



# 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](http://uml.edu/community/LIRA)



March 2019

Vol. 26 No. 1



**JOIN US FOR THE TOWN MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

**10 a.m. to Noon**

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

**Guest Speaker, Danielle Niles**

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

## Speaker for Town Meeting



Danielle Niles is the meteorologist for CBS Boston's WBZ-TV Morning (4:30AM-7AM) and Noon News. Niles is a 2006 cum laude graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell where she earned her bachelor's degree in atmospheric science, and was captain of the women's varsity soccer team. She then went on to earn a master's degree in meteorology at Florida State University.

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## Details for Town Meeting

On Wednesday, March 6, the Town Meeting will be held at University Crossing, Moloney Hall, 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the parking lot at the Tsongas Center to Alumni Hall. The first shuttle will leave at 9 a.m. **sharp** and return for a second trip at 9:30 a.m. **sharp**. The return to the Tsongas parking lot will leave shortly after the end of the meeting.

There is no need to bring any refreshments; coffee and snacks will be provided by Community Relations.

If you are not able to attend the Town Meeting and wish to sign up for courses and/or trips, please ask someone to do it for you. The deadline for payment of a trip is in this newsletter.

Hope to see you all there!



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

## LIRA Website News

Check out the updated LIRA Website at <https://www.uml.edu/Community/LIRA/>. We have added some new information and made the site easier to navigate. Note the images/buttons near the bottom of the main page that link you to the different LIRA pages.

There is a new Member Resources page that has links to New Member Information, Emergency closing instructions and Volunteer Opportunities for standing and ad hoc committees. Here, you can also find checklists for planning and coordinating classes and field trips. We also have a guide for what kind of refreshments to bring to LIRA classes. We are planning to add even more checklists to help guide members leading various LIRA activities. The Newsletter page is a little easier to navigate with this year's newsletters in one place and all the previous years on an archive page.

The Course schedule now has hot links to speakers' websites, copies of slides (when available) and interesting project pages associated with classes where available. The course page will be updated as more information becomes available so check it frequently during the semester. Please check us out and send any comments/suggestions to Peter Sebelius - email [sebes3@yahoo.com](mailto:sebes3@yahoo.com).

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## Member News

Frank Carroll fell at his home in January and broke his right shoulder. He had surgery to repair the shoulder and has been in rehab since then. It was later determined that he also has a broken hip. Surgery for that was scheduled for February 15 after which he was to return to rehab at:

D'Youville Life and Wellness, Rm. S117-2  
981 Varnum Ave.  
Lowell, MA 01854  
978-454-5681

Frank is in good spirits and feels positive about a complete recovery. He would welcome cards, calls and visits.

[simone32allard@gmail.com](mailto:simone32allard@gmail.com) - tele 603-943-7527

# Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the 2019 Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. Descriptions are not included this time because of its length. Full descriptions can be found at the Pollard Library, Lowell, on the website [www.parkerlectures.com](http://www.parkerlectures.com) or the file can be emailed to you by contacting Jeri Durant: [jeridurant@gmail.com](mailto:jeridurant@gmail.com)

Sunday, March 3, 2 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

**Aimee Loiselle “Creating Norma Rae: Textile & Garment Workers Lost Behind a Pop Icon”**

Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

**Dan Kennedy “Return of the Moguls”**

Tuesday, April 16 7 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

**Chad Montrie “Beyond ‘Songbirds and Suburbs’: Rethinking the American Environmental Movement Origin Story”**

Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m. – Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

**Charles Tonetti “The Aguirre, Puerto Rico Sugar Mill.”**

Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m. – Pollard Library

**Michael Tougas “Above & Beyond: JFK and America’s Most Dangerous Spy Mission.”**

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## What Can We Do About Climate Change

Rick Lent and Grady McGonagill, members of Elders Climate Action of MA, presented a stimulating discussion during their **Climate Change: What We’re Up Against and What You Can Do About It** event on January 23, 2019.

Both men shared what motivated them to become actively involved in the movement to combat climate change. Their reasons boiled down to a strong desire to leave a healthy planet to future generations and to create a legacy of change by voting for candidates who will influence government policy.

Using an interactive card game, LIRA members teamed up with the person beside them in a game of cards, separating actions into three categories: things I already do; things I might do; and things I cannot do. The actions included everyday activities such as drying laundry outdoors, composting kitchen scraps, using public transportation more often, and taking part in a climate change rally. Each activity was given a point value based on how the behavior impacts our 'carbon footprint.' This led to conversations among the members and raised awareness of how the decisions we make daily have a strong impact on this serious threat. Visit ECA on the web at [www.eldersclimateaction.org](http://www.eldersclimateaction.org).

