



March 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 2

## MARCH CALENDAR

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

**Thur 3 - Special Program: Viewpoints** with Hy Edelstein, 12:30–2:00 p.m., Highland Valley Elder Services, 320 Riverside Dr, Florence. **Contact:** Hy Edelstein

**Thur 3 - Curriculum committee meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst

**Fri 4 - Special Program: Encore Presentation: The Scottsboro Boys (1931) and the Duke Lacrosse Case (2006)**, Bob Romer and Pete Reitt, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Applewood (One Spencer Drive, Amherst) **Contact:** Chris Hurn. **(SEE page 3)**

**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

**Thur 10 - Council meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring Street, Amherst

**Thu 17 - NEW Special Program: French Study Group**, 1:00–2:30 p.m., Jones Library, Amherst (Amherst Room, upstairs). **Contact:** Lise Armstrong **(SEE page 3)**

**Thu 17 - Special Program: Arts Interest Group**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., **Drawings at the Smith College Museum of Art.** **Contact:** Betsy Siersma **(SEE page 7) Pre-registration essential.**

**Fri 18 - Special Program: Opera Prep** by Peggy Bedell, for **Donizetti: Lucia di Lammermoor** 1:30–2:30, Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Peggy Bedell **No registration!**

**Thu 24 - Nearly NEW Special Program: Science Roundtable**, 2:30 p.m., Easthampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Dottie Rosenthal or John Armstrong **(SEE page 4) Note new venue!**

**Thu 24 - Special Program: Travel Interest Group**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., **Joel Halpern & June Guild in Northern Climes: Greenland, Newfoundland, the Orkneys & Faeroe Islands, AND Mike Lally in Ireland**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. **Contact:** Marybeth Bridegam or Joan Wofford. **No registration! (SEE page 6)**

**Thu 31 - Moderators' Meeting**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop **(SEE p. 5)**

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

My presidential year is already half over and I am looking forward to an active spring semester. Encore Presentations have begun and Great Decisions will soon be upon us. I would like to compliment the membership of 5CLIR. I believe we have a wonderful volunteer organization, with a great history.



I would, however, like to emphasize a couple of points. First, there are many aspects of our organization that are required but which are not always that visible. Although Council and the Curriculum Committee are important and popular choices for member participation, there are several other working committees that also help make our organization so vibrant. From time to time, the newsletter has featured articles on some of these committees, including Finance, Membership, Tech, Public Relations, Special Programs, Summer/Winter, Development and Great Decisions. 5CLIR would not be the same without the voluntary participation of our members on these committees. Yes, it may be fun to be on the Curriculum Committee, but that committee would not be so nice without the contributions from our other committees. The point of this discourse is to remind our members that this is a volunteer organization that needs their participation in order for our group to succeed. As a specific point, see the newsletter article on our fall Civil War Symposium which would not exist without volunteers. Consider improving our organization by volunteering to work on one of our committees.

My second comment is on the concept of “institutional memory.” Some of our members have been with us for many years; others are fairly new; while still others only spend a short while with us. Although we (at our ages) may not have excellent institutional memory, our 22-year-old organization has been involved in many activities and has grown over the years. An *Operations Manual for 5CLIR*, which will incorporate some of this wisdom, should appear before the summer.

In addition, we must remember that just because we have done something once does not mean we should not try it again. We have a changing membership and moderators should consider offering seminars again that were popular. The Special Programs Committee has also been adapting and expanding our offerings for members. If a program was offered five years ago, it does not mean it should not be offered again. Similarly, new members are invigorating for an organization so we must continue to recruit new members.

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

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Note from the editor: I will be in England next week, returning to the office on Monday, 7th March. Volunteers will be in the office every morning -- please be gentle with your problems...

---Callie

**Bob Romer & Peter Reitt**

**Present**

**The Scottsboro Boys (1931) and the Duke Lacrosse Case (2006)**

**March 4th, 11:00 a.m., at Applewood in Amherst**

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.

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**NEW FRENCH STUDY GROUP**

A new French Study Group will meet on March 17 at Jones Library in Amherst (in the Amherst room upstairs) from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

**Emphasis is on listening and reading comprehension.**

**Discussion will be in English.**

**Drop-ins welcome.**

**Call or email Lise Armstrong if you are interested in attending.**

**(The group will also meet April 21st and May 19th.)**

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**Request from the Tech Committee...**

The Tech Committee provides help to 5CLIR in a number of capacities in addition to offering workshops. We need male or female members who have or are willing to learn to provide for the audio-visual needs of our organization.

We currently use a public address system and laptop projectors to serve programs such our Encore Presentations and the Great Decisions Program. In addition, the committee needs backup help for our web pages, particularly someone that has html knowledge. If you would like to help, please contact the Tech Committee Chair, Janet Price.

## Science Roundtable Discusses Watson

At the first meeting of the Science Roundtable on February 17, 22 members of 5CLIR discussed the contest between two former Jeopardy champions and the IBM computer, Watson. In case you missed all the hoopla, Watson won by a lot!

An article in *Time* magazine predicting that computers would make humans immortal by 2045 made the news around the same time. The conversation among Roundtable participants ranged widely over the many questions related to human vs. artificial intelligence. John Armstrong, co-facilitator of Science Roundtable, provided background on the topic based on his long association with IBM and his knowledge of its research on artificial intelligence.

