



LIRA NEWSLETTER

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



LIRA Holiday Party 2021

Wednesday December 8
10 a.m. – noon
Coburn Hall, Rm. 255 OR on Zoom

Hear about Winter Intersession offerings!

Participate in the Holiday Raffle!

Hear from Scholarship recipients!

Enjoy the camaraderie of friends!

Support Community Teamwork with donations of hats, gloves, and children's books!

A reminder that masks and proof of vaccination are required if you are attending in person



From the President

The LIRA Fall Semester is now concluded. I hope you all enjoyed the classes LIRA offered, and that you learned something new. If you attended any multi-session classes this fall, please complete the questionnaire I emailed out on November 11th. The upcoming Winter Intersession promises to be exciting. Remember, Intersession is open to all, so invite your friends and family members to try out LIRA during January and February.

This year's Holiday Party on **Wednesday, December 8** from 10:00 a.m. - noon will be a hybrid LIRA Meeting held in Coburn Hall Room 255. In accordance with University rules, all in-person attendees must show evidence of Covid vaccination in order to attend the meeting. If you have shown your vaccine card at Convocation or any class this fall, it has been logged and recorded with the University and you do not need to show it again. Remember also that you must wear a face covering during the meeting. The only exception will be for persons addressing the group, and while drinking and eating. UML will provide coffee, tea and water for the meeting. Parking will be available for members with hang tags in the Wilder Street lot and if you don't have a hang tag, there is a metered lot a little further down on Wilder Street.

During the Holiday Party we will introduce the Winter Intersession, announce the LIRA Scholarship winners for the coming year, and invite them to attend the meeting. After the break we will hold our Holiday raffle. Remember to bring a raffle donation of consumable items (something you can eat, drink or do). Usually, an item not more than \$25.00 is preferable. We will use all money raised for scholarships.

We will also collect donations to give to Community Teamwork, Inc. This year. CTI has requested we bring hats, scarves, mittens and children's books for ages 2 to 11. We will have a collection table at the meeting for CTI items. Note that the table centerpieces will be made up of books for donation this year.

For those of you attending the meeting on Zoom, we ask that you consider making a cash donation to the Scholarship Committee and/or Community Teamwork. Checks for Scholarship should be made out to UMass Lowell with LIRA Scholarship in the memo line. Mail the check to Janet Redman, 12 Grove St., Chelmsford, MA 01824. To donate to CTI, send a check to Community Teamwork Inc., 155 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA, 01852 or donate online at: <https://www.commteam.org/you-can-help/donate/>.

To all our volunteers from the Fall Semester and the Holiday Party, I want to extend a hearty thank you for all you do and for your generosity helping to make LIRA an enormous success.

Peter Sebelius

Books, Hats and Gloves

Lira has had a longstanding relationship with Community Teamwork of Lowell, which provides vital services to low-income people. Once again, we are asking our members to bring the following items to our holiday party. Hats and mittens for all age groups are greatly needed. Also, please bring books (hardcovers and paperbacks) for children ages 2 to 11. All items will be given to Cynthia Perrone, the volunteer specialist of Community Teamwork, who will distribute them to the families who will benefit. If you need further information, please contact Kathy Forstey at k3and2@netscape.net.

Kathy Forstey

Scholarship Committee Awards 6 Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is indebted to LIRA members for their very generous donations to the 2021/22 Scholarship Fund. We are reviewing applications and will award six \$1500 scholarships at the holiday party in December. A big thank you to Patty Coffey at University Relations who gives us her time, support and experience, and to the UML Financial Aid Office for their continued help. We appreciate the continued support of the LIRA Executive Board throughout the year. Last but not least, thank you to the Scholarship Committee members—Margie Berenson, Alan Kent, John Mamalis and Barbara Murch for giving their time, expertise and help in making this a successful year.

Co-Chairs: Dee Sferinno, Janet Redman

The Irish Identity: Independence, History, and Literature

LIRA students enjoyed Part 1 of the Great Courses Video Course "The Irish Identity" in four classes during the Fall 2021 semester. Professor Marc C. Connor wowed us again with his expert lectures on the history, literature, and the story of Irish independence. His rendition of several poems in Gaelic showed us his extensive knowledge of his subject.

The class started with Irish pre-history and ended with the sad events of the Easter Rising in 1916. We will continue Professor Connor's videos for the Spring semester. There will be four more sessions to complete the video course. The Rudeens, (Kim and Bev) will search out video clips and other important historical facts relating to the story of Irish independence to round out the presentations. Please join us this Spring for Part II.

