



# LIRA NEWSLETTER

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

September 2013

Vol. 20 No. 3



*Celebrating*  
**25**  
*years...*

*of Learning*



*Join us for  
LIRA's 25th Anniversary Celebration  
at the*

*Annual Fall Convocation  
Monday, September 16, 2013  
11 A.M to 1:30 P.M*

*Cumnock Hall  
31 University Avenue  
Lowell, MA*

*Steven Tello, Associate Vice Chancellor for  
Entrepreneurship and Economic Development  
will be the speaker.*



# Details for the Convocation

The Annual Fall Convocation is being held on Monday, September 16, in Cumnock Hall, 31 University Avenue, Lowell. The hall is right across the street from Alumni Hall where we have been holding our general meetings. Because of the parking problem at that location, members are asked to park at the Perkins Street Parking Lot. The bus will be on Riverwalk Way right near the entrance to the lot. You should use your hangtags in this parking lot.



There are a number of stairs to get into Cumnock Hall; for those that do not want to climb the stairs, you may go to the back of the building where there is a covered walkway with a door at the end that goes into the bottom floor of Cumnock Hall. The restrooms are on this floor,



also. If you walk straight down the corridor, there is an elevator on the right which will bring you to the front of the hall.

The shuttle bus will be running from the Perkins parking lot from 10am to 2:00pm for as many trips as needed to bring us to Cumnock Hall and back.

When you arrive at Cumnock Hall, you will be able to get your parking hangtag. Please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and bring it with you. Remember that your dues have to be paid before you can receive a hangtag.

Our main speaker is Steven Tello, Associate Vice Chancellor for Entrepreneurship & Economic Development. After our speaker, there will be a review of the fall schedule and sign up for classes. We will also be voting on a change in the bylaws, explained in this newsletter. Marty Meehan, Chancellor of UMass Lowell, will be making a special presentation of the Memorandum of Understanding about 1pm.

Since the Convocation will be going through the noon hour, we would appreciate volunteers to bring some kind of finger food (small sandwiches, fruit, cheese and crackers, etc.). There will be a celebratory cake for our dessert! Contact Mary Willis or Dawn Gillogly if you have any questions.

Hope to see you all there!

## Vote to Change Bylaws

At the Executive Council meeting on August 1, 2013, a motion was made to remove the Friends of LIRA Membership option because the newsletter is readily available on the LIRA website. The motion was seconded and accepted and needs to be voted upon at the Fall Convocation on September 16. Below is the section of the bylaws that would be removed.

**2. Friends of LIRA:** Any person who is supportive of the purpose of the Association may for a nominal fee receive the LIRA Newsletter and Membership Directory. Friends are not entitled to any other member privileges.

## Thank you, Alan

In the years I have been active in LIRA, I have been very fortunate to work with some truly wonderful people. During my years as president, I was particularly pleased to work with Vice-President Alan Kent. He has been always helpful, ready to lend an ear, offer advice, and fill in, often at the last minute, whenever necessary. Although Alan has decided to take a step away from the vice presidency, we are very fortunate that he has agreed to remain on the Executive Council to help LIRA as we enter this transitional year, with, at long last, our Memo of Understanding with the University and a new vice president. I want to extend the warmest and heartiest gratitude to Alan from me and the entire organization.

*Toby Hodes*

## Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Lecture Series that the Chelmsford Library is running in conjunction with LIRA will continue this fall. The scheduled dates for the fall are September 13 and October 11 at 10AM. A lecture has not been scheduled for November and December as yet. Check the library's website for further information.  
[www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday\\_morning\\_lectures.html](http://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday_morning_lectures.html)

Lectures scheduled are:

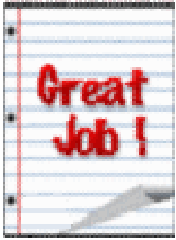
Fall semester 2013:

September 13, 2013: "The Future of the EU"  
presented by Vivien A. Schmidt

October 11, 2013: "Boston Bronze & Stone Speak To Us"  
by Joseph Gallo



The Holiday Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4. More details about the party will appear in the next newsletter.



# Our Members at Work

The following is a list of all the members that make our organization run. I think they deserve a round of applause for all their hard work! They are always receptive to having new volunteers; please speak to any one of the members if you would like to be on a committee. Note that these are the committees as they stand as of September 2013. A big **THANK YOU** also, to those that served on committees last year but are not continuing this year.

*Jeri Durant*

## Executive Board

### Officers

President Toby Hodes  
Vice President Richard Grove  
Treasurer Ron Cannistraro  
Secretary Shirley Mitchell

### Members-at-Large

Jerry Gilmore  
Alan Kent

### Committee Chairs

Curriculum Dorothy Bromage  
Membership Marjorie Short  
Publicity Jeanne Gunion  
Hospitality Mary Willis  
Newsletter Jeri Durant  
Scholarship Bill Terris

## Committees

### Curriculum Committee

Dorothy Bromage, Chairperson  
Ann Dahlman  
Jerry Gilmore  
Robert Hanlon  
Martha Hill  
Russ MacLeod  
Carole Mumby  
Barbara Page  
Judith Palais  
Nancy Pitkin  
Jean Schott  
Toby Hodes, ex officio as LIRA President

### Art & Music Committee

Barbara Page, Chairperson  
Dorothy Bromage  
Jane Canter  
Carol McCarthy  
Rose Rhoades  
Jean Rubinstein  
Jean Schott

### Library Committee

Shirley Mitchell, Chairperson  
Marjorie Short

### Membership Committee

Marjorie Short, Chairperson  
Suzanne Knapp

### Scholarship Committee

Bill Terris, Chairperson  
Simone Allard  
Jerry Gilmore  
Alan Kent  
John Mamalis  
Alan McKersie  
Deanne Sferrino

### Auction Committee

Carol Cannistraro  
Barbara Willman

### Hospitality

Mary Willis, Co-Chairperson  
Dawn Gillogly, Co-Chairperson  
Dorothy Bromage

### Telephone Tree

Carol McCarthy  
Judy Miller

### Newsletter Committee

Jeri Durant, Editor  
Suzanne Knapp, Layout and Reproduction  
Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady, Distribution  
Simone Allard, Member News  
Jeanne Gunion, Member Spotlight

### UMass Lowell Website

Jeri Durant  
Suzanne Knapp

### UMass Lowell Liaison

Paul Marion, Executive Director of  
Community and Cultural Affairs



A round of applause should be given to the Curriculum Committee for a great summer intersession. As you can see from this month's newsletter, we had excellent programs; they were varied and interesting! Thanks to all who made the arrangements.

## LIRA'S Scholarship Fund Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 4th. 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 scholarships to three 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 or 6 tickets for \$5. You decide what item(s) you want and put your ticket (s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to Alumni Hall 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.

*The Auction Committee,  
Carol Cannistraro  
Barbara Willman*

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## Scholarship News

The LIRA Executive Board has voted to award three \$1,500 scholarships to three full-time UMass Lowell juniors or seniors who have a grade point average of 3.0 or better and who also participate in community service activities. One of the scholarships is given by a LIRA member who wishes to remain anonymous. Your generous contributions in the past have made this possible and we will be soliciting contributions when the fall semester gets underway. The awards will be given at the Holiday Party in December. The student winners decide if they wish to use the money toward tuition, fees, supplies or materials. Remember, if you have relatives who meet these qualifications, they can apply for one of these scholarships as long as they are students at UMass Lowell.

