises that address my needs. I really would urge other members of LIRA to take advantage of this class where students in physical therapy and in exercise fitness are supervised by a member of the staff at UMass Lowell Department of Physical Therapy and Exercise Fitness *Jeanne Gunion*

The class provides an opportunity to strengthen (what is weak), tone (what is slack), and stretch (what may be tight) under the gentle supervision of talented and energetic young UMass/Lowell Physical Therapy and Exercise Physiology students. We also enjoy each other's company and support. It's FUN!

Joan Kerzner

I'm a "use it or lose it" kind of person. This program offered me the opportunity to be in a supervised exercise program. My main goal was to increase my upper body strength. After four weeks working under the very caring and talented students, my strength, endurance, and balance have greatly improved

Shirley McCaffrey

I started the PE class because I wanted increased mobility and strength in my shoulders, and to stay ahead of my developing arthritis. The twice a week classes have already made a difference! Also, I am learning the correct way to exercise as not to cause excessive strain

Gerry Miller

I am getting stronger and most of all I'm losing weight. I am exhausted when I finish but I keep going. I love to work with the students

Bill Terris

Our thanks to UMass Lowell for offering us this program.

Shirley McCaffrey



From L to R: Gerry Miller, Shirley McCaffrey, Betty Bayard, Joan Kerzner
In Chairs: Bill Terris, Jeanne Gunion

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Lecture Series that the Chelmsford Library is running in conjunction with LIRA are held on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in the McCarthy Meeting Room. The next scheduled dates are December 9 and January 13, 2012. Check the library's website for further information.
www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday_morning_lectures.html

Friday, December 9, 2011: "Nuclear Abolition in a Dangerous Age" with Paul Joseph, Ph.D.

Dr. Paul Joseph was most recently the Distinguished Chair for the United States-India Education Foundation (Fulbright program) and based at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He is a political sociologist with a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley (1975). His research specialty

is the politics surrounding foreign and defense policy, and especially the impact of public opinion and peace movements on policy outcomes. His books include a decision-making study on the Vietnam War, the debate over nuclear policy, and the security implications of the end of the Cold War. His last title, "Are Americans Becoming More Peaceful?" explores the influence of new public sensitivities toward the costs of war on the Bush administration's management of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Friday, January 13, 2012: "Making Sense of the American Civil War" presented by Richard Howe This lecture is part of a project by the University of Mass/Lowell and is funded by a grant from the American Library Association (ALA: <http://www.ala.org/>) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH: <http://www.neh.gov/>)

Spanish Art with Dr. Cheney

Thanks for the opportunity to clarify my own thinking of having experienced such a beautifully presented and stimulating presentation by Dr. Liana Cheney, PhD., a Professor of Art History and who is also the Chair of the Department of Cultural studies at the University of Massachusetts/Lowell. Many previous lectures secured her reputation as a teacher who wanted to share her delight in her subject and all seats were taken well before the stated hour that class began. For two hours the audience was treated to a stimulating and enthusiastic portrait of “Spanish Art – from El Greco to Goya”, focusing on the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Professor Cheney kept the class fully involved as she presented a vivid series of slides to us, sharing the names and pertinent historical details of each of the artists she included in her lecture along with information as to how they each made their journey from other countries, such as Crete, Germany, Italy, Greece and other European centers. She shared familial notes and discussed who they studied with, as well as the influences of the Islamic and Christian traditions and rulers. Then came the “changing of the guard”, as it were, when native Spanish kings gave way to territorial expansion by England, Germany and the Northern European monarchs. These leaders opened their courts to painters, sculptors and architects who participated in what became known as “Spain’s Golden Era of Art”. Adding in the discussion to those first artists were other Masters who enhanced that period of intense creativity: Tintoretto, Velázquez, Murillo, Churriguera and others.

