

5CLIR

# REPORTER



June/July 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 5

## JUNE/JULY CALENDAR

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

### JULY

Fri 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - **Special Program: French conversation**, 1:30–3:30, at Applewood.

**Contact:** Judith Pool

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

**NO Curriculum Committee meeting this month**

**NO Council meeting this month**

Thur 14 - **Summer Program: Chester Theatre: *Pride and Prejudice***. **Contact:** Ellen Peck

Thur 21 - **Summer Program: Summer Day in Boston**. **Contacts:** Bobbie Reitt and Honoré David

Sun 31 - **Summer Program: New Century Theatre: *Superior Donuts***. **Contact:** Ellen Peck

### AUGUST

Tues 2 - **Summer Program: Tour of Mead Art Museum**. **Contact:** Dorothy Gorra

**more in next newsletter...**

*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) .*

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

“Notes from the President..... Larry Ambs”



This is my last writing of Notes from the President. My term of office is almost at an end. I am sorry to see it end, in that it has been enjoyable working with all the wonderful people involved in 5CLIR. I would like to thank the Council for their support as well as the three members leaving at the end of their 3-year term of office (Elizabeth Armstrong, Peter Ferber and Beverley von Kries).

As I have said before in this column, it is the tremendous level of volunteering we get from our members that makes this organization so successful. In addition, two members of the Executive Committee, Past President Sara Wright and Secretary Dottie Rosenthal are moving back into the rank and file. I don't know what I would have done without their encouragement and support.

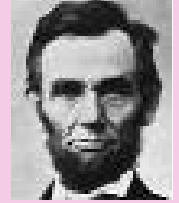
I feel we have made progress over the last year; the Bylaws mandated Operations Manual has been completed; thanks to Chuck Gilles we have a significant Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium under development for the fall on the UMass Campus and we seem to be enjoying good support from our host, Five Colleges, Inc.

Finally, I know I am turning over the reins of the organization to a very able new President, Joan Wofford. Joan will be organizing a survey of the membership this summer in the interest of trying to identify ways to improve our organization; please respond.

Also, don't forget to attend the All-Member Pot-Luck Picnic on September 13 at the Gaustads' in Northampton.

Larry

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



THE CIVIL WAR AND SLAVERY. Slavery was by no means a purely southern institution. Slavery existed throughout the colonies, including Massachusetts, the first of all the colonies to specifically legalize slavery (in 1641). As the American Revolution came to an end in the early 1780s, slavery was legal and being practiced in every one of the thirteen original states. (Quiz – Without looking at a map or a computer screen or even a book, list the thirteen states. This is not as easy as you might think – and I never give partial credit.) In the first decades of the 19th century, slavery gradually disappeared in the North. The ending of slavery in the North was more rapid in some states than in others; New Jersey’s “gradual emancipation law” was so very gradual that, astonishingly, even in the federal census of 1860, New Jersey was listed as having eighteen slaves.

Although some of the “founding fathers” hoped and even predicted that slavery would gradually disappear throughout the new nation and though even today some suggest that slavery was on its way out and would have “withered away” before the end of the 19th century – so that the Civil War was an “unnecessary war” – the facts tell a different story. To be sure, in states such as Maryland and Virginia the slave populations shown in the federal census were fairly steady during the last decades before the war, but that was largely a result of the “internal slave trade”, the shipping of “excess” slaves to the newer cotton-growing states such as Mississippi. In the nation as a whole, the number of slaves increased from one million in 1800 to two million in 1830 and four million in 1860. Slavery was by no means withering away, and slavery was what the Civil War was all about.

- Robert H. Romer, member, 5CLIR Steering Committee.

