



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



December 2016

Vol. 23 No. 4

Please join us for LIRA's Annual Holiday Party and Town Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

10 A.M. until Noon

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

Six Scholarship Awards will be given.
Participate in the Consumable Auction.
Enjoy the snacks and meeting with friends.





Holiday Party Details

Because of the difficulties of transporting the food on the shuttle bus, we are keeping the food simple at the Holiday Party. If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be appreciated. Contact Debby Sebelius if you have any questions.

In lieu of exchanging gifts, LIRA members have donated many new books in past years for distribution by Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, the agency which serves families in shelters and oversees many child care programs in the city. They need warm clothing such as hats, mittens and gloves, for children of all ages. Children's books would also be appreciated.

The following is an email from CTI, giving a more detailed description of what they need.

CTI can always use hats, mittens and books for clients we serve in such programs as our family shelters, Head Start, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and clients who come in for services. For more information on CTI's mission, programs, and services, please check out our new web site at www.commteam.org. We continue to need children's books especially board books for the very young and picture books for pre-k to grade 2. Big Brothers Big Sisters is also part of CTI and children's age range is 7 through 15. Mittens and gloves are especially needed along with hats. We also distribute hats and mittens/gloves to veterans in need.

Please bring a new book and/or hat and mittens, unwrapped, to the Holiday party. Thank you for your participation. For more information, please contact Terri Munson at terri_munson100@yahoo.com.

Location of the Holiday Party and Parking Lot

The Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 7 in the Lydon Library, Room #110 on 84 University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the Tsongas parking lot Lydon Library, leaving us off in the front of the building. The first shuttle will leave at 9:00am and the second trip will leave at 9:30am. The return trip will start about noon.

Parking is in the Tsongas Parking Lot. This is the lot where we normally park when we attend classes at the Tsongas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, MA. Please use your hangtags in the parking lot.

LIRA'S Scholarship Fund Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 7. We have decided that the auction will be a "Consumable Auction" once again. The Auction is a major fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. This year LIRA will be giving \$1500.00 scholarships to six UMass Lowell students.

What is a Consumable Auction? It is an auction where all donated items can be consumed, i.e., you eat it, drink it, do it or use it up. The Committee sells tickets: \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets or \$10 for 15 tickets. You decide what item(s) you want and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to the Lydon Library, Room 110, on the day of the party.

Some things you might donate:

Baked Goods; Candy; Wine; Gift Certificates, i.e., restaurant, movie, theater, grocery store, and bookstore

Suggestions for Baskets you can make:



Book – put a gently used book in a basket with a bookmark, book light, china teacup, box of tea, etc.

Food – Italian or Mexican
Soup Lovers Basket

I think you get the idea. It will all be wonderful and we have a great time deciding just what we want to win. Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past. Let's make a difference in someone's life and have a great auction this year.

Sheila Pariseau

List of What to Bring to the Holiday Party

I love lists! I thought it would be helpful to have a reminder of what to bring to the Holiday Party in one place.

- Donation of warm clothing for any size child (hat, gloves, mittens, scarf)
- New book for a child of any age
- Donation to the Consumable Auction
- Finger food for our enjoyment

Jeri Durant

Enjoying Shakespeare

The lucky LIRA folks who attended Frank Carroll's Monday morning "Romeo and Juliet" class were treated to Frank's affable approach to teaching—combining personal observations and stories along with delving into Shakespeare's play.

Frank's stories come from his unique perspective and are told using different accents which enliven his tales. Some stories go back over 80 years as the one about the Irish woman who lived in his neighborhood and treated him to tea and poetry and stories about fairies—spoken with a lively Irish accent.

