



LIRA NEWSLETTER

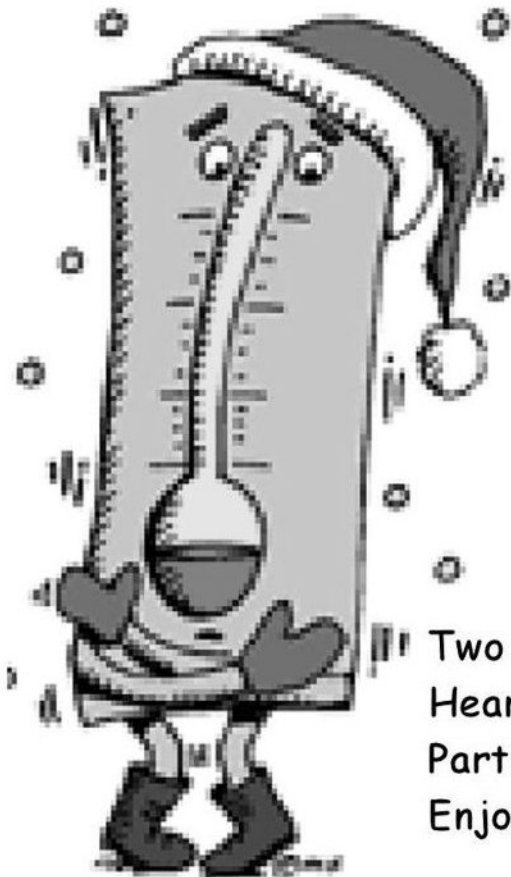
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
Office of Community Service – UMass Lowell
Member of Elderhostel Institute Network
Tel.: (978) 934-3135 Web: uml.edu/community/LIRA

December 2007

Vol. 14 No. 5

If the weather outside is frightful.....
Inside will be so delightful! Come join us for the

Annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon/Town Meeting



Wednesday, December 19
10a.m. to noon

MIL Conference Center
Suffolk Street
(in the Wannalancit Building)

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

History of Patriotic Music

On Wednesday, Nov. 7, we were wonderfully entertained by Dorothy Bromage's production, and it was a production indeed, called "A Musical History of Patriotic Music". It is difficult to render this multi-faceted presentation in a few paragraphs, but mainly the first part of the program consisted of a video of the history of patriotic songs beginning with "Yankee Doodle", from 1713 and winding up with Kate Smith singing "God Bless America", as she introduced the song over the radio in 1938. The second part of the program consisted of examining sheet music from the twenties and thirties and an exhibition of posters from many of the musicals that featured these songs.

Next we saw a video highlighting each of a long list of patriotic songs, and each segment gave a biographical sketch of the composer, and the song was played by a mechanical organ. These organs that played the songs were



Wurlitzer style 165 Military Band Organ which will play both the *Star Spangled Banner* and *American Patrol*

Scholarship Awards

Because of your generous support of our fundraising drive, Auction and "refreshment kitty", LIRA is once again able to give two \$1000 scholarships. This is a significant accomplishment for a group LIRA's size, and the Scholarship and Auction Committees wish to thank you very much.

The Scholarship Committee has met to choose the recipients. Selection is not easy as we are always impressed by the caliber of the applicants. UML can be very proud of its students. You will be able to meet the winners at the holiday party on December 19th. Again, many thanks for your support of this endeavor.

LIRA SCHOLARSHIP AND AUCTION COMMITTEES

Betty Jack
Carol Cannistraro
Pat Dion
Barbara Arnold
Kay Carroll
Kay Dunfey
Mary Welch

either replicas, or in some cases repaired and rebuilt originals, of the kind that could have been found in movie theaters or amusement parks in earlier days.

It seems that Dorothy has an extensive collection of sheet music of, I guess, almost all if not every, patriotic song ever written. It brought me back to the days when as a child I listened to my mother play the piano and sing such songs as "Keep The Home Fires Burning" and "Roses of Picardy".

Dorothy gave all of us, as a souvenir of the occasion, two different copies of the sheet music in her collection. The whole performance was a tour de force, and, I don't know what she will do for us next, but it will hard to beat this one.

