



September 2011 Volume XXIV, Number 7

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

September

Thur 1 - **Special Program: Viewpoints** with Hy Edelstein, took place from 12:30–2:00 p.m. today.

Fri 2, 9 - **Special Program: French conversation**, 1:30–3:30, at Applewood. *No French* Sept 16, 23; Sept 30th, usual time, *chez* Marybeth Bridegam. **Contact:** Judith Pool

Mon 12 - **Curriculum Committee meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst

Tues 13 - **Summer Program: All-LIR Potluck picnic** *chez* Gaustad, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.
SEE PAGE 10 for details of what to bring

Wed 14 - **Rain date for potluck picnic (same time, same place)**

Thur 15 - **Council meeting**, 2:30–4:30, Five Colleges HQ, 97 Spring St, Amherst

Mon 19 - **First day of fall semester!**

Thur 22 - **Special Program: Travel Interest Group: David Wakeley on “Reunion in Belize” & June Guild on “Rome & Umbria’s Perched Villages,”** 2:00–4:00 p.m., The Community Room of Northampton Lathrop, just off Bridge Road. **Contact:** Marybeth Bridegam (**Page 9**)

Thur 22 - **Special Program: Finding Family**, 1:45–3:45 p.m., Dewey Common Room, Dewey Hall, Smith College. **Contact:** Bobbie Reitt (**See PAGE 11 for details**)

Thur 22 - **Special Program: Science Roundtable: Carol Jolly presents “Water Supply and Water Crises,”** 2:00–3:30 p.m., The Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop **Contacts:** John Armstrong or Dottie Rosenthal (**SEE PAGE 14 for more details**)

Fri 23 - **Special Program: Planning Your Financial Future: How Recent Developments and Prospective Changes May Affect You**, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon, Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street (Rte 47), Hadley. **Contacts:** Sandy & Betsy Belden; Carol Jolly; or Ina Luadtke (**SEE PAGE 12 for more details**)

Fri 23, 30 - **Special Program: Conversational Italian**, 1:30 –3:30 p.m., Quigley Room, Newman Catholic Center, UMass, Amherst. **Contacts:** Dean Poli & Zina Tillona

Letter from the President, Joan Wofford



I once heard some good advice given to a new leader: “Hit the ground learning rather than running.” That sounded like something I’d better consider, as I entered my year as President of Five College Learning and Retirement. Being relatively new to LIR, I did not know the background or issues, let alone all the players who have been important to LIR. I, therefore, proposed to conduct a study before I took office in which I would extensively interview all the current Council members and Committee Chairs, including Past Presidents, in an attempt to learn more about each of them and their views on issues facing the organization. The results, I hoped, would serve to inform me about what I didn’t know, provide LIR with a view of itself from multiple perspectives, and set priorities for the coming year.

On June 9, I presented the results of my 26 in-person interviews to a group consisting of those who had been interviewed, asking them to confirm or disconfirm what I had heard from them. They confirmed the findings and then made the suggestion to extend the study to include interviews with a sampling of the membership. Jim Harvey created a random sample of members, and eight members of the Council conducted short telephone interviews with 58 members.

The big news is that out of 58 interviewees, 54 felt LIR was headed in the right direction. (Of the 4 who did not, two said they did not know what the direction was.) When combined with the results from the longer interviews where 26 leaders, despite some issues, felt that overall we were headed in the right direction, it turns out that the interviewees **expressed overwhelming satisfaction with LIR.**

That is certainly important and exciting. And yet the purpose of the study was also to identify issues that needed attention, if only for fine-tuning. After reviewing the interview data at its August meeting, the Council determined that the following four issues were of most concern and would form the basis for task force assignments:

- 1) the need for an endowment fund or some additional sources of funding to protect the program in an unstable environment;
- 2) the need to establish LIR's space requirements, availability, possible new venues, and the limits to seminar growth posed by space constraints;
- 3) exploration of the range of possibilities and implications in meeting the continually expressed wish for more flexibility in seminar scheduling, offerings, and reporting requirements;
- 4) the social needs of the membership, including matters such as help with transportation and car pooling.

There was a fifth issue, that of Public Relations and Recruitment. It was agreed that work on it could be postponed until after the Space Task Force had completed more of its work and provided guidelines for how much expansion we should consider.

At the September meeting, these task force groups will be formed, specific tasks delineated, timetables established, and final products determined. That should provide us with the means to tackle these priorities in a systematic fashion.