*Suzanne Gamache*



# Holiday Party 2018

It was a full house and the weather cooperated! President Richard Grove welcomed all our guests and thanked all those that helped to make the party a success. Thanks to Debbie Sebelius and her team for setting up the room and adding a snowman to the center of each table. We had a delicious array of goodies that covered two long tables. Susan Lemire reviewed what would be coming up in our Winter Intersession with hopes that we don't have to cancel too many! Richard gave many "thank-yous" to all the facilitators, presenters, professors and coordinators of our fall semester.

Janet Redman and Deanne Sferrino, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee, John Mamalis, Simone Allard and Barbara Murch awarded the five \$1500 scholarships as described in an article in this newsletter.

Representatives from Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, Cynthia Perrone and Gladys Santiago, thanked us for all our donations of hats, mittens and books. LIRA received a very warm Thank You note from Community Teamwork. "Our sincere thanks to the members of LIRA for donating such beautiful hats, gloves, scarves and so much more. The wonderful books are all so much appreciated. These donations will make many children happy and warm." Thanks to Kathy Forstey for coordinating this effort.

Our Consumable Auction raised \$513 for the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to Sheila Pariseau for running the auction. Sheila had many helpers passing out the prizes – thanks to Jackie Carr, Kathy Forstey, Marge Nardini, Bob Pariseau and Esther Wikander.

Thanks to all for their contributions of food, consumable auction items, buying raffle tickets and donations of books, hats and mittens. It was a great party and best of all – no snow! Below is a collage of the party from photos taken by the UMass Lowell photographer, Bob Fesmire and Jeri Durant.



# Scholarship Awards

At the Holiday Party, the Scholarship Committee thanked the LIRA membership for their very generous donations to the Scholarship Fund and the UMass Lowell's Community and Government Relations staff for their guidance and help to make the large number of applications and scholarship selection process run smoothly.

We were delighted to introduce Scholarship recipients and present them with certificates. John Mamalis introduced Rachel Seeley (Exercise Physiology), Janet Redman - Sophia Ann Samih (BS Nursing), Barbara Murch - Nicolette San Clemente (International Business), Simone Allard - Nicole Resendes (BA English), and Dee Sferrino - Michael Desroches (BA in Special and General Education). The students gave a short talk on their future goals and considerable community outreach. Each student also met the criteria of maintaining a 3.0+ GPA. They were humble about their very diverse, impressive accomplishments and we have received letters from each of them thanking the membership for their financial help and support.

The Scholarship Committee is also grateful for the membership's continued interest and support of these amazing students.

The Scholarship Committee: Janet Redman and Dee Sferrino - Co-Chairs, Simone Allard, Alan Kent, John Mamalis, Alan McKersie, and Barbara Murch.



**Scholarship Winners and Scholarship Committee**



**From l to r: John Mamalis, Rachel Seeley, Dee Sferrino, Janet Redman, Sophia Ann Samih, Barbara Murch, Nicolette San Clemente, Nicole Resendes, Simone Allard, Dee Sferrino, Michael Desroches**

# Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library Friday afternoon Lecture Series is jointly sponsored by LIRA. Two of the lectures are on subjects from LIRA's Great Decisions foreign policy discussions.

## Friday March 8, 1:00 PM

Middle East Regional Disorder presented by Gregory Aftandilian, an independent consultant, writer, and lecturer, who spent over 21 years in U.S. Government service. He was a foreign policy advisor to Congressman Chris Van Hollen and a professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

## Friday April 12, 1:00 PM

Refugees and Global Migration presented by Keith West. Keith West is a debate coach and he also leads a Great Decisions discussion group at the Wilmington Public Library.

## Friday May 10, 1:00 PM

Civil Rights for LGBTQ+ presented by Keith West as part of the Library's Civic Engagement REACT program.

Check the library's website for more detailed information.

[www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/lecture-series/](http://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/lecture-series/)

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## Art & Music Committee is Looking for Members!

If you enjoy music and the arts, the LIRA Art & Music Committee would love to have you join them. This committee collaborates on finding fun and interesting venues, topics, and programs for the LIRA Spring and Fall semesters. Please contact Diane Baker at [dianebaker515@gmail.com](mailto:dianebaker515@gmail.com) or at 978-337-2580 to learn more.