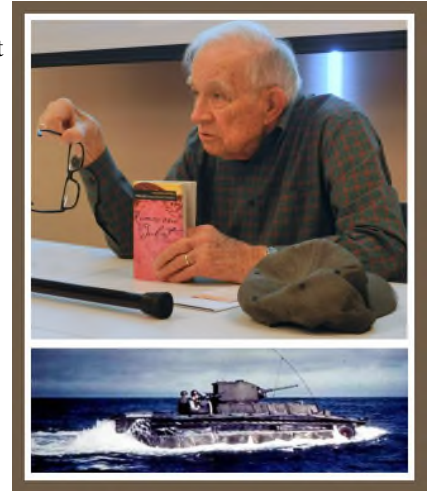
My personal favorite was hearing about Frank's experiences as a teenager in the Army in World War II. While serving in the Philippines and Borneo, Frank's job was to drive Amtracs (Amphibious Tractors). From the driver's seat, Frank couldn't see out of the vehicle and depended on the gunners up top to direct him. Since the electronic communication system rarely worked, Frank had ropes tied to each arm and a gunner would pull on a rope to tell him which way to turn.

Another favorite story Frank told was when he saw Robert Frost in person while attending Boston College after the war. As part of the story, Frank recited from memory "The Road Not Taken" mimicking Robert Frost's famous voice. I felt as if we were hearing the great poet himself.

And what about "Romeo and Juliet" you ask. That was the other treat of the weekly sessions. The play about those doomed teenaged lovers came alive under Frank's gentle tutelage. Frank guided the class through the hidden meanings and nuances of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy. We realized we were hearing something special when, after reading a line, Frank commented "Shakespeare is just showing off here."

What makes Frank's class so wonderful? Possibly it is Frank's experience teaching Shakespeare for LIRA for the past 14 years that has honed his skills. But I suspect it is merely Frank being Frank.

Terri Munson



The ghost of Albert Einstein visited his class on *Relativity and the Quantum Revolution* on Halloween.

Presidential Politics in 2016

Who knew this was THE year in which to have such a lively, interesting ever changing, program on Presidential Politics!

Professor Frank Talty returned in October to the final episode of Presidential Politics in 2016 on Thursday afternoons. When we finished in May we knew the candidates were Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and we learned how important getting to 270 was! We had 3 sessions to review and explore what had changed since our spring meetings. And we had one program after the election to discuss the final outcome. In our last session, we never made it off Professor Talty's fist slide – there was such a lively discussion and dialogue and so many comments and questions! We even talked about 2018 and, gulp, 2020! Thank you Professor Talty, who made this such a great program, and to all who participated.

Nancy Pitkin

Mount Washington Exhibit at the Currier Museum

The above exhibit is the first one devoted entirely to art featuring the Mount Washington Region. Major artists of the Hudson River School whose work was shown were Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Cole, Jasper Francis Cropsey, John Frederick Kensett and David Johnson. Also, the exhibit included paintings by Winslow Homer and George Inness. In addition to oil paintings and water colors, there were prints, illustrated guidebooks and vintage photographs from the late 1820's to the 1870s.

During that time the Mount Washington area became a very popular tourist destination.



Jean Schott

John Frederick Kensett (American, 1816 – 1872), *Mount Washington from the Valley of Conway*, 1851

Visit to the Transfiguration Greek Church in Lowell

On a lovely early fall day, a group of LIRA members took the opportunity to visit the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Lowell. They were given a wonderful introduction to the church by one of its members, Virginia Kimball. She is a scholar who has devoted much of her adult life to the study of Byzantine religious art. She is currently a professor at Assumption College in Worcester, MA.

Seated in the main area of the church, attendees were given a detailed explanation of the glass and gold tile mosaics which cover the church walls, from floor to ceiling. They were done by the artist, Robert Andrews, and took 30 years to be completed. The religious leader of the church who spear-headed the effort was Father John Sarantos. He strongly believed that a religious beliefs should be matched by heavenly art. In addition to the explanation of the gold covered walls, Professor Kimball explained in detail the meaning of the numerous icons throughout the interior of the church.

