

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

May 2019 Vol. 26 No. 2

Join us for the Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 15, 2019 10 a.m. to Noon

University Crossing, Moloney Hall 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, MA Shuttle bus from Tsongas Parking Lot.

Guest Speakers: Ellen Ansty and David Byers

Election of Officers
Hear about the Summer Intersession
Refreshments



Details for Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at University Crossing, Moloney Hall, 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot at the Tsongas Center to University Crossing. The first shuttle will leave at 9 a.m. **sharp** and return for a second trip. The return to the Tsongas parking lot will leave shortly after the end of the meeting. Please use your hangtag when you park at the Tsongas Center.

There is no need to bring any refreshments; coffee and snacks will be provided by Community Relations. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who provided the delicious refreshments during the spring session.

Along with the election of officers, we will be reviewing the summer schedule and signing up for trips. If you are not able to attend the Town Meeting and wish to sign up for a trip, please ask someone to do it for you. The deadline for payment of a trip is in this newsletter.

Hope to see you all there!

New Home for the Summer

The programs for the Summer Intersession will be held at a new location for us! We are meeting on South Campus at the Allen House, 2 Solomont Way, Lowell. Solomont is a side street off of Broadway one block west of the intersection of Broadway and Wilder. There is plenty of parking in the 61 Wilder Street lot where we parked last summer. There is handicap parking right in front of Allen House. Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.

To get to the Wilder lot from Aiken Street, take a right onto Father Morissette Boulevard which becomes Pawtucket Street. Stay straight for about ½ mile. Wilder Street is the third left after the School Street Bridge. The parking lot will be on the left. You will need your ID to get into the lot. To get to the Allen House continue straight on Wilder Street until you come to Broadway. Take a right onto Broadway and Solomont Way is the first right off Broadway. The Allen House will be on the left. There is a more straight path from the Wilder Street lot to Allen House, by walking between McGauvran and the new building on the corner you can cross a green space and then cross Solomont Way and go up the hill to Allen House. See maps at https://www.uml.edu/maps.

Learn About the Lowell Quarter

Ellen Anstey and David
Byers will speak at the LIRA
Annual Meeting about the 10
-year effort to get Lowell into
every American pocket and
purse. In February the U. S.
Mint released the newest
quarter in its America the
Beautiful series – a coin that
celebrates the state of
Massachusetts with a design
representing Lowell National



Historical Park. The quarter features an early 1900s mill girl loading a loom's bobbin battery, with a smokestack and the Boott Mill clock tower in the background and "Lowell" inscribed on top. Ellen Anstey is on the staff of the Tsongas Industrial History Center and David Byers is Supervisory Ranger at Lowell National Historical Park.

Richard Grove

Slate of Officers for 2019-2020:

The Nominating Committee would like to present the 2019-2020 nominations for officers of LIRA to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

President	Peter Sebelius
Vice-President	Nancy Pitkin
Secretary	Lynn Tyndall
Treasurer	Steve Buccieri

Nominating Committee:

Toby Hodes, Chairman Bob Hanlon Carol McCarthy

July 20, 1969

It was 50 years ago on July 20, 1969, that the Apollo 11 spaceflight landed the first two people on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. On the front page is astronaut Buzz Aldrin, pilot of the Lunar Module, standing beside the United States flag on the lunar surface.

Visit to Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum















On a glorious April morning, LIRA members and guests traveled by bus to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on the Fenway in Boston. The photos, courtesy of member Suzanne Gamache, depict a group viewing John Singer Sargent's portrait of Mrs. Gardner which scandalized many Guilded Age Bostonians, several gallery/rooms and the Central Courtyard. The vines of nasturtiums hanging from the Courtyard's upper levels, in honor of Mrs. Gardner's birthday, delighted our group. The lovely courtyard photos are by Kathy Flynn.

Carol McCarthy

Directory Changes

The following is a list of the new members and changes to the directory since March 2019. An updated directory was emailed on March 22. If you didn't receive one, let me know and I will email a copy to you. jeridurant@gmail.com

New Members:

Jeff Borkowski 6 Barn Lane Westford, MA 01886 978-392-1597 Cell: 617-417-8189 jdborkowski@msn.com

Gail Gauthier 5 Concord Green, Unit 5 Concord, MA 01742 gail50@verizon.net

Martin & Maxine Mendelsohn 276 Mill Road, Apt. 3305 Chelmsford, MA 01824 978-455-9707 mmende@comcast.net

Address Change:

