



# 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)



September 2024

Vol. 31 No 3

## ***LIRA Fall Convocation***

**Hear about the fall Schedule**

**Sign up for classes**

**Where: On Zoom OR in person at Moloney  
Ballroom (University Crossing)**

**When: Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024**

**Time: 10 a.m. – noon**



**FREE SNACKS!**



## From the President:

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer and that you are all ready to buckle down to some serious learning this fall. I think we have a great lineup of classes across many different topics for the coming semester.

The 2024 LIRA Fall Convocation will be held in the Jacqueline and Edward Moloney Hall (UCC-260) in University Crossing (the same place as our spring meeting) on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 10 a.m. - noon. Attendees can park for free in the Salem Street lot located across Salem Street from University Crossing (just tell the guard you are here for the LIRA Convocation) or, if necessary, at the Fletcher Street adjacent to the Salem Street lot.

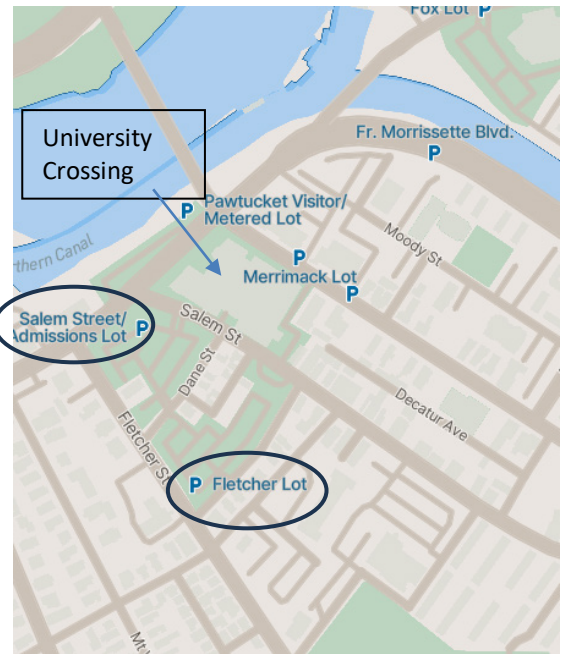
We will have parking hang tags for sale at Convocation. Make sure to bring your car's information (make, model, year, color and plate number) along with a check for \$90 made out to UMass Lowell. If you want to get a head start, there is an application form at the back of this newsletter.

We will have a Convocation speaker who will be announced via the weekly Constant Contact email.

Jim Rutter and Bev Rudeen will present the LIRA Fall Semester program.

LIRA depends on its members to participate and volunteer to be a successful organization. The LIRA Members at work page in this Newsletter show all the LIRA committees and committee chairpersons. At Convocation, we will give everyone a chance to meet with the chairpersons and members and learn about the committees. In addition to the committees, there are many other opportunities. If you are a first time LIRA member, why not sign up to bring refreshments to class?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped to make the LIRA Summer Intersession a success.



*Peter Sebelius*

## LIRA at Fisher Cats

The weather was perfect! The seats were great! But the home team lost - it was a shame.

Nevertheless we all had a great time watching the Reading Fighting Phils defeat the New Hampshire Fisher Cats 7 to 0.



*Peter Sebelius*

## Dining Tour at Panela

LIRA members enjoyed camaraderie and a great Colombian meal at Panela Restaurant in Lowell!





## LIRA Scholarships 2024-2025

**This year, the Scholarship Committee will not be sending out the printed letter as a reminder of the LIRA Scholarship Fund. However, the need for funds for these outstanding students is the same or greater.**

The LIRA Executive Board has again voted to award \$2,000 Scholarships to five full-time junior or senior UMass Lowell students with a GPA of 3.0 or above who are also leaders in community service.

Last year, the students chosen by the committee had been volunteering their time and energy at the following organizations among others: Lowell General Hospital, The Boys and Girls Club, Deaconess Abundant Life Community, The Wish Project, Mass PIRG, The Governor's Office, and St. Paul's Soup Kitchen.

Certificates will be awarded and the winners celebrated for their achievements at the LIRA Holiday Party in December. If you have relatives who are UMass Lowell students, they are very welcome to apply.

It is your generous support that makes these scholarship awards possible, and your donations are greatly appreciated by these students. This is also a way for LIRA to thank UMass Lowell for its sponsorship, which we have enjoyed since LIRA was created in 1988.

Please make checks out to **UMass Lowell** with LIRA Scholarship Fund in the memo section of your check and mail them to:

Debby Friedman  
21 Jonathan Lane  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Sincere thanks from the LIRA Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs, Margie Berenson and Debby Friedman, and Committee Members John Mamalis, Barbara Murch, Marge Nardini, and Esther Wikander.