Jean Schott

The Gentlemen Songsters

A local group, the Gentlemen Songsters, presented an entertaining and informative program. A discussion of the history, culture, sounds, science and math that are involved in Barbershop gave us a good introduction to it. Jesse Heines, a LIRA member and member of the Songsters, opened the session with a live performance of their vocal skills. Recordings of Gregorian chants, gospel music and Negro slave music gave us some background of that type of music.

A capella barbershop harmony had its beginning in 1903 when it was discovered that a group of singers could perform better when harmonizing as a group. The term barbershop was first used in 1910, the first male society in 1938 and the female Sweet Adelines in 1945. Despite the obvious origins of the art form, Blacks were not allowed in the society until 1963. The LIRA audience enjoyed several lively numbers by the group, not just for their voices, but also by the body movements and animation of the talented singers.

In Barbershop groups, not all read music. What is important, however, is that they have an excellent ear. It was very obvious to all who attended this very informative and great program that the Songsters are all very passionate about their music!!

The links to Jesse's talk can be found at <https://teaching.cs.uml.edu/~heines/lira/YouTubeLinks.html>.

Jean Schott

Visit to Western Avenue Studios



Talented artists from Western Avenue Studios in Lowell welcomed LIRA members to a private viewing of the current show at Loading Dock Gallery—"Me, Myself, and I-dentity" which showcases artists self-portraits. After the presentations at the Loading Dock, everyone was invited to visit the artists' studios where their individual work was showcased and where the backstage work was done.

First Maxine Farkas, an artist and historian, gave a presentation on the history of the Western Avenue Studios which currently houses over 300 artists' studios and the Western Avenue Lofts where 50 artists live and work. Maxine proudly explained that this is the largest artist complex of its kind in the country.

Ann Lee creates wearable art—one-of-a-kind jackets, vests and scarves—as well as wall art. Ann's pieces in the exhibit were wall art and a jacket which reflect who she is and what she cares for. Ann, who was wearing one of her jackets, is well known for intricate work and earthy colors

Jack Holmes is a travel photographer whose contribution to the show was a striking photo he took in Alaska of a raven flying over mist

covered hills.

Katherine DuBose is a mixed media artist whose self-portrait was featured in Nancy Tuttle's article in the October 24th issue of the Lowell Sun which can be seen at <http://blogs.lowellsun.com/nancyesworld/2016/10/24/artists-look-at-themselves-in-new-loading-dock-show/>

In addition to talking about her wonderful self-portrait, Katherine invited LIRA members to visit her artist studio where she lives and works and has created a home that is also a work of art.

For some LIRA members, this was their first visit to Western Avenue Studios but, judging from their comments, this will not be their last.

Terri Munson

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program provides background information and policy options for eight of the most critical issues facing America each year. The program model involves reading an article in the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching a half-hour DVD that gives an overview of the topic, and then discussing the material. The LIRA Great Decisions group meets on Thursday morning and devotes two two-hour classes to explore each topic in depth. In the fall 2016 semester we discussed:

International Migration – Pat Hubley led the discussion of international migration and refugee programs. The world is now experiencing the greatest mobility of people in human history. In 1960 there were 76 million migrants residing outside of their country of birth. Now there are 250 million migrants worldwide.

Cuba and the United States – Rich Grove led the discussion of dramatic changes in relations between Cuba and the United States. After more than five decades frozen in cold war attitudes, Cuba and the US have established diplomatic relations and reopened their embassies in Washington and Havana. Joan Kerzner talked about the trip she and Arnie made to Cuba as part of an international volunteer program. And a lecture at the Chelmsford Library provided a Latin American perspective.

United Nations Development Agenda and Leadership – Neal Berenson led discussion of the new very large set of UN Sustainable Development Goals. These are the successors of the Millennium Development Goals which focused on the reduction of extreme poverty worldwide. The UN also has selected a new Secretary General.

