



July CALENDAR

Most of our special programs and interest groups will meet again in September when the fall semester starts...Viewpoints and French Conversation carry on throughout the year, as does Council. There are lots of Summer Programs in July; please see your yellow *Summer Programs Catalog* for details and contacts.

July

Fri 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - French conversation with Judith Pool, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence **Contact:** Judith Pool

Thurs 8 - Viewpoints with Hy Edelstein, 12:30–2:00 p.m. Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence. **Contact:** Hy Edelstein

Thurs 8 - Summer Program: Chester Theatre performance of *Molly Sweeney*, 2:00 p.m. **Contact:** Marybeth Bridegam

Sat 10 - Summer Program: Trip to Tanglewood, departs Northampton 7:45 a.m. **Contact:** Mary Franks

Thurs 15 - Council meeting, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst

Sun 18 - Summer Program: New Century Theatre performance of *Intimate Apparel*, 2:00 p.m. **Contact:** Marybeth Bridegam

Tues 20 - Summer Program: Smith College Museum of Art, 10:00 a.m. **Contact:** Dorothy Gorra.

August

Thurs 5 - Viewpoints with Hy Edelstein, 12:30–2:00 p.m. Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence. **Contact:** Hy Edelstein

Friday 6 - Summer Program: Connecticut River cruise, Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, 10:30 a.m. sharp. **Contact:** Sara Wright.

Fridays 6 & 27 - French conversation with Judith Pool, 1:30–3:30 p.m. **6th:** chez Marybeth Bridegam. **27th:** Room 208, Amherst College Campus Center. **Contact:** Judith Pool

Thurs 12 - Council meeting, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst

Thurs 19 - Summer Program: Wistariahurst, 2:00 p.m. **Contact:** Honoré David

Letter from the President of 5CLIR,

1 July 2009–30 June 2010



Dear Fellow Members:

The April Preview was one of the best attended yet. It is always an exciting time for 5CLIR members, but non-members always find it simply amazing that so many of us are having such a wonderful time. It is an event that you should mark on your calendar and try never to miss. Our next one will be on November 21st, and this time it will be in the Faculty Club at Valentine Hall at Amherst College.

The Summer Programs are off to a good start with no programs canceled. If you are still interested in going to some events that are scheduled for July and August, send Callie a note and you may be able to go or be put on the waiting list – often there are cancellations at the last minute. I know that the cruise down the Connecticut River still has a few seats available, so do not hesitate to ask.

This will be my last letter to you as president, and if I may make one last request, please, volunteer. We are a volunteer organization, and each of you has unique talents that we need. What I love most about this organization is that you never have to complete a task alone; usually you don't even have to ask, someone will just be there to help.

It was an honor to be president of our wonderful and unique organization.

Sara

Notes from Council

- *Our wonderful newsletter will now be sent out by email; members without email will still be mailed a hard copy but without some of the pictures.*
- *The catalogues will be printed and distributed to members, but will, also, be available on the web site. Members who do not want a hard copy of the various catalogs for the next preview should email Callie and let her know. Sample copies will be available to use at the preview.*
- *The Summer/January Committee will now be called Summer/Winter.*

Officers, Council Members & Committee Chairs 2010-2011

Officers

President: Larry Ambs

Vice President/President-Elect: Joan Wofford

Secretary: Dorothy Rosenthal

Treasurer: Sandy Muspratt

Assistant Treasurer: David Cramer

Past President: Sara Wright

<u>Council Members</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
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Elizabeth Armstrong	2011
Peter Ferber	2011
Beverly von Kries	2011
John Armstrong	2012
Arnold Friedmann	2012
Michael Wolff	2012
Marybeth Bridegam	2013
Laura Cranshaw	2013
Joan Laird	2013

Committee Chairs

Mary Franks & Jim Scott - *Curriculum Committee*

Sandy Muspratt - *Finance Committee*

Dorothy Gorra & Marybeth Bridegam - *Winter/Summer Programs*

Sheila Klem & Frieda Howards - *Members Committee*

Lise Armstrong- *Special Programs*

Philippe Meyer & Janet Price - *Technology Committee ("Tech")*

Dean Poli & Arnold Friedmann - *Public Relations*

Dave Cramer & Ginny Christenson - *Great Decisions*

Dave Cramer - *Development*

Ad hoc Committee Chair

Dorothy Rosenthal - *Requests From Outside Organizations*

NOTES

Correcton for Emily Dickinson Poetry Group entry in Special Programs catalog

The group is **not** limited in numbers (it says each session is limited to six); attendance is open to all and pre-registration is not required. Please call Lise Armstrong for more details, and consult your green Special Programs catalog for dates and times.

