



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



March 2017

Vol. 24 No. 1

Spring is near along with
the new Spring Session!

**Join us for the Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
10 AM to Noon**

**Lydon Library, Room #110, 84 University Avenue, Lowell, MA
Shuttle bus from Tsongas Parking Lot**

**Come hear about our new Spring Schedule,
have some refreshments and sign up for classes.**



*No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips its turn.
Hal Borland*

Details for Town Meeting

On Wednesday, March 8, the Town Meeting will be held at the Lydon Library, Room #110, 84 University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot at the Tsongas Center to Lydon Library. The first shuttle will leave at 9 a.m. **sharp** and return for a second trip at 9:30 a.m. **sharp**. The return to the Tsongas parking lot will leave shortly after the end of the meeting.

If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food for refreshments (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be greatly appreciated.

If you are not able to attend the Town Meeting and wish to sign up for courses and/or trips, please ask someone to do it for you.

Hope to see you all there!

Notes about the Spring Session

As of this publishing, all classes are meeting at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA. If the location changes, you will be notified by email or phone. There are no classes on Monday, March 13. Classes begin on March 14. Art & Music goes to the Boston Symphony on April 20, so Thursday classes, Great Decisions and Robotics, that week are on Wednesday. There is no Art & Music program on April 26; it will be held on Friday, April 28 instead. The location will be announced. Parking for the Tsongas Center is in the lot to the right of the building. Parking for University Suites and the Campus Recreation Center is either in the East parking garage across from the Rec Center on Pawtucket Street or the Perkins lot at the bottom of Riverwalk Way. You will need your UMass Lowell ID to get into the garage and the Perkins lot. Make sure to use your hangtag wherever you park!

All classes are open to all LIRA members. If you are going to any of the tours in the Art & Music program, you must sign up for those. It is not necessary to sign up for those Art & Music programs that are in a classroom.



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Thank you

Thank you Terri and Lila for the wonderful donations. We have so many kids that are always in need of these items. You will help kids keep warm this winter. It's something so simple but most kids have none of these items and if they lose them they are not often replaced.

Thanks to LIRA for always thinking of CTI and the community.

Warmest regards,

Gladys Santiago
Program Support Specialist
Community Teamwork
155 Merrimack St.
Lowell, MA 01852

Special Invitation

Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and Provost Michael Vayda invite you to attend the 2017 Distinguished University Professor Lecture "The Role of the Public University in the 21st Century," presented by this year's University Professor Bob Farrant.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Mar. 29, 2017 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Lower Locks Room at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren Street, Lowell. Faculty and students are cordially invited. Discussion and refreshments will follow the lecture.

RSVP to Victoria_Denoon@uml.edu by Mar. 21, 2016 if you plan to attend.

Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library is running a Lecture Series in conjunction with LIRA on the second Friday of the month. The lectures begin at 10 a.m. in the McCarthy Meeting Room. Nothing further has been scheduled at the time of this newsletter.

March 10, 2017 Lecture: John L. Sullivan, America's First Sports Superstar

April 14, 2017 One Book Presents: Covering the Day, A Boston Reporter's Perspective

Check the library's website for further information.
www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday_morning_lectures.html

Movable Books

On January 25th, LIRA members Bev and Kim Rudeen introduced us to the wonderful world of Movable Books. They walked us through the fascinating history from Benedictine monk Matthew Paris c. 1200 to the amazing detailed work of Robert Sabuda to the inspiring story of the founders of www.lovepopcards.com who specialize in unbelievable pop-up cards for all occasions (and who also appeared on Shark Tank!).

Bev and Kim have been in the used book selling hobby business for nearly 30 years and have amassed quite a collection of pop-up books, many of which they brought in for everyone to enjoy. The detail found in these books was extraordinary, although maybe a bit too realistic as we saw in “The Pop-up Book of Phobias”...see picture of scary dentist with even scarier tools...umm...no thanks...my tooth is fine....really....