Korean Choices – Bob Hanlon led the discussion of postwar Korean history and development. South Korea is now the 12th largest economy in the world with successful companies like Samsung and Hyundai. North Korea, the hermit kingdom, is poor, isolated and a threat to world peace with its development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Here is a link with more information about Great Decisions. See **Topic Resources** for in-depth information about each of the eight 2016 topics and a list of the topics for 2017.

http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/

Beneficial Bond - “The Best Is Yet To Come: Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit”

Doctoral students in Physical Therapy partnered with the *Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA)* this fall for a project that was a benefit to all involved. The Doctoral students presented diverse topics pertaining to healthy aging and wellness to a captivated and engaged audience of LIRA members. The LIRA members had the opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussions while the Doctoral students guided, advised and educated the LIRA members. The students experienced tremendous benefits as they navigated through challenging topics and learned their role as educators and consultants in public health and wellness. Students learned perspective taking and reflective and mindful professional practice. The Department of Physical Therapy in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell would like to thank LIRA for participating in this wonderful program!

Nancy Pitkin



UML Doctoral Students (L to R): Nathan Felton, Andrew Levanti, Courtney Farrar, Brett Medeiros

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.

December 9, 2016: “Breaking the WWII Enigma Code” by Dr. Lee Poirier

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

Library Privileges for LIRA Members

To register for borrowing privileges, LIRA members can come to the circulation desk in either O’Leary or Lydon Library with their UCards. Their UCards will serve as their library cards. They will be registered in our system at that time and can take material out that day.

LIRA patrons will be eligible to borrow up to 10 library books and/or CDs at a time and may request renewals to hold on to items past their original due date. Renewals will be granted unless another patron has requested the item or it is needed for course reserves.

*****CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS*****

The Curriculum Committee is seeking individuals who are interested in facilitating video courses LIRA is presenting this year and coordinators for classes and events.

Who can be a Facilitator?

Anybody! All you need is some interest in the topic and a willingness to do a couple of hours of preparation for a class – watch the DVD lecture and read the provided class notes and maybe a little additional research beyond what is covered in the course.

What is the commitment?

Our standard course is one two hour class per week for a period of 8 weeks – 2 DVD lectures per class. Note that there are usually 24 lectures in the course material of which 16 will be used for our course. Note also that LIRA encourages people to collaborate on classes to reduce the number of classes you have to prepare for.

What does a Facilitator do??

1. Pick which lectures you want to cover
2. Be prepared – review the lecture and the class notes. Bring planned questions either based on your own research and/or use the questions in the class notes.
3. Bring the DVDs to class.
4. Lead an approximately 20 minute discussion of the material presented for each lecture.
 - This really is the easy part. All you need to do is pose the question and watch the discussion take off.
 - If the discussion peters out or wanders too far, you can always move to another question (or announce it is time for snacks!!).
5. That's it!!

What if I have a question or need help?

We have lots of people who are experienced facilitators and who are willing and happy to provide answers and guidance.

What does a Coordinator do?

The Coordinator is the person who pulls everything together. You make sure:

- The Presenter or Facilitator knows when and where the class will be meeting.
- There is someone bringing snacks and they know when and where the class is meeting.
- Introduce the Presenter at the beginning of the class.
- Clean up the residual snacks at the end of the class
- Collect the donations at the snack table to turn over to the LIRA Treasurer after the class.

Who do I talk to about Volunteering as a Coordinator or Facilitator?

Volunteer by signing up when classes are announced or contact any member of the curriculum committee at other times.



The trip to the BSO open rehearsal is on Thursday, April 20, 2017. If you are interested, please save the date and let me know if you are thinking about going. More information will be in the next newsletter.



The Town Meeting will be held on March 8, 2016. Classes begin on Monday, March 13, 2017.

Jean Rubinstein jeanruby@juno.com or 978-256-9943

Thank you....

At the September Convocation, LIRA donated \$1000 to UMass Lowell's special fund-raising campaign, "Our Legacy, Our Place". The plan is to raise \$125 million by 2020 to help make UMass Lowell be one of the best public universities in the world. The following is a thank you note from the Chancellor, Jacqueline Moloney.

