

5CLIR

# REPORTER



August 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 6

## AUGUST CALENDAR

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

### AUGUST

**Thur 4 - Special Program: Viewpoints** with Hy Edelstein, 12:30–2:00 p.m., Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Dr, Florence. Drop in and join the discussion **Contact:** Hy Edelstein

**Thur 4 - NO Curriculum Committee meeting**

**Fri 5, 12, 19, 26 - Special Program: French conversation**, 1:30–3:30, at Applewood.  
**Contact:** Judith Pool

**Thur 11 - Council meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst

**Sat 13 - Summer Program: Tanglewood trip.** **Contact:** Carol Jolly

**Tue 16 - Summer Program: Ford Hall tour, Smith College.** **Contact:** Anne Lombard

*For other **Special Programs** and **Summer Programs** contacts, and more details of these and other programs, please consult both the **Special Programs** and **Summer** catalogs, available on our website [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) .*

**Our All-LIR Potluck Picnic is on Tuesday, September 13th  
(rain date the 14th)**

**Fall Semester begins on Monday, September 19th**

**The deadline for submitting seminar proposals is 29 October  
(but please submit before then if you can!)**

You will hear from your new president, Joan Wofford, next month!

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## **GOT IDEAS?...** **...for a SEMINAR or WORKSHOP for SPRING 2012?**

The Curriculum Committee is looking for 24-25 proposals for seminars and workshops for Spring Semester 2012.

- If you have an idea you would like to consider, you can call or write the Co-Chairs and they will take time to discuss your idea with you.
- If you are looking for a topic you might want to develop, look at the List of Past Seminars under RESOURCES on the 5CLIR website, [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org), to see what similar topics have or have not been developed and moderated in the past.
- If you know what you might like to propose, and you haven't moderated a seminar before, you will find the MODERATORS' MANUAL very helpful in planning your seminar. It is available on the website: [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) under RESOURCES.
- If you have a seminar in mind, you can go directly to the PROPOSAL form on [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) under FORMS when you are ready.

TRADITIONAL SEMINARS will begin in mid-February 2012 for as many as ten weeks.

SNOWBIRD SEMINARS will begin in March and run into April for up to eight weeks. The number of weeks will depend on the amount of material to cover, the number of participants, and the moderator's personal schedule.

Seminars offered since 1989 are now available for all members to peruse. Please take a look at the list under "RESOURCES" at [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) You will be surprised!

Curriculum Committee Co-Chairs:  
Mary Franks  
Sandy Campbell

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Note from the Editor: Your new directory of 5CLIR members will be sent out in September, shortly before the semester begins. - Callie

# WORRIED about your seminar presentation?

## Help is at hand!

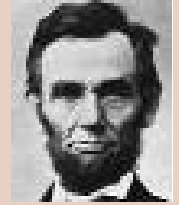
Here are some suggestions for alternative activities to the “usual” report or “standard presentation”:

- Paint a picture related to a topic and use it as a basis for discussion
- Present works of art, or photographs on the topic
- Supplement a presentation with a video and/or an audio clip
- Conduct an interview as part of oral history
- Stage a debate with another person representing an opposing viewpoint
- Arrange for a field trip for the group
- Role play or dramatize a situation on a topic
- Prepare a case study

Presenters should discuss their ideas with the moderator before offering an alternative presentation!

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## From the Civil War Symposium Steering Committee...



WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR. While most of the emphasis in our Civil War histories is placed on the role of men – from the President to the Generals and their troops – this event marked a turning point for women in both North and South. A few women have earned recognition for their contributions and achievements: Harriet Tubman and her active role in helping dozens of slaves escape via the Underground Railroad; Sojourner Truth, whose speeches and writings promoted both abolition and women’s rights; Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose Uncle Tom’s Cabin drew international attention to the horrors of slavery; and Clara Barton, whose experiences as a nurse led to her later founding of the American Red Cross. But female participation far exceeded this small group and the contributions made by women changed their place in society during and after the War.

In the antebellum south, it was considered unfeminine to show a deep interest in masculine concerns or do any physical work. But the crises arising from being left behind as men and boys went off to fight drastically changed this attitude. At first, women formed relief committees to sew clothes for the troops and held benefits to raise money for the war effort. But as the war continued and slaves departed their white owners, women were forced to learn household chores and field work. Many women from well-connected families went to work as clerks for the Confederate Treasury (where each banknote had to be individually signed); women with less influential backgrounds packed cartridges at arsenals. Women by the thousands served as nurses, whether paid or as volunteers, and those who were especially capable became hospital matrons.

Thousands of Northern women also served as nurses, with Dorothea Dix and Louisa May Alcott among the more famous. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, the second woman to graduate from an American medical school, served as a volunteer assistant surgeon at a Washington hospital during the War. After its end, President Johnson awarded her the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service; unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, Congress rescinded that honor in 1917 when it changed the eligibility criteria for the award.