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## Newsletters on Website

The newsletter comes out four times a year on the first day of the following months – March, May, September and December. Everyone can read the newsletter online if you have access to a web browser. A hard copy of the newsletter will NOT be mailed to you unless you have contacted Jeri Durant: [jeridurant@gmail.com](mailto:jeridurant@gmail.com). The hard copy list from last year is still in effect so there is no need to tell me again. Those members that do not have email will have a hard copy sent to them automatically.

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

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

## Notes about the Spring Session

All classes are meeting at University Suites, Room 106A, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA. If the location changes, you will be notified by email or phone. Morning classes are from 10 a.m. to Noon and afternoon classes are from 1 to 3 p.m.

Classes begin on March 11. Art & Music goes to the Boston Symphony on Thursday, May 2, so Thursday's Great Decisions class is on Wednesday, May 1. There are no classes on Patriots' Day, Monday, April 15. **Pay careful attention to the dates of each class.** There are a few single sessions and three and four session classes.

Parking for the Tsongas Center is in the lot to the right of the building. Parking for University Suites is either in the East parking garage across from the Campus Recreation Center on Pawtucket Street or the Perkins lot at the bottom of Riverwalk Way. You will need your UMass Lowell ID to get into the garage and the Perkins lot. Make sure to use your hangtag wherever you park!

All classes are open to all LIRA members. If you are going to any of the bus trips or tours in the Art & Music program, you must sign up for those and make sure that the coordinator receives a check by the deadline. It is not necessary to sign up for those Art & Music programs that are in a classroom.



The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The Summer Intersession begins on Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

## Jonathan Lemire, “On the Road With #45”

On January 9th Jonathan Lemire, White House reporter for the Associated Press, provided an interesting behind the scenes look and lots of insight into the daily logistics of events that are part of his work environment covering the White House and his involvement on TV cable news.

Mr. Lemire attended Columbia University in New York City. A key item in his search for colleges was his interest in being in an urban environment rather than a rural college. That choice, combined with talent, hard work, and some luck provided Mr. Lemire with credentials that set the stage for his question to President Trump in Helsinki about whether the President believed the United States Intelligence agencies or President Putin's assertion of innocence concerning Russian interference in the United States election of 2016. Mr. Lemire also questioned President Putin about whether he had favored Mr. Trump to win in the 2016 election and whether he had compromising information about President Trump and his family.

Mr. Lemire provided the back story on the foundational work that led to his position as a White House reporter. After graduation, Mr. Lemire was fortunate to land a position as an intern at the NY Daily News in the summer of 2001. While the paper let Mr. Lemire know that no permanent position would be offered at the end of the internship in August, his work was of a quality that they asked him to extend his internship for a bit longer. So Mr. Lemire found he was a paid intern at the NY Daily News when the tragedy of the attack on the World Trade center happened on September 11, 2001. Mr. Lemire was assigned to cover the multitude of funerals for the NY firefighters who died in the tragedy. He related that bagpipes affect him to this day, because of the multiple times per day he heard them that fall. This work -- in spite of the original NY Daily News position of “no job” -- turned into a permanent job. During his time with NY Daily News, Mr. Lemire found himself initially covering police and fire department work in the city and later was assigned to cover City Hall and NYC politics. Occasionally he covered events involving Mr. Trump as a NYC celebrity.

In 2013 Mr. Lemire began working for the Associated Press (AP). His familiarity with the political scene in NYC was one of his qualifications for the job. During the 2016 Presidential campaign, the AP editors assigned him to cover Mr. Trump's campaign since he was familiar with many of the people associated with the campaign. Mr. Lemire confided that based on the enormous turnouts at Mr. Trump's events as it got closer to election day, he thought the Trump campaign would likely win. After the election was over, Mr. Lemire was assigned to be a White House reporter and was approached by MSNBC to be a political analyst for the network.

Overall this was an exciting story of effort, work, and events that provided many interesting insights into the job of covering the Trump administration. There were also lots of humorous tales: the time the campaign unexpectedly introduced Bill Clinton accusers before the second Presidential debate in 2016 to the drama created in July 2018 when the airlines lost Mr. Lemire's luggage as he made connections to join the press pool in Helsinki.

This was an excellent presentation by one of the people many of us see weekly on the national cable news shows. Mr. Lemire moved my perception of him from a remote voice on the television, to a relatable person who has achieved deserved prominence due to hard work.

*Richard Pitkin*



## PEM Visit

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 37 LIRA members, family and guests travelled by bus to the Peabody Essex Museum where we enjoyed a tour of the Empresses of the Forbidden City exhibit. Our excellent tour guides explained about the lives of the empresses and led us through rooms filled with imperial portraits, jewelry, garments, Buddhist sculptures and decorative art objects that give insight into how the empresses lived and influenced court politics, art and religion. Following our tour, we enjoyed lunch, followed by exploring the museum's other exhibits. Our bus trip home was time to relax after a fun filled day.

