

# 5CLIR REPORTER



FEBRUARY 2010 Volume XXIII, Number 2

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**Wed 3rd - Zeffirelli's *Tosca*** with Peg Bedell. Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop, 12:30–4:00 p.m. See January Programs booklet for more information.

**Thurs 4th - Viewpoints** with Hy Edelstein. **NOTICE CHANGE OF VENUE**  
We will meet this month at The Jewish Community Center of Amherst, 742 Main St., Amherst 12:30–2:00 p.m. **Contact:** Hy Edelstein @ 584-3060

**Thurs 4th - Curriculum Committee meeting** Five Colleges Incorporated, Amherst, 2:30–4:30 p.m.

**Fri 5th - Opera Prep** (part of the series) *Simon Boccanegra* with Peg Bedell. Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

**Week of February 8th - 12th** Spring semester seminars begin

**Thurs 11th - Council meeting**, Five Colleges Incorporated, Amherst, 2:30–4:30 p.m.

**Thurs 11th - Wisdom Seekers' Circle**, 35 New South Street, Northampton, 1:30–3:30 p.m.  
**Contact:** Susan Gerstle @ 341-3519 (*No openings at present*)

**Fri 12th, 19th, 26th - Conversational Italian** with Dean Poli and Zina Tillona, Newman Catholic Center, 472 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, 9:30–11:30 a.m. **Contact** Dean@ 253-3845 or [poli@ecs.umass.edu](mailto:poli@ecs.umass.edu)

**Thurs 18th & 25th - Emily Dickinson Study Group** with Lise Armstrong, 56 Amity Place, Amherst 12:30–2:00 p.m. **Contact:** Lise Armstrong 549-9171 to sign up for one or more sessions.

**Thurs 18th - Travel Interest Group:** *Morocco* with Joan Davis & *England: The Cotswolds & Midlands* with Paul Berman. Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence 2:00–4:00 p.m. **Contacts:** Marybeth Bridegam 253-9562 or John Gaustad 584-9255

**Fri 19th, 26th - French Conversation** with Judith Pool, Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence (*Feb 19th*); Room 208, Amherst College Campus Center (*Feb 26th*) 1:30–3:30 p.m. **Contact:** Judith Pool @ 586-2190 (*No openings at present*)

**Thurs 25th - Arts Interest Group:** *Artists' Books Collection*, Frost Library, Amherst College 2:00–4:00 p.m. **Contacts:** Betsy Siersma @ 584-7053 or Suzannah Fabing @ 256-6812  
See inside for details.

## Letter from the President of 5CLIR

I hope everyone has had an excellent holiday. We are so lucky to be living in this five college area. I attended the session at the Sophia Smith Archives at Smith College and it is truly amazing. I plan to take my 17- year-old granddaughter some Wednesday when they are open until 9:00 P.M. If you haven't been there, put it on your list of places to visit. The presentation by the Sunset Farm was an inspiration. This local nonprofit farm is run by a couple, both over 70. We, their patrons, are the ones who profit, as well as the many volunteers who just enjoy working there; one man in his nineties works every day on the farm.



The luncheon was delightful; we were able to see and chat with friends while deciding what we would bid on at the silent auction. I hope we do this every year and that everyone will choose to join us. Because Bobbie Reitt was willing to reschedule the book discussion in January, I was able to participate in Our Community Book Read; I can't wait to find out what book will be selected for next year. If you have not taken a computer workshop, and if you need to know more about the computer, sign up next time. Margaret and Sandy focused on skills for the beginner; just ask and I am sure they will offer it again. This year we remembered 16 at our memorial; I have noticed that often it is not until we remember someone at the memorial that we learn about their impressive previous life. It was heartwarming, thanks to Leo and everyone who shared their remembrances.

Your Council and committee chairs took a day out of their winter vacation to focus on issues that need to be resolved in the coming year. We discussed how to handle our deficit budget, how to attract new members, and how to encourage members to volunteer. I will inform you of any action that the Council takes. Any ideas? Contact me before the February Council meeting on the 11th.

