

*Five College
Learning in Retirement*

**Special
Programs**

FALL 2011

Five College Learning in Retirement
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Descriptions of 5CLIR Special Programs for Fall Semester 2011

Note: Read the monthly *5CLIR Reporter* for specific dates, times and locations for the following and additional Special Programs throughout the year. Contact the facilitators of individual Special Programs with your questions or for information regarding handicap accessibility, parking, guest attendance, etc.

Arts Interest Group – Ann and John Martin, co-leaders

This group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in various locations around the Valley. It presents programs about all of the arts – painting, sculpture, architecture, dance, theater, etc., and welcomes 5CLIR members who might wish to share their contacts, knowledge and/or skills in one or more of the arts. Notify Ann or John to be put on the list to receive program announcements by email, or to make suggestions about program possibilities. Fall programs will be announced in the newsletter. During the spring semester programs, the group visited a local architect's office, the Smith College Art Museum, and were invited to view fabric constructions at a private residence.

Viewpoints - Hy Edelstein, facilitator

Viewpoints meets the first Thursday of each month, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the small conference room at Highland Valley Elder Services in Florence. This is an open, informal, spontaneous discussion group, a fresh departure from the formal presentations and discussions in our seminars. However, it does adhere to our peer learning mission. While preparation is not required, at each session several topics proposed by participants are discussed – topics which may be drawn from a whole spectrum of events and trends in society/culture, concerns over developments in public/private life, issues in the humanities/technologies. Discussions over such matters, drawing on the spontaneity, spirit, thoughtfulness, and good humor of its seasoned participants, are indeed enriching learning experiences. For further information, contact Hy.

Travel Interest Group - Marybeth Bridegam and Joan Wofford, facilitators

This group meets the fourth Thursday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Lathrop Northampton. Many of us are well traveled, and all of us know of places we would love to go but will never have the time (and/or money) necessary. The Travel Interest Group will provide an opportunity for travelers to share their knowledge, experience, and pleasure with other LIR members who would like to vicariously enjoy their visits. Joan will provide technical assistance, if necessary, to put your pictures in the format appropriate for projection. The atmosphere is quite informal, and there is no other obligation (well, unless you are one of the speakers!) than to come and enjoy the beautiful photos and interesting presentations. Check the newsletter each month for descriptions of these monthly programs. Contact Marybeth or Joan for more information.

Ethnic Eating Interest Group – Joice Gare, facilitator

We meet about once a month at a local restaurant featuring food from another country or special region of this country. (Occasionally, it's just a new and intriguing restaurant.) Each dinner is coordinated by a different member of the group who chooses the restaurant, selects the menu and sometimes arranges with staff for someone to talk to us about the food, culture and country their establishment represents. If you want e-mail notification of the dinners, contact Joice Gare.

French Conversation – Judith Pool, facilitator

This is a group of 5CLIR members who enjoy speaking and learning French. They meet on Fridays at Applewood in Amherst from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Judith to register your interest in this program.

Conversational Italian – Dean Poli and Zina Tillona, facilitators

Do you enjoy speaking Italian but don't get enough opportunity to do so? Then join Zina Tillona and Dean Poli on Fridays when the group discusses in Italian a variety of topics of interest. In addition, to become acclimated to hearing native Italians speaking Italian, the group also spends time watching and discussing various Italian movies – some of which contain Italian subtitles.

You do not have to be fluent in Italian to enjoy the discussions and the movies; all you need is an interest in speaking and improving your Italian. We meet Fridays at 1:30 in the Quigley Room at the Newman Center at UMass. Contact Dean or Zina for more information.

Friday Lectures and Encore Presentations – Larry Ambs, facilitator

Come enjoy our Friday programs based on some outstanding seminar presentations which members believe would be of general interest. Occasionally we host outside speakers who discuss topics of interest to our membership. We meet from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Applewood, 1 Spencer Drive, Amherst.

One of our programs will feature a panel, moderated by Betsy and Sandy Belden, discussing recent changes in estate tax law and planning.

Of interest to the entire 5CLIR membership will be the program in October commemorating the Civil War. (see following description). Contact Larry if you have questions.

The 5CLIR Sesquicentennial Symposium – Civil War Causes and Consequences

- Chuck Gillies, Project Director and Bob Romer, Assistant Project Director

In February, 1860, Abraham Lincoln delivered his Cooper Union speech – the speech which he said made him president. His primary aim in that speech was to counter the claim of his old foe Stephen Douglas that the founding fathers were

perfectly content with perpetual slavery. Lincoln thought Douglas was misleading the people with a false view of history and that what the fathers really wanted was for slavery to be “put on a path of ultimate extinction.” One hundred and fifty years later we are still arguing about history, often now about the causes, meaning and consequences of the Civil War.

