



April 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 3

## APRIL CALENDAR

For more information, PLEASE contact the person indicated for each event!

- Fri 1, 8, 15, 22 - Special Program: Conversational Italian**, 1:30–3:30 with Dean Poli and Zina Tillona, Newman Catholic Center, 472 North Pleasant St, Amherst. **Contact:** Dean Poli
- Fri 1, 8, 15, 22 - Special Program: French conversation**, 1:30–3:30, Applewood, One Spencer Drive, Amherst. **Contact:** Judith Pool
- Fri 1 - DEADLINE to submit seminar proposals to Curriculum Committee for Fall 2011.**
- Thur 7 - Special Program: Viewpoints** with Hy Edelstein, 12:30–2:00 p.m., Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Dr, Florence. **Contact:** Hy Edelstein
- Thur 7 - Curriculum committee meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst
- Fri 8 - Special Program: Opera Prep** by Peggy Bedell, for **Rossini: Le Comte Ory**, 1:30–2:30, The Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Peggy Bedell **No registration needed!**
- Thur 14 - Council meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring Street, Amherst
- Sat 16 - All-LIR Spring Brunches** **Contact:** Sheila Klem or your host/hostess
- Thu 21 - Special Program: French Study Group**, 1:00–2:30 p.m., Jones Library, Amherst (Amherst Room, upstairs). **Contact:** Lise Armstrong (meets again on May 19th)
- Thu 21 - Special Program: Arts Interest Group**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., **The Textile Constructions of 5CLIR Member Carl Erikson** **Contact:** Suzannah Fabing *Pre-reg essential. (See page 4)*
- Thu 21 - Special Program: Science Roundtable**, 2:00–3:30 p.m., “**Human Races**” led by **Joel Halpern**, & “**El Niño, La Niña, and Climate Variability**,” led by **John Gaustad**. Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Dottie Rosenthal or John Armstrong (See page 5)
- Fri 22 - Special Program: Opera Prep** by Peggy Bedell, for **Strauss: Capriccio**, 1:30–2:30, The Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Peggy Bedell **No registration.**
- Thu 28 - Special Program: Travel Interest Group**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., **Ellen Peck takes us to South India AND Susan Gerstle to North India**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., The Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Marybeth Bridegam or Joan Wofford. **No reg! (See page 7)**
- Fri 29 - Special Program: Opera Prep** by Peggy Bedell, for **Verdi: Il Travatore**, 1:30–2:30, The Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Peggy Bedell **No registration!**
- Sunday, 1st May - Fall Preview:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Smith College Campus Center (upstairs)  
(PLUS: Annual Meeting during the break at 3:00 p.m.) \*\*\*See attached invitation\*\*\*

Ethnic Eating Interest Group - contact Joice Gare

Join Kathy Hazen's mailing list for news of Live Performances in the area

Book Interest Group - contact Gloria Ferber

## Notes from the President... Larry Ambs

As this newsletter is published, we will begin the Spring 2011 Great Decisions Program. This year the sessions are not on consecutive Fridays, due to holidays and conflicts, so check your calendar for the correct dates. As our next newsletter is published, we will be holding the Fall Preview on May 1st at Smith College. My but time flies. Finally, on April 16th, just after our taxes are due, we will be holding our 5CLIR member brunches at the homes of volunteers.



We are modifying our program schedule in the fall to better provide times for all of our activities. You will be receiving more information on the schedule guidelines in your Fall Preview packet. One of the changes has already been implemented: all seminars at Amherst College will run from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. But in order to allow new and existing Special Programs to be scheduled midday, Council has approved the following schedule for a two-year trial period:

### Monday/Wednesday Seminars:

*Morning seminars and workshops* will normally run from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, unless a moderator specifically requests a starting time of 9:30 a.m., in which case the seminar would end at 11:30 a.m.

*Afternoon seminars and workshops* will usually begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 3:30 p.m., except for those scheduled at Amherst College, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

### Tuesday/Thursday Seminars:

*Morning seminars and workshops* will run from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

*All afternoon seminars and workshops* will run from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (The hours from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. are reserved for those Special Programs that wish to meet during the lunch hour.)

Scheduling both times and locations continue to present us with logistic difficulties, so please be considerate of our attempts to accommodate all parties.

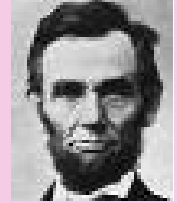
If you are interested in commenting on my suggestions or wish to contact me, please call or email me.