*Debby Friedman*

## Some Summer Fun...

On July 10, twenty-two of our LIRA members toured the Mogan Cultural Center in Lowell. We walked through the city streets from the Visitor's Center with our guide Bridget from the National Park Service to The Mogan Center. This is a picture of our group at the Visitor's Center Courtyard before we left on our walk. The "One City Many Cultures" exhibit was viewed as was the Mill Girls Boarding House exhibit. We all enjoyed our visit to the Mogan Cultural Center and some of us stopped at a vegan restaurant for lunch on the way back to our cars on this very hot day.



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## Lira members enjoyed a wonderful Yoga class this summer!



## LIRA Members Have Access to the Campus Recreation Center

As a part of LIRA you have access to sign up for a membership at the Campus Recreation Center. You could sign up as a Full Member (no restriction on hours) or a CRC Master's Member if you are over the age of 55. The master's members during the academic year can use the facility from 6:30 am to 1:00 pm M-F and any time on the weekends. Please view pricing at [www.uml.edu/crcmembership](http://www.uml.edu/crcmembership). If you have specific questions please reach out to Diana Dellogono ([diana\\_dellogono@uml.edu](mailto:diana_dellogono@uml.edu)).

### CRC Amenities

- Parking in the CRC parking lot is included with the Membership
- Free Equipment Checkout with your UML ID (towel, sports/fitness equipment, etc.)
- (3) multipurpose gymnasium courts
  - Gym court 1 is typically left open for open basketball throughout the day
  - We have scheduled times throughout the week for open pickleball, volleyball, and badminton depending on the time of year
  - View current court schedules for our gymnasium online at [www.uml.edu/crcgym](http://www.uml.edu/crcgym)
- Indoor Track (1/10 of a mile) suspended above the gymnasium courts
- (2) Floor fitness center with cardio and strength equipment and areas for stretching. There is a more private fitness area in our atrium at the front of the building.
- (2) Aerobic/Dance studios
- Ping Pong & Billiards Tables
- (2) Racquetball Courts
- Locker Rooms with showers
- Most of our lockers have programmable mechanical locks built into the locker, so no need to bring your own lock!
- We have a mini turf field in front of the Campus Recreation Center and a small patio that includes (2) outdoor ping pong tables. You are welcome to check out sports equipment at our CRC welcome desk to use outside.

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### Newsletter Committee

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Charlotte Evans, Calendar & Distribution  
Laura Boerman, Member News

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## **LIRA Members at Work**

### **Executive Council**

#### **Officers**

President, Peter Sebelius  
Vice President, David Troughton  
Treasurer, Alan Friedman  
Secretary, Carolyn Walsh

#### **Members-at-Large**

Kirk Frazee  
Margie Roeck

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#### **LIRA Past President**

Richard Grove

### **Committees**

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Beverly Rudeen\*  
Chris Geggis  
Suzanne Gamache  
Richard Grove  
Lisa Hertel  
Susan Lemire  
David Troughton  
Alan Friedman  
Peter Sebelius  
Bob Stevens  
Simon Curry

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Laura Boerman\*

#### **Publicity Committee**

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#### **Hospitality**

Debbie Sebelius\*

#### **Scholarship Committee**

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Debby Friedman\*  
Esther Wikander  
John Mamalis  
Barbara Murch  
Marge Nardini

#### **Communication Committee**

Becky Bronson\*, Editor  
Marge Nardini, Layout and Reproduction  
Charlotte Evans, Distribution and Calendar  
Laura Boerman, Member News

#### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee:**

Lynn Tyndall\*  
Steve Buccieri  
Kathy Cryan-Hicks  
Marie-Anne Fernando  
Stan Powers  
David Troughton

#### **LIRA Representative, UML Age-Friendly University, and Lowell Learning Cities**

Nancy Pitkin\*

#### **Other Committees**

##### **UMass Lowell Website**

Peter Sebelius

##### **Facebook Page**

Stan Powers

##### **Auction Committee**

Sheila Pariseau

##### **Technology Committee/Zoom Hosts**

Steve Cerand  
Bob Stevens  
Lisa Hertel  
Marie-Anne Fernando  
Richard Grove

##### **Book Discussion**

Sheila Pariseau

##### **Film Discussion**

Marie-Anne Fernando

\*-indicates Committee Chairperso

## LIRA 2024 Fall Semester Course Descriptions

**All programs will be available via Zoom. For programs listed as hybrid, the presenter will be in-person in room 106 of the University Suites building at UMass Lowell and the program will also be available via Zoom. The presenter will be remote for all programs labeled Zoom only. Please check your email for the weekly program announcement, and for any last-minute changes or additions.**

**\* denotes LIRA member.**

### **Killers of The Flower Moon**

**Mondays September, 16, 23 and 30: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Distinguished UMass Lowell Professor Bob Farrant

We are going to read and discuss the book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. Published in 2017 by journalist David Grann, The New York Times book review referred to the book as “A twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history.” The Boston Globe called it “A masterful work of literary journalism crafted with the urgency of a mystery.” In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma, thanks to oil discovered on their land. With the destruction of Tulsa’s ‘Black Wall Street’ just past, shortly after the oil finds, the Osage began being killed off. Even those individuals investigating the killings were murdered. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI tried to unravel the mystery. What happened? Why do we know so little about this history?