*Bob Hanlon*



There were many examples of embroidered tapestries, cloaks and robes of brilliant colors and minute stitches. Some of the larger pieces must have taken years to complete!

The bottom middle picture is of the Empress Dowager Chongqing, mother of the emperor who ruled China for 60 years. After her death at 86, he ordered the 237 pound gold shrine on the right to hold a few locks of her hair. It was believed that it would ensure her rebirth.



## Is Pluto a Planet?



On Wednesday Feb 5, J. Kelly Beatty gave a very interesting and informative talk titled "Pluto's Amazing Story" to a full house of members and guests. Starting with the discoveries of Neptune and Uranus and continuing through the theory of a mysterious Planet X which appeared to be disrupting the orbit of Uranus. After many years of searching, a planet was discovered near where the mysterious Planet X was calculated to be. The newly discovered planet name, Pluto, was suggested by an 11 year old English girl, Venetia Burney.

After many more years of study and observation, however, it was determined that Pluto was too small to have the effect that Planet X was thought to have on Uranus and it was further determined that the whole theory of an outer Planet X influencing Uranus was in error. Nonetheless, Pluto was definitely there and definitely a very interesting planet.

Over the years, numerous other bodies (some quite large) were also discovered in the Kuiper belt near Pluto. In 2006, after many years of debate, the International Astronomical Union downgraded Pluto to a dwarf planet.

On July 14, 2015, 50 years to the day after the Mariner 4 probe first flew-by Mars and after nearly 10 years in transit, the New Horizons probe passed close to Pluto and collected a series of startling images and measurements with led to numerous discoveries about the diminutive planet.

Kelly's presentation was memorable with stunning graphics and many personal anecdotes about the people involved in Pluto's story. LIRA is excited at the prospect of inviting him back to this summer's intersession to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first manned lunar landing.

*Peter Sebelius*





## Time for a Change

New directories were emailed to you in November. Those without email were sent a hard copy automatically along with those that have requested a hard copy of the newsletter. The following is a list of the new members and changes since January 2019. After the Town Meeting, a new updated list will be emailed to you but hard copies will not be sent out.

### *New Members:*

Judy Bunker  
2 Shedd Lane  
Chelmsford, MA 01824 978-937-0385  
Cell: 508-254-2403  
Email: [judyb532m@aol.com](mailto:judyb532m@aol.com)

David & Mary Eberiel  
15 Donna Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
978-256-3539  
Email: [david\\_eberiel@uml.edu](mailto:david_eberiel@uml.edu)

Monique Greilich  
170 Beach Road, Apt. 47  
Salisbury, MA 01952  
978-255-2330  
Cell: 802-922-4625  
Email: [mabachand@comcast.net](mailto:mabachand@comcast.net)

Jonathan & Pat Lathrop  
56 Waverly Avenue  
Lowell, MA 01852  
Jonathan Cell: 619-869-9234  
Jonathan Email: [lathropje@gmail.com](mailto:lathropje@gmail.com)  
Pat Cell: 619-889-6840  
Pat Email: [lathropl@gmail.com](mailto:lathropl@gmail.com)

Cynthia McLain  
PO Box 202  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
Cell: 978-726-0864  
Email: [cdmclain00@gmail.com](mailto:cdmclain00@gmail.com)

Richard Rohnert  
80 Penneck Road  
Ashland, MA 01721  
Cell: 978-846-2396  
Email: [rcrohnert@gmail.com](mailto:rcrohnert@gmail.com)

### *Email Change:*

Bob Fesmire: [fesmire149@gmail.com](mailto:fesmire149@gmail.com)

## 2019 Nominating Committee

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

Richard Grove



The next newsletter will be out on May 1, 2019; the deadline for news items is April 15, 2019. Please remember that the coordinators are now responsible for getting someone to write an article about their program, if you want something to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be given to me at any time before the deadline.

*Jeri Durant*

### Newsletter Committee

Geraldine Durant, Editor  
[jeridurant@gmail.com](mailto:jeridurant@gmail.com)  
Marge Nardini, Layout and Reproduction  
[mnard1008@verizon.net](mailto:mnard1008@verizon.net)  
Charlotte Evans, Calendar and Distribution  
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Simone Allard, Member News  
[simone32alard@gmail.com](mailto:simone32alard@gmail.com)

## LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

### Spring 2019 Schedule

Registration will take place at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. at University Crossing, Moloney Ballroom, 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell. Each course description includes, after 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 facilitator/coordinator or Bob Hanlon, Curriculum Chair.