Painters, sculptors, architects, along with experts in the use of decorative arts such as goldsmiths, muralists, artisans of silversmithing, worked with clay and produced tableaus for religious and military glory. There were depictions of the use of beautifully intricate jeweled designs for church and chapels and significant decoration of religious and royal crowns, clothing and coaches.

During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, huge centers of worship were designed in Spain. Places of worship grew ever larger. Ceilings were vaulted to spheres reaching to great heights, and interiors were grand in size. For years, painters, sculptors, weavers of tapestries, designer of tiles and those who applied gold leaf and installed marble were employed by the homes of royal personages. Their followers often desired to hire famous artists and artisans who would produce family portraits and add decorative elements to their establishments.

Equally important to our understanding of the artists discussed and their particular manner of utilizing various kinds of painterly materials was Dr. Cheney’s continued reference to whom each artist studied with and where they continued to journey during their careers to seek to learn from those who were considered the great teachers in their fields. The influence of the depiction of mythological figures were utilized, along with those of the Saints and always the works dedicated to Mary, Jesus and works influenced by what was desired for display on the alters of the churches. There was also the need to pay attention to the Royal Patron, for those artists who worked under the favor of the present sovereign. She reminded us of the advent of the inquisition and the number of works that were influenced by that period of time in Spain, and how various artists reacted to the influence in Spain. Reaction to its presence by artists gave us an additional insight into what might not have born witness to that political era in Spain.

I have gone to see several art exhibitions since Dr. Cheney’s lecture and remain indebted to her for the enhanced perspective that her discussion of being aware and informed, or making ourselves knowledgeable of the familial, religious, political, educational, training and educational exposure as well as the aesthetic environment that the artists we are viewing, were exposed to and thus what might have influenced the direction of what they brought to our view. A delightful learning experience from LIRA.

Judith Palais

Member News

We were saddened to learn of the death of our long-time member Peg Farley in September. Our sincere sympathy to her husband Ed and her family.

Please remember long-time members, Kay Carroll, Pat Dion and George Dana, who are now house bound and no longer able to be involved in our activities because of health problems. We continue to think of them and are sure they would appreciate notes and cards. Your good wishes may be sent to Kay’s and Pat’s homes. George’s address is now: Westford House, 3 Park Drive, Westford, MA 01886, Room #319.

To all our thoughtful friends in LIRA, We have been so moved by all of the many thoughtful gestures of kindness from our friends at LIRA. The large and beautiful floral arrangement was simply gorgeous. We thank all those who have sent such lovely cards full of good wishes and kind thoughts, and, of course, we have enjoyed the various items of home cooking so thoughtfully sent us. During this trying period in our lives, our feelings have frequently been lifted up by the remembrances and prayers of our friends at LIRA.

Frank and Kay Carroll

Scholarship Update

We have received scholarship applications from bright and very interesting students. The committee will meet November 18 to study them all and choose the winners of the two \$1500 scholarships, which will be presented at the December 14 Holiday Party. At a later date, we will make the applications available to the LIRA members so that they can see the variety of interests and work these students are involved in.

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the members that have generously donated more than \$1000.00 and helped to make our scholarships possible. The donations to the coffee fund also go to the scholarship fund-- that portion that is not needed to supply our refreshment cart. The proceeds from the Consumable Auction will also go to the fund. Thanks to all for your donations.

*LIRA Scholarship Committee
Bill Terris, Chair*

LIRA Members Spotlight

This newsletter features Judy and Gerry Miller. When I first asked them if they would be our featured guests they thought they were not “special enough” but as you will see when you read about how they are pursuing their interests in their retirement years, and about their family and careers you will see that they are very admirable!



Judith (Judy) Miller

During the winter after my retirement, I realized that I needed new interests. My friend, Jean Rubenstein, introduced me to LIRA and I was hooked! Since then I have invited friends who have retired to join LIRA because I have found that LIRA has so many wonderful and interesting people!