Your generous support is a vote of confidence in UMass Lowell – our mission, our faculty and programs and, most importantly, our students. Thank you for your recent gift to the UMass Lowell Fund.

Gifts made to the UMass Lowell Fund help the university meet its greatest needs, whether it is funding scholarships for deserving students, groundbreaking research or recruiting and retaining expert faculty. Your support allows us to seize new opportunities and soar to new heights. We are able to meet more than 90 percent of current student need with the help of generous supporters like you. Thank you for bridging the gap between what students can afford and what they can achieve.

I truly appreciate your efforts as a volunteer. You are helping to provide lifelong learning opportunities for our university and our city.

Thank you and LIRA for your contribution!

Sincerely,
Jacqueline F. Moloney '75, '92
Chancellor



LIRA members participate in exercise classes twice a week at the UMass Lowell Campus Recreation Center taught by enthusiastic UMass Lowell students in Exercise Physiology. Contact Terri Munson for further information.

terri_munson100@yahoo.com

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 by the course coordinator 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 to ascertain that the class or program is still scheduled for that day.



Emergencies (Cancellation of Classes/University Closing)

In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel a LIRA program for any reason, i.e. snowstorm, hazardous road conditions, or if the UMass Lowell campus is closed due to a storm emergency or other unexpected events and if the cancellation affects the entire membership, Richard Grove will call Judy Miller or Carol McCarthy who are the telephone tree coordinators, to let them know of the cancellation. Judy and Carol will then call the contact persons to inform them of the cancellation. These contact persons will then call the members on their respective list to inform them of the cancellation. For individual classes, coordinators are responsible for calling members for changes or cancellation of their class.

Email Notification

Many people signed up to have class cancellations emailed to them. Those people should make sure that they check their email in the morning if there is any doubt about a class being held. If there are others that would like to be on this email list, please notify Judy Miller (978-256-8466 or jmiller29@verizon.net) or Carol McCarthy (978-256-5904 or jfmccart@aol.com). Those not on the list will be notified by telephone.

Carol McCarthy
Judy Miller

Member News

Hello everyone:

I have had no report of anyone being sick again this month. So let's hope that is good news.

Do contact me if you know of any member who is hospitalized or housebound so that I can send them words of encouragement from LIRA.

Simone Allard - simone32allard@gmail.com, tele 603-943-7527

American Perspectives: A Community Conversation on the 2016 Election

Saturday, December 10, 2016 9:30 AM, Pollard Memorial
Library, 401 Merrimack St, Lowell, MA

As we move past one the most divisive presidential elections in modern US history, now is a good opportunity to reaffirm our commonalities as Americans and begin the work of bridging what divides us. It is in that spirit, especially as an institution dedicated to equal access to information and education, the Pollard Library is hosting a non-partisan, civil and constructive community conversation on the 2016 Election. We hope you'll join this discussion between local educators, community organizers, and fellow citizens.

Everyone Welcome. Coffee and light refreshments served.
978-674-4120

www.pollardml.org

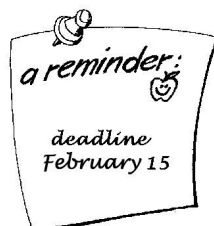
www.blog.pollardml.org

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



The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2017; the deadline for news items is February 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

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Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Committee is most grateful to the LIRA membership for their very generous donations to the Scholarship Fund. We shall be able to award six \$1500 scholarships at the LIRA Holiday Party in December. We are busy reading applications and soon will meet to finalize our decisions. We are indebted to Patty Coffey and Christopher Wilkinson at UML for their help and guidance with the application form, and verifying for us relevant information on the applications. This has really helped the Committee to streamline the process. We look forward to introducing our scholarship winners to the LIRA members at the Holiday Party and for members to personally meet them. We thank the Scholarship Committee: Simone Allard, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie, Dotty Morris, Barbara Murch, Co-Chairs, Dee Sferrino and Janet Redman for their time and support.

*Janet Redman and Dee Sferrino, Co-Chairs Scholarship
Committee*



Time for a Change

If you want to remain current with LIRA members, make the following changes in your membership list.

