

5CLIR

REPORTER



May 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 4

MAY CALENDAR

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

Thur 12 - Council meeting, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring Street, Amherst

Fri 13, 20 - Special Program: French conversation, 1:30–3:30, Applewood, One Spencer Drive, Amherst. Contact: Judith Pool

Fri 13 - Special Program: Opera Prep by Peggy Bedell, for Wagner: Die Walkure 1:30–2:30, The Meeting Room, Northampton Lathrop. Contact: Peggy Bedell No registration needed!

Thu 19 - Special Program: Science Roundtable, 2:00–3:30 p.m., Nuclear Power Plant Safety, led by Leo Sartori Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop. Contact: Dottie Rosenthal or John Armstrong (See page 5)

Fri 20th - Close of registration to be included in the lottery (if any) for fall semester seminars

JUNE

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

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

Thur 9 - Council meeting, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring Street, Amherst

Fri 27, 24 - Special Program: French conversation, 1:30–3:30, venue tba. Contact: Judith Pool

Other Special Programs -

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 Ambts 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

For other special program contacts, see calendar above and the Special Programs catalog.

The last “Notes from the President... Larry Ambs” will appear in next month’s newsletter.



5CLIR Members at Work

Calling all genealogists...

Bobbie Reitt is scheduled to give a lecture on the evening of June 22 at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. The society is the oldest of its kind in the United States, and its library is one of the country’s most important collections in family history. Her talk, “Talking Back to Your Ancestors,” will address the problems an ancestor’s papers can pose for the researcher. But can we believe everything in them? Are there hidden meanings to be found just beneath the surface of your family papers?

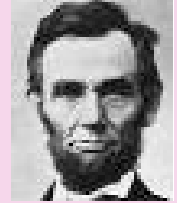
Using as a case history her own experience with her father’s papers, Bobbie will describe what she learned in a four-year search for truths long hidden by the family and how she chose to respond to her late father’s memoirs. Bobbie has a doctorate in American Studies and recently retired after more than 40 years as an editor of academic and scientific books. She has been researching her family history for more than 20 years and currently leads a 5CLIR special interest group “Finding Family.”

Don your walking shoes for this one...

On Sunday, May 15, Bob Romer, as part of the Old Deerfield Memorial Hall Museum’s season-opening gala, will lead a walking tour of sites on the old main street where slaves lived in the 1700s. The tour will depart at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The museum (also known as PVMA) is located on Memorial Street in Old Deerfield. The gala is free and open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and refreshments will be served. There will be a “Salute to the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.” (As Bob says, “What sort of ‘salute’ is not clear.”)

From the Civil War Symposium Steering Committee...

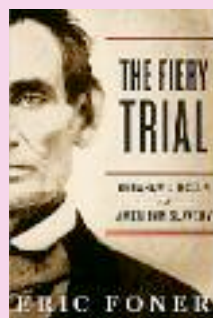


LINCOLN SUSPENDS HABEAS CORPUS! The availability of habeas corpus, the “Great Writ”, allows a person seized by the government to challenge the legality of their imprisonment. On April 27, 1861, one month after assuming office, President Abraham Lincoln suspended this essential pillar of freedom along a crucial military route between Philadelphia and Washington to help assure that Union generals would be able summarily to arrest and detain without trial anybody who attempted to interfere with, among other things, the transportation of Union troops through this crucial corridor. The most famous incident arising out of this suspension was the arrest of John Merryman, who petitioned for habeas corpus, which Chief Justice Roger Taney (author of the notorious Dred Scott decision) granted, noting that only Congress had the constitutional authority to suspend the Great Writ. Taney’s order was ignored by the commanding officer at Ft. McHenry; thus Merryman remained in jail for seven weeks until he was released – he was never tried. In answer to his critics Lincoln said on July 4, 1861, "Are all the laws but one to go unexecuted and the government itself go to pieces, lest that one be violated?" Then, in the face of resistance to the draft, in August 1862 Lincoln ordered the Secretary of War to suspend the writ nationwide. Overall 10,000 to 15,000 people were imprisoned without immediate trial. In March of 1863 Congress passed the Habeas Corpus Act, which legitimized Lincoln’s suspension of the writ for the duration of the war, but also placed important limits on the time a prisoner could be held without trial.