All-LIR Potluck Picnic date confirmation

The picnic will be held on Tuesday, September 14th, and the rain date is the next day, Wednesday, September 15th. See your yellow Summer Programs catalog for location and details of what to bring.

LIR – WFCR

We have continued to participate in the WFCR fund drives. Our answering of the phones has enhanced Valley awareness of LIR and been a valuable community service.

Thanks to all who participated over the past year. Let's keep up the good work next year.

---PR Committee

And here is what WFCR had to say to LIR in a letter addressed to Jeff Caplan, Chair of the PR Committee and liaison with WFCR:

June 17, 2010

Dear Jeff,

I would like to express my appreciation for the time and energy Five College Learning in Retirement Inc. has put into volunteering with WFCR, as well as their support as underwriters.

I believe that as both our organizations strive to provide an avenue for intellectual and cultural advancement in our communities, we share in similar goals and ideals. Our work together has been important to our mutual success, and I look forward to continuing this valuable partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

Martin Miller
WFCR CEO & General Manager

NOTES

A new Community Read for the Summer

Hello to all!

Since last year's community read was such a success, it was suggested that there be another one this year. The 5CLIR Book Group has agreed to sponsor and organize this second community read. At the strong recommendation of one of our members, and the agreement of the others, we are proposing the following book:

A Border Passage, From Cairo to America---A Woman's Journey, by Leila Ahmed.

This remarkable book is a memoir, as can be seen from the title, but it is much more than that. Ms. Ahmed, now a member of the faculty at Harvard University Divinity School, was a professor of women's studies at the University of Massachusetts when she wrote this book. By definition, a memoir is written by someone attempting to illuminate his or her life. To do so, Leila Ahmed not only includes sometimes lyrical descriptions of her youth in Egypt, but she also finds that she needs to piece together the history of the rise of Arab nationalism, and how that comes to have relevance to Egypt, a country which had not considered itself Arab.

We readers will be the beneficiaries of the scholarship, clarity and beauty with which Ms. Ahmed conveys the substance of this book. Enjoy the reading, and come join the discussions of the book at the September 14th picnic, or at any other groups that might be arranged later.

---Gloria Ferber

We made it easier to find our new website

In the spring we made major changes to the format and content of our website and are trying to make it more useful to you. Please take a look at it, if you haven't done so already. If you have suggestions, please pass them on to our new webmaster by clicking the link in the footer of the web page.

If you want to make the 5clir website easier to access, put it on the toolbar of your web browser—that's the bar at the top of the page giving one-click access to frequently-used sites.

It's very easy to add the 5clir website to this toolbar. We've put instructions on our website on the TechNotes page, <http://www.5clir.org/resources/technotes.php>

We hope you will visit the website frequently to see updates, cancellations, and items of interest.

Computer Hardware or Software: Problems or Questions?

Members may resolve computer or software issues by attending 5CLIR's



Initial Date: Thursday, 15 July, 2010 (this can be a recurrent meeting with different topics if enough of you are interested)

Site: Jones Library (Basement Room), Amherst

Parking: (Not free) behind CVS; on-street parking; in bank lot across the street

Time: 12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Format: 12:00 – 12:30 Lecture (the initial topic is Computer Security)

12:30 – 1:30 (or later if necessary) Computer and software problems discussed in small groups, each headed by a current or past member of the Technology Committee. PC and Mac advice will be available.

Attend the entire session or just the later hour (beginning at 12:30) which will deal with your specific computer and software problems. Bring your laptop if you have a problem you would like to demonstrate. Internet access will be available!

Note from the Editor:

I wanted to thank all of you who contributed articles and pictures for this issue. They are great, and much appreciated.

If you are reading this and you are about to go off on an LIR-sponsored summer program, please give a thought to how you might write about it. Take note of some of the more interesting or fun aspects of the event, and then send me a paragraph or two – or more. If you don't take pictures, talk to someone who is snapping shots on the day and ask them to send me the photographs to accompany your article. This is YOUR newsletter, so I need YOUR news and photographs! Thanks.