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

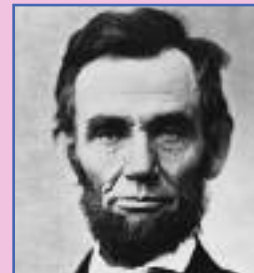
- It is now definite that the October 14 and 15, 2011 symposium will be in Mahar Auditorium and the adjacent Isenberg School of Management at UMass. This location is convenient to parking, including considerable handicapped parking in Hagis Mall. For old-timers this was the location for some of Cliff Matthews’ series, “Emergence” on science and religion several years ago.
- We have added Tera Hunter of Princeton University to our array of speakers for the symposium. Dr. Hunter is a professor in the history department and the Center for African-American studies who specializes in African-American history and gender in the 19th and 20th centuries. She will be on our panels and offer a small group on gender issues in Civil War times.
- We have also added John Higginson of the UMass History Department to our program as a small group leader. Dr. Higginson will do a comparison of violence in the U.S. after the Civil War with the same in South Africa after apartheid, one of his areas of interest and expertise.
- Did you see our “second keynoter,” David Blight’s, op-ed piece on Memorial Day in the *New York Times*? Titled, “Forgetting Why We Remember” it noted the very first Memorial Day celebration on May 1, 1865 by the former enslaved in, of all places, Charleston, South Carolina, center of secession just a few years earlier. Dr. Blight taught for several years at Amherst College, but is now Professor of History and Director, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance & Abolition at Yale.



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

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

**THE CIVIL WAR—ISSUES, MEMORY AND STEREOTYPES.** What are Civil War issues having modern resonance? They will be the main focus of 5CLIR's Sesquicentennial Symposium on the Civil War next October 14 and 15. You might have trouble with that focus if you believe that a war fought 150 years ago has only antiquarian interest, that it settled the issues, and that as a nation we've moved on.



But think again! Historians say the war has never faded from our national memory. I agree. I would add that the memories that belong to, respectively, the descendants of the winners, the losers, and the people freed by the war are not only still alive, but also very different. Not only that, they feed current social divisions that are rooted in the war.

Consider these regional prejudices, stereotypes that continue to feed popular culture:

Southerners (assumed to be white of course) are indolent, ignorant, and lazy. The men prefer their women to be submissive. The women are insincerely gracious. Lower-class men are rednecks driving pickups with gun racks and Rebel stickers, and their women are barefoot and pregnant. Southerners are obsessed with the "Lost Cause" and are racists.

Northerners (whites, again) are arrogant, cold, unfriendly, ill-mannered, unsociable, and ungodly. They claim to be racially liberal but don't actually socialize with blacks—most don't even know any. Corporations cycle junior executives through cities like Atlanta and Houston, just one more example of how the north exploits the south for financial gain while reviling it as backward.

I'm white, so I won't presume to speak for blacks or try to capture the stereotypes lurking in their thinking. But I can't help being disturbed by the unexamined assumptions behind, for example, the decision of the Civil War Center at Tredegar (Richmond) to approach the war from three points of view: the north's, the south's, and the blacks'. Once more, it seems, blacks get lumped together on the outside, as if none have a regional home—conceived once more as the "other" whose status is ambiguous, exotic, even threatening.

Consider the other regions of our country—the midwest, the southwest, the northwest. They each have distinctive qualities but are far less burdened with potentially negative social stereotypes. Why are the south and north different? The Civil War, of course.

Nobody's for stereotypes, but we are all susceptible to them. Our conference next fall should be fascinating, as we try to dig into the many ways, often subtle, that inherited stereotyping shapes the ways we think about ourselves today, the policies we believe we should establish, the officials we believe we should elect, and the principles that we believe should drive our social behavior.

—Bobbie Reitt, member, 5CLIR Steering Committee

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.

## Plans for the Coming Year

On June 9, a group of past 5CLIR presidents and newly elected officers and council members met together with the current council and committee chairs at Hampshire College to hear a report by incoming president Joan Wofford on the results of her 26 interviews with many of them. In the report, she tabulated the frequency with which individuals cited the major issues facing the organization. In the fall, the council will prioritize those issues and create task groups to address them.