During the second half of the presentation, the group had a great time making their very own pop-up card.

Thank you Bev and Kim!

Dina Gerosideris



Above left: Bev and Kim Rudeen show their large collection of pop-up books.

Above right: The dentist from ‘The Pop-up Book of Phobias’

Lower right: Making Valentine pop-up cards

Photos by Dina

3rd Annual Healthy Aging – Living Well Forum

On **Friday, April 21, 2017, 8:30-1:30**, the Center for Gerontology Research and Partnerships (CGRP) at UMass Lowell will hold the *3rd Annual Healthy Aging – Living Well Forum* event. It is a wonderfully informative event which promotes research and education in field of gerontology while encouraging and nourishing networking and partnership opportunities. We will have panels of students, expert researchers and a keynote address. This event will be held at Room 110 in Lydon Hall on North Campus. We will have more details to follow, including access to parking and food!! Look for an invite to RSVP.

Newsletters on Website

PLEASE NOTE NEW POLICY: We are now assuming that everyone is reading the newsletter on-line. A hard copy of the newsletter will NOT be mailed to you unless you have contacted Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically.

The on-line newsletter is just like the printed one only better - it's in color! This policy will help us to save substantial printing and mailing costs to the university as well as a few trees.

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

Holiday Party 2016

We had a cozy, full room at Lydon Library for our 2016 Holiday Party. President, Richard Grove started the meeting by thanking Michael Cooke for taking care of our audiovisual needs at the University Suites and giving him a small gift in appreciation. We wished him well in his new endeavors in Buffalo. Nancy Pitkin reviewed our Winter Intersession. We had a delicious array of goodies that covered two long tables. Thanks to Debbie Sebelius for decorating the tables with her delicious, homemade cookies!

Janet Redman and Deanne Sferrino, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the six \$1500 scholarships to six deserving students. A small biography of each student is described in an article in this newsletter. Gladys Santiago from Community Teamworks, Inc. thanked us for our donations of hats, mittens and books. Thanks to Terri Munson for arranging with CTI to pick up our donations.

Our Consumable Auction raised \$505 for the Scholarship Fund! Thanks to Sheila Pariseau for running the auction. Thanks to Richard Grove for posting the numbers on the screen – a great idea! Sheila had many helpers passing out the prizes – thanks to Marge Nardini, Kathy Forstey, Jackie Carr, Esther Wikander and Bob Pariseau.

Thanks to all for their contributions of food, consumable auction items, buying raffle tickets and donations of books, hats and mittens. It was a great party and best of all – no snow! Below is a collage of the party from photos taken by Terri Munson and the UMass Lowell photographer. Terri also took the photos on the scholarship page.



Scholarship Awards

The Scholarship Committee was delighted to introduce six outstanding recipients of the LIRA Scholarships to LIRA members at our holiday party in December. Dee Sferrino, thanked the LIRA membership for their very generous donations to the Scholarship Fund and thanked the UML Relations Department staff, who had helped make the selection process of the large number of applicants so smooth. The students were awarded certificates before each spoke to the members. Each student met the criteria set forth by the Scholarship Committee: maintaining a 3.0+ GPA and participating in community outreach at the University and in greater Lowell. They are humble about their accomplishments and it has been a privilege to meet them.



Daniel Schmith is a Finance and Entrepreneurship Major with a minor in Legal Studies. Daniel is very involved in sports and founder of "Love of the Game," a community outreach program coordinating multiple parties to host sporting events for children with disabilities. He raised over \$6000 to start a community outreach program that integrates UML sports with individuals with developmental disabilities. Dan is involved with the Boys and Girls' Club, Bay State Marathon and Habitat for Humanity.