Frank Carroll



An 80-key Gebr. Bruder fairground organ used to demonstrate *Over There*

LIRA's Web Page

LIRA now has its own web page. It was designed by the University and I provided the information. You may wonder about the banner across the top of the page. We were unhappy with the banner that they provided, so I looked through some of the pictures I had taken on many of our trips. The one that you see was taken in May of 2006 when we walked part of the Freedom Trail in Boston. It was a miserable, cold, rainy day, but I thought that the picture portrayed that we are a hardy group with an adventurous spirit!

Please take a look at the website and let me know if there is anything I should add or change. The address is:
uml.edu/community/lira

Jeri Durant

Elderhostel Visits LIRA

On October 10, 2007, Mary Ann Knowles of the Elderhostel office here in Lowell, came to share her knowledge of their current programs. Unlike the more prevalent lecture approach in the past, now Elderhostel emphasizes more active participation in their life-long learning process. There is even a service component for those so inclined. Whether by ship, or by land, Elderhostel has something to offer both here and abroad. New horizons await.

Mary O'Connor

LIRA Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

LIRA will provide coffee and tea for the luncheon; no other beverages will be provided. If you want bottled water or a soft drink, please bring it from home.

We will try to adhere to the following schedule in order to give coordinators and others ample time to make their presentations. (A copy of the agenda will be placed on each table at the Holiday Party.)

AGENDA:

9:00 AM – Gathering

Setup tables:

- For members (socialize; business meeting; pot luck luncheon)
- For potluck food items
- For books, hats & mittens for children
- For sale of raffle tickets

Members bring their contributions and place them in designated areas:

- food items for potluck
- books, hats & mittens for children
- consumable auction items for raffle

Members:

- purchase raffle tickets
- choose the item(s) and place their raffle tickets in the appropriate cup(s). (Auction (raffle) items will be numbered and a cup with the same number will be placed near each item.)

10:05 AM – Business Meeting

- Welcome
- Announcements
- Presentation of Winter Intersession:
Curriculum Chairperson and Program Coordinators
- Presentation of Award Certificates:
Curriculum Chairperson
- Last call to purchase raffle tickets
- RAFFLE
- Presentation of Scholarship Awards to Student Recipients:
Scholarship Chairperson

11:15 AM – Lunch

12:30 PM – WRAP-UP & CLEAN UP:

We would appreciate your assistance if you are able to help. Thanks.

Holiday Party Reminder

Just a reminder to members: if your last name begins with the letters **A THRU M** bring a Main Course. If last name begins with letters **N thru Z** bring a dessert.

Any questions please call Kay Dunfey at 978-640-0422.



BSO Rehearsal

The annual trip to Symphony Hall for the BSO rehearsal occurred on November 1st. Our trip into Boston was a blanket of steady traffic with some unexpected detours and comments from Frank Carroll stating “I don’t know where we are”. We arrived about two hours later (at the front door) in time for most of the pre-rehearsal presentation.

The program offered the debut in Boston of Conductor Markus Stenz and Frank Peter Zimmermann, both from Germany. Stenz is presently the Music Director in Cologne, but also appears regularly with important orchestras in Europe, America and Australia. He performs with opera companies, music festivals, and has completed a series of recordings for CD’s. Zimmermann began playing the violin at age five and has performed internationally with the world’s major orchestras, music festivals and recitals. He plays a Stradivarius from 1711. This violin was once owned by Fritz Kreiser.

The program offered by the BSO consisted of Mozart’s Symphony No. 1, also the lovely Violin Concerto No. 2 by Mozart, a very modern piece by Brett Dean called *The Lost Art of Letter Writing* for violin and orchestra (2006), and concluded with Schumann’s great Symphony No. 2.

It was a great afternoon and best of all, our bus was waiting at the front door. All enjoyed the melodic melodies of Mozart and the complex and exhausting piece by Dean with its unusual brass and woodwind sounds. We left the concert exactly at one with the conductor pointing to the clock. Great....

Janice Shuhany

Holiday Party Details



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 designed by Jean Dettman

denoting that it is a gift from Learning In Retirement Association. Books should be suitable for children, ages three through teens. In the past, there has been a desperate need for hats and mittens for children, ages up to 12 years old. We have decided to continue to bring these, also. Please bring a new book and/or hat and mittens, unwrapped, to the Holiday party. Thanks for your participation.