Skip Youngberg 122 Blanchette Drive Malborough, MA 01752 Cell: 978-888-8117

Cell Phone Change:

Marion Richards 978-289-8274



The Haunted Life

This spring, LIRA members attended a performance of the world premiere of *The Haunted Life* at the Merrimack Repertory Theater. This play was based on a "lost" novel of Lowell's own, Jack Kerouac. Though it was written in 1944, well before his better known works, *The Haunted Life* was not published until 2014. The plot was set in Lowell in 1941 - 1942 and told the story of young Peter Martin, struggling to find his place in a world that is rapidly changing as it faces World War II. LIRA members also enjoyed conversation, coffee and cookies before the show. LIRA will follow-up the play with a Jack Kerouac walking tour on April 10.

Diane Baker

The EU and the Euro

Europe, the EU, the euro and Brexit were the subjects of a recent class led by LIRA member Jim Pope. Starting with the underpinnings of economic and political integration, the class covered the development of the EU from the European Coal and Steel Community formed in 1953 through the Common Market, the European Economic Community and the European Union. We discussed the expansion of the EU through the ascension of the Eastern European countries and the introduction and spread of the euro. The class finished with discussions of the problems facing the EU and the euro, especially the pending Brexit. Full audience participation made for an enjoyable and satisfying class.

Sally Coulter

Jack Kerouac Walking Tour

LIRA members braved a chilly, blustery spring day to walk through downtown Lowell with Bill Walsh of Lowell Celebrates Kerouac. Bill told dozens of interesting stories about Jack Kerouac's life and work and his love of the city of Lowell. As we walked, our group visited Kerouac Park, the Lowell High School clock, and Jack's Corner in the Pollard Memorial Library. Each stop included stories about its significance in Kerouac's life. A self-described history buff and researcher, Bill was quite knowledgeable about the history of Lowell and was eager to share that history with us along the tour. Bill encouraged all of us to learn more about Jack Kerouac at the Lowell National Park Visitor Center and at the Lowell Celebrates Kerouac festival held each October.

Diane Baker



Member News

We were sad to learn that Nancy Pitkin's mother has passed away. We extend our condolences to Nancy and her family.

Rose Rhoades was hospitalized for surgery recently and is recuperating at home. We extend our best wishes to her for a quick recovery.

Frank Carroll is still recovering from his fall in January that resulted in a broken shoulder and hip. He is at D'Youville Life & Wellness Community, Room S117-2 and is working hard to be strong enough to return home. He would like to thank all for their cards, gifts and visits. In his words:

When the power to write finally returns to my hand, I shall make an attempt to reply to the senders of so many cards and gifts. I realize that we had an unusually thoughtful class but never had I expected such an effusion of cards.

Please contact me if you know of any member who would appreciate receiving a card from LIRA.

Simone32Allard@gmail.com - 603-943-7527

Walking Tours of Lowell

Lowell Walks, founded by Richard Howe in 2015, is a series of guided walking tours of downtown Lowell on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Tours are about 90 minutes, are free, and include a moderate amount of walking. No reservations are necessary and tours are conducted rain or shine.

Each tour has a different topic and is led by a different local community historian or subject expert tour guide. All tours begin at 10:00 A.M. from the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center at 246 Market Street in Lowell. Free parking is available in the National Park lot at 304 Dutton Street (take a ticket and get free validation inside the Visitor Center). At this time the tours for the Lowell Walks are not posted. For further information see the Lowell National Park website: https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-listing.htm?eventID=3A8761F3-1DD8-B71B-0BE97B3184DE9215
The following are walks that are listed on Richard Howe's website: http://richardhowe.com/lowell-walks/. Besides Lowell Walks, Richard gives many other tours and talks about Lowell and its history, including walking tours of the historic Lowell Cemetery.

May 3 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Lowell Cemetery Tour

Lowell Cemetery, 77 Knapp Ave, Lowell, MA. Begin at Lawrence Street Gate

May 4 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am Lowell Cemetery Tour

Lowell Cemetery, 77 Knapp Ave, Lowell, MA. Begin at Lawrence Street Gate

May 4 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Points of Light Lantern Celebration

Ecumenical Plaza, 282 Suffolk St, Lowell, MA

May 5 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Earth Day Parade and Festival

Lowell National Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St Lowell, MA

May 11 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Doors Open Lowell

Downtown Lowell, Friday night and Saturday during the day; various locations around the city

May 19 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Lowell Cemetery Remembrance Event