Why is it that the destruction of Tulsa’s Black community and the murders of the Osage rarely appear in our history books?

We will meet on Monday mornings Sept. 16, 23, and 30. Reading questions will be provided to everyone a week to ten days before each session. Published by Doubleday, the book is approximately 350 pages. Be prepared to read and discuss roughly 125 pages for each session. Or, read it all on quiet afternoons this summer and then you only need to review your reading in September!

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*



**Make Art at ALL!**  
**Monday September 16: 1-3 p.m. (trip)**

The Arts League of Lowell gallery is a small art gallery in the heart of downtown Lowell. Located in the Gates Block (formerly the Merrimack Rug store), the ALL gallery will give us a tour of the gallery with one of the exhibiting artists, and then we will make a small piece of art to take home. The show that will be up in the central gallery will be a drawing show, featuring works on paper, as part of a traveling exhibit. All materials and instruction will be provided. A city parking lot and parking meters are available locally. Limit 12.

Coordinator: Lisa Hertel\*

**Future Energy**  
**Mondays September 30 and October 7: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**  
**Wednesday October 16: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**  
Presenters: Dale Levandier and David Butz, Eco-nuclear Solutions

Nuclear energy is an ecological, safe, cost-effective, grid-ready solution to eliminate carbon emissions and provide for increasing global energy needs.

It's clear that we must dramatically reduce our use of fossil fuels to address the Climate Crisis. After studying the options available, we've found that wind and solar cannot meet our energy needs alone, even with backup from hydro-electric and/or batteries.

Dale and David will go beyond the myths and unfounded fears about modern nuclear power; they will discuss the limitations of wind and solar power. With a deeper understanding of the facts, we are all in a better place to deal with the environmental crisis we must face together.

We have come to realize that nuclear energy is an essential component of any realistic solution. We are here as a website and a group of activists to share what we have learned.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

## **Toni Morrison's *Paradise* (1997)**

**Mondays October 21, 28 and November 4: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Anthony Szczesiul UML Professor of English

“They shoot the white girl first. With the rest they can take their time.” These are the provocative opening lines of *Paradise* (1997), Toni Morrison’s seventh novel and the first novel she published following her being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993. *Paradise* is perhaps Morrison’s most ambitious, complex, and difficult narrative. Like the other two installments of the “Beloved trilogy” (*Beloved*, 1987; *Jazz*, 1992), the origins of *Paradise* lie in little-known episodes of African American history: the largely forgotten histories of the more than 50 all-Black towns that were founded in Oklahoma between 1865 and 1920. The earliest of these towns were founded by freedmen, some of whom had been enslaved by the Five Tribes of Native Americans residing in Oklahoma Territory, and others by those who migrated from the South post-slavery. Tracing the history of the fictional town of Ruby, Oklahoma from the 1890s to 1976, *Paradise* asks profound questions about race, history, gender, and power, but the central thematic focus of the novel is on community: what are the dynamics of a community that purposely sets itself apart as a potential utopia, a hoped-for “paradise” on earth? How do shared histories and experiences bind us together? How can such a community create meaning for us, and how can it compromise our choices and agency? What is the relationship between community members and those who exist outside, as strangers or aliens?

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*

## **The Music and the Times of The Beatles**

**Monday October 21: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: William Moylan

The Beatles’ music, now 60 years on, has been loved by generations. While their resounding impact on the music remains strong, they were situated in the culture of the 1960s and influenced the development of music recording processes, and public thought and opinion—often subtly and sometimes profoundly. Through listening and short discussions of selected songs, we will explore the music of the Beatles, how it was entwined with the time and projected into the future, and touch on the lives of the individual band members when those songs were written and recorded. Bring your questions and memories.