Bev Rudeen

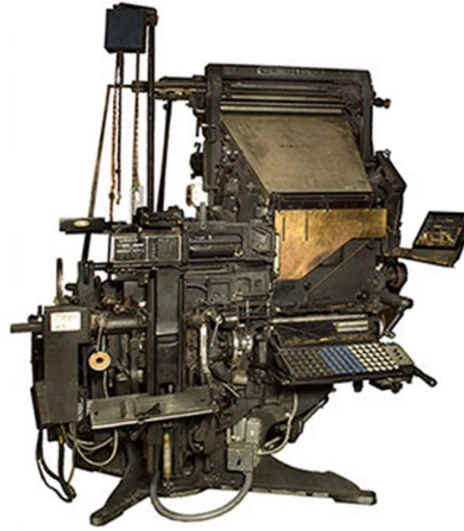
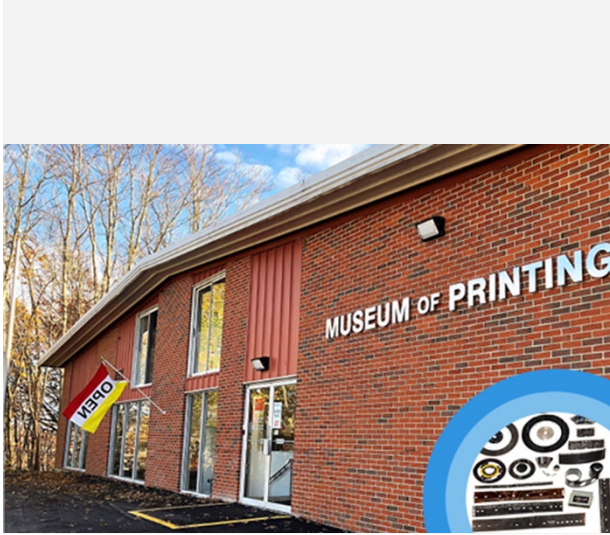
Discovery of a Masterpiece



Mallory Martorello Zoomed into LIRA to tell the story about how she discovered and authenticated a Rodin bust of Napoleon entitled "Napoléon Enveloppé Dans Son Rêve (Napoleon Wrapped in his Dream)" that had been lost to the art world for almost 70 years. Mallory presented a brief biography of Ethel Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge. In the 1930s Ethel Dodge created the Dodge Foundation following the tragic death of her son, Marcellus Hartley Dodge Jr. Ethel gifted the building that now houses the town offices and the art contained inside it (including the bust) to the town of Madison, New Jersey.

Mallory was hired in 2014 to for a one-year period to catalog the art in the building. It was at this point she identified the work as a Rodin sculpture and began a year-long effort to authenticate the statue. Mallory got in touch with the world's leading Rodin expert, Jérôme Le Blay, formerly of the Rodin Museum in Paris and author of the "Catalogue Critique de l'Oeuvre Sculpté d'Auguste Rodin." After seeing a photo of the piece, Le Blay immediately wrote back and told Mallory he'd have to fly from Paris to see the piece. According to Mallory, when Le Blay walked into the council chambers, he turned and said, "Hello my friend, so is this where you have been hiding?"

❄ The Museum of Printing ❄



LIRA members ventured out to our first museum visit since the pandemic lockdown to explore the Museum of Printing in Haverhill, MA. We were treated to a personal tour by Museum President, Frank Romano, who is 80 years old. He added his personal experiences in the rich history of the graphic arts, printing, typesetting technology, and printing craftsmanship.

The Museum contains hundreds of antique printing, typesetting, and bindery machines. Printing has changed dramatically during the last 200 years, from letterpress printing to photographic and electronic technologies. We heard the stories of these changes using one of the world's largest collections of printing and typesetting hardware and ephemera. We also saw the evolution of office communication, from Mimeographs, Graphotypes, and Addressographs, and an extensive collection of typewriters.

Bob Fesmire

The Universe: From Then to Now

In this four-week course presented by UMass Lowell Professor Emeritus Bob Gamache, LIRA participants learned about things small and large—from elementary particles such as quarks, to the vast number of galaxies in our universe—numbering in the trillions. These things are difficult to measure in a way that makes any sense to us who count our lives in days, years, and generations, or in cubic feet of our homes or miles to our destination. Gamache offered examples that made it easier to comprehend the size of the nucleus of an atom (imagine an atom the size of Lowell, the nucleus is the size of a tennis ball!) and ended his final lecture with the Cosmic Calendar, with the Big Bang occurring on January 1, the emergence of vertebrates on December 17, and modern humans appearing at 11:54pm, December 31. Participants offered thoughtful comments and asked challenging questions—just what we expect from this group of lifelong learners.

Suzanne Gamache

The Sad, Curious Death of Mary Ann Birmingham

Joseph Orfant, a Lowell (and Belvidere) native with a deep (and he admits—obsessive) interest in the history and architecture of his hometown, presented details of a true story of a young woman who died under mysterious circumstances in Lowell, MA. in October 1861.