Parking tickets, complaints, requests and all contact with staff of the individual colleges must be dealt with through Callie at the office. Otherwise it becomes confusing, and the results are often not to our best advantage. Callie will act as your advocate; she knows everyone, and they are all enchanted with her. We are fortunate to be under the Five Colleges, Incorporated umbrella; we receive many benefits from this connection, and we want it to continue; I am sure you do not want to be the one who upsets this arrangement.

However, if you have questions about a certain program, activity, or committee, please call the committee chair or the program facilitator rather than the office. It will be their responsibility to contact whoever can resolve the issue for you.

I hope that you enjoy all the 5CLIR programs and seminars that you attend this semester. Feel free to tell us about them in the newsletter, and remember everyone loves to see pictures of LIR activities.

Have a good semester

Sara



**THE SPIRIT OF LIR:** Our very own Joan Wofford in Mali, with her usual enthusiasm, doing research for her seminar "From Here to Timbuctu."

photo courtesy of Joan Davis

**A New Endeavor...** This is our first electronic newsletter, and a taste of things to come. Because it is the first issue, and because I am using (and learning!) a newer version of the software program that I have previously used to produce the newsletter (plus learning new color tricks - how do I make green?), it is a little less refined than I would like.

From time to time I will ask you for input - do you prefer colored backgrounds or do they make the text harder to read, what colors work best for you, what type faces, and so on. I think it will be great fun, and I look forward to getting your feedback. The paper version is on its way, but this will give you information in a more timely way. -- Editor

The *5CLIR Reporter* is published by Five College Learning in Retirement, Room 9, Mason Hall, Smith College, MA 01063. Editor: Callie Kendall Orszak.

## Silent Auction Adds Fun to January Lunch, Funds to the Treasury

Our first annual fund-raising event on January 12 raised over \$1500. The organizer, Lise Armstrong, wishes to thank the many bidders who participated. The donors, Paul Berman, Alex Chajes, Marilyn Dahl, Sylvi Favoloro, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Gail Gaustad, Dorothy Gorra, Carol Jolly, Joan Laird and Ann Hartman, Sally Popper, Janet Price, Robert Romer, Leo Sartori and George Snook, contributed a variety of goods and services which were colorful, entertaining, useful and decorative. Their generosity is especially appreciated.

--Lise Armstrong



All photographs courtesy of Julie Gerstman.

## Zeffirelli's *Tosca*, Metropolitan Opera

On February 3 (Wednesday), Peg Bedell will present director Franco Zeffirelli's fabulous 1985 production of *Tosca*, on tape, to complement the HDTV showing of the new, starker version of the opera that we saw last fall on the big screen.

**Place:** Easthampton Lathrop, in the Mt. Tom room where Peg has been giving 5CLIR pre-opera workshops for the current HDTV Metropolitan Opera series.

**Time:** The room will be open at noon, and Peg will start her presentation at 12:30. There will be two ten minute intermissions, and will finish at 4:00.

**Refreshments:** Coffee and tea will be available at no charge in the little café on the first floor. Soup and sandwiches may be purchased in cash (pay Theresa, the café manager). The supply may well be limited, and as we have no way of knowing how many of 5CLIR's people will show up, we recommend that you bring your own lunch, drinks, refreshments, or whatever you care to eat or drink during the afternoon.

**Note from Peg:** *Tosca*: Franco Zeffirelli production at the Met, March 1985. Conductor, Giuseppe Sinopoli; Cavaradossi, Placido Domingo; Tosca, Hildegard Behrens; Scarpia, Cornell MacNeil; Angelotti, James Courtney; Sacristan, Italo Tajo. *127 minutes.*

## All-LIR Luncheon at Amherst College

The January 12 5CLIR luncheon at Amherst College's Lewis Sebring Dining room was really special. More than 80 members attended, including four new members, and everybody seemed to have a very good time, catching up with friends and browsing through the silent auction. Sebring is a beautiful setting convenient to get to, just a short walk from the Amherst Alumni House parking lot; it was a beautiful day, and the two rooms we used were bright and sunny.