Following is an additional correction to the directory along with a returning member.

Returning Member:

Elinor Mondale

172 Middle Street, Apt. 502

Lowell, Ma. 01852

Home phone: 978-458-1716

Cell phone: 978-987-0148

Email: emondale@verizon.net

Corrections:

Charlotte Evans address

29 Windemere Lane



*I would like to
wish you all a
Joyous Holiday*



*Season and a New Year of
Peace, Happiness and Good
Health.*

Jeri Durant

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

2017 Winter Intersession

The 2017 Winter Intersession, given between semesters, offers to retirees and those semi-retired, a sample of LIRA's almost year-round program and friendly community. The program is planned and much of it provided by the members themselves. The general public is invited to all intersession programs. All intersession programs are 10:00 am – Noon and all programs will meet 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 or in the Perkins Parking lot. Your ID is needed to enter the garage or lot. **Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.** On street parking is also available in metered spaces. **Note that the Hawk's Nest Café will not be open for coffee during the first two weeks of January. It will reopen on January 17.**

January 4 Six Frigates - Peter Sebelius*

On March 10, 1794, the American Congress authorized then Secretary of War, Henry Knox, to build or buy six frigates for the colossal sum of \$688,888. The need for an American Navy was driven primarily by threats against its merchant shipping from the Barbary pirates. These ships, their Captains, crews, the famous and infamous battles they fought and the impact they had on American History will be the focus of this presentation. One of the original six frigates, the USS Constitution, is still on the active duty roster of U.S. Navy and is homeported right here in Boston.

Coordinator: Skip Youngberg*

January 11 Water Politics - Chris Wilkinson

Explore Hydropolitics in terms of policy, access, privatization and degradation of humanity's only true resource: potable water. Everything has a water footprint from food, clothing, housing and even transportation. Examine the policies that ensure those who have never had access stay that way, to those who have had their access stripped by carefully crafted legislation and privatization. The twenty first century marks the end of the oil wars and start of the water wars.

Coordinator: Richard Grove*

January 18 Mystery Books - A Surprise! - Dr. Melissa Pennell

Please join us for a return engagement for a program that will focus on mystery and detective novels with Dr. Mellissa Pennell. Her field of expertise is 19th and early 20th century American literature and in mystery and detective fiction and in New England regional writers. Her programs are always exciting and very entertaining – and we learn something too!

Coordinator: Russ MacLeod*

January 18 Book Discussion

Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

12:30 – 2:30 pm *We are Market Basket*, non-fiction by Daniel Korschun & Grant Welker

January 25 Movable Books (and cards) – Bev and Kim Rudeen*

Did you have a favorite book with moving parts in your childhood? Perhaps you've given your child/grandchild such a book. Bev and Kim Rudeen have a liking for these pop-up books or movable books too. They will give a lecture on pop-ups, their history, show some interesting videos, and report on the Moveable Book Conference that they attended in September 2016 in Boston. They will bring many examples to share and we will also make a pop-up card.

Coordinator: Dina Gerosideris*

February 1 *American Philosophy: A Love Story* - Professor John Kaag

John Kaag is a dispirited young philosopher when he stumbles upon West Wind, a ruin of an estate in the hinterlands of New Hampshire that belonged to the eminent Harvard philosopher William Ernest Hocking. Hocking was one of the last true giants of American philosophy.

The books Kaag discovers in the Hocking library are crawling with insects and full of mold. But he resolves to restore them, as he immediately recognizes their importance. Not only does the library at West Wind contain handwritten notes from Whitman and inscriptions from Frost, but there are startlingly rare first editions of Hobbes, Descartes, and Kant. Part intellectual history, part memoir, *American Philosophy* is ultimately about love, freedom, and the role that wisdom can play in turning one's life around.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache*

**February 8 *Bridging the Generational Gap - Conversations with UMass Lowell Students*
An intergenerational contact project to be piloted spring of 2017!**

This pilot program will partner UMass Lowell College of Health Sciences undergraduate students with LIRA members. Under the guidance of Faculty, the students who are enrolled in the *Introduction to Gerontology* course will lead discussions with LIRA members about various aging issues and identify "service needs" in Lowell and surrounding communities. Each student in a group will be pre-assigned with a specific aging issue to discuss in the meeting. Students will write a reflection paper and work on a group project as a part of class assignment. The LIRA members will benefit from this project by contributing to a developing educational initiative! We enthusiastically welcome your participation.