Mariam Taja is an Exercise Physiology major, Spanish Minor and Disability Studies Minor. Mariam plans to work for her Ph.D. in physical therapy. She is involved with the Physiology Club, educating the public on the benefits of exercise, and Treasurer of "To Write Love on Her Arms", a group dedicated to offering hope to people struggling with depression, addiction, self-harm and suicide. Mariam is a Resident Advisor and also organizes local outreach programs such as "Safe Trick or Treat," enabling the community to treat or treat in the safety of the University residence.



Michael Doane is a B.S.E., Chemical Engineering (Bioengineering concentration) major with minors in Physics, Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering. Besides his many accomplishments Michael founded BASH (Bio-digester Aided Solutions in Haiti). BASH is a study to repair and implement a sustainable sanitation system using bio-digesters, large devices that take in human waste and convert it into methane gas for cooking fuel. His other research involves using 3D cell cultures to grow pancreatic tumors that incorporate stromal cells.



Matthew Lovely is an Accounting and Finance Major and a research assistant in the History Department. Matthew is currently active with the National Guard and has served as acting Squad Leader during Infantry Advanced Individual Training in the U.S. Army. Matthew was awarded "Soldier of the Year" for his work in the National Guard and received a German Armed Forces Proficiency badge. He is a call responder for "Call2Talk Suicide Intervention Hotline" as well as a certified EMT. Matthew's aim is to be a member of the FBI.



Jennifer Pisarik is an Exercise Physiology major with a minor in Disability Studies. Jennifer was introduced during the holiday party by Scholarship Committee member John Mamalis, who has known Jennifer for several years. Jennifer has worked with John and other LIRA members in the exercise and physical therapy classes and she chose to continue working with the program independently of her studies. Jennifer is on the UML Track Team and works as a physical therapy aid at Emerson Hospital.



James Aung is an Economics Major and was introduced during the holiday party by Alan McKersie who is familiar with James' work. James is co-founder and director of Saydanar Community Development Center in Lowell, providing advocacy, education and services to promote self-help and growth for new immigrants and refugees, enhancing their economic, health, educational and employment status to become active citizens contributing positively to their local communities. Besides carrying a full workload at the University, James is on call 24/7 to help Burmese immigrants and refugees in Lowell.

Co-chairs: Dee Sferrino and Janet Redman thank Scholarship Committee members Simone Allard, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie, Dotty Morris and Barbara Murch for their diligence, thoughtfulness and time given in selecting scholarship recipients.



Politics of Water

Chris Wilkinson who is an Adjunct Professor in the Political Science department talked about the politics of water. Americans take it for granted that an abundant supply of safe drinking water is available when we turn on the faucet. But when we travel overseas we are often advised “drink only bottled water”. And we learned that the public water supply in Flint, Michigan and many other communities contains harmful pollutants – industrial pollution, agrochemicals, or human waste.

There is a global water crisis – not enough pure fresh water. Pollution, population growth, unsustainable use of water, climate change, deforestation, and desertification all contribute to this problem. The twenty first century could well mark the end of “oil wars” and the start of “water wars”. We learned that everything we produce, use, and consume has a “water footprint”. It takes 500 gallons of water to produce one pound of chicken, 1800 for one pound of beef, and 2000 for one gallon of milk. It takes 95,000 gallons of water to produce one car.

Another worrisome trend is the privatization and commodification of water. Around the world large companies are gaining control of water supplies and distribution, and making this a profitable business without delivering safe drinking water to all who need it. Providing safe water is one of the great challenges of the twenty first century.

Richard Grove



Chris Wilkinson takes a selfie with LIRA members

Member News

We are sad to learn that former LIRA member, Jane Cantor, is seriously ill. Our thoughts are with her at this difficult time. If anyone wants to send cards, her address is: 4-A Old Colony Drive, Westford, MA 01886.

Connie Richardson has been ill recently. We wish her well in her recovery.

Please let me know of any member who would like to be remembered by LIRA and I will send a card.

simone32allard@gmail.com - 603-943-7527

2017 Nominating Committee

Members of this year’s Nominating Committee are Carol McCarthy as Chairman, Simone Allard, and Russ MacLeod. All LIRA officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) serve one year terms and may be reelected. We will be electing a new slate of officers at the May Annual Meeting. If you wish to nominate a candidate for any of these positions, please let the nominating committee know as soon as possible.

