

5CLIR REPORTER



MARCH 2010 Volume XXIII, Number 3

MARCH CALENDAR

Thurs 4th - Viewpoints with Hy Edelstein. Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Drive, Florence. Contact: Hy Edelstein @ 584-3060

Fri 5th - Encore Presentation: "Is It Art? Is It Nonsense? It's DADA" by Ellen Kosmer. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle St (Rte 47), 10:00 a.m. **Contact** Chris Hurn 253-4841

Fri 5th, 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 at 253-3845 or poli@ecs.umass.edu

Fri 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - French Conversation with Judith Pool, Room 208, Amherst College Campus Center, 1:30–3:30 p.m. **Contact:** Judith Pool @ 586-2190 (*No openings at present*)

Thurs 11th - Council meeting, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst, 2:00–4:00 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*)

Thurs 11th & 25th - Emily Dickinson Study Group with Lise Armstrong, 56 Amity Place, Amherst 12:30–2:00 p.m. **Contact:** Lise Armstrong 549-9171 (All bookings have already been arranged.)

Fri 12th - Encore Presentation: "Recent Research in Evolution" by Fran Volkmann. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle St (Rte 47), 10:00 a.m. **Contact** Chris Hurn 253-4841

Thurs 18th - Travel Interest Group: *The Gobi Desert and Mongolia* with Robert Romer, and *Mali* with Joan Wofford. 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 - Encore Presentation: "Orchids" by Bev von Kries and Janet Price. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle St (Rte 47), 10:00 a.m. **Contact** Chris Hurn 253-4841

Thurs 25th - Arts Interest Group: *Studio of furniture-maker Kristina Madsen*, 36 Rattle Hill Road, Southampton, 2:00–4:00 p.m. **Alert** Suzannah Fabing 256-6812 if you wish to attend (**see inside**)

Fri 26th - Hamlet opera prep with Peg Bedell. Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop, 1:30–2:30 p.m. (For the Met Opera/HD showing on Saturday, March 27 at Cinemark.)

LIR Book Interest Group - **contact** Gloria Ferber at 341-3545 or gloria.ferber@comcast.net

Ethnic Eating Interest Group - **contact** Joice Gare at 584-6016 or joiceg@crocker.com

Letter from the President of 5CLIR

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope you are enjoying the seminars as much as I am; if you are, why not take a picture and send it to Callie because we are looking for new pictures for our website. We would like to have pictures of members in seminars, in special programs or at our social events. Please, try to send us a list of the names of people in the picture.



I am pleased to announce that Council established a position of Ombudsman. Harvard, our counterpart organization, has had an ombudsman for about three years and reports that the system has worked successfully. I will be asking Council to approve my appointment at the March Council meeting, after which you will be notified. Any 5CLIR member who has a complaint or a dispute with another member that they cannot resolve is encouraged to consult the ombudsman as a first step. The ombudsman will strive to resolve the problem with strict impartiality and confidentiality. Please see the guidelines on page 8.

Many hours were spent on revising our Policy Statement on Exchanges of Ideas. Please, be sure to read it on page 7. It is important that every member in our wonderful organization follow these guidelines in order that everyone feels accepted and welcome. Since the revised policy refers to our Mission statement, it is also included on page 7.

Remember the Preview is on Sunday, April 25th. Mark it on your calendar and cross out anything that conflicts! I know your seminars will be over by then (unless the weather fairy gets crazy again), but I have heard through the grapevine that there will be surprises! maybe even prizes!

Check the March calendar and decide to take advantage of at least one of the many programs offered this month. You will be surprised how many new and familiar faces will be there. Our lecture series will start this month; be sure to come and bring a friend who might enjoy an 5CLIR program as well.

Hope to see you at one of these programs; if you see me, please let me know that I have convinced you to come.

*Best
Sara*

P.S. Interesting note:

I have noticed that a few members have been calling participants in our seminars “seminarians,” but the only definition for seminarian is a student in a theological seminary. Since we are a non-political and a non-sectarian organization, we need a better label for participants in seminars. Any suggestions? Send them to Callie.

Events

LIR's Own March Madness March 18th

If you have ever moderated a seminar, or if you've thought about doing so but haven't yet tried it, please join us at the Moderators' Meeting on March 18. It will be held at the Amherst College Alumni House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. – please come on time! There's lots of convenient parking right nearby to make it easy and accessible.

The "LIR Players," a small group of Curriculum Committee members, will help you understand some of the potential challenges of moderating, after which the entire audience will help clarify how readily a prepared moderator can overcome any difficulties. It will be an entertaining and informative afternoon, and, of course, refreshments will be served. Please plan to join us.

Furniture Designs From Afar March 25th

On Thursday, March 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., the LIR Arts Interest Group will visit furniture-maker Kristina Madsen at her studio, 36 Rattle Hill Road, Southampton.