Coordinator: Toby Hodes*

February 15 *Secret War* Dr. Jesse Heines*

The book, *Secret War*, is the true story of a Greek espionage organization during the Nazi occupation, written by its founder and leader. Although six of Rigopoulos's closest companions were caught and executed, cunning, heroic friends, and no small amount of luck helped him escape and survive to write the story of Service 5-16-5 and the surrounding events. The book captures the struggle of an enslaved people and the spirit of those who resisted. This book was written in Greek. Dr. Heines worked with both his friend and his friend's father, the author, over a period of three years to bring the book into English.

Coordinator: Bonnie Heines*

February 15 *Book Discussion*

Facilitator: Toby Hodes*

12:30 – 2:30 pm *Homegoing*, fiction by Yaa Gyasi

February 22 *Mathematics: Invented or Discovered? Beautiful or Bewildering?* Alan Friedman*

Math is a word that most people hear and run the other way. But math has been an essential element of human thought at least as long as speech, and nobody is afraid of talking and listening. Most of us fall short of Shakespeare, but that doesn't prevent us from keeping journals, sending e-mails, and (heaven help us) tweeting. Why shouldn't we get in touch with our inner mathematicians? Engage in an interactive discussion and exploration of the intrinsic nature of math. Use a little linguistic archaeology to investigate how Homo sapiens first engaged with math. Watch brief videos, some animated, some featuring famous mathematicians you never heard of. Provide input into Alan's planning for a spring course, to be entitled "One two three ... infinity: a biography of numbers."

No prior experience is required. No equations will be solved. However, depending on class interest, we may poke our noses into the subject of non-Euclidian geometry, which provoked lively discussion in this fall's classes on General Relativity.

Alan Friedman is a retired manager at Digital Equipment Corporation / Hewlett Packard. He is not afraid of math.

Coordinator: Sally Coulter*

*Denotes LIRA member

LIRA's Winter 2017 Intersession

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 5	December 6	December 7 10 am to Noon Holiday Party Lydon Library	December 8	December 9 10am Chelmsford Library Lecture <i>Breaking the WWII Enigma Code</i> – Lee Poirier
December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16 10am Book Discussion <i>My Brilliant Friend</i> by Elena Ferrante
		2017		
January 2	January 3	January 4 Six Frigates Peter Sebelius	January 5	January 6
January 9	January 10	January 11 Water Politics Chris Wilkinson	January 12	January 13 10am Chelmsford Library Lecture Series
January 16	January 17	January 18 Mystery Books – A Surprise Dr. Melissa Pennell 12:30pm Book Discussion <i>We are Market Basket</i> by Korschun & Welker	January 19	January 20
January 23	January 24	January 25 Movable Books Bev and Kim Rudeen	January 26	January 27

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 30	January 31	February 1 <i>American Philosophy: A Love Story</i> Professor John Kaag	February 2	February 3
February 6	February 7	February 8 Bridging the Generational Gap – Umass Lowell Students	February 9	February 10 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture Series
February 13	February 14	February 15 <i>Secret War</i> Dr. Jesse Heines 12:30pm Book Discussion <i>Homegoing</i> by Yaa Gyasi	February 16	February 17
February 20	February 21	February 22 Mathematics: Invented or Discovered? Alan Friedman	February 23	February 24
		MARCH		
March 6	March 7	March 8 Town Meeting 10 am to Noon	March 9	March 10
March 13 Classes begin	March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17