Richard Grove

Professor John Kaag's Discovery

Over 30 LIRA and other attendees participated in an engaging lecture by Professor John Kaag, author of 'AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY, A Love Story' on February 1, 2017. Kaag began by posing the question: "Is life worth living?" the same question put to an audience by philosopher William James at the YMCA in Cambridge in 1895. James' response is "Maybe, it depends on the liver." Kaag challenged us to think like philosophers, to ponder Descartes' famous words "I think, therefore I am." Where is the freedom, life, individualism, emotion, in such a belief? How does random chance figure into our lives?

Kaag's chance encounter with a 93 year old man is certainly a strong example of how one random encounter snowballed into something Kaag never expected. In 2008 Kaag was organizing a 100th anniversary conference on the works of William James in the White Mountains. During a stop at a small coffee shop he met Bun Nickerson who'd lived on the property of one of James' students, William Ernest Hocking. Nickerson offered to bring Kaag to Hocking's library which housed his private collection of books, including first editions and signed copies from Ralph Waldo Emerson, Pearl S. Buck, Descartes, Robert Frost and many others, as well as folders of personal correspondences. The valuable collection was being housed in a stone building called West Wind. As several life-altering changes were happening in Kaag's personal life, he faced the monumental task of organizing and cataloging the collection. Two hundred of the volumes are now housed at UMass Lowell's O'Leary Library. The rest of the collection remains at West Wind, subject to destructive elements of weather, varmints, and mold.

The second part of Kaag's lecture included a reading from his book. In the selected chapter, Kaag read about how he silently observes an appraiser going through the volumes in a detached, heartless manner. The volumes are being judged only on their condition; the appraiser could have been looking at books of any topic. Kaag seems distraught that the content and character of the writings are completely omitted from the appraisal. This deep connection to the content and stories held within those documents is only part of Kaag's love story. Many of us will enjoy reading the entire memoir from our signed copies which were available at the presentation.

Suzanne Gamache, M.Ed.

Retired, February 2016

University of Massachusetts Lowell



John Kaag signing copies of his book, *American Philosophy: A Love Story*.
(Every copy was sold!)

Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2016-2017 Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. Descriptions are not included this time because of its length. Full descriptions can be found at the Pollard Library, Lowell, on the website www.parkerlectures.com or the file can be emailed to you by contacting Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Judith Black – “Meet Lucy Stone”

Saturday, March 25, 11:00 a.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, New England Quilt Museum
Lynne Zacek Bassett – “Gothic to Goth: Romantic Era Fashion and its Legacy”

Thursday, March 30, 11:45 p.m. – UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center
Gov. John H. Sununu – “The Quiet Man: The Indispensable Presidency of George H.W. Bush”

Sunday, April 2, 2:00 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center
Margherita Desy – “Celebrating Two Centuries of the Preservation of USS Constitution, America’s Ship of State”

Saturday, April 8, 1:00 p.m. – Pollard Library
Tom Ricardi – “Birds of Prey”

Wednesday, April 12, 11:45 a.m. – O’Leary Library
Dan Rea – “Media, Politics and the Law”

Remembering



A long-time LIRA member, Sally Cady, died on December 8 2016. Sally had been an active member of LIRA who served for many years on the Art & Music Committee. She also helped distribute the newsletter for many years

and was on the Hospitality Committee. Connie Lanseigne-Case said "Sally was an excellent contributor of suggestions to the Art and Music Committee for a number of years while I chaired the group. A visit to Sally's home made me appreciate the large collection of attractively displayed antiques, including some a little distressed yet conveying to her their original beauty and value." She and her husband ran an antique shop in Westford for about 15 years.

Tired of Robocalls?