– Tyll van Geel, member, 5CLIR Sesquicentennial Symposium Steering Committee.

NEWS

- Our Friday night keynote speaker, Eric Foner, has just been awarded the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for history for his book, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*. This book is our choice for the 5CLIR Community Read” for next year. Earlier it had won The Lincoln Prize, “awarded annually for the finest scholarly work in English on Abraham Lincoln, or the American Civil War soldier, or a subject relating to their era.”
- We have added to our array of scholars Dr. Tera Hunter of Princeton University. Dr. Hunter is 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." A great addition to our symposium.
- REMEMBER: Put Friday, October 14, 5:30 PM and Saturday, October 15, 9–5 on your calendars. Invite friends, cousins, nephews and nieces for a color tour and enlightenment about Civil War issues with modern resonance.



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

Raffle at the Preview

At the Preview, Ann Gross won the raffle. She will receive a copy of Eric Foner's *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, the book that has been selected for our Fall "5CLIR Community Read." *The Fiery Trial* is a good read that has been awarded the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for history, the Lincoln Prize and the Bancroft Prize. [Come to our Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium in October and meet Eric Foner, our keynote speaker.](#)

We need people to host discussion groups for the 5CLIR Community Book Read. If you are thinking of volunteering, please call or email Sara Wright.

Spring Seminar: Taking the Terror Out of Technology

pictures of her seminar by Joan Wofford; picture enhancement by Joan Davis



l to r: Jim Perot, Betsy Van Dyke, Gordon Wyse, Dorothy Riehm, Patricia Tillona, Ed Valerio



l to r: Ed Valerio, Ina Luadtke, Joan McKelvey, Carol Jolly, Betsy Belden

One more picture from Joan and Joan...

David Yaukey and Kathy Hazen in the Taking the Terror Out of Technology seminar, given by Joan Wofford spring semester.



Science Roundtable to Take Up Nuclear Safety

A discussion of nuclear power plant safety, led by Leo Sartori, will be the timely topic of discussion at the Science Roundtable session on May 19. In the second half of the session, participants will have a chance to suggest topics and changes in format for the fall. This is an opportunity for participants to fine-tune the Roundtable sessions to better meet their interests and needs, so please come and share your ideas.

The April session on April 21 featured a discussion of human races led by Joel Halpern. In his introductory remarks, Joel described how older concepts of race based on appearance have been replaced with an emphasis on genetic variation within populations. He also alluded to how ideas about human races have led to racism, using the holocaust as an example. The topic led to a lively and wide-ranging discussion.

The second topic of the day was introduced by John Gaustad, who explained the phenomena of El Niño and La Niña in the Pacific Ocean and their effect on climate. The question of how the oscillations between the El Nino and La Nina events are affected by human activities was raised. Scientists find this a difficult question to answer since variability in climate makes it hard to distinguish changes that may result from human activities.

When: Thursday, 19 May, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop
Contacts: John Armstrong and
Dottie Rosenthal

The *5CLIR Reporter* is published by Five College Learning in Retirement, Room 9, Mason Hall, Smith College, MA 01063. www.5clir.org tel: 585-3756. email: 5clir@smith.edu
Articles and pictures should be emailed to the Editor: Callie Kendall Orszak.