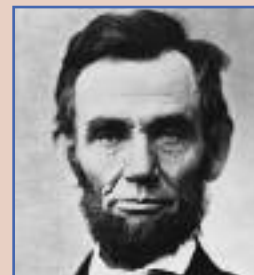
Perhaps the greatest untold tales involve the many women who fought as soldiers during the 4 years of the War. Estimates vary widely, but some believe that as many as 750 women on both sides disguised themselves and fought for longer or shorter stints on numerous battlefields. Some were quickly dismissed when their true identities were discovered, but others stayed on for years. Although newspapers often reported on these women when they returned home or later died, and that many of them published memoirs of their service, as late as 1909 the U.S. Army was contending that “no official record has been found in the War Department showing that any woman was ever enlisted in the military service of the United States as a member of any organization of the Regular or Volunteer Army at any time during the period of the Civil War.”

Yet the service of these soldiers – and of the spies, nurses, and munitions makers as well – showed them as trailblazers and revolutionaries, individuals who refused to stay in their socially mandated place. For many women of the North and South, their experience during the war was a liberating opportunity. Southern nurse Rebecca Latimer Felton avowed “Nobody chided me then as unwomanly when I went into a crowd and waited on suffering men. No one said I was unladylike to climb into cattle cars and box cars to feed those who could not feed themselves.” To a great extent, such experiences fed the burgeoning suffrage movement that gathered steam in the years immediately following the War.



-- Carol Jolly, member, 5CLIR Steering Committee

## More from the Civil War Symposium Steering Committee...



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

- We have engaged Lois Brown, Professor of English at Mount Holyoke with specialization in American literature, African American literature and culture, New England literary culture and history, poetry, memoir and biography, and women's writing. This is the last piece of our "puzzle" and fills out an outstanding array of participants, including—re the above article—five women (out of thirteen), somewhat unusual for a Civil War conference!
- We are now engaged in figuring out how to promote the symposium and will be getting help from Five Colleges, Inc.'s Director of Communications. Their graphic designer will be creating a poster/flier for our final campaign. We have been in touch with the newly created (by Governor Patrick) Massachusetts Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission's Chairman, who has promised support. In many other ways we are spreading the word, but, of course, welcome help and advice from all 5CLIR members.
- **Finally, A REQUEST FOR HELP:**  
We will need some help beyond our 14-person Steering Committee for the event. On Saturday, October 15, we will need hosts, guides, doorkeepers and scribes. Hosts and guides will be generally available to answer questions, help get speakers in the right places and show the public how pleasant we are (!). For the small group sessions (morning and afternoon) we want to have a scribe in the room (who will also be that speaker's guide) to take a few notes and be generally helpful to the speaker. We may need doorkeepers if it turns out we have a larger crowd than we anticipate.

**We can take help for the morning and/or the afternoon. If you are willing to help please let Chuck Gillies know as soon as possible.**

-- Chuck Gillies, Project Director, 5CLIR CW Symposium

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Articles and pictures should be emailed to the Editor: Callie Kendall Orszak.

## LIR Travel Interest Group Invites You to Share your Travel Photos and Experiences

5CLIR's popular Travel Interest Group invites you and all other LIR travelers to share your photos and experiences with us. There are many members who would love to see and hear about your trips, enjoying them vicariously with you. We are particularly hoping that LIR members who have not yet made a presentation to the Travel Interest Group in past years might do so this year (although we do, of course, welcome any of you who would like to return to tell us about more of your travels).

If you are interested in scheduling a date to show your photos and tell us about them at one of the following open dates, please contact me (Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chair of the Travel Interest Group) as soon as possible. The Travel Interest sessions will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, September 22

Thursday, October 27

Thursday, December 1 (yes, we know this isn't the fourth Thursday of November – that's Thanksgiving!)

Thursday, February 23

Thursday, March 22

Thursday, April 26

You don't need to be concerned about how to manage the showing of your photos. Joan Wofford (along with her many other 5CLIR duties) is the Co-Chairperson of the Travel Interest sessions. She is an expert at helping all the presenters with the coordination of their laptop computers, and/or putting slides on disks, or however you and she agree to do it. Best of all, she will help you use the excellent audio-visual equipment available in the Community Room at the Lathrop-Northampton Retirement Community off Bridge Road in Northampton, where we hold our sessions.

The 5CLIR Travel Interest Group meets the FOURTH THURSDAY afternoon of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There are usually two speakers, each doing a 50-minute presentation with a 15–20 minute refreshment break from 2:50 to 3:10 p.m.

We thank Joan Wofford, a resident at Lathrop, for arranging this venue, which offers a great room that greatly enhances the quality of everyone's photos, and has fine projection equipment. Joan will offer technical help to all presenters who contact her in advance of their presentations, at 584-1330 or [joan@joanwofford.com](mailto:joan@joanwofford.com). NOTE: Since these facilities make it possible to show slides or movies through a variety of different formats and projection systems, it is particularly important for all presenters to contact Joan in ample time to work out the technical aspects of their presentation with her.