One of the nuisances we all live with is unwanted robocalls from fundraisers, credit card companies, or someone who offers to fix a non-existent problem with your computer.

I use a consumer-friendly **free** service called NoMoRobo that screens out almost all robocalls. NoMoRobo works with cell phones and landlines from your cable provider (Comcast or Verizon). NoMoRobo won a contest that the Federal Trade Commission sponsored to end robocalls and it is recommended by Consumer Reports. For more information and to sign up for the service go to their website www.NoMoRobo.com

For more information about robocalls see: <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/06/are-you-a-target-for-robocall-scams/index.htm>

Richard Grove



The Annual Meeting will be held on May 17, 2017. The Summer Intersession begins on Wednesday, May 31, 2017.



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 Member:

Osvalda Rodrigues
14 Carriage Lane
Wakefield, Ma. 01880
Home phone: 781-246-1890
Cell phone: 978-697-1738
Email: rodriguesosvalda30@gmail.com

Email change:

Jean Rubinstein
Email: jeanruby23@gmail.com



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2017; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2017. 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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Simone Allard, Member News	simone32alard@gmail.com
Jeanne Gunion, Member Spotlight	jgunion@comcast.net

Spring 2017 Schedule

Registration will take place at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 10:00 AM in Lydon Library, Multi-Purpose Room 110, 84 University Ave, Lowell MA 01854

The 2017 Spring Study Groups will meet on campus at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell.

Parking for on campus programs is in the garage directly across the street from the Rec Center, in the Perkins Parking lot and in the parking lot at the Tsongas Arena. Your ID is needed to enter the garage and the Perkins lot. **Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.**

Location of classes will sometimes change so watch for announcements.

MONDAY

All Upside Down: America 1968 to President Nixon's Helicopter Ride

6 Mondays, 10:00-Noon: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 24, May 1

In the 'new world order' we find ourselves living in, looking back on the 1960s and early 1970s, and more specifically the period from 1968 through President Richard Nixon's resignation introduces us to a period of American history where everything seemed as upside down as it does in 2017. Historian Michael Kazin describes the 1960s this way: "One of the things that made the sixties somewhat different from other periods of rebellion in American history is that everything seemed to be up for grabs. All perceived authority was suspect for people who were rebelling. That meant that authorities representing gender and race, media, politics, and business were all seen as being on the wrong side of morality and history by people who saw themselves as rebels. There was general agreement that the whole system was a fault." We will take a deep dive into this period for several weeks and throughout try to figure out how the political, social, and cultural changes of the period continue resonating today.

Presenter: Professor Bob Farrant

Coordinator: Terri Munson*

Everything You Wanted to Know About Your Memory: But Could Not Remember to Ask!

5 Mondays, 1:00-3:00: March 20, 27, April 3, 24, May 1

More recently than ever before, every person I know is asking questions about "Memory". Are my "senior moments" a normal part of my aging; or should I be worried about it? How does one know when forgetting is "normal for my age?"

- When I forget where my keys are, or where my car is parked; or my best friend's name- should I be concerned?
- Why are my "old memories" so much better than my "recent ones"?
- What if I put my keys into the refrigerator; then should I be ready to downsize quickly?
- Who can I go to for that "memory test" to find out if I'm ok? What is Alzheimer's and why do so many people have it? Are there things I can do to keep my brain alive, while losing my mind!!!!????
- All of these questions-and yours as well- will be addressed; so, please bring your refreshment monies and REMEMBER TO COME!