I retired June 2004 from the Lowell School Department where I taught in a mainstream fifth grade. For several years prior to that I taught ESL (English as a Second Language) in kindergarten through grade six. Then I transferred to teaching a mainstream fifth grade. Teaching in Lowell was a challenge!

After graduating from Boston University, I taught in Burlington MA (before the Mall), Long Island, NY, and married Gerry and taught in Stow, MA. Then I stayed home to take care of our two children, Loren and Mark.

I currently tutor two young women in English. I am active in Congregation Shalom and have served on the House Committee for many years. I also taught in the religious school for sixteen years. I serve on the Board of The Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation,

which supports organizations and runs many programs as well as a day camp in the Merrimack Valley.

I now chair, with Carol McCarthy, the telephone squad. This puts me on LIRA’s Board where I am exposed to the inner workings of this great organization, which is run by its members. It is truly impressive! I am having a busy and meaningful retirement.

Gerald (Gerry) Miller

I recently retired (partially retired) from a Mechanical Engineering position in the computer and power supply areas, having worked at Digital Equipment and with two start up companies that were spin-offs from Digital. I attended Northeastern University and graduated from Lowell Technical Institute with a curriculum strictly focused on engineering and manufacturing disciplines.

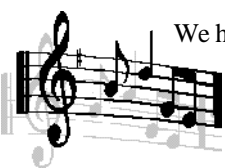
Over the last few years I watched Judy’s participation in LIRA’s Art and Music programs with envy. The various educational, cultural and social activities were the topic of many dinner table discussions and debates related to history and their influence on our education and cultural development. This prompted my desire for further exploration in these areas.

I joined LIRA in the fall of 2009 to broaden my life experiences to include the Art, Music and History for enjoyment and to provide a better understanding of today’s evolving culture. This fall I have been enrolled in the “Great World Religions” class, Wednesday’s “Art and Music” programs, and the first session of “Two Music Delights”. Additionally, I am participating in the Group Exercise Program offered by the Physical Therapy Department at the University. Also I am taking a Photographic Arts class in the Adult Education Program at Chelmsford High School.

For me, LIRA has provided the opportunity to understand and enjoy the Arts, and to start exploring our History and Cultural development; areas that were overlooked earlier in my life.

-Prepared by Jeanne Gunion

A Music-Filled Fall Session



We had some wonderful music classes this fall. On Tuesday afternoon, Barbara Wagner taught us a great deal about opera. We listened to three operas, *Don Giovanni*, *Faust* and *La Traviata*, in their entirety; she read each scene in English before we heard it sung in the native language. We were able to follow along with a libretto that she provided for each of us. Thank you, Barbara – we were very fortunate to have your expertise!

For the eighth week of the Tuesday afternoon classes, we had Dorothy Bromage teaching us about the human voice. She showed us some entertaining movie clips of people singing from opera, church choirs, boy sopranos and even Mongolian throat singing! We learned the range of our own voices along with the range of many musical instruments. As always, Dorothy kept us well-entertained with an interesting and informative program.

The Thursday afternoon program was split into two four week courses. The first session, “Listening and Understanding Great Music” was taught by Jeanne Gunion. The focus was on Mozart where a DVD of his life was shown for the first half of the class and the last half consisted of Mozart’s music and background

information, some of which Jeanne had learned at a Road Scholar course on Mozart last summer. Thanks to Jeanne for all the work she put in to give us such an interesting program.

Jeri Durant

In the “Music and Poetry Honor Nature” class, Janet Shawcross had us listen to excerpts of music by many composers on similar themes and then we read aloud writings by numerous poets, also on similar themes. Thus, for example, in the class on the seasons, we heard not only Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” but a number of pieces by different composers who used one of the seasons as inspiration for his music. We then read aloud a number of poems by many poets who were inspired by one of the seasons. Janet read out short biographies on all the composers and the poets which was extremely helpful. The class was at times funny, sometimes sad, always interesting and moving. Thanks to Janet for massive preparation that allowed us to compare poetry and music from a variety of sources in ways we would not have thought about on our own. Each class ended with a sing-along!