Sincere thanks for all your help.  
*Bill Terris, Chair  
Jerry Gilmore  
Alan Kent  
John Mamalis  
Alan McKersie  
Dottie Morris  
Deanne Sferrino*

## 2013/2014 LIRA Dues Payable Now

This is a reminder that LIRA dues for the 2013/2014 year are due preferably **before** the Convocation on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Amounts remain the same for the current year: \$125 for single membership and \$200 for a couple per year.

Make your check payable to **UMass Lowell** and mail to:

UMass Lowell Office of Alumni Relations  
Attention: LIRA Membership  
Southwick Hall  
One University Ave.  
Lowell, MA 01854

The University will send our treasurer, Ron Cannistraro, a regular report of paid members and Ron will bill the University for the portion of the dues that LIRA will be using for our operating expenses. \$100 of the dues for an individual and \$150 of the dues for a couple will now be tax deductible.

As is our normal procedure, dues must be paid before signing up for any of our courses or trips. Members wishing to pay at our Convocation in September may do so, but checks must still be made out to **UMass Lowell**, as shown above.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Entries in the annual directory were previously based on information received with dues; if there are any changes that should be made to your address, phone, email information or your name as you prefer it to be listed, please contact Jeri Durant: [jeridurant@gmail.com](mailto:jeridurant@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Cannistraro or Toby Hodes.

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## Quilt Raffle Benefits Scholarship Fund

The winner of this beautiful quilt made by Jean Schott was Carol Cannistraro. Jean sold raffle tickets for the entire spring semester and the quilt was raffled off at the Annual Meeting in May. The Scholarship Fund received the proceeds of \$285 from the raffle.



## In the Beginning.....

We often wonder what it was like back in 1988 when Dr. Mark Levine created LIRA at UMass Lowell. Betty Sampas is the longest member, joining in 1991. Suzanne Knapp, Connie Lanseigne-Case and Dotty Morris all joined in 1993. For the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the newsletter, three of the long-time members of LIRA wrote some memories that they had of its beginnings. Following are their recollections of those early years.

I joined LIRA in 1993 at the urging of my dear friend Edith Porton. Many of you will remember Edith as an enthusiastic LIRA member and patron of the arts who was aptly nicknamed “the culture vulture” by the two teenage sons of a friend. In reflecting on those early days, I found memories of Edith came flooding back. No matter the topic, Edith always had a cogent comment or new insight to offer.

In 1993 I had recently retired, and one of the top items on my “bucket list” was a trip to India. Unfortunately, at that time there was considerable ethnic and religious unrest in India, and travel there was not recommended. But wait—LIRA to the rescue! Paul Dettman, who with past LIRA President Jean Dettman had lived and brought up their six children there, was leading a study group on India. No, I won't say that the study group entirely took the place of a trip, but it was fascinating and I learned so very many things about India from the Dettmans that I never would have as a tourist.

In those early days we had about 30 members, and we were sometimes worried that there might be an embarrassingly small turnout for an outside speaker. However I don't recall that fear ever being realized, as LIRA members always came through. I remember how impressed I was with the LIRA audiences—as I still am! One session that I remember in particular was where the invited speaker was from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, scheduled to give a “behind the scenes” look at mounting museum exhibits. She had prepared a slide lecture but there was a problem with the projector that couldn't be fixed on the spot. Since her lecture was entirely based on her slides she couldn't proceed with that, but she offered to answer any questions that we had about the topic and the MFA. I can imagine many audiences who might come up with a few feeble questions at best, but LIRA members filled the entire allotted 2 hours with interesting, probing questions! We all learned a lot and the speaker was suitably impressed.

*Suzanne Knapp*

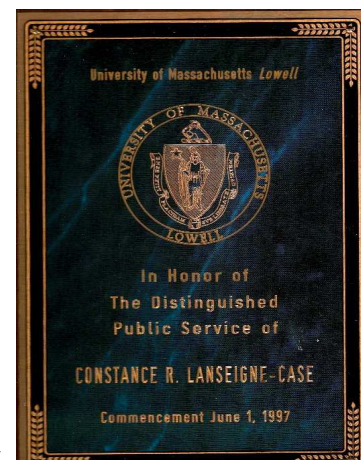


Like many LIRA members, I learned of the association through a founding member who praised programs, the interesting membership and convenient meeting location in the Mogan Center on French St. Before retiring I regularly attended the Wednesday once a week summer programs advertised in the Lowell Sun. The fourth floor classroom had a quilted cover for the upright piano with the fall tree logo designed and crafted by members. Later after the piano was returned to its owner, members converted it to our lovely wall hanging.

LIRA was the inspiration of Mark Levine, Director of Community Services at UMass Lowell. It was modeled on Harvard's popular program and is part of the Elderhostel network. He was its active advisor until his death.

George Ryan was first president of the small association of close to 30 enthusiastic and talented people. Among them were the Dettmans who lived and worked numerous years in India. George's passion was the study of locks and canals in Lowell which he comprehensively photographed and presented illustrated talks. At commencement in 1990 he was awarded “The Distinguished Public Service” award, an award I received seven years later.

Stanley Bernstein, the next president, had an electronics background and numerous times arranged to teach computer literacy at a Market St. communications facility. In the spring of 1994 he conceived the idea of the art and music program. The Wednesday offering, to this day has the largest attendance. Peg Farley and I volunteered to coordinate it and I remained chairman for 16 years. Kay Carroll and Dotty Morris were early committee members. Paul Marion, currently Executive Director of Community and Cultural Affairs at the university, guided a semester of poetry writing which resulted in the publishing of a booklet of favorite writings of participants. One member, an avid reader of non-fiction, Freda Schiffman lectured on favorite,



*(Continued on page 7)*

## **In the Beginning** *(Continued from page 6)*

memorable people and had other members as weekly presenters. Freda recruited Dr. Melissa Pennell, Professor of English to lecture. Melissa's talks have spanned almost all our years of existence. Professor Liana Cheney, Art History Studies, is another faculty member who yearly responds to requests. Each spring, George Dana, an avid hiker and former science teacher in Lowell, led a group of nature lovers. Another member interested in politics and science, Charles Harrison also capitalized on university faculty and the greater Lowell community. He initiated the meaningful program "Great Decisions". Mark Levine, also a cellist, recruited musician friends who together treated listeners to frequent chamber music.

In 1995 when I became president there were close to 60 active members. Jean Dettman was vice president and became president two years later. As today, the entire program operated thanks to member volunteerism. Trips to a destination depended on willingness to carpool, an indication of the long standing generosity of members.