I am delighted by how much I learned from undertaking these studies, by how much agreement there seems to be about our priorities for this coming year, and by how enthusiastic it seems our membership feels about what LIR is doing.

Joan

From the Civil War Symposium Steering Committee...



The Fiery Trial

“It is a good read, not easy, but good.”

“I was constantly thinking about the political dilemmas of today.”

“I appreciated having a realistic view of Lincoln.”

“I became immersed in this journey that was Lincoln’s and America’s.”

“Very readable and honest.”

“ I liked the fact that Foner showed how Lincoln was a man who kept growing, even in his later years.”

“The book seemed to present both sides of Lincoln, the good and the bad; Lincoln was a complicated man.”

These are reactions from a few of our members about the book that has received all three awards for a history book in 2011: the Lincoln Prize, the Bancroft Prize and the Pulitzer Prize.

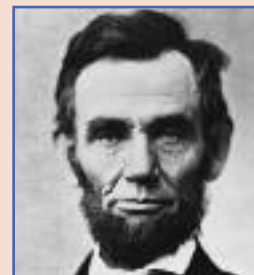
A few quotes from published reviews give a good summary of the book and may entice you to read it: “Like Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln was willing to learn on the job.” “Lincoln was a man of considered words and deliberate actions.” “Lincoln navigates dynamic politics deftly, taking measured steps.” “ Foner... leaves no doubt that he feels Lincoln has all the qualities of greatness... intellectually curious, willing to listen to criticism, attuned to the currents of northern public opinion, and desirous of getting along with Congress.”

You can find *The Fiery Trial* in your local or college library, borrow it from a friend, or buy it in paperback on September 12th, but don’t miss the opportunity to hear Eric Foner on October 14th.

– Sara Wright, member, 5CLIR CW Steering Committee



NEWS

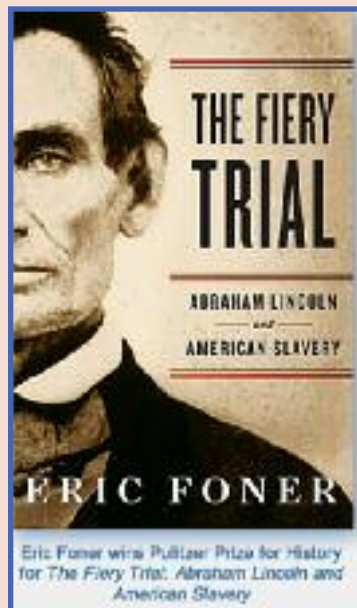


- We expect that a limited number of LIR members will be invited to a special pre-Symposium session with Eric Foner on Thursday, October 13th at Mount Holyoke College that our collaborator, the Springfield Public Schools Teaching American History Program, is doing. We will send an e-mail when we have the details, but if you are interested, contact me at gillies53@yahoo.com. We are receiving a few free copies of *The Fiery Trial*, which we can share.
- We are in the final countdown in planning for the symposium. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help – we think we have enough, but if you are eager, contact Carol Jolly at cajolly2@verizon.net.
- You should have received a copy of our “information packet with registration.” If not, please contact Chuck Gillies through the office at 413-585-3756.

– Chuck Gillies, Project Director



Eric Foner, author of *The Fiery Trial*



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.

Did You Know?

You will always get your first choice of a seminar (or a workshop) at least every other semester. WHY?

Because, the lottery system provides a priority for those who were lotteried out of a first choice in the previous semester. You may not realize that you were lotteried in, but that priority assures you that you WILL get your first choice at least every other semester.

But, is the lottery fair? Yes. It is conducted by 3 Curriculum Committee members including one or both Co-Chairs. And, more importantly, it consists of a blind drawing of random numbers

You cannot audit a seminar or workshop. WHY?

5CLIR is committed to a peer-learning model. All members must participate and contribute to the discussion and make presentations. There is only one exception, and it relates to longstanding members whose condition makes them unable to participate fully. And, it has strict requirements.

Moderators do not control the admission of participants into the seminar or workshop. WHY?

The lottery and waitlists control admission. The 5CLIR office must know who is in the seminar or workshop. And, the office handles the seminar lists and all waiting lists, and controls the rooms for space. Any deviation from this system can be unfair to all concerned.

The seminar lists are sent initially by the office, but subsequent adds and drops, although managed by the office, require only a new seminar list to the moderator and the participant who is adding a seminar. Thereafter, the moderator forwards the seminar list to other participants when and if appropriate.