Mary Ann Birmingham was 27 years old when she died in her home. Her father had her buried the next day (carpenters who built caskets were the undertakers of the day). But the father became suspicious about the cause of her death when her “husband,” Dr. Peters, fled Lowell immediately after the burial. (Husband is in quotes because it was later revealed that they were never actually married. Mary Ann was still legally married to a man in Philadelphia!) Doctors did an autopsy and, besides finding that she was several months pregnant, saw she had a highly inflamed stomach and had consumed “soluble salts of lead.” Did someone try to poison her? Or was there an attempt to terminate her pregnancy? And if the latter were the motive, did she do this to herself, or did someone do it to her?

Dr. Peters was tried in court two months later. Testimony by doctors and neighbors painted a contradictory version of events with her “husband” indicating she had been sick for weeks and a neighbor saying that she saw Mary Ann the Sunday before her death and she was fine. Even the woman with whom Dr. Peters was having an affair, a Mrs. Hazelton, testified. Peters was eventually released for lack of evidence; the court concluded that Mary Ann had taken the poison herself. Within days, Dr. Peters married Mrs. Hazelton.

Joe pointed out that there are many curious aspects about Mary Ann’s death, and about many of the characters who were an important part of her life—and perhaps her death. He summarized them briefly but promised to return—someday—with what he learns in his continued research.

Susan Lemire

Member News and Directory Changes

Please note: Laura Boerman has taken on the role of keeping track of member news. If you have any personal news you would like to share with LIRA, or if you know of any members who might appreciate cards or other support from LIRA members, please contact Laura (laura_boerman@yahoo.com).

Dr. Alan Kent survived an aortic valve replacement, and he’s feeling great.

Laura Boerman

Welcome New Members!

LIRA is growing! We are happy to welcome the following new members as of the fall of 2021:

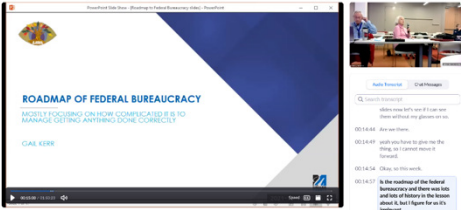
Frannie Clougherty, David Erickson, Nanae Ervin, Donna Georges, Wendy James, Ralph Jordan, Diana Keohane, Ron Keohane, Shiping Li, Dale Lueck, Kathleen Lueck. Maureen Maerz, Sheila McPharlin, Dee Miller, Robin Orford, David Penfield, Walter Pierson, Weigeng Shi, Doug Snow, Martin Stankard, Carolyn Stevens, Peter Sullivan, Lynn Vesey, Bill Yerkes

New Member Class

President Peter Sebelius gave a New Member Orientation class on the first day of the Fall Semester. He went over who we are, LIRA’s Corporation identity, LIRA’s association with UML and LIRA’s semester and meeting calendar. Member Guest Speakers talked about the organization of the Webpage, how our dues are apportioned, the LIRA Scholarship program, and Connie Lanseigne-Case spoke about what has been bringing her back to LIRA for 28 continuous years of membership.

To see the slides or to remind yourself about the lecture, go to: https://studentuml-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/peter_sebelius_uml_edu/Eu3cx4k70YdDkz0zo9RM29MBSKNqLUE2ToGl88eYqeLSXw and open the New Member class folder.

Peter Sebelius



Understanding the US Government

Gail Kerr and Peter Sebelius presented a four-lecture class on understanding the US Government. Building on prior LIRA classes about the Constitution and Federalist Papers, we endeavored to cover new material expanding on our relationship with the US Government.

Peter outlined the history and evolution of Presidential Power from the very limited executive envisioned by the founding fathers. Gail then discussed the makeup of the current administrative state, including members of the President's Cabinet, their agencies and other entities such as Independent Agencies and Government Corporations. Gail discussed why Congress is such a puzzle, presenting the motivations of elected legislators and the many roles and conflicting pressures they take on in congress.

After the presentation on how a bill becomes law, Peter tracked several examples of bills under consideration in the 117th congress using the www.Congress.gov website. Peter then talked about the role of the major political parties in the US and how they have evolved.

We also addressed the role of the media in politics with a look at media polarization before Gail addressed the origins and causes of polarization within the American citizenship.

We all have different ideas about how the US Government should function. I believe we all now have a better understanding of how the U.S. Government actually operates.

Peter Sebelius

Pushing the Envelope: A History of the US Postal Service Through Stamps



Henry Lukas, education director of the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History at Regis College in Weston, presented an informative and entertaining history of the US Postal Service through stamps. Starting with the first stamp ever issued through mail drops on islands used by whaling ships, the Pony Express, the dawn of home delivery, international agreements for mail delivery and even the use of Ballistic Missiles to shoot mail across country (it didn't work). We all agreed that a future trip to the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History is in order.

Peter Sebelius



Get to know... Nancy Pitkin

Nancy Pitkin has been an active member of LIRA since 2012. She has been Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Secretary, and Vice President. She is currently a member of the curriculum committee.