One recommendation that emerged from that day's discussion was to extend the study to include a greater range of 5CLIR members' views. To that end, we are planning two outreach efforts. The first is to invite anyone who has something to say about issues facing 5CLIR to submit their written views to Joan. The second is that we intend to conduct over the summer a random sample of telephone interviews with the 5CLIR membership and to incorporate what we learn into our fall deliberations. The results of both the original study and the further interviews will be shared with the membership.

## Curriculum Committee Seeking Spring 2012 Seminars

*We received some excellent seminar suggestions at the Fall Preview:*

*Witch Hunts: A Venerable American Tradition;*

*Writers and Artists of the Harlem Renaissance;*

*Creation Myths;*

*George Balanchine;*

*Watercolor or Drawing or Bridge Workshops.*

*Would you like to moderate one of these in the spring semester (beginning Feb. 13th, 2012) or do you know someone who would? Do you have an idea for a proposal you would like to moderate?*

*We would also like to offer some Snowbird Seminars in spring 2012 (which would run for eight weeks or less in March and April) for those who are away in January and February, or members who prefer not to go out in the bleak mid-winter.*

*Please let us know your suggestions or ideas. They are important to us.*

*Looking forward to hearing from you.*

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

Mary Franks

Sandy Campbell

## BROADWAY MUSICALS

Quiz and photographs by Jane Luff

West Side Story revisited: When Marsha Stone presented this musical she reminded us of the sad fate of the Amherst Regional High School's production which was canceled after protests. West Side Story may be the most outstanding musical ever created and the least understood. When it opened in 1957 Broadway changed forever.

Joice Gare presented The Music Man, which also opened in 1957. There was trouble in River City too.

### MATCH THE FOLLOWING SONGS TO THE MUSICALS

**You've Got to Be Taught to Hate**

**Chicago**

**Ya Got Trouble**

**Finian's Rainbow**

**Mr. Cellophane**

**Oliver**

**Somewhere**

**Purlie**

**Old Devil Moon**

**Cabaret**

**Tomorrow Belongs to Me**

**Music Man**

**Who Will Buy?**

**West Side Story**

**Great White Father**

**South Pacific**



Hill Boss in his element...



Charlie Klem and Pam Daniels



Marsha Stone (left) and Joice Gare in the seminar

Wendy Blumenthal, Amherst Media, explains the three remotes to Joice Gare



Eleanor Roosevelt overlooks the class



## **Remember 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**

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## **Special Programs Activities Not on the Calendar**

### **Arts Interest Group -**

contact Ann & John Martin to join email list or contribute ideas for fall

### **Book Interest Group -**

for meetings in the fall, contact Naomi Yanis or Lola Reid

### **Conversational Italian -**

contact Dean Poli or Zina Tillona to express interest in joining in fall

### **Encore Presentations (and other Friday Lectures) -**

contact Larry Ambs to suggest topics

### **Ethnic Eating Interest Group -**

contact Joice Gare

### **Finding Family -**

contact Bobbie Reitt to express interest

### **Kitchen Wizards -**

contact Lise Armstrong for this Special Program starting in September

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

### **Travel Interest Group -**

contact Marybeth Bridegam or Joan Wofford to be a fall presenter

## 5CLIR Travel Interest Group Invites You to Share your Travel Photos and Experiences

5CLIR's popular Travel Interest Group invites you and all other 5CLIR 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 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 4th Thurs 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 meet.

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

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 your presentation with her.

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

Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chairperson  
LIR Travel Interest Group

## Hudson Valley Trip

Like many in 5CLIR, Marybeth Bridegam just keeps doing what she does. The organizer of the recent two-day tour of Hudson River Valley cultural institutions used to put together just such pilgrimages for Cross-Culture Journeys of Amherst, which she founded in 1985 and sold in 2004.

"A high point for me was the Chagall stained glass windows at the Union Church in Tarrytown," said Betsy Siersma, one of several art historians among the 34 art fanciers on the tour. "Which I hadn't even known existed!" The wealth of modern art collected and placed by Nelson Rockefeller in the mansion and gardens at Kykuit, the nearby Rockefeller estate, also wowed the group. Even more so, perhaps, their day at Storm King, over 500 acres of fields, meadows, and woodlands showcasing more than 100 heroic modern sculptures.

