



February 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 1

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

Thur 10 - Council meeting, 12:30-2:20, UMass Transit Facility, Commonwealth Avenue, UMass

Mon 14 - Sharpen your pencils as well as Cupid's arrow: Seminars begin on Valentine's Day

Fri 11 - Special Program: Opera Prep by Peggy Bedell, for Adams: *Nixon in China*, 1:30–2:30, The Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Peggy Bedell **No** registration!

Thu 17 - NEW Special Program: Science Roundtable, 2:00-3:30, Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Dottie Rosenthal or John Armstrong (see page 3)

Thu 17 - Special Program: Arts Interest Group, 2:00-4:00, **A Visit with Kuhn Riddle Architects**
Contact: Betsy Siersma (see page 4) **Pre-registration essential.**

Fri 18, 25 - 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 18, 25 - Special Program: French conversation, 1:30–3:30, Applewood, One Spencer Drive, Amherst. **Contact:** Judith Pool

Thu 24 - Special Program: Travel Interest Group, 2:00-4:00, **Naomi Yanis in South Africa**, 2:00-4:00, Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Marybeth Bridegam or Joan Wofford. **No** registration! **See green Special Programs booklet for details.** (see page 5)

Fri 25 - Special Program: Encore Presentation: Life: Characters and Writers Invited, Ina Luadtke, Kathleen Walker, Betsy Loughran, David Yaukey, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Applewood (One Spencer Drive, Amherst) **Contact:** Chris Hurn. (see page 3)

Fri 25 - Special Program: Opera Prep by Peggy Bedell, for Gluck: *Iphigénie en Tauride*, 1:30–2:30, Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Peggy Bedell **No** registration!

MARCH

Thurs 3 - Special Program: Viewpoints with Hy Edelstein, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Highland Valley

Fri 4, 11, 18, 25 - 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 4, 11, 18, 25 - Special Program: French conversation, 1:30–3:30, Applewood, One Spencer Drive, Amherst. **Contact:** Judith Pool

Other Special Programs (details in Special Programs booklet)

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

The new semester offerings are about to begin, for those of us that are enduring our remarkable Massachusetts winter. My snow blower and roof rake have been my constant companions. The snow did have a significant impact on our January Program. The Memorial Program was well attended during a period before the heavy snows fell. But then, we were required to cancel or postpone a number of events. For those of you with a good memory you may be able to tell the rest of us when we have previously had as many problems with the weather during our January session.



As the semester begins in less than two weeks, you should be well into preparing for your seminar(s). I have been active this January researching the Ku Klux Klan of the early 20th century, along with some work in preparing a *Procedures and Operation Manual* for 5CLIR.

During the rest of the spring semester we have scheduled a series of five Encore and Special Presentations for Friday mornings, beginning at the end of February. And then in April the annual Great Decisions Program will begin. You will be receiving a list of scheduled GD dates and speakers in the near future.

Finally, please respond to the Membership Committee requests relative to the Spring Brunch.

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

Larry

Editor's note:

The deadline for the March newsletter will be Friday, February 18th.

Science Roundtable

SCIENCE INTEREST GROUP - A NEW SPECIAL PROGRAM

The Special Programs Committee has approved a new interest group called Science Roundtable that will focus on current topics in science. According to co-facilitators Dottie Rosenthal and John Armstrong, participants will bring news items about science to the group for discussion. Science Roundtable is open to all who are interested, regardless of whether they have a scientific background.

The first meeting of the Roundtable will take place on Thursday, February 17 in the Meeting House at the Lathrop Community in Northampton from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. At that time we will discuss the format of subsequent meetings as well as recent news in science.

If you plan to attend, please contact one of the facilitators:

John Armstrong or
Dottie Rosenthal

by February 10 so we can contact you with additional information.

Friday, February 25th Encore Presentation

"Discovering Character through Storytelling and Writing"

"Discovering Character through Storytelling and Writing," a creative seminar design by the late Joan Hastings, has offered many LIR members the opportunity to do something very different in a seminar.

Ina Luadtke, Hazel Adolphson and Betsy Loughran have moderated recent iterations of the model. You have an opportunity to enjoy a demonstration of this autumn morning fun in the retelling of a tale "My Political Life" by Kathleen Walker.

As a further tribute to Joan's creativity in the seminar design, David Yaukey, Ramona Stylos, and Betsy Loughran will share written responses to Kathleen's story. Join us on February 25th at Applewood in Amherst at 11:00 a.m.