Nancy grew up in Rhode Island, Florida, and finally Massachusetts. She has been married to Richard for 52 years, and has three grown sons. All her sons live in the area, and she sees her six grandchildren often—lots of soccer games! Nancy and Richard are very glad they were able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary before the pandemic!

In 1994, she began working at UMass Lowell, part-time, through an AmeriCorps grant. Part of her first job was with a program called School Volunteers for Lowell, where UMass Lowell students and the members of the community were encouraged to volunteer in the public schools. The UMass Lowell juniors and seniors were encouraged to apply for a LIRA scholarship and Nancy brought student resumes to the scholarship committee. That's how she found out about LIRA classes in 1995. She retired from UMass Lowell in 2010 and worked part-time for another three years after that. In 2012, she decided to join LIRA and the first class she took was a great one—Toby Hode's class on Islam.

Through her volunteer work with the public schools, Nancy became acquainted with many City Council members. She also managed a forum for local school superintendents and met many superintendents (at least one of whom is now a LIRA member!). For eight years, Nancy was a trustee at the Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell. This is a policy-making body that is appointed by the City Council. She is no longer a trustee, but still takes part in a non-fiction book club at the library that has been running for 12 years!

Nancy and Richard have traveled extensively, including to some "fly over" states in the U.S. They try to find places that include things they want to do or things they haven't done before. They even went to North and South Dakota—and she told me some things I didn't know about North Dakota, even though I grew up there!

Nancy has been very active in the Lowell Democratic Party. This started when she held a sign in New Hampshire for Paul Tsongas during his presidential campaign. Later, she admired Elizabeth Warren's book [The Two-Income Trap](#), and that inspired her to get involved in Warren's senate campaign in 2012. It was Warren's example that led to Nancy's grass roots campaigning. As recently mentioned in "The Column" in the [Lowell Sun](#), Nancy is "a force in Lowell's Democratic Party." A city Democrat is quoted: "She's one of the few that actually does the grassroots campaign work and so for that she has a lot of respect in city progressive circles."

Besides her many community activities and family time, Nancy enjoys knitting, reading extensively, and, of course, attending LIRA classes. She urges all members to get involved with running LIRA programs, even if it's a one or two-session class. She says it really helps to get to know more people and is very fulfilling.

Sheila Pariseau for the Highlight Committee

Condominium Law

On October 6th, 24 LIRA members joined condominium lawyer Edmund Allcock to learn the legal and financial aspects of condo ownership.

Ed explained the top 10 issues for condo owners and their associations to be aware of and answered questions from LIRA members.

Ed's presentation addressed:

1. Common Expense Assessments
2. Board Power and Regulation of the Condominium
3. Transition from Developer Control
4. Repairs and Improvements
5. Voting and Elections
6. Insurance Defense from Lawsuits
7. Handling Insurance Claims
8. Reasonable Accommodations for condo owners
9. Use of marijuana on the premises
10. Fines and Owner Misconduct

Bob Hanlon

Photo Contest Winner!

Congratulations to **Nancy Grove** who found all the hidden icons in the last newsletter. Nancy won \$25.00 from LIRA! You, too, can be a winner...

Next Contest: Find the Hidden Snowflakes!

There are FIVE snowflakes buried somewhere in this newsletter: 

Find them and send an email to beckybronson241@gmail.com telling me which article each one is in!

A winner will be picked randomly from all correct entries and awarded a prize of \$25.00 from LIRA!

This contest will close on December 15, 2021

Becky Bronson

Winter Book Group Meetings

LIRA's book group is open to all and will meet twice this winter on Zoom. Both meetings are from 10:00 am to noon.

Friday, January 21, 2022: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari, 2015, 464 pages. Toby Hodes will lead the discussion.

Friday, February 18, 2022: Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell, 2020, 305 pages. Shirley McCaffrey will lead the discussion.

LIRA Crossword

All of the answers can be found in articles in the newsletter. Happy reading!

<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/lira-crossword-december-2021>



The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2021; the deadline for news items is **February 15, 2021**. Please remember that coordinators are now responsible for getting someone to write an article about their program if you want something to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be submitted at any time before the deadline. Any format is acceptable, but if you have Microsoft Word and can use Verdana Font, size 10, that is preferred. Please email articles to:

becky.bronson@penfield.fm

Becky Bronson

Class Cancellations

For LIRA cancellations or messages, everyone who has email will be notified. We have a phone squad to contact those people who don't use email. When you register and pay your membership dues, look for the box to check if you need a phone call. Feel free to call me with any questions.

Judy Miller
978-256-8466

Exploring History



Five members of the UMass Lowell faculty contributed to a variety of programs for LIRA this fall. Four presenters were from the History Department, and one was from the English Department.