Facilitator: Arnold Kerzner*

Coordinator: Terri Munson*

TUESDAY

Shakespeare: *As You Like It*

8 Tuesdays, 10:00-Noon: March 14, 21, 28 April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2

The Shakespeare class will be reading and studying "As You Like It" this spring. This play was first performed in 1600, but was not printed until the appearance of the Folio of 1623. The Bard used much of the plot from a prose romance, or novel, entitled "Rosalynde" dating from 1590 written by Thomas Lodge. However, the comic parts of Touchstone, Audrey, William and Jacques are Shakespeare's creations which turn an artificial romance into a play of enduring charm. The plot can be most confusing at times and at one point the Elizabethan audience must have enjoyed watching a boy actor who was playing Rosalind disguised as a boy because of course, as you may know, girls were not allowed to act on the stage in those years. In this play are several short songs which many

people have seen and enjoyed because they have all been reproduced in poetry anthologies over the years. They are in context, however, sparkling jewels in this play. Those songs were once sung on the stage, but the music has disappeared. Everyone welcome but you will need a book. I recommend Folgers edition of the play in an individual text which has copious notes beside each line.

Facilitator: Frank Carroll*

Coordinator: Terri Munson*

What's So Funny About "Hamlet"????

4 Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00: March 14, 21, 28 April 4

While Shakespeare's most famous tragedies make us cry, they also make us laugh. Sometimes the funny lines, characters, or action even turn the play upside down temporarily. And sometimes, the words or characters that make us laugh actually bestow great wisdom. This class will explore the types, purposes, and effects of the comedic aspects and comic relief in Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and King Lear. Be prepared to laugh and cry as we go behind the scenes of the great tragedies in search of comedy.

Presenter: Patti McWeeney

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*

The United States Constitution: Its Origins and Meaning

4 Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00: April 11, 18, 25 and May 2

This four-week class will go through the actual document approved in 1787, and, all 27 amendments ratified in the last 230 years. We will then look at specific cases decided by the Supreme Court, interpreting the Constitution, and talk about the content and the differing approaches to interpretation taken by the court. With the US Senate going through an appointment and nomination of a new Supreme Court justice, this class offers an excellent opportunity to examine our governing document.

Presenter: Professor Frank Talty

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

WEDNESDAY

Art and Music

6 Wednesdays, March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12 and May 3

1 Thursday, April 20 Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal

1 Friday, April 28 UMass Lowell Students – The Hawkapellas

See separate schedule for Art & Music

THURSDAY

Great Decisions

8 sessions 7 Thursdays, 10:00-Noon: March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 27, and May 4

1 Wednesday, 10:00-Noon: April 19

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Two weekly two-hour sessions explore each topic in depth. 2017 is a time of dramatic change with Britain leaving the EU, populism and nationalism in Europe, and Trump policies on trade, NATO, Russia, and China. Great Decisions topics for the spring are: Trade Policy, South China Sea, Energy Geopolitics, and Saudi Arabia.

Briefing books are available for \$20.00.

Facilitator: Richard Grove*

Robotics

8 Sessions: 7 Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 27, and May 4

1 Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 April 19

Based on The Great Courses' 24-lesson series, but tailored by LIRA members to our interests—not all DVDs and talking heads, either! Our course introduces some of the basic concepts of the burgeoning field of robotics and explores the industry and the technology's implications. We'll lecture, watch, discuss—and experiment hands-on.

Presenters: Peter Sebelius*, Skip Youngberg*, and Russ MacLeod*

Facilitator: Skip Youngberg*

FRIDAY

Book Discussion

Do you like to read fiction or perhaps the classics, or are biographies your preference? Perhaps, you are an aficionado of non-fiction. Whatever your genre preference, guaranteed sometime during the year the book group will read and discuss an example thereof. And what is more inviting to a passionate reader than an opportunity to discuss a book - like it or hate it – with other like-minded people? Our discussions are always lively, interesting, and varied, and a new point of view is always welcome.

4 Fridays 10:00-Noon Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

March 17 *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, Fiction

April 21 *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis, Fiction

May 19 *The Story of a New Name* by Elena Ferrante, Fiction

Date to be Determined

June *Our Kids* by Robert Putnam, non-fiction

*Indicates a LIRA member

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Art & Music Spring 2017

Programs on March 29 and April 12 will be held at University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA from 10 a.m. to Noon. **Please note that the April 20 program is on a Thursday and the April 28 program is on a Friday.** Location of the April 28 program will be announced. There will sign-up sheets for tours at the March 8 Town Meeting. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours.