Please alert Suzannah Fabing (sfabing@smith.edu; tel. 256-6812) by March 18 if you plan to attend and if you can take others in your car or would like to join a carpool. All LIR members are welcome to take part.

Kristina Madsen's work blends Western furniture styles with intricate chip-carving techniques that she learned while studying with masters in Tasmania and Fiji. Her furniture, which has earned international renown, is included in a number of public collections, including the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Smith College Museum of Art.

Madsen has won numerous awards, including the National Endowment for the Arts Craftsman's Fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship that first enabled her to study traditional woodcarving in Fiji. She works with exotic woods, such as pearwood, imbuaya and bubinga. Hers is a distinctive, pure and elegant style whose precise detailing reflects the harmonic patterns of nature. Madsen blends the familiar with the unfamiliar to create furniture that is both ethereal and powerful.

Kristina Madsen graduated from The Williston Northampton School and became the first pupil of the noted furniture-maker David Powell, who later founded the Leeds Design Workshops at One Cottage Street in Easthampton. After nearly two decades at One Cottage Street, she built her current studio, a serene, contemplative space nestled in the woods in Southampton. Madsen will show us her work in progress, explain her techniques, and answer your questions. It should be a fascinating afternoon.

Directions: From Northampton, follow Route 10 toward Easthampton. After 2.7 miles, turn right onto West Street, which becomes Pomeroy Meadow Road. After 3.6 miles, turn right at Wolcott Road and, in .3 miles, take a slight right at Rattle Hill Road. #36 will be on the right, and the driveway will be marked with white flags.

Even more Events

Encore Presentations

**Fridays, at Hadley Senior Community Center
46 Middle Street (Rte 47)
10:00 a.m.**

March 5th “Is It Art? Is It Nonsense? It’s DADA” by Ellen Kosmer

Dada, an international art movement of the early 20th century, threw away all the rules. It declared itself to be anti-art and anti-history and culture. It embraced destruction and the concept of chance. As Dadaist Tristan Tzara wrote, “Like everything in life, Dada is useless.”

Dada was born in “total pandemonium” at the Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich, in 1916, two years into the “Great War” with its bloody, mindless trench warfare claiming the lives of hundreds of thousands of young men. Dada was as much a political movement as an artistic one and it had a profound influence on surrealism, abstract art and performance art as well as music, poetry, theater and graphic design.

March 12th “Recent Research in Evolution” by Fran Volkmann

More information to come from Fran.

March 19th “Orchids” by Bev von Kries & Janet Price

When we were growing up, orchids were expensive corsage flowers, not houseplants. Have you wondered how this transition took place? You will learn about the major varieties and their care, and we have blooming plants as well as slides to illustrate our presentation .

We have both been growing orchids for more than ten years and are members of the Amherst Orchid Society. For both of us, a single gift orchid was the beginning of a fascinating hobby.

Special Programs Trip to Museum of Russian Icons, Clinton, MA

Saturday, April 24th

There is still time to join this trip: send your check to Callie at the office by Friday, March 19th. (Check for \$35 payable to Five Colleges, Inc; send to 5CLIR, 9 Mason Hall, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.) The check includes bus, gratuity, admission, and tour. You may bring a guest. **Questions? Call Doris Holden 253-5993.**

Two 5CLIR Committees to Join

Technology Committee

The “Tech” committee is for those who enjoy technology, those who would like to enjoy technology and for those who think that both individual members and the organization as a whole can only benefit by understanding and using those things (computers, internet, cell phones) our grandkids seem born with.

Once there has been enough fun, the members of the committee share in the following activities:

Membership education on computers, internet digital photography and the like...

5CLIR web site (www.5clir.org) maintenance and enhancements.

Audio/Visual Equipment acquisition, maintenance and management.

Office Manager Support

Digital Memory of the organization statistics and photographic pictures.

Please consider joining us.....Call Callie at the office (585-3756)

Curriculum Committee

The central and overall responsibility of the Curriculum Committee is to facilitate the core mission of the 5CLIR program, namely to promote peer learning opportunities through member-led seminars. We do that in a number of ways: generating ideas for potential seminars; recruiting experienced and new moderators and co-moderators; shepherding proposals through a review and approval process; consulting and liaising with moderators; and preparing copy for the seminar catalogs distributed to all members twice a year. The typical format of the seminar is a 10-week seminar consisting of presentations and discussion, but other formats – such as workshops, shorter term seminars, field trips, and so on – are also encouraged. The committee also conducts a carefully monitored lottery for oversubscribed seminars.

We plan and host two meetings for current and past moderators and anyone interested in moderating, one in the fall and one in the spring. The committee and moderators also participate in the fall and spring previews, inviting members to meet and discuss the upcoming seminars and to examine seminar materials.

Periodically, we review various curriculum policy issues brought to our attention by our own members, Council, or the membership at large and, where indicated, make suggestions to the Council for improvements.