Lowell Cemetery, 77 Knapp Ave Lowell, MA

June 1 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am Concord River Greenway Walk

Lowell Cemetery, 77 Knapp Ave Lowell, MA

Lowell Walks event. Park in Lowell Cemetery at Lawrence Street Gate

June 22 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am Lowell Public Art Walk

Lowell National Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St Lowell, MA

Lowell Walks event

Membership Renewal 2019 – 2020

LIRA membership dues are \$125 (\$200 for couples) for the year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and are due by August 15, 2019 A portion of your dues (\$100 of the dues for an individual and \$150 of the dues for a couple) is tax deductible. The University will send each member a receipt for tax purposes. The remaining portion of your dues is returned to LIRA for operational expenses.

A convenient payment method is by credit card on the LIRA website: www.uml.edu/community/lira. Click "Join LIRA" on the left side menu and then click "Join or renew online." You will receive immediate acknowledgement and receipt after filling out the form.

If you would rather pay by check, use the LIRA renewal form printed in this newsletter. Every member must complete a form; both members of a couple must complete separate information. Send the form(s) and check to the Alumni Office, as stated on the renewal form by August 15, 2019. Because of the confusion it causes, dues checks will be accepted at the Convocation in September by exception only.

It was a great year and now we look forward to seeing you again in the next academic year.

Bonnie Heines, Membership Chair

The Gilded World of Isabella Stewart Gardner



Mary Woodward, art historian and lead guide at Gropius House, visited LIRA once again to give a presentation on Isabella Stewart Gardner in preparation for LIRA's visit to the Gardner Museum on April 17. Mary's illustrated talk took us through a brief history of Isabella's life in the context of the time she lived. We learned about her family, her fortune, and her friends as well as her vast art collection and the beautiful home she built to display it for the world. Mary also talked about theories regarding the museum's famous 1990 art heist when 13 works of art, worth millions of dollars, were taken from the museum and have never been recovered.

Diane Baker





Two of the works of art stolen from the museum. On the left, Vermeer's *The Concert* and on the right Rembrandt's *Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee*.

It's Hard to Be Human: But, What's the Alternative

Over the period of 4 Mondays, Dr. Arnie Kerzner provided a wide-ranging discussion of the trials and tribulations of being human and, especially, of becoming an elder human. Touching on topics ranging from brain science to philosophy, Arnie gave the LIRA members in attendance an in-depth look at our humanity and personal satisfaction as we transition to senior citizenhood. Of course, it would not be a Kerzner class without a generous sprinkling of his unique perspective and humorous outlook on life.

All in all, Arnie's course was entertaining, informative and enjoyed by all.

Books recommended by Arnie:

Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande and

Ageing Wisely... by Irving I. Silverman and

Dr. Ellen Beth Siegel

Peter Sebelius



Julie Scolnik – Artistic Director, Mistral Chamber Music Ensemble



Julie Scolnik is the founder and Artistic Director of the Mistral Chamber Music ensemble in Andover, MA. She spoke to LIRA on March 20, 2019 to present a history of the ensemble and share some of her favorite stories and music they have performed. Mistral is named for the strong northwesterly wind that blows through the Rhône valley and southern France into the Mediterranean and it was an important theme in the movie Chocolat. It was Julie's love of the movie and the region that inspired her to rename the Andover Chamber Music group Mistral.

Julie's goal is to bring high caliber and unstuffy chamber music to her neighbors and the community of Andover and greater Boston. In this goal she has been remarkably successful for over 22 years including international appearances in Paris for La Ligue contre le Cancer at the Hotel de Ville in May of 2014 (a cancer awareness program she very much supports).

Julie presented examples of her music which can be found via her website: www.mistralmusic.org and she entertained the LIRA class with her personal trials and triumphs as the founder of Mistral.

Peter Sebelius



Newsletters on Website

The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first day of the following months - March, May, September and December. Everyone can read the newsletter online if you have access to a web browser. A hard copy of the newsletter will NOT be mailed to you unless you have contacted Jeri Durant: jeridurant@gmail.com. The hard copy list from last year is still in effect so there is no need to tell me again. 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 onlybetter - it's in color! This policy will help us 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/



CALENDAR MARK The Convocation will be held on THIS September 11, 2019. Classes begin on **DATE** Monday, September 16, 2019.