.....Callie

LIR Travel Interest Group Invites You to Share Your Travel Photos and Experiences

Beginning this fall of 2010, the popular LIR Travel Interest sessions will take place at a new time, on the FOURTH THURSDAY afternoon of each month (a change from the former meeting time) - AND - it will also meet in a new location, the Community Room at the Northampton Lathrop Retirement Community off of Bridge Road in Northampton. As in past years, the sessions will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, with two speakers, each presenting a 50-minute presentation with a 15–20 minute refreshment break from 2:50 to 3:10 p.m.

We thank Joan Wofford for arranging this new venue, which will offer a truly darkened room without windows that will greatly enhance the quality of everyone's photos, and with fine projection equipment. Joan will also be the Co-Chair of this committee, and will offer technical help to all presenters who contact her in advance of their presentations. NOTE: Since the new facilities will make possible the showing of 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 things out with her.

At this time, we would like to invite any and all LIR travelers to share your photos and experiences with the many LIR members who 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. 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 LIR Travel Interest sessions will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, September 23

Thursday, October 28

Thursday, December 2 (yes, we realize this isn't the fourth Thursday of November, but that's Thanksgiving Day!)

Thursday, February 24

Thursday, March 24

Thursday, April 28

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

Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chairperson
LIR Travel Interest Group

Note from the Editor: The Arts Interest Group will be taking over the third Thursday in the month slot.



Wondering How to Access Information for Research on Your Presentation?

Imagine you're doing research online for a seminar presentation, say, for example, on business in colonial America, and you Google the phrase "entrepreneurship colonial New England." Among your first three results is a winner: an article in the *Journal of Economic History* entitled "The Business Entrepreneur in a Changing Colonial Economy, 1763-1795." You click on it, only to be rejected: turns out it's an item in JSTOR, and you have no access to the contents because you don't have student or faculty privileges as an LIR library cardholder. Currently, only those LIR members who are retired from one of the schools in the Five Colleges system have JSTOR access. You sigh, take down the citation information, and go to one of the Five Colleges libraries that lists this journal in its catalog. If you're lucky, the journal's still on the shelves, and you can photocopy the article. But what if it's no longer on the shelves because it's been digitized and stored in JSTOR? You still can't access the article unless a librarian relents and pulls it up on a library computer and then emails it to you at home. Most cumbersome for you. And hard on library staff!

Okay, so what's JSTOR? Here's its own explanation: "It includes archives of over one thousand leading academic journals across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, as well as select monographs and other materials valuable for academic work. The entire corpus is full-text searchable, offers search term highlighting, includes high-quality images, and is interlinked by millions of citations and references." Obviously, a terrific resource that is potentially very useful to all LIR members.

Happily, there is a solution that will provide access to JSTOR (and, indeed, much more online) to all LIR members, regardless of their standing with the local colleges. I have learned that anyone who is a resident of Massachusetts can gain JSTOR access by obtaining an 'ecard' from the Boston Public Library. Easy as pie! To get an ecard, go to www.bpl.org and on the left-hand panel select General & Contact Info, then Borrowing and Circulation Information, where you will find the information and instructions for enrolling for your ecard. Registration is instantaneous, and within a minute or two you have access to everything the BPL offers to its cardholders from home, and not just JSTOR. It's a marvelous resource, and free to all Massachusetts residents.

It gets better. Go back to our Google search above. If you have a BPL ecard and you click on the search result for the enticing article in the *Journal of Economic History*, you will be confronted with a BPL screen that asks you to type in your access number, and once you do that, you're popped instantly to the first page of the article, and you're on your way. You can read the entire thing, download it to your own computer as a PDF, and print it out, if you like. Not only that, but when you go back to your search results and you encounter another JSTOR listing, clicking on it will take you instantly to it with no need to key in your access number a second time.

Even if you're not likely to use JSTOR that much, the BPL ecard is well worth it. The library has posted a massive amount of resource material for cardholders online. You're bound to find something to please and even excite you. And it sure beats driving to Boston! **—Bobbie Reitt**

Note from the Editor:

I followed Bobbie's directions and it worked perfectly.

A GREAT DAY IN THE BERKSHIRES

Thirty-six LIR members and guests enjoyed a delightful bus trip to two art museums in the North Berkshires on June 23. After leaving the Sheldon Field Park 'n' Ride at 8:30, the group arrived at Williamstown's Clark Art Institute shortly after it opened for the day. We divided ourselves roughly in thirds, with one group touring the always-enjoyable permanent exhibit, another viewing the fabulous special show "Picasso Looks at Degas," and the remainder visiting the recently built Stone Hill Center to see the work of Spanish sculptor Juan Muñoz.