Larry

---

**Note from the Editor:** Please email me pictures (with captions) and articles about your seminars, workshops, 5CLIR trips, etc. I always need material for the next newsletter! For the May issue, please send items to me by April 20th. Thanks!  
Callie

## A Report from the Civil War Symposium Steering Committee



*Tuesday, April 12, 2011* – the anniversary of the rebel attack on Fort Sumter (the ultimate assertion of states’ rights!) – begins about four years of Civil War sesquicentennial (150) events. DID YOU KNOW that before Fort Sumter it was the slave-free Northern states that argued for states’ rights and the Southern slave states that demanded extensive federal power? We assume today that it is the conservative forces in our society – centered in the South – that argue for states’ rights and us liberal, progressive people here in the Valley who argue for federal power. It was the Fugitive Slave Act – part of the Compromise of 1850 – that emphasized this hard-to-believe difference from our current expectation. Perhaps self-interest trumps principle!

This is just one of many Civil War issues reverberating today that will be addressed in next October’s (Friday, Oct 14 and Saturday, Oct 15, 2011) “5CLIR Sesquicentennial Symposium – Civil War Causes and Consequences.” Other Civil War issues with modern implications will be raised in future newsletters. Remember this is free-of-charge and open-to-the- public, so tell your friends, neighbors, aunts and uncles, cousins, etc. to put this on their calendars! (They could combine it with a color tour of New England!)

Preliminary information is on our website ([www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org)) and will be up-dated periodically.

### \*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*

- We learned last month that we have been granted major support (\$10,000) by Mass Humanities for the symposium – a great boost (see [www.masshumanities.org](http://www.masshumanities.org));
- Also, of interest, is that Manisha Sinha, UMass Professor of Afro-American Studies and History, and one of our speakers at the Symposium, is giving a lecture titled "Did the Abolitionists Cause the Civil War?" at 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, 2011 in the Massachusetts Room at the Mullins Center, UMass. This is part of the “Distinguished Lecture Series.” (Faculty members in the series receive the Chancellor's Medal, the highest honor bestowed on individuals for exemplary and extraordinary service to the campus. I understand that 5CLIR members – past and present – who have received this honor include Bill Gibson [our first President], Virginia Beal, George Wade and Nina Scott.)
- The PBS Ken Burns’ Civil War series is being rerun on WGBY starting Sunday, April 3.



-- Chuck Gillies, Project Director, 5CLIR CWS



You will receive updates from the CWS Steering Committee as they become available.

## The Textile Constructions of LIR Member Carl Erikson

Upcoming Arts Interst Group Trip  
Thursday, April 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Carl Erikson began creating textile constructions — basically, large fabric collages — when he found weaving too constricting for his fast-flowing imagination. Color and the nature of the fabrics themselves drive his abstract designs.

Carl will lead a tour of his pieces that are hanging in the corridors of his condo building in Amherst and in his condo unit. This will be an "on your feet" tour.

We will gather in Carl's living room, where he will tell us about how he came to this format and how he works. Then, he will take us through the three floors of the building (elevator available), commenting on the work, its problems, and the little surprises he often builds into his pieces. In his condo unit, we will see his most extreme piece and the large needlepoint project on which he's currently working. We'll also be able to inspect his large collection of Asian puppets.

**Where:** At Carl's residence, off Route 9 near the Hadley-Amherst line. Once you register, you will be sent specific directions to Carl's house.

You must register in advance for this event by emailing Suzannah Fabing. Space is limited; reservations will be taken on a first-come basis.

## Science Roundtable Discusses Worms and Planets

Larry Ambs led off the second meeting of the Science Roundtable on March 24 with an introduction to the Hygiene Hypothesis - the idea that higher standards of cleanliness and modern sanitation prevent early exposure to microbes and parasitic worms that help people develop tolerance to allergies and auto-immune diseases. The hypothesis is supported by a great deal of epidemiological evidence but has not yet been proven definitively. The topic led to a lively discussion of the topic leading to the conclusion that both highly unsanitary and highly sanitized environments are detrimental to the development of a strong immune system.

In the second half of the program, Jim Scott spoke of the enormous amount learned about the solar system in the last 25 years. He used an event much in the news during the week - the success of the artificial satellite "Messenger" going into orbit around the planet Mercury. Now, all four of the inner planets have been orbited by man-made rocket ships. Following Jim's introduction, there were many questions and comments about the state of knowledge of other planets in our solar system and beyond.

The next session of the Science Roundtable will take place on Thursday, April 21 at the Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The topics for discussion will be "The Races of Humans," led by Joel Halpern, and "El Niño, La Niña, and Climate Variability," led by John Gaustad.

If you have not attended a session of the Science Roundtable, please ask John Armstrong or Dottie Rosenthal to add you to the mailing list.