*Connie Lanseigne-Case*



**M**y first introduction to LIRA was from a brochure that I found at the Chelmsford Library during the spring of 1993. As someone who had always loved "school" I was immediately intrigued. I accepted an invitation to come to a meeting to see what LIRA was all about. Meetings were held at the Mogan Center in Lowell. I remember sitting with a very friendly and interesting couple, Paul and Jean Dettman, who had recently joined. I learned that they had lived in India for about 15 years. Jean had home schooled six children while living there. Now, back in the states, these children were now young adults who had graduated from U.S. colleges and graduate schools of law, medicine, nursing and social services. Paul told me he planned to give a course about India the coming fall term. The Dettmans were just two of the friendly, interesting people I met that day. On this basis I decided immediately to submit my application for membership. Some recollections of those early years follow:

LIRA was a small group, probably no more than 30 participants. Members wore multiple hats to fulfill the needs of the organization. Most programs were held at the Mogan Center or we travelled by a bumpy, and often hot, school bus to various venues in the city of Lowell. As a member of the curriculum committee I suggested taking a poll to see if members would be willing to pay \$10.00 each to hire an air conditioned bus to travel further away. Everyone agreed to this. I think we made our first trip out of town to the MFA in Boston. Curriculum offerings were not as varied during those days. We agreed that a class could be held if a minimum of eight members signed up for it.

Ed Croke was the newsletter editor and he did it without benefit of a computer. His wife Mary typed it on an ordinary typewriter and I took it to Copy Kyd in Chelmsford to be reproduced. We didn't have any audio visual equipment in those days. We met in the Dettmans' living room for a video supported course that Paul gave about Shakespearean kings.

When a weekend Northeast Regional Conference of Institutes for Learning in Retirement (ILR's) was held at UMass/Amherst the Dettmans and I were representatives for LIRA. I was surprised at the large number of attendees. It was most interesting to hear how other similar groups functioned and to meet our counterparts from the other New England states and New York.

As our membership grew the variety of program offerings greatly expanded. Some advantages to having a smaller group were that we could all fit on one bus and visit unique places like The Round House in Lowell that could not accommodate a large group. I also remember a Sunday visit to the Methuen Music Hall followed by a group dinner at Bishops Restaurant in Lawrence.

Finding a place to hold our meetings has been a journey that led us from the Mogan Center in Lowell, to the Boott Museum, Ball Hall on the North Campus, the West Campus Residence, and the Wannalancit Mill and eventually to Fox Hall on the South Campus.

The years have brought many changes in LIRA in terms of technology, growth of membership, and the variety of curriculum offerings. The one constant has always been a group of friendly, interesting people who love to learn and share a wide variety of talents and expertise with others.

*Dotty Morris*



## A Piano History Lesson

Divided into two groups, we visited the Frederick Collection of Historical Grand Pianos on July 17. We worked our way through time backwards from the early 1900s to late 1700s.

Four rooms hold the pianos. In the first room, we saw the 9' 1907 Bluthner made in Leipzig, Germany. Debussy had one like this, which is why our host Pat Frederick, chose a Debussy selection to perform and demonstrate the very soft tone of which this piano is capable. In the same room are an 1866 Steinway, an 1885 Mason & Hamlin, and a 1928 Erard owned by the daughter of pianist Theodor Leschetizky. It had formerly belonged to Paderewski. By playing "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" on the 1866 Steinway, Pat showed the size and tone of pianos of the time in homey surroundings. This piano had modern legs and music rack that are more like what is available today.

The next room was larger. Among the pianos are an 1828 Bosendorfer, an 1862 Chickering, and an 1877 Bosendorfer. Most striking is a 7' 1877 Erard with 90 keys and strings which are parallel. The music of Brahms, as performed by Pat on the 1868 Streicher and the 1871 Streicher, was appropriate to the characteristics of these pianos which Brahms would have used. Most pianos in this room had a candle stand on each side of the music desk. Our talented host sang a song by Schumann as she played it on the 1868 Streicher, to illustrate how the materials used in the piano were appropriate to such performances in that time. Over time, the soundboard, strings, hammers, soundboard ribs, soundboard bridge, and framing were all materials of



development. The number of keys went from 5 octaves in the late 1700s to 7 octaves in the late 1840s.

The third room is small in comparison to the first two but held some treasures, such as an 1830 Stodart, a good example of English pianos of its time. Pat played a Chopin selection, "Raindrop Prelude," on the 1845 Pleyel, popular in France when Chopin lived there. Mendelssohn and Schubert would have had composed for such instruments.

In room four with the morning LIRA group, Edmund Frederick took over and had us reaching back into history to an 1805 Katholnig and 1800 Joseph Brodmann (with its beef bone keys instead of ivory). Edmund played the "Moonlight Sonata" by Beethoven on the Brodmann. He said none of these pianos is capable of loud sound and would not have been used in public

concerts but rather in homes for private concerts. The Brodmann and Katholnig are examples of pianos that would have been the last Beethoven heard before he went totally deaf. In this room is an 1805 Clementi, an English piano with painted flowers and line inlays, as well as on the unsigned Viennese piano with reverse key color (white sharps and black naturals). Pianos such as in this room would have been available to Mozart near the end of his life.

As we left, it took a little time to get adjusted to real time, but with many memories we can return to pianos in history. Edmund and Patricia Frederick devote their lives to selecting and maintaining a unique collection which we were privileged to enjoy this day.

*Dorothy Bromage*

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## 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 or Toby Hodes 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, Toby Hodes 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 gmiller29@verizon.net) or Carol McCarthy (978-256-5904 or jfmcart@aol.com). Those not on the list will be notified by telephone.

*Carol McCarthy  
Judy Miller*



## Groton Place Walk—June 5, 2013

A group of twenty-five outdoor enthusiasts plus one dog enjoyed a leisurely walk along the Nashua River in Groton. The location was Groton Place — the former home of the Groton Hunt Club — now managed by the New England Forestry Foundation. Monuments memorializing the activities of the previous owner remain, including grave markers of favorite horse and dog. Stone benches provided a setting for a group photo and seating places for our customary picnic lunch.

The walk's destination was the Groton School's boathouse and launch area on the river. The docks had undergone extensive improvements since LIRA's last visit in 2000. What had been a floating platform is now a solidly anchored dock.

The outing was blessed by excellent weather conditions and absence of insects.

*Steve Sussman*



Groton Place Walk 13 years ago in June, 2000



Groton Place Walk June, 2013

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## Spread the Word

Although word-of-mouth is the most effective in telling others about LIRA, there are other ways you can help. Jeanne Gunion has prepared posters that can be emailed to

you and are ready to print. Please send requests for posters to her at [jgunion@comcast.net](mailto:jgunion@comcast.net) if you wish to post posters in your town, church, senior center or other outlet.

## Connie Lanseigne-Case, Member Spotlight



People, the environment, and times helped fashion my life in rewarding, challenging, and interesting ways. As a child living two streets beyond Lowell Textile College, and walking past the institution, the goal to earn a college

education quickly rooted. While my degree was from Lowell Teachers' College (LTC), a fire in Coburn Hall (South Campus) resulted that senior year in attending classes at Lowell Technological Institute (North Campus). The drive to further my education continued, and at a commencement from Boston University, in once Braves' Field of the National League team, I was awarded the doctoral degree.