Professor Christopher Strobel presented "The Legacies of 1620 and the Mayflower: Native Americans in New England" on Sept. 21. This was a particularly relevant topic given the current interest in replacing the Columbus Day holiday with an "Indigenous Peoples" holiday. Prof. Strobel used a couple of case studies, historic sketches and biographies from throughout New England to explore the genuine experience of indigenous peoples in this area rather than the myths that many of us learned about Puritan settlements and the first Thanksgiving. He showed how colonization, disease, dispossession and racism all had impacts on the lives of the native people.

On Sept. 27th, Professor Robert Farrant explored the irony of the extraordinary anti-slavery and underground railroad efforts in the years before the Civil War in the city of Lowell, whose textile mills heavily depended on cotton produced by enslaved people in the Southern states of our country. LIRA members watched a documentary depicting several sites in downtown Lowell where abolitionist activity occurred. The film, produced by Lowell Telecommunications, was narrated by Prof. Farrant and local historian and community educator Maritza Grooms. A question-and-answer session about specific aspects of the events and people involved took place after the movie.

Associate Professor Abby Chandler presented a third program on Sept. 28th. She discussed the passing of the "Stamp Act" by the British Parliament and the multiple responses from British colonists as well as the reactions of specific colonies to what became a "Stamp Act Crisis." Colonists wrote pamphlets both in support of and in opposition to the Act. Riots and demonstrations broke out in communities along the eastern seaboard. Some Governors derided and fought

against the colonist opposition, but sometimes some governors supported the colonists' position. The varying political beliefs of the colonists and their leadership both fused and divided the British colonies just a few years before the Revolution.

The last program from the History Department had the intriguing title "Pirates of the Mediterranean." Assistant Professor Jane Sancinito explored the history of Pirates from the time of Ancient Egypt to the coming of the Vikings. Looking at the ancient world from the pirates' perspective, Prof. Sancinito asked why people turned to piracy, how they made a living and survived attempts at suppressing them, and why they captured the ancient imagination in much the same way they do today.

Professor Bridget Marshall from the English Department presented a program on The Dark Side of Mill Girl Life on Sept. 21st. In a previous presentation, Prof. Marshall told us about what the Mill Girls were doing when they weren't working. These activities included reading, writing (including articles for the *Lowell Offering*), and walks throughout Lowell, especially in the beautiful Lowell cemetery. They also attended lectures and theater events and enjoyed socializing and furthering friendships with their fellow workers.

This program was about the darker side of Mill Girl Life, and Prof. Marshall used case studies to illustrate what happened to some of these young women. Sarah Furber, who worked in Manchester, NH, was murdered after becoming pregnant by a married man. She died during an attempted abortion, and the doctor took her body to Boston to sell as a dissection specimen! Other young women who died because of botched abortions included Sarah Cornel and Hester Fisher. Prof. Marshall also discussed the deaths of two other Mill Girls, Mary Bean and Caroline Adams. She discussed how the stories of these workers were represented in poetry, fiction, journalistic accounts, and she used illustrations from these publications to help us understand the all too often deadly impacts of industrialization.

Susan Lemire



Kevin Gardner – Builder of Stone Walls

Kevin Gardner, a stone wall builder and lifelong resident of Hopkinton, NH, built a (small) stone wall on a table in University Suites right before our eyes while talking about the history, construction, styles and significance of stone walls throughout New England.

LIRA members learned many things about stone wall building:

- The “Prime Directive” of stone wall building is “one stone over two.” Stones should not be built in columns—one over the other—rather a single stone should be placed over the joint between two stones, transferring weight and pressure across the entire structure.
- Stones have a lifelong ambition to fall to the center of the earth and will wait patiently for the opportunity. Like people, over time, the walls stretch out and loosen up as they get older. But earthquakes, tree roots and a buildup of underground water can also lead to their failure.
- The high point of stone wall building in New England came in the early 19th century with the introduction of merino sheep as the primary agricultural animal. Stone walls about 4 to 5 feet high were perfect for keeping them contained in their fields. They wouldn’t try to jump over something if they couldn’t see over it.
- In early New England, farmers building walls used every stone that came to hand; newer builders beginning in the late 19th century began doing more decorative wall building. As some people developed significant wealth, they developed architectural taste that wanted something a little fancier.

✳ Before closing Kevin shared titles and authors of books about stone wall building including two of his own: *The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls* and *Stone Building: How to Make New England Style Walls and Other Structures the Old Way*. He also answered questions from members who would like to build walls at their own homes.

Susan Lemire

Newsletter Committee

[Becky Bronson, Editor](#)

Marge Nardini, Layout & Reproduction

Charlotte Evans, Calendar & Distribution

Laura Boerman, Member News

becky.bronson@penfield.fm

mnard1008@verizon.net

chrsnave@aol.com

laura_boerman@yahoo.com

Women in History

In this fascinating 4-week course from UMass Lowell History Professor Michael Pierson, 32 Lira members learned about the evolving roles of women in the United States from colonial America to the present day.