Coordinator: Bev Rudeen\*

## **Exploration of America Before Columbus**

**Monday October 28: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: David Brody

Numerous artifacts and sites around New England offer evidence of exploration of North America before Columbus. Specifically, the artifacts seem to confirm the legend of a group of Scottish explorers, with ties to the outlawed Knights Templar, island-hopping their way across the North Atlantic in the late 1300s. Who were they, and why did they come? Well, that's where the fun begins.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **Nashobah Praying Indians**

**Monday November 4: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: Dan Boudillion, Sagamore Strong Bear Medicine

We live and walk on sacred ground. Littleton, with parts of Acton and Boxborough, was originally the 1654 Praying Indian Village of Nashobah, a place of spirit and vision. Join Sagamore Strong Bear Medicine of the Nashobah Praying Indians and local historian Daniel V. Boudillion as they present and discuss the Nashobah people, their spirit, their journey of suffering and survival, the village, and the sacred landscape that is all around us.

It has been more than 280 years since Wunnuhhew (Sarah Doublet), the last of the Nashobah Praying Indians that lived in Nashobah, passed away, and the Plantation was lost. Please welcome Sagamore Strong Bear Medicine as he tells her story and the story of all the Nashobah Praying Indians, walking his native land with us and sharing his culture.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

**UML Water Testing Program**  
**Tuesday September 17: 10 a.m - noon (hybrid)**  
**Presenter: Conor Sullivan, PhD.**

The mighty Merrimack River, a major source of Greater Lowell's drinking water, historically has been one of the most polluted waterways in the nation, even as it quenches the daily thirst of nearly 600,000 people. Continuing to improve the region's water quality and safety is a goal of municipal water authorities, and an innovative device being developed at UMass Lowell will enlist citizen-scientists to help in that effort. Professor Pradeep Kurup's lab is developing a handheld device, called an "electronic tongue," that will test tap water for heavy metals, toxins, pesticides and other elements. The goal, said Kurup, is to put the power of tracking drinking water contaminants into the hands of the people in the community.

"We believe that frequent community engagement in water quality, and taking appropriate action, will have a profound effect in protecting public health," Kurup said. "Through a community-engaged, citizen-science approach, we will sample and test water from social-economic diverse communities of Lowell, Lawrence, Dracut and Andover."

The program seeks volunteers who want to collect water samples from their homes. The researchers are hosting a tap-water testing workshop for LIRA members. After a sample is collected and analyzed, the researchers send a report to the person who collected the sample.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

**African Community Center**  
**Tuesday September 24: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**  
Presenter: Gordon Halm

The African Community Center of Lowell (ACCL) was founded in August 2016. On October 29th of the same year, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate its founding.

From working at the then African Assistance Center of Lowell and the International Institute of New England (IINE Lowell), Founder and Executive Director Gordon Donkoh-Halm, an immigrant himself, knows first-hand the significant hardships involved in trying to adapt in a different environment. There is the language barrier and a general loss as to where to go for basic



services and ethnic foods, as well as not knowing where to go to offer one's services to the new community.

In April 2021, ACCL became its own 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization! This was very exciting as they branched out on their own to grow and meet the challenges and opportunities of the days.

With continued support from the community, and individuals like you, ACCL hopes to fulfill its vision of helping new immigrants and refugees settle and be responsible community members, successful leaders and role models for future generations.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **An Introduction to Quantum Mechanics**

**Tuesdays October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 5: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Quantum mechanics has a reputation for being so complex that the word "quantum" has become a popular label for anything mystical or unfathomable. In fact, quantum mechanics is one of the most successful theories of reality yet discovered, explaining everything from the stability of atoms to the glow of neon lights, from the flow of electricity in metals to the workings of the human eye.

At the same time, quantum mechanics does have a mysterious side. Particles that are in multiple places at once. Entangled particles that mirror each other even at great distances apart. Even the possibility of multiple parallel universes.

Join noted physicist Sean Carroll in the video course to learn all about how Quantum Mechanics powers modern technology and makes us wonder how it could possibly behave the way it does.

Facilitator: Bob Hanlon\*

## **History of Creative Photography**

**Tuesdays October 8 and 15:10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Peter Clark\*

With lots of images, from 1827 to the present, we'll discuss the progression of photography as a craft and a medium of artistic expression. There will be short digressions into the technology, but we will concentrate on pictures and photographers, pausing to see larger selections of the work of the most

important people like Atget, Stieglitz, Weston, Adams, Lange, Cartier-Bresson, Arbus and others, to get a better feel for their work. There will be a few old cameras and books to look at, too.