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

Fall study groups will meet at the University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA, Room #106. **Pay careful attention to the dates of each class.** There are a few single sessions and three and four session classes.

NOTE: There are NO classes on Monday, April 15, Patriots' Day

Location of classes will sometimes change so watch for announcements.

#### MONDAY

##### **STEM Smorgasbord: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**

Presenter: Alan Friedman\*

**Three Mondays**, 10 a.m. to Noon: March 11, 18, 25

**Infinity...**Is it a construct of the human mind and senses? Is it an abstraction without a concrete existence? Philosophers and theologians have long debated these questions. When Gertrude Stein wrote, "There is no there there," she had something else in mind, but do you think her words apply to infinity?

Mathematicians and physicists also have a long history of exploring infinity. In recent centuries, their discoveries even precipitated a crisis in the foundations of mathematics. When the mathematician Leopold Kronecker stated, "God created the whole numbers. Everything else is the work of men," he was thumbing his nose at the mathematical theories of infinity emerging in his day. Take a journey to INFINITY and see what surprises await you there.

Presenter: Professor Bob Gamache

**Four Mondays**, 10 a.m. to Noon: April 1, 8, 22, 29

Bob's Topics Are: How we see the Ozone Hole, Climate Change, Exoplanet Atmospheres; Newton's Laws; Units and Numbers; Computer Programming; Algorithm Development for Autonomous Vehicles, Cookbooks and Zillow.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache\*

##### **Introduction to "Great American Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America"**

Facilitators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen\*

**One Monday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 11

This Introductory Session is a Great Courses video lecture with class participation and discussions.

At our introductory lecture, members of our class will select the bestsellers that they would like to investigate. Perhaps one of your favorite books is on the list. The next four classes of this course will be on Thursday afternoon and the fifth and final is on Wednesday afternoon.

Coordinators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen\*

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

Presenter: Dr. Arnie Kerzner

**Four Mondays**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 18, 25, April 1, 8

"There are so many aspects of being a 'balanced' person. We have our genetic, early childhood experiences, our biology, our exposure to fate's up and downs, our spirituality, and our unexpected trials and tribulations – and our aging brains and tired loins!" "This talk will be a "relational, collaborative" one with members of the audience. Just be ready to share your "Organ Recital"!, your "Personal Meme" and your sense of humor!"

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

### **“Clean Up Your Indoor Air By Removing Mold, Mites and Other Allergens”**

Presenter: Jeff May

**One Monday**, 1-3 p.m.: April 22

Indoor-Air-Quality Professional Jeff May will offer tips on improving the quality of your indoor air in both your home and place of work. A number of the steps that people can take are relatively easy and inexpensive but can go a long way to improving the health of an indoor environment.

Jeff is a Certified Microbial Consultant and author of several books including, “My House is Killing Me: The Home Guide for Families”

Go to [www.mayindoorair.com](http://www.mayindoorair.com) for more information on Jeff and his company.

Coordinator: Beverly Rudeen\*

### **“Pursuit of Passion”**

Presenter: Debby Monk

**One Monday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: April 29

Deborah Monk will share her journey of fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming an author. Debby has published two women’s fiction novels and the series ‘Seeds of Wisdom,’ and has produced six hand-made books aimed at empowering women to believe in their own potential. Debby will give us a glimpse into her work-in-progress, a memoir about her life as a professional ballroom dancer. This presentation will include time for you to have books signed by the author.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache\*

## **TUESDAY**

### **“The Aging Brain”**

Facilitator: Bob Hanlon\*

**Eight Tuesdays**, 10 a.m. to Noon: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

We’re all getting older every day, and scientific research has shown that starting in our twenties, some brain functions begin a linear decline. Even if we avoid diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, parts of the brain inevitably shrink, replicating cells become damaged, and fluid processing skills such as multitasking and episodic memory worsen. But is old age all doom and gloom? Are we destined for declining brain function once we’re barely out of adolescence? Through this fascinating course by Dr. Thad A. Polk of the University of Michigan, you will learn what happens to our brains as we age and what we can do about it. Dr. Polk has been named to the Princeton Review’s list of the Best 300 Professors in the United States.