Pawtucketville, where I grew up, is a section of Lowell on the North Campus. Then it was a Franco-American neighborhood. French is my maternal language, and much to my surprise and gratitude, this resulted in my being selected by the National Education

Association to be part of a Canadian and U.S. team whose mission was instructing teachers in Gabon, West Africa for Crossroads Africa Inc. Prior to departure, volunteer groups were received by Pres. John F. Kennedy in the



Rose Garden. During the six weeks in the French speaking equatorial nation, our small team visited in Lambarene with Dr. Albert Schweitzer, winner of the prestigious Nobel and Goethe Prizes. Today that memorable experience continues to impact my life in numerous ways.

The summer vacation following the first year teaching, a close French-Armenian LTC friend spoke of visiting family in France. So the passion for travel was ignited by a whirlwind tour of Europe. Since 1954, in 55 countries have I toured, hiked, trekked, studied, taught, and performed service learning. The breakup of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and separation of Czechoslovakia added Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia to the nations explored. 1959 was the first year Americans could request visas to the Soviet Union, and visitors often found themselves in the midst of students anxious to converse in

English. In Prague, "the Paris of Eastern Europe," I met my pen pal. Our correspondence spanned 18 years. In Slovenia site of the world famous Postojna Caves, my camera captured a photo of Tito and Haile Selassie in an open car heading for the karst monuments.

It was timely to visit the Middle East in the mid 50's. Jordan controlled the Holy Land; Syria's magnificent Roman archeological sites easily were viewed; and Egypt's tourism had yet to expand.

The marvelous vistas of the Himalayan Mountains from a houseboat on Dahl Lake in Kashmir was not hindered by the present-day conflict between Pakistan and India. In newly independent Nigeria, still free of internal turmoil, visits to schools in Lagos were without worry. Likewise six months after the 2000 trek in Nepal, the quiet Hindu, Tibetan Buddhist nation erupted in civil war. On the western border of China in Kashgar, made famous by Marco Polo, as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG), an honor society for key women in education, the delegation observed in a Uyghur school. In Lanzhou, we were VIP's in a parade to a Buddhist temple for the dedication of a monument to Fuxi, the Chinese god of creativity.

My husband, a photo journalist for The Lowell Sun, guided my early photography. Years later, armed with brushes, oils, and canvas, I participated in classes at the Whistler House Museum of Art, and started another passion. Through Elderhostel / Road Scholar, I have explored programs in woodblock printing, sumi-e (Japanese brush painting), pastels, watercolor, encaustics (using hot wax paints), and colored pencils.

Beyond the experiences described, teaching led to other never planned pursuits including lecturing in Bermuda; being a master teacher for LTC in a lab school in Lowell; a teaching fellow at Boston University; and an instructor at Rivier University. A great change-of-pace activity was observing, and recording black howler monkeys for San Francisco State University in Belize, on the site of Maya ruins. I wore the hat of coordinating Lowell's first summer Head Start program; developed and directed the reopening of a nursery and kindergarten for a Pelham church; and learned the politics of being an elected school board member and chairman in town. DKG encourages members to answer "yes" to requests. Therefore, it was automatic to accept the invitation of becoming a LIRA president.



*Connie Lanseigne-Case*

## Indian Hill and LIRA

Indian Hill Music School's Artistic Director Dr. Bruce Hagen welcomed members of LIRA on July 12 in the Camilla Blackman Hall. He presented an informational program consisting of a detailed review of the orchestra's upcoming season followed by a special recital of violin music with piano accompaniment. It was more than an announcement of the concert season's individual programs; Dr. Hagen added recorded examples of the orchestra playing at the highest professional level. Interesting, also, was Dr. Hagen's slide presentation with charts that got across the breadth of the orchestra's repertoire, including the wide range of styles.

After a break (thank you for the coffee, Indian Hill Music)—and thank you, Marjorie Short and your volunteers for the edibles—



we were treated to the performance of two superior musicians: violinist Alice Hallstrom and pianist Michelle Kelley. Lovers of classical music are familiar with Vivaldi's violin concerto, "The Seasons," but none of us had heard the selection rendered by the part of the orchestra scored for piano. The effect was very satisfying. The virtuosity of the soloist, Alice Hallstrom, was amazing. Alice is first violinist of the school's orchestra. Accompanist Michelle Kelley held the piano in just the right level, and everyone knew how much virtuosity was required for that part.

Alice's second offering was a solo "Tarantella" by Sarasate. One can only imagine the hours and hours of study and practice necessary, even with a marvelous talent. Add to this her performing with genuine feeling, and you have an experience for the audience that is unforgettable.

If you did not attend the June 12 program, you missed an excellent presentation. If you *did* get there, I'll bet you didn't know that we were the first to sit on their brand new chairs.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Partly Cloudy with a Chance of Chaos

Drenching rain, devastating hurricanes, blizzards, nor'easters, sleet, hail, even tornados are all part of the landscape here in New England. On July 16, George Modica, senior staff scientist and program manager at Atmospheric and Environmental Research (AER), in Lexington Massachusetts presented a program using numerical weather prediction (NWP) models to forecast these short and long term weather conditions. NWP models use complex mathematical equations based on current weather conditions. Data comes from many sources. The most important source is in the upper air using radiosondes or weather balloons, dropsondes, weather devices dropped from aircraft and flying aircraft that carry instruments to transmit meteorological conditions back to earth. Radar and observational systems such as airfields measure visibility, rain and wind on the ground.

However, observational instruments are not perfect and the atmosphere is temperamental. Edward Lorenz, an MIT meteorologist, described the constant and continuous behavior of the atmosphere and why it is so difficult to make a good forecast. The sensitivity of atmospheric behavior to small perturbations (disturbances) is known as chaos. He used the butterfly effect to describe this occurrence. The slightest fluctuation in wind, temperature, pressure in the atmosphere or the smallest error can dramatically affect the accuracy of a prediction. A butterfly flaps his wings in Brazil and this could have significant effect on the weather in Texas.

The emergence of faster and more powerful computers have helped to simplify and make the forecast models more accurate. The first computers were slow, taking 24 hours to predict a day's forecast. In the fifteen years from 1955-1972 accuracy doubled.



George Modica with Coordinator Mary Willis

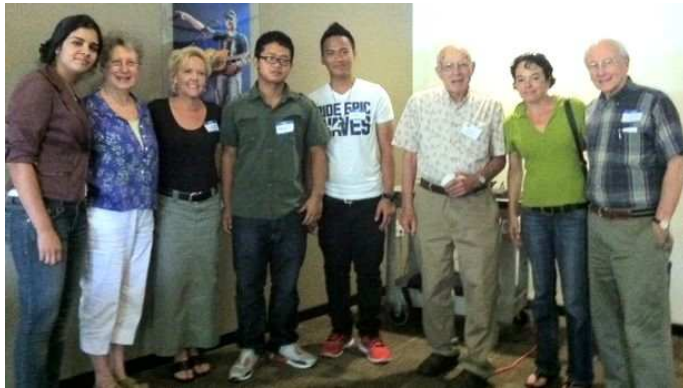
Today, there are global NWP models that cover the entire world, regional models that cover an area, such as North America and ensemble models which produce multiple forecasts starting at the same time. The European has been a leader in global NWP models and was the first NWP model to predict the path of Hurricane Sandy. National Weather Service interprets the data to track storms now with greater accuracy. Forecasting the weather is still not a precise science but complaining about the weather is predictable (think record heat waves in July followed immediately by sharp dips in the 50's).