Wednesday, March 15 - The Addison Gallery of Art on the Campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, MA **Exhibit: *Eye on the Collection, Fall 2016***

If possible, there will be a docent for our group. The exhibit shown will be a selection of works from the permanent collection. Ever-changing, the permanent collection is changed several times a year in order to give visitors a chance to view some of the 17,000 works in it. Admission is free to all. The gallery is located in a stand-alone on the school campus at the corner of Route 28 and Chapel Street in Andover. Meet at 10 AM.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

Wednesday, March 22 - The New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell, MA **Exhibit: *The Quilted Canvas, The Crit Group: 30 Years and Still Quilting***

A docent will be provided for our group. This exhibit features the work of 5 fiber artists who have worked together for 30 years. The popular art quilt movement began in the 1960's and 1970's.

Meet at the museum after parking on the nearby streets or the Lowell National Park lot. Take a ticket upon entering and have it validated upon leaving the parking lot.

Admission is \$10. Send a check payable to LIRA, INC by March 15 or pay at the LIRA town meeting on March 8. Checks should be sent to Joan Kerzner, 130 John Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

Coordinator: Joan Kerzner*

Wednesday, March 29 Harmonica Workshop – Professor John Shirley

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to participate in a harmonica workshop where you will actually make music as part of an ensemble lead by a UMass Lowell music professor... and sound fabulous. No experience required.

Professor John Shirley is Chair Emeritus of the Music Department and specializes in Sound Recording Technology. John began his harmonica studies with Howard Levy, the Grammy winning harmonica wizard who helped found Bela Fleck & the Flecktones and says that taking harmonica lessons from Levy was “like starting cello lessons with Yo Yo Ma.”

The workshop will be held at University Suites on Wednesday, March 29th, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Harmonicas will be available at the workshop for \$15. Sign up is required so please sign up at the LIRA town meeting on March 8th or contact Terri Munson at terri_munson100@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Terri Munson*

Wednesday, April 5, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

Bus transportation and docent-led guided tour of museum highlights.

Current exhibitions; Paintings, sculptures, silver and furniture from the Spanish and Portuguese South American colonies.

Outstanding collection of medieval art, chivalric arms and armor from the Higgins collection. Magnificent works from Japan's rapid modernization in the Meiji period (1868-1912). Master Vases from Ancient Greece.

The art and storytelling of children's book illustrator, Ed Emberley.

The bus leaves at 10:00 am from the side parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. We return about 2:30 pm. Cost including bus and admission is \$22.50. Checks are made out to LIRA, INC. and are due by Wednesday, March 29.

Please send checks to Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824

Please note: 24 hour notice is needed for refunds.

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy*

Wednesday, April 12 Leon Poirier - A Visit to Sicily, Italy

A well-known presenter of travel programs in our area, Leon returns to give us a tour of the island of Sicily. Among the many places he will show us are Palermo, Cefalu, Corleone and the famous Greek temples of Agrigento. There will be a discussion of the numerous cultural influences on the island.

Coordinator: Jeanne Gunion*

THURSDAY, April 20, Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal

Program: Mozart's "Piano Concert No. 24 in C minor", Mozart's "Requiem"
Conductor- Andris Nelson, Radu Lupu- piano, Tamara Mumford - Mezzo Soprano, Morris Robinson – Bass and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Tickets include bus transportation. \$30 for LIRA members, \$35 for non-members (if tickets are available).

The bus leaves promptly at 7:15 A.M. from the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford.

Checks are to be made to LIRA, INC and are due no later than Friday, March 31, 2017.

Send checks to: Jean Rubinstein, 15 Fairbanks Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

978-256-9943/ 978-761-0022, Jeanruby23@gmail.com

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein*

FRIDAY, April 28 Performance by UMass Lowell Music Students, The Hawkapellas

Location will be announced.