Coordinator: Bev Rudeen\*

## **Portraits Along The Way: 1976-2024**

**Tuesday October 22: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Paul Marion

LIRA is hosting a book-signing for Paul Marion's new book, *Portraits Along the Way: 1976-2024*, a collection of 50 profiles of memorable people Paul has encountered in person, on stage, in books, and otherwise. Readers will recognize Maya Angelou, Bob Dylan, Tony Conigliaro, Stephen King, and Leymah Gbowee. Readers will also meet other remarkable men and women, not household names. From heroes and victims to change makers and artists, the full social spectrum is represented.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache\*

## **Newhouse Wildlife Rescue**

**Tuesday November 5: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Newhouse Wildlife Rescue will come to tell us about their important organization. This is a statement from their website, "Newhouse Wildlife Rescue is a rehabilitation facility for injured and orphaned wildlife in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. We are dedicated to providing the highest standard of care to local wildlife from our surrounding area. Our organization also educates the public on how to co-exist with the wild animals in our community. It is our goal to share the stories of the animals we have cared for to raise awareness and inspire kindness in others."

Coordinator: Bev Rudeen\*

# Harvard University Museum of Natural History

## Glass Flowers Exhibit

Wednesday September 18: 12:45 – 2 p.m. (trip)

**NOTE: Nonstandard time**

One of Harvard University's most famous treasures is the internationally acclaimed Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, better known as the "Glass Flowers." This unique collection was made by Leopold (1822-1895) and Rudolf Blaschka (1857-1939), a father and son team of Czech glass artists. Over fifty years, from 1886 through 1936, the Blaschkas produced 4,300 glass models that represent 780 plant species.

The Glass Flowers gallery underwent a historic renovation in 2016, introducing rebuilt, original historic wood and glass display cases, new state-of-the-art lighting, and sophisticated conservation systems. The newly configured gallery space and scientific interpretation showcases the ongoing scientific relevance of the collection and enriches the visitors' experience of the models.

This trip is limited to 15 people. Assuming at least 10 people sign up, the admission cost per person will be \$20. (There will be an additional cost for parking, but that can be worked out by drivers on the day of the trip.) There will be a docent-led tour of the Glass Flowers lasting about one hour. Admission also includes free access to the entire Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. We will solicit carpool drivers and meet at Hannaford parking lot for departure at 11:30 AM. We hope to leave the museum about 3:00, to reduce the amount of time spent in rush hour traffic, but any individual carpool group can decide to stay longer if all agree.

**Please send an email to [alan-friedman@comcast.net](mailto:alan-friedman@comcast.net) to reserve your spots. It is important to know in advance how many attendees we have, as I don't want to make the large minimum deposit, only to find out that very few people will attend. You will receive a request for your payments a few weeks before the event.**

Coordinator: Alan Friedman\*

**Lowell Chamber Orchestra**  
**Wednesday September 25: 10:30 a.m. - noon (trip)**  
**Edgar's Great Frustration**

The advent of electricity starting in the early 20th-century changed the world, including art. Edgar Varèse was a composer who embraced the new technology, but at that time, the technology was not advanced enough for his ideas. What did he do? How do we cope when our tools do not allow us to craft our vision? In this lecture-performance, you can explore the origins of electronic music, and how we got to where we are now. There is no charge for admission, but donations are very much appreciated.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

**Southwest France: A Varied French Experience**  
**Wednesday October 2: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**  
Presenter: Jack Holmes

Away from Paris, France is very different. Travel with Jack Holmes, traveling photographer, from Bordeaux and wine country to the Dorgone, for Cro-Magnon man cave paintings, and to Cahors. Hike with him on the GR65 from Cahors before returning to Bordeaux. Enjoy a lovely photo-essay and virtual trip with this Western Avenue Studios photographer.

Jack Holmes has been a traveling photographer for six decades. He has photographed on seven continents, in over eighty countries, and all of the USA and Canada. A former science teacher, Jack has exhibited in many New England galleries. His framed photographic works hang in many private collections in the USA and abroad. Find him on Facebook as "ImagesFromNearAndFar" or at Western Avenue Studios #377, in Lowell MA.

Coordinator Lisa Hertel \*



## **The Magpie's Apprentice: The Brilliant Beaver**

**Wednesday October 9: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Willa Coroka

The American beaver is a fascinating mammal with a reputation to match its size. Did you know they can max out around 100 pounds? Referred to as pests by some, and keystone species by others, this program introduces North America's largest rodent and lets you be the judge! Recognized in fables and unrivaled in their engineering abilities, let's discuss these unique aquatic critters, from perfume to pelts and everything in between. An activity wraps up this interactive program that is suitable for kids and adults alike.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

## **LIRA Lowell Area Dining Trail Part 3 Simply Khmer Noodle House 7 Summer St, Chelmsford, MA Wednesday October 9: 2:30 p.m. (trip)**

Experience the third stop of the LIRA Dining Trail's exciting food cultures of the Lowell area, brought to you by LIRA's Diversity Team. Lowell has the largest Cambodian population in the country after Long Beach, California, and Simply Khmer has two locations in the Lowell area. We are visiting the newest in Chelmsford. The original Lowell location was established by the husband and wife duo, Sam and Denise Ban, in 2007. Simply Khmer's mission is to offer exceptional Cambodian cuisine in a pleasant, appealing and cozy atmosphere. Join manager, Xavier Eang Lee, to learn more about the culture and food of Cambodia.