The food was excellent: chicken marsala, green salad, orange vegetables, and hot rolls, served buffet style, with an elegant dessert and coffee served at the tables. With dessert we watched the new Amherst Community Television video about 5CLIR's many activities.

The tables of eight were enhanced with green and white centerpieces made by Sheila Klem and Sara Wright, while the fancy place cards accented with Amherst College's signature purple were created by Syma Meyer and Kathy Hazen.

Lise Armstrong and Gail Gaustad put together a very attractive collection for the silent auction, which featured beautifully arranged items ranging from art and artifacts to a vacation home rental. Donated by many generous LIR members, these items generated interest and enthusiastic bids, which raised some much-needed cash for LIR.

The luncheon was arranged by the Membership Committee, co-chaired by Kathy Hazen and Sheila Klem, including: Janet Smith, Frieda Howards, Ellen Peck, Diane Gahres, Eleanor Shattuck, Syma Meyer. If you sign up to volunteer on the committee with us, you too can share in making events like the January 12 lunch happen!

-- Kathy Hazen



All photographs courtesy of Julie Gerstman.

All this talk of luncheon has whipped up my appetite...so I will share with you Dorothy Gorra's recipe for shortbread, which is much in demand. Here it is:

### Dorothy Gorra's Shortbread

1 lb butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 egg yolk  
½ cup rice flour  
3 ½ cup flour

Cream butter and sugar; add egg yolk  
Mix rice flour and ½ cup regular flour; gradually mix in the rest of the flour  
Mix flours and creamed mixture  
Pat into a 9 x 13 metal pan; pierce all over with a fork  
Bake at 300° F for 70 minutes (60 minutes in a darker pan)  
Cut while warm and try not to eat too many end and corner pieces—  
they're even more delicious when still warm

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Our spring trip will be to the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton. This museum's collection of about 370 Russian icons is the largest of its kind in North America and is one of the largest private collections outside of Russia. It spans six centuries and includes important historical icons dating from the earliest periods of icon painting up to the present. The building is handicap-accessible and has an elevator as the main gallery is on the third floor.

### Saturday, April 24

9:15 a.m. Leave Big Y parking lot in Amherst  
9:45 a.m. Leave Bridge Street (Sheldon Field) parking lot in Northampton  
10:30 a.m. Arrive at the Museum of Russian Icons  
Guided tour, then time to browse and visit the gift shop  
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Old Timers restaurant (on your own)  
Old-fashioned hamburgers and sandwiches

Times will be adjusted if a special program is offered.

Return to Northampton and Amherst in the afternoon.

**Price:** \$35.00 payable to Five Colleges, Inc.  
Send to the LIR Office by Friday, March 19 (includes bus, gratuity, admission, and tour).

**Note:** Open to LIR membership plus one guest per member (possibly more if space permits).

**Contact person:** Doris Holden (413-253-5993) or [drh@external.umass.edu](mailto:drh@external.umass.edu)

The Arts Interest Group has invited **Sandra Lillydahl, a teacher of icon writing**, as their speaker at Grace Church, Amherst, on Thursday, April 22, from 2–4 p.m. More on this in the April newsletter.

## Artists' Books at Amherst College

On Thursday, February 25th, the Arts Interest Group will visit the "Artist's Book Collection" at Amherst College's Frost Library under the guidance of Michael Kasper, Reference and Collections Development Coordinator.

Artist's books are works of art realized in the form of a book. They are often published in small editions, though sometimes they are one-of-a-kind. Artists have been active in book production for centuries but the artist's book is primarily a late 20th-century form. The Amherst College Artist's Book Collection specializes in multiples, i.e. books issued in small editions, for the most part employing low-cost and low-tech reproduction technologies and tending to privilege content over form, distinct from book-works-as-craft that focuses on book structures, materials or fine printing.

Kasper, who is also an artist whose medium is artist's books, developed and assembled the Collection at the Frost, which is, uniquely, housed in the stacks for all to peruse. We will learn about the artist's book as an art form, see and handle examples first hand, and learn about how the Collection came about and has grown to include hundreds of books.