The next newsletter will be out on September 1, 2019; the deadline for news items is August 18, 2019. 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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LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

University of Massachusetts Lowell Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

2019 Summer Intersession

The 2019 Summer Intersession, given between semesters, offers to retirees and those semi-retired, a sample of LIRA's almost year-round program and friendly community. The program is planned and much of it provided by the members themselves. The general public is invited to all Summer Intersession programs.

All programs are on Wednesday except for the Book Discussion. All classes, except for the two trips on June 19 and July 31, are meeting at the Allen House, 2 Solomont Way, Lowell. Solomont is a side street off Broadway one block west of the intersection of Broadway and Wilder. There is plenty of parking in the 61 Wilder Street lot where we parked last summer. There is handicap parking right in front of Allen House. Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.

Friday, May 17: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to Noon, University Suites #106 *H is for Hawk*, a memoir by Helen MacDonald

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*

June 5: A City of Cotton and Opposition to Slavery - Robert Forrant, Ph.D.

Without Southern cotton and riches from the trade in human beings there'd be no Lowell mills. The eve of the Civil War, Lowell mills consumed 405 tons of cotton a week. Yet, with its dependence on cotton, many in the city opposed the institution of slavery and formed a variety of organizations to express their opinions. At the same time, fugitives from slavery lived and worked in Lowell. Women mill workers formed a female anti-slavery society in the 1830s. Abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass spoke in Lowell numerous times. Garrison's *Liberator* and Douglass's *North Star* were sold across the city and Holiday Bazaars raised money for the Underground Railroad. The city's anti-slavery advocates counseled people to disobey the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law, while its churches offered sanctuary. After the Law's passage, several fugitives fled Lowell to Canada. An October 1850 article in the *Lowell Advertiser* reported on a meeting held to discuss this situation. Pledges to defy the federal government rang out. "No complicity with slavery!" became a rallying cry.

Coordinator: Diane Baker*

June 12: "The Adventures and Misadventures of a Writer in Search of Her Audience" - Sharon Healy-Yang, Ph.D.

Sharon Healy-Yang has a passion for classic mysteries on the page or screen as well as a delight in bewitching audiences that inspired her to create mysterious tales of her own. She'll be sharing how her love of history and mystery led her to write *Bait and Switch* and *Letter from a Dead Man*, two novels that present a 1940s smart-talking gal making her way through the twists and turns of a *noir* world at war to save herself and those she loves. Healy-Yang will also share how her long journey as a writer and a seeker after publication finally led to the opportunity to present her writing to readers. She is excited to perhaps give some inspiration and guidance to writers who are also seeking to commit their creativity to paper (or computer screen) and get that work out to an audience.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin*

June 19: Trip to Hammond Castle, Gloucester, MA

Visitors are often surprised to see a true European castle on the New England shoreline in Gloucester MA. Hammond Castle was built in the late 1920s by scientist, inventor, and interestingly enough, an art connoisseur of the highest order, John Hays Hammond, Jr. (1888-1965). Sitting high on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the castle brings together a unique combination of art, architectural elements and culture, backstopped by many innovative technological applications.

Our tour will last up to 90 minutes, and we will visit almost every room of this amazing home by the sea. We will learn about the unique collections, the dining and lifestyle of the Hammonds, and the stories about them and their famous guests. Tour is scheduled for 10:30 am

This will be a bus trip and more information will be given at the Annual Meeting.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

Friday, June 21: Book Discussion 10 a.m. to Noon, Location TBD *Educated: A Memoir*, non-fiction by Tara Westover

June 26: Breaking the Enigma Code - Leon Poirier, Ph.D.

It is widely accepted that breaking the 'unbreakable' Enigma code at Bletchley Park shortened WWII by one to two years. Among the thousands of people recruited to work at Bletchley Park were chess masters, mathematicians, linguists, cryptologists, radio operators, academics from Cambridge and Oxford, and the creator of the British Bombe that broke the Enigma code, Alan Turing. Leon Poirier will describe how the Enigma Machine encoded messages, discuss the work at Bletchley Park, and show the development of Turing's Bombe that made it possible to read German communications.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon*

July 10: New Directions/New Authors in Mystery and Detective Fiction - Melissa Pennell, Ph.D.

Many people have favorite writers of long standing in mystery and detective fiction, but the genre is ever-changing and new writers regularly introduce a detective and/or series that soon becomes another fan favorite. This presentation will look at the work of some of these authors and their additions to the field, as well as mentioning some new releases by old favorites.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

July 17: The Sputnik Years - Kelly Beatty

When a Russian rocket lofted Sputnik 1 into orbit on October 4, 1957, the worldwide reaction was a mixture of awe and apprehension. The Space Age — and the Space Race — had begun. To an American public that had grown accustomed to our country's growing global primacy, Sputnik's launch was a traumatic wake-up call. This retrospective will explore the events leading up to Sputnik's launch, the political fallout that led to America's response (Explorer 1), the formation of NASA, and the crucial role that amateur astronomers played in tracking the first satellites.