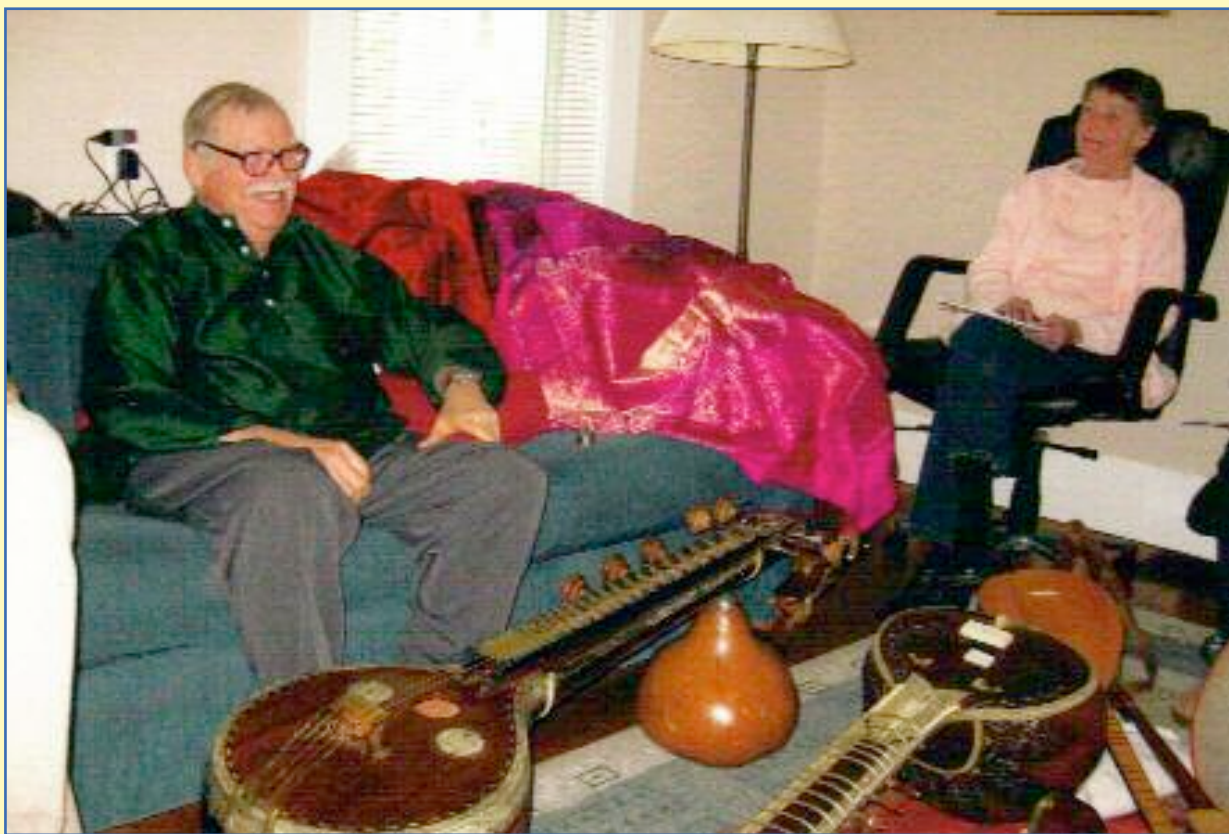
MUSIC OF THE SILK ROAD

article by Jane Luff & pictures by Jane Luff and Kathryn McArthur

In spite of snow, ice and drenching rain, the seminar met every Monday. Our moderator, Candy Carlisle, brought two large suitcases of musical instruments to class. With 30 years' experience teaching music to elementary and middle school students, Candy led the seminar with amazing knowledge and patience.

With presentations from the participants, we traveled the northern Silk Road route from Japan through China, Mongolia, Central Asia, Iran, and Turkey, saving the last half-hour every week for practicing our parts to the Javanese Gamelan Orchestra ensemble "Flowing Waters."

On the first day, Ray Moore, Professor Emeritus of History at Amherst College, where he founded the Asian Studies program, brought several Japanese instruments, and on April 11, when we met at Candy's home, we were introduced to the music of India through two specialists: Sandy Cortez-Grieg demonstrated his lutes, drums and sitar which he collected while he worked for the State Department in Asia for many years. David Reck, author of our reference book *Music of the Whole Earth*, played his South India veena.