Only a pro like Marybeth, acting in this case "just out of goodwill toward her fellow members," as LIR staffer Callie Orszak put it, could have designed and orchestrated the daunting details of such a complex outing, from transportation, meals, and lodging to bottled water, conscientious head counts, and bus mints. Leaving Northampton by bus at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday June 15th and rolling back in at midnight on Thursday, we were one replete pack of pleasure seekers: the final stop on the tour had been the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park.

At the Institute, sated art tourists had the option of sating themselves gastronomically at either French, Italian, or American restaurants. Doted on by earnest CIA students, diners had scattered complaints about confused service, but none about the cuisine: "The Stradivarius of Restaurants," Michael Wolff proposed to our waiter that our (Italian) restaurant should be deemed.

Marybeth's itinerary was a Stradivarius among two-day outings. Thank you, Marybeth.

--Patricia Wright

## Quabbin Field Trip

Article and photographs by Elise Campbell

On June 6 an enthusiastic group of over a dozen 5CLIR members went to Quabbin to get a guided tour from two of the foresters who work there, Randy Stone and Steve Ward.

After chatting outside in the glorious sunshine we eventually went inside to hear about the reservoir, the reservation around it, the amazing way that water from our area gets to Boston, and some of the things the foresters consider when managing the forest that serves as the filter for that water. When the state took the land to make the reservoir, much of the area was farm land; there were towns and small industries too, especially in the valleys that are now under water (and which were completely cleared at the time). The basic idea since then is to grow a forest that will be resilient if a major calamity strikes - a major hurricane like the one in 1938 is on their minds. The forest has been managed since 1960.



The 5CLIR explorers at Enfield Point, about to set off.

After the introduction, we got into vans that Randy and Steve drove to take us to several places in Quabbin. We enjoyed the spillway, where water was pouring over the dam and toward the Swift River. Then we stopped at the wonderful Enfield Overlook, which looks over the reservoir, including the site of the former town of Enfield, and, on clear days such as we had, Mt Monadnock in the north. We ate our lunch at the Hanes Field picnic area, then headed off to the parts of Quabbin Reservation that are behind locked gates in Ware and Hardwick - people can walk there, but not drive or ride bikes.



Randy Stone talks to the group about the ages of trees.

Our first attempt was frustrated by a tree that had fallen across the road, so we went around the long way and entered from Ware. We saw some areas where Randy had done timber harvesting a few years ago, and others where Steve had worked before that. The idea is to take out some older trees so young ones have resources and light to grow, but leave the oldest and most interesting trees - both as den trees for animals and because Quabbin is public land and the public needs to approve of the work being done.