Looking forward to hearing about your travels and seeing your photos,

Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chairperson  
5CLIR Travel Interest Group

## **A Note of Thanks from WFCR/WNNZ**

**"Thank you 5 College Learning in Retirement Volunteers!**

**With your group's help, we made our goal capping off an eventful fiscal year here at New England Public Radio.**

**Even in the midst of an unexpected loss and tumultuous weather last month, your support and presence at the station during the June Fund drive, helped WFCR/WNNZ manage to go over the goal by more than \$6,000.**

**We cannot thank you enough. We look forward to seeing you again at our next drive, in the fall.**

**Take care,  
Angela Bower"**

**Please contact Joan Wofford if you would like to volunteer for the next fund drive at the New England Public Radio station WFCR/WNNZ.**

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### **Our Cupboard Full of Audio/Visual Equipment...**

**.....is filled with goodies all ready for you to reserve for your seminar presentation. The projectors (various kinds), screens, easel with large pads of paper, and slide carousel are kept at the 5CLIR office during the break between semesters. Usually members pass the equipment on to the next person who will be using it, unless no one else has booked it, in which case it must be brought back to the office.**

**To reserve a projector (or other equipment), contact Jim Perot, who will be keeping track of who has, or wants, what, and when.**

## "Planning Your Financial Future" Session Scheduled in September

Mark your calendar for the morning of September 23, when the Special Programs Committee will be offering a session on financial and estate planning.

Titled "Planning Your Financial Future: How Recent Developments and Prospective Changes May Affect You," the event will feature a panel of knowledgeable speakers and plenty of time for questions and answers. It will be held at the Hadley Senior Community Center from 9:30 to noon.

5CLIR members Sandy and Betsy Belden have generously offered to help organize and moderate the program, which will feature three specialists: one on financial planning, one on estate planning, and one on planning for philanthropic giving. We will be advertising this event to the general public, so feel free to invite friends and family to join you.

Ina Luadtke and Carol Jolly are working with Sandy and Betsy to arrange the event. Feel free to contact either of them if you have any questions in advance.

The Hadley Senior Community Center is located at 46 Middle Street (Route 47) in Hadley.

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## PICTURES from the 5CLIR HUDSON RIVER VALLEY Trip Photographs by Marybeth Bridegam, Organizer Extraordinaire



In the Kykuit Gardens

**Eva Sartori and Marilyn Dahl lead the way through the portico at Kykuit, the Rockefeller mansion, followed by Elsie Bandman and other 5CLIR members**



**The gardens at Kykuit**



Sculpture in one of the many garden “rooms” at Kykuit



Sculpture at Storm King by Alexander Calder



Featured sculpture by Louise Nevelson at the visitor center grounds at Storm King Art Center



**Jungle gym or hands-on art? 5CLIR members explore a sculpture by Isamu Noguchi at the Storm King Art Center...**



**...and admire another artwork in a more conventional manner**



“Waves” at Storm King, by Maya Lin...best known for designing the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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## **Have You Forgotten?**

### **Our Community Book Read**

***The Fiery Trial - Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* by Eric Foner**

**Be part of the discussion groups in the fall.**

**Join in one after the potluck lunch in September.**

**Soon the local libraries will have a number of copies for us.**

**Eric Foner is our keynote speaker for the Civil War Symposium**

**contact Sara Wright for more information**

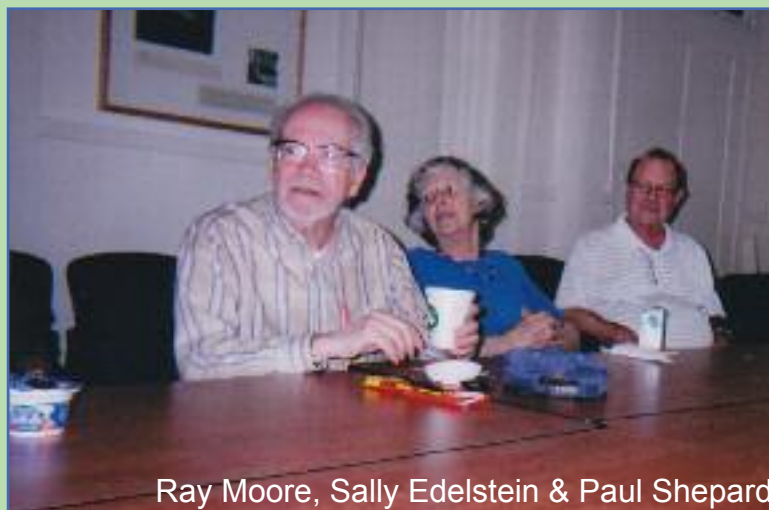
**The 5CLIR “Viewpoints” discussion group, led by Hy Edelstein,** is a perennial favorite Special Program and runs all year long. It is held the first Thursday of every month at Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence.

No need to register, just go along and join in! **Gloria Ayvazian** has kindly sent in some photos.

Hy himself



Rich Hamilton



Ray Moore, Sally Edelstein & Paul Shepard

Howard Parad and Chuck Gillies



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**5CLIR Officers**

**President:** Joan Wofford  
**Vice-President:** Jim Harvey  
**Past-President:** Larry Ambs  
**Secretary:** Ellen Peck  
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**5CLIR REPORTER**

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