We hope to continue this dialogue in the Newsletter as issues arise.

Your Curriculum Committee Co-Chairs,
Mary Franks and Sandy Campbell.

For further info: see Moderators' Manual on the 5CLIR website under Resources.

Seminars Seeking Moderators!!

The Curriculum Committee has received suggestions for seminars that are lacking a moderator. The list of suggestions follows. If you are interested in one of the topics, talk with the Co-Chairs, or submit a proposal, OR, propose a seminar of your own choice.

SEMINAR: Jung's writing or theories

SEMINAR: Life Under the Sea

SEMINAR: based on David McCullough's new book: *Farther Away*, about Americans in Paris: 1830-1900

SEMINAR: Balanchine, or major choreographers

SEMINAR: History of Labor Movements

SEMINAR: Harry Potter books

SEMINAR: Medical thrillers

SEMINAR: Famous Memorials

SEMINAR: Science Fiction: Asimov; Heinlein; Bradbury; H.G. Wells

SEMINAR: Famous Authors: i.e. Hardy; Hemingway; Toni Morrison; Rilke

SEMINAR: The Short Story: i.e. Poe; Fitzgerald; Updike; Salinger

SEMINAR: Geology of the Pioneer Valley

SEMINAR: The Great Depression

SEMINAR: Jazz (Ken Burns?)

SEMINAR: Geography of the Middle East

WORKSHOP: Drawing or Watercolor or Painting

Co-Chairs: Mary Franks and Sandy Campbell

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

5CLIR's popular Travel Interest Group invites you and all other LIR 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 LIR 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 that still have available slots for presenters are on the following dates:

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, Co-Chair of the Travel Interest sessions, is an expert at helping presenters with the coordination of their laptop computers, and/or putting slides on disks, etc. Best of all, she will help you use the excellent audio-visual equipment available in the room where we hold our sessions.

Joan will offer technical help to all presenters who contact her in advance of their presentations, at 584-1330 or 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 their presentation with her.

The 5CLIR Travel Interest Group meets the FOURTH THURSDAY afternoon of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There are usually two speakers, each doing a 50-minute presentation with a 15-20 minute refreshment break from 2:50 to 3:10 p.m.

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

Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chairperson
5CLIR Travel Interest Group

Put These Travel Interest Dates on Your Calendar

We invite all LIR members to attend these fascinating Travel Interest Group sessions. They will be offered on the fourth Thursday of each month of the Fall Semester. They will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northampton Lathrop Retirement Community, just off Bridge Road in Northampton.

Thursday, September 22

David Wakeley

Reunion in Belize

June Guild

Rome & Umbria's Perched Villages

Thursday, October 27

Ellen Peck

Libya – Classical Greatness, Modern Problems

Sandy Muspratt

Haiti Now, Helping Out (Note: He'll show and tell lots more than he shared with us at the Great Decisions program last spring)

Thursday, December 1

Joan Wofford

In Patagonia

Joel Halpern

Reflections on the Balkans

We are grateful to Joan Wofford, a resident at Lathrop and the Co-Chair for the Travel Interest Group (and, of course, LIR President), for arranging for us to use this space for these sessions and for providing technical support for all of the presenters.

The Travel Interest Group sessions have been quite popular in past years. Do come and enjoy traveling vicariously through other people's experiences (and maybe get ideas for your own future travels. No matter your reason, come and enjoy the show!

Questions?

Contact Marybeth Bridegam

All-LIR Get-Reacquainted Potluck Picnic Lunch

Tuesday, September 13, at noon

Rain date, September 14

At the Gaustads, 20 Ward Avenue, Northampton

At the end of the summer it's time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones...

Potluck:

A - L bring main dish, bread, salad, vegetable, or hors d'oeuvres

M - Z bring dessert or fruit

Utensils and beverages will be provided

Bringing your own cup or mug will cut down on paper waste

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 13, 12:00 noon - 2:00

Rain date, September 14, same time

Place: The back yard of John and Gail Gaustad's house

20 Ward Avenue, Northampton

Contact persons: Gail Gaustad or Anne Lombard

If in doubt about the weather, call Gail or Anne

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SIGNED UP FOR THIS POTLUCK AND WOULD
LIKE TO COME, PLEASE CALL GAIL**

Note from the Editor: I will be sorry to miss this, but I will be celebrating my mother's 94th birthday in Kansas, on the 13th. Joice Gare will be in the office that day.