Judith Raiguel

Note: The quote on the front page is from a poem we read in class, Ode to the West Wind, by Percy Bysshe Shelley. It is such a familiar phrase, but I had no idea where it came from! That’s why we keep going to classes – to learn.

Jeri Durant

Whistler House Members Exhibit

The artwork of two LIRA members is in the Annual Juried Member Exhibition at the Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen Street in Lowell, until Dec. 30. Connie Lanseigne-Case's work is acrylic and collage art, "Gems". It is the fourth year her art has been in the annual exhibition. Barbara Page's work is a watercolor landscape (title not available at press time).



Gems
mixed media, 18"x21" framed

Note: Visit the newsletter on the website www.uml.edu/community/lira/newsletters.html to see the wonderful colors in this artwork.

Coffee Break Note

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who provided the delicious refreshments during the fall session. Please note that morning and afternoon classes are each responsible for supplying the refreshments for their class. If you have generously signed up to make coffee and are unable to attend that particular meeting, please notify the coordinator for that class so he or she can make other arrangements. You may also find another person to take your place. It takes many people to produce a study class - the curriculum committee, the coordinators, the presenters and the refreshment volunteers and we are most grateful for all your efforts.

*Hospitality Committee
Mary Willis and Dawn Gillogly*

Addison Gallery Visit

On November 9, LIRA members visited the Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, MA. The museum is celebrating its 80th birthday with six current exhibitions:

- 80 @ 80 with the works of 80 artists from the museum's permanent collection
- The Civil War featuring historical and contemporary paintings, prints, photographs and video from the Addison's collection
- RFK Funeral Train Rediscovered by Paul Fusco, photographic images of mourners along the train's route from New York City to Arlington National Cemetery
- Clearstory Squares and Unitych Variations by Christopher C. Cook, single and multi-panel paintings that will shift and regroup during the exhibition
- Fractured Narratives: works by Lorna Bieber, begins with pictures and illustrations from books and magazines manipulated and reinterpreted to change our perception of reality
- Home Port for the Addison's Model Ship Collection, the museum's twenty-four model ships, a favorite of the Addison's supporters.

The variety and scope of the exhibition invite repeat visits to this delightful museum, with free admission and a convenient location in the Merrimack Valley. www.addisongallery.org

Carol McCarthy



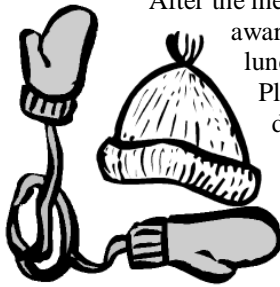
The Army of the Potomac - A Sharp-Shooter on Picket Duty
by Winslow Homer, 1862
Part of the Civil War exhibit



Bus Refunds

If you have signed up for a bus trip and cannot go on the trip that day, you must give a 24 hour notice for a bus refund. This has been in effect since 2004. If you have signed up for a trip and cannot make it, **PLEASE notify the coordinator** so that we will not be waiting for you.

Holiday Party Details



After the meeting, auction and scholarship awards, there will be a potluck luncheon at the Holiday Party.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert that will serve 4-6 people.

Please provide a serving utensil if your dish requires one. It would also be helpful if you made a sign to identify your dish. Contact Mary Willis or

Dawn Gillogly if you have any questions.

In lieu of exchanging gifts, LIRA members have donated many new books in past years for distribution by Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, the agency which serves families in shelters and oversees many child care programs in the City. Each book is marked with a bookplate denoting that it is a gift from Learning In Retirement Association. Books should be suitable for children, ages infant through teens. The books are distributed to various CTI shelters, Headstart programs, and the WIC program. The Lowell Family Literacy Center would also appreciate book donations for preschool ages 3 to 5. In the past, there has been a desperate need for hats and mittens for children, infants to teens. The hats and mittens will be distributed in the Coats for Kids Drive. We have decided to continue to bring these, also. **Please bring a new book and/or hat and mittens, unwrapped, to the Holiday party.** Thank you for your participation. Contact Elaine Jeleschiff if you have any questions.