The first class dealt with women from 1600 to the revolutionary war. Professor Pierson pointed out that woman lacked power through coverture, which prevented married woman from owning property and other conventions that excluded woman from public life. For some women, however, this was not a total roadblock to progress as this time may also be called a golden age for them.

The second week covered the period from the end of the revolution to 1865 and the emergence of civil society. Although still excluded from public life, many women had a new sphere of influence through organizations that promoted social change through the work of abolitionist, temperance, religious and other groups, as well as education through women's academies.

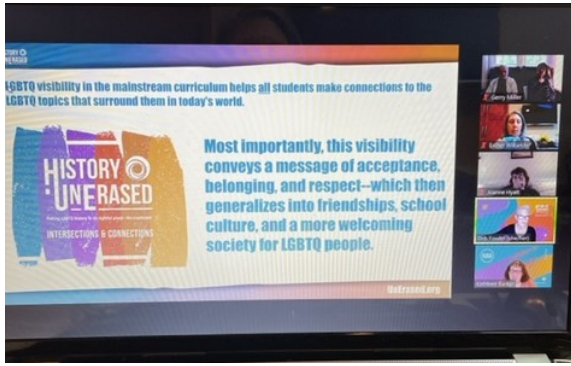
Week three covered Progressive Era women and the campaign for the vote from 1865 to 1920. The Industrial Revolution brought in women to work in the factories. These women found newfound power to organize and strike to protest working conditions and pay. Through organizations like the International Workingmen's Association and other groups, women worked to alleviate poverty and change child labor laws. Women fought for the right to vote through organizations such as the National Women's Suffrage Association.

The last week of the class covered the period from 1920 to the present with the emergence of more woman in the workplace starting in the 1930s and advancing further with women replacing men during World War II. In addition, the Civil Rights Movement and Title 9 brought further advancement for women. The class concluded with discussion of the progress still to be made.

German Elections

On two Thursday afternoons, LIRA member Jim Pope explained how the German election system works. This was the first election in 16 years that Angela Merkel hasn't run in, and thus a sea change in administration in Germany. The first session on September 23 described the different parties, states of Germany and method of voting. The second session of October 7 discussed the results of the election held Sept. 26, in which no one or even two parties commanded a majority. Thus, the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which received the highest number of votes in the election, was given the first opportunity to form a coalition government. They are meeting with the Free Democrats (FDP) and the Green Party (the third and fourth highest vote getters) to try to accomplish this. This was a very informative class and helped us all better understand the unique differences in the way Germans elect and form a government. At this writing, the SPD is still in meetings with the other parties. No details have emerged. Angela Merkel and her administration will continue to serve until a coalition government is established. If the SPD cannot reach an agreement, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) will see if they can form a coalition government. They received the second highest votes in the election and are the party of Angela Merkel, who has been Chancellor for the past 15, almost 16 years.

Sally Coulter



History UnErased

"Which amendment to the US Constitution granted LGBTQ citizens the right to marry?"

Choices: 1st, 14th, 15th, 19th, 26th?

"Have you heard of Stonewall? If so, what is its significance?"

(See below for correct answers)

On October 27, these and other questions were posed to LIRA members by Debra Fowler, co-founder of History UnErased, and Kathleen Barker, its lead facilitator.

History UnErased is a Lowell-based education nonprofit that brings LGBTQ history into the mainstream curriculum across the nation. By presenting age/grade appropriate lessons within the social studies curriculum, History UnErased allows students to learn a more complete picture of who we are as Americans.

Using original documents, quotes, and excerpts from speeches, Ms. Fowler and Ms. Barker engaged the group with an interactive multimedia presentation. We learned about LGBTQ history from Jamestown to the 21st century and were introduced to some individuals who had dual gender identities as well as other individuals who hid their sexual preference. The presenters also discussed the difficulties these individuals may have encountered. Now in the 21st century, PRIDE (Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Excellence) month is celebrated in June.

The group enjoyed the engaging, interactive presentation.

✧ **Answers:**

- 1.) 14th Amendment
- 2.) Stonewall Inn, a building in Greenwich Village, was the site in of the Stonewall riots in 1969. This event is considered the single most important event leading to gay, lesbian, bisexual rights. Stonewall is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

Esther Wikander

Lowell Chamber Orchestra

On Wednesday, October 20th, a group of LIRA members and guests attended a Lowell Chamber Orchestra concert at Middlesex Community College's new Academic Arts Center.

Upon arrival, Orlando Cella, the orchestra's conductor, greeted us. Orlando explained we were going to hear Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich's 8th chamber symphony. This was Shostakovich's musical autobiography. It was not only about his life under a Stalinist regime, but also about his feelings for his country. Orlando explained in detail the story of the composer's life and the musical techniques employed in the symphony.

Following this fascinating explanation of what we were about to hear, the 11-piece orchestra then played the hour-long symphony. After the concert, Orlando fielded questions from the audience.