*Mary Willis*

## LONELY

We often see reports about refugees on the news. Sometimes we make a mental note of what country they left and where they ended up living. It's a different situation when you are in the same room with some people who had to flee. When they tell their story, the whole concept of "refugee" changes. You learn the reason behind the move and the atrocious conditions under which they were living. You learn what difficulties were encountered on getting out of the country, and often it was not a straight line to their eventual housing. Almost always, families were broken up.

On July 24, 46 LIRA members and guests were privileged to have three teen refugees with us. They were Aung Khine Min, Rafal Thaher, and Bawi Za Kham. Speaking and answering questions, they related well to the audience. They were among six Lowell High School students telling their stories in a touching short documentary film, "Hard Truth, Levity, and Hope," which explored the lives of refugee teens that have



Rafal Thaher, LIRA member Joan Kerzner, Deb Fowler, Bawi Za Kham, Aung Khine Min, LIRA member Steve Sussman, Dee Killion, LIRA member Arnie Kerzner

settled in Lowell, MA. Deb Fowler, ELL teacher in the Lowell Public Schools, was executive producer of the film and was present. Through her work with refugee students, she learned of their stories, and she introduced the film. The film caught the attention of LIRA member Joan Kerzner, who was volunteering in Deb's class, and it was Joan who proposed the program of the day. We learned that the role of the International Institute of Lowell is vital to the successful entry and integration into local life. It is not instantaneous. As the day's program went on, it became apparent that people from other countries are adding to the fabric of society instead of being a burden.

In the end, you can give the teens every measure of support they need, but picture each one during the first months of their residence, attending school. No familiar persons their own age, no familiar adults, no one who understands when they speak. After school, what do they do—they go home. Lots of activities going on, but they don't have any idea how to fit in, even if they know what the activities are—and they don't. The game of soccer is the one exception to unfamiliarity. For some, it can eventually facilitate their adaptation to the new life. When all were asked to describe their initial experience in one word, that word was "lonely."

Among LIRA members is a person who fits the description of refugee. The situation in Germany was detrimental for Jewish families, to say the least. If they could, they left Germany. This was not easy—first of all, just getting out. Then, a family might have to go through France and Belgium, for example, before getting to the United States. At the age of 9, LIRA member Steve Sussman and his family endured the difficulties in getting out of Germany, finally reaching the U.S., after a year delay waiting for a visa to enter the country. They then experienced the period of adjustment so eloquently described for LIRA on July 24.

*Dorothy Bromage*

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### Indian Hill *(Continued from page 11)*

Good looking! Comfortable! (the chairs) Program Director Catherine Coleman was the person who worked with Marjorie Short for our visit to happen. We enjoyed it very much—and thank you, Catherine.

The name "Indian Hill" turns up as a road in quite a few Massachusetts towns and cities. How did it get attached to a music school and orchestra? Well, in the 70s, a 16-piece chamber orchestra was playing baroque music, practicing in someone's home on—you guessed it—Indian Hill Road in Groton. As time went on, a new organization was formed, and the decision was made to keep the name. There you have it!

*Dorothy Bromage*

## LIRA Exercise Program

The Fall 2013 session will begin on Tuesday, 9/10 and end on Thursday, 12/5. The classes will meet from 3:30-5:00pm. The cost of the 12 week session is \$60. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact either me at: Gerard\_Dybel@uml.edu or Connie Seymour Connie\_Seymour@uml.edu before the class begins.

*Gerard Dybel PT, ScD, GCS  
Associate Professor  
Physical Therapy*

# The Art of James Abbot McNeill Whistler

Whistler was one of the 3 famous US expatriate artists of the late 19th century. The others were Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent. He was born in Lowell. Several years later, his father's career as a railroad engineer, took him to Connecticut and eventually to St. Petersburg, Russia where he began studying art as a teenager.

He returned to the US to study at West Point, as his father had done. He excelled in drawing, but little else. A few years later, as many aspiring young artists had done in that era, he moved to Paris where he became part of the bohemian art colony developing there. The first influence on his art was Courbet, whose realistic style appealed to him. He travelled thru France extensively and painted landscapes and also did etchings of the countryside.

Whistler had influential family contacts in London which drew him there. He became a controversial figure in the art world there. Whistler travelled widely and found suitable subjects for his Nocturnes, which became some of his most famous works that resemble those, his style of the Impressionist artists of France. The controversy concerning his art at that time was due to his insistence on Art for Art's Sake, in which subject matter was unimportant.

Critics caused quite a stir over Whistler's unique approach to art while he worked in London. At the same time his reputation

suffered when he decorated the famous Peacock Room to his liking which did not appeal to the its owner. As a result Whistler went bankrupt and needed to reestablish himself as an artist. The opportunity came when he was asked by a London Art Association to go to Venice to do etching for them. His work there appealed to many and once again he found customers for his art work.

Whistler and his mother had a very close relationship although she lived in the US and he in London. During a visit by his mother while he lived in London, he did a portrait which eventually became one of the most famous paintings in the world. It was purchased by the French government around 1890 and remains in Paris now.

Whistler's work as a portraitist made him once again financially secure. He had customers both in Europe and in the United States in the last years of his life. He died in London in 1903.

*Jean Schott*

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## Cuba Today with Jose Ramirez and Barbara Murch

Within the last 6 months, both Barbara Murch and Jose Ramirez traveled to Cuba. Barbara, a LIRA member, traveled on an organized tour. Jose, born in Cuba, now residing in Westford, went with a personal license to visit his family there. Each gave a different perspective of their island experience. Barb took many photos of cities and towns there and showed them while lively Cuban music played in the background.

Jose has returned to the island on his own since leaving Cuba after the Castro regime came in. He emphasized that Cuba is still a country under strict controls which has caused much dissident activity which continues today. His presentation and his own photos centered on medical services to residents there, travel out of Cuba by Cubans today and current unrest throughout the island. Many changes in daily lives have taken place recently. LIRA members participated in an active question and answer session with the presenters. How interesting it was to get different perspectives on Cuba today due to the completely different travel experiences of Jose and Barbara!

*Jean Schott*

*Jose Ramirez's book, Defining Moments: A Cuban Exile's Story about Discovery and the Search for a Better Future," is now available in paperback (Amazon: \$17.99).*

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## The Whistler House Museum of Art

A group of LIRA members toured the Whistler House Museum of Art led by its exhibit manager, James Dymont. The Lowell Art Association, founded in 1878, owns and operates the museum as an historic site. It became a museum in 1908. The building which houses the museum was built in 1823. The focus of its art collection is late 19th century and early 20th century with special emphasis on artists of New England.

James Abbot McNeill Whistler was born in the house, which would later become the museum, in 1834. His father was the agent for the Locks and Canals Corporation in Lowell at that time. Several years later, the family moved to Connecticut and eventually to St. Petersburg, Russia.

A copy of Whistler's most famous painting, *Arrangement in Grey and Black*, was given to the museum by a distant relative of his and remains there on display today.