To help us understand these arguments, 5CLIR is sponsoring a major public event October 14 and 15, 2011, to acknowledge the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, focusing on the causes and consequences of the war and, especially, on those issues that have modern resonance. You may have looked recently at the PBS series by Ken Burns and have heard, no doubt, many references to the war in the media. Now there is a chance to engage with noted scholars, including Eric Foner – one of the most recognized national authorities on Civil War issues for the last 40 years – and David Blight – who taught these matters at Amherst College for 13 years – plus many others. Consistent with 5CLIR philosophy, we have endeavored to plan the program with maximum audience interaction.

See the available flyer, the latest version of which is on our website, www.5clir.org.

Book Interest Group- Naomi Yanis and Lola Reid, facilitators

This group meets mostly the last Friday afternoon of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., from September through May. Responsibility for leading the discussion of each book is rotated amongst the membership of the book group, with meetings held in members’ homes. The group is now open to new members. We read a variety of contemporary fiction and non-fiction, as well as literary classics. Contact Naomi or Lola if you are interested.

Opera Preparation – Peg Bedell, facilitator

Fridays, Northampton Lathrop Community Room, 1:30–2:30 p.m. A series of HD video productions of operas performed at the Metropolitan Opera will be shown at the Hadley Cinemark theater on Saturday afternoons beginning in the fall. Tickets must be purchased by 5CLIR members in advance. In preparation for seeing (and hearing) them, Peg Bedell will offer an introduction to each opera on the preceding Friday. Anyone interested may attend any session. For more information, contact Peg. (See page 6 for dates.)

Below are dates of the Friday preps and Saturday performances. The opera prep session will be held the day before the Cinemark showing in each case.

<u>Opera</u>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Prep date</u>	<u>Cinemark date</u>
<i>Anna Bolena</i>	Donizetti	October 14	October 15
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Mozart	October 28	October 29
<i>Siegfried</i>	Wagner	November 4	November 5
<i>Satyagraha</i>	Glass	November 18	November 19
<i>Rodelinda</i>	Handel	December 2	December 3
<i>Faust</i>	Gounod	December 9	December 10
<i>The Enchanted Island</i>	new production	January 19	January 20

Watch for more dates beginning in February

Finding Family - Bobbie Reitt, facilitator

The Finding Family interest group is an offshoot of the seminar of the same name from the Fall 2010 semester. Current members attended the seminar, but we would be delighted to include anyone who is interested in researching his or her family history. Your family and friends might not understand your obsession with your family's past, but we will!

We have discovered that by working together, we learn faster and much more than when we work alone. We share information about Valley and online resources that we discover, and we warn each other about pitfalls we encounter. We have both newcomers and veteran researchers among us, and we find that the mix of varying levels of experience is helpful. We sometimes have reports from members, sometimes work online together, and at other times simply discuss research problems and successes we're having.

Join us on one Thursday afternoon a month, at 1:45-3:45, usually in the Common Room at Dewey Hall on the Smith College campus. Exact dates for all our sessions are 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). See the Reporter for information on sessions not at Dewey. Contact Bobbie Reitt if you are interested in attending any or all our sessions.

Science Roundtable – John Armstrong and Dottie Rosenthal, facilitators

Science Roundtable is a monthly discussion group for anyone interested in current issues in science. At each session we discuss one or two main topics introduced by one of the members. The topics we discussed in spring, 2011, were: artificial intelligence, the immune system and disease; recent discoveries about the solar system; human races; climate variability; and, nuclear power plant safety.

You do not have to have a background in science to participate nor do you have to attend all sessions. If you are interested in participating and are not already on our mailing list, contact one of the facilitators so you will receive information about each upcoming session.

In fall, 2011, we will be meeting on the third Thursdays of each month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop, Bridge Road in Northampton. For more information, speak to John or Dottie.

Live Performances - If you want to be notified of events, musical, theatrical or other, unrelated to 5CLIR, that are happening in the area, please let Kathy Hazen know that you wish to be on her list.

Kitchen Wizards – Lise Armstrong, facilitator

Magic tricks with spices, herbs, flavored oils, and other condiments will enliven your meals and wow your friends and family. Small groups (maximum of 6) will get together to shake, grind and taste on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (beginning Sept. 20) from noon to 1:30 p.m. at 55 Amity Place in Amherst. Each session will have a separate registration with a fee of \$2.00 for supplies. Call Lise or e-mail to express your interest or for more information.