Bob Hanlon

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

2022 Winter Intersession

The 2022 Winter Intersession, given between semesters, offers 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 Winter Intersession programs.

All classes will be running online using Zoom. You will be getting the invites via email before the beginning of the programs.

Friday, Dec 10: Film Discussion 10 a.m. to noon

One Night in Miami starring Kingsley Ben-Adir, Eli Goree, Aldis Hodge and Leslie Odom Jr.
Discussion Leader: Bob Hanlon*

Friday, Dec 17: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to noon

You Never Forget your First by Alexis Coe
Discussion Leader: Susan Lemire*

Friday, January 21, 2022: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to noon

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari
Discussion Leader: Toby Hodes

Friday, February 18, 2022: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to noon

Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell
Discussion Leader: Shirley McCaffrey

The following programs will run on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. – noon unless otherwise specified:

Jan. 5: Banding Northern Saw-whet Owls at Lookout Rock

Presenter and coordinator: Bob Stevens*

How do you catch and band a Saw-whet Owl that flies only in the woods at night? What is a Saw-whet owl anyhow? Are they around here? Bob Stevens banded Saw-whet owls for ten years and will talk about their migration and the process of banding Saw-whet Owls as well as their special features for hunting at night.

Jan. 12: The Behavior of Cephalopods (Octopus, Squid, and Cuttlefish)

Presenter: Millersville University Professor Jane Boal

Professor Emerita, Biology, Jean Boal, Ph.D. Millersville University in Pennsylvania will introduce us to the ocean animals she studies and explain her research into their behavior. These animals are in the Cephalopoda class containing squids, cuttlefish and octopus.

Coordinator: Beverly Rudeen*

Jan. 19: The Wyeths: An American Artistic Dynasty

Presenter: Jane Oneail

The Wyeth family of artists is known for their somber realism and subtle storytelling. This program will explore the style of painting and illustration established by N.C. Wyeth in the early 1900s and passed on and re-interpreted by his children, primarily Andrew Wyeth, and his grandson Jamie Wyeth. Learn more about their favorite subjects, their influences and their enduring impact in the art world.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon*

Monday, Jan. 24, 10:00 a.m. - noon: Volcanos

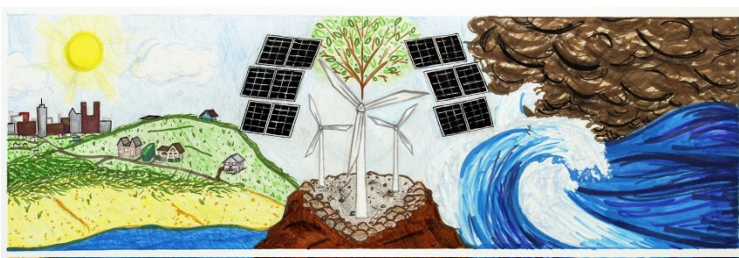
Presenter: UMass Lowell Assistant Professor Richard Gaschnig

Iceland is one of the most volcanically active places on Earth and this year experienced a significant eruption at Fagradalsfjall, near the capital city of Reykjavik. Dr. Gaschnig visited Iceland and witnessed the eruption in May and will talk about this experience and the unique aspects of the Fagradalsfjall eruption, along with a more general discussion of the geology of Iceland, including the geologic causes of its prolific volcanism.

Coordinator: Bob Stevens*

Jan. 26 (Wednesday): Cool Science

Presenter: Dr. Jill Lohmeier



Dr. (Jill) Hendrickson Lohmeier will discuss her work in Informal Science Education about Climate Change and Extreme Weather. She is a Primary Investigator for a National Science Foundation project, "Cool Science: Art as a Vehicle for Intergenerational Learning" (coolscience.net). She will also discuss her experience and what she learned at the UN

Conference on Climate Change COP 26 in Glasgow.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

Feb. 2: Green Fertilizer

Presenters: Visal Veng, Benard Tabu, Samuel Alpert

Green Fertilizer is an idea developed by a team of three graduate students pursuing doctoral studies in the Energy Engineering Program at UMass Lowell. The technology produces nitrogen fertilizer from air and water using solar energy and delivers it on demand. This fulfills an increasing need for nitrogen fertilizer at a low cost, distributed manner, while mitigating nitrogen pollution and vast amounts of carbon dioxide CO₂ emissions commonly associated with the conventional fertilizer production approaches. Technology is significantly relevant to (i) developing countries which endure high cost of fertilizer and food shortage and (ii) developed countries which suffer nitrogen runoff as the results of over application of fertilizer. Our team wishes to present our thoughts, technology ideas, and accomplishments to LIRA to help express our support for the community and how the LIRA supports our goals for an environmentally friendly and sustainable future as we strive to make the world a better place for everyone. The team won the "Commitment for a Sustainable Environment" award [1] as part of the UMass Lowell RIST DifferenceMaker program in 2021.