Coordinator: Bob Hanlon\*

### **The European Union, Brexit and Britain**

Presenter: John Wooding, Professor & Provost Emeritus, UMass Lowell Political Science Department

**Eight Tuesdays**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wondering about the origins and function of the European Union (EU)? Want to know about the politics of France, Italy Germany Sweden? Puzzled by all the fuss over Brexit? Interested in the current politics of the UK? This course will try to answer some of your questions about the debate over the European Union and why many European countries are so different from the United States in their beliefs and value about politics and society. The course will provide an introduction to the EU and will focus on Britain, Germany, Italy and the Nordic countries.

Coordinator: Sally Coulter\*

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Art & Music**

**Seven Wednesdays**, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24

**One Thursday**, May 2

Please see the attached schedule for dates, times, topics, presenters and coordinators of the Art & Music series. The indoor classes will be held at University Suites.

## THURSDAY

### Great Decisions

Facilitator: Richard Grove\*

**Seven Thursdays**, 10 a.m. to Noon: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

**One Wednesday**, 10 a.m. to Noon: May 1

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a discussion group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Two weekly, two-hour sessions explore each topic in depth. Great Decisions topics for the spring are: *Global Migration and Refugees*, *Middle East Regional Disorder*, *Nuclear Negotiations*, *Populism in Europe*. Briefing books are available for \$20.00. Coordinator: Richard Grove\*

### “Great American Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America”

Facilitators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen

**One Monday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 11 (Introduction)

**Four Thursdays**, 1 – 3 p.m.: March 14, 21, 28, April 25

**One Wednesday**, 1 – 3 p.m.: May 1

At our introductory lecture, members of our class will select the bestsellers that they would like to investigate. Perhaps one of your favorite books is on the list.

At each of our classes we will see two lectures and members will facilitate the discussion of the book they have chosen. Professor Peter Conn, University of Pennsylvania describes his lectures. He writes, “As we proceed in the course, I will discuss the distinctive qualities and particular accomplishments of each book. I will comment on the recurrence of certain themes, among them the meaning of America, the idea of success, the complex questions of race and gender, and the prominence of religion”. There are over 20 bestsellers to explore, for example, “Little Women, “The Maltese Falcon” and “To Kill a Mockingbird”.

Coordinators: Beverly and Kimball Rudeen\*

### Women in Espionage

Presenter: Dr. Patricia Fontaine

**Three Thursdays**, 1 – 3 p.m.: April 4, 11, 18

Women have always been involved in war: as wives, as nurses but also as soldiers and spies. Defying their traditional role of homemakers, women were able to blend into their background more than men making them very effective. This seminar will look at women from the Revolutionary War up to World War II.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin\*

## FRIDAY

### Book Discussions

Facilitator: Toby Hodes\*

**Four Fridays**, 10 a.m. – Noon: March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21

March 15 – *All the King's Men*, fiction by Robert Penn Warren

April 19 – *The Island*, fiction by Victoria Hislop

May 17 – *H is for Hawk*, a memoir by Helen MacDonal

June 21 – *Educated: A Memoir*, non-fiction by Tara Westover

Coordinator: Toby Hodes\*

\*Indicates LIRA Member

# Art & Music Spring 2019

Programs on Mar 20, Apr 3, and Apr 24 will be held at University Suites, 327 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA from 10 a.m. to Noon. **Please note that the May 2 program at the BSO is on a Thursday.** There will sign-up sheets for tours at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Convocation Meeting. If you cannot attend, you may ask someone to put your name on the list for your choice of tours. If there is a cost, the deadline for payment is noted in the description. A 24-hour notice must be given for a refund.

## **Wednesday, March 13 Tour and visit to the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum, (formerly the Museum of our National Heritage) Lexington MA**

Our group will take a guided tour of the museum's "Art in American History" exhibit. The Art of American History" offers a glimpse into the Museum's collection of historic prints and the chance to consider the ways in which these images influence our understanding of the past.

The tour is scheduled for 10:30 am. We will meet at the Hannaford back parking lot in Chelmsford at 9:45 am to car pool to the museum. Tour cost is \$6 per person to be paid at the museum by cash or credit card. A minimum of 12 and maximum of 20 guests required. Contact Diane Baker at [dianebaker515@gmail.com](mailto:dianebaker515@gmail.com) or 978-337-2580 if you can drive.