---

The *5CLIR Reporter* is published by Five College Learning in Retirement, Room 9, Mason Hall, Smith College, MA 01063. [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) tel: 585-3756. email: [5clir@smith.edu](mailto:5clir@smith.edu)  
Articles and pictures should be emailed to the Editor: Callie Kendall Orszak.

## **CONGRATULATIONS Two 5CLIR MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS**

### **JOAN LAIRD**

Joan Laird will be presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Academy of Family Therapy at their annual conference in Baltimore in June. Joan, a retired social work educator and family therapist, taught family theory and therapy courses at the Smith College School for Social Work and, prior to that, was a co-founder of Ann Arbor Center for the Family, a training and therapy center. She has published widely in the social work and family therapy fields, focusing on family culture, intergenerational relationships, and family rituals.

### **ARNOLD FRIEDMANN**

Denise Guerin, president of the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), a national organization of some 1,000 members, recently presented Arnold with the Arnold Friedmann Distinguished Educator Award. Arnold is the inaugural recipient, and he and Suzi were flown out to Denver for the occasion. Hereafter, the award will be given out once a year. Arnold was one of the founders of IDEC, and 50 years ago he was the second national president of the organization. “What an incredible journey it has been for you and your contributions to the interior design profession. For all of us, thank you.” (Denise Guerin, President of IDEC.)

## **TRAVEL INTEREST GROUP**

**This group meets the fourth Thursday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Northampton Lathrop. The atmosphere is quite informal, and there is no other obligation than to come and enjoy the beautiful photos and interesting presentations.**

### **Contact information:**

**Marybeth Bridegam or  
Joan Wofford**

### **On Thursday, April 28th:**

**We will journey to**

**South India with Ellen Peck**

**and**

**North India with Sue Gerstle**

**come and enjoy**

*Take the Forbes Library survey online by April 10th...  
...and enter a drawing to win a Nook*

Help put 5CLIR in the Strategic Plan

Forbes Library is currently developing a new strategic plan to help them set priorities for services and programs for the next five years. The library says that, "The results of the survey will be used to guide decisions on specific library goals and activities." We, as a group, want to be considered - and included! - in their strategic plan, so please take a few minutes to be heard - or read (being a more appropriate word) and join in the fray by taking the survey.

If we provide information about our needs, maybe they will take heed...if we don't, we can't complain later! Please have a look at the survey, bear in mind how you might want to make use of the library individually, and how as a group (i.e. 5CLIR) we might find space for seminars or programs, for instance! (You could put that one down for moi.)

Since 5CLIR holds seminars on the Smith College campus (which is right across the street from Forbes, giving participants a convenient opportunity to use the library while in the area), I think it would not be too much of a stretch to say that those of you who live in Amherst and other surrounding towns could also take part in the survey.....especially if you have had an occasion to visit Forbes.

This web address: <http://www.forbeslibrary.org/> will take you directly to the Forbes Library website and from thence to the survey (the first item listed on the page).

--Sara Wright

# Show and Tell

## by Ramona Stylos

Every day is "show and tell" day at the TTT (Taking the Terror out of Technology) seminar.

Eighteen people started the 10-week session, shy about admitting, even to our moderator and to each other, that the information revolution had gone right over our heads. (Introductions went something like "Hello, my name is So-And-So, and I don't know the difference between an ipod and an ipad.") After revealing our ignorance or unfamiliarity with so many things that any 12-year-old takes for granted today, we also shared our ambivalence about various aspects of instant and intimate communication. ("How do you play Facebook?" "Does a 10-word email or a text message to Grandma really qualify as a thank you note?")

Joan Wofford, the brave soul who undertook the daunting task of leading us gently into the 21st century, was encouraging and reassuring. Hadn't we, after all, eventually learned to program the VCR? Didn't we all manage our emails and a cell phone? Best of all, some of us had already seen their European grandchildren on Skype and couldn't stop talking about it.

So, before we knew it, we were using terms like "smart phone" and "add-ons" and "apps". We learned that you don't have to be a bird to "twitter," and that in the world of electronics "3g" means "third generation" and may have nothing to do with ancestors or grandchildren.

YES Computers generously loaned us iPads, and Barnes & Noble sent both Nooks (their e-reader) and a very helpful instructor so that we could all play with these wonderful new toys.

---

*Great Art! Great Food! Great LIR Trip!*

*Limited time to sign up! Find a friend to share your room!*

## **5CLIR HUDSON VALLEY TOUR – JUNE 15–16, 2011**

**\*\*Complete and detailed itineray available from the office – call Callie for your copy\*\***

**The Summer Programs committee has arranged a super two-day trip to the Hudson Valley in mid-June. The itinerary is filled with exceptional opportunities for those of you who love art and food! Need we say more?**

Day one will take us to Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate near Tarrytown, NY. The mansion is filled with gorgeous art and furnishings (including Picasso tapestries) – and – the extensive and quite beautiful gardens show the extensive sculpture collection of former Governor Nelson Rockefeller behind almost every hedge. Check out those by Brancusi, Arp, Calder and Henry Moore among many others. Our fascinating guided tour will take three hours, so do wear comfortable walking shoes.