[1] <https://www.uml.edu/Innovation-Entrepreneurship/DifferenceMaker/Meet-the-DifferenceMakers/green-fertilizer.aspx>

Coordinator: Sally Coulter*

Feb. 9: (Wednesday) 1 – 3 p.m.: Mount Washington Observatory: Home of the World's Worst Weather

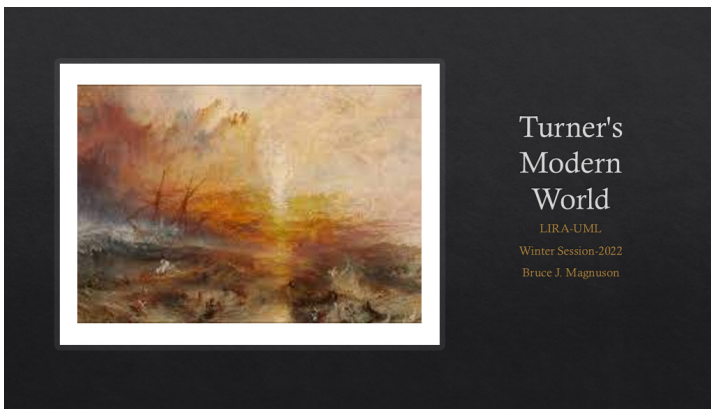
Presenters: Staff of the Mount Washington Observatory

Why is Mt. Washington called the "Home of the World's Worst Weather"? This program will explore the unique life and work of the weather observers stationed on Mt. Washington and learn why, for a mountain its size, Mt. Washington hosts some of the worst weather on Earth.

Coordinator: James Rutter*

Feb. 16: Turner's Modern World

Presenter and Coordinator: Bruce Magnuson*



Turner's Modern World-The British artist JMW Turner's career spanned the tumultuous changes of Europe in the early to mid 1800's. We will explore the art and times of Turner and his revolutionary idea of painting contemporary scenes. From 3/27/2022-7/10/2022 the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston will be the final stop for the exhibition "Turner's Modern World." This LIRA session will provide a context of Turner and his place in the pantheon of Western Art. Hopefully also whetting the appetite for those who may want to visit the exhibition while it is here in Boston.

Feb. 23: Japanese Dolls and the Friendship Exchange and "All About Ginny"

Presenter: Rebecca Rudranath

Rebecca Rudranath is a doll collector and has been a member of a local UFDC (United Federation Of Doll Clubs) chapter. She has been a speaker at several doll club meetings in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Rebecca will present two one-hour talks for us about dolls. Her first talk will be about the Friendship Exchange created after WWI between Japan and the United States. During the second hour she will speak about the Ginny Doll manufactured in Massachusetts from the 1920's through the 1950's.

Coordinator: Beverly Rudeen*

Friday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. – noon: Railroads in the Western USA

Presenter: Kevin Standlee

While the history of the building of the first transcontinental railroad and the driving of the Golden Spike are well-known and will be covered in this talk, railroads are still a modern, active technology, vital to modern society, even when it is not that obvious. Our speaker has traveled by train extensively and is an avid railroad enthusiast who will talk first about how we got that first railroad link between the US west coast and the rest of the country back in the 1860s and then about how that line and the others that connect east and west are a still an important, if often invisible, part of keeping our modern world supplied and running.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel*

* Indicates LIRA member

LIRA's Winter 2022 Calendar

Please note: All winter classes are Zoom only

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 3	January 4	January 5 10 am to Noon Banding Northern Saw-whet Owls at Lookout Rock Bob Stevens	January 6	January 7
January 10	January 11	January 12 10 am to Noon The Behavior of Cephalopods (Octopus, Squid and Cuttlefish) Prof. Jane Boal	January 13	January 14
January 17	January 18	January 19 10 am to Noon The Wyeths: An American Artistic Dynasty Jane Oneall	January 20	January 21 10 am to Noon Book Group <u>Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind</u> , by Yuval Noah Harari
January 24 10 am to Noon Volcanos Asst. Prof. Richard Gaschnig	January 25	January 26 10 am to Noon Cool Science Dr. Jill Lohmeier	January 27	January 28
January 31	February 1	February 2 10 am to Noon Green Fertilizer Visal Veng, Benard Tabu, Samuel Alpert	February 3	February 4

February 7	February 8	February 9 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Mount Washington Observatory: Home of the World's Worst Weather Staff of the Mount Washington Observatory	February 10	February 11
February 14	February 15	February 16 10 am to Noon Artist JMW Turner's Modern World Bruce Magnuson	February 17	February 18 10: am to Noon Book Group <u>Hamnet</u> , by Maggie O'Farrell
February 21	February 22	February 23 10 am to Noon Japanese Dolls and the Friendship Exchange and "All About Ginny" Rebecca Rudranath	February 24	February 25 10 am to Noon Railroads in the Western USA Kevin Standlee
February 28				