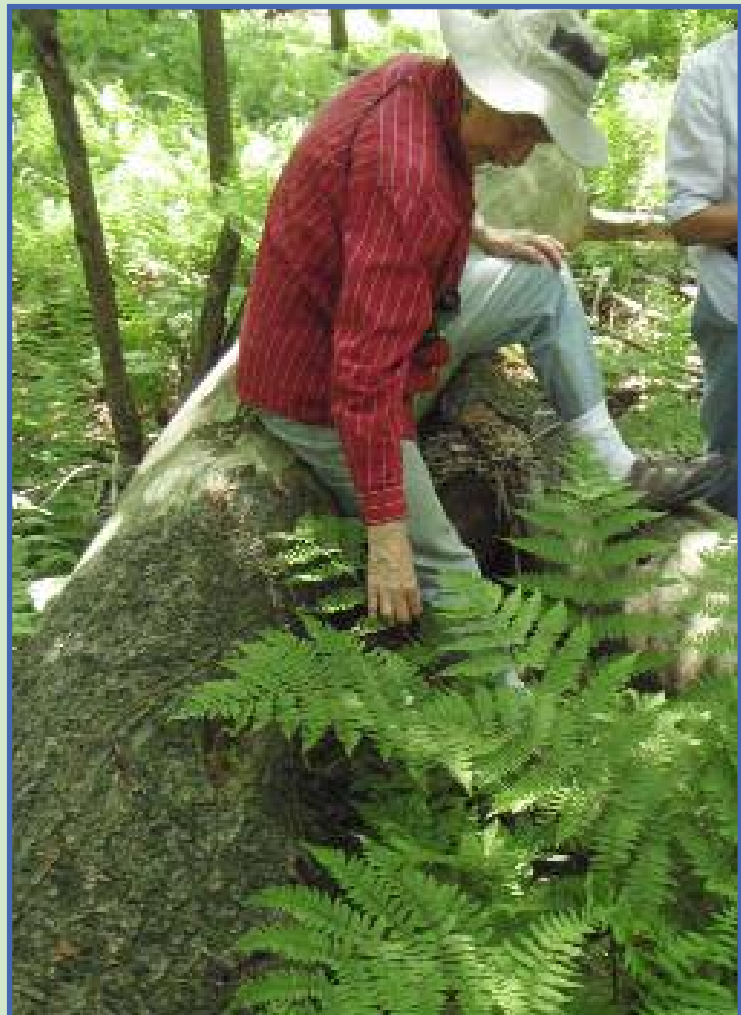


Randy shows the group a cleared area.



Steve

Anne admires the mountain fern - a rare find.



There were many large old trees along the old town road, but once we left that road, which went down the hill into the reservoir, we traveled on a new maintenance road, across what had been open fields, so there were no more old trees.

We briefly explored an area with some old trees and an old well from a home-stead. Here, Randy Stone led Anne Lombard, our fern expert, to a mountain fern, rarely seen in western Massachusetts. It was now getting late, and we ended our travels at a place in the woods with stone culverts under the old road (see picture below). The site is badly eroded from the recent rains, and will have to be repaired.



Everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and we all learned a lot.

Note from the Editor: Thank you for a well-organized trip, Elisa! Great fun and very interesting.

## Back to School for French Lessons

The 5CLIR French Conversation Group (one of our Special Programs) was invited by Marie-Dominique Corbiere, who teaches French at Hartsbrook School, for an afternoon of presentations in French by her middle school and high school classes. The presentations included some choral singing.

Refreshments were baked by students.

The April 29 visit concluded with a tour of the various buildings on the Hartsbrook campus, a Waldorf school on a farm-like location on Bay Road in Hadley.



L to R: Marybeth Bridegam; Candice Carlisle; Laurence Pappademas; leader of the French group, Judith Pool; Mary Wyse; guest Millis Mershon; Marie-Dominique Corbiere of Hartsbrook School; and Mina Harrison.

--photo by guest Phil Shaver

# Great Decisions, 2011

-- some pictures by Joan Cenedella --



Great Decisions Co-Chair Dave Cramer and President Larry Ambs address the session



Vijay Prashad lectures on US national security, while (below)  
Jim Harvey and John Barbaro discuss the talk





Co-Chair Ginny Christenson at the registration table



Gloria and Peter Ferber relaxing during the break



Speaker Roger King discusses "Global Governance"



Discussion period: Fran Volkmann (above) and members of the audience waiting to be called on (Sandy Muspratt and Joel Halpern(?))



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### **5CLIR Officers**

**President:** Larry Ambs (to 30 June)  
(from 1 July) Joan Wofford  
**Vice-President:** Joan Wofford (to 30 June)  
(from 1 July) Jim Harvey  
**Past-President:** Sara Wright (to 30 June)  
(from 1 July) Larry Ambs  
**Secretary:** Dorothy Rosenthal (to 30 June)  
(from 1 July) Ellen Peck  
**Treasurer:** Sandy Muspratt  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Dave Cramer

### **5CLIR REPORTER**

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Callie Kendall Orszak

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