Coordinator: Diane Baker\*

## **Wednesday, March 20 All About Mistral - Julie Scolnik**

Julie Scolnik, flutist and Artistic Director of Mistral, (formerly Andover Chamber Orchestra) will talk about this "unique and engaging ensemble of international concert artists who perform with an irresistible blend of high spirits and serious music-making and connect in a singular way with their audiences." Julie and her husband Michael Brower founded the group in 1997 with a mission to offer chamber music of the highest artistic standards to the greater Boston area, and to provide accessible and affordable musical enrichment to children and their families, those of lower incomes, and the elderly and physically disabled, who may not otherwise have an opportunity to hear a live, world-class performance.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

## **Wednesday, March 27 Cookie Matinee of "The Haunted Life" at MRT**

MRT brings a new adaptation of a "lost" novel set in Lowell by Jack Kerouac, who was born and raised here. A deeply-felt family drama, *The Haunted Life* follows the coming of age story of college student Peter Martin and his relationship with his conservative father. Taking place during America's last golden summer before entering WWII, it chronicles the cost of war on a small town, and stars Joel Colodner.

**Tickets for the 2 pm show are \$16 each** (includes coffee and cookies before the show). **LIRA has pre-paid for a limited number of tickets so RSVP as soon as possible to Diane Baker, [dianebaker515@gmail.com](mailto:dianebaker515@gmail.com) or 978-337-2580. Checks should be made payable to LIRA, Inc.,** can be given to Diane at the LIRA Spring convocation on March 6th, or mailed to Diane Baker, 55 Virginia Ave, Lowell MA 01852. MRT subscribers can contact the Box Office directly at [box\\_office@mrt.org](mailto:box_office@mrt.org) about exchanging tickets for this performance; they can waive the upgrade charge if you let them know you are part of the LIRA group.

MRT is located at 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, next door to the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. On street parking is available. Parking also in Davidson St. lot across from the MRT (for a fee); the Lower Locks Garage at 90 Warren St. and/or John St. Garage (both \$5 with ticket stamped at theater). Each of these garages is about a 5-minute walk to the theater. You may also walk from the Tsongas Center if you have a parking tag there. It is about a 10-minute walk.

Coordinator: Diane Baker\*

## **Wednesday, April 3 - The Gilded World of Isabella Stewart Gardner – Mary Woodward**

Mary Woodward presents an illustrated talk entitled "The Gilded World of Isabella Stewart Gardner." The life of Boston's arts patroness typifies the lives of many of the wealthy and cultured Americans who lived during the Gilded Age of American history. We will explore the details of her life, friends, travels and collections. Her serious art collecting began in 1892 after she inherited a fortune from her father. Guided by one of the great art experts of the day, she competed with museums to buy masterpieces, including works by Vermeer and Rembrandt. She broke all kinds of rules while setting up her museum but perhaps we can understand this when we read her personal motto "It is my pleasure." She arranged things the way she wanted with relationships between objects that may at first escape us. What is left for us is to marvel at the space she created and filled with beautiful things.

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy\*

### **Wednesday, April 10 - Jack Kerouac Walking Tour - Bill Walsh**

As a follow up to "*The Haunted Life*", Bill Walsh, a member of the Lowell Celebrates Kerouac organization, will lead us on a low impact walking tour in downtown Lowell, hitting multiple sites of importance from Jack's Lowell oeuvre, with a particular emphasis on Doctor Sax and Maggie Cassidy. The tour will feature readings spiced with Lowell lore and history. Participants may also visit the interactive Kerouac permanent exhibit in the Visitor Center where they can use headphones to hear Kerouac recite some of his more famous works, accompanied by various musicians.

**Tour begins at 10 am at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St, Lowell.** Free validated parking may be available in the Visitor Center Parking lot depending on the status of the construction of the Dutton St Parking Garage. Alternative parking is available on street or in the Market Street garage.

Coordinator: Diane Baker\*

### **Wednesday, April 17 - Tour and Visit to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston MA**

After Isabella Stewart Gardner traveled in Italy, she decided that her new home on the Fenway would be built in the style of a Venetian Palace. The street side is plain stucco, but inside, multiple levels overlook a lovely central courtyard. She selected the furnishings and the art for her home with the stipulation that everything remain unchanged from when she lived there. On April 17 we will travel by bus and have a 1 hour-long private guided tour.