LIRA Scholarship Fund Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party in December. This year the Committee has decided that the auction will be a Consumable Auction.



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. It will be run the same way as the Chinese

Auction. The Scholarship Committee will sell tickets and you will decide what item(s) you want, and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donated items must be brought directly to the Holiday Party. We will not be collecting items beforehand.

ITEMS YOU MIGHT DONATE:

- Homemade cookies or breads
- Candy
- Basket filled with teas, coffee, breads, soaps, movie snacks, etc.
- A bottle of wine
- Passes to a movie
- Gift certificates of any kind
- Suduko 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 a dog or a cat.
- If you like to drive you might offer to take someone to and pick-up from a doctor's or hospital visit, within the Lowell area.
- Knitting or crocheting lessons

Remember that the money raised from the auction goes directly to the Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$1. for one or 6 for \$5.

*The Auction Committee
Carol Cannistraro and Pat Dion*

Opera Lovers Note

From Ann Dahlman:

Last year a friend of mine invited me to join her at a theater in Framingham for the Live in High Definition presentation of an opera at the Met. I agreed to join her and thought it was wonderful. It was up close and personal and the reading of the prompts was so easy - much easier than I found it at a live opera. These presentations were so successful that it was decided to expand the theaters that were presenting these broadcasts. Today (Nov. 9) I purchased 2 tickets for their first presentation at the Lowell Movie Theater which will be held Saturday afternoon on Dec. 15th - "Romeo Et Juliette". Unfortunately for me, the members of the Met get the right to purchase first.

The Jacks also mentioned this in their class and sent us the schedule. I have included the website where you can get synopsis of each performance along with the schedule.

http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/broadcast/hd_events.aspx

Northern Massachusetts theaters are:

Lowell Showcase Cinemas, adjacent to Lowell Connector
Solomon Pond 15, Marlboro, just off Rt. 290

Framingham 15, 32 Flutie Pass, Framingham, between Rt. 30 & Rt. 9

The following is a listing of the performances:

Roméo et Juliette – Gounod

Saturday, December 15, 2007 (1:00 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes. 1 intermission

Hansel and Gretel (new production) – Humperdinck

Tuesday, January 1, 2008 (1:00 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 2 hours, 35 minutes. 1 intermission

Macbeth (new production) – Verdi

Saturday, January 12, 2008 (1:30 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes. 1 intermission

Manon Lescaut – Puccini

Saturday, February 16, 2008 (1:00 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 3 hours, 41 minutes. 3 intermissions

Peter Grimes (new production) – Britten

Saturday, March 15, 2008 (1:30 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 3 hours, 45 minutes. 2 intermissions

Tristan und Isolde – Wagner

Saturday, March 22, 2008 (12:30 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 5 hours, 35 minutes. 2 intermissions

La Bohème – Puccini

Saturday, April 5, 2008 (1:30 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes. 2 intermissions

La Fille du Régiment (new production) – Donizetti

Saturday, April 26, 2008 (1:30 pm – Eastern Time)

Running time: 3 hours, 10 minutes. 1 intermission

Green Windows

The New England Quilt Museum is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a show of quilts entitled *Lowell Inside/Out*. It is a juried exhibit of quilts inspired by the city of Lowell and our own Suzanne Knapp has entered her quilt *Green Windows*. The exhibit is open from November 15, 2007 to January 12, 2008. The following is Suzanne's description of her quilt.

Jeri Durant

The top row shows three views of Lowell from the windows of my Market St. condominium in Canal Place One. From left to right: the Market Mills building, the McCartin building with the Mico Kaufman sculpture *Homage to Women* (rear view) in the foreground, and the Old Firehouse with its bell tower. The bottom row is actually a single view of the Pawtucket canal from the Central St. bridge, showing the Joan Fabrics building on the left and the Roy garage and several mill buildings that have been rehabilitated into condominiums—including Canal Place One (the tallest building in the background)—on the right.

The title was inspired by *Green Windows* by Lowell poet Paul Marion.

Green Windows

Green windows in the redbrick mills
Green syllables in a red sentence
Green lights in a dark street
Green mouths in the open air
Green eyes all in a row

Glass windows stained green
from fingerprints of loom fixers,
bobbin boys, mill girls -
fingerprints of former farmers
who that morning walked to work
and bent down by the roadside
to rip up a fistful of grass,

and those green stained hands
wiped dust from mill windows,
smearing green ink onto glass,
leaving a trace that built up
over years as green stained hands
rubbed panes for a clearer look.