- Late lunch/early dinner meal of selected Cambodian favorites, including a vegetarian option
- \$30.00 per person payable by check at the LIRA Fall Convocation or by mail to Lynn Tyndall
- Price includes a selection of shared tasting appetizers exploring the flavors of Cambodia and your choice from introductory entrees selected by Xavier
- Dessert and drinks are added options, not included in this price
- Signup at the LIRA annual meeting, first come basis; attendance limited to 15 people
- Easy parking in the restaurant lot on Summer Street in Chelmsford

Coordinator: Lynn Tyndall\*

## **The Elections of 2024**

**Wednesdays October 16, 23 and 30: 1-3 p.m. (Zoom only)**

**Wednesday November 6: 10 a.m. - noon (Zoom only)**

Presenter: Retired UML Professor Frank Talty

This course will cover the details of the national election of 2024 and some state races of significance. Most importantly, we will cover the presidential election. The primary focus of our discussions will be about the general election to be held on November 5th, 2024. Also, in this cycle, 35 U.S. Senate seats and all 435 members of the House of Representatives are up for election. We will initially look at the constitutional and statutory basis for these elections and discuss the continued validity of the process. We will also look at political polling in one week of the series.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*

## **Identifying Volunteer Opportunities In The Greater Lowell Area**

**Wednesday October 23: 10 a.m. – noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: Steve Cerand\*

The purpose of this session is to expose members to various volunteer opportunities in the region. Organizations that utilize volunteers will be identified, along with their mission, the work they perform, the clients they support and the jobs/tasks typically available to volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to engage with the larger community and provides another way for LIRA members to enhance their commitment to lifelong learning.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

## **Antarctica**

**Wednesday October 30: 10 a.m. - noon (hybrid)**

Presenter: UML Professor Emeritus Jesse Heines\*

Jesse Heines will present photographs and videos of his February 2024 trip to Antarctica with Viking Cruises. His talk will cover the logistics of such a trip and the experiences that he had aboard the expedition ship *Octantis*.

Coordinator: Jim Rutter\*

**Merrimack Repertory Theater Cookie Matinee**  
**Mary Shelley's Frankenstein**  
**Wednesday November 13: 2 p.m. (trip)**

*From the Book by **Mary Shelley***

Within every man there is a monster; within every monster, a man. But which is which?

An eerie evening of ghost stories crackles to life as Mary Shelley unspools her tale of Victor Frankenstein and his unholy experiment. This gothic tale of love, horror, and the power to create life—and destroy it—awakens in this visceral, original retelling of Frankenstein.

UML Professor Bridget Marshall (who discussed the book Frankenstein with LIRA last year) will be our guest for the performance.

Contact Peter Sebelius at 978-758-5680 or [sebes3@yahoo.com](mailto:sebes3@yahoo.com) to reserve your seat. Cost is to be determined. Make checks payable to LIRA, Inc and mail to Peter at 20 Draycoach Dr., Chelmsford, MA, 01824-1024.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

**Great Decisions**

**Thursdays September 19 through November 7: 10 a.m. - noon**  
**(Zoom only)**

**Note: (no class on October 3)**

Great Decisions is America's largest discussions program on world affairs. If you do not have a 2024 Briefing Book, you can order one by sending a \$25 check payable to "LIRA Inc" to Richard Grove 575 Osgood St, North Andover, MA 01845. He will mail you a copy.

**NATO's Future** - Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it provoke Russia?

Discussion leader: Carol Valcik\* Sept 19, 26

**Risky Science** - Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation's national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

Discussion leader: Richard Grove\* Oct 10, 17

**High Seas Treaty** - Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining.

Discussion leader: Steve Cerand\* Oct 24, 31

**Pandemic Preparedness** - Looking back at the covid-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics?

Discussion leader: Richard Grove\* Nov 7

## **Nutrition**

**Thursdays September 26 and October 10: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: UML Professor Hojnacki

### **September 26: Dietary Guidelines for Americans and How to Read Food Labels**

Prof. Jerry Hojnacki will present an interactive session which will demonstrate a simple method for reading Nutrition Facts enabling us to make healthy food choices. Participants should bring food labels to this session.

### **October 10: Diet and Heart Disease**

Prof. Jerry Hojnacki will present a review of heart disease risk factors.