The cost is \$26 for LIRA members and \$36 for non-members. This includes the Bus, the Museum Admission and the Tour. **Please note: Gardner Museum and reciprocal museum memberships, library passes and other discounts cannot be used for our visit.**

Our bus will leave at 9:45 AM from the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford and returns at 3 PM. Lunch is available at the museum's Café G. or a bag lunch eat on the bus is suggested. Please send a check PAYABLE to LIRA Inc to: Carol McCarthy 398 Acton Road, Chelmsford MA 01824. Checks must be received by **Wednesday, April 10.**

Coordinator: Carol McCarthy\*

### **Wednesday, April 24 The History & Ongoing Appeal of Barbershop Harmony – Jesse Heines\***

Join us on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, from 10-12 in University Suites when Jesse Heines will reprise his 2016 talk on the History and Ongoing Appeal of Barbershop Harmony with a number of updates and new examples of this engaging hobby. We will learn about the history of harmony that began in the Middle Ages, the mathematics behind how harmony is achieved, the various forms in which one hears harmony today, and the evolution of barbershop harmony in particular. Jesse's talk will be illustrated by numerous musical examples, so be sure to bring your ears and have fresh batteries in your hearing aids!

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein\*

### **Thursday, May 2 Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal**

A trip to the Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal will take place on Thursday, May 2, 2019

The program for the day is:

STRAUSS "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks"

Sebastian CURRIER "Aether", for violin and orchestra (world premiere; BSO co-commission)

STRAVINSKY "Petrouchka"

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

The bus leaves promptly at 7:15 A.M. From the back parking lot at Hannaford in Chelmsford. Bring a bag lunch

Checks are to be made to LIRA Inc. and are **due no later than Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

Send checks to:

Jean Rubinstein, 15 Fairbanks Rd. Chelmsford, MA 01824. 978-256-9943/978-761-0022 [jeanruby23@gmail.com](mailto:jeanruby23@gmail.com)

Coordinator: Jean Rubinstein\*

\*Indicates a LIRA member

# LIRA's 2019 Spring Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 4	March 5	March 6 10 am to Noon Town Meeting University Crossing Moloney Ballroom	March 7	March 8 1:00 pm Chelmsford Library Lecture <i>Middle East: Regional Disorder</i>
March 11 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm Great American Bestsellers: The Books that Shaped America	March 12 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain	March 13 Meet at Hannaford at 9:45 am to car pool for a tour of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum	March 14 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Great American Bestsellers	March 15 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>All the King's Men</i> by Robert Penn Warren
March 18 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm It's Hard to be Human: But What's the Alternative	March 19 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain	March 20 10 am to Noon All About Mistral	March 21 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Great American Bestsellers	March 22
March 25 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm It's Hard to be Human: But What's the Alternative	March 26 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain	March 27 2 to 5 pm Merrimack Regional Theatre <i>The Haunted Life</i>	March 28 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Great American Bestsellers	March 29
April 1 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm It's Hard to be Human: But What's the Alternative	April 2 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain	April 3 10 am to Noon The Gilded World of Isabella Steward Gardner	April 4 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Women in Espionage	April 5



<p>April 8 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm It's Hard to be Human: But What's the Alternative</p>	<p>April 9 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain</p>	<p>April 10 10 am Jack Kerouac Walking Tour Meet at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center</p>	<p>April 11 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Women in Espionage</p>	<p>April 12 1 pm Chelmsford Library Lecture <i>Refugees and Global Migration</i></p>
<p>April 15 10 am to Noon NO PROGRAM TODAY 1 to 3 pm NO PROGRAM TODAY</p>	<p>April 16 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain</p>	<p>April 17 Meet at Hannaford at 9:45 am for the bus to visit the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum</p>	<p>April 18 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Women in Espionage</p>	<p>April 19 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>The Island</i> by Victoria Hislop</p>
<p>April 22 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm Clean Up Your Indoor Air</p>	<p>April 23 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain</p>	<p>April 24 10 am to Noon The History &amp; Ongoing Appeal of Barbershop Harmony</p>	<p>April 25 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Great American Bestsellers</p>	<p>April 26</p>
<p>April 29 10 am to Noon STEM Smorgasbord 1 to 3 pm Pursuit of Passion</p>	<p>April 30 10 am to Noon The Aging Brain 1 to 3 pm The European Union, Brexit and Britain</p>	<p>May 1 10 am to Noon Great Decisions 1 to 3 pm Great American Bestsellers</p>	<p>May 2 Meet at Hannaford at 7:15 am for bus to the BSO Open Rehearsal</p>	<p>May 3</p>
<p>May 6</p>	<p>May 7</p>	<p>May 8</p>	<p>May 9</p>	<p>May 10 10 am to Noon Chelmsford Library Lecture <i>Civil Rights for LGBTQ+</i></p>
<p>May 13</p>	<p>May 14</p>	<p>May 15 10 am to Noon Annual Meeting</p>	<p>May 16</p>	<p>May 17 10 am to Noon Book Discussion <i>H is for Hawk</i> by Helen MacDonald</p>