We look for committee members who will take an active role in helping 5CLIR to continue a varied and rich seminar program. There are 15 members in addition to the two co-chairs. Committee members are appointed for three-year terms, five members cycling off and five new members joining the committee each year. The committee meetings, held once a month, are interesting and stimulating, once-in-a-while contentious, and never dull.

**Please consider volunteering!
Call Callie at the office (585-3756)**

Items of Interest

LIR Member Gerard Braunthal in Print *Right-wing Extremism in Contemporary Germany* published by Palgrave/Macmillan

Gerard focuses mainly on the period since the country's unification in 1990. He surveys the three major rightist political parties, the neo-Nazi groups, and skinhead gangs.

As unification produced severe economic and social problems for the youth of Eastern Germany, many supported rightist groups and lashed out against foreigners, leftists, gays, Gypsies, and the homeless. Vandalism at Jewish sites increased significantly. In response, public and private agencies organized anti-rightist programs. Gerard poses the question whether the democratic system can survive the rightist challenge in the face of a global recession. He answers in the affirmative.



Ford Hall Tour

Thursday, January 28th, 2010

Special Programs organized a very well-attended tour of Smith College's newest building, Ford Hall.

Stan Scordilis, who is the special assistant to Smith College President Carol Christ for Ford Hall, and one of the tour leaders, arranged the tour for us. LIR member Jean Cohen is on the right.

--Photograph and information courtesy of Ina Luadtke

5CLIR Policy on Exchange of Ideas and Material

The mission of 5CLIR is “[T]o enrich our lives by providing forums for sharing the pleasures of active learning. To implement this mission we... (6) believe that a diverse membership is central to a rich and stimulating learning environment, therefore we strive to provide a welcoming atmosphere to all.”

In the spirit of this mission statement, 5CLIR holds as core values the free and full exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of mutual respect for the ideas and sensibilities of others. Freedom of speech, including the expression of ideas that may be unpopular, is vital to the learning on which our organization is built. Equally important, the recognition of deeply held views and the discussion of such views should take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and civil discourse. Expressions of potentially controversial opinions should take place under conditions in which participants have been advised that such opinions may be expressed and time is allowed for discussion.

Similarly, materials distributed at seminars or events should be related to the topics at hand and express views that are relevant to the discussion. The circulation of petitions or materials and/or remarks that request that people take some political or social action are discouraged.

Special responsibility falls on seminar moderators and those organizing or presiding at other 5CLIR events to ensure that civil discourse is maintained. It is incumbent on each member of 5CLIR to follow this Policy.

Five College Learning In Retirement Mission Statement

To enrich our lives by providing forums for sharing the pleasures of active learning
To implement this mission we...

1. offer educational programs whose core is peer-led seminars in which each member is an active participant. These seminars are ordinarily held in any of the five colleges in the Pioneer Valley (Amherst, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst);
2. expect members to (a) accept our core commitment to active participation, (b) pay dues and (c) be willing to share in the responsibilities of the organization, all with an awareness of and support for the physical and financial aspects of aging;
3. manage the organization through our elected Council representatives and officers with the guidance and assistance of Five Colleges, Inc.;
4. acknowledge that, although our primary purpose is intellectual pursuit, we recognize and encourage the social rewards of shared learning;
5. offer a variety of programs with a ‘participatory component’ both for ourselves and the larger community in a social setting that sustains and nurtures friendships, old and new.
6. believe that a diverse membership is central to a rich and stimulating learning environment; therefore, we strive to provide a welcoming atmosphere to all.

Adopted by Council on November 14, 2002 and modified by Council on May 6, 2004

Ombudsman

The following are the main features of the proposed system:

- ⌘ The ombudsman will be appointed by the President, with the approval of Council, for a term of one year, subject to reappointment with no term limits.
- ⌘ The ombudsman should be a past member of Council or past chair of a 5CLIR committee, who possesses a broad knowledge of the organization as well as a temperament appropriate to the task.
- ⌘ All the work of the ombudsman, including even the fact that a case has been brought to her/him, will be strictly confidential. The report of the ombudsman, delivered yearly to Council, shall contain only statistical information on number and types of cases dealt with and the percentage resolved, with no names included.
- ⌘ In the event that the ombudsman does not succeed in resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the party or parties involved, the ombudsman, in consultation with the parties, shall determine the appropriate next step for resolution.
- ⌘ The identity and contact information of the ombudsman shall be prominently mentioned in the registration material distributed yearly to members.

Save the date.....for a special program in April

What: The Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Hampshire County (RSVP) is coming to speak to LIR members.

Who: Megan Barber and Pat Sicard will speak

When: April 7th at Applewood and April 10th at the Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop. (Times to be announced.)

About: The importance of volunteers and the role of volunteers in the community.

5CLIR Officers 2009-2010

President: Sara Wright

Vice-President: Larry Ambs

Past-President: Leo Sartori

Secretary: Dorothy Rosenthal

Treasurer: Bill Williams

Assistant Treasurer: Sandy Muspratt