We will also have a short guided tour of the surprising, nearby Union Church of Pocantico, NY. It may look like a small country church, but it's lined with eight gorgeous stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, along with a stunning rose window created by Henri Matisse – all in memory of past generations of the Rockefeller family, given by their children.

We will stay overnight at the Hampton Inn in Newburgh, NY, where dinner and the next morning's breakfast will be included in your room price. (Simple directions for booking and paying for your room – not included in the \$130 paid to 5CLIR for the trip – are given in the full itinerary, available from the office on request.)

Our second day will take us to the renowned Storm King Art Center, known for its distinguished collection of American and European modern sculpture. We have a 45-minute docent tour booked, and the rest of the time you may explore on your own, visit the cafe, etc. A free tram will transport you through the grounds, passing sculptures and giving you recorded tour information about them.

The grand conclusion of our tour will be dinner at the mecca of cuisine – the Culinary Institute of America (a CIA you won't want to miss!) in Hyde Park, NY. You may choose one of their three best restaurants to dine at:

Escoffier (French) *or*

American Bounty (The Americas) *or*

Ristorante Caterina d'Medici (Italian – of course!)

**May 14th seems a long time away, but you need to book soon ----- NOW IS GOOD!**

**NOTE: You are getting advance notice of this summer program, since it is necessary to register and pay for it by May 14 – AND – to get your first choice of restaurant at the CIA, you need to book as early as possible. The CIA assigns groups a limited number of places at each restaurant, so do book now.**

**Please call the office (585-3756) to receive the complete itinerary, pricing and other details, either by regular mail or by email.**

**See page 11 for your checklist of things to do for this trip!**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW!

### Registration Checklist and aide memoire:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check for \$130 per person sent to 5CLIR office by May 14 (this covers the bus hire, driver's gratuity, and all admissions and tours)

\_\_\_\_\_ Room reservation made and paid for at Hampton Inn. Note: this is for the room, and costs the same whether it is for one person or for two people sharing. It includes dinner and breakfast.  
(See full itinerary – available from the office – for how to do this.)

I reserved a room with \_\_\_\_\_King-size bed or \_\_\_\_\_two double beds

\_\_\_\_\_ Received confirmation number from Hampton Inn  
(at time of reservation)

Confirmation # \_\_\_\_\_

### Choice of Restaurant at the Culinary Institute of America:

\_\_\_\_\_ I gave CIA restaurant choices to the office along with check for trip

I CHOSE:

Escoffier \_\_\_\_\_ *or*

American Bounty \_\_\_\_\_ *or*

Ristorante Caterina de'Medici \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people in my reservation \_\_\_\_\_

My second choice restaurant \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case too late to get first choice)

If you have any questions about the trip or itinerary, please contact Marybeth Bridegam - or the office.

## Picture Gallery

Sheila Klem has kindly sent in some photographs taken at Ed Golden's seminar on Arthur Miller and Michael Wolff's D. H. Lawrence seminar...



At the Amherst Woman's Club, Shirley Brodigan is involved with her presentation at Michael Wolff's D. H. Lawrence seminar; to her right is new member Eleanor Crandall, and to her left is Charlene Caldwell.

Past 5CLIR presidents Chuck Gillies and Dorothy Gorra promote the D. H. Lawrence cause.





George Levinger, Bob Grant, new member Mel Grant, and Elaine Barkin are all fans of Arthur Miller's plays.



From left: Lora Simon, Paul Shepard and new member Signia Warner looking expectant at Ed Golden's seminar on playwright Arthur Miller.



Emily Hurn, Penny Johnson, and Judy Camyre, members of the DH. Lawrence seminar, listen to a discussion of *The Rainbow*.

published by:  
Five College Learning in Retirement  
9 Mason Hall, Smith College  
Northampton, MA 01063

**5CLIR Officers**

President: Larry Ambs  
Vice-President: Joan Wofford  
Past-President: Sara Wright  
Secretary: Dorothy Rosenthal  
Treasurer: Sandy Muspratt  
Assistant Treasurer: Dave Cramer

***5CLIR REPORTER***

Editor:

Callie Kendall Orszak

Five College Learning in Retirement  
Smith College, Mason Hall, Room 9  
Northampton, MA 01063

413 585-3756 [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org)  
email: [5clir@smith.edu](mailto:5clir@smith.edu)