*Jean Schott*



*Arrangement in Grey and Black*  
by James Whistler

## Museum of Science Trip

On Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, an enthusiastic group of 31 LIRA members and guests spent an educational and entertaining day at the Museum of Science. After arriving at the museum at 9:30 AM, we received our admission, IMAX movie as well as planetarium tickets and some participants purchased additional tickets to the special "Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibition. Everyone had a great time enjoying the many exhibits, demonstrations and shows. The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition provided a fascinating look at life in ancient times though many treasures from the Israel Antiquities Authority. The Rocky Mountain Express Imax movie showed breathtaking scenery on a steam train from Vancouver to Calgary as well as some of the early history of the construction of Canadian Pacific Railway track in the 1880s. Looking at both our own moon and others in our solar system, the Moons, Worlds of Mystery Planetarium show immersed us in amazing diversity of moons and the important roles they play in shaping our solar system. Leaving the museum at 2 PM was a tired, but satisfied group for our trip back to Chelmsford.

*Bob Hanlon*



LIRA members and their guests in front of the Museum of Science

## Member News

It was great to see that Joan Kerzner is fully recovered from her leg fracture and has returned as a very active member of LIRA.

Rose Rhoades was hospitalized in June and is recuperating at home. Rose could use some words of encouragement, and since she does not drive, she might welcome offers of transportation. Her phone # is 978-454-0285.

Jane McKersie had surgery in July for a hip replacement. She continued her recovery at home with physical therapy and is doing well. Her phone # is 978-256-0531.

If you know of any member who would like to be remembered by LIRA, please contact me and I will send cards.

Note my new email address and telephone number:  
si.allard@aol.com - 603-943-7527

*Simone Allard*

## From the Editor



Producing a newsletter involves many people, not only those that write the articles but those that put it all together and send it to you. Thank you to all those that make it possible: the contributors, Suzanne Knapp for the professional layouts, Shirley Mitchell and Sally Cady for labeling, folding, sealing and mailing them out. Among the contributors for every issue, Simone Allard keeps up with the member news and sends cards to our members, Jeanne Gunion coordinates the 'Member Spotlight' feature and Dorothy Bromage prepares the schedules. Thanks so much to all of you for your hard work. Suggestions, new ideas, comments or criticisms are welcome.

If there is anyone that would like to help with the newsletter and make the calendars for each issue, please let me know. I make the calendars with Microsoft Publisher, but I am sure there are many other programs that can make calendars.

A reminder is being sent to everyone that has email in the hopes that more members will contribute to the newsletter and not leave it to the same people all the time. The notice comes four times a year, but if you would rather not receive it, please let me know.

Remember that the newsletters can be seen on our website at [uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html](http://uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html) in full color and if you would like to read the newsletter online instead of the hard copy, please let Shirley Mitchell know. The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first of March, May, September and December. I will send out an email when the newsletter is on the website, usually by the first of the month.

Thanks again to everyone for their support.

*Jeri Durant*

## Newsletters on Website

The newsletter will appear on the website in color, around the first of the month. If you would prefer to read them there instead of getting a hard copy, please let Shirley Mitchell know.

The website for the newsletter is  
[www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html](http://www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html)



The next newsletter will be out on December 1, 2013; the deadline for news items is November 15, 2013. 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*

# Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2013-2014 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.parkerlec.com](http://www.parkerlec.com) or the file can be emailed to you by contacting Jeri Durant: [jeridurant@gmail.com](mailto:jeridurant@gmail.com)

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6:00 pm - Lowell Community Health Center  
Elinor Lipman – “An Author Comes Home”

Thursday, Sept. 26, 7:00 pm - Pollard Library  
Stephen Ericson – “Boon Island: A True Story of Mutiny, shipwreck and cannibalism”

Monday, Sept. 30, 11:45 am – UML Inn and Conference Center  
Stuart Altman – “Health Care Reform”

Thursday, Oct. 3, 6:00 pm – Lowell Community Health Center  
Dr. John Parrish – “Autopsy of War; a Personal History”

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2:00 pm – American Textile History Museum  
Susan Ward – “Marimekko's in America”

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2:00 pm – Lowell National Historical Park  
Visitor Center  
Jim Sampas – “Celebrating Kerouac in Film and World”

Thursday, Oct. 17, 7:00 pm – Pollard Library  
Stephen Collins – “Unlaunched Voices, an Evening with Walt Whitman”

Sunday, Oct. 20, 2:00 pm – Lowell National Historical Park  
Visitor Center  
William Hosley – “Our History Matters! Rekindling Awe, Aspiration & Civic Attachment”

Monday, Oct. 21, 11:00 am – UML Inn and Conference Center  
Mayor Thomas Menino –

“A Conversation with Boston Mayor Thomas Menino”  
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2:00 pm – Lowell National Historical Park  
Visitor Center  
Michael Tougias – “Survival Lessons: From those who have survived against all odds.”

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 11:45 am – UML Inn and Conference Center  
Nicco Mele – “The End of Big”

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2:00 pm – Saint Patrick's Church  
Edward H. Furey – “Glorious Gems of Lowell: Patrick Keely's Legacy”

Sunday, Nov. 3, 2:00pm – American Textile History Museum  
Laren Whitley – “The 1970's Sartorial Revolution”

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 7:00pm – Whistler House Museum of Art  
Steve Kurkjian – “Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Heist”

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2:00 pm – Lowell National Historical Park  
Visitor Center  
Susan Gallagher – “Mapping Thoreau Country”

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2:00 pm – Lowell national Historical Park  
Visitor Center  
Anthony N. Iarrapino – “Water Worries in a Warming World”



## 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.

### **Address Changes:**

Simone Allard  
55 Kent Lane, H314  
Nashua, NH 03062  
603-943-7527  
[si.allard@aol.com](mailto:si.allard@aol.com)

Judith Palais  
199 Concord Road, Apt. 102  
Billerica, MA 01821  
978-362-0366  
[judithpalais@gmail.com](mailto:judithpalais@gmail.com)

### **Email changes:**

Walter Ciesluk:  
[wgciesluk@outlook.com](mailto:wgciesluk@outlook.com)  
Nancy Grove:  
[nancy.y.grove@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.y.grove@gmail.com)  
Richard Grove:  
[Richard.b.grove@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.b.grove@gmail.com)  
Jeanne Gunion:  
[gunionjeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:gunionjeanne@yahoo.com)

### **Newsletter Committee**

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[jeridurant@gmail.com](mailto:jeridurant@gmail.com)  
Suzanne Knapp, Layout & Reproduction  
[knapp.sc@gmail.com](mailto:knapp.sc@gmail.com)  
Shirley Mitchell & Sally Cady, Distribution  
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Simone Allard, Member News  
[siallard@verizon.net](mailto:siallard@verizon.net)  
Jeanne Gunion, Member Spotlight  
[gunionjeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:gunionjeanne@yahoo.com)

# Art and Music Fall Schedule 2013

## **Wednesday, September 25 Peabody Essex Museum**

We will go by bus and have a guided “highlights” tour and free time for the Faberge exhibit, other galleries, the café, the gift shop, etc. The cost is \$25.00. We will meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:15 AM and will return at 2:30 PM. Please send a check payable to LIRA, postmarked on or before Sep 9 to Carol McCarthy, 398 Acton Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824

Carol McCarthy\*, Coordinator

## **Thursday, October 3 Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal**

The program will be: Prokofiev: Suite from "The Love of Three Oranges"  
Shostakovich: "Cello Concerto No. 1" with Yo-Yo Ma  
R. Strauss: "Ein Heldenleben"

We will meet for the bus at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 7:15 AM. Cost is \$30. Please send checks payable to Jean Rubinstein postmarked on or before Sep 18 to 15 Fairbanks Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Jean Rubinstein\*, Coordinator

## **Wednesday, October 9 Quilter: Sally Palmer Field**

**Judith Buswick, Presenter**

Judith is the author of a book on the well-known area quilter Sally Palmer Field. Judith will give us a Power Point presentation on the book and the quilter.