Both the special exhibits, which had opened just a few weeks before, were noteworthy. The Picasso show juxtaposed Degas paintings, drawings and sculpture with work later done by Picasso that clearly reflected his admiration for this grand master of Impressionism. The work by Muñoz, whom fewer of us were familiar with, evoked intriguing questions about human relationships and disconnects and about danger and safety.

We were fortunate that the weather enabled us to enjoy our lunch outside the Clark in a tent they have erected for that purpose. And the golf carts that shuttled visitors between the Stone Hill Center and the Main Building made it easy to access their striking new facility.

Following lunch, we went on to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (or Mass MOCA) in North Adams. This converted factory complex offered a variety of innovative and unusual exhibits, from Petah Coyne's "Everything that Rises Must Converge" to the witty and surprising "Gravity is a Force to be Reckoned With." And the extensive Sol Lewitt installation gave each of us the opportunity to reassess line, color, and shape in multiple configurations.

After a scenic return journey along the Mohawk Trail, we were back in Northampton by 4:45, with new perspectives about both modern and traditional art.

---Carol Jolly

A good time was had by all....



photograph courtesy of Peter Ferber...more pictures on pp. 10-11

All photographs by Peter Ferber --



Entering the Picasso–Degas exhibition at The Clark (where no photography of the exhibits was allowed)



Waiting for Godot, er, Muñoz



Trip organizer Carol Jolly checks entrance tickets.



I could have sworn she said to meet here....

**Photographs of Sol Lewitt's work courtesy of Peter Ferber,
reproduced with permission of Mass MOCA**



Many thanks to Carol for organizing this trip, and to Peter for bringing it back to LIR.

Trip to Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area

TO SET THE SCENE: On June 2nd, a group of LIR members met at the Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area for a guided tour arranged by our own Elisa Campbell. It turned out that there are two entrances to the area, and about half of the group assembled at the first (wrong) one. Larry Ambs came charging up on his white horse (all right, it was a car) to move everybody to the proper place of assembly..
.....(excerpt from Arnold Friedmann)

When I offered a field trip called “Wildlife, Forests and Forestry” as a Special Event this summer I had no idea how many LIR members would want to go. I was thrilled at the turnout! Twenty-five LIRers enjoyed an excursion to Montague Plains on June 2 to learn about the plains and how the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife manages the area to provide habitat for both rare and common species and to reduce the danger of wildfires. Our guide was Brian Hawthorne, the Wildlife Forester with DFW.

He began by explaining the overall ecology of the Plains and some basic safety issues for us as visitors – especially about avoiding ticks. The ticks generally walk around on a person for several hours or a day before picking a spot to bite, so that’s the best time to find them. He advised us to look ourselves over very carefully when we got home. If a tick does bite, it takes about 24 hours before it transmits any diseases, so getting it off quickly is very helpful. He also told us that research has shown that sitting on a stump or log is the most likely place to pick up ticks!

According to Brian, the Plains are a deep area of sandy and gravelly soils, left by the glaciers. They are geologically similar to the coastal plains of southeastern Massachusetts and the islands; the plants that grow there include pitch pine and scrub oak. The scrub oak and other plants provide food for rare species of moths, and DFW is managing the area to provide habitat for them, as well as for rare turtles, snakes, and for more common wildlife species such as wild turkey and deer. We saw an area that had been cut a few years ago where small scrub oaks were growing in profusion; when I commented that the leaves had holes in them and were clearly being eaten by something, Brian said, “That’s our moths!”

The weather was perfect for us that morning, but Brian said the weather on the Plains is more extreme than in the surrounding woods and fields: if it is in the 80s in Amherst, it would be in the 90s on the Plains. In the other direction, there had been several frosts in May, and the temperature had been in the 20s one night only a week or so before our visit.

Our timing was fortunate: we got to see an area that had had a controlled burn about a week before. The burning kills the above-ground parts of the plants but the plants native to this habitat are adapted to fire: their roots survive a quickly-moving fire and soon put up new shoots. We could see the small green shoots starting up already.

We learned that although DFW is a state agency, it does not receive money from the taxes we pay to the state. Instead, DFW combines funds from hunting and fishing license fees, federal funds for wildlife management, and a little bit from the forestry they do maintaining the habitats for rare species.

This field trip was so successful I am planning to organize another one – possibly to Quabbin – soon.

----Elisa Campbell

Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area by Elisa Campbell



DFW forester Brian Hawthorne talks to our group at the site of the controlled burn.



Brian and the group among the scrub oaks and pitch pines of Montague Plains.

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