Coordinator: Suzanne Gamache\*



# **Conversational AI and You: Unraveling the Mysteries of ChatGPT**

**Thursday October 24: 1–3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: UML Professor Chris Geggis\*

Dive into the fascinating world of conversational AI with our engaging class designed specifically for LIRA members eager to explore new horizons. In this course, you'll discover the magic behind ChatGPT, an advanced conversational agent created by OpenAI. We'll unravel the mysteries of how this powerful tool understands and generates human-like text, transforming the way we interact with technology. From the basics of natural language processing to the ethical considerations of AI, this class offers a comprehensive yet accessible journey into the realm of artificial intelligence.

No prior technical knowledge is needed—just a curious mind and a willingness to learn. Through lively discussions, hands-on demonstrations, and real-world examples, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the technology shaping our future. Whether you're interested in enhancing your tech-savvy skills, exploring new hobbies, or simply understanding the buzz around AI, this course will provide you with the insights and knowledge to navigate the digital age with confidence and curiosity.

Coordinator: Peter Sebelius\*

## **Current Journalism**

**Thursdays October 31 and November 7: 1-3 p.m. (hybrid)**

Presenter: UML Professor Silverman

**10/31:** In this session, Dr. Silverman, chair of the English dept. will talk about the journalistic landscape, how it works, and its evolution. Journalism is an institution that informs, holds institutions accountable (if sometimes imperfectly), and entertains us. In this session, Professor Silverman will talk about the way journalism has developed in the last fifty years, with an emphasis on the last ten. He will discuss the concepts of objectivity, balance, and transparency, and how they operate in journalism today.

**11/7:** In this session, Dr. Silverman will talk about the future of journalism, reasons to be optimistic, and reasons to worry. He will explain the historic business model of journalism and why it's failing, the growth of citizen journalism, and how developments in artificial intelligence will affect journalism.

Coordinator: Susan Lemire\*

## **Film Discussion**

**10 a.m. – noon (Zoom only)**

**Friday September 27** - *Mississippi Masala* (1991) Discussion leader: Robert Slezak\*

**Friday October 25** – *Fried Green Tomatoes* (1991) Discussion leader: Marie Tada\*

**Friday November 22** - *Cabaret* (1972) Discussion leader: Bob Hanlon\*

## **Book Discussion**

**10 a.m. – noon (Zoom only)**

**September 20:** *The Woman They Could not Silence: one woman, her incredible fight for freedom, and the men who tried to make her disappear*, by Kate Moore, 2021, 540 pages. Discussion leader: Bob Hanlon\*

**October 18:** *The Ride of Her Life: the true story of a woman, her horse, and their last-chance journey across America*, by Elizabeth Letts, 2021, 319 pages. Discussion leader: Becky Bronson\*

**November 15:** *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride, 2023, 385 pages. Discussion leaders: Steve Buccieri\* and Rebecca Kelley-Morgan\*

**December 20:** *North Woods*, by Daniel Mason, 2023, 372 pages. Discussion leader: Susan Lemire\*

# LIRA's 2024 Fall Calendar

Zoom Only in Red

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday (Field trips)	Thursday	Friday
<p>September 16 10 am to Noon Killers of the Flower Moon</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Make Art at ALL!</p>	<p>September 17 10 am to Noon UML Water Testing Program</p>	<p>September 18 12:45 pm to 2 pm Harvard Museum of Natural History: Glass Flowers Exhibit</p>	<p>September 19 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p>	<p>September 20 10 am to Noon <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>The Woman They Could Not Silence</i> Kate Moore</p>
<p>September 23 10 am to Noon Killers of the Flower Moon</p>	<p>September 24 10 am to Noon African Community Center</p>	<p>September 25 10:30 am to Noon Lowell Chamber Orchestra</p>	<p>September 26 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Nutrition</p>	<p>September 27 10 am to Noon <b>Film Discussion</b> <i>Mississippi Masala</i></p>
<p>September 30 10 am to Noon Killers of the Flower Moon</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Future Energy</p>	<p>October 1 1 to 3 pm Introduction to Quantum Mechanics</p>	<p>October 2 10 am to Noon Southwest France: A Varied French Experience</p>	<p>October 3 Rosh Hashanah No class</p>	<p>October 4</p>
<p>October 7 1 to 3 pm Future Energy</p>	<p>October 8 10 am to Noon History of Creative Photography 1 to 3 pm Introduction to Quantum Mechanics</p>	<p>October 9 10 am to Noon The Magpie's Apprentice: The Brilliant Beaver 2:30 pm LIRA Dining Trail Part 3: Simply Khmer House</p>	<p>October 10 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Nutrition</p>	<p>October 11</p>
<p>October 14</p>	<p>October 15 10 am to Noon History of Creative Photography 1 to 3 pm Introduction to Quantum Mechanics</p>	<p>October 16 10 am to Noon Future Energy</p> <p>1 to 3 pm <b>The Elections of 2024</b></p>	<p>October 17 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p>	<p>October 18 10 am to Noon <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>The Ride of Her Life</i> Elizabeth Letts</p>