Green signs painted by countryfolk
who worked in factories to make a living wage
who signed up for the industrial army
who changed old ways to pay for groceries
who left poor soil for dependable machines
who took inside jobs but left green handprints
on the windows so someone might imagine
those window panes were green
from the grassy dreams shining behind them.

From *Focus on a Locus, Lowell Poems*, by Paul Marion



Fall Convocation

The 19th Convocation of LIRA opened at 10:00 AM in Fox Hall on September 19 with sixty attendees. Don Pattershall, President, welcomed members and visitors. Facilitators gave a brief summary of their planned sessions. Sign up sheets were available.

Don introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Melissa Pennell, Professor and Chair of the English Department at UMASS Lowell. Dr. Pennell has been a favored guest of LIRA for many seasons and LIRA members always look forward to her visit. She began her remarks with a brief insight into how her love of reading at an early age led to her chosen career. She spoke about re-reading books she had read and enjoyed in the past. Her most favorite book that she reads every year is *The Country of the Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett. She seeks to pass on an enthusiasm for all types of literature to her students.

From time to time mystery stories have been a focus of her leisure reading and although she has some favorite writers she is always eager to discover new authors. LIRA members are very appreciative of Dr. Pennell's willingness to make time in her busy schedule to appear at our meetings.

Barbara Arnold

The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2008; the deadline for news items is February 15, 2008. 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.

Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at the Pollard Library

"Report from Iraq" by Doug Grindle

Doug Grindle has worked as an embedded reporter in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait for the last few years. His stories and slide show presentation capture the daily life for civilians as well as American soldiers on patrol and on base.

Sunday, Jan.12, 2 p.m. at the National Park Visitor Center

"How Technology Shapes Our Music and Listening Experience" by William Moylan

Or "Five ways of hearing the Beatles *Let it Be*". Making and playing back music recordings shapes our music and listening experiences in striking ways. Dr. Moylan is Professor and Coordinator of the Sound Recording

Technology program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where he built the recording program into one of the strongest in the United States. Dr. Moylan will illustrate with sound recordings how we listen to music.

Sunday, Jan.27, 2 p.m. at the National Park Visitor Center in partnership with the Lowell Historical Society

"Cotton & Slaves: The Fiber that Changed American Slavery" by Susan E. O'Donovan

Cotton fueled the mills at Lowell; it contributed millions to the national economy; it also demanded a high human price. Susan O'Donovan explores those hidden costs in her new book, *Becoming Free in the Cotton South*.

Saturday, March 1, 2 p.m. at the Pollard Library
A Day of Latin music from the Caribbean and South America with Angel Wagner and "Grupo Fantasia"

Come enjoy a colorful mix of Mexican mariachi, calypso, reggae, and salsa music played primarily on original, handmade indigenous instruments. Dancing is recommended, Rumba anyone?

Curriculum Committee Updates

New Curriculum Committee Chairperson

I am extremely pleased to announce that Toby Hodes has graciously accepted the position of Chairperson of LIRA's Curriculum Committee.

Thank You Barbara Page

Barbara Page has resigned as chairperson due to illness in her family. We really appreciate all of the time and effort she has expended in helping to bring us interesting and diverse programs. Please join me in thanking Barbara for having served as chairperson, and for her willingness to continue to serve as a member of the curriculum committee.

Don Pattershall

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 Don Pattershall to ascertain that the class or program is still scheduled for that day. This will avoid disappointment and an unnecessary trip to Fox Hall.

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, Don Pattershall will call Barbara Willman who is the telephone tree coordinator, to let her know of the cancellation. Barbara will then call eight other members (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.

Newsletter Committee

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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.

Email Changes:

Anita Campbell:
alcampbell.1@juno.com
Ann Dahlman:
ann.dahlman@gmail.com
Bette Guerrera:
baguerrera@verizon.net

Al Sidel:
alfred.sidel@gmail.com

New Member:

Libbie Glazer
96 Fairfield Street
Lowell, MA 01852



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

Jeri Durant