If you find that it is difficult to carry everything on the shuttle bus, you can drop off everything at Alumni Hall first and then drive to the parking lot to catch the shuttle bus. Go down University Avenue by the Lydon Library (will be on your left) and take your first left, Riverside Street. The first left on Riverside Street is a small lot that has access to a door into Alumni Hall.



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:

Cynthia Evans
31 Samuel St
Lowell, MA 01851
978-459-2881
cynthiaeva@yahoo.com

William F. Sarro
5 Bishops Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
781-771-8706
william.sarro@verizon.net

Address changes:

Claire E. Frassica
5 Essex Place
Chelmsford, MA 01824-5141
978-256-5141
cfrassica@verizon.net

Carol Daigle
14 Balsam Walk
Groton, MA 01450

Elaine Jeleschiff
70 Boston Road, #E-112
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Mary Lane
6 Russell's Way
Westford, MA 01886
978-589-9818

Phone change:
Meg Geary: 978-256-6165

The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2012; the deadline for news items is February 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

Newsletter Committee

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*I would like to wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season
and a New Year of Peace, Happiness and Good*



Jeri Durant



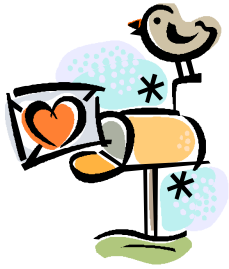
December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 10AM-Noon Chelmsford Library 12:30-2:30 Book Discussion - <i>Jane Eyre</i> -Bronte	10
11	12	13	14 10AM -Noon Town Meeting and Holiday Party	15	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22 	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31





January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4 10 AM to Noon How to Identify, Appraise and Care for Collectible Books - Rudeens	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 10 AM to Noon The Elusive Quest for Happiness - A. Kerzner	12	13 10 AM to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture—Richard Howe	14
15	16 	17	18 10 AM to Noon Browsing through Birkes Documentary 12:30 PM— Book Discussion	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 10 AM to Noon Moorish Culture in Andalusia and Morocco—Connie Lanseigne Case	26	27	28
29	30	31				



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 AM to Noon Painter Hopper/ Quilts in America— Jean Schott	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 10 AM to Noon A Journey Along the Middlesex Canal— Dorothy Bromage and Bob Hanlon	9	10 10 AM to Noon Check Chelmsford Library website for Lecture	11
12	13	14 	15 10 AM to Noon Bringing God into the Fight— Mark Allman	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22 10 AM to Noon Environmental Laws and Regulations— Bill Sarro 12:30 PM Book Discussion	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 10 AM to Noon Dr. Johnson returns to Haiti—Dr. Larry Johnson			

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

The 2012 Winter Intersession, given between semesters, offers to retirees and those semi-retired, a sample of LIRA's almost year-round program and friendly community. The program is planned and much of it provided by the members themselves. The general public is invited to all Intersession programs. The time for these programs is 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. The Intersession programs will be held in the Talon Room at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Lowell, MA.

January 4 HOW TO IDENTIFY, APPRAISE, AND CARE FOR COLLECTIBLE BOOKS Kimball & Beverly Rudeen*

The program will include interesting hands-on examples of collectible books, together with interesting facts about collecting. Topics: How do you identify a first edition, resources used in identifying a collectible book, caring for and displaying your collection. Those who come may bring a book to be appraised (one per person).

Coordinator: Judith Raiguel*

January 11 THE ELUSIVE QUEST FOR HAPPINESS or How Do You Know if You Have It? Arnold Kerzner*

What is Happiness all about from a social, psychological, and neurobiological perspective? Is Happiness too narrow a goal for which to strive? From where does life satisfaction derive? How do we balance our needs with the needs of others? Is there a "Gender Difference" in how men and women pursue Happiness? Dr. Arnold Kerzner, a Family Psychiatrist, will address these questions incorporating numerous articles, research, a questionnaire, his personal philosophy, lots of humor and, most certainly, time for audience participation.