The Finding Family Interest Group

The Finding Your Family interest group will meet for the first time this fall on Thursday, September 22, at 1:45 in the Commons Room in Dewey Hall, Smith College. We will review the research each of us has accomplished so far, review the best resources for family historians, and discuss plans for the year. We are open to all members of LIR and always welcome newcomers.

To answer two questions we often get about how we work:

Do I need to have a computer at home to participate? NO! How you conduct your research is entirely up to you. Our focus will be on research sources and methods that yield viable, defensible results, not on technology. Most of the information available online is also available in other formats (microfilm, on paper), and we need to learn how to access them as well. If your approach centers on non-digital sources, we need you!

What if I'm just thinking about doing family research or am still just a novice? We can use you and you can use us. We will address the basics in family research through the eyes of both novices and old hands. The old hands can give you the benefit of their actual experience while you offer a most useful fresh view to them. We have a lot we can learn from one another.

Our schedule for the 2011-2012 year (all Thursdays late in the month): September 22, October 20 (not at Dewey), November 17, January 19, February 23, March 22, April 19, May 24 (not at Dewey), June 21(not at Dewey). In September we will plan where to meet on the "not in Dewey" days.

Any questions? Call or email Bobbie Reitt.

PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Even in these tumultuous times, certain principles can help you plan for your financial future. Come hear three knowledgeable experts offer advice and answer questions at LIR's Friday, September 23rd session: "Planning Your Financial Future: How Recent Developments and Prospective Changes May Affect You."

The meeting will be held from 9:30 to noon at the Hadley Senior Community Center. The Center is at 46 Middle Street in Hadley, which is Route 47, just north of Route 9 (Russell Street). The session will include presentations by an experienced estate planning attorney, a financial advisor, and a representative of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts with expertise in philanthropic giving. LIR's own Sandy Belden will moderate the panel and handle the Q & A periods.

The Senior Community Center has plenty of parking on site. The event will be held in the second floor meeting room, which is reached by using the rear (main) entrance to the building. An elevator is available just inside the building's side entrance for those who have any difficulty with stairs.

The event will be advertised to the public and open to all. It is being offered by the Special Programs Committee, thanks to an initiative from Sandy and Betsy Belden. Questions about the meeting can be directed to the Beldens or to Carol Jolly or Ina Luadtke who are helping with the arrangements.

No need to register, just come along and attend the event.

ARTS INTEREST GROUP Fall 2011 & Spring 2012

This is the outline of the arts interest group program for fall 2011 and spring 2012. More information will be available nearer the time of each program. We look forward to seeing you.

OCTOBER 20TH

LOU STUBBS

Studio visit to this sculptor, a 5CLIR member

NOVEMBER 17TH

Randall R. Griffey

Tour of Mead Art Museum, Amherst

DECEMBER 15th

Richard O'Brien

A talk on Japanese prints

FEBRUARY 16th

Ruth Kosiorek

Highlights of the Mount Holyoke art collection

MARCH 15th

Louise T. Currin

Artist in watercolor. A studio visit and demonstration

APRIL 19th

Martin Antonetti

Smith College Rare Book Room:

Book illustration from the Middle Ages to the present

Programs are held the third Thursday of the month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, see the Special Programs catalog (available online).

SCIENCE ROUNDTABLE TO RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER

Carol Jolly will lead off the first fall session of the Science Roundtable with a short presentation on "Water Supply and Water Crises" followed by a discussion of the topic. The session will take place on Thursday, September 22 at the Meeting House at the Northampton Lathrop Community from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Over the summer, there has been a lot in the news about our last topic of the spring semester: Nuclear Plant Safety. Prior to the discussion on water, the group will have an opportunity to bring up recent news about nuclear plant safety that they have learned about since the May discussion on the topic. Participants are also asked to bring in other science news items to bring to the attention of the group at the end of the session.

Science Roundtable meets four times a semester and is open to all members of 5CLIR whether they have attended any previous sessions or not. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please notify one of the leaders, John Armstrong or Dottie Rosenthal. The other three sessions for the fall will be held at the same time and place on October 20, November 17, and December 15.



Can you guess where and what this is? Read on...

Ford Hall, Smith College

A Summer Program Trip

photographs and article by Dorothy Gilbert

On August 16, a group of us had the opportunity to tour Smith College's Ford Hall from rooftop to basement under the expert guidance of Dr. Tom Litwin, Director of the Clark Science Center.