The next meeting of the Science Roundtable will take place on Thursday, March 24, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Mt Tom Room at Easthampton Lathrop. At that time Larry Ambbs will lead a discussion on recent discoveries in using the human immune system to fight disease. This will be followed by a discussion on recent advances in knowledge of our solar system, led by Jim Scott and Hy Edelstein.

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### His & Hers Paintings

by 5CLIR Members Cosimo and Sylvia Favaloro

Exhibit in the Hosmer Gallery at Forbes Library, Northampton,  
March 2nd-31st during library hours.

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### A NOTE from the Curriculum Committee

We are still standing on the street corner waiting for seminar proposals to cruise by....please send us any of your ideas and suggestions for fall seminars and notice (next page) we are offering a seminar planning session for potential moderators on March 31st, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop.

Please read on about this exciting opportunity.....

details follow on next page.....

start writing those proposals.....

## **SEMINAR PLANNING SESSION FOR POTENTIAL MODERATORS**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011**

**2:00–4:00 P.M.**

**THE MEETING HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON LATHROP**

**Any 5CLIR member who is planning on, or considering moderating, a seminar is invited, nay *urged*, to come to this meeting for**

**MODERATORS and PROSPECTIVE MODERATORS.**

**This is an opportunity:**

- **for those who have a kernel of an idea about a seminar they would like to think out**
- **for those who have a plan for a seminar that requires solving a knotty problem before it is polished and complete**
- **for those who need to think through problems in technology**
- **for those who are seeking a CO-MODERATOR to share ideas and responsibility**
- **and particularly for those who have never moderated before, are not sure whether their idea would fly, or how to present it, or have been interested, but just afraid to try.**

**COME \* MEET \* DISCUSS**

**A group of experienced moderators from the Curriculum Committee will be available to brainstorm, discuss, encourage or problem solve individually or in small groups.**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE, TOO**

**Questions? Solutions are at hand.....**

**Contact Mary Franks or Jim Scott, your friendly Curriculum Committee co-chairs.**

**No need to register for this event,  
just come along with your ideas and questions.**

## **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.**

**Contact information: Marybeth Bridegam and Joan Wofford will be happy to answer your questions -- or sign you up for a presentation!**

**On Thursday, March 24,**

**We will journey northward  
with Joel Halpern and June Guild  
to Northern Climes:  
Greenland, Newfoundland, the Orkneys &  
Faeroe Islands**

**This will be followed by  
Michael Lally in Ireland**

**come and enjoy**

## ARTS INTEREST GROUP

Wednesday, March 17th, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

The Arts Interest Group's March session will focus on drawings at the Smith College Museum of Art. Aprile Gallant, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, will guide us through the current exhibition of Whitfield Lovell's remarkable portrait drawings and then take us into the Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, where we will examine some of the exquisite master drawings from earlier eras that are among the museum's greatest treasures.

**It is important to register for this event** by emailing Suzannah Fabing no later than March 13, so that admission arrangements can be made. (Or call Suzannah if you do not use email.) Space is limited and will be awarded on a first-come basis. Please meet in the museum's lobby promptly at 2 p.m. to enter as a group.

The Smith College Museum of Art is located on Elm Street (Route 9) in Northampton, a modern structure between College Hall — the original college building behind the iron gates — and St. John's Episcopal Church. There is a café in the museum's atrium, if you are looking for a place for lunch beforehand.

The office will issue you with a Smith College parking permit before the event. (There is one handicapped parking space in front of the museum and another at the College Hall end of the Brown Fine Arts Center complex.)

**Meanwhile, mark your calendars for our April session, on Thursday, April 21, 2:00–4:00 p.m.** LIR member Carl Erikson will introduce us to his colorful textile constructions. Details will appear in the April 5CLIR newsletter.



## 5CLIR Spring Means Brunches!



Can you believe that spring will eventually come to 5CLIR land? To celebrate that event, we all look forward to Brunch Day, Saturday, April 16, when concurrent brunches will take place at the homes of various members. Any time now, you will be receiving calls inviting you to an eleven-to-one o'clock potluck brunch to relax with old and new friends.

Your hosts will assist you in deciding what delicious offering you will contribute to the affair. The range of dishes is unlimited – from apple strudel to zucchini bread. Just imagine the possibilities for eggs – frittata? deviled? quiche? – and muffins – blueberry? bran? banana?



The following members have graciously offered to open their homes for the brunches and have received their guest lists from the Membership Committee:

Lise and John Armstrong

Lorraine Barrack

Peg Bedell

Betsy and Sandy Belden

Marybeth Bridegam

Susannah Fabing and Sandy Muspratt

Gloria and Peter Ferber

Mary Franks

Gail and John Gaustad

June Guild

Jim Harvey

Frieda and Irving Howards

Betsy Johnson

Sheila and Charlie Klem

Anne McIntosh

Ellen Peck

Eva and Leo Sartori

Marsha Stone

Michael Wolff

You will be hearing from them soon, so mark your calendars, consider what succulent brunch dish you'll contribute, and have a wonderful time celebrating 5CLIR!

Sheila Klem, Membership Committee

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**5CLIR Officers**

President: Larry Ambs  
Vice-President: Joan Wofford  
Past-President: Sara Wright  
Secretary: Dorothy Rosenthal  
Treasurer: Sandy Muspratt  
Assistant Treasurer: Dave Cramer

***5CLIR REPORTER***

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