**Please email Betsy Siersma by February 19th to sign up – [siersma@acad.umass.edu](mailto:siersma@acad.umass.edu).** Parking at Amherst College is scarce, so I suggest you park at the meters between the Common and the Lord Jeff. Carpooling is always a good idea.



*Saint Ghetto of the Loans* is a reissue of a legendary but little seen masterpiece of French book art from 1950 by the Letterist Gabriel Pomerand. It was first published in France as *Saint Ghetto des Prets, Grimoire* by O.L.B. Editions in 1950.

This reissue and translation was published by Ugly Duckling Press in 2006. The translation is by Michael Kasper and Bhamati Viswanathan.

-- photo courtesy of Betsy Siersma

Please send in your photographs of seminars, special programs, January programs, LIR events like the auction, luncheon, Preview, and trips that are arranged through LIR to complement seminars. You will be getting color pictures of LIR activities and that should be a great incentive!

-- Callie

## January/Summer Program Committee

The committee arranged an interesting variety of programs for this January – from museums to a musical play to state legislation to environmental and social issues and the very popular tour of Ford Hall, the new engineering building at Smith College. We are sorry that not everyone was able to have a place for the tour, but we hope to repeat it next January.

We will be meeting soon to begin planning for the Summer programs and welcome suggestions from you all. You can contact present committee members with your ideas. They are: Anne Lombard and Dorothy Gorra (Co-Chairs): Larry Ambs (Ex-officio), Carol Jolly, Robert First, Laura Cranshaw, Honoré David, Katherine Hazen, Pat Goldsher, Christopher Hurn, Marybeth Bridegam.

When you register for the fall semester you will see a place to indicate your interest in serving on one or more committees. We hope that this committee will be of interest to you.

## From Autobiographical Seminar to Published Book

I met Jean and Harley Unger at an Encore Presentation, my first LIR function. After the lecture I was lost in the middle of the Amherst College campus and had no idea where to find my car. I confided my predicament to Jean and Harley, and they just took me on a tour of parking lots till I spotted my car. Now, many years later, much to my surprise, I have become Jean Unger's literary agent.

After Jean died, her son, Harley, published her autobiography. The book is her autobiography, and is accompanied by some small photographs of her paintings, and a CD of her paintings. As Harley has published the book himself, he would like to defray some of the cost (\$37 per book) by offering some copies for sale. He will accept \$25.

The books are about the size of a Time-Life book; there are 179 pages in a red hard cover and there are six small pictures inserted at the top of some chapters. Five are Jean's paintings and one is a family photo. The text is somewhat chronological, but it is organized in 26 chapters by topics such as: her childhood home, pets, school days, music, art school, her mother, her father, her siblings, marriage, places they lived, Paris, politics and so on. I enjoyed reading it. It may not be great literature, but it is well written and an example to all of us of what you can do when you participate in the LIR Autobiographical Writing seminar.

Jean's paintings can be viewed at <http://www.nickrusso.com/harley/>

-- June Guild



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*left:* Diane Liebert has fun working on her exciting op-art piece while Don Maiocco (*right*) adds some finishing touches in the “Art for Fun and Framing” workshop given by Sylvia Favaloro.

Photos by Sylvia Favaloro

## Proposals Please

Yes, even though Spring Semester is nearly underway, it's time to think about submitting proposals for Fall 2010 seminars. [The deadline for proposal submissions is February 23.](#) The Curriculum Committee already has several interesting proposals as well as promises from other potential moderators, but we need additional seminars to fill out our offerings for Fall.

Please contact Joan Laird (549-7860) or Bev von Kries (367-2467) if you have any questions or if you want to let us know that we'll be receiving a proposal from you soon.