Jean Schott\*, Coordinator

## **Wednesday, October 16 St. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, MA.**

Father Kesablyan, who has led the church since 2006 (a few years after arriving in the US from Armenia) will give us a tour. Carpoolers will meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:45 AM to drive to the church. We will all meet at 10:00 AM at the front entrance to the church. Directions will be available at Convocation and at Hannaford.

Jean Schott\*, Coordinator

## **Wednesday, October 23 Sargent Watercolors at the Museum of Fine Art**

We will meet at Hannaford’s side parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:00 AM to get the bus. Cost is \$8 for museum members, \$26 for non-MFA members. Checks payable to Jean Schott must be postmarked on or before Sep 29. We can have lunch at the museum café or a sandwich on the bus which leaves at 1:00 PM.

Jane Canter\* and Jean Schott\*, Coordinators

## **Wednesday, October 30 Women in Art Through the Years**

**Liana Cheney, Presenter**

Our wonderful Art Historian Liana Cheney will give a presentation on women painters and sculptors through the years.

Barbara Page\*, Coordinator

## **Wednesday, November 6 Drinking Songs**

**Dorothy Bromage\*, Presenter**

Drinking songs are known for their catchy melody, infectious rhythm, and appealing harmony. Examples will be presented by audio recordings, video clips, and sheet music. Familiar songs come from operas and operettas, and there are those that liven up Irish pubs and the German Oktoberfest. Adding to the enjoyment of this enduring music will be background information, such as where it comes in the opera—and why are they singing it, anyway?

Richard Grove\*, Coordinator

## **Wednesday, November 13 Puccini**

**Barbara Wagner, Presenter**

Barbara will give us the life and works of Giacomo Puccini with excerpts from biographies and recordings of the operas.

Barbara Page\*, Coordinator

\*Denotes LIRA member



# Fall 2013 Schedule

Fall study groups are listed below. The place we will meet is to be announced later. We are still working on the venue, and notification will be sent out as soon as a site is confirmed. Registration will take place at the Convocation on Monday, September 16 at 11:00 AM in Cumnock Hall, 31 University Ave, Lowell. Each course description includes, beneath the title, the name of the person who is presenter or facilitator. Below the paragraph is the name of the course coordinator who makes the arrangements and has responsibility for carrying out details of the class. Questions may be addressed to the coordinator.

## **STRESS AND YOUR BODY**

Alan Kent\*, Facilitator

4 Mondays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 21

The first part of this video course marches through various parts of the body or physiological functions, examining first what happens during stress experience by a zebra or lion (great adaptiveness for them) and then how chronic stress winds up being bad news for us. The role of personality differences is explored. The final two lectures are an overview of stress management. Robert Sapolsky is professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Stanford University. We will have the last 8 lectures (4 sessions) left over from the course in fall of 2012.

Dorothy Bromage\*, Coordinator

## **THE CREATIVE PROCESS**

Dorothy Bromage\*, Presenter

4 Mondays 10:00 – 12:00 Oct 28, Nov 4, 18, 25

Over the years, LIRA members have proven themselves among the most creative individuals ever. This course will begin October 28 with Leon Poirier and his sundials. In further sessions, other LIRA members will present their creation, answering questions about it. We will want to know: What did you create? What gave you the idea? What was involved in making it? Any problems encountered? The finished product—any follow-up?

Barbara Page\*, Coordinator

## **THE OTHER 1492 Ferdinand, Isabella and the making of an empire**

Russ MacLeod\*, Facilitator

8 Mondays 12:30 – 2:30 Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 21, 28, Nov 4, 18, 25

The year 1492 has long been seen as an important historical watershed, marking not only Christopher Columbus's epoch-making voyage to the New World, but a boundary between the medieval and the early modern world. In Spain, 1492, from the perspective of contemporaries, was vested with a multitude of meanings: the conquest of Granada and the formal closing of the Reconquest; the expulsion of the Jews from the Spanish realms after a millennium and a half of life in Iberia; the triumph of the Catholic Monarchs' reforms and the growing political centralization of Castile; and, yes, even the discovery of the New World or what was seen then as a new way to the Indies.

Focusing on 1492, the pivotal year in the history of the Spanish realms, this set of twelve lectures will examine in detail the historical developments leading to 1492 and the diverse and longstanding consequences of the events that took place that year. The course seeks to reassess and revise the historical meanings usually associated with that date and the privileging of certain historical phenomena to the detriment of others. Thus, 1492 will be examined from the perspective of a victorious Castilian and Christian society, but also from the perspective of Jews, Muslims, and the indigenous people of the New World.

Connie Lanseigne-Case\*, Coordinator

## **ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD**

Frank Carroll\*, Presenter

8 Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12

The Shakespeare class has diverted from Shakespeare's plays only once in all the years of studying the Bard. That was when we read "Our Town." Well, the next play is a second diversion, as we are going to read "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" by Tom (now Sir Thomas) Stoppard. We now having read *Hamlet* twice are ready to decipher the complexity of "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern." The play is woven into *Hamlet* constantly, and Hamlet and Claudius and Polonius all have parts to play in this modern creation. Anyone who thinks Shakespeare is occasionally difficult to understand is in for a shock with this new play. However, I think we will enjoy the adventure. I purchased the text from "Abe's Books" on the Internet. It was a second-hand paperback, quite old looking, but all of this for only one dollar. But it took two weeks to deliver it and the shipping was \$2.65. I didn't try any other book dealers but here are many out there. You can also download the text from the Internet, as you probably know. I look forward to dissecting this play.

Ann Dahlman\*, Coordinator

## BEETHOVEN, LIFE AND WORKS

6 Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:30 Sep 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Jeanne Gunion\*, Presenter

The life of Ludwig van Beethoven will be presented through the first four lectures of The Teaching Company's eight- video series with lecturer Robert Greenberg. Additional lectures will focus on specific works of Beethoven. Following each lecture, the class will listen to representative music by Beethoven and music of composers influenced by him. Class members will offer their own experiences, knowledge, and recordings of Beethoven's works. The remaining four lectures of the series will be offered in the spring.