Coordinator: Claire Frassica*

January 18 BROWSING THROUGH BIRKE'S DOCUMENTARY A Witty and Poignant Documentary Szifra Birke

Polish-born Nathan and Sally Birke came to Lowell, Massachusetts in 1947, after the Holocaust. Their story of survival, perseverance, and success comes to life in the witty and poignant documentary *Browsing Through Birke's*, produced and directed with great intimacy by Los Angeles filmmaker Steven D. Grossman. In this film, daughter Szifra (Shifra) shares her recollections of childhood while guiding us through the personal and intimate stories about the mother every customer adored and her cantankerous, opinionated, and not-made-for-customer-service father at Birke's Department Store in Lowell. Szifra will introduce the film and will be available for questions and information after the film viewing.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

January 18 BOOK DISCUSSION Toby Hodes *

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM *The Social Animal*, non-fiction by David Brooks

January 25 MOORISH CULTURE IN ANDALUSIA AND MOROCCO Connie Lanseigne-Case *

Southern Spain and Morocco have a shared history beginning in 13th century until 1492 and the Catholic Monarchs Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon. Last spring Connie was in Andalusia and the northern cities of Morocco. The illustrated talk explores the beautiful Moorish architecture of Granada, Cordova, and Seville, the Riff Mountain city of Chefchaouen, medina of Fes, capital of Morocco, Rabat, and modern mosque of Casablanca.

Coordinator Dorothy Bromage*

February 1

ART IN AMERICA – TWO EXAMPLES

Jean Schott*

There are two topics in this presentation: 1) The art of the 20th century realist painter Edward Hopper, 2) Quilts of America

Coordinator: Judith Palais*

February 8

A JOURNEY ALONG THE MIDDLESEX CANAL

Dorothy Bromage* and Bob Hanlon*

If you are a member of LIRA, the chances are good that the Middlesex Canal, built between 1795 and 1803, ran through your town. For fifty years, it connected the Merrimack River and the Port of Boston. The 27-mile barge canal was one of the main thoroughfares in eastern New England until the advent of the railroad. The Middlesex Turnpike also contributed to its downfall. The story of what was sometimes referred to as the “incredible ditch” will be told in a short video, in map study, and by Tom Raphael, President of the Middlesex Canal Association.

Coordinator: Virginia Michaels*

February 15

BRINGING GOD INTO THE FIGHT

Dr. Mark Allman

Dr. Mark Allman is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Merrimack College and a faculty associate in the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations. He is one of only a few scholars working on postwar ethics and the just war theory. His talk will address the fact that religion has been used to justify and condemn warfare and will explore various religious approaches to the use of deadly force.

Coordinator: Joe Casadone*

February 22

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Bill Sarro*

A summary of federal and state laws and regulations designed to protect our environment. Discussion will focus on laws that have been enacted to protect air, water, land and people. These include the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund). As mandated by these laws, the Environmental Protection Agency and its state counterparts have written volumes of regulations that affect every facet of industry and commerce. Particular attention will be paid to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan which deals with oil and hazardous materials releases and their impact on real estate transactions.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman*

February 22

BOOK DISCUSSION

Toby Hodes*

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM *The World to Come*, historical fiction by Dara Horn

February 29

DR. JOHNSON RETURNS TO HAITI

Dr. Larry Johnson

In May 2010, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Larry Johnson made his first medical mission trip to Haiti with Project Medi-Share. A year later, he returned, this time with his son Philip, and found a lack of progress from the devastation of the 7.1 magnitude earthquake of January 2010. Dr. Johnson will tell his observations of the Haitian people and the medical situation in the part of the country where he worked.

Coordinator: Jeri Durant*

* Member of LIRA