David Reck, music Professor Emeritus from Amherst College, with his veena. Jane Luff looks on.
Photograph by Kathryn McArthur

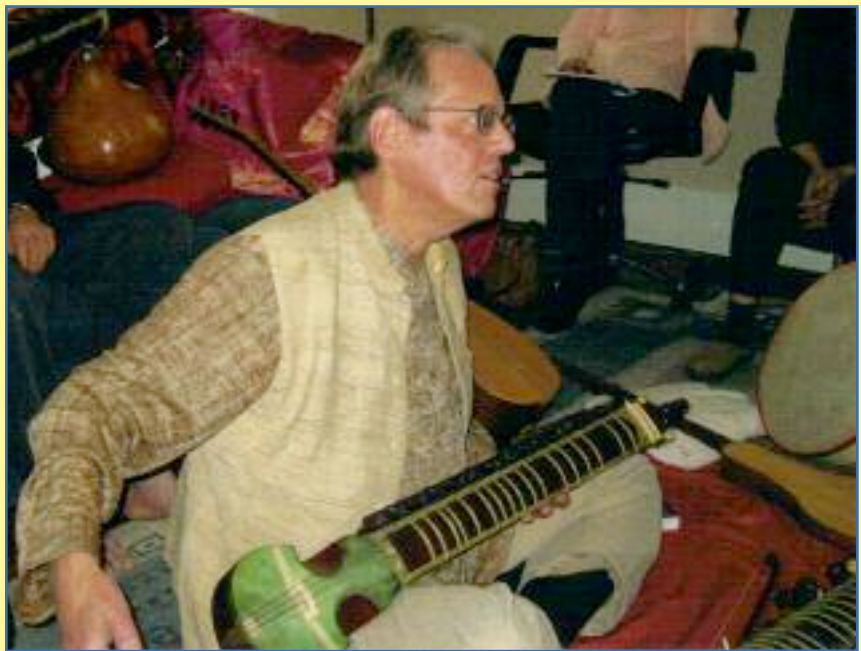
Music of the Silk Road, continued

The highlight of the seminar was rehearsing on the Javanese Gamelan instruments at Sage Hall with Margaret Sarkissian, Professor of Music and founder of the Smith Javanese Gamelan in 1995. With Margaret directing, we played “Flowing Waters - Ritchik, Ritchik” three times, often changing instruments from the xylophones (saron) to the drums (kendhang) while Laura Cranshaw stayed with the rhythmic cycles of the kethuk and the kenong and Joanne Dwyer concentrated on the gong (ageng).

The experience was extraordinary, a once in a lifetime chance for mostly non-musicians to be part of an orchestra.



Carol Lee with the gongs
Photograph by Jane Luff



top right: Sandy Cortez-Greig demonstrating a fretted lute

bottom right, l to r: Jane Luff, Candy Carlisle, Naomi Yannis, and Carol MacCourt during instrument demo day at Candy's house, all looking intently at David Reck.

Both photos by Kathryn McArthur



Music of the Silk Road, continued



Instruments of the Gamelan Orchestra...Photograph by Jane Luff



Margaret Sarkissian, the Gamelan instructor

Photograph by Jane Luff

And finally,
a photograph taken at the Fall Preview
by Joan Wofford
that epitomizes the two sides of 5CLIR:
serious academic study
(Paul Shepard and Ivan Kovacs)
and having a great time with friends
(Diedrick Snoek and Fran Volkmann:



published by:
Five College Learning in Retirement
9 Mason Hall, Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063

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

Editor:

Callie Kendall Orszak

Five College Learning in Retirement
Smith College, Mason Hall, Room 9
Northampton, MA 01063

413 585-3756 www.5clir.org
email: 5clir@smith.edu