Carol McCarthy\*, Coordinator

## MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON

2 Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:30 Nov 5, 12

Barbara Page\*, Presenter

Nov 5: "Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) Basil Rathbone is Sherlock Holmes

Nov 12: "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" (2011)

Dorothy Bromage\*, Coordinator

## ART & MUSIC

8 sessions, usually Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 25, **Thursday Oct 3**, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13

Beginning September 25 and continuing through November 13, meetings will start at 10:00 AM and go until noon, except for Oct 3, which is the Thursday trip to the BSO Open Rehearsal. Please see attached schedule for dates, times, topics, presenters, and coordinators of the Art & Music series.

Barbara Page\*, Coordinator

## GREAT DECISIONS

8 sessions, usually Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 26, **Wednesday Oct 2**, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14

Shirley Mitchell\*, Facilitator

The Great Decisions studies are based on materials supplied by the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, D.C. The following four topics will be discussed this semester: Future of the Euro, NATO, Humanitarian Intervention, and China in Africa.

Shirley Mitchell\*, Coordinator

## MY FAVORITE UNIVERSE

8 sessions, usually Thursday 12:30 – 2:30 Sep 26, **Wednesday Oct 2**, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14

Bob Hanlon\*, Facilitator

In *My Favorite Universe*, professor Neil deGrasse Tyson, the astrophysicist who directs the famous Hayden Planetarium and hosts NOVA programs on Public Television, takes you on a spirited and intellectually engaging journey through the cosmos and all its history, from before the Big Bang to the most likely ways in which Earth, and perhaps the entire universe, might end. Created for a lay audience and readily accessible, the lectures are entertaining, often funny, and even awe inspiring at times. You will learn:

- How asteroids moving through space represent threats of extraordinary consequence to earth, no matter how long these threats may take to be realized.
- How Saturn's rings are formed, and why they will eventually be lost.
- How astronomers actually look for new planets.
- Why the odds seem overwhelmingly in favor of some kind of life out there, whether we ever make contact or not.
- How black holes are formed and the extraordinary way they can cause havoc in the universe.
- Why even the jagged and wild of the earth's mountain ranges are, from a cosmic standpoint, really part of a perfectly smooth sphere.
- Why the seemingly infinite panorama of celestial bodies revealed by the Hubble space telescope's "Deep Field" so intrigued astronomers.

Alan McKersie, Coordinator

## BOOK DISCUSSION

4 Fridays 10:00 – 12:00 Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec (TBD)

Toby Hodes\*, Facilitator

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. Our selections for fall 2013 are:

September 20 – *Ike and Dick: Portrait of a Strange Political Marriage*, non-fiction by Jeffrey Frank


October 18 – *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, fiction by Ayana Mathis

November 15 – *My Beloved World*, memoir by Sonia Sotomayer

December TBD – *The Great Gatsby*, fiction by F. Scott Fitzgerald




# September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	3	4 Rosh Hashanah	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 10AM Chelmsford Library Lecture Series <i>The Future of the EU</i> Vivien Schmidt Yom Kippur	14
15	16 11:00AM to 1:30PM Fall Convocation 25th Anniversary Celebration— Cumnock Hall	17	18	19	20 10AM—Noon Book Discussion  <i>Ike and Dick</i> by Jeffrey Frank	21
22 	23 10AM—Noon Stress and Your Body 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	24 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Beethoven	25 9:15AM for bus at Hannaford  Peabody Essex Museum	26 10AM—Noon Great Decisions  12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	27	28
29	30 10AM—Noon Stress and Your Body 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492					







# October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Beethoven	2 10AM—Noon Great Decisions  12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	3 7:15AM for bus at Hannaford  Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal	4	5
6	7 10AM—Noon Stress and Your Body 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	8 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Beethoven	9 10AM—Noon  Quilter: Sally Palmer Field—Judith Bus- wick	10 10AM—Noon Great Decisions  12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	11 10AM Chelmsford Library Lecture Series <i>Boston Bronze and Stone Speak to Us</i> - Joseph Gallo	12
13	14 Columbus Day  	15 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Beethoven	16 9:45AM at Hannaford to carpool  St. Vartanantz Arme- nian Church, Chelmsford	17 10AM—Noon Great Decisions  12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	18 10AM—Noon Book Discussion  <i>The Twelve Tribes of Hattie</i> by Ayana Mathis	19
20	21 10AM—Noon Stress and Your Body 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	22 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Beethoven	23 9AM for bus at Hannaford  Sargent Watercolors at the Museum of Fine Art	24 10AM—Noon Great Decisions  12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	25	26
27	28 10AM—Noon The Creative Process 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	29 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Beethoven	30 10AM to Noon  Women in Art Through the Years— Liana Cheney	31 10AM—Noon Great Decisions  12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe		



# November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 	4 10AM—Noon The Creative Process 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	5 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Movie <i>Hound Baskervilles</i>	6 10AM - Noon Drinking Songs - Dorothy Bromage	7 10AM—Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	8 10 AM Chelmsford Library Lecture—TBA	9
10	11 	12 10AM—Noon Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead 12:30—2:30 Movie <i>Salmon Fishing....</i>	13 10AM—Noon Puccini— Barbara Wagner	14 10AM—Noon Great Decisions 12:30—2:30 My Favorite Universe	15 10AM—Noon Book Discussion <i>My Beloved World</i> by Sonia Sotomayer	16
17	18 10AM—Noon The Creative Process 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 10AM—Noon The Creative Process 12:30—2:30 The Other 1492	26	27 	28 	29	30



# December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 10AM—Noon Town Meeting and- Holiday Party	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# Parking Hangtags

**Please read the following carefully.** The University is charging for all parking this year and is issuing hangtags rather than decals. This will make almost all parking lots available to LIRA Members, with just a few exceptions. They have agreed to give Toby the hangtags, but she must return all unused hangtags immediately after our meeting on September 16.

Please fill out the parking permit form below along with a \$48 check made out to UMass-Lowell and **bring it to the Convocation on September 16.** Parking hangtags can only be issued to members that have paid their dues and have completed the vehicle information form. No one, other than those with a handicap permit, will receive a University issued parking permit without a payment of \$48.

You have 3 options if you cannot make it for the Convocation:

- If you fill out this form **with a check made out to the University for \$48** and mail it to Toby Hodes, 36 Lilac Lane, Haverhill, MA 01830 **BEFORE** September 16, she will assign a hangtag to you. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and she will mail it to you.
- You may have a friend bring a filled out form and check to the Convocation and get a hangtag for you.
- You will have to go to the Parking Access office at South Dining Hall on South Campus, 101 Wilder Street, Lowell. This is the same place that you get your photo ID.

**IF YOU HAVE HANDICAPPED PARKING, PLEASE WRITE YOUR PLAQUE NUMBER AND DATE OF EXPIRATION ON THE FORM.** Your parking will be free, but you will not be able to get your hangtag unless you have **ALL** this information.

Additional copies of the application form will be available at the Convocation.

## LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (LIRA) UML Parking Permit – Registration Form

**LIRA MEMBER AND VEHICLE INFORMATION (Required):** *[Please Print]*

\_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name**

**MI**

**First Name**

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, P.O. Box, City/Town, State, Zip Code)

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Handicap Permit #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### VEHICLE INFORMATION:

**Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Make:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License Plate Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UML PARKING PERMIT / DECAL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_