A Visit with Kuhn Riddle Architects

The Arts Interest Group meets 2:00–4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 17, to explore what architects do, and how the production of architectural work has changed over past decades. Chris Riddle and John Kuhn, founding partners, partners Chuck Roberts and Jonathan Salvon, and architect Aelan Tierney will tell us the history of their new offices from its early days as Paige’s Livery to its recent renovation. We will hear about the five phases of architectural work and all that they entail. We will also be introduced to Computer Aided Design & Drafting (“CADD”), and the 3-D modeling software Building Information Modeling (“BIM”). We have been promised a demonstration of how the 3-D software works.

We will be introduced to several impressive examples of their current and recent projects: Olympia Oaks in Amherst -- an affordable, energy-efficient housing development; and Hawks Meadow, Hadley, including the designs of the prototype houses and a development plan for this small private single-family development. The ‘Meadow House’ design recently received the prestigious Western Massachusetts AIA honor award. The projects we will see range from a treatment facility for injured veterans; plans for a new building for Kate Atkinson’s primary care practice in Amherst; and the Habitat Houses on Stanley Street in Amherst, a cooperative project between Habitat for Humanity, Amherst College (who donated the land) and Kuhn Riddle, whose architectural services were provided pro-bono. The Habitat Houses are the subject of a chapter in the recently published book *The Power of Pro-Bono, 40 Stories about Design for the Public Good by Architects and their Clients*, edited by John Cary and Public Architecture.

There is room for one more person to join the Arts Interest Group for this outing, and thereafter names will be taken for a waiting list.

Please email Betsy Siersma **by Monday, February 14**. We will meet at the Kuhn Riddle offices at 28 Amity Street, Amherst. Carpooling is encouraged. A list of registered folks will be sent to you prior to the event.

The March Arts Interest Group session, 2:00–4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, will be a visit to the Smith College Museum of Art’s Cunningham Center with Aprile Gallant, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. Put it on your calendar now, and look for details in the March 5CLIR Newsletter.

Looking Ahead to March 4th Encore Presentation Bob Romer & Peter Reitt

The Scottsboro Boys (1931) and the Duke Lacrosse Case (2006)
This encore presentation is a discussion of two milestone rape cases 75 years apart, the first involving poor black Alabama teenagers and the second a group of privileged white Duke University students. In both cases the defendants were innocent of the charges. The injustice done the Scottsboro boys inspired a recent (2010) Broadway musical; the Duke Case is constantly cited in recent sexual assault cases.

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.

Contacts: Marybeth Bridegam and Joan Wofford.

On Thursday, February 24, Naomi Yanis will take us to South Africa. There will be a break in the middle of the two- hour program.

See the Special programs catalog for the remaining schedule for the semester.

BRUNCHES AHEAD!

The Membership Committee is seeking additional hosts for the April 16th 5CLIR Potluck Brunches! If you have space for 12 or so guests and the inclination to be a host, please contact Sheila Klem or Frieda Howards.

The committee met in January to prepare guest lists for each location. Hosts will invite guests and suggest a potluck dish to bring to the brunch. Our aim is to include all members of 5CLIR in this event which proved so successful two years ago.

Got ideas?.....The Curriculum Committee is looking for ideas.

At our December Curriculum Committee's meeting we brainstormed ideas for fall seminars and came up with the following list of possibilities:

The Legacy of Gandhi; The Art of Growing Older; Vital Aging; Socialism and Social Democracy in the US and Europe; Concerning Relationships (Divorce, Parenting); Contemporary Politics; The Silk Road World Religions; Photoshop Workshop; Life Under the Sea; Jung; History; War; Science; Literature; Movies....

We then agreed that you seminar-loving LIR members must have ideas we never dreamed of. How about it, do you have suggestions for these or any other topics and possible moderators?

Thanks, your opinions will be a greatly appreciated!!

Please contact Jim Scott or Mary Franks, Curriculum Committee co-chairs.

Many of you were disappointed that Sara Wolff's talk on *Vital Aging* had to be canceled. Now I have good news...

This Winter Program has been rescheduled and will be held on March 25th at 11:00 at Applewood in Amherst. Here is a little more information about it:

Can Creating Communities Improve Our Health?

Sara Wolff, the wife of 5CLIR member Michael Wolff, will talk about the support group that she led which she describes in her new book *Vital Aging: Seven Years of Building Community and Enhancing Health* (published by Levellers Press of Amherst).

Sara feels strongly that groups like the Vital Aging group have the ability to improve our health and should be widely available, especially for elders. She would like to hear other people's experience of groups, particularly 5CLIR.



published by:
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