Coordinator Carol McCarthy*

Wednesday, May 3 McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, 2101 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

Exhibition: *Rafael Soriano: The Artist as Mystic*

Soriano fled to the US in 1962. His style quickly changed to spiritual, rather than geometric, the style of his art in Cuba. In this exhibit, his luminous, ethereal works, are rooted in contemplation.

Bus transportation will be provided by Tewksbury Transit. Admission to the McMullen Museum is free. The bus fee is \$11. Board the bus at the back parking lot of Hannaford in Chelmsford at 8:45 am. We will return between 2 and 2:30 pm. If you have signed up but are not able to go on the trip, please call Jean Schott by 9 pm on the evening of May 2. 978-692-3904.

Checks should be made payable to LIRA, INC for \$11. Please give checks to Jean Schott at the March Town Meeting on March 8 or send to Jean Schott, Box 1628, Westford, MA 01886 by April 20.

Coordinator: Jean Schott*

*Indicates a LIRA member

LIRA's Spring 2017 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 6	March 7	March 8 10 am to Noon Town Meeting Lydon Library	March 9	March 10 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture John L. Sullivan, America's First Sports Superstar
March 13 NO CLASSES TODAY	March 14 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm What's So Funny About <i>Hamlet</i> ???	March 15 10 am to Noon Meet at museum at 10am Addison Gallery of Art, Andover, MA	March 16 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	March 17 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>Homegoing</i> by Yaa Gyasi
March 20 10 am to Noon America 1968-B Farrant 1 to 3 pm Everything You Wanted to Know About Memory	March 21 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm What's So Funny About <i>Hamlet</i> ???	March 22 10 am to Noon Meet at museum at 10 am New England Quilt Museum, Lowell, MA	March 23 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	March 24
March 27 10 am to Noon America 1968-B Farrant 1 to 3 pm Everything You Wanted to Know About Memory	March 28 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm What's So Funny About <i>Hamlet</i> ???	March 29 10am to Noon Harmonica Workshop	March 30 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	March 31
April 3 10 am to Noon America 1968-B Farrant 1 to 3 pm Everything You Wanted to Know About Memory	April 4 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm What's So Funny About <i>Hamlet</i> ???	April 5 Meet at 10 am at Hannaford for bus Worcester Art Museum	April 6 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	April 7
April 10 10 am to Noon	April 11 10 am to Noon	April 12	April 13 10 am to Noon	April 14 10 am to Noon

America 1968-B Farrant NO AFTERNOON CLASS	Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm The United States Constitution-F Talty	10 am to Noon A Visit to Sicily, Italy with Leon Poirier	Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	Chelmsford Library Lecture One Book Presents: <i>Covering the Day</i>
April 17 Patriots Day NO CLASSES	April 18 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm The United States Constitution-F Talty	April 19 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	April 20 Meet at 7:15 am at Hannaford for bus BSO Open Rehearsal, Boston	April 21 10am to Noon Book Discussion <i>It Can't Happen Here</i> by Sinclair Lewis
April 24 10 am to Noon America 1968-B Farrant 1 to 3 pm Everything You Wanted to Know About Memory	April 25 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm The United States Constitution-F Talty	April 26 NO PROGRAM TODAY	April 27 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	April 28 10 am to Noon Performance by UMass Lowell Music Students – The Hawkapellas
May 1 10 am to Noon America 1968-B Farrant 1 to 3 pm Everything You Wanted to Know About Memory	May 2 10 am to Noon Shakespeare- <i>As You Like It</i> 1 to 3 pm The United States Constitution-F Talty	May 3 Meet at 8:45am at Hannaford for bus McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College	May 4 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Robotics	May 5
May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture
May 15	May 16	May 17 10 am to Noon Annual Meeting	May 18	May 19 10am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Story of a New Name</i> by Elena Ferrante