<p>October 21 10 am to Noon Toni Morrison's <i>Paradise</i></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Music and Times of The Beatles</p>	<p>October 22 10 am to Noon Portraits Along the Way</p> <p>1 to 3 pm Introduction to Quantum Mechanics</p>	<p>October 23 10 am to Noon Volunteer Opportunities In Greater Lowell</p> <p>1 to 3 pm <b>The Elections of 2024</b></p>	<p>October 24 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Conversational AI and You</p>	<p>October 25 10 am to Noon <b>Film Discussion</b> <i>Fried Green Tomatoes</i></p>
<p>October 28 10 am to Noon Toni Morrison's <i>Paradise</i> 1 to 3 pm Exploration of America Before Columbus</p>	<p>October 29 1 to 3 pm Introduction to Quantum Mechanics</p>	<p>October 30 10 am to Noon Antarctica</p> <p>1 to 3 pm <b>The Elections of 2024</b></p>	<p>October 31 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Current Journalism</p>	<p>November 1</p>
<p>November 4 10 am to Noon Toni Morrison's <i>Paradise</i> 1 to 3 pm Nashobah Praying Indians</p>	<p>November 5 10 am to Noon Newhouse Wildlife Rescue 1 to 3 pm Introduction to Quantum Mechanics</p>	<p>November 6 10 am to Noon <b>The Elections of 2024</b></p>	<p>November 7 10 am to Noon <b>Great Decisions</b></p> <p>1 to 3 pm Current Journalism</p>	<p>November 8</p>
<p>November 11</p>	<p>November 12</p>	<p>November 13 2 pm Merrimack Theater Cookie Matinee</p>	<p>November 14</p>	<p>November 15 10 am to Noon <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>Heaven and Earth</i> <b>Grocery Store</b> <b>James McBride</b></p>
<p>November 18</p>	<p>November 19</p>	<p>November 20</p>	<p>November 21</p>	<p>November 22 10 am to Noon <b>Film Discussion</b> <i>Cabaret</i></p>
				<p><b>December 20</b> 10 am to Noon <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>North Woods</i> <b>Daniel Mason</b></p>

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION/ UMASS LOWELL  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
LOWELL, MA 01852  
[www.uml.edu/community/lira](http://www.uml.edu/community/lira)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- In the event of class cancellation do you prefer to be notified by EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you wish to receive the Newsletter by MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ ONLINE \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you a graduate of UMass Lowell? \_\_\_\_\_ What year/degree \_\_\_\_\_
- Is this a renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, the following questions may be omitted

How did you learn about LIRA?

Professional work/experience

Brief Educational Background

Special fields of study, interests, hobbies, etc

What experiences, work background or skills would you be willing to share with LIRA?

LIRA membership dues are \$145. (\$240. for couples) for the year July 1 – June 30 payable by August 15. \$100 of your membership fee will be tax-deductible and will benefit our student scholarship fund. For additional information see our Website [www.uml.edu/community/lira](http://www.uml.edu/community/lira)

Please return Application (or apply online with a credit card) with check payable to UMass Lowell, memo line LIRA, and mail to: Office of Alumni Relations, Charles J. Hoff Scholarship Center  
UMass Lowell  
One Perkins Street  
Lowell, MA 01854

## Parking Hangtags

**Please read the following carefully.** LIRA parking permits for 2024-2026 will be **valid for 10 months**, September 2024 through June 2025. LIRA will not have any on-campus programs in July and August 2025.

Please fill out the parking permit form below along with a \$90 check made out to UMass Lowell and **bring it to the Convocation on September 11**. 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 \$90.

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

- If you fill out this form **with a check made out to UMass Lowell for \$90** and mail it along with a stamped, self-addressed **legal-sized** envelope to: Peter Sebelius, 20 Draycoach Dr., Chelmsford, MA 01824 **BEFORE** September 11, he will return a hangtag to you.
- You may have a friend bring a filled out form and check to the Convocation and get a hangtag for you.
- You can go to the Parking Access office at Campus Security office located at 220 Pawtucket St, Lowell, MA 01854, entrance on Salem St. This is the same place that you get your photo ID. n.b. do this after you have paid your membership dues for the year.

**IF YOU HAVE HANDICAPPED PARKING, PLEASE WRITE YOUR PLATE 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:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Color</b>

**License Plate Number**

**State**

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