July 24: Understanding Artificial Intelligence - Peter Sebelius* and Bob Hanlon*

Artificial Intelligence is changing our world. From healthcare diagnostic systems that predict what's wrong with us to financial systems that process our credit applications to self-driving cars and beyond. There are even some who predict massive disruption in the job market as tasks that once required people become automated. The USA is now in a race against China to see who can lead the world in this technology. Come learn what Artificial Intelligence is, what it is being used for, and how it works.

Coordinators: Peter Sebelius* and Bob Hanlon*

July 31: Trip to Gropius House, Lincoln, MA

Walter Gropius, founder of the German design school known as the Bauhaus, was one of the most influential architects of the twentieth century. He designed Gropius House as his family home when he began to teach architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Modest in scale, the house was revolutionary in impact. Gropius House is a National Historic Landmark.

Gropius House in Lincoln, MA, combined traditional elements of New England architecture—wood, brick, and fieldstone—with innovative materials including glass block, acoustical plaster, chrome banisters, and the latest technology in fixtures. With the family's possessions still in place, Gropius House has a sense of immediacy and intimacy. Tour will be at 10:00am - limit 20 people.

Meet at the Gropius House or carpool from Hannaford in Chelmsford at a time to be announced later.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire*

*Indicates LIRA member

LIRA's Summer 2019 Intersession

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May31
June 3	June 4	June 5 10 a.m. to Noon A City of Cotton and Opposition to Slavery Robert Forrant, Ph.D.	June 6	June 7
June 10	June 11	June 12 10 a.m. to Noon The Adventures and Misadventures of a Writer in Search of Her Audience Sharon Healy-Yang, Ph.D.	June 13	June 14
June 17	June 18	June 19 Bus Trip to Hammond Castle, Gloucester, MA Information to be given at the Annual Meeting.	June 20	June 21 10 a.m. to Noon Book Discussion Educated: A memoir, non- fiction by Tara Westover
June 24	June 25	June 26 10 a.m. to Noon Breaking the Enigma Code Leon Poirier, Ph.D.	June 27	June 28

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
July 8	July 9	July 10 10 a.m. to Noon New Directions/New Authors in Mystery and Detective Fiction Melissa Pennell, Ph.D.	July 11	July 12
July 15	July 16	July 17 10 a.m. to Noon The Sputnik Years Kelly Beatty	July 18	July 19
July 22	July 23	July 24 10 a.m. to Noon Understanding Artificial Intelligence Peter Sebelius and Bob Hanlon	July 25	July 26
July 29	July 30	July 31 Trip to Gropius House Lincoln, MA Carpool or meet there. Info at the Annual Meeting.	August 1	August 2
		SEPTEMBER		
September 9	September 10	September 11 Fall Convocation 10 a.m. to Noon	September 12	September 13
September 16 Classes begin	September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20

If renewing as a couple, each one must fill out a renewal form.

NAME			DATE	
ADDRESS				
			ZIP	
PHONE	CELL		EMAIL	
In the event of class car	ncellation I prefer to be not	ifiedby EMAIL	PHONE	
Newsletter will be deliv	ered by EMAIL unless you	have notified us to	send by mail.	
Are you a graduate of I	Mass Lowell?	What Vear/Degree'	<u> </u>	
NAME			DATE	
ADDRESS				
CITY		STATE	ZIP	
PHONE	CELL		EMAIL	
In the event of class car	ncellation I prefer to be not	ified by EMAIL	PHONE	
Newsletter will be deliv	ered by EMAIL unless you	have notified us to	send by mail.	
Are you a graduate of U	JMass Lowell?	What Year/Degree	?	

LIRA membership dues are \$125. (\$200 for couples) for the year, payable by August 15. \$100 of your membership fee will be tax-deductible and will benefit our student scholarship fund.

See: www.uml.edu/community/lira

Please return Renewals (or apply online by credit card) with a <u>check payable</u> to <u>UMass Lowell</u>, memo line LIRA, and mail to: Office of Alumni Relations, Charles J. Hoff Scholarship Center

UMass Lowell One Perkins Street Lowell, MA 01854