The proposal form can be found on the 5CLIR website in the Catalogs & Programs section; alternatively, Callie can email you a form from the office or give you a paper copy. Please submit your proposals electronically if at all possible. [The proposal should be sent to Joan, Bev and Callie.](#)

[joan.laird@charter.net](mailto:joan.laird@charter.net) [bvk@crocker.com](mailto:bvk@crocker.com) [ckorszak@smith.edu](mailto:ckorszak@smith.edu)

Joan Laird and Bev von Kries, Co-Chairs, Curriculum Committee

## THE EVOLUTION OF EVOLUTION

2009 marked the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of the Species*. 5CLIR celebrated this important event by offering consecutive seminars on Darwin and evolutionary thought. The first, led by Dorothy Rosenthal and Jim Scott, focused primarily on Darwin's contributions. The second, offered in fall 2009 and moderated by Dottie Rosenthal, Anne Lombard, and Clifford Matthews, was titled "The Evolution of Evolution" and explored the major developments, discoveries, and controversies in the thinking about evolution since the 1980s. A very lively and rich seminar, it was exciting and challenging for non-scientists like me, since the last time I studied biology was in my freshman year in college.

We gathered at the Audubon Society, a very appropriate venue, as we explored the discoveries, changes, and controversies in thinking about evolution that have developed out of continued study and exploration and particularly out of the new kind and depth of knowledge that has been made available through new tools and new technology. These new tools allow us to see smaller things than we knew existed which, in turn, has taught us that cells are much more complex than we knew. There are more possibilities for change than we ever imagined.

At the same time, the mapping of the human genome and that of some of our close relatives has opened up new possibilities, not only for identifying our roots but also for mapping human routes as the world was populated.

We also were introduced to some of the scientists who are laboring in this area. For example, we learned about the Grants, who have been observing Darwin's finches for 20 generations and have discovered that change is not necessarily slow and gradual, as Darwin thought, but can be rapid and stochastic. And we learned about University of Massachusetts microbiologist Lynn Margulis, who shocked her fellow scientists by proposing that cells change, not just through mutation, but through symbiotic relations with bacteria.

At the end of the term, we turned to philosophy and religion, discussing the evolutionist–creationist conflict as well as various efforts at solution and/or compromise. The seminar was lively, fun, and jam-packed with an enormous amount of fascinating information. I'm so glad I took the plunge into unknown waters!

-- Ann Hartman

## **“Contentment in this World”**

Nina Scott read the following sonnet at the LIR Memorial Program on January 7th, and since many people have asked for it, I have included it here. The French version (which follows) hung for years in Charlotte and King Turgeon’s front hall. Nina was remembering Charlotte at the service.

### **“Contentment in this World” by Christophe Plantin, 16th century Translated by Robert Finch**

To have a well planned, clean and lovely dwelling,  
A garden in espaliered sweet array,  
Fruits, excellent wine, a few children, no display,  
And to possess a spouse beyond all telling,

To have no debts, love affair, lawsuit, fight,  
No family bickering over one’s estate,  
Content with little, careless of the great,  
Establishing one’s plans on what is right,

To live with naught to hide, without ambition,  
To give oneself undoubting to devotion.  
To conquer passions, making them obey,

To keep free spirited, to mean one’s yea or nay,  
To say one’s prayers while helping harvests come  
Is gently to await one’s death at home.

*And the original French:*

### **Le Bonheur de ce Monde**

Avoir une maison commode, propre & belle,  
Un jardin tapissé d’espaliers odorans,  
Des fruits, d’excellent vin, peu de train, peu d’enfans,  
Posséder seul sans bruit une femme fidèle.

N’avoir dettes, amour, ni procès, ni querelle,  
Ni de partage à faire avecque ses parens,  
Se contenter de peu, n’espérer rien des Grands,  
Régler tous ses dessins sur un juste modèle.

Vivre avec franchise & sans ambition,  
S’adonner sans scruple à la dévotion,  
Dompter ses passions, les rendre obéissantes.

Conserver l’esprit libre, & le jugement fort,  
Dire son Chapelet en cultivant ses entes,  
Cést attendre chez soi bien doucement la mort.

# Luncheon/Auction PICTURE GALLERY...

three photographs by Julie Gerstman



...and one from Cosimo Favaloro: Katy van Geel and Callie checking on facial structure in "The Foundation of Portrait Drawing" seminar given by Cosimo.



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

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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)