At a cost of \$84 million, Ford Hall is remarkable for its beauty, sustainability, and physical embodiment of a collaborative educational philosophy. Our group met at the main entrance on the ground floor of the impressive glass atrium, perhaps the most gorgeous of the building's architectural features.

We viewed a green-extensive roof covered by various kinds of sedums (imagine having to weed your roof!) through which rain water passes and is recycled for later use in the building.

Numerous informal learning areas and other arrangements of learning and research space foster collaboration, which is essential to good science. Our photographer regrets that she was so busy looking and listening that she neglected to take pictures of other wonders the building offered, including:

- the green intensive roof (lounge chair donated by "The Center for Relaxation and Vitamin D Absorption"),
- the creative play space for the engineering students ("play space" may not be quite right, but that was the idea),
- the complex in-and-out air ducts in the penthouse (How quiet! How clean!), and
- the adaptable interactive lecture hall (moveable chairs! breakout areas with white boards in the lecture hall itself!).

One participant expressed the view that, although she had no desire to be 18 again, she surely did wish she could be an undergraduate in that exciting environment!

--Dorothy Gilbert

Ford Hall picture gallery, all photographs courtesy of Dorothy Gilbert





Main entrance



Atrium floor



The Atrium



**Dr. Tom Litwin, Director of the Clark Science Center,
on Ford Hall's green (extensive) roof**



Informal learning area



Rain recycler

Many thanks, Dorothy, for great pictures!

5CLIR/ MET Live in HD 2011-2012 Series

<u>Prep Date</u>	<u>Composer:Opera</u>	<u>Live date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Encore date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Length</u>
October 14	Donizetti: ANNA BOLENA	Oct 15	12:55	Nov 2	6:30	4:20
October 28	Mozart: DON GIOVANNI	Oct 29	12:55	Nov 16	6:30	4:00
November 4	Wagner: SIEGFRIED	Nov 5	12:00			6:00
November 18	Glass: SATYAGRAHA	Nov 19	12:55	Dec 7	6:30	4:15
December 2	Handel: RODELINDA	Dec 3	12:30	Jan 4	6:30	4:15
December 9	Gounod: FAUST	Dec 10	12:55	Jan 11	6:30	4:25
January 20	THE ENCHANTED ISLAND	Jan 21	12:55	Feb 8	6:30	3:40
February 10	Wagner: GOTTERDAMMERUNG	Feb 11	12:00			6:25
February 24	Verdi: ERNANI	Feb 25	12:55	Mar 14	6:30	3:55
April 6	Massenet: MANON	April 7	12:00	April 25	6:30	4:10
April 13	Verdi: LA TRAVIATA	April 14	12:55	May 2	6:30	3:15

Prep talks are always on the day before the initial presentation, at Lathrop Community Meeting House in Norhampton, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale at Cinemark. These are tickets for unreserved seats, just as in earlier years.

No Encore dates are listed as yet for the two Wagner operas. It's possible that the Met may schedule repeats for the entire Ring Cycle at the end of the season, but that is only a possibility.

Please note a conflict for 5CLIR members. The first opera of the season, Anna Bolena, coincides with the 5CLIR Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium; members may wish to attend the Encore on the evening of November 2.

As always, I'll answer questions.

Peggy Bedell

5CLIR 2011–2012

Officers, Council Members & Committee Chairs

President: Joan Wofford
Vice President/ President Elect: Jim Harvey
Secretary: Ellen Peck
Treasurer: Sandy Muspratt
Assistant Treasurer: Dave Cramer
Past President: Larry Ambs

COUNCIL MEMBERS TERM EXPIRES

John Armstrong	2012
Arnold Friedmann	2012
Michael Wolff	2012
Marybeth Bridegam	2013
Laura Cranshaw	2013
Joan Laird	2013
Carol Jolly	2014
Betsy Loughran	2014
Gordon Wyse	2014

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 Sandy Muspratt --- *Finance Committee*
 Marybeth Bridegam & Honoré David --- *Winter/Summer Programs*
 Frieda Howards & Eva Sartori --- *Membership Committee*
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 Janet Price --- *Technology Committee*
 Joan Wofford --- *Public Relations Committee*
 Peter Ferber & Fran Volkmann --- *Great Decisions*
 Dave Cramer --- *Development*

Historian: Sara Wright
Ombudsman: Anne Lombard
Webmaster: Janet Price

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

5CLIR Officers

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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